



MCEC

Discernment
Documents

Finding God In My Neighbourhood

The God who made the world and everything
in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does
not live in temples built by human hands.
Acts 17:24

MCEC 29th Annual Church Gathering April 29 & 30, 2016

UMEI Christian High School
614 Mersea Rd. 6, Leamington, Ontario

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



Emergency Contact Number

MCEC Cell: 519-781-5197

Available during the Annual Church Gathering hours.

Please pass this number to your family and congregation.



Twitter

#Godintheworld

Extend the conversation on Twitter.

Use the hashtag and share your reflections electronically.



Livestream

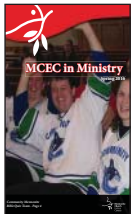
www.mcec.ca

The event will be livestreamed.



Don't Forget To Bring With You!

- ✓ Discernment Documents
 - Hard Copy or **Download
 - **Please download the documents to your device as there is no WIFI available on site.*
- ✓ Travel Mug or Water Bottle



MCEC in Ministry - Spring 2016

Coming Soon!

This publication is available at ACG.

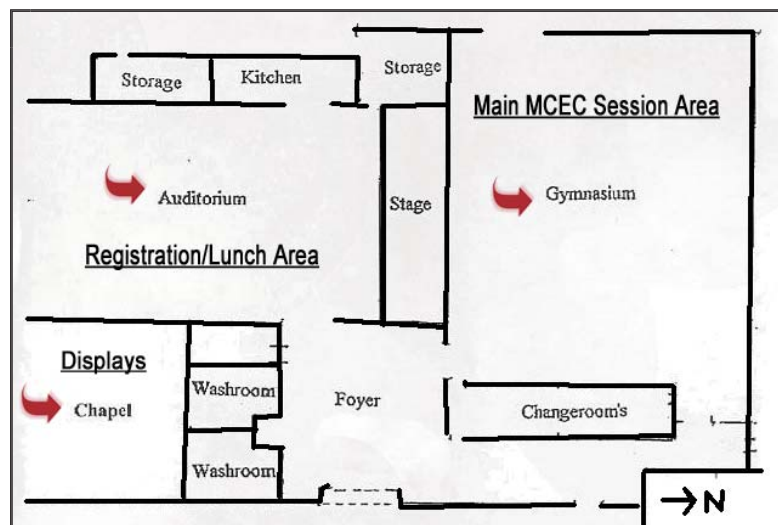
Thank you for delivering them to your congregation.

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614 Mersea Rd 6, Leamington, ON



SCHEDULE - ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING 2016

Friday Evening

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Opening Worship

- Finding God in My Neighbourhood: Stuart Murray/Alex Ellish
- Congregational Anniversaries

MCEC Discernment

- 2015-2016 Financial Statements
- Approval of Auditors
- Welcome and Recognition of Guests

Reception

Saturday Morning

9:00 - 10:35 a.m.

Opening Worship

- Finding God in My Neighbourhood: Stuart Murray/Alex Ellish

MCEC Discernment

- Minutes of 2015 Annual Church Gathering
- Executive Council Actions
- Introduction of Slate of Volunteers

MCEC Initiatives

- Ministry Transitions
- A New Approach to Congregational Resourcing
- Sacred Trust

10:35 a.m.

Break

11:00 - 12:15 p.m.

MCEC Discernment

- Future Directions Task Force - Part 1
- Spending Plan

Celebration of the MCEC Community of Congregations

- Welcome of Shalom Worship & Healing Centre - Emerging Church Membership
- Offering

12:15 p.m.

Lunch

Saturday Afternoon

1:20 - 5:00 p.m.

MCEC Initiatives

- Pastoral Resourcing
- Church Planting
- ReLearning Community
- Legacy Initiatives Fund Update

MCEC Discernment

- Future Directions Task Force - Part 2
- Approval of Spending Plan
- Approval of Slate
- An Overview of Understandings for Decision-Making
- Open Microphone

Stuart Murray



Stuart Murray spent 12 years as an urban church planter in Tower Hamlets (East London) and has continued to be involved in church planting since then as a trainer, mentor, writer, strategist, and consultant. For nine years he was Oasis Director of Church Planting and Evangelism at Spurgeon's College, London. In 1997 he founded Urban Expression, a pioneering urban mission agency with teams in several cities in the UK and in other countries.

