

Transformed. Inspired. Called.

Hebrews 12:1-3



Discernment Documents

MCEC 36th Annual Church Gathering
April 28 & 29, 2023

MCEC | 201-50 Kent Ave., Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1 www.mcec.ca

Contents

Hebrews 12:1-3	3
Joyfully Transformed, Inspired and Called - Arli Klassen.....	4
“Why” Annual Church Gathering? - Ann L. Schultz	6
MCEC Identity and Priorities.....	8
Executive Council Members.....	10
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Facility Map.....	11
Logistics - Important Details.....	12
Schedule	14
Break Out Rooms	15

Discernment Documents

Congregational Milestones	16
Membership - Provisional/Full Membership Transitions.....	18
Motions	20
Minutes - 2022 Annual Church Gathering.....	21
Executive Council Actions.....	29
MCEC Slate.....	31
New Council Members.....	34

Financials

Financial Statements FYE January 31, 2023	36
Restricted Funds	39
Legacy Initiatives Fund.....	41
Pre-Gathering Financial Zoom Conversation.....	42
Spending Plan FYE January 31, 2024.....	43
MCEC Bequest Funds: Update and New Directions.....	46

Year in Review

Mission Office.....	48
Leadership Office	53
Pastoral Ministry Transitions.....	56
Pastor Introductions	58
MCEC Staff.....	62
MCEC Volunteers.....	64
MC Canada.....	65
MC Manitoba	69
MC Saskatchewan.....	70
MC Alberta.....	71
MC British Columbia	73
Community of Congregations.....	75
Thank You!.....	76
20 Languages of Worship	77
Upcoming MCEC Events	78
Sponsors	79



Hebrews 12: 1-3

Scripture

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up.

And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame.

Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

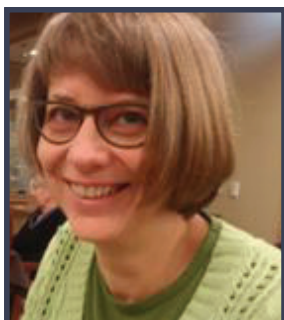
Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

New Living Translation



Joyfully Transformed, Inspired and Called

Arli Klassen, Moderator



Arli Klassen
Moderator

Last April our Annual Church Gathering was a joyful re-gathering of our whole MCEC community, worshipping together with energy, hybrid after two years on Zoom only. We celebrated our new member congregations. We approved new statements on our identity, vision, purpose, values and priorities, leading us forward. We came together then, as now, for fellowship and worship, encouraging and inspiring one another.

It has not been an easy year. The pandemic hastened many trends in our churches and society. Congregations gathered in person, but many in smaller numbers than before, and some much older. Some pastors are very tired. There were changes in MCEC staff with the resignations of our executive minister, Leah Reesor-Keller, as well as Sean East, finance manager, and Yeabsera Agonfer, events and communications coordinator. Congregational contributions for our shared MCEC ministries are declining. Just like Canadian society,



Yoel Trakoon Masyawong and Lao Mennonite Fellowship Canada
led in heartfelt worship at ACG 2022, *Courageous Imagination: Living into the Journey*.



Joyfully Transformed, Inspired and Called

Arli Klassen, Moderator

*Our values of
beloved-ness,
spirituality,
transformation,
community, hospitality
and peace and justice
keep us grounded in
our Anabaptist faith.*

MCEC is increasingly diverse in culture, and in separation between rural and urban ways of being.

It has also been a joyful year, seeing God at work among us, even in the midst of navigating change. These pages help us celebrate the joys in our MCEC community:

- new members in our MCEC community,
- resourcing of pastors and congregations,
- congregational anniversaries,
- pastoral transitions,
- stronger connections in neighbourhoods,
- and stronger voices on social justice issues such as the climate crisis and Indigenous/Settler relations.

We are delighted to have a willing and eager Intentional Interim Executive Team Leader in Ann L. Schultz for this year. We are grateful to have financial resources through the Legacy Initiatives Fund/Schmidt Bequest to assist with sustainability in these changing times.

Our values of beloved-ness, spirituality, transformation, community, hospitality and peace and justice keep us grounded in our Anabaptist faith. MCEC staff are using our five new priorities to shape all of their activities: navigating change, developing leaders, intergenerational discipleship, embracing diversity, and seeking peace and justice.

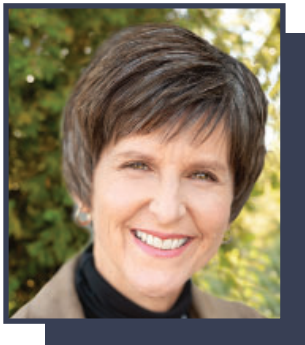
As the MCEC beloved community, we together are transformed by the love of God, inspired by the hope we find in Jesus, and called to action by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is exciting and profound stuff to celebrate together!

- Arli Klassen, Moderator



“Why” Annual Church Gathering?

Ann L. Schultz, Executive Team Leader



Ann L. Schultz
Executive Team Leader

Greetings and Welcome to ACG 2023!

It is a pleasure and an honour to serve as MCEC's Intentional Interim Executive Team Leader for 2023. I thank you all for your words of support and words of challenge during this time of transition at MCEC.

In my early months at MCEC I have been asking the question “why” a lot, as we advance our work together. Using Simon Sinek's Golden Circle, I have impressed on the MCEC team that when we are clear on **why** we are doing something, it will inform **how** we will accomplish our goals and **what** we need to do to accomplish them.

As we gather this weekend, I believe it is important for us to reflect on **why** we have an Annual Church Gathering. As a non-profit entity, we must have an annual meeting to read and correct the minutes of our meeting from last year, approve the audited financial statements, approve amendments and additions to bylaws, and call for nominations for the board and/or receive the reports from the Gift Discernment Committee. It is a tangible way for you, our membership, to hold the MCEC Staff and Board accountable to advancing MCEC's purpose, vision and values.

While the business is an important and essential element of our time together, MCEC's annual meeting has several other very important “whys.” I offer you some additional reasons of why I believe it is important and valuable to come together for MCEC's Church Gathering each year.

Annual Church Gathering 2022, Courageous Imagination: Living into the Journey.



“Why” Annual Church Gathering?

Ann L. Schultz, Executive Team Leader

*We gather together
to celebrate how God
is alive and at work
in our churches and
our communities both
near and far.*

We gather together to:

- be reminded of MCEC’s purpose: to **energize** congregations in worship, discipleship and mission, **encourage** leaders of hope, vision and transformation and **embody** God’s reconciling ministry for all creation;
- reinforce our Mennonite identity;
- learn about the progress of the Strategic Priorities 2022-2027;
- celebrate how God is alive and at work in our churches and our communities both near and far;
- commemorate and welcome new members into our church;
- honour our diversity and our ever changing landscape;
- embrace new ways of doing and being;
- worship, sing and pray together, because “worship and work must be one”;
- listen to how God may guide us now, and into the future

May you be **transformed, inspired** and **called** as we worship and work together. May our time together provide the opportunity for us to see and experience how God is working among us and through us today and into the future, and may it inspire us “to run the with endurance the race God has set before us... keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.”

- Ann L. Schultz, Executive Team Leader

Annual Church Gathering 2022, Courageous Imagination: Living into the Journey.



MCEC Identity Statement

Transformed. Inspired. Called.



Identity

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada is a diverse community
Transformed by the love of God
Inspired by the hope we find in Jesus
Called to action by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that God is calling Mennonite Church Eastern Canada to be an Anabaptist Mennonite church; a covenanted partner in Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference. This is a continuation of a historic tradition that emphasizes: Jesus is the centre of our faith; community is the centre of our life; and reconciliation is the centre of our work. As a community of congregations, we seek to join God's mission in the world, encouraging all to respond to God's gift of love revealed in Jesus, as described in scripture.

Purpose

We come together as a regional church to:

- **Energize congregations** in worship, discipleship and mission
- **Encourage leaders** of hope, vision and transformation
- **Embody God's reconciling ministry** for all creation

Values

Beloved-ness – All people before God are equal and have dignity, created in God's image.

Spirituality – Worship and prayer ground us in God's love and connect us to the Spirit's movement.

Transformation – We are curious to see what God is doing in our lives and in the world. We are open to change.

Community – We grow, learn and serve best in relationship with others, listening for God together.

Hospitality – Everyone is welcome at God's table of grace.

Peace and justice – We are living into God's Shalom for all creation.

Our identity, purpose and values come together in the vision we hold nationwide as Mennonite Church Canada:

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.



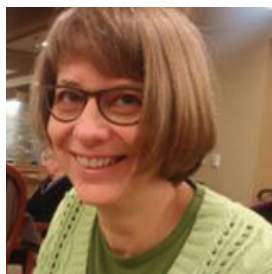
Priorities for 2022-2027

- **Navigating Change:** Fostering a culture of learning, innovation and adaptability to equip the church to navigate a season of change. This includes exploring new expressions of following Jesus and being church together.
- **Developing Leaders:** Strengthening leadership and forming faith, equipping individuals to pursue their vocations of church planting, pastoral ministry and lay leadership.
- **Intergenerational Discipleship:** Collaborating with congregations and ministry partners in support of intergenerational discipleship and faith formation, and engaging youth and young adults in leadership development opportunities.
- **Embracing Diversity:** Inviting and challenging the church to explore the variety and richness of God's people. This will require transformation of our hearts, minds, policies and structures as we live out our calling to be a diverse, inclusive and intercultural church body.
- **Seeking Peace and Justice:** Supporting and resourcing congregations to engage peace and justice issues, grounded in Anabaptist-Mennonite theology. Indigenous-Settler relationships, climate action, building intercultural competence and undoing racism are focus areas for this time.



Executive Council Members

Caring for MCEC



Arli Klassen
Moderator
First Mennonite Church



Steph Chandler Burns
Secretary
Erb Street Mennonite Church



Ben Cassels
Moderator-elect
Waterloo-Kitchener United
Mennonite Church



Felipe Gonzalía
Council Member
First Mennonite Church



Diane Lichti
Assistant Moderator
Tavistock Mennonite Church



J.D. Penner
Council Member
Toronto United Mennonite Church



James Barber
Council Member
Hagerman Mennonite Church



Richard Steinmann
Finance Representative
Council Member
Steinmann Mennonite Church



Hyejung Jessie Yum
Council Member
Danforth Mennonite Church

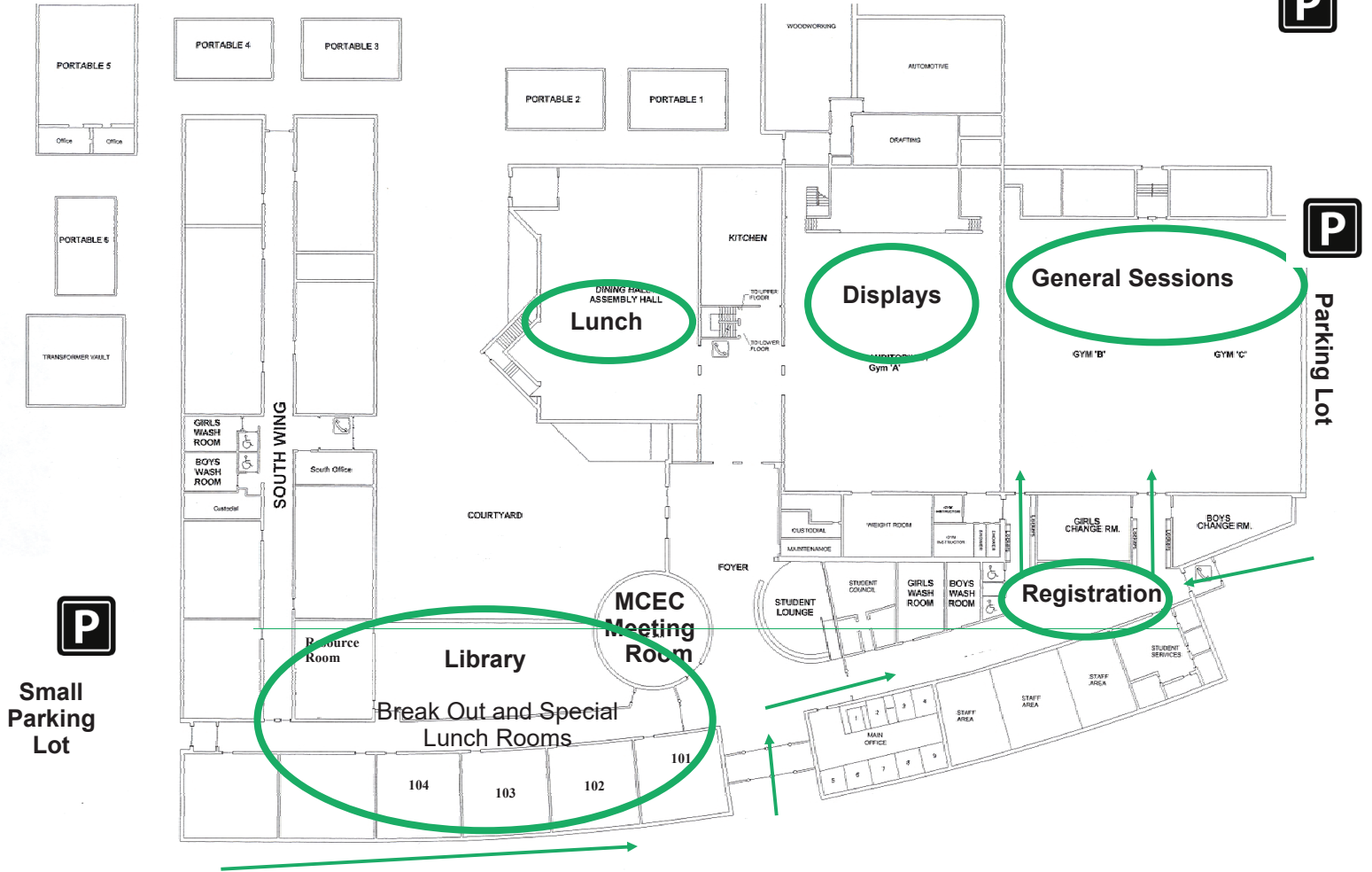


Ann L. Schultz
Intentional Interim
Executive Team Leader
Ex officio

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

Facility maps 110 Doon Rd.
Kitchener, ON

Rockway Golf Course




Overflow Parking

Rockway Golf Course
625 Rockway Drive
Kitchener, ON

There is a walking path from the golf course parking lot to Rockway Mennonite Collegiate's parking lot.

First Hmong Mennonite Church
93 Doon Rd.
Kitchener, ON

First Hmong Mennonite Church is across Doon Rd. from Rockway Mennonite Collegiate.

 First Hmong Mennonite Church

Logistics

Important details to note before ACG



Offering

MCEC thanks you for your generosity.

Four ways to give:

1. Online at www.mcec.ca/giving
2. E-transfer to financeoffice@mcec.ca
3. Offering envelopes will be provided on tables
4. Mail offering to MCEC, 201-50 Kent Ave., Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1
Attention: Annual Church Gathering

Friday Offering

Offering will support our strategic priority, Developing Leaders. Learn how MCEC will strengthen leadership and forming faith, equipping individuals to pursue their vocations of church planting, pastoral ministry and lay leadership

Saturday Offering

Offering will support our strategic priority, Intergenerational Discipleship. Learn how MCEC will collaborate with congregations and ministry partners in support of intergenerational discipleship and faith formation, and engage youth and young adults in leadership development opportunities.



Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. However, we invite you to download the documents to your device prior to the event. This will allow our French brother and sisters strong access to French translation over Zoom.



French Translation

French translation will be available via Zoom. You will need to bring your device and headphones. Wi-Fi is available. Thank you to Karine Rossbach Communications Inc. who will provide translation services.



Environmental Kindness

- Please bring your own mug or water bottle/receptacle.
- Consider carpooling to ACG with a friend.
- MCEC is conducting an environmental audit of our Annual Church Gathering in order to offset greenhouse gas emissions. Please record your information on the on-line registration form if you are the driver and are travelling by gas-powered vehicle to the ACG.
- Last year's audit informed the amount that MCEC paid to the Mennonite Church Canada Creation Care Fund which provides emission reduction grants to congregations who undertake projects to lower greenhouse gas emissions from their buildings and operations.



Photo Credits in Documents/Materials

Photos are from MCEC files, congregations, iStock, Unsplash, Raw Pixel and FreePik.

THANK YOU!



Facility

We thank Rockway Mennonite Collegiate for hosting us this weekend. We also thank First Hmong Mennonite Church for hosting the Church Planters Workshop.



Food Services

We are grateful to Gracie's Country Oven for providing us with life-giving sustenance that enables us to worship and work.



Sound/Tech

Thank you to Pynx Productions for providing us with the ability to hear each other and see our visuals.



Photographer

Thank you to our official photographer, Paul Schmidt Photography, Thorold, ON.

Logistics

Important details at ACG



Worship

We are grateful to Brandon Leis for leading and coordinating worship. Thank you also to Myrna Miller Dyck for creating worship visuals. Worship and prayer ground us in God's love and helps to draw us into a posture where we can be transformed, inspired and called.



How We Communicate With Each Other

- Floor privileges are extended to all attendees.
- Please treat each other with respect in Christian love.
- Identify yourself and your congregation/organization before making your remarks.
- Keep your remarks brief to allow others time to speak.
- Direct your remarks to the moderator and speak for yourself only, unless specifically commissioned to speak for a group. If so, name the group.
- Clarify whether you support the motion on the floor or have a different view.
- Allow everyone who wants to speak an opportunity to do so before speaking a second time to the same motion.
- Voting privileges are reserved for delegates.



Voting

Voting privileges are for delegates only. Upon registration you will indicate whether you are attending ACG as a delegate or as an attendee.

Delegates, as representatives of their congregation, vote on motions.

- Full Member Congregation: Register 3 delegates plus a youth delegate.
- Provisional Congregation: Register 2 delegates plus a youth delegate.
- If your congregation has more than 150 members, elect one additional delegate for each additional 50 members.



St. John Ambulance

First Aid

St. John Ambulance will be on site for any emergencies.



Listening Team

We have a listening team who will pay close attention to what they are hearing at the Gathering. Please feel free to approach them if you have a concern or question about what you have heard or are experiencing at our Gathering. They will be introduced at the Annual Church Gathering. Thank you Listening Team.



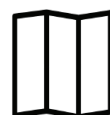
Parliamentarian

Aldred Neufeldt is our parliamentarian and advises us on procedural process when necessary. Thank you Aldred.



Prayer

Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada have formed a prayer circle and are praying for our gathering.



Displays

Please visit our partners in ministry at their displays located in the Gym.



Name Tags

Please help us recycle the name tag holders used in the in-person meeting. At the end of the Gathering please remove the white name tag, tuck the string inside and leave on your table.



Evaluation

An evaluation form will arrive by email. We would appreciate if you would take a few moments to complete the evaluation.

Schedule

Transformed. Inspired. Called.

Friday, April 28, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Registration

7:00 - 9:30

Intercultural Worship Service

Where does our Transformation, Inspiration and Calling come from?

