



Bridge to Valaqua chapel. Photo by Chad Miller

**I**n our northern climate, the changing of the seasons is a natural part of life. The season of waiting for “God with us” is followed by an exploration of Jesus’ manifestation and purpose, drawing us to a deeper sense of our own calling. The nudges and urges that arise in this season of new beginnings invite us to live out our call together with others, in community. “Community” is what MCA is about!

In community, our twelve congregations build a foundation for their identity and find a place of belonging. We draw on each other’s strengths and gifts to explore faith, pray, celebrate and mourn, become enlivened, practice generosity, and share resources. Community is a place to receive and to give. It’s a place to ask the question, “And who is my neighbour?” and then explore the nature and breadth of our neighbourhoods. The richness and fellowship that

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens  
MCA Moderator

we experience as members of a regional, nationwide, and global church is a taste of the Kingdom of God.

### Executive Council

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens	Moderator
Paul Neufeldt	Vice-Moderator
Wayne Janz	Finance
Elizabeth Wall	Secretary
Tim Wiebe-Neufeld	Executive Minister

### Staff & Ministries



No where are seasons more evident than at **Camp Valaqua! Jon Olfert (Director) and Jeff Schellenberg (Manager)** provide year-round leadership to Camp, which invited over 2000 people for exploration, renewal,

peace, and inspiration in 2019. Camp provides service and leadership opportunities for a wide range of people. Children of all ages plug into God’s creation and develop life-long connections with one another.

Through her work with **North Edmonton Ministries (NEM), Donna Entz** (Mission Worker) provides opportunities to engage with people from a variety of faith backgrounds.



NEM is about building: building relationships, building community, and building bridges of understanding. Dialogues, English classes, book clubs, gardening and countless cups of tea provide places of centring, belonging and exploration. We celebrated with Donna this year as she was honoured with Canadian Mennonite University’s Distinguished Alumni Award!

Much of our administrative team’s work is behind the scenes to support congregations and to bridge our local, nationwide and global ministries. In 2019, **Tim**



### Wiebe-Neufeld (Executive Minister)

worked with congregations in support of church leadership, including the credentialing of ministry leaders, walking alongside during times of

pastoral transition, and providing resources and guidance during challenges that come with living in community. Tim also liaises with the many ministry arms of the Mennonite Church and works together with the Executive Staff Group (ESG) to shape the work and vision of MC Canada.

MCA congregations have expressed a desire to connect more deeply with one another. We do this when we share about God’s presence and leading. You can find MCA, nationwide and international stories by subscribing to **The MCA Communiqué**

([www.mennonitechurch.ab.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ab.ca)). **June Miller (Communications)** works at these connections and is involved in the roll-out of new websites for MC Canada, Regional Churches and participating congregations, rolling out February 11, 2020

The third member of our administrative team is **Tany**



**Warkentin (Treasurer)**. While Tany’s tasks largely centre around keeping track of numerical details, her broad perspective provides a bridge between MCA staff, committees and programs, and also keeps us connected in our relationships and commitments with the nationwide church.

## CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

MCA now has a special web page dedicated to resources for **Year 1: Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in life.**

[www.commonword.ca/go/1879](http://www.commonword.ca/go/1879)

## Web Launch

With the new website launching on February 11, MCA will also be changing domain names—something simpler—**mcab.ca**.

To ease transition, overlap of addresses will occur.

We are moving from [mennonitechurch.ab.ca](http://mennonitechurch.ab.ca) to [mcab.ca](http://mcab.ca)

**MCA committees\*** are made up of a dedicated group of 24 volunteers who work with staff to add hands, feet and vision to our ministries. The best place to meet everyone at the same time and discover more about each committee's scope is at our delegate sessions in Edmonton, March 20-21, 2020. Delegate or guest, everyone is invited!



\*Committees include: Congregational Leadership, Program & Festival, Community Building, Camp Valaqua, Mission & Service, Nominating, Personnel, Finance, & Executive.

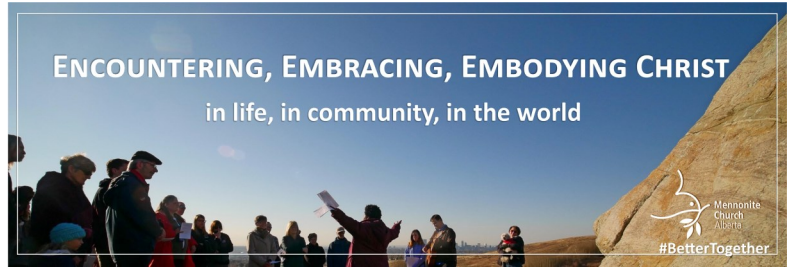
**Interested in being a part of the bigger vision?** Contact Ruth Friesen for more information.  
(ruthdavisfriesen@gmail.com)

Pictured: Top to Bottom: Congregational Leadership, Community Building, Mission & Service, Executive



In 2018 and 2019, the Vision 20/20 process led us through a deeper understanding of our time and place in the cycles of the Church. Vision

Gatherings were both reflective and stimulating. We're excited about Vision outcomes and possibilities that the next three years will offer as we explore, "Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in life, in community, in the world." Watch for reflections and opportunities to delve into "Deepening our faith; engaging in prayer and spiritual practices" throughout 2020. Resources are available on our website.



## Our nationwide church

Through **MC Canada**, we work with other **Regional Churches** to do programs such as **International Witness** and **Indigenous Settler Relations**. In addition to nine **Witness Workers** in four countries, we work with mission partners to support ministries in seven additional locations. We partner with **Canadian Mennonite University** to offer an array of resources through **CommonWord**, we support education and leadership development at our **Anabaptist/Mennonite educational institutions**, we are a resource to pastors and church leaders, and we participate in ecumenical gatherings. We relish the relationships that help us to grow in our global community!

## Thank You!

Invariably, when I meet the people of MCA at meetings, at faith studies, congregational celebrations, Trivia Nights or equipping sessions, I see eyes spark, I hear creative ideas, and I become fired with a shared energy and passion. Whether we're talking about personal spiritual journeys, congregational outreach, or relationship boundaries, people are striving to learn from each other and to grow together. Our seasons and our journeys are not ours to walk alone. Through the church we bind ourselves to one another. Thank you for being church together!

## 2019 Bursary Recipients



Each year Mennonite Church Alberta offers bursaries to post-secondary students attending an Anabaptist institution. The application deadline each year is July 31. Watch the website for 2020-2021 school year application.

The recipients for 2019-2020 school year are as follows:

**Top row:** Anne Retzlaff—CBC; Jaden Krahn—CMU; Bradley Wiebe—CMU; **Middle row:** Claire Dueck—CBC; Bryant Neufeldt—CMU; **Bottom row:** Olivia Neufeldt—CMU; Cassidy Brown—CMU; Darian Weibe-Neufeld—CMU

**Trivia Night Feb 8**  
A Camp Valaqua Fundraiser  
Calgary and Edmonton

**MCA Women's  
Retreat June 5-7**  
Sunnyside Retreat Centre  
Sylvan Lake, AB

**Annual Delegate  
Sessions March 20-21**  
First Mennonite Church  
Edmonton, AB

Visit  
**mcab.ca**  
for more details