Since September 2001, he has worked under the auspices of the Anabaptist Network as a trainer and consultant, with a particular interest in urban mission, church planting, and emerging forms of church. In 2014 he became the founding director of the Centre for Anabaptist Studies, based at Bristol Baptist College.

He has written several books on church planting, urban mission, emerging church, the challenge of post-Christendom, and the contribution of the Anabaptist tradition to contemporary missiology. Publications include *Post-Christendom: Church and Mission in a Strange New World* (2004), *Church after Christendom* (2005), *Planting Churches: A Framework for Practitioners* (2008), *The Naked Anabaptist* (2010), and *A Vast Minority* (2015).

He lives in Bristol, is married to Sian, who is a Baptist minister, and has two adult sons and two grandchildren.

Alex Ellish



South African by birth, Alexandra Ellish spent her teenage years in England, studied theology in Edinburgh and later Prague, where she was also ordained as a Baptist minister.

After six years of ministry in London's multicultural East End, Alex recently moved with her family to join an Urban Expression church-planting team in Harold Hill, an outer-city housing estate in East London. Alex helps to coordinate Urban Expression, and also works with the Mennonite Trust and Anabaptist Network as a development worker.

Alex's work is mainly concerned with engaging younger adults and activists interested in following Jesus in a peace-making tradition, and building closer relationships with organizations committed to non-violence, social justice, and peace. Alex is passionate about community organizing, multi-voiced worship, building friendship over beer and curry, feminism, and spiritual formation.

MCEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



Paul Wideman
Moderator

Community Mennonite
Fellowship



Brian Quan
Assistant Moderator

Toronto Chinese
Mennonite Church



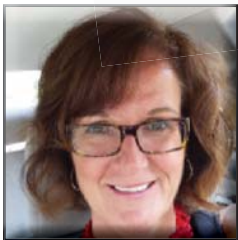
Shirley Redekop
Secretary

Floradale Mennonite Church



Lloyd Redekopp
Chair, Administrative & Financial
Services Council

Niagara United Mennonite Church



Eleanor Epp-Stobbe

Breslau Mennonite Church



Pieter Niemeyer

Rouge Valley Mennonite Church



Terry Keller

Nith Valley Mennonite Church



Sharon Lamont

First Mennonite Church



Sandy Shantz
served until November 2015

St. Jacobs
Mennonite Church



David Martin

MCEC Executive Minister
ex-officio

MINUTES - 2015 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING



MCEC's 28th Annual Church Gathering Minutes

Theme: Sharing Our Faith

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, 110 Doon Rd, Kitchener, ON

April 24 - 25, 2015

Friday, April 24, 2015 7:00 p.m.

1. **Welcome** - David Martin, Executive Minister, and Ann Schultz, Principal, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, welcomed everyone to MCEC's 28th Annual Church Gathering, hosted by the Kitchener-Waterloo Cluster. Ann expressed her appreciation, on behalf of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, for their partnership with MCEC, and for the bequest gift received from MCEC.

This event was live-streamed through MCEC's website. Attendees were invited to comment through-out the event on Twitter.

2. **Worship** - Rachel Brnjas and Jim Loepp Thiessen, worship leaders, introduced the theme and spoke about how they shared their faith. Rachel noted that, for her, sharing her faith comes more naturally in authentic relationships. Jim agreed that relationship was essential and sharing your faith with others can lead to a deeper connection with them. The audience viewed a video of people from The Gathering Church sharing their faith.
3. **Sharing Our Faith**
David Martin – David has experienced the presence of God throughout his life. He grew up in a context immersed in faith and with a sense of God's presence all around. There always seems to be something in his life that God is providing for, something that he is not expecting. Through these moments David has felt God's hand of support in a very concrete way, recognizing that God is active and present in our lives.
Catherine Gitzel – It was through other people sharing their faith that Catherine came to her own, but now she feels tongue-tied when people ask her to share her faith. For her, sharing comes through building relationships and allowing the faith conversations to develop more naturally. It is about sharing her faith not just through words but through actions. It is about authentically sharing your faith – building a relationship with someone to the point where faith is revealed naturally.
Fanosie Legesse – Fanosie learned about Jesus from a friend in school, but it was contradictory to what he grew up with. Three things his friend told him stuck with him: through Christ he is Christ's child, he has eternal life, and he has peace and love. Fanosie is in Canada speaking of peace while at the same time his brothers are being killed in countries like Libya by ISIS. The peace he received years ago allows him to pray for both his brothers and the terrorists.
4. **Reflecting on the Message** – Each table reflected on the following questions: *How and when do you share your faith? What makes sharing your faith easy/difficult? What would make sharing your faith easier? Why do we share our faith?*
5. **Milestone Recognition** – David highlighted milestones in MCEC congregations and ministry partners.
 - a. Congregational Anniversaries:
 - i. Bethany Mennonite Church - 50th anniversary
 - ii. Wellesley Mennonite Church - 40th anniversary

- iii. Community Mennonite Fellowship - 25th anniversary
 - iv. Church of the Living Word in Ottawa - 10th anniversary
 - v. The Gathering Church - 10th anniversary
- b. Memorial Book: Births, deaths, and baptisms from MCEC congregations for the past year were recorded in books found in the MCEC display area.
 - c. Staff Changes: Ester Neufeldt, Operations Minister, was recognized for her 27 years of ministry at MCEC. Ester is leaving MCEC effective June 2015. Sharon Brown was welcomed as Interim Coordinator of Leadership Formation.
 - d. Congregational Changes: Maranatha Evangelical Church withdrew from MCEC in 2014, responding to God's call to return to their former denomination.
 - e. Prayer of Blessing: David prayed a prayer of blessing on these significant achievements.
6. **2014/15 Financial Statements** - Eugene Reesor, Chair of Administrative and Financial Services Council, and Ester Neufeldt, Operations Minister, reviewed the 2014 - 2015 audited financial statements.

Eugene commended Ester and her team on their good work. Ester thanked congregations and donors for their financial gifts and noted the donors who left legacy gifts to MCEC. Donations from congregations were slightly higher than the year before, although there is a general decline over the past ten years. Ester shared snippets of MCEC ministry. The highlight was that as of 3:00 p.m. today (April 24) the properties at 4489 King Street East, Kitchener, ON were sold.

Eugene Reesor, on behalf of the Executive Council, made the following motion

MOTION – *On behalf of the Executive Council, I move that we accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2015 as printed. Seconded by David Tiessen, (Community MF). Motion carried.*

7. **Approval of Auditors** - Eugene, on behalf of the Administrative and Financial Services Council, moved
- MOTION** – *On behalf of the Administrative and Financial Services Council, I move that we appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditors for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2016. Seconded by Earl Martin (Zion MF). Motion carried.*

Eugene thanked delegates for their ongoing support and generosity and asked them to convey that gratitude to their congregations.

8. **Offering** - An offering was gathered as a response of gratitude for what God is doing through the church and as a token of commitment to common ministry as a community of congregations.
9. **Welcome of special guests** – A PowerPoint presentation of MCEC's partner agencies was played during the reception following the session.
10. **Closing Worship** – The Gathering Worship Team, along with Jim Loepp Thiessen and Rachel Brnjas, concluded with prayers and songs.

Adjourned – 9:13 p.m.

Saturday, April 25, 2015 9:00 a.m.

11. **Moderator's Welcome** - Paul Wideman, Moderator, welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the day's schedule and the theme of Sharing our Faith. Building on the goal of *extending the peace of Jesus Christ*, we want to ask today:
 - a. How do we experience God in our lives?
 - b. How is God continuing to shape your life?
 - c. How does that impact our faith and our ability to share our faith with others?
 - d. How can we encourage one another by sharing our faith?
12. **Opening Worship** – Stirling Avenue, Lao Canadian Evangelical, and Rockway Mennonite churches led opening worship.
13. **Introduction of Executive Council Members & Staff** - Paul Wideman
14. **Minutes of 2014 Annual Church Gathering** - