



MCEC in Ministry

Spring 2018

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Church has reimagined junior
youth activities!

MCEC in Ministry



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Together in Transition and Change

A Word from David Martin, MCEC Executive Minister



David Martin
MCEC Executive Minister

Transition and change seems to be a constant reality wherever we turn.

The economy in our country is changing from a resource-based one to an increasing focus on the high-tech and information sectors. Prominent social issues like the #metoo movement dominate our public awareness.

As Canada continues to welcome new immigrants and refugees, the social fabric across our country keeps changing. Mennonite Church Eastern Canada now worships in 15 different languages—that's almost 25% of

“Let's remember that we are not alone. God walks with us; the Spirit will guide us; and together, as the body of Christ, we can share our wisdom and support each other.”

- David Martin

our community of congregations. When so much around us is changing, it should be no surprise that the church also needs to change and adapt to its new context.

Mennonite Church Canada, our nationwide community of faith, is changing to meet new challenges and address new opportunities. In the revised structure, regional churches take the primary role in shaping the agenda of the denomination.

New attention is given to equip congregations for ministry in their local communities while at the same time connect them more directly with international witness opportunities.

The good news is that congregations are not alone as they confront the many challenges related to transition. Interim pastors are available to offer support and guidance during the transition between long-term pastorates.

MCEC's ReLearning Community initiative offers new perspectives as congregations experiment sharing their faith with their neighbours. As we explore how to make sense of our faith in today's world, Anabaptist

Learning Workshop is providing novel ways to keep our faith relevant and vital.

As you look through this year's MCEC in Ministry, offer a prayer for your congregation and the wider church as we strive to be faithful to our call to live out Christ's love and peace and share that with our neighbours near and far. In this challenging time of constant change, let's remember that we are not alone. God walks with us; the Spirit will guide us; and together, as the body of Christ, we can share our wisdom and support each other as we align ourselves with where God is active in the world around us.

Matu-Chin Christian Church: A Church of Their Own

Pastor Thingsai worshipped with the Chin Baptist Church in Kitchener and served as their youth pastor. He is from Matupi, which is the second capital city in Chin State, Myanmar. He left Myanmar when he was young and grew up in India. Pastor Jehu Lian, currently a Mennonite Church Eastern Canada pastor, was his pastor in India and they remain close.

He was drawn to Kitchener because he learned there were many Matu people in the area. He soon realized that most were not involved in church. As he pondered this, he wondered why they were absent. He and the elders began making home visits to the Matu people and quickly learned that language was a barrier.

"I talked with the elders at Chin Baptist Church," recalls Pastor Thingsai. "I told them that I need to leave the church

because I need to take care of the Matu people – they are lost in the middle." Pastor Thingsai began to hold services in the Matu-Chin language in people's homes. That was in April 2016.

After meeting in various locations, Pastor Joseph Raltong from Chin Christian Church suggested that Pastor Thingsai speak with Nancy Brubaker at First Mennonite Church. "Pastor Nancy helps us a lot. She is like one of my hands," says Pastor Thingsai. "When I need anything, or have questions about being a church in Canada, she is really helpful."

Since April 2017, Matu-Chin Christian Church meets at First Mennonite Church on Sunday mornings as a group of 14 adults and 16 children. The children join the First Mennonite Sunday school classes and then the Matu-Chin congregation worships, holding their services in the east hall.

Along with Sunday morning worship, Matu-Chin Christian Church also has a Saturday night service in one of its members' homes, sometimes driving as far as Milton, ON. Besides their own summer church camping weekend, they have been involved with First Mennonite Church activities.

"Pastor Jehu introduced us to Pastor Brian Bauman and MCEC. We had never heard about MCEC until we learned a little bit about it from Pastor Jehu," says Pastor Thingsai. "I studied a lot about what MCEC believes and it is the same that we are doing and believe. So, the elders and the congregation decided that we want to become a part of it."

"Keep us in your prayers," he continues. "We are a very small group. We don't really expect *things* from MCEC but we want to walk together. We want to be together as a partner, like a friend. We don't want to be alone."

Matu-Chin Christian Church was received as an emerging congregation at the 2018 MCEC Annual Church Gathering.



Photo: Pastor Thingsai

Called to Preach the Good News

Appelé à Prêcher la Bonne Nouvelle

Meet Pastor Westernne and Assemblée de la Grâce / Recontre avec le Pasteur Westernne de l'Assemblée de la Grâce

“I have a passion in my heart, a call to preach the Good News not only to the church here in Quebec but everywhere, and specifically to Haitians everywhere. I want them to know that even if they are not in their home country, God sees them,” says Pastor Westernne.

In the eastern part of Montreal there is a neighbourhood called Anjou. In that neighbourhood a group of people originally from Haiti has formed a church known as Assemblée de la Grâce, under the leadership of Pastor Westernne. He fled from Haiti to Quebec in 2008 due to political crisis and persecution. He is the founder of the mission Assemblée de la Grâce, which today has 30 congregations in Haiti; has founded a school and orphanage in Lascahobas, a small market town west of the border of Dominican Republic; and has planted a church in Florida, USA.

Assemblée de la Grâce in Montreal began as a small group of 10 people in 2013. It has now grown to a group of 70 people who worship in the Creole language. Each Sunday they spend an hour in Sunday school, an hour of worship in singing, followed by an hour of teaching and preaching. As they offer their gifts to God during the service, they do not pass offering plates but

instead dance their way through the aisles in adoration to God, bringing their gifts and themselves in worship.

Assemblée de la Grâce has an active women's ministry and a youth group of 20 youth. The children worship also on Sunday morning in their own Sunday school, join the adults for an hour of singing and then experience their own teaching time.

This past summer there was an immigration crisis in Quebec as thousands of Haitians crossed the border into Canada after hearing of potential changes to the United States immigration policy. Two thousand immigrants arrived daily in Quebec, and many Haitians sought asylum. Pastor Westernne helped to provide support and resources. It was during this time that he met leaders from

Hochma, a Mennonite Church Eastern Canada congregation.

“My spiritual connection is with my Anabaptist brothers and sisters. I came to Christ in a Mennonite church and studied to be a pastor with Mennonites,” says Pastor Westernne. “There are many Haitians living in other countries, and I am called to teach them an Anabaptist way of being a Christian. I want to teach this Good News so that the freedom that we have can free others too.”

Assemblée de la Grâce was welcomed into MCEC at the Annual Church Gathering in April 2018.



Photo: Andie Joseph

“ J’ai une passion dans mon cœur - un appel à prêcher la Bonne Nouvelle non seulement à l’église ici au Québec, mais partout, et plus particulièrement aux haïtiens de partout. Je veux qu’ils sachent que même s’ils ne sont pas dans leur pays d’origine, Dieu les voit,” explique le Pasteur Westerne.

Dans la partie est de la ville de Montréal se trouve un quartier appelé Anjou. Dans ce quartier, un groupe de personnes originaire d’Haïti ont formé une église connue sous le nom Assemblée de la Grâce, et ce, sous la direction du Pasteur Westerne. Ce dernier a fui Haïti pour se rendre au Québec en 2008 en raison de la crise politique et de la persécution. Il est le fondateur de la mission Assemblée

de la Grâce qui compte aujourd’hui 30 congrégations en Haïti. Il a également fondé une école et un orphelinat à Lascahobas, un petit bourg à l’ouest de la frontière de la République dominicaine, et a implanté une église en Floride aux États-Unis.

L’Assemblée de la Grâce à Montréal a débuté en tant que petit groupe de 10 personnes en 2013.



Photo: Andie Joseph

Le group a aujourd’hui, 70 personnes qui se réunissent pour adorer Dieu dans la passent une heure à l’école du dimanche, une heure en chants de louange, suivis d’une heure d’enseignement et de prédication. Comme ils offrent leurs dons à Dieu pendant le service, ils ne passent pas de panier d’offrande mais au contraire dansent dans les allées lors du culte d’adoration à Dieu, apportant ainsi leurs dons et eux-mêmes dans le culte.

L’Assemblée de la Grâce a un ministère actif auprès des femmes ainsi qu’un groupe jeunesse qui compte 20 jeunes. Les enfants se réunissent aussi le dimanche matin dans leur propre école du dimanche et ils rejoignent les adultes pour une heure de culte et expérimentent ensuite leur propre temps d’enseignement.

L’été dernier il y a eu une crise d’immigration au Québec, alors que des milliers d’haïtiens ont franchi la frontière canadienne après avoir entendu parler de changements possibles à la politique d’immigration

des États-Unis. Deux mille immigrants arrivaient chaque jour au Québec et de nombreux haïtiens demandaient l’asile. Le Pasteur Westerne a aidé à fournir du soutien et des ressources à ces personnes. C’est durant cette période qu’il a rencontré les dirigeants de l’Église Hochma, une congrégation du MCEC, qui accueillait également les demander d’asile. Le Pasteur Western a alors tendu la main à MCEC.

“ Ma connexion spirituelle est avec mes frères et sœurs anabaptistes. Je suis venu au Christ dans une église mennonite et j’ai étudié pour être pasteur avec les mennonites », explique le Pasteur Westerne. “ Il y a beaucoup d’haïtiens qui vivent dans d’autres pays, et je suis appelé à leur enseigner une façon anabaptiste d’être chrétien. Je veux enseigner cette Bonne Nouvelle pour que la liberté que nous avons puisse aussi en libérer d’autres.”

L’Assemblée de la Grâce a été accueillie au sein du MCEC lors du rassemblement annuel de l’Église en avril 2018.



Cookies & Kairos at Preston Mennonite

“What does Kairos mean?” asked Krista after the youth had finished their race and uncovered the secret word in the puzzle. “God smacked!” they loudly answered. Sharing laughter and high-fives, the friends ran into the kitchen to make cookies.

Preston Mennonite Church is changing things up. After many years of running a Sunday school program with the youth in the church they found that the number of participants had diminished. Many Sundays there were few or no youth. The youth liked being together but Sunday school did not offer a consistent time of togetherness to build community and support for each other.

Preston Mennonite Church has been part of ReLearning Community over the past number of years. “Church is changing,” says Krista Kinsie, one of the people who

work with the youth at Preston MC. “Part of what ReLearning Community has focused on is how to evolve and change to what people need now.”

Since September, Preston MC has focused their energy into once a month youth gatherings planned around the schedules of the youth and the parents/ grandparents to build maximum participation. Each month Krista checks in on the schedules to determine the best day to hold an event. Now they have greater numbers of youth at the gatherings on a more consistent basis. Each event contains activities and a lesson followed by dinner together, sometimes including the parents/ grandparents.

“If we want youth to have relationship and community amongst themselves, we need to organize something where they

can be together with regularity,” says Krista. “This is an opportunity to grow community and support the spiritual development of the kids. That’s it. If we have a forum where we are achieving that, then we are successful.”

Krista has used pieces of *Kairos Quest* material, developed by the same people who have been instrumental in MCEC’s ReLearning Community. The material introduces youth to the concepts of ReLearning Community, including ‘huddle,’ listening for God, understanding what God is saying to you and taking action.

“When life is hard this huddle process gives you a means of looking for purpose in what you are dealing with and helps you process that in a meaningful way,” says Krista. “We



need to do our best to try and engage youth and give them the tools to interpret and understand their lives as they grow spiritually and bond with each other. We provide an opportunity and trust God for the rest."

"If we want youth to have relationship and community amongst themselves, we need to organize something where they can be together with regularity."

- Krista Kinsie



Hanging out at Preston Mennonite Church on a Sunday afternoon!





Junior Youth: One Patch at a Time

“We were working at building community,” says Monica Cressman, one of the planners of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada junior youth events. “How can we help to keep congregations talking and communicating with each other? How can we keep connected? That’s where the quilt came in.”

Each year a team from MCEC, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate and Silver Lake Mennonite Camp plans events for junior youth. They are individuals who care deeply for junior

youth within MCEC and want to strengthen and encourage them as they ask questions, make friendships and grow spiritually.

Make a Difference Day (MADD) is a one-day event held at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate each November. Junior youth spend the day together reflecting on how they might make a difference in the world around them. Jr. Youth Make a Difference Retreat happens in May and is held at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp. This is a three-day retreat and it carries some



Inset Photo:
Make A Difference Day individual quilt patches on table.

Top Photo:
Youth gather at retreat for a time of prayer after the quilt is complete.

of the themes forward from Make A Difference Day.

In the fall of 2016, youth gathered at MADD to talk about community—how to build each other up and become builders of community in their church and world. The day was filled with worship, speakers, workshops and fun around this theme. As the youth left, each group received a quilt patch along with an invitation to build a quilt together as a community. They were invited to decorate a patch in a way that reflects their church community and had several months to complete it before the Jr. Youth Make A Difference Retreat in May.

Fast forward six months, and the youth hung out once again to look at community—how to build community near and far, at home and globally. There was a new sound this year at the retreat—noise from sewing machines! Rachel Willms from St. Jacobs Mennonite Church came to the retreat with the purpose of sewing this quilt of friendship and community. Some of the quilt patches arrived completed; others were completed at the retreat. Still others grew from the memories created that weekend. As the patches were completed, they were transformed into a beautiful, patchwork quilt. The quilt, although it was created in pieces, was brought together to build something wonderful.

The youth shared a time of prayer where they blessed the work on the quilt and the communities that it represented. This quilt, crafted by junior youth, is now available to be shared within the MCEC community of congregations.



Jr. Youth Retreat at
Silver Lake Mennonite Camp



Kendra Whitfield-Ellis
Interim Minister
Waterloo North Mennonite Church

Interim Ministry: The In-Between Time

Interim ministry in its simplest terms is the time between one long-term pastorate and the beginning of another long-term pastorate; it is the in-between time. It can be a time of great energy and renewal for a congregation.

Every interim position is different. An interim pastor can be helpful in a congregation where there has been crisis or conflict. Some congregations experience a difficult transition and need a time of healing before calling a long-term pastor. Others are in good health, love their former pastor greatly, and benefit from an intentional time of grieving and refocusing that an interim period provides.

"I think that interim pastors are in a sense John the Baptists," says Renee Sauder, pastor. "We are not the one.

We are the ones preparing the way for the one who is to come."

Interim ministry is an opportunity to refocus on vision and identity, address issues from the past, and help a congregation to name values that they will carry forward. It is an opportunity to raise questions about what could be done differently, and to step back and discern where God is leading the congregation. It is a specialized ministry that requires particular training. Interim ministers parachute into a congregation, hit the ground running by listening and observing, then make assessments quickly.

"One of the important roles for an interim pastor is to empower the heart and the spirit of the congregation. There is a misconception that an interim pastor is going to come in and tell them how bad they are and what's not

"Interim pastors are in a sense John the Baptists.
We are not the ones.
We are the ones
preparing the way."

- Renee Sauder

working," says Renee. "That was never my role. My role was to bring a positive spirit and affirm the congregation. Sometimes a congregation just needs to love themselves in a time of transition."

A congregation can lose sight of the fact that God's Spirit is always at work. "As interim pastor, you bring a sense of hope. When people are burned out or weary there is no energy to carry the church," says Jim

Loepp Thiessen, pastor. "In the Bible, a man was lowered through a roof and was healed because of the faith of his friends—we carry each other in those times. Part of my role as an interim pastor is to carry the congregation and say that we are going to be okay here, let's just keep moving forward."

An interim pastor not only works on transition in a congregation, but becomes an integral part of a congregation and functions in the normal pastoral roles performing weddings and funerals and participates in everyday congregational life. "The hello and goodbye, the coming and going can be difficult in interim ministry," admits Renee. "It takes a lot of work to get to know the culture of a new congregation and to learn everyone's name! You become emotionally connected with people as you walk through life with them and then a year or two later you cut those ties and walk away because you are not the one."

"It is a sacred and holy call to walk into a ministry that is very short term and hold the people and situation gently," says Jim Loepp Thiessen. "We have to hold it gently together as we celebrate the gift of God among us in this unique moment in time."

Renee Sauder is an MCEC pastor currently ministering at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church in Kitchener, ON. She has been an interim minister in many MCEC congregations. Jim Loepp Thiessen is concluding his interim ministry at North Leamington United Mennonite Church. He will begin as long-term pastor at Floradale Mennonite Church in May.

Interim pastors pictured here: Gary Knarr, Preston Mennonite Church; Kendra Whitfield-Ellis, Waterloo North Mennonite Church; Marilyn Rudy-Froese, East Zorra Mennonite Church; Marvin Friesen, Community Mennonite Church, Stouffville & Rouge Valley Mennonite Church.

Interim Ministry

Interim Supply

- Typically short-term.
- Congregation may be waiting for the next long-term pastor or intentional interim to arrive.

Intentional Interim

- Typically one or two years.
- Congregation decides to look at vision for long-term ministry before long-term pastor arrives.

Transformational Ministry

- Typically two to four years.
- Moves more deeply into the culture and DNA of a congregation.



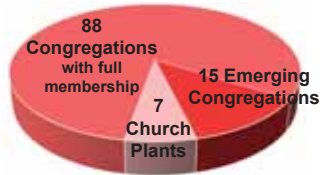
MCEC by the Numbers...

329

attended
Annual Church Gathering 2017
in Oakville - The Great ReCommission:
Making Disciples in the Congregation
and the Neighbourhood

2

Congregations welcomed @ Annual Church
Gathering 2018 into Emerging Membership
- Assemblée de la Grâce, Montreal
- Matu-Chin Christian Church, Kitchener



110

MCEC Congregations/Faith Communities

15

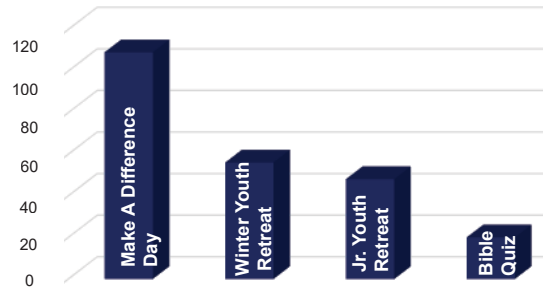
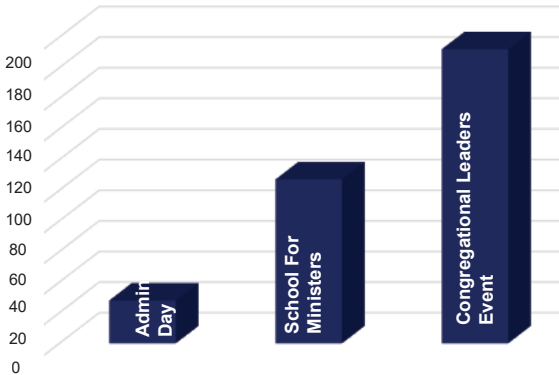
languages of worship

24%

of MCEC congregations hold
services in languages other
than English

327

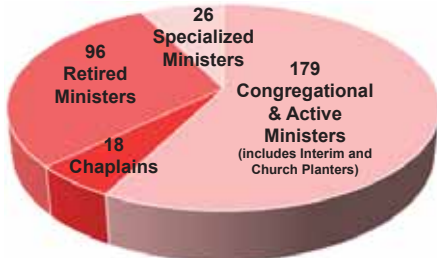
Persons Participated in these
Leadership Development events



233

Youth and Jr. Youth Impacted
at Faith Formation Events

Pastoral Leadership



319

MCEC Pastors

8

ministers ordained or licensed in 2017

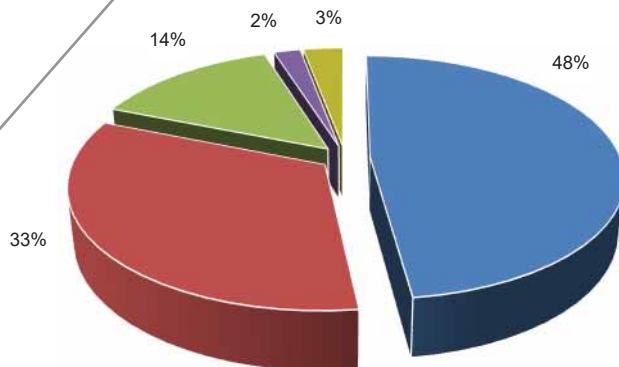
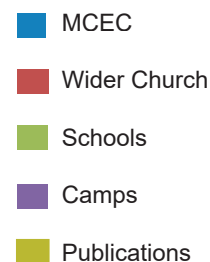
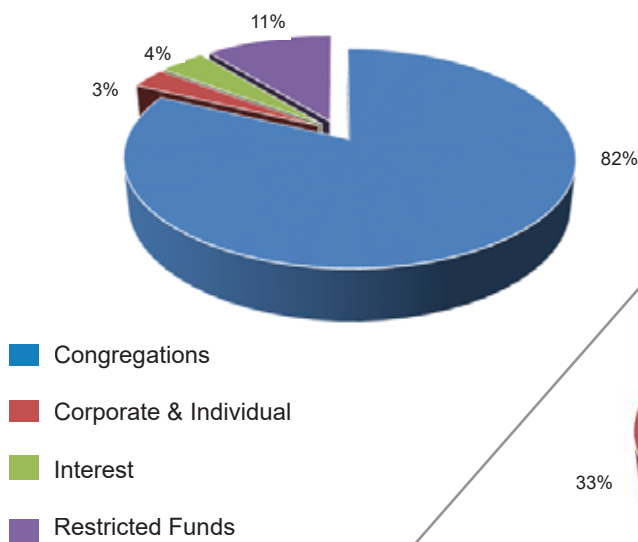
15

interim pastors providing ministry
in MCEC congregations in 2017

14

pastoral placements in 2017

Funding Our Ministry



Investing in Ministry

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 takes equal care with 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 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:

Norma Dettweiler
Ivan Kuepfer
Alice Martin
Mildred Ropp
Enid Schmidt
Eral Shantz
Robert Shantz
Grace Weber
Don Wenger

Transformational Interim Ministry: Moving a Little Deeper for Renewal

Each Sunday they would faithfully drive to their church, passing larger Mennonite congregations on the way to their small, rural one. One Sunday their pastor announced that he was leaving. “What now?” was the collective cry. “Who would come to be the pastor at our church?!” The congregation was tired but they wanted to continue as a church community and not close their doors. They decided to call a transformational interim pastor to their congregation.

“Transformational ministry signals that there is change that people want,” says Wanda Roth-Amstutz, pastor. “People recognize that they don’t want to do everything in the same way they always have.”

People may know intuitively that something is amiss within the congregation but they need help to uncover what that is and how to move on from there. A congregation may have deeper needs that can be more effectively addressed during an interim period or a time of change. A transformational interim pastor can help. Typically, those types of placements take more time than a one- or two-year intentional interim period.

“As in any type of ministry, when you enter a congregation as a transformational pastor, the congregation just needs to know that they are loved and cared for. Without that there can’t be transformation,” says David Brubacher, pastor. “When people feel that they are being cared for and loved they will embrace change, even if that means looking at themselves in a mirror.”

**“It was the Spirit of God
at work in all of us.”**

- Wanda Roth Amstutz

Intentional interim ministry may look at structure and be more systems-oriented; transformational interim ministry is often rooted more in pastoral care. Transformational ministry moves more deeply into the culture and DNA of a congregation. Transformational interim pastors begin to ask questions and challenge aspects of congregational life. Transformational ministry requires a larger time than with intentional interim ministry, but there generally is still a time frame.

“We are called to tell the truth in love and that’s a big part of transformational interim ministry,” says David. “Helping people to hear

the truth about what is going on is important, but always to see where the possibilities are. We must name the past but also see the path for the future.”

As the small, rural congregation began to move into a time of transformational ministry, they began to let go of some of the expectations, structures and programs they had always had and welcomed new ways of doing things. People experienced renewal and an excitement about their faith and their worship.

“I could see the transformation almost before my eyes. It is the most amazing thing I have ever been a part of,” says Wanda. “Transformational ministry is exhausting but exhilarating. I give the congregation credit because they were willing to allow themselves to enter that process of being transformed. It wasn’t about me, and wasn’t really about them, but it was the Spirit of God at work in all of us.”

Wanda Roth-Amstutz is currently the pastor at Cassel Mennonite Church, after beginning there as a transformational interim pastor. David Brubacher has been an MCEC transformational interim pastor and is currently part of the pastoral team at Grace Mennonite Church.

"When people
feel that they
are being
cared for and
loved they
will embrace
change."

- David Brubacher

David Brubacher
Former Transformational
Bethany Mennonite Church



Photo: Google

Photo: Google

Jim Brown
Transformational
Tavistock Mennonite Church



Photo: Wanda Roth-Amstutz

Wanda Roth-Amstutz
Transformational to Long-term
Cassel Mennonite Church



Glyn Jones
Transformational to Long-term
Wanner Mennonite Church

Photo: Mike Thiessen

One Interim Ministry Experience: Trusting the Process at Grace Mennonite

“It was almost an ‘Aha!’ moment for us,” said Ted Kopp, congregational chair at Grace Mennonite Church about the life cycle of the church process. “It took some of the fear away because we realized that we were going through the same thing that even a thriving church will go through.” Grace Mennonite Church in St. Catharines found themselves concerned about their life expectancy going forward, assessing facility questions and pondering their future.

They had held congregational meetings in small groups which provided a space for people to share their thoughts. The congregation had looked at questions of concern, hope for the future, and discussed what they were looking for in a new pastor. A congregational team turned for guidance to MCEC and together they determined that they would look for an intentional interim pastor. A small group in the congregation said, “We don’t need an intentional interim pastor, we just need a pastor.” However, the search team wanted to make the transition to a permanent pastor as smooth as they could, so they called Waldo Pauls as interim pastor.

As Waldo began ministering, he listened to all the voices in the congregation. They held many meetings about decisions that needed to be made. This gave everyone a chance to be heard. “Whatever side of the fence people were on with respect to any issue the church was facing, people knew that they could talk to Waldo and voice their opinion,” said Ted. “We soon realized that he wasn’t bringing forward his own agenda. He wasn’t forcing anything.”

As time went on, the challenges Grace Mennonite Church were facing became less and less. “Waldo gained the support and trust of the congregation,” said Ted. “He really brought us together and we feel more like a community now than we had before.”

Waldo transitioned from interim pastor and stayed on for seven years. During that time both David Brubacher and Doug Schulz, credentialed pastors, joined the congregation. When Waldo retired from his ministry at Grace MC, David and Doug were called to step in.

“We don’t know what the future holds. We are still a small group but there

“We soon realized
that he wasn’t
bringing forward
his own agenda.”

- Ted Kopp

is now a sense of accomplishment and purpose within the church,” said Ted. “It’s largely the responsibility of the congregation to make these transitions happen. We need to decide for ourselves how we want to move forward, even if we don’t have a clear vision. Waldo helped us work on a sense of vision and that made it easier for the next pastor to begin.”

Waldo and Pam Pauls
at farewell service.



Photo: Ernie Janzen

"The congregation voted in favour
of a building renovation and has
experienced a tremendous difference
not only to our worship space
but also in our fear of changing
structure." - Waldo Pauls 2009 interview



Photo: Ernie Janzen

Courtyard



Photo: Ernie Janzen

Women's Choir



Photo: Ernie Janzen



W-K: 70 Over 70 and Doing Okay!

For over 90 years Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church (W-K) has ministered in uptown Waterloo. In the heyday of W-K's congregational life they numbered 300 members and included families and mid-career professionals. Over the years, that has changed. W-K now finds themselves in a place where they are visibly shrinking and aging. Throughout W-K's history they have had both long-term and interim pastors. Their most recent interim was Rudy Baergen.

"The most significant thing that Rudy did for us was in naming that we are 70 over 70, meaning that 70% of

the congregation is over the age of 70," says Ed Janzen, congregational leader. "When he placed bar graphs before us that showed this, we could no longer deny or ignore it. It gave us the freedom though to start thinking about what the next years could hold for us."

As the congregation reflected on their demographics, they began to prioritize their needs. Their high priority moving forward is the intentional care for the seniors in their congregation—providing support, pastoral care and meeting the needs of that generation who has cared for the church and ministered

so many years. They also want to ensure that the assets of the congregation continue in some way to serve the kingdom of God. They will maintain their building and attend to what God is calling them to do with their presence in uptown Waterloo.

W-K called Ben Cassels as their full-time pastor. Ben and Rudy had worked together previously at Waterloo North Mennonite Church and had a strong working relationship that carried into this transition. W-K extended Rudy's contract to provide support and overlap for both Rudy and Ben's transition, as well as the congregational transition.

Waterloo-Kitchener United
Mennonite Church recognizes Rudy
Baergen's ministry by designating
him as Pastor Emeritus.

"We now have the freedom to
pursue the voice and call of God in
so many creative ways. Rudy was an
important piece of our transition."

- Ed Janzen

After Rudy's term at W-K, Rudy and Helen Baergen decided that they would like to join W-K to be a part of the congregation. W-K was eager to have them do that. "Rudy has the heart of a bishop. He truly has a sense of parish about this place and about our people," says Ed. "We wanted to honour and respect the calling, vocation and giftedness that Rudy has given to the church of Christ, both here in Ontario, across Canada and internationally."

On Thanksgiving Sunday W-K designated Rudy as Pastor

Emeritus to recognize the important and significant role that Rudy has played in their congregation, and in the larger church throughout his ministry.

"We are an aging congregation but we now have the freedom to pursue the voice and call of God in so many creative ways," says Ed. "Rudy was an important piece of our transition. His heart of care and his attentiveness to the voice of God have been such a gift for us."





MC Canada image

The Church Will Keep Being the Church

A Word From Willard Metzger, MC Canada Executive Minister

Isn't it good to know that the church will keep being the church? This has been a comfort to me. Despite the challenges it faces and the changing environment of ministry, the church will continue to find creative ways to be a testimony to God's love and grace.

In one of the denominational leaders meeting with Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) we were discussing some of the challenges facing the church. There was increasing anxiety being expressed, particularly as leaders were describing the challenges of differing

"The Spirit of God continues to flow through the people of God."

- Willard Metzger

views of sexual expressions. So, I felt compelled to remind us all of the resilience of the church.

"This debate may well result in the two opposing sides clashing and exploding together in divisive conflict. But the next morning, people will wake up and continue to be the church," I offered.

I'm not sure if my comments were helpful or convincing. But they represented the belief that has sustained me through this period of change and transition for us as a nationwide community of faith. In fact this report is testimony to it.

You have read how the church is reshaping what it means to be the church in this time and place. You have read how God is calling people

together from different ethnicities and geographies. You have read how faith is being developed and nurtured in our children. The church is continuing to be the church! Faith is being born. Discipleship is being embraced. God is being praised.

I am thankful for the resilience of the church. We have been through difficult conversations and are navigating through significant transitions. Yet, the Spirit of God continues to flow through the people of God.

Isn't it good to know that the church will keep being the church?

Thanks be to God!



MCEC Congregations

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



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