Fanosie Legesse, MCEC Intercultural Mission Minister

As believers in all the local churches of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, why should we persist on transforming our holistic being to fit the course instead of changing the course itself to fit our situations? Why are we intentional on being inspired to be strong and courageous to continue the journey despite the struggle to have consistency in our spiritual disciplines? Why do we believe that our covenant relationship with God and with each other is our calling in life not just temporary pledge?

Offering - MCEC thanks you for your generosity. Offering will support our strategic priority, Developing Leaders. Learn how MCEC will strengthen leadership and forming faith, equipping individuals to pursue their vocations of church planting, pastoral ministry and lay leadership.

Responses to the Message

Arnold Neufeldt-Fast, Community Mennonite Church (Stouffville)

Rebecca Riek, First Mennonite Church (Kitchener)

Welcome of Congregations in Transition and their Pastors

9:00

Celebration Reception and Fellowship

Saturday, April 29, 2023

8:00 a.m.

Registration and Refreshments

We look forward to hearing from some of our partners today.

8:55

Welcome and Worship

9:30

Celebration of MCEC Ministry

MCEC's Slate of Volunteers

MCEC Financial Story

~ Bequest Fund Update and New Directions

~ Leaning into our Strategic Priorities

10:55

Break

11:10

Breakout Group Discussions - What do you want to talk about?

12:00 noon

Lunch

1:00 p.m.

Worship

Transformed. Inspired. Called.

Panelists and Afternoon Table Discussion

Where do we go from here as a transformed, inspired and called peoplehood?

Panelists:

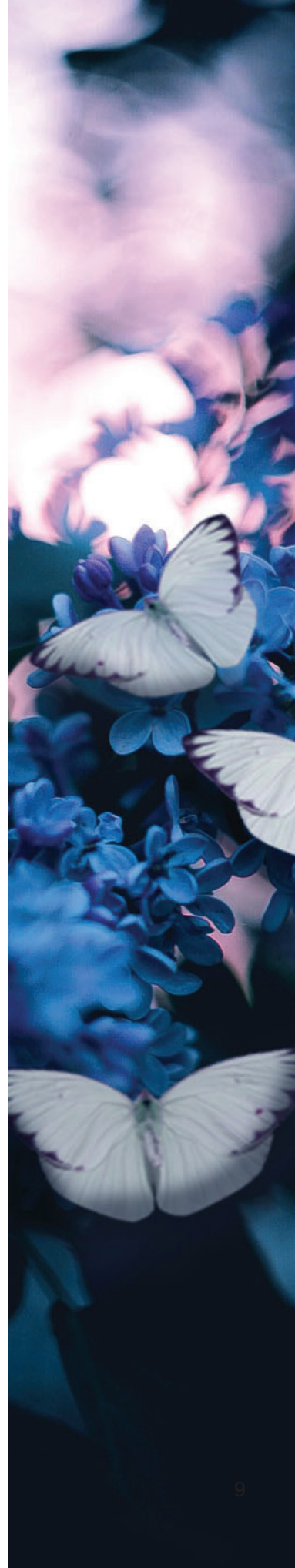
Charles Tabena, Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Québec

Sara Garnet, Faith Mennonite Church (Leamington)

Offering - MCEC thanks you for your generosity. Offering will support our strategic priority, Intergenerational Discipleship. Learn how MCEC will collaborate with congregations and ministry partners in support of intergenerational discipleship and faith formation, and engage youth and young adults in leadership development opportunities.

3:00

Closing Worship



Break Out Rooms

What do you want to talk about?

Break Out Rooms are in response to the question sent out in February - What do you want to talk about? Thank you for your responses! Each conversation will have a facilitator and a note taker.

Guiding Principles

- All voices are important. Each person is Beloved - all people before God are equal and have dignity, created in God's image.
- We grow, learn and serve best in relationship with others, listening for God together. We will listen to each other respectfully and learn from one another.
- We will not avoid tough issues and/or conversations. We are curious to see what God is doing in our lives and in the world.
- We will bring a spirit of respect to the table and hold any personal information in confidence. We are living into God's Shalom for all creation.

Topics may include:

Anabaptist heritage

Church property redevelopment and stewardship

Congregations supporting each other on journey of relationship with Indigenous neighbours

Declining attendance challenge

Environmental impact of a peace church

Hospitality

Living out our core beliefs

Choices and Rooms will be made available at Registration.



Congregational Milestones

A time for celebration

The Church at Nairn 75 years

The Nairn Mennonite Church, Ailsa Craig, ON, began in the winter of 1948 when several families from the Wellesley, Wilmot and East Zorra area with roots in the Ontario Amish Mennonite Conference bought farms in the Ailsa Craig area with the goal of establishing a mission church. Wilfred Schlegel was ordained as the first minister on March 6, 1949.

The church helped to innovate many programs, including: Craigwiel Gardens, a multi-level facility for seniors in Ailsa Craig, the London Rescue Mission and Valleyview Mennonite Church in London, ON, and the Ailsa Craig Boys' Farm (now Craigwood Youth Services).

While the Mennonite presence in East Williams is small and seen by some as a closed group from Mennonite background, this is not so. There are only a few members who are from the Anabaptist tradition. They have now changed their name to "The Church at Nairn" to dissipate those perceptions and be even more a part of the community. With the closing of the Presbyterian Church in Ailsa Craig, several of those members found their home at Nairn, but many traditions are represented in the congregation.

The Nairn congregation is called by God to be a place where all people:

- are listened to and accepted
- build relationships with Christ and one another;
- have opportunities for meaningful worship and biblical teaching;
- have opportunities for transformational growth.

- from Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online and The Church at Nairn website



The Church at Nairn: Celebrating 75 years of ministry.

Congregational Milestones

A time for celebration

Toronto United Mennonite Church 75 years

Toronto United Mennonite Church (TUMC) is a Christian community in the Mennonite-Anabaptist “peace church” tradition, emphasizing discipleship, community, service and nonviolence. Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2023, TUMC was formally organized in 1948 and draws people of many backgrounds from across Greater Toronto. It started as a home-based congregation in the 1930s, serving mostly German-speaking immigrants. It became a mission church in 1942 and began meeting at its current location on Queen Street East in 1956. It has grown to include people from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Today, TUMC members hail from five continents and speak many mother tongues. Many are first-generation Mennonites.

TUMC’s mission is to be a family of faith that welcomes people with diverse backgrounds and stories, worshipping together and supporting one another, while following Christ’s example in working for peace and justice in an urban context. The congregation embraces the full participation of people of all races, ethnicities, generations, sexual orientations, gender expressions, faith backgrounds, physical capacities and gifts. TUMC co-owns its building with Iglesia Mennonite Nueva Vida and Mennonite New Life Centre that supports newcomers and refugees.



Toronto United Mennonite Church family portrait.

Tree of Life/Arbre de Vie - 25 years

The Tree of Life/Arbre de Vie church family is a small group of 20-30 mainly French and English individuals that gather together at the Solid Rock facility on Lake Nipissing from 10:30-12:30 Sunday mornings. We have an interactive format around the circle of sharing, worship, prayer and instruction. The children join in for half the time and then have their own “God Time” together. We also support 12 different missions around the world on a monthly basis.

We have weekly regional Intercessory Prayer with another church in the area. There is also a monthly Men’ Breakfast with five other churches in the West Nipissing/French River area who take turns hosting the breakfast in which there are 30-40 men that participate. Tree of Life/Arbre de Vie also hosts other events like a camping weekend, family day activities, worship nights, seminars and other teaching events, family events, etc.

Tree of Life/Arbre de Vie church family.



We truly are blessed to be a blessing and are grateful for our small part in the greater church family that is influencing our world by being Light, bringing Life, and expressing Love.

Membership

Provisional and full membership transitions

Provisional Membership Congregations

Église Bethésda Mennonite de Saint-Hyacinthe

The congregation began in February 2020 as a result of the church planting efforts of Mennonite Disciples Mission led by Garant Sungura. Begun by one family, Pastor Ayeba Amuri, his spouse, and their twelve children, the congregation has grown to five families with an attendance of 65 (30 of whom are children). Pastor Ayeba has been a member of the Mennonite church in Africa since 1996, and together with the leadership of the congregation feel strongly that being part of MCEC is like coming home to their family. The congregation includes immigrants from Congo, Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, and Chad. The language of worship is primarily French and Swahili.



Église Bethésda Mennonite de Saint-Hyacinthe joins MCEC as a provisional membership congregation.

Église Jésus-Christ Appelle Tous

The congregation officially launched on August 16, 2020 in what was only the beginning of a very challenging season. As a new church plant they faced numerous challenges including the rapid rise in rental costs, the Covid-19 pandemic and the accompanying restrictions on public gatherings. As a result the congregation began meeting via video conference, holding their first in-person worship gathering in the summer of 2021. A congregation composed primarily of immigrants and refugees from Swahili speaking countries in East Africa, Église Jesus-Christ Appelle Tous declares their vision in the name of the congregation as they seek to be a church for all people (Jesus Christ calls all).



Église Jesus-Christ Appelle Tous joins MCEC as a provisional membership congregation.

Gifts of Membership - Symbolism

The mission council assists and encourages new congregations to obtain official membership in MCEC and Mennonite Church Canada, beginning with provisional church membership status. Provisional church membership status will be maintained for a time of mutual discernment and testing for a long-term relationship or, upon mutual agreement, of another direction. After a testing period, provisional church membership congregations are assisted by the mission council to become full status members of MCEC and Mennonite Church Canada.

- Provisional membership congregations are given a living tree or plant. We celebrate and recognize that they are growing and developing.
- Full membership congregations receive a basin and towel signifying their call to receive from and serve the larger body as a part of the whole.

Membership

Provisional and full membership transitions



Pastor Lyne Renaud worships on a Sunday morning after sharing breakfast at Hochma.

Full Membership Congregations

Hochma

The Hochma congregation has been a provisional member of MCEC since 2017. Planted as a non-traditional (missionary) church for the marginalized, the congregation formed an overnight “out of the cold” shelter just prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. During the pandemic their shelter grew rapidly, becoming Care Montreal, the largest shelter in the east end of Montreal. They have a strong group of committed leadership, serve in an under-resourced neighbourhood and are a powerful example of serving the marginalized of their community.



Shalom Worship & Healing Centre worships God.

Shalom Worship & Healing Centre

Planted in 2010 with a small group of eleven adults and meeting at First Mennonite Church (Kitchener), Shalom became a provisional membership congregation in 2016. Today Shalom is a congregation of more than 400 people – and they are young! They work hard to intentionally articulate an intercultural vision even as they are now still rooted in the rapid growth brought by new immigrants from Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Provisional Membership Withdrawn

Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church

The Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church became a provisional member congregation in Mennonite Church Eastern Canada April 2013 under the leadership of Mesfin Woldearegay.

Provisional church membership status is maintained for a time of mutual discernment and testing for a long-term relationship or, upon mutual agreement, of another direction. Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church has been an active part of MCEC over the past ten years. They have withdrawn their provisional status. We celebrate the ministry of Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church and bless them as they continue to follow God’s leading.

Motions

Delegate discernment

Approval of Minutes of 2022 Annual Church Gathering

MOTION: “That we accept the minutes of the 35th annual meeting of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, held April 29 and 30, 2022.”

Approval of Executive Council Actions for 2022-2023

MOTION: “That we approve all actions taken by the MCEC Executive Council for the year May 2022 to April 2023.”

Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements FYE January 31, 2023

MOTION: “That we accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2023 as printed.”

Approval of Slate

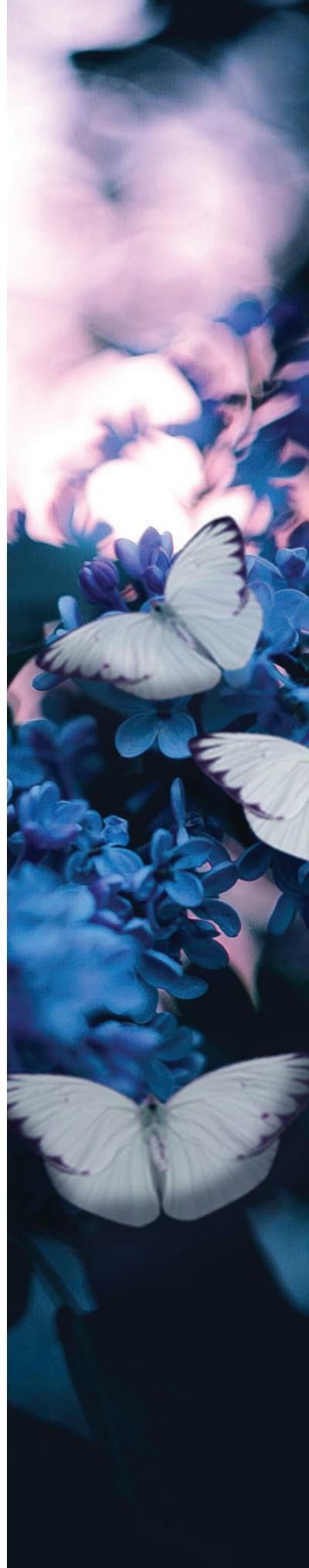
MOTION: “That we accept the 2023 - 2024 slate as presented.

Approval of MCEC Spending Plan for 2023-2024

MOTION: “That we accept the 2023-2024 spending plan as printed.”

Approval of Financial Auditors

MOTION: “That we appoint E.M. Simon CPA Professional Corporation as auditors for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2024.”





MCEC

201 - 50 Kent Avenue,
Kitchener ON, N2G 3R1
Telephone: Local 226-476-2500
Toll Free 855-476-2500
Website: www.mcec.ca

Minutes of MCEC's 35th Annual Church Gathering
Hybrid Meeting
Redeemer University College, 777 Garner St. E., Ancaster and Online
Friday, April 29, 2022
7:00 pm

1. **OPENING WORSHIP** - From the screen, Arli Klassen, MCEC moderator, welcomed everyone in-person and online.
 - a) **Land Acknowledgement** - Herb Sawatzky, MCEC Truth & Reconciliation Working Group, presented the land acknowledgement.
 - b) **Annual Church Gathering Theme** – Arli introduced the theme of courageous imagination. Executive council, along with staff, heard what was said through a listening process and the seeds of that work are being presented this weekend. The courageous imagination process was based on Luke 13:18-21. What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? Arli encouraged all to look for God's seeds of healing and hope among us this weekend.
 - c) **Call to Worship and Opening Prayer** – Norm Dyck, mission minister, and Marilyn Rudy-Froese, church leadership minister, gave the Call to Worship and Opening Prayer.

Yoel Masyawong introduced the band from Grace Lao Mennonite Church, Grace New Life Mennonite Church, Lao Evangelical Canadian Mennonite Church and Lao Christian Fellowship. Yoel and the band led worship.

The offering gathered that evening was for the support of church planters.

2. **BECOMING A GLOBAL CHURCH** - Jeanette Hanson, Mennonite Church Canada International Witness director, brought greetings from families of faith across Canada and Doug Klassen, executive minister for Mennonite Church Canada.

Seeds are powerful. They can lay dormant a long time before they grow. What seeds have been sown for us to see these pastors installed this evening? That did not happen overnight. Seeds of faithful relationship building have grown over the years.

Luke 13: 18 – 19: What is the kingdom of God like? It is like a tiny mustard seed that produces a plant so big that birds feel safe to nest. What is the small mustard seed of space that you can create where the kingdom of God can flourish? Where can you create space for God to work, in your home, in your community?

John 12: 23-24: Seeds die by growing and producing food. Anyone who holds onto life just as it is destroys that life; but if you let it go, reckless in your love, you will have joy forever. Do not worry about protecting and saving your life. Go out, use it, spend it and give it away. It is eternal. Jesus calls us to use our lives as seeds that fall into the ground and die to produce fruit. We yield our lives, all that we have, all that we are to God's control and to God's use in this world.

Minutes

35th Annual Church Gathering 2022

3. **ACCEPTING NEW CHURCHES** – Delegates welcomed six new churches into provisional membership and one into full- status membership. Norm Dyck, mission minister, reminded everyone of the process for provisional and full-status membership. The process begins and continues with relationship. Norm listed the criteria that guide the relationship and qualifies congregations for provisional and full status.

Norm introduced the six new provisional membership churches and their representatives

- a) Burning Bush Forest Church
- b) Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Québec
- c) Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches (RDB)
- d) Église Mennonite Agape
- e) Goshen Mennonite Church
- f) The Meeting Place

Each church received a certificate and a plant as a symbol of their new membership status.

Pastor Yared accepted a plaque and gift as a token of their full status membership on behalf of Meheret Evangelical Church

Pastoral leadership from each church spoke a prayer in the language they were most comfortable with.

Norm introduced congregations that received provisional and full status membership in the past two years during the pandemic.

Moses Mugisha, Goshen Mennonite Church, performed *Courageous Imagination*, the song written for the courageous imagination process.

4. **STAFF INTRODUCTIONS** - Yeabsra Agonfer, Wendy Janzen, John Reimer and Stephen Reist were introduced as new staff.
5. **INSTALLATION OF PASTORS** - Marilyn Rudy-Froese, church leadership minister, introduced pastors new to MCEC or newly credentialed in the past year. She also recognized the pastors new to MCEC or newly credentialed in the past two years during the pandemic. Marilyn highlighted the training these pastors receive to prepare them for ministry. Following a litany, newly installed pastors signed their covenant partnership with MCEC.

Marilyn spoke a word of blessing to the pastors.

6. **COMMUNION** - Marilyn prepared the community for communion, a new practice for a gathering. Pastors new to MCEC served the elements.
7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Leah Reesor-Keller, executive minister, recognized partner organizations who were attending the gathering.

The Lao band ended worship with *How Great Thou Art*.

8. **ADJOURNED** – 9:00 pm, followed by a reception to welcome new congregations.

Minutes

35th Annual Church Gathering 2022

Minutes of MCEC's 35th Annual Church Gathering

Hybrid Meeting

Redeemer University College, 777 Garner St. E., Ancaster and Online Zoom

Saturday, April 30, 2022

9:00 am

1. **OPENING WORSHIP** - From the screen, Arli Klassen, MCEC moderator, opened the meeting. There was a quorum present to proceed with the gathering. Arli encouraged everyone to look for seeds that were big and flourishing and where there was fertile soil waiting for seeds, with courageous imagination, relying on the Spirit.

The listening committee was J.D. Penner and Ben Cassels. Parliamentarian was Aldred Neufeldt.

Yoel Masyawong led worship.

2. **THANKSGIVING ADDRESS** - Janis Monture, executive director Woodland Cultural Centre, presented the Thanksgiving Address from Six Nations tradition. Woodland is dedicated to preserving Indigenous art, culture and language. Janis recognized that churches have a particular responsibility in restoring relationships with Indigenous communities.

Land acknowledgement honours the unique and enduring relationship between Indigenous People and traditional territories. It is an Indigenous practice to acknowledge the land and express gratitude to those who resided there now and honour those from the past.

Janis offered ways of building relationship:

- learn to understand the specific geographic area in which your organization or church is located;
- educate the church on the intent and purpose of a land acknowledgement;
- reach out to the Indigenous community and those in your community regarding land acknowledgement;
- look into actions you can take in the Indigenous communities around you.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF PARTNERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL** - Arli introduced partners attending the meeting and the executive council that guides MCEC decisions.
4. **ACCEPTANCE OF 2021 ACG MINUTES** - ***Motion:** On behalf of the executive council, Steph Chandler Burns moved and Brenda Davis, Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the 34th annual meeting of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, held April 23 and April 24, 2021. Carried.*
5. **ACCEPTANCE OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS** - ***Motion:** On behalf of the executive council, Steph Chandler Burns moved and Barry Roth, Elmira Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to approve all actions taken by the MCEC executive council for the year May 2021 to April 2022. Carried.*
6. **INTRODUCTION OF THE SLATE** - Gladys Bender, chair of the Gift Discernment Committee, introduced the slate, adding names that were not available at the time of posting the information.

Minutes

35th Annual Church Gathering 2022

7. **REVIEW OF YE2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** - Sean East, finance manager, reviewed the financial statements for the year ending January 31, 2022. He expressed gratitude for the support of congregations. We were very fortunate to be stable during the pandemic. Sean explained the statements:
- Blessed with the highest individual giving, with an increase of \$20,000;
 - Giving continues to be concentrated late in the fiscal year. He encouraged congregations to spread that out over the year as best they can;
 - The audit was conducted virtually;
 - No issues were noted during the audit and no correcting entries were required;
 - Cash and short-term deposits increased by \$1.3 million during the year due to the maturity of some larger long-term GICs in 2021;
 - No Legacy Fund disbursements were received in the year but MCEC did receive estate gifts;
 - Balance of restricted funds went down by \$358,00 across all funds, largely used to support general transfers to the operating budget and spending on Legacy Initiative projects in excess of new donations received.

8. **ACCEPTANCE OF YE2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT** - ***Motion:** On behalf of the executive council, Rich Steinmann moved and John Finlay, Hanover Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2022 as printed. Carried.*

This section ended with a duet from Brittany Anonthysene and Katie Anonthysene from Grace Lao Mennonite Church.

9. **BREAK**

10. **COURAGEOUS IMAGINATION** - Arli Klassen, MCEC moderator, explained the Courageous Imagination journey and the process of how the MCEC identity statement and priorities were drafted.

Leah Reesor-Keller, executive minister, described her journey with courageous imagination. Growing our capacity to dream and imagine other ways of living and living into God's shalom is what the church needs now. We need to cultivate courageous imagination as individuals, as congregations and as a regional church together. Who is God calling us to be? How do we create and dream of new ways of being church to each other in a rapidly changing world? Leah shared her experience visiting different congregations either online or in-person. Congregations' desire to see different ways of being together and finding connection and meaning through challenging times fills her with hope and moves us all into a new stage as a group together.

We do not know what the church will look like in the future but we need to be grounded and open to change to have hope for the future. Our identity statements and priorities are a road map to help us find our way through the next ten years. Our identity sets out who we understand ourselves to be, what is important to us, and why we are on this journey together. Our values set the attitudes and expectations of how we will act on our journey.

Our priorities indicate how we will use our resources to embrace diversity and increase belonging for everyone: seeking peace and justice, recognizing indigenous settler reconciliation, climate action and undoing racism. We are diverse and differ in theology, but what is it that holds us

Minutes

35th Annual Church Gathering 2022

together? We have chosen to be together and decided to be fellow pilgrims and hold each other accountable. Our diversity is a gift. We are planting seeds in soils that have been nurtured for decades. We are transformed by the love of God, inspired by the hope we find in Jesus and called to action by the power of the Holy Spirit.

11. **TABLE CONVERSATIONS** - Each table discussed the following questions:
 - a) What are you most excited about? Where are the possibilities for God to show up in new ways here? What questions or reservations do you have?
 - b) Five years from now, how will we know that we've lived into this calling? By planting and nurturing these seeds, what might grow?
 - c) How will congregations look or act differently based on this?
 - d) How might the regional church look or act differently based on this?
 - e) Are there any questions you wish MCEC leadership to address in this afternoon's session?
12. **LUNCH BREAK**
13. **BREAKOUT ROOMS** - Everyone participated in the following breakout rooms:
 - a) Finding a Pastor in 2022
 - b) Climate Action Within the Mennonite Church
 - c) Eco Ministry: Deepening Our Faith
 - d) Courageous Imagination 2032
 - e) What in the World is God up to? International Witness
 - f) Palestine-Israel Network
 - g) Developing and Using Land and Territory Acknowledgements
 - h) Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Alumni and More
 - i) Planting Mustard Seeds at Home "Family on Mission is the music to the lyrics of discipleship"
14. **COURAGEOUS IMAGINATION REPORTING AND OPEN MIC** - Arli gave feedback on the Q1 and Q5 responses from the table conversations. Some affirmations were: exciting, diversity, healing, welcoming, values, belovedness, Trinitarian identity and hybrid experience. Some concerns were:
 - how to balance diversity with our core theology.
 - What is the place of the word of God in these documents?
 - Is LGBTQ+ included? Why is it not named in these documents?
 - How do we get more diversity in MCEC leaders, council and staff?
 - more focus on youth.
 - Where are 16 missing congregations? Why are they not here?
 - Is mission, peace and justice on the margin or a core priority?
 - How will MCEC resource all the congregations?
 - How can we convey these ideas within our local congregations?
 - These are big ideas. How can we monitor our goals and identify practical actions we can take?

Leah responded to some of the concerns raised. LGBTQ+ people are beloved leaders, members, and pastors among us. That is important to us as a regional body. Each congregation has its own interpretation of the Confession of Faith document and inclusion of LGBTQ+ people. Our understanding of faith is attracting new congregations. We need to keep on wrestling with how we will embrace this diversity. One question raised was about polarization. People from all different ages, generations, cultures, gender identities and sexual orientations have come

Minutes

35th Annual Church Gathering 2022

together to wrestle and listen to God. We are diverse but together we are being transformed by God's love, inspired by the hope we find in Jesus and called to action by the Holy Spirit.

J.D. Penner, Toronto United Mennonite Church, in-person: One of the questions raised was about how MCEC resources churches. We all are MCEC. We are the church. You are the ones to fund the work of MCEC. These priorities reflect who we are as a collective.

Shannon Neufeld, Toronto United Mennonite Church, in-person: Will there be other opportunities for the churches to speak into these questions?

We are using existing channels and programs at MCEC to connect to and have feedback from congregations. We will be working with more focused groups on different topics.

Michele Rizoli, Toronto United Mennonite Church, online: What resources will be put towards LGBTQ+ inclusion and anti-homophobia?

This topic did not come up as often as others did during our listening process. But it is very important. As we think of embracing diversity and inclusion, we are asking MCEC both internally and more broadly to wrestle with the fullness of who we are within our membership.

Online: Embracing diversity also requires having a strong core. How do you see that dynamic working?

Diversity is the composition of what each individual brings to the whole. Understanding your own culture and background is important to understanding others.

Online: Can race relations and equity be considered a requirement for ministry as Healthy Boundaries Workshop is?

We are looking at how to bring training, education, and resources into the programs we run to embrace diversity. We require Healthy Boundaries training for pastors and will consider anti-oppression training more broadly.

Cedric Martin, Toronto United Mennonite Church, in-person: Will there be an opportunity for youth to be included in MCEC Annual Church Gathering?

We can bring the youth to the main events or we can go to their activity/program and meet them in their own space. It is important to spend time listening to young adults and youth who may not feel it is their priority to attend events like the Annual Church Gathering. MCEC is looking for ways to support the involvement of youth so that it is a positive interaction for them.

Leah presented an image of MCEC as a constellation of congregations, gathered within our differences, with Jesus in the centre, rather than a specific theology. Being united in our differences, in spite of polarization, can be the biggest witness we give to a polarized world about what it means to be a Christ-follower.

15. **BREAK**

Youth from Markham Christian Worship Centre sang praise songs in Tamil.

Minutes

35th Annual Church Gathering 2022

16. **ACCEPTANCE OF YE2023 SPENDING PLAN** - Sean East presented the YE2023 Spending Plan. Priorities and the way MCEC chooses to spend money will shift. MCEC will need to make decisions as priorities are put in place.

This is a placeholder budget, similar to last year, with a slight increase. Budgeting for church giving will be slightly higher. MC Canada's operating support is now based on 30% of the previous year's church giving. The internal operating cost has no drastic shifts in programming pending the implementation of the Courageous Imagination process.

Increases in the budget were:

- a cost of living salary increase of 5% for existing staff;
- addition of one new Regional Ministry Associate who is already working;
- information technology spending to maintain computer infrastructure;
- legal/audit expenses;
- a new eco-ministry position from the LiF budget;
- costs to send MCEC delegates to Mennonite Church Canada assembly in June from the LiF budget.

The budget assumed a full 15% draw from the Faithful Steward Fund in support of the operating budget, with an additional \$40,956 to meet a balanced budget.

Andre Wiederkehr, Hanover Mennonite Church, in-person – Please comment on an increase in travel for most of the councils.

Staff were not travelling during the pandemic. This budget is increased to support staff's increase in travel to meet with congregations.

Ruth Boehm, Faith Mennonite Church, in-person – Are part-time staff getting enough hours to qualify for benefits?

The staff person has to be .5FTE to be eligible for benefits. We could initiate a conversation with Mennonite Church Canada about changing the plan design to have more flexibility. Another option is to look at self-insuring which is complicated. Six or seven part-time MCEC staff do not qualify for benefits unless they can combine their MCEC and church hours.

Shannon Neufeld, Toronto United Mennonite Church, on the floor – Is Courageous Imagination priorities not included in the budget?

We do not anticipate an increase in budget this year. We cannot make a budget for Courageous Imagination priorities until it is approved. As we go through the process this year, we can plan for the next year.

Victor Klassen, Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church, online– What is the difference between the LiF and the Faithful Steward Fund?

The Legacy Initiatives Fund was established to hold the money that was distributed to MCEC from the estate of Harold and Enid Schmidt. Because it was a large amount it was decided to set that up separately and to treat it and think about it differently than we would other bequests.

The Faithful Steward Fund exists to hold bequests that we receive from an estate designated to MCEC but not designated for a specific purpose within MCEC. Our policy is to take 15% of that balance each year to support the operating budget.

Minutes

35th Annual Church Gathering 2022

Motion: On behalf of the executive council, Richard Steinmann moved and John Finlay, Hanover Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to accept the 2022-2023 spending plan as presented. Carried.

17. **ACCEPTANCE OF AUDITOR FOR 2022-2023 - Motion:** On behalf of the executive council, Rich Steinmann moved and Mark Diller Harder, St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditors for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2023. Carried.
18. **MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA** - Arli brought greetings from the broader Mennonite community. Doug Klassen, Mennonite Church Canada executive minister and Gary Janzen, Mennonite Church British Columbia executive minister, gave online greetings. Mennonite Church Alberta will host the nationwide church gathering from July 29 to August 1, 2022 in Edmonton.
19. **ACCEPTANCE OF SLATE** - Gladys Bender noted one correction to the slate. Matthew Suta took the place of Carolyn Hamm as MCEC representative on the United Mennonite Education Institute board. **Motion:** Gladys Bender moved, on behalf of the executive council, and Mike DeHaan, Danforth Mennonite Church, seconded the motion to accept the 2022-20223 slate with the changes as presented. Carried.
20. **Offering** – Offering was received for the Leadership Formation Fund to support education, sabbaticals and discretionary assistance for pastors.
21. **ACCEPTANCE OF IDENTITY STATEMENTS - Motion:** Arli Klassen moved, on behalf of the executive council, seconded by Nate Hope, Windsor Mennonite Fellowship, to accept the MCEC identity statements as presented. Carried.

One ABSTENTION was noted.

22. **ACCEPTANCE OF PRIORITY STATEMENTS - Motion:** Arli Klassen moved, on behalf of the executive council, seconded by Yoel Masyawong, Grace Lao Mennonite Church, to accept the MCEC priority statements for 2022-2027 as presented. Carried.

One NO was noted.

23. **CLOSING WORSHIP** - John Reimer, operations director, thanked the staff who worked to make this event happen. SoundBox Productions did a tremendous job of the broadcast. Redeemer University provided an excellent facility and service. Luke Fillion was the official photographer. John thanked each one for attending.

Worship Team ended with "Great is Thy Faithfulness." Arli concluded with a sending prayer.

24. **ADJOURNED**

3:55

Executive Council Actions

May 2022 - March 2023

Resolutions of May 11, 2022

- a. Accepted minutes of March 22, 2022 meeting with typing correction
- b. Approved the executive council work plan for 2022 – 2023 by consensus, with the understanding it could change throughout the year
- c. Approved loan of \$200,000 to Mennonite World Conference, to be repaid by expected Schmidt estate proceeds tithing portion to MWC

Resolutions of June 14, 2022

- a. Approved minutes of May 17, 2022 meeting as written
- b. Reviewed minutes of the April 29 – 30, 2022 annual church gathering
- c. Approved Mariko Ogasawara, Marlene Toews Janzen and Nicole Pelletier as MCEC delegates to the Mennonite Church Canada Gathering in July
- d. Affirmed the direction Mennonite Church Canada was taking and expressed gratitude for the work of the Mennonite Church Canada Executive Minister

Resolutions of September 20, 2022

- a. Accepted the finance council recommendation to appoint Ed Simons as the MCEC auditor for FYE January 13, 2023 with an estimated fee of \$16,000 to \$17,000 to replace PriceWaterhouseCoopers who have resigned as our auditors.
- b. Affirmed Randy Loepp as a MCEC affiliated director to fill a slate vacancy on the MCCO board.
- c. In line with MCEC's commitment to Mennonite Church Canada shared policy and procedures related to misconduct, MCEC affirmed the Mennonite Church Canada Joint Council decision to add an addendum to the 2016 Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure.
- d. Affirmed Mennonite Church Canada to move ahead with the Shared Revenue Agreement in draft as presented.
- e. Accepted the recommendation by Steph Chandler Burns to approve the minutes which document the decisions made at MCEC in-camera sessions in 2022.
- f. Approved the MCEC officers' recommendation for the Position Description Focus for the Intentional Interim Executive Team Leader (IETL).
- g. Appointed the nominee to the IETL position, within the framework of terms as provided, according to the MCEC officers' recommendation.

Resolutions of November 15, 2022

- a. Approved the minutes of September 20, 2022 meeting
- b. Granted Rich Steinmann and Jen Laurin signing authority and full access to all accounts and holdings of MCEC with Kindred Credit Union
- c. Removed Leah Reesor-Keller and Sean East from any MCEC authorizations with Kindred Credit Union
- d. Approved John Reimer and Arli Klassen to have full authorizations on the MCEC accounts, including creating accounts, closing accounts, money transfers, signing cheques, etc.
- e. Approved all activities in the MCEC account that require signature authorization to require two signatures by those appropriately authorized
- f. Approved recommendation by MCEC task force to accept the Conrad Grebel University College/MCEC Memo of Understanding for a period of five years to December 2027



Executive Council Actions

May 2022 - March 2023

- g. Approved regular minutes are distributed to meeting participants, Mennonite Church Canada's executive minister and MCEC's representative to Joint Council
- h. Approved regular and in-camera minutes are shared with executive council in draft form following review by the moderator (until executive minister is put in place) and the secretary
- i. Approved in-camera minutes (decisions only) are shared with executive council in draft form following review by the moderator and secretary
- j. Accepted recommendation to approve minutes which document the decisions made at MCEC in-camera sessions in 2022
- k. Approved MCEC officers' recommendation for the position description focus for the intentional interim executive team leader
- l. Approved nominee of the intentional interim executive team leader

Resolutions of December 13, 2022

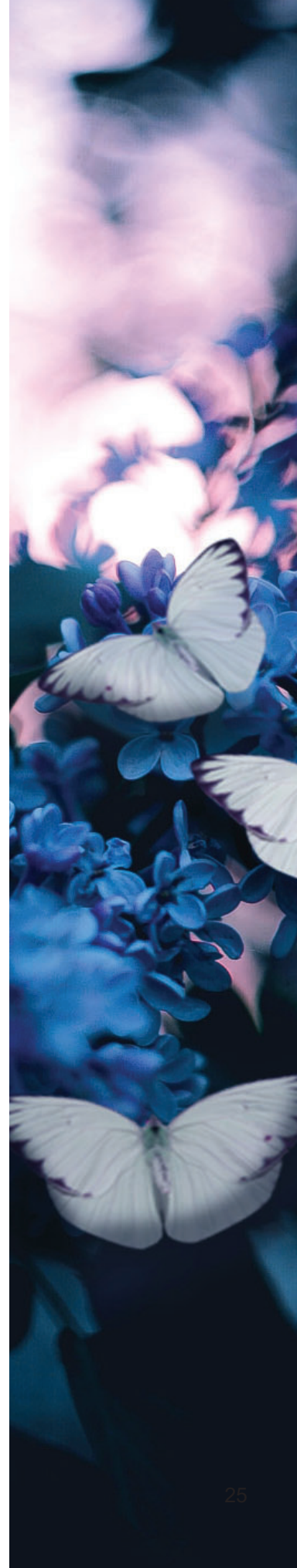
- a. Approved the minutes of November 15, 2022 meeting with errors noted and corrected
- b. Approved the revised executive governance policy with the added section regarding minutes
- c. Affirmed the direction staff presented for the Annual Church Gathering
- d. Approved the intentional interim executive team leader job description

Resolutions of January, 31, 2023

- a. Approved the minutes of December 13, 2022 with minor corrections
- b. Granted Ann L. Schultz, intentional interim executive team leader, signing authority and full access to all accounts and holdings of MCEC with Kindred Credit Union
- c. Approved Ann L. Schultz have full authorizations on the MCEC accounts, including creating accounts, closing accounts, money transfers, signing cheques, etc.
- d. Accepted Mission Council's recommendations to remove Bethel Evangelical Ethiopian Church's provisional status as information for the delegates
- e. Accepted full church membership status for Hochma and Shalom Healing and Worship Centre, and provisional membership status for Église Bethésda Mennonite de Saint-Hyacinthe and Église Jésus-Christ Appelle Tous for delegate affirmation at the annual church gathering
- f. Affirmed the budget path and confirmed using at least \$400,000 to balance the 2023-2024 budget

Resolutions of March, 23, 2023

- a. Approved the minutes of January 31, 2023 meeting
- b. Approved the 2023-2024 slate for delegate approval at the annual church gathering
- c. Approved the recommendations for the Legacy Initiatives Fund with an amendment to part two as information for the delegates at the annual church gathering
- d. Approved policy for small grants
- e. Adopted the 2023 Spending Plan for delegate approval at annual church gathering





Slate for 2023 – 2024 MCEC COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Executive Council

24-0	Hyejung Jessie Yum		Danforth
24-0	James Barber		Hagerman
24-1	Felipe Gonzalía		First
25-1	Ben Cassels	Moderator	Waterloo-Kitchener
25-2	Steph Chandler Burns	Secretary	Waterloo North
26-2	Diane Lichti	Assistant Moderator	Tavistock
26-2	Richard Steinmann	FC Rep	Steinmann
26-1	Bruce Burgetz		Toronto United
26-1			

Ann L Schultz, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Leader

Finance Council

25-1	Alex Wiens		North Leamington
25-2	Michael Steinmann		The Gathering
25-2	Karen Heese		Hagerman
26-2	Richard Steinmann	Chair	Steinmann

John Reimer Ex-officio, MCEC Operations Director

Ann L Shultz, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Leader

Leadership Council

24-0	Chris Hutton		Niagara
24-2	Alissa Bender		Hamilton
25-1	Kendra Whitfield-Ellis		Waterloo North
25-1	Matthew Isert Bender	Chair	Nith Valley
25-1	Kim Penner		Stirling Ave
26-2	Jen Helmuth		Erb St
26-1	Craig Janzen Neufeld		The First

Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Ex-officio, MCEC Church Leadership Minister

Mission Council

24-1	Vic Ratzlaff		Westview
24-2	Judith McCartney		Soul House
25-2	Kara Carter	Chair	Wellesley
25-2	Andie Myriam Joseph		Famille Assemblée de la Grâce
26-2	Joseph Raltong		Chin
26-1	Fasil Asfaw		Meheret
26-1	Sue Carr		The Meeting Place

Norm Dyck, Ex-officio, MCEC Mission Minister

24, 25, 26 is the year the term is complete (ie 24-1 = individual's first term ends April 30 2024)

0, 1, 2, 3 is the term the person is serving (year-0 indicates a mid-term replacement)

Individuals in bold have agreed to serve an initial or subsequent term

Slate of Volunteers

Caring for MCEC

Gift Discernment

Appointed by Executive Council, Accountable to Executive Council

24-1	Darlene Gingerich	Steinmann
25-1	Marlene Toews Janzen	Ottawa
25-1	Charleen Jongejan Harder	Elmira
25-2	Jonathan Brubacher	Elmira
26-1	_____	

Ann L. Schultz, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Leader

MCEC REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Canadian Multifaith Federation (CMF) Board

26-2	Judith Stamp	Toronto United
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Conrad Grebel University College Board (3 consecutive 3 year terms)

Term begins in October

24-2	Morgan Grainger	The Gathering
24-3	Jim Tiessen	Hamilton
24-3	Paul Fieguth	Waterloo North
25-1	Arjun Pandey	Danforth
25-2	Roger Kehl	First Mennonite
25-2	Donny Cheung	Toronto United
25-3	Andrew Roth	Erb St
26-2	Louise Wideman	Steinmann
26-1	Anita Thiessen	Waterloo North

Detweiler Meeting House Board

24-1	Will Stolz	Mannheim
25-1	Kayla Wallace Groh	Erb St
26-2	Henry Schmidt	Rockway

Mennonite Central Committee Ontario Board

24-1	Bruce Yoder	Listowel
25-2	Keith Regehr	First

Mennonite Publishing Services Board

25-1	Karen Heese	Hagerman
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Ontario Mennonite Music Camp Board

24-1	Kendall Jongejan Harder	Shantz
25-2	Sara Fretz	Stirling Ave
25-2	Melinda Metzger	St Jacobs

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Individuals in bold have agreed to serve an initial or subsequent term

Slate of Volunteers

Caring for MCEC

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Board

Term begins in November

24-1 Tim Hedrick

25-1 Rene Baergen

26-2 **Elizabeth Klassen**

Waterloo North

First

Rockway

Silver Lake Mennonite Camp Board

25-1 Edna Bejarano

TorontoUnited

United Mennonite Educational Institute Board

Term begins in November

25-0 **Matthew Suta**

Leamington United

Warden Woods Community Centre Board

25-1 Colin McCartney

25-1 John Reimer

Connect City

MCEC

Mennonite Church Canada Assembly Delegates – ____ regional church delegates

Mennonite Church Canada Joint Council

Ben Cassels

MCEC Moderator

Waterloo-Kitchener

26-1 **Yoel Masyawong**

MCEC Constituency Rep

Grace Lao

Mennonite Church Canada Nominating Committee Appointee

25-2 Gladys Bender

Steinmann

24, 25, 26 is the year the term is complete (ie 24-1 = individual's first term ends April 30 2024)

0, 1, 2, 3 is the term the person is serving (year-0 indicates a mid-term replacement)

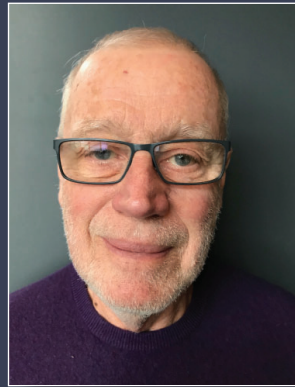
Individuals in bold have agreed to serve an initial or subsequent term

New Council Members

Meet MCEC's new elected volunteers



Fasil Asfaw



Bruce Bergetz



Sue Carr



Craig Janzen Neufeld

Fasil Asfaw, Mission Council

Fasil is chairperson of the elders board at Meheret Evangelical Church where he also served previously as treasurer. He is a restaurateur and a finance professional. He is the chair and founder of Manna for Kids Foundation which provides life changing training to single women in Debrebrihan, Ethiopia. Manna for Kids changes the lives of children through their mothers by establishing sustainable lifestyles for the family. Fasil looks forward to working alongside other councils and council members to achieve the MCEC vision of being transformed by the love of God, inspired by the hope we find in Jesus and called to action by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Bruce Burgetz, Executive Council

Bruce is a retired senior Information Technology executive and was involved in senior leadership at LoyaltyOne/AirMiles, Rogers Wireless and Shoppers Drug Mart. He attends Toronto United Mennonite Church where he has served as a Sunday school teacher, congregational life chair, mission and service chair and a church board chair. He has been involved with the Mennonite New Life Centre in Toronto, Ten Thousand Villages Canada and Aurora House. Bruce anticipates working with the council to nurture MCEC to remain relevant and to make significant progress in all five priority areas: navigating change, developing leaders, intergenerational discipleship, embracing diversity and seeking peace and justice.

Sue Carr, Mission Council

Sue is pastor at The Meeting Place in Hamilton, ON. She has previously been a chaplain at a hospital and has worked as an executive director of 541 Eatery and Exchange in Hamilton. As a new comer to MCEC, she looks forward to beginning to understand more clearly the history and cultures of the MCEC community of faith. The Meeting Place joined MCEC last year as a provisional membership congregation.

Craig Janzen Neufeld, Leadership Council

Craig is pastor at The First Mennonite Church in Vineland, ON. He has pastored in Mennonite Church Saskatchewan and in Mennonite Church Alberta, our nationwide community of faith. He would like to see MCEC help pastors integrate a head and heart spirituality that fosters authentic life-giving relationships within the congregation and nurtures and guides the people of God to live out God's dream for creation.

New Council Members

Meet MCEC's new elected volunteers



Henry Schmidt



Mathew Suta



Anita Tiessen



Kayla Wallace Groh

Henry Schmidt, Detweiler Meeting House

Henry attends Rockway Mennonite Church where he has served on various committees. He has extensive volunteer experience with MCC and CUSO International. He is retired and looks forward to service as a board member for Detweiler Meeting House.

Mathew Suta, UMEI Board of Directors

Mathew is a service engineer for Greenhouse Automation and attends Leamington United Mennonite Church where he has served on the missions committee and in the choir. He continues his MES Environment and Resource Studies at the University of Waterloo. His desire is to see MCEC becoming more appealing to a greater diverse base and looks forward to working toward that goal.

Anita Tiessen, Conrad Grebel University College Board

Anita is a retired accountant and an active participant at Waterloo North Mennonite Church. She has previously been a part of Toronto United Mennonite Church and served with Mennonite Central Committee and House of Friendship in varying capacities. Through her work on the Conrad Grebel University College Board she looks forward to keeping churches connected and informed while representing MCEC in this foundational partnership.

Kayla Wallace Groh, Detweiler Meetinghouse

Kayla attends Erb St. Mennonite Church where she is chair of finance and a member of the hospitality committee. She has previously been involved in teaching children music during Sunday school and has also served as part of the audit committee. She is a controller and a chief financial officer. Kayla appreciates her congregation's vision of "radical hospitality," and hopes to extend that to her role on the Detweiler Meetinghouse board.

Financial Statements

FYE January 31, 2023

MCEC STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

12 Month Period, Ended January 31, 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Over/(Under)
Revenue			
Revenue - Individual and Estate Donations (MCEC)	\$109,586	\$125,000	(\$15,414)
Revenue - Individuals & Churches (MC Canada)	\$8,790	\$25,000	(\$16,210)
Revenue - Church Giving	\$1,607,523	\$1,690,188	(\$82,665)
Revenue - Relational Witness Giving	\$177,189	\$300,000	(\$122,811)
Revenue - Interest Income	\$145,839	\$157,152	(\$11,313)
Gross Revenue	\$2,048,927	\$2,297,341	(\$248,414)
Partner Ministries			
Mennonite Church Canada - Operating	\$499,274	\$499,274	(\$0)
Mennonite Church Canada - Relational Witness	\$175,189	\$300,000	(\$124,811)
Mennonite World Conference	\$6,962	\$6,962	\$0
Mennonite Central Committee	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	\$40,000	\$40,000	(\$0)
Conrad Grebel University College	\$151,462	\$146,462	\$5,000
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate	\$70,215	\$70,215	\$0
United Mennonite Educational Institute	\$26,510	\$26,510	\$0
Ontario Mennonite Music Camp	\$2,185	\$2,185	(\$0)
Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$0
Silver Lake Mennonite Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$0
Willowgrove Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$0
Canadian Mennonite	\$85,345	\$84,021	\$1,324
Total Partner Ministries	\$1,091,911	\$1,208,398	(\$116,487)
Net Operating Revenue	\$957,016	\$1,088,943	(\$131,926)
Operating Fund Expenditures			
Executive (Schedule 1)	\$142,131	\$118,764	\$23,368
Leadership Resourcing (Schedule 2)	\$142,023	\$152,907	(\$10,885)
Mission Resourcing (Schedule 3)	\$195,130	\$218,104	(\$22,975)
Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)	\$182,475	\$192,647	(\$10,172)
Operations (Schedule 5)	\$544,503	\$499,320	\$45,183
Occupancy (Schedule 6)	\$112,667	\$111,199	\$1,468
Total Operating Fund Expenditures	\$1,318,929	\$1,292,941	\$25,988
Excess Revenue over Expenses	(\$361,912)	(\$203,998)	(\$157,914)
Faithful Steward Fund Draw			
Transfers (to)/from Faithful Steward Fund (Policy)	\$163,043	\$163,043	\$0
Transfers (to)/from Faithful Steward Fund (Additional)	\$40,956	\$40,956	\$0
Total Faithful Steward Fund Draw	\$203,999	\$203,999	\$0
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$157,913)	\$1	(\$157,914)

Financial Statements

FYE January 31, 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Over/(Under)
Executive (Schedule 1)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$1,444)	\$0	(\$1,444)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$102,189	\$96,514	\$5,676
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$2,889	\$3,500	(\$611)
Staff Professional Development	\$230	\$5,000	(\$4,770)
Staff Professional Development Pool	\$12,868	\$10,000	\$2,868
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$23,319	\$3,000	\$20,319
Special Projects	\$2,079	\$750	\$1,329
Total Executive	\$142,131	\$118,764	\$23,368
Leadership Resourcing (Schedule 2)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$5,075)	(\$7,600)	\$2,525
TiM - Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$23,100)	(\$34,400)	\$11,300
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$95,481	\$95,207	\$273
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$9,247	\$6,000	\$3,247
Staff Professional Development	\$1,019	\$500	\$519
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$4,695	\$1,000	\$3,695
Pastor & Congregational Support	\$7,923	\$11,200	(\$3,277)
TiM Program Expenses	\$17,561	\$34,400	(\$16,839)
Education & Training	\$34,273	\$46,600	(\$12,327)
Total Leadership	\$142,023	\$152,907	(\$10,885)
Mission Ministries (Schedule 3)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$47,517)	(\$43,968)	(\$3,549)
Transfers In From Restricted Funds	(\$125,473)	(\$126,484)	\$1,011
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$228,266	\$233,556	(\$5,290)
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$26,804	\$15,000	\$11,804
Staff Professional Development	\$410	\$1,500	(\$1,090)
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$379	\$1,500	(\$1,121)
Education, promotion and outreach	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mission Associates	\$8,800	\$6,000	\$2,800
Missional leadership development	\$12,823	\$20,000	(\$7,177)
Church plant support	\$59,858	\$77,000	(\$17,142)
International Mission	\$12,606	\$16,000	(\$3,394)
Other Mission Initiatives	\$18,172	\$18,000	\$172
Total Mission Ministries	\$195,130	\$218,104	(\$22,975)

Financial Statements

FYE January 31, 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Over/(Under)
Congregational Ministries (Schedule 4)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$2,335)	(\$19,250)	\$16,915
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$169,510	\$169,647	(\$137)
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$15,362	\$14,000	\$1,362
Staff Professional Development	\$1,257	\$2,000	(\$743)
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Education, promotion and outreach	\$0	\$500	(\$500)
Congregation Resourcing Program Expense	\$150	\$1,250	(\$1,100)
Y/YA Program Expense	(\$1,469)	\$24,500	(\$25,969)
New Ministry Initiative Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Congregational Ministries	\$182,475	\$192,647	(\$10,172)
Operations (Schedule 5)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$75,605)	(\$76,000)	\$395
Transfer In From Restricted Funds	(\$10,000)	(\$10,000)	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$421,253	\$440,388	(\$19,135)
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$7,384	\$6,000	\$1,384
Staff Professional Development	\$65	\$2,500	(\$2,435)
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$203	\$500	(\$297)
Office & Admin Expenses	\$37,011	\$23,670	\$13,341
IT Expenses	\$34,859	\$41,000	(\$6,141)
Office Equipment and Furniture (expensed)	\$0	\$3,000	(\$3,000)
Amortization	\$0	\$1,012	(\$1,012)
Legal & Audit Expenses	\$68,984	\$31,250	\$37,734
Program Expenses	\$60,350	\$36,000	\$24,350
Total Operations	\$544,503	\$499,320	\$45,183
Occupancy Costs (Schedule 6)			
Rent & CAMS	\$103,154	\$103,199	(\$44)
Office & Building Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Insurance	\$9,513	\$8,000	\$1,513
Total Occupancy Costs	\$112,667	\$111,199	\$1,468

Restricted Funds

Externally restricted funds

Externally Restricted Funds

	Blenheim	Reesor	Mission Capital	Mission Donations
	1/31/23	1/31/23	1/31/23	1/31/23
ASSETS				
Cash and Short-term deposits	\$31,635	\$10,606	\$343,837	\$491,371
Account Receivable	\$210	\$0	\$0	\$131,257
Loans Receivable	\$0	\$0	\$92,000	\$0
Prepaid Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Assets	\$31,845	\$10,606	\$435,837	\$622,628
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	\$27	\$0	\$0	\$0
Loan Payable	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$27	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUITY				
Balance Beginning of Year	\$29,694	\$10,283	\$432,997	\$718,983
Interest	\$2,124	\$323	\$2,840	\$11,344
Donations	\$1,595	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers In	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$33,413	\$10,606	\$435,837	\$730,327
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grants and Disbursements	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers Out	(\$1,595)	\$0	\$0	(\$107,699)
Balance End of Year	\$31,818	\$10,606	\$435,837	\$622,628
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$31,845	\$10,606	\$435,837	\$622,628

Restricted Funds

Internally restricted funds

Internally Restricted Funds

	Faithful Steward 1/31/23	Property 1/31/23	Discretionary Retirement & Assistance 1/31/23	Leadership Formation 1/31/23
ASSETS				
Cash and Short-term deposits	\$831,149	\$0	\$85,672	\$173,316
Account Receivable	\$226,254	\$0	\$38	\$83
Loans Receivable	\$0	\$1,425,000	\$0	\$0
Prepaid Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Assets	\$1,057,403	\$1,425,000	\$85,710	\$173,399
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	\$0	\$39,020	\$0	\$0
Loan Payable	\$0	\$398,227	\$0	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$0	\$437,247	\$0	\$0
EQUITY				
Balance Beginning of Year	\$1,086,459	\$994,020	\$78,780	\$176,747
Interest	\$10,837	\$0	\$1,105	\$2,329
Donations	\$175,739	\$0	\$200	\$1,455
Other Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers In	\$0	\$0	\$6,500	\$30,000
	\$1,273,034	\$994,020	\$86,585	\$210,531
Expenses	\$0	(\$6,267)	\$0	\$0
Grants and Disbursements	(\$11,632)	\$0	(\$875)	(\$37,132)
Transfers Out	(\$203,999)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Balance End of Year	\$1,057,403	\$987,753	\$85,710	\$173,399
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,057,403	\$1,425,000	\$85,710	\$173,399

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Legacy Initiatives Fund

Revenue and disbursements FYE January 31, 2023

Legacy Initiatives Fund Revenue and Disbursements to Date For Period Ending January 31, 2023

	Actual YE2023	Actual Prev. Years	Total to Date
Revenue			
Estate Gifts	\$0	\$12,133,063	\$12,133,063
Interest Income	\$60,959	\$866,467	\$927,426
Less: Legal Costs	(\$515)	(\$200,983)	(\$201,498)
Net Revenue to date	\$60,444	\$12,798,547	\$12,858,991
Disbursements			
Tithing to Wider Church	\$200,000	\$1,257,376	\$1,457,376
Tithing to MCEC Restricted Funds	\$0	\$2,219,342	\$2,219,342
	\$200,000	\$3,476,718	\$3,676,718
MCEC Infrastructure	\$0		
Transfer to Operating Fund	\$61,805	\$154,241	\$216,046
Courageous Imagination	\$1,427	\$84,224	\$85,651
Making Disciples	\$118,228	\$1,582,486	\$1,700,714
Forming Leaders	\$54,346	\$2,225,037	\$2,279,383
Growing Congregations	\$265,584	\$1,134,902	\$1,400,486
Total Disbursements	\$701,390	\$5,180,890	\$5,682,280
MCOO Loan (50 Kent)		\$398,227	\$398,227
Conrad Grebel Loan (Kitchen)		\$500,000	\$500,000
Due to Other Funds			
Fund Balance	\$0	\$898,227	\$898,227

Pre-Gathering Financial Zoom Conversation

Living into our Purpose, Vision and Values



Join the Conversation

Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Last year, our financial manager brought forward a spending plan that was described as largely status quo. It was indicated at that time that the 2023-2024 spending plan would be different, reflecting both the fiscal climate and new initiatives that would honor and advance the strategic priorities that you, the delegates, endorsed last year.

This year we are bringing forth a different, bold and courageous Spending Plan! In order to ensure you have the opportunity to affirm and/or ask questions of clarification surrounding the Spending Plan, we welcome anyone to attend an additional meeting to discuss MCEC Financials on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7 p.m. via zoom. This will be a more in depth conversation which will augment the discussion at Annual Church Gathering. The conversation is open to anyone, not only delegates. Members from MCEC's finance and executive councils and MCEC staff will present the Spending Plan, which will be followed by the opportunity for you to ask questions.

We thank you, our congregations and individual donors, for your ongoing support and generosity as we continue to live into our purpose, vision and values.

Register for Annual Church Gathering for the link.



Spending Plan

FYE January 31, 2024

MCEC OPERATING FUND

Spending Plan for the Year Ending January 31, 2024

	2023-24 Budget	2022-23 Actual YTD	2022-23 Budget
Revenue			
Revenue - Individual and Estate Donations (MCEC)	\$125,000	\$109,586	\$125,000
Revenue - Individual Donations (MC Canada)	\$25,000	\$8,790	\$25,000
Revenue - Church Giving	\$1,605,062	\$1,607,523	\$1,690,188
Revenue - Relational Witness Giving	\$200,000	\$177,189	\$300,000
Revenue - MCCO Interest	\$78,375	\$78,375	\$78,375
Revenue - Investment Interest	\$50,000	\$67,464	\$78,776
Gross Revenue	\$2,083,437	\$2,048,927	\$2,297,340
Partner Ministries			
Mennonite Church Canada - Operating	\$507,057	\$499,274	\$499,274
Mennonite Church Canada - Relational Witness	\$200,000	\$175,189	\$300,000
Mennonite World Conference	\$6,962	\$6,962	\$6,962
Mennonite Central Committee	\$0	\$2,000	\$0
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Conrad Grebel University College	\$146,462	\$151,462	\$146,462
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate	\$70,215	\$70,215	\$70,215
United Mennonite Educational Institute	\$26,510	\$26,510	\$26,510
Ontario Mennonite Music Camp	\$2,185	\$2,185	\$2,185
Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$10,923
Silver Lake Mennonite Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$10,923
Willowgrove Camp	\$10,923	\$10,923	\$10,923
Canadian Mennonite	\$84,021	\$85,345	\$84,021
Total Partner Ministries	\$1,116,180	\$1,091,911	\$1,208,397
Net Operating Revenue	\$967,257	\$957,016	\$1,088,942
Operating Fund Expenditures			
Executive (Schedule 1)	\$142,936	\$142,130	\$118,764
Leadership Resourcing (Schedule 2)	\$170,628	\$142,024	\$153,907
Mission Resourcing (Schedule 3)	\$296,450	\$195,128	\$218,104
Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)	\$166,748	\$182,475	\$192,647
Operations (Schedule 5)	\$596,357	\$544,504	\$499,320
Occupancy (Schedule 6)	\$113,637	\$112,667	\$111,199
Total Operating Fund Expenditures	\$1,486,756	\$1,318,928	\$1,293,941
Excess Revenue over Expenses	(\$519,498)	(\$361,912)	(\$204,999)
Faithful Steward Fund Draw			
Transfer from/(to) Faithful Steward Fund - Policy	(\$519,498)	\$163,043	\$163,043
Transfer from/(to) Faithful Steward Fund - Additional	\$0	\$40,956	\$40,956
Total Faithful Steward Fund Draw	\$519,498	\$203,999	\$203,999
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$0	(\$157,913)	(\$1,000)

Spending Plan

FYE January 31, 2024

	2023-24 Budget	2022-23 Actual YTD	2022-23 Budget
Executive (Schedule 1)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	\$0	(\$1,444)	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$100,686	\$102,189	\$96,514
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$3,500	\$2,889	\$3,500
Staff Professional Development	\$0	\$230	\$5,000
Staff Professional Development Pool	\$10,000	\$12,868	\$10,000
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$28,000	\$23,319	\$3,000
Special Projects	\$750	\$2,079	\$750
Total Executive	\$142,936	\$142,130	\$118,764
Leadership Resourcing (Schedule 2)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$15,025)	(\$5,075)	(\$7,600)
TiM - Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$20,290)	(\$23,100)	(\$34,400)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$102,253	\$95,481	\$95,207
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$12,500	\$9,247	\$6,000
Staff Professional Development	\$500	\$1,019	\$500
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$1,000	\$4,695	\$1,000
Pastor & Congregational Support	\$10,750	\$7,923	\$11,200
TiM Program Expenses	\$20,290	\$17,561	\$34,400
Education & Training	\$58,650	\$34,273	\$47,600
Total Leadership	\$170,628	\$142,024	\$153,907
Mission Ministries (Schedule 3)			
Transfer In - Mission Donations & Bequests	(\$93,747)	(\$47,517)	(\$107,699)
Transfer In - Legacy Initiatives Fund	(\$110,000)	(\$125,473)	(\$18,785)
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$21,231)	\$0	(\$43,968)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$344,928	\$228,266	\$233,556
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$30,000	\$26,804	\$15,000
Staff Professional Development	\$5,000	\$410	\$1,500
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$1,000	\$379	\$1,500
Education, promotion and outreach	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mission Associates	\$0	\$8,800	\$6,000
Missional leadership development	\$20,000	\$12,823	\$20,000
Church plant support	\$77,500	\$59,858	\$77,000
International Mission	\$13,000	\$12,606	\$16,000
Other Mission Initiatives	\$30,000	\$18,172	\$18,000
Total Mission Ministries	\$296,450	\$195,128	\$218,104

Spending Plan

FYE January 31, 2024

	2023-24 Budget	2022-23 Actual YTD	2022-23 Budget
Congregational Ministries (Schedule 4)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$39,175)	(\$2,335)	(\$19,250)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$165,174	\$169,510	\$169,647
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$13,500	\$15,362	\$14,000
Staff Professional Development	\$2,000	\$1,257	\$2,000
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Education, promotion and outreach	\$500	\$0	\$500
Congregation Resourcing Program Expense	\$250	\$150	\$1,250
Y/YA Program Expense	\$24,500	(\$1,469)	\$24,500
New Ministry Initiative Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Congregational Ministries	\$166,748	\$182,475	\$192,647
Operations (Schedule 5)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	(\$82,049)	(\$75,605)	(\$76,000)
Transfer in from LiF (ACG)	(\$10,000)	(\$10,000)	(\$10,000)
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$506,985	\$421,253	\$440,388
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$7,000	\$7,384	\$6,000
Staff Professional Development	\$2,500	\$65	\$2,500
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$500	\$203	\$500
Office & Admin Expenses	\$27,670	\$37,011	\$23,670
IT Expenses	\$38,000	\$34,859	\$41,000
Amortization	\$5,000	\$0	\$1,012
Office Equipment & Furniture (Expensed)	\$6,000	\$0	\$3,000
Legal & Audit Expenses	\$53,750	\$68,984	\$31,250
Program Expenses	\$41,000	\$60,350	\$36,000
Total Operations	\$596,357	\$544,504	\$499,320
Occupancy Costs (Schedule 6)			
Rent & CAMS	\$104,137	\$103,154	\$103,199
Office & Building Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Insurance	\$9,500	\$9,513	\$8,000
Total Occupancy Costs	\$113,637	\$112,667	\$111,199

MCEC Bequest Funds

Update and New Directions

Gratitude:

We thank God for the financial generosity within our MCEC community, congregations and individuals who contribute faithfully on an annual basis, and those who contribute through their legacy gifts of bequests. MCEC programming relies on both sources of funding.

The annual spending plan and annual financial reports show how these annual contributions are used to support initiatives across our faith community. We are thankful for your faithful generosity, the cloud of witnesses enabling MCEC to carry out activities that support congregations and their leaders.

MCEC also relies on a number of separate funds to provide financial support for special initiatives as well as transfers to annual operations.

Bequest contributions are placed, by policy, into the Faithful Steward Fund, and then policy is followed for fund transfers into the annual Operating Fund. The Faithful Steward Fund has been growing in recent years, for which we thank God. This means there is more than enough money for a fund transfer in both YE2023 and YE2024, in order to cover planned expenses to meet our strategic priorities. This is a wonderful gift!

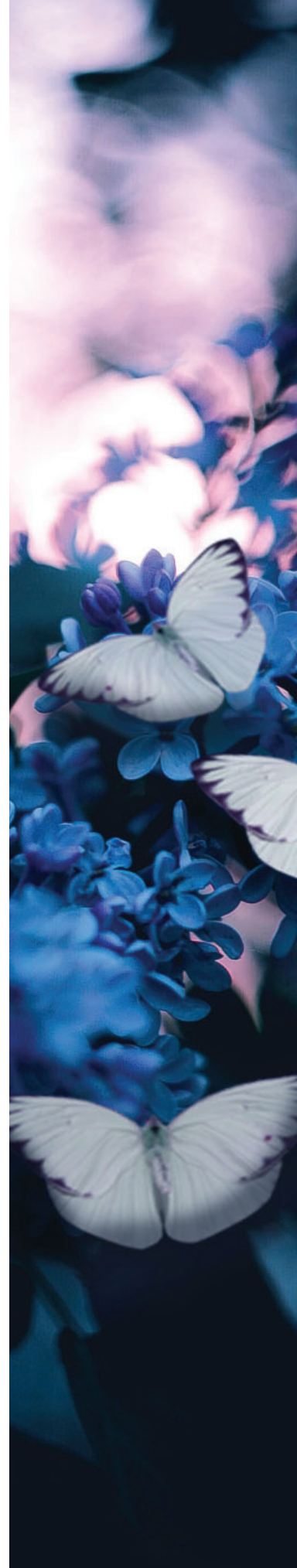
Historical Context:

Just over 10 years ago, MCEC received news that we would be one of the recipients of a major new bequest. A new policy was created, the Legacy Initiatives Fund (LiF) policy, to manage this large bequest, with a dual focus, and the intention was to spend it all within a ten-year period.

The criteria, established in 2012, included:

- Entrepreneurial spending: MCEC provided internal and external grants for a total of \$5.2 Million on these entrepreneurial projects, out of the Legacy Initiatives Fund. MCEC successfully invested in a wide number of initiatives that will continue to impact our future;
- Tithing: MCEC contributed a tithe to the wider church, as well as a tithe to the Faithful Steward Fund and a tithe to the Mission Disbursement Fund. MCEC has spent a total of \$3.5 Million on these three tithes.

The total amount spent over the last 10 years is much larger than had been anticipated at the start. There is now the understanding that MCEC could receive a comparable or larger amount from this bequest in the next few years than we have previously received. New grants have been on hold for the last couple of years as we realized that the size of the bequest will be several times larger than anticipated.



MCEC Bequest Funds

Update and New Directions

Present Context:

The world has changed since the LiF policy was created. In addition to a considerably larger bequest than anticipated, we faced a worldwide pandemic that changed our economy and also hastened trends we were seeing in our churches prior to 2020, including but not limited to, changing giving patterns in both MCEC congregations and beyond.

Proposed New Direction:

The 2012 LiF Policy was created with a focus on entrepreneurial spending. Today, in 2023, the financial landscape has changed, and this reality twinned with a considerably larger bequest than anticipated compelled the MCEC executive team and executive council to prepare for a change in the approach and policy to the LiF.

As the MCEC community continues to navigate change, we believe that a **revised approach**, focused on providing a steady revenue stream from investing this bequest, will provide **sustainable long-term benefit** to the entire MCEC community. **The plan is to:**

1. Continue to tithe from the bequest to the wider church;
2. Provide an annual source of small grants;
3. Invest the rest in a way that will provide a steady annual income stream to MCEC, along with the annual contributions from congregations and individuals.

In summary:

MCEC executive council and staff are building a long-term funding strategy for MCEC. This strategy relies first on the faithful and generous contributions from congregations and individuals. It will be supplemented by an annual income stream from bequests. The policy will be updated to make this possible and help provide long-term stability via all bequests no matter their size.

We thank God for the generosity of all donors, who make it possible for the vitality of the collaborative ministry we have through MCEC as we energize congregations, encourage leaders and embody God's reconciling ministry for all creation!

Arli Klassen, MCEC Moderator



Mission Office

Norm Dyck, Mission Minister



Church Planter's Retreat - Montreal 2022

Mission office key activities over the past year



Norm Dyck
Mission Minister

Church Planting (Navigating Change, Developing Leaders, Embracing Diversity)

- MCEC is committed to church planting from an Anabaptist perspective. The desired outcome is a growing number of Christ-centred, self-sustaining, interdependent Mennonite/Anabaptist faith communities which contribute to the health, vision and growth of MCEC.
- The Mission Office team of Norm Dyck (Mission Minister), Michel Monette (Mission Catalyzer for Quebec and Ottawa), and Fanosie Legesse (Intercultural Mission Minister), along with Mission Associate Yoel Masyawong, assist the development of 20 Provisional (Emerging) Churches as they grow into Full Membership within MCEC.
 - ~ Walk alongside 16 Church Plants actively exploring a greater connection with MCEC
 - ~ Foster connection with approximately 30 other relationships in various forms to development

Mission Office

Norm Dyck, Mission Minister

*Every neighbourhood grows
to be a Jesus-centred, disciple-
making, peace presence.*

- In 2023, two Provisional Churches will move to Full Membership in MCEC, while two others will join as new Provisional Church members.
~ With the 2023 budget, we are excited to make the Catalyzer position in Quebec a permanent staff position (moving from a project supported by LiF), as well as adding two Mission Associates in Quebec, to assist in the rapid growth of church planting ministry in the region.
- Since the 2022 Annual Church Gathering, the Mission Office team has connected with more than 60 congregations during their regular worship times

Eco-ministry

(Navigating Change, Seeking Peace & Justice)

- Wendy Janzen serves as the MCEC Eco-minister in a 0.25FTE role, serving as both a leader and resource to MCEC congregations in discerning creation care theology.
- Over the past year, Wendy has provided resourcing to congregations in their faith response to creation care and environmental sustainability opportunities through 13 worship engagements and 11 workshops and panel discussions
- With the 2023 budget, we are excited to be able to increase Wendy to 0.50FTE as leaders and congregations seek more resourcing in creation care theology.

INNOVATE “be the change”

(Navigating Change, Developing Leaders)

- Through in person and on-line training and resourcing events, coaching and practical exercises, INNOVATE seeks to foster an



Eco-ministry

Resourcing congregations in their faith response to creation care and environmental sustainability opportunities

Above: Montreal Mennonite Fellowship set aside time (with Wendy Janzen, MCEC Eco-Minister) to reflect on ecotheology - how am I going to take care of the world?

Mission Office

Norm Dyck, Mission Minister

environment in which every neighbourhood grows to be a Jesus-centred, disciple-making, peace presence. Drawn from 2 Corinthians 5, this vision names both the relationship and responsibility as together we seek to intentionally lean into discipleship in the model of Jesus.

- To date INNOVATE has resourced approximately 1/3 of all MCEC congregations. Explore www.innovatebethchange.ca for upcoming training and resourcing opportunities.

Supports MCEC to become an intercultural disciple-making community aligned with God's mission in our world.

Intercultural Church

(Navigating Change, Developing Leaders, Embracing Diversity, Seeking Peace & Justice)

- Fanosie Legesse serves as the Intercultural Mission Minister, seeking to advance an Anabaptist missiology throughout MCEC that inspires and supports MCEC to become an intercultural disciple-making community that is aligned with God's mission in our world.
- Over the past year, Fanosie has shared in eight worship gatherings and several workshops focused on the theme of developing an intercultural church identity.

International Witness

(Navigating Change, Developing Leaders, Embracing Diversity, Seeking Peace & Justice)

- Together with the four regions of Mennonite Church Canada, we are growing vibrant global church relationships in more than 15 countries. Mennonite World Conference reports that 84% of its related bodies are outside of Europe and North America. MCEC reflects a similar reality in that fully 25% of our congregations name countries of origin outside Europe and North America.
~ David Boshart, AMBS president, recently named that the extent to which we are engaged with and learning from the global church will



International Witness

Growing vibrant global church relations in more than 15 countries.

Above: Desalegn Abebe, president Meserete Kristos Church, and Doug Klassen, executive minister Mennonite Church Canada, officially open the Multipurpose Hall at Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia.

Mission Office

Norm Dyck, Mission Minister

determine our survival as a church in North America.

- Through our global church connections, we are being both invited and challenged to embrace diversity, seek peace and justice, develop new leadership paradigms and together consider how God is calling us together to be a reconciling presence in the world.
 - ~ In 2022, MCEC staff made global church connections in Ethiopia, Thailand, Laos and Philippines.
 - ~ At the Annual Church Gathering, Bock Ki and Sook Kyoung, Witness Workers in South Korea will join us as yet another reminder of our vital connection to the global church.

In the spirit of Acts 2, Christ continues to add to the church daily.

Inspirational Glimpses...

- While the Covid pandemic has greatly impacted church-wide worship attendance, we have seen the perseverance of church planters. Some church plants lost their worship space and were able to regain it or find new space. Others have returned to their previous pattern of consistent growth by adapting their meeting to accommodate more attendees. In the spirit of Acts 2, Christ continues to add to the church daily.
- Shalom Worship & Healing Centre is incredibly intentional about discipling their children. Each generation of children is given a name/title to indicate the calling and vision of the congregation for them:
 - ~ Joshua – to carry the faith of their parents into a new land
 - ~ Bridge – to connect Canadian and Eritrean cultures and serve as a bridge to bring greater understanding
 - ~ Timothy – to learn from the older leaders, while already fully culturally translating into a new cultural context



Discipleship

Shalom Worship & Healing Centre moves to full membership within MCEC. They are incredibly intentional about discipling their children.

Currently their adults worship at Chin Christian Church as they actively search for a worship space to accommodate their 400 members! They anticipate that one day parents and children will worship together in one worship space.

Mission Office

Norm Dyck, Mission Minister

~ Zerubbabel – origins in the Hebrew word Babel, roughly meaning of a new tongue/ language – a fully English expression of Shalom
~ Shalom is intentionally articulating an intercultural vision even as they are now still rooted in the rapid growth brought by new immigrants from Eritrean and Ethiopia. Baptising as many of 20 new believers every year, the Tigrinya speaking generation is focused on reaching the 8,000+ Tigrinya speakers in the Waterloo Region, while the children are being shaped with the vision to reach the nation! Developing leaders and cultivating intergenerational discipleship is at the core of Shalom's inspiring mission.

- In February, Wendy and three pastors/leaders from MCEC began a year-long program sponsored by Anabaptist Climate Collaborative. Through worship, workshops and hands-on experiences they were inspired to imagine ways to work at climate action in their ministry setting. Each are creating a project for the year that will engage their congregation, and by extension MCEC, to live into God's shalom for all creation.
- Fanosie observes that the congregations of MCEC are ready to accept the reality that it is time for the church to more fully reflect its societal context. We desire to become congregations open in both a physical and spiritual sense to people of all nations, cultures, languages and ethnicities.

We embrace the diversity of Mennonite/Anabaptist faith expression among us.

For Reflection and Prayer...

Invited to pose a question for discussion during the January meeting of the MCEC Executive Council, the Mission Council invited reflection on why MCEC seeks to continue to build relationships with new congregations.

While not all new church plants are new Canadians, fully 25% of MCEC congregations represent an ethnicity other than Mennonite Church/General Conference roots. For the most part these congregations are growing both in numerical size, but also in their Canadian cultural understanding. Along the way MCEC is being invited to navigate change together as we embrace the diversity of Mennonite/Anabaptist faith expression among us.

We are becoming a global church!



Pastoral Care for Climate

Wendy, Yoel, Sara and Daniel, MCEC pastors/leaders, began a year-long program with Anabaptist Climate Collaborative. Through worship, workshops and hands-on experience they were inspired to imagine ways to work at climate action in their ministry settings.

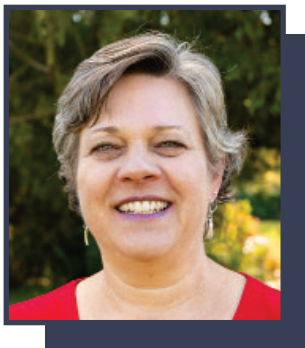
Leadership Office

Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Church Leadership Minister



15 participants have the opportunity to grow in their pastoral identity through Transitioning into Ministry (TiM).

Leadership office key activities over the past year



Marilyn Rudy-Froese
Church Leadership Minister

We are grateful for the many people with whom we journey, and for the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Church Leadership Office has been engaged in resourcing pastors and congregations as we live in an extended season of emergence from the pandemic. The majority of our focus and attention has been in the area of helping congregations and pastors navigate the changes needed for this season, as well as supporting pastors to continue to develop and grow in their leadership. We are grateful for the many people with whom we journey, and for the presence of the Holy Spirit who enlivens and gives grace and hope.

Resourcing of pastors and congregations

- In the past year the Leadership office, particularly through the Regional Minister office, has resourced 28 congregations with more involved questions and processes working with 36 different items, related to transitions and congregational discernment/visioning processes. This is in addition to phone calls

Leadership Office

Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Church Leadership Minister

and emails around particular questions and items for clarity. We are grateful for the opportunity to be of service.

- The Regional Minister is also providing ongoing coaching and encouragement to a number of pastors as the need and opportunities present themselves in both formal and informal arrangements.
- The Regional Ministry Associates have made a pastoral contact at least once with the majority of the pastors in active ministry through this time frame.
- The Church Leadership Minister met with pastors seeking vocational discernment or support and individuals exploring a call to ministry.

Credentialing

- The Church Leadership Minister worked with the Leadership Council to credential pastors. (See details in the Pastoral Ministry Transitions section.)
- The Church Leadership Minister and the Regional Minister led installation services. The CLM also led License toward Ordination and Ordination services.

TiM (Transitioning into Ministry)

- 15 participants have the opportunity to grow in their pastoral identity within a coaching group, attending in-person retreats twice a year, engaging speakers from MCEC partners and pastors and meeting with a mentor.

Learning Commons

- 2022/23 was the first year the Learning Commons was able to present a full slate of events for the pastors, chaplains and congregational leaders of MCEC. “Digging Deep – Being mindful of God who strengthens our Leadership for the shared journey ahead” is the theme. (mcec.ca/res/pub/Documents/leadership/LearningCommons/2022-2023-Guide.pdf)



Credentialing

Church Leadership Minister works with the Leadership Council to credential pastors.

Above: Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Church Leadership Minister, and elders pray a blessing over Pastor Jonathan Abraham at his ordination.

Inspirational Glimpses...

Navigating Change

“God is always working for good.”
“The Spirit revives and refreshes.”
“Inspired by the little flower
that shoots up between the
cracks in the cement.”

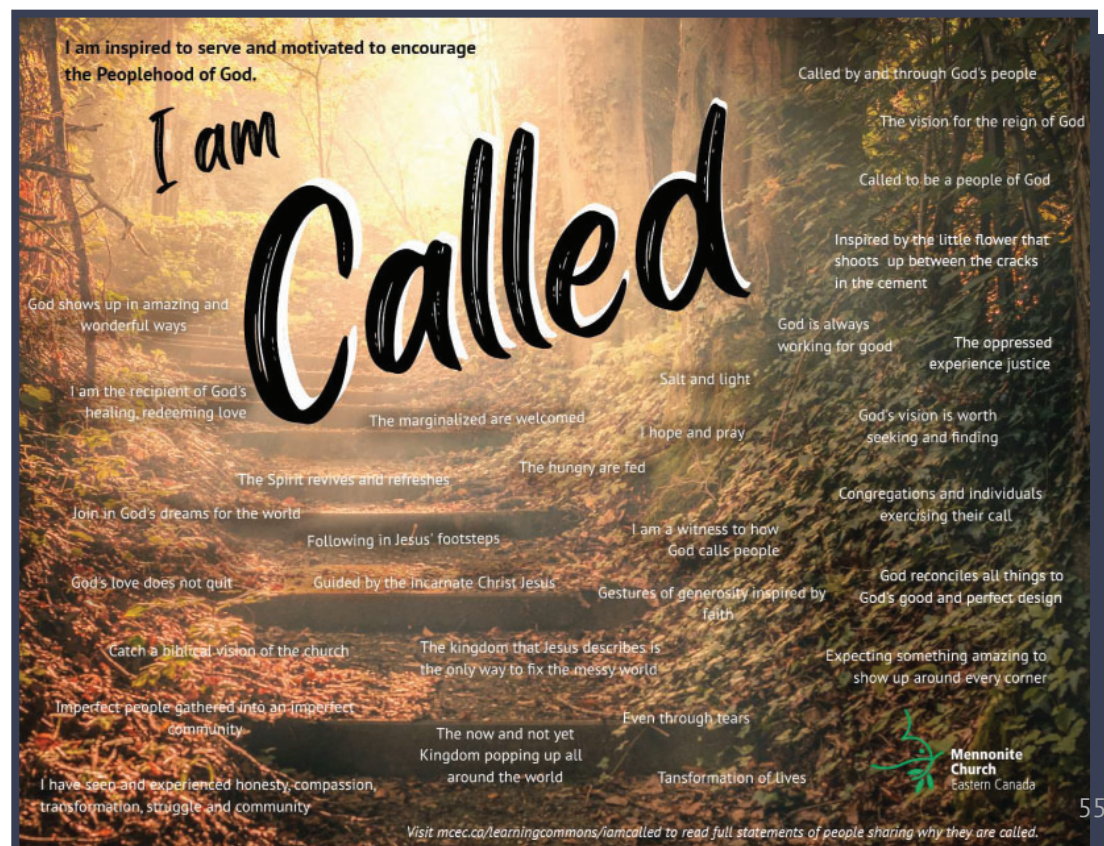
These are just a few of the phrases on the I am Called poster, phrases from MCEC pastors that capture how they see themselves as agents and partners in what God is doing in the world and in the church. This poster grows out of the November 2022 “Wheat and Weeds Challenge” in which pastors and congregational leaders engaged in conversation with Robert (Jack) Suderman around his book, *The Baby and the Bathwater: Aspiration and Reality in the Life of the Church*. As the church navigates a landscape that has been changing for many years, and was significantly impacted by the pandemic, we are encouraging pastors to claim anew their call to ministry. Each credentialed leader in MCEC received this poster, with words of hope and encouragement from their colleagues in ministry, so that through these words they can be reminded of the great crowd of witnesses that journey with them.

*We encourage pastors to
claim anew their
call to ministry.*

For Reflection and Prayer...

- We regularly work with 20-25 congregations on various processes of review, transition and visioning. For some congregations, the process is fairly straightforward; for others, it is more complex as questions about future needs and capacity come into play. In every situation, we engage the process confident that God is at work and that God cares about the choices we make.
- Please pray for all of these congregational and pastoral processes. Discernment around hearing God’s call for each of these places requires patience and trust. Pray that God’s Spirit will be at work, bringing wisdom, peace and hope.

To read these reflections, visit
mcec.ca/learningcommons/iamcalled.



Pastoral Ministry Transitions

February 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023

Ordained

Bounho Phommaseng	Lao Christian Fellowship	Minister
Jonathan Abrham	Shalom Worship and Healing Centre	Minister
Joseph Raltong	Chin Christian Church	Minister
Karen Sheil	Harrow Mennonite Church	Minister
Yared Seretse	Meheret Evangelical Church	Minister

Licensed Toward Ordination

Annika Krause ◊	Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal	Minister
Glenda Ribey Rozomiak ◊	Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church	Minister
Tito Gatako	Erb Street Mennonite Church	Minister

Licensed For Specific Ministry

Leah Reesor-Keller	Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Minister
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Credential Expired

Anthony Siegrist	Ottawa Mennonite Church	Conclusion
Leah Reesor-Keller	Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Conclusion

Placements

Charleen Jongejan Harder	Elmira Mennonite Church	Minister
Clare Lebold	Wellesley Mennonite Church	Supply Minister
Craig Janzen Neufeld	The First Mennonite Church (Vineland)	Minister
David Brubacher	Grace Mennonite Church	Supply Administrative Lead Minister
David Martin	Hawkesville Mennonite Church	Interim Supply Minister
Ed Janzen	Rockway Mennonite Church	Supply Interim Minister
Glenda Ribey Rozomiak ◊	Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church	Minister
Jan Steven	Grace Mennonite Church	Supply Minister of Pastoral Care
Kathryn Cressman	Hillcrest Mennonite Church	Minister
Kendall Jongejan Harder	Shantz Mennonite Church	Minister
Ken Driedger	North Leamington United Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Liz Weber	First Mennonite Church (Kitchener)	Interim Minister
Louise Wideman	Steinmann Mennonite Church	Minister of Worship and Care
Marty Misener	Bethany Mennonite Church	Youth Worker
Mike Williamson	East Zorra Mennonite Church	Faith Formation Minister
Quenton Little	Nairn Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Sandra Baez	First Mennonite Church (Kitchener)	Minister
Scott Brubaker-Zehr	Erb Street Mennonite Church	Transformational Minister

◊ Participants in the Transitioning into Ministry (TiM) Program

Concluding Assignments

Alicia Good	North Leamington United Mennonite Church	Minister
Anthony Siegrist	Ottawa Mennonite Church	Minister
Charleen Jongejan Harder	North Leamington United Mennonite Church	Minister
Christina Edmiston	First Mennonite Church (Kitchener)	Minister
Dawne Driedger	Preston Mennonite Church and Wanner Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Erwin Wiens	Elmira Mennonite Church	Supply Minister
Jan Steckley	Hillcrest Mennonite Church	Minister
Kendall Jongejan Harder	North Leamington United Mennonite Church	Minister
Ken Driedger	Preston Mennonite Church and Wanner Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Lloyd Oakey	East Zorra Mennonite Church	Interim Associate Minister
Louise Wideman	Vineland United Mennonite Church	Minister

Pastoral Ministry Transitions

February 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023

Matthew Bailey-Dick
Mike Williamson
Myrna Miller Dyck
Scott Brubaker-Zehr
Sean East
Steph Chandler Burns ◊
Steve Cox
Taya Himes ◊

The First Mennonite Church (Vineland)
Leamington United Mennonite Church
Erb Street Mennonite Church
Rockway Mennonite Church
Listowel Mennonite Church
Erb Street Mennonite Church
The Gathering Church
St. Catharines United Mennonite Church

Interim Supply Minister
Minister
Supply Minister
Minister
Minister
Associate Minister
Minister
Director of Education

Pastoral Retirements

Don Penner
Douglas Schulz
Paul Dyck

Shantz Mennonite Church
Grace Mennonite Church
Hawkesville Mennonite Church

Minister
Minister
Minister

Ordination Milestones

50 years

Amzie Brubacher
Gary Harder

45 years

Brice Balmer

40 years

Martha Smith Good
Mary Mae Schwartzentruber
Maurice Martin

25 years

Gordon Allaby
Marilyn Rudy-Froese
Paul Adams

10 years

Brent Musser
Brian Quan
Johanna Wall

Pastor Introductions

February 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023



Craig Janzen Neufeld



David Martin



Jan Steven

NEW OR RETURNING PASTORS

Craig Janzen Neufeld, Interim Supply Pastor at Vineland United Mennonite Church:

I am currently being inspired by wondering what God might be calling the church to as we emerge (we hope) from the pandemic. In the last number of years, the church has had to shift its approach to ministering globally. The world has been changed, we have been changed, and the church has been changed by the global pandemic. With this in mind, we have the opportunity to forge a new normal. In some respects, the church, as we know it, is in a phase of restarting. This is an incredible opportunity. The church's challenge, then, is to capture a vision of what God's calling might be in this time of revitalization. I am excited to wonder, along with my congregation, what that may be!

David Martin, Interim Supply Pastor at Hawkesville Mennonite Church:

I am being inspired in my new role as Interim Supply Pastor at Hawkesville Mennonite Church by a dedicated and vibrant community of believers that are seeking God's wisdom and guidance for their future. As the congregation is discerning how to adapt to the challenges that confront them in their current stage of congregational life, they have made a commitment to enter a season of discernment during which they are committed to prayer, reflection and conversation. Discerning God's call for the future can feel both uncertain and unsettling at times, but together we are being transformed by the presence of God's Spirit. In the midst of this process, we are discovering that we are being shaped by trust and can sense that we will be guided by the hand of God.

Jan Steven, Supply Pastor of Pastoral Care at Grace Mennonite Church:

I am very grateful for the opportunity to be a part-time Pastoral Care Chaplain at Grace Mennonite Church. Most of what I do is visit people who can no longer attend church services in person but who are still part of our church family. And I bring them the same monthly love-note and treat that I provide to people who can attend worship services in person.

I am passionate about reminding folks who attend - and those who cannot - that they are never alone. Our triune God loves us and accompanies us, and - when our days on earth are done - God will welcome us Home. And that a friendly visitor - me - is only a phone call away.

Pastor Introductions

February 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023



Kathryn Cressman



Liz Weber



Sandra Baez

Kathryn Cressman, Pastor at Hillcrest Mennonite Church:

In the past few months of ministry, I have felt significant peace of “being where I’m meant to be,” which has been transformational for my personal and professional faith journey. I am inspired by a willingness from others to be creative in moments when the traditional way of being church requires flexibility. And I feel called to collaboration; to imagine the possibilities when neighbouring churches share life, work and giftings with each other.

Liz Weber, Interim Pastor at First Mennonite Church (Kitchener):

It has been almost 2.5 years since I first came into the role of a pastor, and yet, I still find myself in shock about it. It’s an unexpected reality that transpired during the pandemic, which is an interesting time to begin in ministry. In my current role at First Mennonite Church in Kitchener, I continue to be intrigued by the parallels between doing ministry interculturally and intergenerationally. Both take time, work, intentionality and some level of discomfort, but both can make the community so much richer. It is the community that inspires me as I continue to discern my calling into ministry.

Sandra Baez, Pastor at First Mennonite Church (Kitchener):

Being part of the seniors’ ministry at FMC has connected me with the human reality of aging, and I have been enriched with the wisdom that comes with it. Likewise, I have been walking with them between the path of death, hope and eternity, knowing what it is and waiting for what will be. In addition, the church’s cultural diversity has enhanced my work experience. Cultural diversity has been a source of enjoyment and I have been constantly challenged to think outside the box.

Pastor Introductions

February 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023



Annika Krause



Bounnho Phommaseng



Glenda Ribey Rozomiak



Jonathan Abrham

CREDENTIALLED MINISTERS

Annika Krause (LTO), Pastor at Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal:

My office is in a community centre (la Maison de l'amitié) in Montreal, Quebec, and my church meets there as well. In my short time in ministry, I have been learning to be simultaneously a leader and a seeker within my congregation and community. One does not preclude the other, and being both allows me to build relationships within my church-wary context. My church and cultural context continue to shape me and teach me that being a pastor means constantly evolving and growing. I am grateful to be serving in a church and community that makes space for that.

Bounnho Phommaseng (Ordination), Pastor at Lao Christian Fellowship:

Being a minister has made me understand Christ better and changed my perspectives. It has brought me to learn how to balance family needs as well as congregational members' needs.

Glenda Ribey Rozomiak (LTO), Pastor at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church:

I was called by Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church last year to fill the role of half-time pastor with a focus on older adults and pastoral care. Creating relationships and connecting with the people of Stirling has affirmed my calling in this ministry. I love the connections we have with each other and how we purposefully continue to create a caring community. We can feel the Holy Spirit working in us, around us and through us with beautiful energy in this community.

Jonathan Abrham (Ordination), Pastor at Shalom Worship and Healing Centre:

My call to ministry wasn't an audible voice from heaven or anything sensational like that. It began as more of a deep feeling in my soul that I could not shake that God wanted me to pursue a life of ministry. I first noticed it when I was 14 years old, and it still burns in me.

Pastor Introductions

February 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023



Joseph Raltong



Karen Sheil



Tito Gatako



Yared Seretse

Joseph Raltong (Ordination), Pastor at Chin Christian Church:

Joseph is pastor at Chin Christian Church, alongside Jehu Lian. The Chin Christian Church worships in Kitchener, ON and has been a full member congregation since 2015. Joseph was licensed toward ordination in 2014 and ordained in 2022. He is a member of the MCEC Mission Council.

Karen Sheil (Ordination), Pastor at Harrow Mennonite Church:

I am being transformed, inspired and called by asking questions. My questions about God, faith, and meaning formed my commitment to Christ as I committed to seeking answers. Over time some questions were answered while others evolved into better questions. With or without answers, God speaks to me in the seeking.

Tito Gatako (LTO), Special Ministry at Erb Street Mennonite Church:

God is continually calling me to unite him with others (2 Corinthians 5:18-20) and to be an ambassador of Christ wholeheartedly. In my old age, God has also made me understand that I should do his work during the day before the night comes, both in his church and in my own family.

Yared Seretse (Ordination Transfer), Pastor at Meheret Evangelical Church:

I am being transformed by the love and mercy of God. "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us" (Ephesians 2:4). I am inspired by the hope we found in Jesus and called to action by the power of the Holy Spirit. "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation; having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Ephesians 1:13).

MCEC Staff

Our team



Steve Cox
Events and Communications Coordinator - Steve provides events and communications coordination in support of the Annual Church Gathering.
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tel. 226-476-2500 x703



Kim Kabbes
INNOVATE Program Coordinator
Kim provides administrative and program assistance as well as communications oversight for the INNOVATE network.
info@innovatebethechange.ca



Kevin Derksen
Regional Ministry Associate
Kevin builds relationships with pastors within a geographical area of MCEC. He will connect you with resources and supports to enhance and enrich your ministry.
kderksen@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x716



Ellen Kim
Administrative Coordinator for the Church Leadership Office
Ellen works with the church leadership minister and the church leadership team to support the needs of our pastors and congregational leaders.
ekim@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x712



Norm Dyck
Mission Minister
Norm works with newcomer congregations and church plants. He encourages missional activities and disciple-making initiatives.
ndyck@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x707



Fanosie Legesse
Intercultural Mission Minister
Fanosie is educator, listener, mentor and bridge-builder as he helps to foster relationships between and bring a cultural awareness to the MCEC community of congregations.
flegesse@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x711



Wendy Janzen
Eco-Minister
Wendy works with congregations to empower them in worship, ministry and witness as we connect our mission with how we care for God's creation.
wjanzen@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x715



Michel Monette
Catalyzer Minister
Michel works with new leaders and congregations in Ottawa and Quebec. He preaches, teaches and coaches those who are newly connecting with MCEC.
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MCEC Staff

Our team



John Reimer
Operations Director

John leads in the development and implementation of physical, technological, communications, financial and human resources.
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tel. 226-476-2500 x709



Joan Schooley
Office Administrator

Joan supports the day to day functioning of the office and provides administrative support to the Executive Team Leader and Operations Director.
jschooley@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x700



Stephen Reist
Regional Ministry Associate

Stephen builds relationships with pastors within a geographical area of MCEC. He will connect you with resources and supports to enhance and enrich your ministry.
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tel. 226-476-2500 x 717



Ann L. Schultz
**Intentional Interim
Executive Team Leader**

Ann works with and supports the MCEC team and together finds creative and thoughtful ways to minister across our family of faith.
aschultz@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x706



Al Rempel
Regional Minister

Al works with congregations and pastors on behalf of the church leadership team. He helps congregations discover God's leading through Informed Conversations.
arempel@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x719



Cathrin van Sintern-Dick
**Regional Ministry Associate
Transitioning into Ministry/Learning
Commons Coordinator**

Cathrin builds relationships with pastors, coordinates the TiM program and curates the Learning Commons.
cvansinterndick@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x718



Marilyn Rudy-Froese
Church Leadership Minister

Marilyn works closely with pastors and leaders and supports them in their calling, formation and placement as ministers and chaplains throughout MCEC.
mrudyfroese@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x704



Lisa Williams
Director of Communications

Lisa connects congregations through sharing stories of God's ministry in and through the people of MCEC and Mennonite Church Canada.
lwilliams@mcec.ca
tel. 226-476-2500 x708

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
201-50 Kent Ave.
Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1
mcec.ca

Volunteers

Sharing gifts and wisdom

MCEC is humbled by the generosity of our pastors and volunteers.

Thank you for your leadership and support to MCEC.

- Baergen, Rene** – First Mennonite Church
Baergen, Rudy – Erb Street Mennonite Church
Barber, James – Hagerman Mennonite Church
Bejarano, Edna – Toronto United Mennonite Church
Bender, Alissa – Hamilton Mennonite Church
Bender, Gladys – Steinmann Mennonite Church
Brubacher, Jonathan – Elmira Mennonite Church
Brubacher, Ray – Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Burkard, Barb – Bloomingdale Mennonite Church
Carter, Kara – Wellesley Mennonite Church
Cassels, Ben – Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite
Chandler Burns, Steph – Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Cheung, Donny – Toronto United Mennonite Church
Driedger, Dawne – North Leamington United Mennonite
Driedger, Gordon – Petritcodiac Mennonite Church
Dyck-Steinmann, Tanya – MCEC Ordained Pastor
East, Sean – MCEC Ordained Pastor
Fieguth, Paul – Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Frere, Craig – Vineland United Mennonite Church
Fretz, Sara – Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church
Frey, Ardith – Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Gingerich, Darlene – Steinmann Mennonite Church
Gonzalía, Felipe – First Mennonite Church
Grainger, Morgan – The Gathering Church
Hamm, Caroline – North Leamington United Mennonite
Harder, Gary – Toronto United Mennonite Church
Hedrick, Tim – Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Heese, Karen – Hagerman Mennonite Church
Helmuth, Jen – Erb Street Mennonite Church
Hiemstra, Janel – INNOVATE
Hutton, Chris – Niagara United Mennonite Church
Isert-Bender, Matthew – Nith Valley Mennonite Church
Janzen, Peter – Niagara United Mennonite Church
Jongejan Harder, Charleen – Elmira Mennonite Church
Jongejan Harder, Kendall – Shantz Mennonite Church
Jonnalagadda, Henry – Valleyview Mennonite Church
Jonnalagadda, Melanie – Valleyview Mennonite Church
Joseph, Andi Myriam – Familee Assemblée de la Grâce
Kabbes, Andrew – INNOVATE
Kabbes, Kim – INNOVATE
Kehl, Roger – First Mennonite Church
Klassen, Arli – First Mennonite Church
Klassen, Elizabeth – Rockway Mennonite Church
Knarr, Gary – Mannheim Mennonite Church
Lichti, Diane – Tavistock Mennonite Church
Loepp Thiessen, Anneli – Ottawa Mennonite Church
Loepp Thiessen, Jim – Floradale Mennonite
Makinen, Cassie – Zion Mennonite Fellowship
Marr, Lucille – Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal
Masyawong, Yoel Trakoon – Grace Lao Mennonite Church
Mbayamvula, Roberson – Hagerman Mennonite Church
McCartney, Colin – SoulHouse Church
McCartney, Judith – SoulHouse Church
Metzger, Melinda – St. Jacobs Mennonite Church
Miller Dyck, Myrna – MCEC Ordained Pastor
Mwankin, Merveille – Hagerman Mennonite Church
Neufeldt-Fast, Arnold – Community Mennonite Church
Odia, Ruth – The Gathering Church
Ogasawara, Mariko – Shantz Mennonite Church
Pandey, Arjun – Danforth Mennonite Church
Pelletier, Nicole – Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal
Penner, J.D. – Toronto United Mennonite
Penner, Kimberley – Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church
Peters Unrau, Kevin – Hillcrest Mennonite Church
Quan, Brian – Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church
Raltong, Joseph – Chin Christian Church
Ratzlaff, Vic – Westview Christian Fellowship
Regehr, Keith – First Mennonite Church
Regier, Ingried – Erb Street Mennonite Church
Reimer, Tim – Danforth Mennonite Church
Riek, Rebecca – First Mennonite Church
Ringer, Carol – Danforth Mennonite Church
Rogalsky, Dave – Community Mennonite Fellowship
Roth, Andrew – Erb Street Mennonite Church
Saythavy, Visanou – Grace New Life Mennonite
Scheerer, Roy – Wellesley Mennonite Church
Sheil, Karen – Rainham Mennonite Church
Siegrist, Anthony – MCEC Ordained Pastor
Stamp, Judith – Toronto United Mennonite Church
Steckley, Jan – Hillcrest Mennonite Church
Steinmann, Michael – The Gathering Church
Steinmann, Rich – Steinmann Mennonite Church
Stoltz, Will – Mannheim Mennonite Church
Thiessen, Robert – Toronto United Mennonite Church
Tiessen, Jim – Hamilton Mennonite Church
Toews Janzen, Marlene – Ottawa Mennonite Church
Whitfield-Ellis, Kendra – Waterloo North Mennonite
Wideman, Louise – Steinmann Mennonite Church
Woldearegay, Mesfin – Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church
Yoder, Bruce – Listowel Mennonite Church
Yum, Hyejung Jessie – Danforth Mennonite Church

Mennonite Church Canada

Engaging the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ



In mid-November I attended a workshop in Mennonite Church Eastern Canada entitled the “Wheat and Weeds Challenge.” Presenter Robert (Jack) Suderman, former General Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada asked us the question “why?” Why do we go to all this effort to gather as faith communities? Why do we think that any effort on our part is going to change the trajectory of this world?

With the ongoing difficulties of the pandemic, record high inflation, and instability in our health care and education systems, it’s easy to frame church as just another bottomless pit sucking away our time and energy. Also tugging on our heart strings are the ongoing discoveries of unmarked graves found at Indian Residential School sites, the war in Ukraine, climate crisis. It can all get overwhelming.

Indeed, listening only to the news suggests our efforts are not changing the trajectory of the world at all. But despair not! Jesus’ first words in the gospel of Mark are, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe the good news.” In other words, “Change your minds, refocus, the reign of God is arriving!”

I want to share with you some of this good news — news you won’t learn from the major networks in their year-end highlight reels of 2022.

Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong overcame several hurdles with visa issues to serve Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia with their teaching gifts. We are again dipping our toes into youth service opportunities, with Sarah Wood helping teach English to children in Thailand under the guidance of Tom and Christine Poovong. Bock Ki Kim (Sook Kyoung Park) facilitated peaceful conflict resolution for 18 middle school classes in a Seoul school. Gerald and Rie Neufeld are in Japan to reconnect and revitalize churches there. Nor will you find news about how the Palestine Israel Network, with representatives from four regional churches, are hosting speakers to challenge beliefs about living in that part of the world.

No radio stations will report that our church regions are embracing the journey of reconciliation with Indigenous

peoples and eco-harm with the help of the newly appointed Jonathan Neufeld (Indigenous Relations Coordinator), and Sandy Plett (Climate Action Coordinator).

Nor will they review Neil and Edith von Gunten’s book of uplifting stories of learning from and with Indigenous peoples in their four-plus decades of ministry with MC Canada (*WalkingTogether*).

You won’t see news on any major TV networks that CommonWord this year has enriched the lives of thousands with over 25,000 sales, loans, and downloads of resources, equipping more and more people to bring good news.

Our Mennonite Church Canada statement of purpose and identity reminds us of our calling. “God calls, equips and sends the church to engage the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Because of this, all that you will read in the pages following, all that you will read about CommonWord, Indigenous Relations, International Witness, Climate Action and what you will read in the work of your Regional Churches are anchored in these words. What you will see and hear at your regional AGM’s will also reflect these words.

May you be encouraged to imagine your life and the life of your congregation in the future of God’s coming reign.

Doug Klassen
Executive Minister



Indigenous elder Jerlina (centre) speaks to Dann Nor and Joji Pantoja, Witness workers in the Philippines.



Mennonite Church Canada Annual Report - Looking back on 2022



CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

CommonWord is your bookstore and resource centre, a nationwide ministry of Mennonite Church Canada and Canadian Mennonite University. We are here for you!

Looking for a small group study, worship resource or an inspirational read? We can help connect you with Anabaptist and related materials – to buy, borrow or access online – that inspire, provoke, equip, and engage.

Here are a few services that help make Anabaptist resources accessible to you:

- A website (www.commonword.ca) with over 14,000 materials, easily searched by keyword or scripture text
- Borrowed items ship free – to your home and back to Winnipeg
- Online resources are free to listen, view, download or read
- Retail products are competitively priced

In the past year we have helped worship leaders, teachers, small group leaders, pastors, treasurers, deacons, musicians, other congregational volunteers, and avid readers of all ages, in addition to our regular and Christmas gift shoppers. As of November 23, 2022, we have processed nearly 700 online retail orders, 5,800 in-store purchases, 2,200 loans, and 18,000 downloads. Thank you for your engagement!

What might you find at CommonWord? This only scratches the surface, but here are several resource lists (based on our search filters):

- [Visual \(Type\) resources](#) – In addition to our Print, Video and Audio materials, we are adding visual resources for personal and congregational use. Perhaps you want to contribute to our [Visio Divina](#) project?
- [Parts of Worship](#) (Genre) – This is a large Genre within our collection that includes hundreds of complete worship services and thousands of related materials (calls to worship, prayers, sermons, etc.). We are grateful to partner with Together in Worship in gathering [free Anabaptist digital materials](#). Perhaps you have an original worship resource to contribute?
- [Narrative/Novel/Story](#) (Expression) – Another large collection, including biblical retellings, biography, fiction, and other titles.
- [Lent](#) (Church Season) – Worship, study, devotional and family resources for the coming Lenten season in the church year.
- [Creation Care](#) (Topic) – Includes many resources specific to the critical issue of climate change/ action.
- [CommonWordKids](#) (Audience) – Hundreds of illustrated children's books for the pre- and early-reader.
- [Korean](#) (Language) – All resources are filterable by language.

To learn more about how to access our resources and use our filters, please view a [short video tutorial](#) of our website. You may, of course, also contact us directly with any question.

We are grateful for the church and university's ongoing

Mennonite Church Canada

Engaging the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ

ing commitment to Christian formation. Thank you for your continued trust as we bring you resources to strengthen the church. Please remain in touch by calling 1-877-846-1593 or e-mailing info@commonword.ca. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Subscribe to our bi-weekly Curator email. Embed our RSS feeds on your congregation's website. Keep reading!

Submitted by Arlyn Friesen Epp
Director, CommonWord Bookstore and
Resource Centre
afriesenepp@commonword.ca



International Witness

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*
- Micah 6:8

Mennonite Church Canada's Witness program is not splashy. We don't often shout about it from the rooftops. In fact, it might be the best kept secret of MC Canada! But in many corners of the world, together with our global family of faith, we are part of a movement that invites people to justice, kindness, and a humble relationship with God. We are witnesses of God's mission in the world, restoring relationships and building peace. As the Peace-Builders Community in Mindanao, Philippines describes it, following Jesus brings harmony.

Building transformative relationships in meaningful ways takes time, takes presence. Witness workers live this daily and consistently: Werner and Joanne De Jong teaching at the Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia, Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park building peace networks and church planting in South Korea, Dann and Joji Pantoja developing peace and reconciliation teams together with income generation, and Tom and Chris-

tine Poovong (with children Phim and Joseph) supporting a growing network of Jesus followers with leadership training and income generation in Thailand.

Witness workers are only present in 4 out of the 15 countries where we have active partnerships. A new category of resident bridge builders called "Relationship Catalysts" started officially this year as Gerald and Rie Neufeld moved to Japan and began to strengthen the relationship between MC Canada and Tokyo Area Fellowship of Mennonite Churches. We hope to appoint more relationship catalysts in the future to deepen our relationship with the global family of faith.

After some years of hiatus, Witness has resumed calling young people into cross-cultural internships with Sarah Wood spending six months living and learning in rural Thailand. Serving in a small Christian school is providing her with opportunities and challenges that will build cross-cultural skills, leadership capacity and faith formation. Watch for more opportunities in the next year!

Bethlehem Bible College speaking tours brought Palestinian theologians into our schools, congregations, and community in the Winnipeg area. There were also conversations

with Indigenous and Palestinian theologians on issues of land and people. Watch for an opportunity to hear from Palestinian theologians coming to your area in 2023.

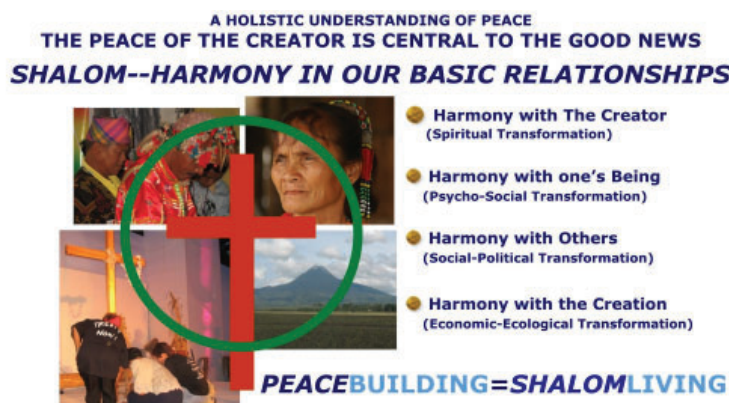
Another exchange of college faculty is happening as Conrad Grebel University College and MC Canada signed an agreement

to use some of their faculty resources in international settings. Derek Suderman spent several weeks in Thailand teaching Old Testament courses.

The networks of supporting congregations are important



Sarah Wood



Source: www.Peacebuilderscommunity.org

Mennonite Church Canada

Engaging the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ

witnesses to what God is doing in the world. I appreciate the congregations who have committed to these relationships. Several learning tours to Thailand and Philippines this year meant that some of these partners could meet face to face for the first time. Learning from each other, enjoying new experiences and seeing first-hand what God is doing in other places and cultures is an important part of faith formation in our communities. When we see God through the eyes of siblings in faith who are different from us, we get a broader picture of who God is.

Where is God transforming relationships to build harmony in you, in your community, in your world? You and your congregations can get involved with global partners and discover how God will transform you. Contact your Regional Church Engagement staff for more information.

Submitted by Jeanette Hanson
Director, International Witness
jhanson@mennonitechurch.ca



Indigenous Relations

Greetings Church! As a community minister for Seattle Mennonite Church over the past 15 years, I had the regular privilege of welcoming volunteers who engaged with people experiencing injustice. I would often say that they should be ready to be surprised by the welcome and trust that community members would immediately extend. This welcome is rooted in the trust and presence seeded by all the efforts that have gone before them. While they are present, whether it is a day or a year, people are inheriting this trusted memory and adding their own good intentions and actions to strengthen these relationships. We are all just stepping into a stream that has been flowing before we showed up and will continue to flow after we have stepped away.

In that same spirit, I am struck (but not surprised) by the expressions of blessing, gratitude, openness, connection and collaboration I have received – even in just the first few weeks of inhabiting the role of Indigenous Relations Coordinator. It is a testimony to the trusted relationships formed by passionate and gifted people who have represented MC Canada in this way.

I have been focusing on connecting with the Executive Ministers and Regional Indigenous Relations Working Groups of our church in these early days, hearing about common concerns and questions we are facing as we seek to walk the path of reconciliation with Indigenous neighbours. The

coming weeks will be spent introducing and connecting with national and ecumenical partners who are aligned with Indigenous priorities for action and change. I am excited to offer myself in this role, adding to the story of respectful engagement with Indigenous communities that co-conspirators now and in coming generations can pick up and continue to embody.

Submitted by Jonathan Neufeld
Indigenous Relations Coordinator
jneufeld@mennonitechurch.ca



Climate Action

The journey to this work as Climate Action Coordinator has been an interesting one! I grew up loving the outdoors, being a thrifty shopper and a gardener. In recent years, my passion for the church and growing concern about climate change led me to explore my personal role in the struggle for climate justice. I began looking for ways that I could lend my gifts and skills to the work.

Through the ecumenical initiative called [For the Love of Creation](#), I started leading Faithful Climate Conversations locally. These guided discussions help participants move through anxieties and experiences of climate crisis and consider ways that they might take action. This work led me to get involved with the Mennonite Church Manitoba Climate Action Working Group in 2021, and now and as Climate Action Coordinator for Mennonite Church Canada.

I hope to facilitate connections between the regions of MC Canada around the important and diverse work of addressing the climate crisis. Across the country, groups within our church families are working at this in different ways. I'm excited to lift the themes and threads of this work into the light, and share them with all of you.

I'm eager to learn what shape climate action is taking in your church, and in your region. What a gift to be able to support and encourage the hands and feet of Christ in this way!

Submitted by Sandy Plett
Climate Action Coordinator
splett@mennonitechurch.ca



Mennonite Church Manitoba

Who is God calling us to be? What is God calling us to do?

Mennonite Church Manitoba - Year in Review 2022

Thirty-nine congregations across Manitoba covenant together to be Mennonite Church Manitoba, coming together for mutual support and shared ministry. Five regional churches, including MCM, covenant together to be Mennonite Church Canada, likewise coming together for mutual support and shared ministry. We are grateful to God for these relationships built on trust and respect and care.

2022 was a year of tentative steps into an unknown future for MCM, with all the surprises and opportunities this brings. The easing of pandemic protections but with the pandemic still present, along with political, social, and economic uncertainties among us and around us, have prompted congregations to ask identity and mission questions afresh. Who is God calling us to be and what is God calling us to do in these days?

One result of this reflection has been a greater desire to engage in God's mission for the church. Our new Director of Mission Engagement, Melanie Neufeld, has walked with congregations as they explore possibilities. Many congregations, some with the assistance of a Local Mission Grant from MCM, have stepped out in faith and love to sponsor refugees, open food banks, establish community centres or resource hubs, and more. Congregations have also looked to wider missional involvement through our regional working groups such as the Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity, the Climate Action Working Group, and the Palestine-Israel Network, or through partnering with International Witness workers or ministries.

Our Camps with Meaning summer program was back in full swing, led by Director Dorothy



Fontaine and our full-time Camp staff. Supported by 109 volunteers, leaders in training, and summer staff, Camp Asiniboia and Camp Koinonia welcomed 523 campers this summer, including our

Adults with Disabilities programs. MCM also supported five young adults to attend the Global Youth Summit as part of the Mennonite World Conference Assembly in Indonesia, and we supported youth and leader participants from MCM in the Young Leaders Experience at MC Canada's Gathering in Edmonton.

A key aspect of our mutual support as MCM is our care for pastors and congregations. Rick Neufeld retired in March as Director of Leadership Ministries, and in August Karen Schel-

lenberg and Jeff Friesen stepped into this role as Co-Directors. Together they have walked with our 50+ pastors and other spiritual leaders through challenging



Faith and Life Choirs, Christmas 2022

times in 2022, and encouraged 5 people toward licensing or ordination. Kathy Giesbrecht has now had a full year as Director of Congregational Ministries, and she has walked with congregations seeking support in congregational care and faith formation. We are grateful also for the return of in-person church visits and concerts by our Faith and Life Choirs, an important aspect of our congregational ministries.

Who is God calling us to be and what is God calling us to do in these days? This is a question not just for congregations but for us as a regional church. "These days" are indeed filled with uncertainties; the future is very much unknown. Yet as we walk together in these days, we do not walk alone. Jesus is with us each step of the way. Let us draw strength and hope from this promise.

"Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

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Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2022 Annual Report

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a family of 22 congregations, covenanted together as Christ Centred & Sent. We prayerfully support one another, joining together in ministry alongside the other congregations of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference, trusting that as we do God's healing and hope flows through us to all the world.

*The mountains may move
and the hills disappear,
but my faithful love for you will remain.
My covenant of peace will never be broken. Isaiah 54:10*



January 2022 welcomed MC Sask into a season of many changes. Longtime leaders moved into new ministries (**Ryan Siemens**) or into a season of intense parenting (**Kirsten Hamm-Epp**). Meanwhile, others began new roles, **Zach Dueck** as Interim Youth Leader and **Josh Wallace** as Interim Executive Minister. Office Administrator **Marianne Siemens** and moderator **Terry Stefaniuk** put in extra hours as anchors of continuity and stability.



Our congregations, too, were in the midst of change. As COVID-19 continued to shift, some congregations found themselves with renewed for new projects while others faced anew questions of longterm sustainability. Many found themselves somewhere in-between. At the close of January 2022, **Grace MC** in Prince Albert gathered for a final worship service before gifting their building to Parkland Restorative Justice.

In March, we were welcomed by **Youth Farm Bible Camp** and online for our Annual Delegate Sessions, centred on our congregations *Called to Here*. Pastor Preston Pouteaux helped frame our work of discernment and decisions within God's joyful presence among our neighbors in the communities where we make our homes.



MC Sask affirmed the calls of **Kevin Koop (Carrot River MC)** and **Rachel Wallace (Eigenheim MC)**, joining with their congregations to ordain them to pastoral ministry. We rejoiced together with **North Star MC** in the conclusion of the faithful service of **Dan Graber** and in the appointment of **Lisa Martens Bartel** as Pastoral Leader. Likewise, we gave thanks for the years of faithful ministry by **Nora Pederberg** at **Osler MC** and for the installation of **Luke Bushman** as Pastor of Faith and Community at **Osler MC** and **Nutana Park MC**.

Gatherings in the summer months renewed our connections to the nationwide and global body of Jesus. We were grateful for **Nora Pederberg** stepping in to be MC Sask's delegate to the Mennonite World Conference's Global Youth Summit and Assembly in Indonesia. We supported together 13 delegates to carry the hopes and perspectives to MC Canada's Gathering 2022 in Edmonton. **Mel Harms** led an enthusiastic group of MC Sask youth in participating in the nationwide **Amplify** youth gathering. These events open pathways for our congregations to join in solidarity, action, praise, and prayer with sisters and brothers in Christ nearby and around the world.



This year MC Sask has sought to resource congregations for local ministry and collaboration through a few new initiatives. Our March ADS approved a Camping Ministry Study to review and strengthen our shared ministry through MC Sask's three camps (**Camp Elim**, **Youth Farm Bible Camp**, and **Shekinah Retreat Center**). The newly developed Climate Emergency Response Team (CERT) is developing resources and proposals to help congregations live in faith and faithful action for the good of all creation. And in November we welcomed Dr Sylvia Keesmaat to resource congregational leaders as they preach and reflect on Scripture in changing times.

Through transitions, expected and unexpected, joyful and sorrowful, the God of peace remains faithfully near to us, supporting each of our congregations in MC Sask and tenderly caring for all the world. Thank you for partnering with us in this work of peace.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

BOX 1839, PINCHER CREEK, AB T0K1W0

WWW.MCAB.CA



Executive Committee Brenda Tiessen-Wiens **Moderator** Peter Sang **Vice-Moderator** Wayne Janz **Finance** Elizabeth Wall **Secretary** Tim Wiebe-Neufeld **Executive Minister**

MCA is...

- **12** congregations worshipping in 5 languages
- **900** members and **1300** church participants
- **22** pastors, credentialed leaders, and year-round ministry staff
- **5** regions in covenant as MC Canada, our nationwide family of **225** congregations
- part of Mennonite World Conference, which includes **109** national churches from **59** countries

MCA's Vision is...

"...to be a community of Anabaptist-Mennonite congregations worshipping the one holy and loving God. Joined together in Jesus Christ, we are guided by the Holy Spirit and scripture as we seek to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace. Together we seek to embody Jesus Christ in the world."

MCA Constitution

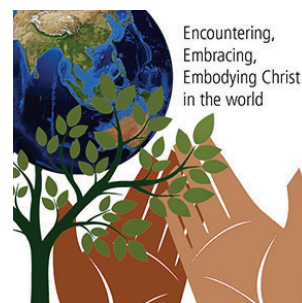
Reflections on an amazing year!

The headline read, "So long, 2022, let us hope 2023 will be better."

Every New Year's it's the same thing: newspapers, comic pages, and blog posts emphasize the negative as they reflect on the year that was. Lists of the year's top news events are filled with stories of disaster. New Year's resolutions focus thoughts on our personal inadequacies. The turning of the calendar is seen as turning toward a future that couldn't possibly be as bad as what we just went through. It is such a pattern that on January 3rd a satirical news website offered that Canadians were already giving up on 2023, choosing to pin their hopes on 2024 instead!

As I reflect back on 2022 I see many aspects that were difficult and challenging. But I also see so many positives – so many ways God's spirit of healing and hope was present in the world in real and tangible ways:

- The ebbing of the COVID pandemic allowed MCA's congregations to reconnect as communities in ways that had not been possible for nearly two years. A highlight for me was the in-person **Gathering** of our Mennonite Church Canada faith family in Edmonton this past summer.
- The **calling of pastoral leadership** for Foothills, Holyrood, Bethel, and First Mennonite Edmonton; the calling of volunteers and staff both young and old to the ministry at Camp Valaqua; and the calling of many others in service of congregations and the broader ministries we share.
- The living out of the 3rd year of MCA's action plan: **Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in the World**. As congregations reconnect and reset, many are looking for ways to be more present in their local communities. Globally, International Witness continues to build the church in 15 countries. This includes pastor supports and training in Thailand and Ethiopia. MCA is also funding pastor training for 2 church leaders from South Sudanese refugee camps.
- Seeing efforts made towards peace and wholeness of relationship in a world torn by division, injustice, and environmental destruction. **MCA's Bridge Building Facilitator** is nurturing intercultural and interfaith relationships, while our nationwide church has invested in staff to assist in caring for creation and building relationships with Indigenous people.



Encountering,
Embracing,
Embodying Christ
in the world



Mennonite Church Alberta

Supporting congregations. Nurturing connections. Celebrating faith in action.

As people of faith we long for a future when God's healing and restoration will be made real for all creation. Yet that hope is built on the way we have seen God at work in the past, even through times of hardship and challenge. We see hope shining through in the highs and lows of the biblical story, we see it in the history of the church and MCA congregations, and we see it in our lives in so many ways--even in the year that was.

Throughout all that recent years has brought, the ministries we share as MCA have continued to build the church. As we look back, may we recognize the many ways God has been with us, even as we anticipate God's presence in the future to come. And may we look forward to God's provision, creativity, and inspiration as we seek to be the People God is calling us to be!



Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Executive Minister, MCA



Pastors Council Retreat November 2022

MCA Priorities are...

Supporting Congregations

- **5** new pastors called to serve in 4 congregations
- **4** pastors newly credentialed
- **1** congregation provided financing for an interim pastor team
- **8** students received bursaries for Canadian Mennonite University
- over **30,000** resources accessed through CommonWord
- **4** in-person and **3** zoom meetings of Pastors Council
- **1** Pastor's Council Retreat at Camp Valaqua
- **1** Spiritual Leaders Day at the MC Canada Gathering



Nurturing Connections

- **446** MCA households received the Canadian Mennonite nationwide magazine
- **207** received the weekly newsletter the MCA Communique
- **225** attended MC Canada's Gathering in Edmonton and **50+** attended online.
- **133** youth, volunteers and staff attended Amplify at Camp Valaqua
- **2** MCA young adults took part in the Youth Leaders Experience at Gathering
- **82** attended the MCA delegate sessions in March, while hundreds attended the Sunday worship
- **1** young adult sponsored to attend the Global Youth Summit and MWC Assembly in Indonesia

Celebrating Faith in Action

- near capacity summer camps at **Camp Valaqua**, and over **1500** people served through year-round rentals
- Suzanne Gross hired as the new Bridge Building Facilitator, to nurture interfaith and intercultural connections
- nationwide programs focused on Indigenous Relations and Climate Action
- International Witness relationships in **15** countries, with huge impact including:
 - Ethiopia, where Werner DeJong taught **150** students at Meserete Kristos Seminary and Joanne preached in chapels and offered community support
 - South Sudanese refugee camps, where **2** church leaders received support to attend MKS to train as pastors for their home communities
 - Thailand, where Tom and Christine Poovong lead **43** worshipping groups and **60** outreach centres

The MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA (MCBC) Story Submitted to the Nationwide Regional Churches for 2022

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." 1 John 4:7-8

2022 has been a year of delayed expectations for MCBC. In September 2021 Garry Janzen announced his plans to retire as Executive Minister around the time of his 65th birthday in July 2022. A fantastic search task group was formed. They did thorough preparations of the understandings that would guide the search for a new Executive Minister. As the search got underway, applications were received, but none of them worked out. Garry extended his intended retirement date, eventually settling on the end of 2022. The second round of searching began in the fall of 2022. Again, applications were received. At the time of writing this report, mid-December 2022, there is hope. Yet, it has become clear that we will not have a new Executive Minister by January 1st, 2023. In response, Kevin Barkowsky will adjust his halftime position as Church Engagement Minister to include being Interim Executive Minister, with expectations that this could be a 3-6 month role.

As we wait for God's purposes to be worked out, we trust in God's love to lead the way. God is love, and God calls us to love one another according to this love (1 John 4:7-21). We continue in faithfulness and obedience as agents of God's love, trusting that as we wait, God's best will be revealed in due time.

In 2021 a new structure for MCBC was presented to the AGM, which received its final approval at the 2022 AGM. Task Groups have grown, and others have been formed. There is much that our people have said they care about and want to act on, and the work of our task groups reflects these interests. Our task groups are too numerous to name them all here. We give thanks for our Ministry Leaders: Andrew Haak (Cultivating Anabaptist Vision), Henry Krause (Engaging God's World) and Isaías Rodriguez (Growing Community). They report on the work in their ministry area quarterly. As Leadership Board members they also help with giving overall direction to MCBC.

As a Nationwide Mennonite Church, we have said that the local congregation is the foundational unit of the church. In MCBC it has been brought to our attention that we still need to figure out how the participants in our task groups can help their congregations embrace the work of the task groups they are in. One of our congregations took a Sunday to celebrate the work of MCBC and their people who are involved. This gave the MCBC Executive Minister opportunity to preach and speak about MCBC; it also gave Task Group and Leadership Board participants from the congregation the opportunity to talk about what they do. Each of our congregations is encouraged to do something like this.

The work that we do together nationwide and globally is represented in our Engaging God's World ministry area. We are thankful for the partnership we have in order to be able to do ministry that we each would not be able to do on our own. In MCBC we are thankful for the growing connection we are building with Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam. This is a relationship through MC Canada and the North American Vietnamese Evangelical Fellowship and is an extension of our relationship with the Vietnamese congregations we have in MCBC.

The 2023 MCBC Annual Gathering will be at Peace Mennonite Church in Richmond on February 25th; it will also be available for Livestream viewing. We will be having a LEAD Conference Friday, February 24th – Mark Baker from Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary will be speaking on themes from his new book, Centered-Set Church. New information regarding the future of the former Clearbrook Mennonite Church property will be presented at this gathering.



Mennonite Church British Columbia

Working together in God's Kingdom activities

Our congregations continue to seek ways to thrive, especially as we come out of the pandemic. North Shore Japanese Church has not managed to do so, and is closing at the end of 2022. Bethel Mennonite Church in Langley withdrew its affiliation with MCBC as of June 30, 2022. We give thanks for the faithfulness of these congregations.

May we be filled with love in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, and may we find our way to amazing ministry opportunities as we work together in God's Kingdom activities.

Community of Congregations

Transpired. Inspired. Called.

1. Agape Fellowship
2. Avon Mennonite Church
3. Bethany Mennonite Church
4. Bethel Mennonite Church
5. Blenheim Ecumenical House Church
6. Bloomingdale Mennonite Church
7. Breslau Mennonite Church
8. Brussels Mennonite Fellowship
9. Burning Bush Forest Church
10. Cassel Mennonite Church
11. Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Quebec
12. Chin Christian Church
13. Church of the Living Word in Ottawa
14. Community Mennonite Church, Stouffville
15. Community Mennonite Fellowship
16. Crosshill Mennonite Church
17. Danforth Mennonite Church
18. East Zorra Mennonite Church
19. Église Béthésda Mennonite de Saint-Hyacinthe
20. Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches (RDB)
21. Église Jésus-Christ Appelle Tous
22. Église Mennonite Agape
23. Elmira Mennonite Church
24. Erb Street Mennonite Church
25. Erie View United Mennonite Church
26. Faith Mennonite Church
27. Famille Assemblée de la Grâce
28. First Hmong Mennonite Church
29. First Mennonite Church
30. Floradale Mennonite Church
31. Freedom Gospel Ethiopian Church
32. Goshen Mennonite Church
33. Grace Christian Church
34. Grace Lao Mennonite Church
35. Grace Mennonite Church
36. Grace New Life Mennonite Church
37. Hagerman Mennonite Church
38. Hamilton Mennonite Church
39. Hanover Mennonite Church
40. Harrow Mennonite Church
41. Hawkesville Mennonite Church
42. Hillcrest Mennonite Church
43. Hiyaw Amalak Evangelical Church
44. Hochma
45. Hunta Mennonite Church
46. Kitchener Emmanuel Church
47. KW House Church
48. Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church
49. Lao Christian Fellowship
50. Leamington United Mennonite Church
51. Listowel Mennonite Church
52. Ma Destinée
53. Mannheim Mennonite Church
54. Markham Chinese Mennonite Church
55. Markham Christian Worship Centre
56. McArthurs Mills Christian Fellowship
57. MDM Joliette
58. Medahnnaleem Ethiopian Evangelical Church
59. Meheret Evangelical Church
60. Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal
61. Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship
62. Niagara United Mennonite Church
63. Nith Valley Mennonite Church
64. North Leamington United Mennonite Church
65. Open Table
66. Oromo Evangelical Church of Ottawa
67. Ottawa Mennonite Church
68. Petitcodiac Mennonite Church
69. Pioneer Park Christian Fellowship
70. Poole Mennonite Church
71. Preston Mennonite Church
72. Rainham Mennonite Church
73. Refuge de Paix
74. Rockway Mennonite Church
75. Rouge Valley Mennonite Church
76. Shalom Worship and Healing Centre
77. Shantz Mennonite Church
78. SoulHouse Church - Connect City
79. St. Agatha Mennonite Church
80. St. Catharines United Mennonite Church
81. St. Jacobs Mennonite Church
82. Steinmann Mennonite Church
83. Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church
84. Tavistock Mennonite Church
85. The Church at Nairn
86. The First Mennonite Church
87. The Gathering Church
88. The Meeting Place
89. Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church
90. Toronto Mennonite New Life Church
91. Toronto United Mennonite Church
92. Tree of Life/Arbre de Vie
93. Valleyview Mennonite Church
94. Vineland United Mennonite Church
95. Wanner Mennonite Church
96. Warden Underground - Connect City
97. Waterloo North Mennonite Church
98. Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church
99. Waters Mennonite Church
100. Wellesley Mennonite Church
101. West Hills Mennonite Fellowship
102. Westview Christian Fellowship
103. Wideman Mennonite Church
104. Wilmot Mennonite Church
105. Windsor Mennonite Fellowship
106. Zion Mennonite Fellowship



Thank You

Beyond tomorrow

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada is grateful to individuals and families who choose to support our shared ministry through an estate gift. Estates are made up of assets from years of hard work and careful management. MCEC greatly values these special contributions.

Proceeds from estates help to ensure that MCEC remains healthy by stabilizing MCEC funds. These funds ensure that MCEC will have resources for mission, congregational and leadership development into the future.

Thank you for contributing to MCEC today and through your estate. Your faithful and generous giving will serve the Church beyond tomorrow.

Through planned gifts, MCEC gratefully received financial support from the following estates:

Estate of Inez Bender
Estate of Agnes Eby
Estate of Vernon and Viola Erb
Estate of Clarence Heintz
Estate of Lydia Ann Bauman

Languages of Worship

Worship in 20 languages

French
Hakha Chin
German Swahili
Kinyarwanda
Falaam Chin Tigrinya
Kirundi Hmong Tamil
Cantonese Mandarin
Thai Haitian Creole
English Mato Chin
Lao Oromo Amharic
Spanish



Upcoming MCEC Events

Register at www.mcec.ca/events



Becoming a Restorative Church Embodying our Safe Church Policy May 11, 2023, 4 p.m.

Hybrid: 50 Kent Ave. and Zoom

We will explore how we cannot just develop safe church policies but live into them and teach them in our congregational settings.
2023 Pastors, Chaplains and Congregational Leaders series.
French Translation Provided

Healthy Boundaries Workshop and Refresher (on-line)

Full Workshop: May 11&12 and May 18&19, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Refresher Course: May 25&26, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Ministry is about coming alongside those to whom we minister in the messiness of life and it can be challenging to define and set boundaries. Yet, to do so is critical for healthy relationships. These sessions will support leaders who wish to establish healthy boundaries and a safe and respectful congregational culture in the context of ministry.
A credentialed minister required workshop.



Being a Restorative Church Creating Brave and Accessible Space June 3, 2023, 12 - 3:30 p.m.

In-person Event

God's solidarity to all who are vulnerable call us into action to create spaces which are inviting, safe and brave. Our presenters will challenge us on how to be a loving and embracing community in the midst of challenges which might be presented to us.

Thank You to our Sponsors

Visit the display area at the Annual Church Gathering to connect with MCEC partners.

Gold Level Sponsorship

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CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

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 **innovate**
BE THE CHANGE

**In
This
Together**

These partners will each have a room set aside at lunch.
Interact with them over lunch. See map on page 11.

Silver Level Sponsorship

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Thank You!

Thank you for joining us this year at the Annual Church Gathering. It is our prayer that you have been transformed by the love of God, inspired by the hope we find in Jesus and called to action by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We invite you to share the MCEC story with your congregation. Reporting aids will be at mcec.ca.

