

***MCEC Annual  
Church Gathering  
& 25th Anniversary  
Celebrations***

***April 26 & 27, 2013***

***Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener, ON***

***You are invited to join MCEC celebrations of 25 years of ministry together!***



***Discernment Documents***

Scattered  
and  
Sown



25 years





## Seeds Scattered and Sown



**Carol Penner**  
MCEC Moderator

**G**od is wild about seeds. Any Creator who has the imagination to make both a poppy seed and a coconut, has a real love of diversity. And look at how seeds get around! Think of the wildness of milkweed seeds scattering in the wind.

The Church is the product of God's green thumb. The worldwide Church in all its glory is the body of Christ grown from a million million seeds, scattered and sown. Here in our corner of Eastern Canada, the Mennonite church is growing. It's been planted by God's amazing grace.

This year we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. For many years careful gardeners worked to integrate three conferences; the Mennonite Conference of Ontario and Quebec, the Western Ontario Mennonite Conference, and the Conference of United Mennonite Churches in Ontario. This integration was voted on at a delegate session in Leamington in March 1987, and MCEC officially started March 1, 1988. This integration was itself the harvest of seeds planted by people co-operating generations earlier.

What is God growing today? God is growing faithfulness! People who give their hearts and lives to Jesus, communities led by the Spirit, spreading the good news of God's love.

Our area church diversifying, multiplying, growing deep roots, providing a rich harvest.

At our last Executive Council meeting Brian Bauman, Mission Minister, told us about the Medahnaalem (World Saviour) Ethiopian Evangelical Church in Toronto. Along with

The Commons and Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church, they are the newest emerging congregations in MCEC. How will we grow together? What kind of amazing garden is God planting in MCEC?

Today we worship in many languages, with modern and traditional worship styles or a mix of both. We worship in creaky old sanctuaries, storefronts, gymnasiums, and spanking-new worship complexes. We come in all shapes and sizes. We have

churches from the garden variety to the exotic. Where does your church fall in? God loves all of us!

And we respond to God's love in many ways. I want to thank everyone who has participated in our congregations, and in our area and national structures, through faithful living and worship, and generous giving and sharing of time, talents, and resources.

Where will the next 25 years take us? What kind of seeds is God planting in this generation? Can we even begin to imagine what the harvest of 2038 will look like? I have a vision of more and more seeds, a blessing pressed down, shaken together, running over. Thanks be to God!

**"M**<sup>C</sup><sup>E</sup><sup>C</sup> **has been**  
planted by God's  
amazing grace."  
- Carol Penner



*Carol Penner*

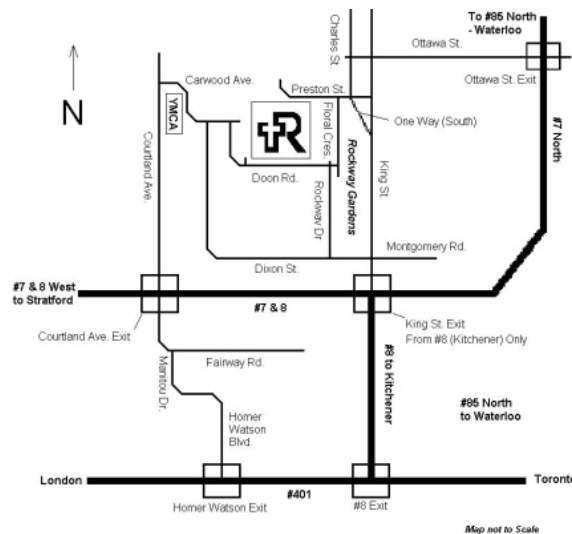


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**Rockway Mennonite Collegiate**  
110 Doon Road, Kitchener, ON



# SCHEDULE - ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING 2013

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## Friday Evening

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

### Opening Worship

- Sue Steiner - Seeds Scattered and Sown
- Ted & Company Video Scripture

### MCEC Business Section

- Minutes (pages 6 - 15)
- Executive Council Actions (pages 16 - 17)
- Introduction of Slate of Volunteers (pages 18 - 21)

### Milestone's Recognition and Celebration

## Saturday Morning

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

### Opening Worship

- Ted & Company Video Scripture
- Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Senior Choir

### MCEC Business Section

- Financial Statements
- Spending Plan/Budget Introduction (pages 25 - 31)

10:00 - 10:15 a.m.

### Break

10:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### MCEC Business

- Celebration of Ministry Partners
- Property Update
- New Approach for Bequest Gifts (pages 22-24)
- Celebration of Pastoral Transitions
- Welcome 3 New Congregations (page 32)
  - Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church, Kitchener, ON
  - Medahnialem Ethiopian Evangelical Church, Toronto, ON
  - The Commons, Hamilton, ON

12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

### Lunch

## Saturday Afternoon

1:45 - 2:15 p.m.

### MCEC Business

- Approval of Slate
- Approval of Spending Plan
- Mennonite Church Canada Ministry

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

### 25th Anniversary Celebratory Worship

- César García, Mennonite World Conference
- Ted & Company Video Scripture
- Chin Christian Church Choir
- First Mennonite Hispanic-Anglo Singers
- Amharic Choir
- Communion
- Blessing Service



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~ Extending the Peace of Jesus Christ ~  
making disciples • growing congregations • forming leaders



## MEET OUR SPEAKERS



**Sue Steiner** has been on the scene in MCEC these past 25 years, revelling in seeds scattered and sown...tending delicate sprouts... seeing mature growth take surprising shapes and forms.

A graduate of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, she was ordained to pastoral ministry at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church as MCEC was being formed, and was the first chairperson of MCEC's Mission and Service Commission. Sue has served six diverse MCEC churches as a pastor or interim pastor. Recently, she has enjoyed "giving back" by coaching

new pastors in MCEC's Transitioning into Ministry program. Sue is part of the Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada network, and served as a group leader in MCEC's recent Tending the Soul initiative.

Now retired from pastoral ministry, Sue offers spiritual direction to church leaders and takes pleasure in volunteering in her congregation, Rockway Mennonite Church, and in the community. She is working on a memoir, *Flowing with the River*. She lives in Waterloo with her husband Sam, a retired librarian and Mennonite archivist.

A member of MCEC's 25th Anniversary Committee, Sue has researched and drafted historical snippets to be sent to MCEC congregations over the next year. In every seed, she has glimpsed much promise.



**César García** was born in Bogotá, Colombia, South America in 1972. At the age of 11 he began to attend a Mennonite Brethren church. According to him he had two conversions. The first one was when he was 19 years old, after his military service. In this conversion he found Jesus. At that time he developed a radio station ministry and started his pastoral ministry in Bogotá. After that he went to a Protestant seminary in Medellín, where he received his first degree in Theology with emphasis in Missiology.

In his second conversion he found Anabaptism. This happened when he and his wife were planting a new church, Strong Tower MB Church in Bogotá, 12 years ago. His new ministry raised some questions that

helped him to arrive at an Anabaptist theology. At that time he worked on the development of a Colombian cross-cultural mission structure. After that, he was given the responsibility of leading the Colombian MB Conference as its chairman. For six years he worked in this ministry and participated as the Colombian representative in international meetings.

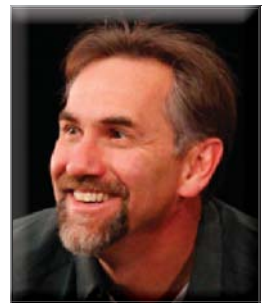
During his time as chairman of the Colombian MB Conference, César was also a professor of Bible and Theology in Bogotá, and he had the opportunity of participating in ecumenical experiences in the context of Catholic universities. In one of these Catholic universities he obtained a second Bachelor degree of Theology. After his experience as

pastor and church planter, his church and the Colombian MB Conference sent him to Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary in California in 2009 to get an M.A. in Theology.

César has been married to Sandra Báez since 1991. They have two daughters: María (19) and Paula (17). Sandra has a Bachelor degree of Linguistics and an M.A. in Peace Making and Conflict Studies from Fresno Pacific University. Since January 2012 César serves as General Secretary of Mennonite World Conference.

### Ted & Company

led by veteran actor **Ted Swartz**, Ted & Company TheaterWorks uses humour and professional storytelling to talk about issues of faith and social justice. Their team of dynamic actors and musicians are passionate about creating art that provokes both laughter and thought, as all good comedy does. They are developing a worship series specifically for our MCEC celebration!



# MINUTES - 2012 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING

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## **MCEC's 25th Annual Church Gathering Minutes**

**April 27-28, 2012**

### **Leadership for a Transformed and Sent People**

UMEI Christian High School, 614 Road 6, Leamington, Ontario

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#### **Friday, April 27, 2012**

##### **1. Worship**

Our evening was framed by worship and was led by Aldred Neufeldt, MCEC Moderator, and Glyn Jones, Edgar Brown, and others from the Essex Cluster. Music was provided by the Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) choir and reflected on our theme scripture: Romans 10:8-15 in English, Lao, French, and German.

David Martin, MCEC Executive Minister, introduced our 25th meeting and our theme: what it means to be God's sent people in an increasingly secular world. Dan Epp-Tiessen, Associate Professor of Bible at CMU, spoke about a God-centred vision of the world using the Daniel 6:25-28 text. Participants had an opportunity to reflect on the message in table groups. The book of Daniel challenges us to stay focussed on God as the heart of a missional church. (See Appendix A for more detail on our interaction with Dan and his message.)

We watched a video montage of the last 24 years highlighting the diversity of geography, ethnicity, and maturity of MCEC congregations.

The evening's offering was to assist with expenses for this Gathering and for the ministry of MCEC.

David Martin, MCEC Executive Minister, introduced several milestones:

- Muriel Bechtel, MCEC Conference Minister, retiring the end of July after 12 years of service
- Gerald Gerbrandt, CMU president, is retiring after over 40 years of service to CMU and one of CMU's founding colleges, Canadian Mennonite Bible College.
- Avon Mennonite Church – 60 years
- East Zorra Mennonite Church – 175 years
- Wanner Mennonite Church – 175 years
- First Hmong Mennonite Church – 30 years
- Hagerman Mennonite Church – 75 years
- Hamilton Mennonite Church – 60 years
- Valleyview Mennonite Church – 50 years
- Zion Mennonite Fellowship – 25 years
- Mennonite & Brethren in Christ Resource Centre – closing after 31 years
- Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp and Retreat Centre – 50 years

We celebrate the work these congregations have done as they concluded their ministries this year:

- Église Évangélique Mennonite de Rawdon
- Toronto United Lao Mennonite Church closed and merged with Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church
- Vision Mennonite Church

Aldred invited us to interact with our partner agencies who were introduced with a PowerPoint presentation. Aldred thanked the Essex Cluster for hosting both our Gathering and the guests from CMU.

#### **Saturday, April 28, 2012**

##### **Morning Sessions**

##### **2. Worship**

Edgar Brown, Essex Cluster, and the Faith Band from Leamington lead us in worship. Vic Winter, Leamington United Mennonite Church, read Romans 10:13-15, our text for the weekend. A drama troupe from UMEI presented a skit illustrating the text.

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# MINUTES - 2012 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING

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## 3. Moderator's Welcome and Opening

Aldred Neufeldt, MCEC Moderator, welcomed everyone to the 25th meeting of MCEC and noted that our first year began with a meeting here at UMEI. We have only completed 24 years of ministry. Next year we will celebrate 25 full years of ministry. He introduced the day, thanked the many volunteers and also Sam Steiner for serving as Parliamentarian. He introduced Joel Epp, host chair from the Essex Cluster. Aldred acknowledged Jacob Reimer from the Old Colony Mennonite Church who is on the Mennonite Central Committee Board and is visiting today. He invited us to visit the many other partners who have displays set up.

## 4. Executive Council Business

Linda Brnjas, MCEC Assistant Moderator, introduced the Executive Council Members: Bryce Kraeker, David Martin, Aldred Neufeldt, Pieter Niemeyer, Shirley Redekop, Sandy Shantz, and Tim Wagler. Terry Keller and Paul Wideman sent regrets.

### a. Minutes of 2011 Annual Church Gathering

Sandy Shantz, MCEC Executive Council Secretary, reviewed highlights from the 2011 Annual Church Gathering and on behalf of Executive Council, made the following motion:

MOTION: That we accept the minutes of the 24th annual meeting of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada held April 29 & 30, 2011.  
Motion Carried.

### b. Review and Acceptance of Executive Council Actions

Sandy Shantz reviewed the actions of the Executive Council distributed in the meeting packet and an additional action in the workbook for the delegates and made the following motion:

MOTION: That we approve all actions taken by the MCEC Executive Council for the year May 2011 to April 2012.  
Motion Carried.

## 5. Introduction of the Slate

Joanna Reesor-McDowell, Chair, MCEC Gift Discernment Committee, announced some corrections to the printed slate.

## 6. 2011/2012 Financial Statements

Ester Neufeldt, MCEC Operations Minister, presented highlights of the audited Financial Statements. She outlined the transfers needed to present a balanced budget last year. With a surplus in this past year, we were able to replenish some Funds that have been depleted over the previous years, such as the Faithful Steward Fund and the Discretionary Retirement Fund.

On behalf of Executive Council, Tim Wagler, Chair of Administrative and Financial Services Council, moved:

MOTION: That we accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2012 as printed.  
Motion Carried.

Tim expressed thanks for the healthy financial year and ability to replenish funds. He reminded us that congregations had requested us to tell our story and ask for generosity, and gave thanks for the positive response.

## 7. Stories from the Front: Leadership for a Transformed and Sent People in an Established Congregation

What does it mean to be a sent people and what are the leadership tasks required to accomplish this? We heard stories from Steinmann MC, Rockway MC, Leamington United MC, and heard comments from the floor. (See Appendix B.)

## 8. Faith Formation Consultation Update (p. 22, 23 Discernment Documents)

Jeff Steckley, Congregational Ministries Minister, presented the report on the faith formation consultation process, which involved 118 pastors and leaders, representing 50 congregations. He highlighted signs of God's presence and also challenges that we face as we wrestle with the best way to support congregations in forming faith in individuals and congregations. (Responses are found in Appendix C.)

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## 9. Strategic Plan Update (p. 24-26 Discernment Documents)

David Martin, MCEC Executive Minister, reviewed the strategic plan that has been developed to help MCEC focus on its mission of Extending the Peace of Jesus Christ: making disciples, growing congregations, forming leaders. The strategic plan has three foci:

- Forming a Mennonite identity and spirituality;
- Supporting congregational vitality and mission; and
- Uniting behind God's ministry of reconciliation.

In order to build on this strategic plan, MCEC has taken the following steps:

1. Introduced a Strategic Funding Direction that allows us to focus on our goals and renew our ministry partnerships with other organizations. We are working to strengthen our partnerships and to renew these relationships for the future. One example is the move to reduce funding to specific camps, while building up a pool of money available to all camps. This coming year, the pooled money will be used to help connect with newer congregations with camp ministry. Non-pooled funds will continue to help the camps provide resources for faith formation in their camping programs. There is no overall reduction in funding to support camps but rather a reallocation of existing funding.
2. Specific goals have been developed to support the strategic plan. These are detailed on pages 25–26 in the Discernment Documents. These include:
  - Stronger constituency relationships;
  - A new church engagement strategy;
  - Cultivating an Anabaptist/Mennonite theology and identity;
  - Nurture the emergence of MCEC as a multicultural church; and
  - Grow and foster vital communities of faith.
3. Hired Brent Charette as Church Engagement Minister, in conjunction with Mennonite Church Canada to more fully engage congregations and constituents with the mission of the wider church.
4. Developing leadership training and formation to support the goals of the strategic plan. Marianne Mellinger, MCEC Coordinator of Leadership Formation, spoke of how new Leadership Formation initiatives will grow out of our Strategic Priorities. One example of a "Priority in Action" during the past year was a training course for pastors in Anabaptist theology. This course was attended by 16 pastors who were not from a Mennonite Background. Training for interim pastors who lead congregations through times of transition is also being planned.
5. The MCEC budget and bequest funding are being aligned behind the strategic plan. Our common ministries are supported with regular congregational giving. Bequests provide funding for additional programs. We have received a significant bequest from the Enid Schmidt estate, and we will focus on our strategic objectives as we discern the distribution of that and future bequests. Delegates were reminded of the importance of bequest donations to MCEC and were invited to include MCEC in their estate planning.

Responses:

**Sherri Martin-Carman**, Hawkesville MC – Marianne's comments inspired her to step outside the box.

## 10. Spending Plan Introduction (p. 26-33 Discernment Documents, p. 9-10 Workbook)

Trivia: Martin is the name most registered at the Gathering; Vang is the second! This received a round of applause.

David Martin, MCEC Executive Minister, introduced the spending plan with some stories of activity at MCEC and an offer (and encouragement for an invitation) to speak to congregations individually.

### Budget highlights: Leadership Team shared some stories of dollars at work in MCEC:

- Jeff Steckley, Congregational Ministries Minister, shared our desire to strengthen the work of camps and schools. He introduced David Penny who has multiple connections with MCEC partner institutions. He is assistant director at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp and Youth Minister at First Mennonite, Kitchener. David shared how his faith grew out of camp experiences more than church experiences and appreciates the effort it takes to create community. He has a desire to model community to campers. He has experienced the value of a nurturing community at Conrad Grebel University College as well.

# MINUTES - 2012 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING

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Partner ministries provide a safe space for youth to explore ways to live our values.

Specific programs that are supported by MCEC: youth and young adult retreats and trips; developing practical resources for congregations in the renewal phase of the congregational life cycle; providing support to bridge the gap between first and second generations in new congregations; financial resourcing congregations in cooperation with other partner agencies; support for spiritual renewal through *Tending the Soul* initiative which resourced over 20 pastors and lay leaders.

- Muriel Bechtel, Conference Minister, emphasized the need to bridge gaps between generations in immigrant congregations as she introduced Brian Quan, pastor, Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church. Brian shared how early church workers in the Chinese church sought him out and provided a place of growth. Developing a sense of identity growing up in a Chinese Mennonite church was confusing at times. The church affirmed his call to ministry and he served in capacities outside his congregation for ten years discipling young adults and has now returned home. Brian is enjoying a journey of rediscovery and learning about Anabaptist values especially peace and non-violence. Peace is at the heart of the gospel. His view is shifting from one of "just war" to an understanding that the way of Jesus is peaceful.

As a Canadian-born Chinese person, Brian bridges between two different cultures. It is like a bamboo tree. It starts out slowly, but once established, it grows quickly. His congregation is in the growth phase but cannot become complacent, so they continue to ask where God is leading them.

Muriel said that an important priority is to equip mid-career pastors to deepen their own understandings of faith and experience of God and to help their congregants share their faith with each other. The transition time of interim pastoring can be used as a time of renewal. There are 17 MCEC congregations in some state of transition.

- Brian Bauman, Mission Minister, compared new congregations to long-standing congregations over a century ago. The following congregations are represented here today as they discern whether to pursue a stronger connection with the Mennonite Church.
  - BadenSpace, New Hamburg
  - Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church, Kitchener
  - The Commons, Hamilton
  - Oromo Christian Church, OttawaChinda Kommala, Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church, shared how difficult it has been to find a space for a church meeting place with the proper zoning and expressed appreciation for the prayers and support from MCEC in their struggles.
- Ester Neufeldt, Operations Minister, presented the details of the Spending Plan. There is an amended Schedule 6 in the pink booklet in the packet. We are using transfers of \$104,020 from the Faithful Steward Fund and Bequest Fund to provide a balanced Spending Plan.

## 11. Welcome New Churches to MCEC (p. 34 Discernment Documents)

Aldred Neufeldt, MCEC Moderator, and David Martin, MCEC Executive Minister, invited representatives from three new emerging congregations to the platform and we welcomed them with a litany of reception (p. 10 Workbook). They were invited to make some remarks:

- Chin Christian Church, Ottawa, ON  
They thanked God and the Mennonite family for accepting them as an emerging congregation. Dec. 6, 2003 they began to worship God and spread the word of God. They are now 60 members, including children. Prayer and worship services are held on Saturday and Sunday. They hope their church will be a blessing to others. They thanked Brian Bauman and MCEC for their support.

# MINUTES - 2012 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING

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- Grace New Life Mennonite Church, Hamilton, ON  
In 1991 a group of Laotians began meeting with a Christian Reformed Church. In 2002 they continued to grow, but the space was too small, so in 2006 they bought their own meeting place. Their mission is to bring God's grace, love, and peace to others. They realized that they needed support of a broader church and through other Lao churches were connected to MCEC in 2010.
- Maranatha Evangelical Church, London, ON  
They began meeting in homes 14 years ago. Ten years ago they started meeting in a separate building. Currently there are about 12 people who worship at Maranatha Evangelical Church in Amharic. They have a desire to support new immigrants, bridge the cultures, and worship God together. We were encouraged to learn from African worship and worship with more enthusiasm!  
Each new congregation shared a prayer of blessing for MCEC in their own language. Aldred Neufeldt and Linda Brnjas welcomed them and presented each of them with a peace lily.

## 12. **Offering**

An offering was received to assist with expenses for the Gathering and for the ministry of MCEC.

## Afternoon Sessions

### 13. **Worship**

Edgar Brown (Leamington United MC) led in a short time of worship focused on the theme.

### 14. **Recognition of Pastoral Transitions (p. 12-15 Workbook)**

Eleanor Epp-Stobbe, Leadership Council chair, and Muriel Bechtel acknowledged the death of four former pastors and three retirements.

Muriel introduced a short video highlighting Megan Lennox, coordinator of the Transitioning into Ministry program, and each of the pastors who were new to MCEC this past year. Muriel offered a prayer of blessing for our new pastors.

Linda Brnjas called on David Martin to lead us in honouring Muriel Bechtel's 12 years of service to MCEC in the role of Conference Minister. He highlighted the Transitioning into Ministry program as an initiative of Muriel's that is being used as a model across Canada. Eleanor Epp-Stobbe, David Martin, Karen Martens Zimmerly (Mennonite Church Canada), Lucy Roca, and Barry Bergen led in a litany celebrating Muriel's service to MCEC.

Linda presented a gift on behalf of MCEC. Karen presented a gift on behalf of MC Canada and thanked Muriel for sharing her gifts with the church.

Muriel shared some highlights of her career and expressed gratitude for support from friends and colleagues, God, and her husband Dave.

### 15. **Mennonite Church Canada Update**

Willard Metzger, General Secretary of MC Canada, brought greetings from our national church. He introduced Karen Martens Zimmerly, Denominational Minister, Tim Froese, Executive Minister, Witness, and Brent Charette, Church Engagement Minister – a joint position with MCEC. He invited people to attend the church assembly in Vancouver this summer. He showed a video presentation *Mennonites Everywhere* highlighting the variety of people who call themselves Mennonite. MC Canada resources the church through the Resource Centre, by administering the pension plan for pastors, in supporting work around the world, and through publishing. MC Canada presents a strong corporate voice for the denomination to the government and on broader issues around the world. Willard presented a video on indigenous relations. He encouraged us to attend a Truth and Reconciliation Event in Toronto May 31 – June 2, 2012.

### 16. **Installation of Brent Charette, Church Engagement Minister**

Willard Metzger, David Martin, and Aldred Neufeldt introduced Brent Charette, Church Engagement Minister for MCEC and MC Canada, and led us in a litany of installation. Willard anointed Brent for ministry and David offered a prayer of blessing. Brent commented on his passion for engaging people with the mission of MCEC and MC Canada.

# MINUTES - 2012 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING

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## 17. Property Update

- a. David Martin reported on the Executive Council decision to participate in the Mennonite Central Committee Ontario (MCCO) office complex at 50 Kent Street, Kitchener, ON as a tenant. He outlined the financial strategy of providing an investment loan to MCCO using our capital equity. The interest earned on the investment loan will cover MCEC lease costs. He invited Rick Cober Bauman, MCCO Executive Director, to share a few words. Rick provided a brief project update and said MCCO is looking forward to partnering with the church in this way.
- b. Aldred Neufeldt called on Bryce Kraeker and David Martin for an update on the MCEC owned property at 74 Firvalley, Toronto, ON. David informed delegates that MCEC has been unable to follow through on the delegate motion from the April 2011 Annual Church Gathering that authorized the Executive Council to sell the property to Warden Woods Community Centre (WWCC) at a discount that reflected the historic relationship between MCEC and WWCC, failing which it would be placed on the open market. Action has not been taken on the motion as WWCC has initiated legal proceedings against MCEC.

David called on Bryce to share how the Executive Council has responded to the legal action. Bryce informed the delegates that the Executive Council commissioned Sam Steiner to research the historical relationship between MCEC and WWCC in relation to the 74 Firvalley property so that we could assess the claims being made by WWCC. Bryce stated that since WWCC has charitable objectives that are different from MCEC, we cannot simply turn the property over to them. However, WWCC has initiated legal action against MCEC alleging that we hold the property in trust for them and that we should transfer the property to WWCC for a nominal fee. MCEC will respond to WWCC's legal challenge in a fashion that seeks to reasonably accommodate both parties. We are disappointed in the position of WWCC and intend to continue forward in good faith. As a result, we cannot carry through on the divestment timeline approved last year.

See Appendix D for a summary of questions from the floor.

## 18. Approval of Spending Plan (p. 5 Workbook)

On behalf of Executive Council, Tim Wagler, Chair of Administrative & Financial Services Council, presented the following motion:

MOTION: That we accept the 2012/2013 Spending Plan as printed in the Discernment Documents and amended in the workbook.  
Motion Carried.

## 19. Approval of Auditors (p. 5 Workbook)

On behalf of Executive Council, Tim Wagler presented the following motion:

MOTION: That we appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditors for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2013.  
Motion Carried.

## 20. Approval of Slate (p. 5 Workbook)

Joanna Ressor-McDowell, Chair of Gift Discernment Committee, thanked everyone who has agreed to serve.

On behalf of the Gift Discernment Committee, Joanna Ressor-McDowell presented the motion:

MOTION: That we accept the amended 2012/2013 Slate as presented.  
Information Update: David Epp: Jennifer Driedger has agreed to take on the role of UMEI Board from Joan Epp. Change noted.  
Motion Carried.

## 21. Worship

Susanne Thiessen, Faith MC, led us in worship with a video of church activities.

## 22. Stories from the Front: Leadership for a Transformed and Sent People in Emerging Congregations

David Martin and Brian Bauman introduced a time of sharing from emerging congregations. The format was a question and answer dialogue between David, Brian, Stefan Cherry (Village International Mennonite Church), and Ching Jehu Lian (Chin Christian Church).



# MINUTES - 2012 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING

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- a. **Stefan Cherry, Village International Mennonite Church**  
Stefan and his family have been in the Vanier district of Ottawa for about four years. It is a low income area – a community with a lot of addictions; a rough part of town. They moved into the neighbourhood and began building relationships. The group grew and they began to worship in an Anglican church. There had been a “crack house” four doors down. Stefan and his family were having a family dinner in the back yard when a SWAT team showed up on the street and cleared out the crack house. That led eventually to a cleanup of the neighbourhood. There is a community garden, a local outdoor rink, block party, and other connections that have grown out of their ministry. To be *sent* is a privilege and responsibility. We are all broken clay jars and sometimes need to be broken wide open to receive God’s grace. The prayer and support of the church upholds him. Stefan read a letter from a new family to MCEC reflecting on the impact The Village has had on their life and their faith. Most who worship at The Village are within walking distance of the congregation. In every congregation there are leaders willing to lead – they need to be drawn out and supported.
- b. **The Chin Story - Jehu Lian**  
Other Christian denominations exist in Burma, but not Mennonite. Pastor Jehu wanted to introduce his fellow Chin to Mennonite doctrine. He was instrumental in having the Chin Christian Church (Kitchener) and Chin Christian Church (Ottawa) join MCEC. Pastor Jehu is passionate about having the Chin embrace the Mennonite faith and his ministry has resulted in Chin groups in Kitchener, Ottawa, Regina, Calgary, and Buffalo joining the Mennonite church. There is also a group expressing interest in joining the Mennonite church in Houston, Texas. He asked Brian how the wider Mennonite church might help establish a Mennonite church in Burma. Pastor Jehu is in conversation with Chin in several other countries as well. Brian and his wife Nancy just returned from a trip to the Truth Biblical Seminary School in Burma to teach Anabaptist history and theology. There was great interest there in Mennonite theology. While there, they led a baptism and foot washing service. It was very shocking for Chin to have white people, Brian and Nancy, wash the feet of the Chin people.
- c. **Table discussion and feedback**
  - **Luke Martin**, Maison de l’amitie: What element of the Mennonite faith is attracting the Chin people?  
**Brian**: Sense of community and how we live that out, servanthood, peace theology, everyday discipleship.
  - **Negash Muctare**, Maranatha Evangelical Church: Was hoping that more youth would be present here today.  
We need to remember to include the youth for the church of tomorrow.  
Delegates were invited to provide written feedback on the forms provided.

## 23. **Listening Committee Report – Claire Osinkosky and David Wideman**

We were reminded that God reigns in good times and bad. A newcomer said it was a very good conference. Many congregations participated and made comments. Muriel Bechtel talked about being in a boat on a sea. Each of us is sent from here on our own path. We celebrated with pastors, staff, retiring pastors, church planting and ministry opportunities. Thanks from those pastors who participated in the Friday afternoon pastors’ event to those who planned the event. Thanks to the hosting committee for the hospitality and food.

## 24. **Closing Comments**

Aldred Neufeldt expressed his pleasure at serving MCEC and how blessed we are with the leadership that is available here. Next year, the meeting will be held in the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

Aldred introduced Carol Penner as the incoming Moderator and welcomed her to the position. He passed on a baton that was originally created by Darrell Fast, former MCEC Moderator, and has been passed on since then. Carol thanked Aldred and Linda Brnjas for their loving leadership.

## 25. **Installation of Henry Paetkau as the next Area Church Minister.**

David Martin introduced Henry Paetkau and commented on how his gifts and background will help us move the church into the future. David welcomed Henry on behalf of MCEC and we joined in a litany of installation. Henry reminded us of our calling as a Church and that God calls us all to respond with our own gifts. He invited our prayers, counsel, and partnership. Linda Brnjas anointed him for ministry with prayer of blessing.

## 26. **Worship**

Edgar Brown led us in song.

Glyn Jones thanked people who have helped with the worship times.



# APPENDICES TO THE MINUTES - 2012 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING

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## Appendix A – Conversation re: Dan Epp-Tiessen's message

To stay focussed on God is the heart and soul of the message of Daniel and also of a missional church. Daniel and his friends, although in exile, are trained by and treated well by the King and help him to run Babylon. They draw the line when they are asked to bow down to the King and eat food that has been offered to idols. In the end, their loyalty is rewarded by God; they are delivered and King Nebuchadnezzar is converted. We were challenged to consider Babylon as an example of contrasting sovereignty. The empire was benevolent and treated the boys well, but also had a demonic side. Our reality is some combination of the two. We live in a human-centred world and tend to, even in our preaching, focus on what WE must do by our own resources, not what God is doing through us. Post-Christendom is like a time of exile, where we live in the empire but are not part of it. If we consider ourselves as building the kingdom of God in all we do, then all we do will reflect God's kingdom. Like Daniel, our lives of faith are lived in tension between resisting the Empire and cooperating with it. The power of God shone through Daniel and our challenge is to recognize God in our everyday and to let God do God's work through our human efforts, rather than our human efforts trying to create God's will in the world.

We had some dialogue from the floor:

- **Robert Just**, Danforth MC: The message was given to disciples not to worry about persecution and hardship in this life as Jesus has overcome the world. Daniel didn't waiver in his faith when faced with grave consequences.  
**Dan**: In Daniel's story, faithfulness results in change and life, but the gospel reminds us that sometimes it also leads to the cross.
- **Gord Alton**, Shantz MC: Where is the line between what faith is and what it is not?  
**Dan**: Daniel was clear on where his line was. Paul has lines that shift – as in eating food that has been offered to idols. It is a challenge for us to delineate what lines are important to hold to.
- **John Ward**, Danforth MC: Daniel said he would follow God even if God didn't deliver him. We sometimes only follow God if he delivers us.  
**Dan**: Daniel is willing to be faithful regardless of the consequences.
- **Joel Siemens**, Canadian Mennonite University student: Until this time in history, the Jews were in charge of themselves. After the exile, they were no longer in charge. How does that compare to post-Christendom?  
**Dan**: From the time of exile on, they live within an empire that holds the ultimate power. How to be faithful in these new circumstances is a new question for them. As Mennonites, we have perhaps been in a different position than some other denominations, (perhaps more like the displaced Israelites) but we now need to discern how we belong, and how we are apart.
- **Bert Lobe**, Waterloo North MC: What does it mean to be at home in the context of our own empire?  
**Dan**: In some ways we are in exile as we don't share all the values of society. But we are at home in our communities. Jews were counselled to make home within the exiled community – creating home. Nurturing a sense of community apart but as part of the broader society is our challenge.

## Appendix B – Steinmann Mennonite Church Story

David Martin introduced the Vision Focus Team from Steinmann MC: Steve Drudge, Gladys Bender, Myrna Miller Dyck, and Ilene Bergen. They reflected on changes over the last eight years that have lead to a more outward focus at Steinmann MC.

- It began with a question as they were planning for their welcome back Sunday for September: "Who are we welcoming back? Who should we be welcoming?" The result was a neighbourhood barbeque and carnival which might not have increased the size of the congregation, but began a shift from looking inwards to looking outwards.
- In 2008 they also began a *Logos* program that morphed into more of an outreach than was anticipated. Current enrollment is 50 students and only 15 are from Steinmann MC.
- They are celebrating plans to pay off their mortgage on their addition in the next few years. This includes tithing part of their fundraising proceeds to help build other congregations.
- Church Council is now a Vision Focus Team with emphasis on looking at the big picture.
- There has been a focus from the pulpit in presenting how missional living might look on a practical level. They feel they have moved from wandering in the desert to feeling now more like a sower.

# APPENDICES TO THE MINUTES - 2012 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING

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- They encourage people to introduce themselves to each other, not differentiating between newcomers and others.
  - An intergenerational mission trip to Kenya connected with young adults.
  - We need to consider a definition of membership which is different from secular definitions and includes being one in Christ. Our most marketable asset is the love of Christ
- a. Response
- Vic Winter, Mike Williamson, David Dyck (all from Leamington United MC), and Scott Brubaker-Zehr (Rockway MC) shared their responses to the presentation:
    - Scott reflected on changes at Rockway MC moving to a downtown location where they share space with another congregation. They are working toward becoming more welcoming and consider a building to be a tool to further Christ's mission. They have evolved into more of a neighbourhood church. Natural invitation and word of mouth has brought many new and vital active members.
    - Vic reflected on a long history of waves as immigrants arrive, and wondered what the next wave will be as their young people move on. Recent writings on missional church have been distributed to leaders as they wrestle with what missional means for them. They will be wrestling with it together.
    - Mike talked about the challenge to practice hospitality and to experiment without the sense of having to succeed in the traditional sense, but to take a step and see where it leads. Youth are driving the outreach in the neighbourhood and they are finding new partners to enhance traditional partnerships.
    - David Dyck talked about formation practices. They have realized the importance of support after baptism by concentrating on a two year post baptism program exploring the practices of discipleship. They are also working with small groups. They are changing their view of Sunday School and see it as a place to connect and provide education after the service. Using stories in place of, or to enhance sermons, brings faith to life.
- b. Table discussion and feedback
- Delegates were invited to provide written feedback on the forms provided.
- **Claire Osinkosky** - Preston MC: The presentation highlighted the importance of leadership working together in a good relationship. Time needs to be invested to help pastoral teams and leaders spend time together referring to LUMC spending up to 1/3 to 1/2 of their time praying together and "learning to like each other."
  - **Karen Martens Zimmerly** – MC Canada: Engaging lay leaders and others can offer the opportunity for spontaneity and helps to recognize the importance of others in the church.
  - **Deborah-Ruth Ferber** – North Leamington United MC: Walking with people and being known by name is important congregationally and also at conference level.
  - **Kassa Lemma** - Rehoboth Ethiopian Evangelical Church: We need to emphasize street evangelism and evangelistic crusades. We need discussion about differences between being missional and evangelism.
  - **Tim Reimer** – Danforth MC: In his table of multi-ethnic congregations, there was good discussion about the terms missional and evangelism.
  - **Susan Allison-Jones** – BadenSpace: Significant staff time was available in the groups that presented. Do pastors have enough time to prepare for Sunday mornings while they also feel responsible for outreach – especially pastors in smaller congregations? Smaller congregations need more leadership support.

## Appendix C - Faith Formation Consultation Update (p. 22-23 Discernment Documents)

Responses:

- **Dave Tiessen**, Community MF, Drayton: Used the *Written on their Hearts* paper to engage clusters and congregation. The document gave them permission to admit to difficulty and to risk trying new things. They are working with broadening the scope of Christian education to resource families to do faith formation.
- **Charleen Jongejan Harder**, Valleyview MC: Life-giving dialogue is happening at the conference level. It's good to know that they are not alone in the struggle. The term formation connotes a different definition of success than traditional models of teaching. It is life-giving to know that it's okay to sometimes fail, but to trust God's hand in our trying.
- **Craig Frere**, Living Water Community Christian Fellowship: Let go of the model of formation only happening on Sunday morning. We need to reach out to those who have other commitments on Sunday mornings.

# APPENDICES TO THE MINUTES - 2012 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING

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## Appendix D –Property Updates

- a. 74 Firvalley, Toronto, ON
- **Dave Bechtel**, Preston MC: Our mission is to extend the peace of Jesus Christ and he encouraged MCEC to work with Warden Woods Community Centre in that light.  
**Bryce Kraeker**: We will bear that in mind. At the moment we need to respond through legal counsel because they have initiated legal action. We have directed counsel that we are willing to be in dialogue when appropriate.  
**David Martin**: Shortly after last year's delegate resolution, MCEC staff met with WWCC staff and Board Chair to talk about options for responding to the delegate decision.
  - **Karen Sheil**, Rainham MC: Just to clarify last year's conversation: we couldn't give the property to WWCC according to legal counsel, so we wanted to negotiate a reasonable transaction amount less than fair market value.  
**Bryce**: We are required to act in the best interest of MCEC's mission and according to current charitable laws as we divest this property.
  - **Benno Barg**, Breslau MC: Is the money coming from the Rawdon property going to be used to defend the case with WWCC?  
**Aldred Neufeldt**: We have no money set aside for legal action.
- b. Office Update
- **Clare Schlegel**, East Zorra MC: What authority does MCEC Executive Council have to sign a lease outside the delegate body? Can you assure us that costs will not exceed our current costs?  
**David Martin**: Yes, Executive Council does have authority as authorized by MCEC bylaws.
  - **Clare**: Were all other property transactions approved by the delegate body?  
**David**: There are times when we cannot wait until the Gathering to deal with real estate matters.  
**Aldred Neufeldt**: There was an omnibus resolution to divest of properties.
  - **David**: Our estimate is that the costs should be close to what we are currently spending to the best estimates that we and Mennonite Central Committee Ontario can determine.  
**Rick Cober Bauman**, MCCO: We are working toward an efficient building and keeping costs in line.

# MCEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS

## MAY 1, 2012 - MARCH 31, 2013

### Executive Council



**Carol Penner**  
MCEC Moderator

The First  
Mennonite Church



**Bryce Kraeker**  
Assistant Moderator

Rockway  
Mennonite Church



**Sandy Shantz**  
Secretary

St. Jacobs  
Mennonite Church



**Eugene Reesor**  
Chair of AFSC

Community Mennonite  
Church of Stouffville



**Terry Keller**

Nith Valley  
Mennonite Church



**Pieter Niemeyer**

Rouge Valley  
Mennonite Church



**Shirley Redekop**

Floradale  
Mennonite Church



**Paul  
Wideman**

Community  
Mennonite  
Fellowship  
(Drayton)



**David Martin**

MCEC Executive Minister  
ex-officio

### June 26, 2012

- Approved the appointment of Don Friesen, member of Hamilton Mennonite Church, as a MCEC Area Church delegate to the Mennonite Church Canada 2012 Assembly.

### September 29, 2012

- Approved the recommendation of the Mission Council to have Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church (Kitchener) and The Commons (Hamilton) received into membership in MCEC with Emerging Church status at our 2013 Annual Church Gathering.
- Approved the appointment of Lynn Rempel, member of Waterloo North Mennonite Church, to represent MCEC on the Mennonite Central Committee Ontario Board.

### November 27, 2012

- Approved a spending limit of up to \$40,000 towards implementation of MCEC's 25th anniversary.
- Approved the sources of funding for an investment loan to Mennonite Central Committee Ontario for new office space in the 50 Kent building. These sources will include the proceeds from the sale of the Scotia property, sale of the existing MCEC office properties, and bequest funds in the Faithful Stewardship Fund.

# **MCEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS**

## **MAY 1, 2012 - MARCH 31, 2013**

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### **February 26, 2013**

- On the recommendation of the Administrative and Financial Services Council, approved a budget of up to \$150,000 for furniture, technology, and leasehold improvements for the new office space at 50 Kent.
- Authorized staff to move forward with plans to divest the MCEC office properties and prepare a formal work plan based on a commercial appraisal of the property.
- Approved extending the current maternity leave replacement staff contract to May 31, 2013.
- Approved the constituency membership of the bequest advisory committee: Sandy Shantz – Chair, Lois Konrad, Rick Martin, Yoel Masyawong, Nelson Scheifele, Marcus Shantz, Tobi Thiessen, and Greg Yantzi.
- Approved the recommendation of the Mission Council to have Medahnialeem (World Saviour) Ethiopian Evangelical Church (Toronto) received into membership in MCEC with Emerging Church status at our 2013 Annual Church Gathering.

### **March 19, 2013**

- Adopted the FYE January 2013 audited financial statements for delegate approval at the 2013 Annual Church Gathering.
- Adopted the FYE January 2014 Spending Plan for delegate approval at the 2013 Annual Church Gathering.
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Mennonite Central Committee Ontario re: lease arrangements for office space at 50 Kent, Kitchener, ON.
- Approved the appointment of Darrell Jantzi, member of Floradale Mennonite Church, to a second term on the Gift Discernment Committee.

### **January 22, 2013**

- Approved and signed a resolution authorizing the Operations Minister and Executive Minister to manage the sale of the MCEC office properties at 4489 King St. East in Kitchener.
- Affirmed that Mennonite Church Canada is free to approach our congregations for support for a new Resource Centre in Winnipeg, MB.



# SLATE OF VOLUNTEERS 2013-2014

## Mennonite Church Eastern Canada - Slate 2013-2014

16-1 means the term ends in April 2016 and the person is serving the first term.

A 0 (zero) indicates someone starting mid-term or a mid-term replacement.

An astrisk (\*) means the individual has been approved by Executive Council subsequent to the April delegate session.

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

### Executive Council

### NAME OF CHURCH

15-1	Carol Penner (Moderator)	The First Mennonite (Vineland)
15-2	Bryce Kraeker (Assistant Moderator)	Rockway
15-1	Eugene Reesor (Administrative & Financial Services Council Chair)	Community Mennonite (Stouffville)
<b>16-2</b>	<b>Sandy Shantz (Secretary)</b>	St. Jacobs

### Members at Large

14-1	Pieter Niemeyer	Rouge Valley
<b>16-2</b>	<b>Shirley Redekop</b>	Floradale
14-1	Terry Keller	Nith Valley
<b>16-2</b>	<b>Paul Wideman</b>	Community (Drayton)
15-0		

David Martin (Executive Minister, MCEC) – *Ex-Officio*

### Administrative & Financial Services Council

15-1	Eugene Reesor (Chair)	Community Mennonite (Stouffville)
14-1	Lloyd Redekopp (Vice Chair)	Niagara United Mennonite
15-2	Aubrey Wilkinson (Secretary)	Danforth
15-2	Earl Martin	Zion
16-1		
<b>16-2</b>	<b>Jim Brown (Pastor Rep.)</b>	Riverdale
16-1		

Ester Neufeldt (Operations Minister, MCEC) – *Ex-Officio*

David Martin (Executive Minister, MCEC) – *Ex-Officio*

### Congregational Ministries Council

14-1	Kevin Derksen (Chair)	St. Jacobs
Members at Large		
14-2	Ruth Boehm	Faith
14-1	Ray Martin	East Zorra
15-2	Chris Frey	Hawkesville
15-0		
<b>16-1</b>	<b>Jeanette Seiling</b>	Bethel
<b>16-1</b>	<b>Vicky Roeder Martin</b>	Breslau

Jeff Steckley (Congregational Ministries Minister, MCEC) – *Ex-Officio*



# SLATE OF VOLUNTEERS 2013-2014

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### Leadership Council

<b>15-1</b>	<b>Myrna Miller Dyck (Chair)</b>	Steinmann
14-1	Steve Cox	Niagara
14-2	Arnold Neufeldt-Fast	Community Mennonite (Stouffville)
15-1	Claire Osinkosky	Preston
<b>16-2</b>	<b>Ray Brubacher</b>	Waterloo North
<b>16-2</b>	<b>Trakoon "Yoel" Masyawong</b>	Grace Lao
<b>16-1</b>	<b>Greg Yantzi</b>	
	Henry Paetkau (Area Church Minister, MCEC) – <i>Ex-Officio</i>	
	Marianne Mellinger (Coordinator of Leadership Formation, MCEC) – <i>Ex-Officio</i>	

### Mission Council

14-1	Gloria Martin (Chair)	Elmira
15-1	Fanosie Legesse	Bethel
14-1	Ruth Martin	Valleyview
15-1	Craig Frere	Living Water
15-1	Jim Jantzi	Avon
<b>16-1</b>	<b>Norm Dyck</b>	Listowel
<b>16-2</b>	<b>Cathrin van Sintern Dick</b>	North Leamington
	Brian Bauman (Mission Minister, MCEC) – <i>Ex-Officio</i>	

### Accountable to Executive Council

#### Gift Discernment Committee

(Appointed by Executive Council)

<b>14-1</b>	<b>Lois Konrad (Chair)</b>	<b>Leamington</b>	15-1	Alyssa Bender	Living Water
14-1	Mary Ann Neufeld	The First (Vineland)	<b>16-2</b>	<b>Darrell Jantzi</b>	Floradale
	David Martin (Executive Minister, MCEC) – <i>Ex-Officio</i>		<b>16-1</b>		

### Accountable to Administrative & Financial Services Council

#### Financial Aid Committee

<b>14-2</b>	<b>Jim Erb (Chair)</b>	Erb Street	15-1	Karen Martin Schiedel	Waterloo North
16-1			<b>16-1</b>	<b>Earl Smith</b>	Hagerman
	Henry Paetkau (Area Church Minister, MCEC) – <i>Ex-Officio</i>				
	Ester Neufeldt (Operations Minister, MCEC) – <i>Ex-Officio</i>				

# SLATE OF VOLUNTEERS 2013-2014

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## MCEC Representative Appointments

### Conrad Grebel University College Board

14-0	Byron Weber Becker	Rockway	15-1	Victor Winter	Leamington
14-1	Clare Schlegel	East Zorra	<b>16-2</b>	<b>James Barber</b>	Hagerman
14-1	Ted Giesbrecht	Breslau	<b>16-1</b>	<b>Steve Manske</b>	Stirling
15-2	Fred Redekop	Floradale	<b>16-1</b>	<b>Shelley Martin Abdulla</b>	Waterloo North
15-2	Lynn Yantzi	Steinmann			

### Canadian Mennonite University Council

14-2	Don Neufeld	Bethany
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### Detweiler Meeting House Board of Directors

14-1	Robert Shantz	Mannheim	16-1	
<b>16-1</b>	<b>Doug Roeder</b>	Calvary (Ayr)		

### Mennonite Central Committee (Ontario) (term begins November)

<b>15-0</b>	<b>Lynn Rempel</b>	Waterloo North	<b>16-2</b>	<b>Margaret Amanatides</b>	Danforth
14-2	Greta Wiens	Niagara	16-1		
<b>14-0</b>					

### Mennonite Church Canada General Board (MCEC Executive Council Member Appointee)

Carol Penner	Moderator
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### Mennonite Church Canada Nominating Committee Appointee

14-3	Gladys Bender	Steinmann
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### Mennonite Church Canada Conference Delegates ~ Next Assembly - 2014

# SLATE OF VOLUNTEERS 2013-2014

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## Mennonite Publishing Service Board

**16-2**    **Tim Reimer**    Danforth

## Ontario Mennonite Music Camp

14-0    Carolyn Strathdee    Breslau

**16-1**    **Angela Ishaka**    Floradale

15-1    Janna Lynn Cressman    East Zorra

## Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual & Religious Care

### Provincial Board

14-2    Susan Nickel    Valleyview

### Regional Multifaith Committee

#### Kawartha–Lakeshore

George Best    Wideman

#### Mid-West (Hamilton–Niagara)

Troy Watson    Quest

#### North-East (Timmins)

Glenn Carney    Hunta

### Ottawa Region

#### South Central (Toronto)

Susan Kennel Harrison    Hagerman

#### South West (London-KW)

#### Sudbury

David Nicol    Waters

#### Windsor-Chatham

## Rockway Mennonite School Association Board (term begins November)

14-1    David Carr-Pries    Waterloo North

16-1

**15-2**    **Jim Loepp Thiessen**    The Gathering

## Silver Lake Mennonite Camp Board

**16-1**    **Karen Martin-Schiedel**    Waterloo North

## United Mennonite Educational Institute Board (term begins November)

**16-1**    **Jennifer Driedger**    Leamington

# NEW APPROACH FOR BEQUEST GIFTS

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## Background to a New Approach for Bequest Gifts

Over the past 25 years, MCEC has been the beneficiary of many bequests, large and small. Each and every gift is appreciated and has been used to further MCEC's mission and vision. According to our current policy, bequest gifts have been allocated to the Faithful Steward Fund and Missions Bequests and Donations Fund and are then deployed to provide additional support for mission development, special projects, and to fund a small part of MCEC's budgeted operations through planned transfers.

Recently, MCEC was the beneficiary of a particularly large bequest. In response, the Executive Council sought counsel and advice on the stewardship of this and other bequests. An advisory committee was established to review MCEC's bequest strategy. The ad hoc committee members were Brian Bauman, Brent Charette, Lois Konrad, David Martin, Rick Martin, Yoel Masyawong, Nelson Scheifele, Marcus Shantz, Sandy Shantz (Chair), Tobi Thiessen, and Greg Yantzi. The committee met several times and gave careful and prayerful consideration to how bequest gifts can be best used to not only fulfill, but to also grow and expand, the mission of the Church. The committee submitted a report and made a number of recommendations to the Executive Council. Their excellent work and discernment is reflected below and forms the foundation of a new approach towards the use of bequest funds that will guide the Executive Council in the future. Executive Council invites your affirmation and feedback on this approach to faithfully using the gifts that constituents have entrusted to MCEC for the mission of the Church.

Even more, generosity begets generosity and MCEC is hopeful that a clear strategy on the use of bequest funds will encourage many others to consider gifting a portion of their estate to the broader Church.

## MCEC Bequest Strategy

### Introduction

MCEC is extremely grateful for each and every bequest, whether large or small, that is generously provided for the furtherance of the mission of the Church. As a constituency we celebrate and are encouraged by these faithful acts of generosity, which are a testimony to an individual's faith and are a reflection of their strong commitment to Christ and God's mission in the world. As an Area Church, we celebrate this legacy of faith and commit ourselves to wisely use these gifts to faithfully extend the ministry of the Church and to inspire others to similar acts of generosity.

Individuals who leave bequests to the Church do so in order to advance the mission of the Church and expand its capacity for mission. These "above-budget" gifts should not be used to substitute the ongoing generosity and commitment of congregations, individuals, and ministry partners to the vision and mission of MCEC. Instead, bequests are an opportunity for the Church to celebrate, nurture, and expand generosity.

Bequest gifts are invaluable to the health and vitality of the Church. Bequests provide the Church with the opportunity to pursue specific mission objectives that are beyond its normal scope of ministry. Bequests are best used to drive expansion and innovation in the mission to which God has called the Church.

### A Theology for Use of Bequest Funds

MCEC desires to have a clear theological perspective on how estate gifts are used to advance the mission of the Church. The following principles will guide the use of bequest gifts:

#### 1. **Modelling Generosity**

"God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." Paul's teaching in 2 Corinthians 9:6-12, invites us to be generous in the sharing of our gifts. Bequests provide MCEC the opportunity to model the same generosity that it invites from its constituents and congregations. In this spirit, MCEC will seek to model generosity by sharing a portion of bequest gifts with the wider Church.

## 2. **Entrepreneurial Spending**

"After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' The master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy servant.'" In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus commends the investment of the Master's resources in ways that allow them to multiply.

A conservative approach to the use of bequest funds can extend their life indefinitely but the impact of the gift on the Church will be modest. In contrast, a creative, entrepreneurial approach allows bequests to make a major impact on the mission of the Church and trusts that God will inspire new generosity to meet future needs. An entrepreneurial spirit that embodies creativity, the strategic targeting of funds, and that is open to risk taking is a faithful approach to using bequest gifts. Making significant amounts available for the work of the Church in the short term has the potential to build a stronger Church and in turn attract more generosity in the future.

## 3. **Focus on the Mission Priorities of MCEC**

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.'" The Great Commission of Matthew 28 is an explicit charge by Jesus for the Church and its leaders to engage in extending God's mission into the world. Bequests are given to MCEC for the mission of the Church and will be used to advance the mission priorities of MCEC.

MCEC, in consultation with congregations and ministry partners, has spent considerable effort discerning its mission and has identified three priorities for its ministry, namely, making disciples, growing congregations, and forming leaders. Bequests donated to MCEC will be used to advance the mission of the Church and will be applied to these ministry priorities.

## 4. **Promote the Overall Mission of the Church**

"We must grow up in every way into the one who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." Ephesians 4 describes the Church as a body composed of different parts, each contributing to the whole. In the same way, MCEC has a unique opportunity to use bequests in a way that promotes the overall health of the Church's mission.

While bequest gifts could be used to benefit only the ministries directly engaged in by MCEC as an organization, bequests can also be used to promote and energize the full mission of the Church. MCEC will consider opportunities to use bequests to seed the overall mission of the Church as engaged in by the congregations of MCEC, MCEC ministry partners, and the centrally organized ministries of MCEC.

## **Guidelines**

Subject to any specific restrictions which may attach to any bequest, the following considerations will guide the use of estate funds received by MCEC:

### 1. **Lifespan of the Bequest**

Generally, bequest funds will not be endowed. Rather, MCEC's goal is to use the entirety of a bequest, principal, and interest, within a reasonable time period. In respect of larger bequests, it is anticipated that funds will be deployed over 12 to 15 years.

### 2. **Giving to the Wider Church**

Consideration will be given to the sharing of a first fruits gift from bequests so that a portion of estate funds may be shared with the wider Church, with specific consideration being given to Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference.

# NEW APPROACH FOR BEQUEST GIFTS

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## 3. **Strategic Application to MCEC Mission Priorities**

After sharing with the wider Church, the remainder of the bequest will be primarily and principally allocated towards advancing MCEC's mission priorities: making disciples, growing congregations, and forming leaders. It is also recognized that advancing MCEC's mission priorities requires a strong Area Church and that a portion of any bequest funds received may be used to support MCEC's missional infrastructure including, among other things, strengthening the Faithful Steward Fund and the Missions Bequests and Donations Fund.

## 4. **Advancement of MCEC's Strategic Plan**

Within each of the three MCEC mission priorities, Executive Council and staff will use the capacity provided by bequests to build on MCEC's strategic plan by developing and funding specific missional goals, strategies, and projects.

## 5. **Engaging Wider Discernment in Use of the Bequest Funds**

MCEC Executive Council and staff will explore ways to engage and include the broader church in discerning how to strategically apply bequest funds to MCEC's mission priorities.

## 6. **Invite Increased Generosity and Collaboration**

MCEC will look for opportunities to celebrate and use bequest funds in a way that invites both increased generosity and collaboration. This includes, for example, the co-funding with other ministry partners (which could be churches, individuals, or partner agencies) of specific missional projects that are related to MCEC's mission priorities.

## 7. **Investment of Bequest Funds**

Bequest funds will be held in relatively secure investments until they are spent. These investments will be primarily held by our Mennonite financial institutions.

## **Accountability and Review**

The Executive Council commits to periodically reviewing MCEC's bequest strategy to ensure that bequests have a significant impact on the mission of the Church.



# MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2014 with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2013		Proposed Budget FYE Jan. 31, 2014 \$	Budget FYE Jan. 31, 2013 \$
<b>Total Contributions to Area/National Church Covenant</b>		2,320,500	2,275,000
<b>MCEC Operations</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions based on 60.16% of Giving to Covenant		1,396,013	1,368,640
Corporate and Individual Donations		68,500	68,500
Support from Women of MCEC		8,000	10,000
Interest		31,595	12,000
<b>Total revenue</b>		1,504,108	1,459,140
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Executive Council	(Schedule 1)	136,766	121,300
Leadership Council	(Schedule 2)	91,452	89,198
Regional Ministry	(Schedule 3)	192,515	152,067
Mission Council	(Schedule 4)	383,909	382,461
Congregational Ministries Council	(Schedule 5)	100,525	93,863
Partner Ministries	(Schedule 6)	373,746	383,629
Programme Resourcing	(Schedule 7)	330,575	308,517
Occupancy Costs	(Schedule 8)	68,260	48,125
<b>Total expenditures</b>		1,677,748	1,579,160
<b>Net revenue (expenditures)</b>		(173,640)	(120,020)
<b>Transfers to (from) Operating Fund</b>	(Schedule 9)	157,640	104,020
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit) for the Year</b>		(16,000)	(16,000)
Amortization (not requiring cash)		16,000	16,000
<b>Cash Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		0	0

# MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2014 with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2013	Proposed Budget FYE Jan. 31, 2014 \$	Budget FYE Jan. 31, 2013 \$
<b>National and Binational Partners</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Mennonite Church Canada Based on 39.84% of Total Contributions to Covenant	924,487	906,360
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>924,487</b>	<b>906,360</b>
<b>Expenditures - Based on Actual Share of Giving to Covenant</b>		
Mennonite Church Canada	854,872	838,110
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	69,615	68,250
<b>Total Expenditures to National and Binational Partners</b>	<b>924,487</b>	<b>906,360</b>
<b>National and Binational Partners' Surplus</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Executive Council (Schedule 1)

Staff - salaries and expenses	91,216	88,850
Professional development pool	9,000	9,000
Council travel and expenses	5,200	5,200
-Recovery	(3,700)	(3,700)
Council seminars and retreats	1,250	1,250
Other travel and expenses	4,300	4,300
-Recovery	(2,000)	(2,000)
Miscellaneous expenses	5,000	5,000
Assembly delegate travel and expenses	-	14,400
-Recovery	-	(1,000)
Special Projects - Historical	665	665
-Recovery	(665)	(665)
Special Projects - 25th Anniversary	26,500	-
	<b>136,766</b>	<b>121,300</b>

~ Extending the Peace of Jesus Christ ~  
making disciples • growing congregations • forming leaders

# MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Proposed	Budget
Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2014	Budget	Budget
with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended	FYE	FYE
January 31, 2013	Jan. 31, 2014	Jan. 31, 2013
	\$	\$

## Leadership Council (Schedule 2)

Staff - salaries and expenses	84,402	82,148
Council travel and expenses	1,600	1,600
-Recovery	(400)	(400)
Task group travel and expenses	750	750
-Recovery	(200)	(200)
Council seminars and retreats	250	250
Program and policy development expenses	1,500	1,500
Resource library	100	100
Database cost sharing	650	650
GiFT	-	100
Transitioning into ministry (TiM) - leadership formation	23,000	23,000
-Recovery	(27,500)	(27,500)
Transitioning into ministry (TiM) - youth ministry	5,250	5,000
-Recovery	(7,750)	(7,500)
Congregation/pastor concerns	800	700
Professional services for pastoral leaders	5,000	5,000
Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Response Team	1,500	1,500
Ministry Inquiry Program	1,500	1,500
Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre	1,000	1,000
Continuing education and development	13,500	13,500
-Tutions received	(13,500)	(13,500)
	<u>91,452</u>	<u>89,198</u>

## Regional Ministry (Schedule 3)

Staff - salaries and expenses	243,386	237,278
-Recovery	(50,871)	(85,211)
	<u>192,515</u>	<u>152,067</u>

# MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2014 with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2013	Proposed Budget FYE Jan. 31, 2014 \$	Budget FYE Jan. 31, 2013 \$
<b>Mission Council (Schedule 4)</b>		
Staff - salaries and expenses	84,294	82,847
Council travel and expenses	1,900	1,900
-Recovery	(250)	(250)
Promotion and publicity	9,743	8,000
Special support needs	8,000	4,000
Miscellaneous program and expenses	2,000	2,000
<b>Church Development and Urban Ministry</b>		
Jane Finch Faith Community	65,222	62,653
Toronto Mennonite New Life Church	10,000	15,000
Missional initiatives	6,000	4,000
Transfer to Leadership Enrichment Fund	1,000	1,000
<b>Church Planting</b>		
Missional leadership development	30,000	27,000
Church plant support:		
BadenSpace, Baden	12,000	15,000
Chin Christian Church, Kitchener	-	7,150
Chin Christian Church, Ottawa	3,000	5,000
Freedom Gospel Ethiopian Church, Toronto	10,000	10,000
Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church, Toronto	10,000	10,000
Maranatha Evangelical Church, London	-	5,000
Shalom, Kitchener	5,000	5,000
The Commons, Hamilton	5,000	-
The Village - International Mennonite Church, Ottawa	15,000	18,000
Refugio de Paz Churches	25,000	40,000
Scarborough Neighbourhood	24,000	-
New Churches	37,000	15,000
Education, promotion and outreach	20,000	10,000
<b>Service and Justice Ministries</b>		
Jane Finch Faith Community	-	11,947
Maison de l'Amitié	-	10,006
Welcome Inn Community Centre	-	12,208
	<u>383,909</u>	<u>382,461</u>

# MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Proposed	Budget
Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2014	Budget	Budget
with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended	FYE	FYE
January 31, 2013	Jan. 31, 2014	Jan. 31, 2013
	\$	\$

## Congregational Ministries Council (Schedule 5)

Staff - salaries and expenses	82,825	80,163
Council travel and expenses	500	1,000
-Recovery	(300)	(300)
Council seminars and retreats	-	500
Congregational resources	13,250	4,300
-Recovery	(9,300)	(300)
Youth and young adult ministry events	55,500	16,900
-Recovery	(53,000)	(14,900)
Youth and young adult learning tours	200	-
New ministry initiatives	14,000	20,000
-Recovery	(4,000)	(15,500)
Promotion, education and communication	500	1,000
Contingency	350	1,000
	<u>100,525</u>	<u>93,863</u>

## Partner Ministries (Schedule 6)

Canadian Mennonite	74,000	73,225
Conrad Grebel University College	154,171	154,171
Mennonite & Brethren in Christ Resource Centre	-	10,658
Mennonite World Conference	6,962	6,962
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate	73,911	73,911
United Mennonite Educational Institute	27,905	27,905
Camps	36,797	36,797
Ontario Mennonite Music Camp		
Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp		
Silver Lake Mennonite Camp		
	<u>373,746</u>	<u>383,629</u>

# MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Proposed	Budget
Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2014	Budget	Budget
with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended	FYE	FYE
January 31, 2013	Jan. 31, 2014	Jan. 31, 2013
	\$	\$

## Programme Resourcing (Schedule 7)

Staff - salaries and expenses	276,775	262,467
-Recovery	(4,000)	(7,000)
MCEC staff development	750	1,750
Council travel and expenses	750	750
-Recovery	(250)	(250)
Office supplies and other expenses	6,000	6,000
Equipment and computer maintenance	14,000	11,000
Postage	6,500	6,500
Internet access and website development	3,000	3,000
Telephone	5,000	5,000
Advertising and Promotion	7,750	6,000
Area Church Gathering	12,000	12,000
-Recovery	(18,000)	(18,000)
Legal and audit	20,000	19,000
Interest and bank charges	300	300
	<u>330,575</u>	<u>308,517</u>

## Occupancy Costs (Schedule 8)

Custodial supplies, maintenance, utilities	11,275	15,500
Rent	19,510	-
Common Area Maintenance	5,100	-
Insurance	6,000	6,250
Equipment and furniture (expensed)	10,375	10,375
Depreciation expenses	16,000	16,000
	<u>68,260</u>	<u>48,125</u>



# MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Proposed Budget	Budget
Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2014	FYE	FYE
with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended	Jan. 31, 2014	Jan. 31, 2013
January 31, 2013	\$	\$

## Transfers to (from) Operating Fund (Schedule 9)

### Transfers to Operating

from Faithful Steward Fund	113,140	51,720
from Missions Bequests and Donations Fund	62,000	69,000
from Third Century Outreach Fund	6,000	6,800

### Transfers from Operating

to Leadership Enrichment Fund	(13,750)	(13,750)
to Theological Leadership Development Fund	(9,750)	(9,750)

<u>157,640</u>	<u>104,020</u>
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Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Budget FYE	Budget FYE
ADDENDUM to Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2014	Jan. 31, 2014	Jan. 31, 2013
	\$	\$
Capital expenditures and leasehold improvements	175,000	-
-Recovery	(175,000)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

## We Celebrate New Congregations Within MCEC

### An MCEC *emerging congregation* is

- a body of believers who have regular times for worship and a core of committed persons.
- in essential agreement with Mennonite faith and practice.
- in a time of mutual discernment and testing for a long-term relationship with MCEC.
- open to exchange views and fellowship with other members and congregations within MCEC.
- participating in the work of MCEC through sending delegates to Annual Church Gatherings.
- participating in activities of MCEC area cluster of congregations.
- mutually sharing resources between congregations and MCEC.
- in relationship with MCEC resource persons (via the MCEC Mission Council) that meet with leadership persons in the congregation.

Emerging Church Status granted by action of the Executive Council upon recommendation of the Mission Council with public welcome at the MCEC Annual Church Gathering.

## Moving into Emerging Church Status



### Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church

Kitchener, ON

- Meeting since 2010
- Pastor: Mesfin Woldearegay
- Approximately 60 members, 25-30 children and youth
- Have a radio program to preach the gospel in Amharic



### Medahniale Ethiopian Evangelical Church

Toronto, ON

- Pastor: Tadessa Mekuria
- Approximately 30 worshippers
- Assisting newly arrived immigrants with settlement issues is a natural outreach for this congregation
- Mission to reach out and preach the gospel to the Ethiopian community in the greater Toronto area



### The Commons

Hamilton, ON

- Faith community since 2001 Community Curator (a.k.a. Pastor): Randell Neudorf
- Worships in Beasley neighbourhood of Hamilton
- Core group of 15-20 members
- Eclectic group of people from all ages and all walks of life



You are Invited to **MCEC**  
a Public Worship Celebration



Born in Bogotá, Colombia, South America, César states that he has had two conversions - one when he found Jesus and the next when he found Anabaptism. Former pastor, church planter, and professor, César is now General Secretary of Mennonite World Conference.

**MCEC celebrates**  
**25**  
years of  
ministry

with **César García**  
General Secretary  
Mennonite World Conference

**H**ow is God calling the Mennonite Church to be missional in today's context? What will God be asking of us as Mennonites in the next quarter century? How are we being called as a Mennonite World Conference community of Anabaptist churches to support each other in witnessing to our local and global communities? What is the promise in the seeds God is calling us to sow today?

**Saturday, April 27, 2013**  
**2:30 p.m.**

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate  
110 Doon Road, Kitchener, ON



# Mennonite United Grace Life Community Church Christian Fellowship

Zorra  
 Zurich  
 Park Hmong  
 Quest Milverton  
 Bethel  
 House  
 Shantz Wanner Gathering  
 International  
 Hagerman Valleyview  
 Petittodiac  
 paix/Sherbrooke Life/Arbre Nih  
 in Tree  
 View Markham  
 Waterloo Mississauga Hillcrest  
 Centre Toronto Valley Rockway  
 Ayr  
 Hunt  
 Maple  
 Finch  
 Rehoboth Evangelical Living  
 Erie  
 McArthur's Steinmann Wideman  
 Riverdale  
 Hanover  
 Joliette Calvary KW West  
 Open Listowel  
 Life Community  
 Leamington Lao Faith  
 Poole  
 Évangélique Wellesley Canadian  
 Harrow Commons River  
 Église Elmira Stirling Nairn  
 Mills Zion Freedom Brussels Clinton  
 Cassel North Maranatha Waters Windsor Avenue  
 East  
 Tavistock Wilnot Word Ethiopian  
 Stouffville  
 Table Worship  
 Jacobs Hawkesville Waterloo-Kitchener Erb Pioneer  
 Vineland Medahnialem St Niagara Water  
 Bloomingdale  
 Agape Ottawa Agatha Street  
 Blenheim  
 Jane Hamilton Chin Refuge  
 Ecumenical  
 Hills Kingsfield Preston Shalom  
 Rainham  
 Catharines Rouge  
 Village soulspace  
 Mannheim  
 Montreal  
 Floradale  
 Danforth



Please give generously.  
Plant seeds for the future at  
[donate.mennonitechurch.ca/MCEC](https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/MCEC)



**Mennonite Church**  
Eastern Canada

**Église Mennonite**  
de l'Est du Canada

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