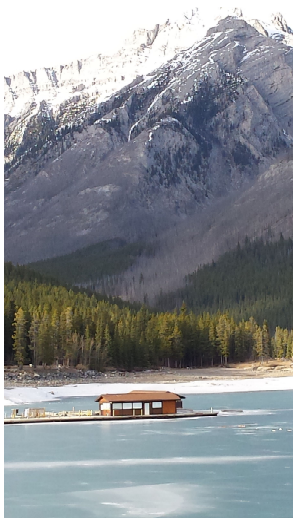




# 2018 Annual Report



One of the gifts I'm privileged to experience as Moderator of Mennonite Church Alberta is glimpses into the ways in which the Holy Spirit is working in the lives of the people of MCA. Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Executive Minister, and I had the opportunity to visit several congregations in

Edmonton in the fall of 2018. We had an inspiring day of listening to people tell us of the joys of being church together, as well as shared passion for ministry and mission both here and overseas. We also heard some of the common challenges that are faced by many of our congregations, such as concerns about



Brenda Tiessen-Wiens  
MCA Moderator

church attendance and competing priorities in people's lives.

## Executive Council

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

## Pastoral Transitions:

- **Harold Schilk** retired from his position as pastor at **Springridge Mennonite Church**, Pincher Creek on December 31, 2018 after serving since 2009.
- **Werner DeJong**, pastor at **Holyrood Mennonite Church** in Edmonton, was on sabbatical September 2018-January 10, 2019 to teach in Ethiopia.
- **First Mennonite Church, Edmonton** has called **Craig Neufeldt** to serve as pastor beginning in 2019. Craig has been serving as pastor of Rosthern Mennonite Church.
- **Caleb Kowalko** began as pastor of **Calgary First Mennonite Church** on May 15 2018. Caleb replaced Ed Kauffman, who retired in April 2018.
- **Chau Dang** began as part-time Interim Pastor of **Edmonton Vietnamese Mennonite Church** on July 29 2018. Thomas Pham had been serving as pastor of EVMC until July of 2018.

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These themes were largely echoed as we began the Vision 20/20 renewal process. Betty Pries of Credence & Co. has been brought on as a consultant to lead our congregations through a year of prayer and discernment, to better understand ourselves and what it means to live faithfully, and, in the light of MC Canada restructuring, to consider how best to adapt to new responsibilities.



**Camp Valaqua** continues to be one of the primary points of connection for congregations through summer camp, workdays, Garden Parties, retreats and large and small group rentals. Trivia Night in support of Camp will be held on February 9, and has been one-upped this

year to include a challenge between Edmonton and Calgary. **Game on!**



2018 Hike-a-Thon, a Camp Valaqua fundraiser

**North Edmonton Ministry (NEM)** extended the annual Christian/Muslim Dialogue in October to include an evening session in Calgary. We hope that this can become an annual event, as we hear more people tell us of their interest in building relationships with people of other faiths. Donna Entz continues to have vibrant discussions at ESL classes and with people at Scriptural Reasoning and Book Study groups, and as she generously shares the ministry of hospitality.



Pictured from left to right: Muslim speaker **Zaid Al Rawni**, **Donna Entz** lead planner and Director of MCA's North Edmonton Ministry, **Salwa Kadri** of Al Rashid mosque, and Christian Speaker **Dr. Wes Thiessen** Photo credit: Tim Wiebe-Neufeld.

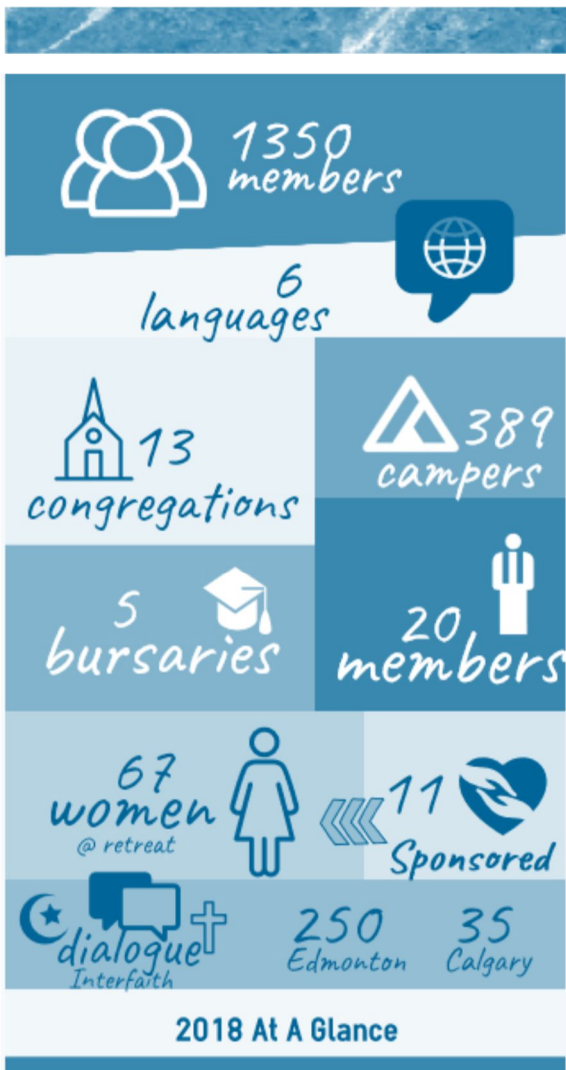
**June 29—July 1**  
Saturday afternoon—Monday noon



**Gathering 2019**  
Igniting the Imagination of the Church

**Registration Opens Soon:**  
Mennonitechurch.ca/Gathering2019

**Pre-Gathering Events:**  
Friday June 28: Leaders Assembly  
Saturday AM June 29: Business / Delegate Meeting



## Burkina Faso Mennonite Church Celebrates 40 years

We are fortunate to have staff who share their international experience with us. **Donna Entz and Tany Warkentin** (Treasurer) travelled to **Burkina Faso** in November to celebrate the **40th Anniversary of the Mennonite Church** there. Our fellowship is enriched when our Witness and service workers share their experiences with us and help us to understand our part in the global church.



**Tany Warkentin and her children** (Danika, Asher, & Kenai) traveled to Burkina Faso in November to join the 40th Anniversary Celebrations of the Mennonite Church's Ministry in that country. Tany (and her late husband Jeff) helped lead a Mennonite Church plant and a university student residence in the capital city from 2006-2011.



Forty years ago, **Loren and Donna Entz** arrived in Burkina Faso. Because of MCC's relief work during a drought, long-term Mennonite workers were invited. The Entz' accepted that invitation and remained for 30 years.



Worshippers at the Burkina Faso Mennonite Church anniversary celebrations.

## International Witness

A significant change that resulted from MC Canada restructuring was funding for International Witness Workers. In spring and summer we heard first-hand stories from Witness Workers who itinerated in Canada. Some of these workers are still striving to meet the goal of 50% relational funding and invite your support. **Please contact Tim Wiebe-Neufeld if you or your congregation would like to join a partnership with a Witness Worker.**

## MC Canada Working Connections

The **Executive Staff Group (ESG)**, which is made up of the five Regional Church Executive Ministers, (Tim Wiebe-Neufeld) carries out a significant portion of the leadership work that was previously done by MC Canada staff. They have worked hard and thoughtfully over the past year to clarify how Regional Churches collaborate on our nationwide and international ministries (see the MC Canada report).



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**Communication Coordinators** (June Miller) work together to



share local and international stories and events, and in doing that, expand our sense of community and neighbour.

In my work with **Joint Council**, which



includes Moderators and representatives (Margaret Kruger-Harder) from each

Regional Church, I have found that the word "covenant" very much characterizes the way in which we work together, even though the varying dynamics of each region may draw us into engaging in God's work in different ways."



## Thank You!

The beginning of a new year is also a time to express gratitude for the numerous ways in which congregations and individuals come together within MCA. In addition to six staff, over 30 volunteers commit themselves to our shared Regional Church and nationwide ministries. 2018 ended with generous giving by congregations and individuals, exceeding our budget by \$10,000. However, expenses were \$19,000 higher than anticipated, so we will end the year with a deficit of approximately \$17,000, which is slightly higher than our budgeted deficit of \$8000. We look forward to meeting with everyone at our Annual Delegate Sessions at Bergthal Mennonite Church, March 15-16, and to another year of work and worship together!

*B. Jansen*

**March 15—16**

Bergthal Mennonite Church  
Didsbury, AB  
Online registration opens February 15th.



## Phase III: Discerning God's Call

In conjunction with our Annual Delegate Sessions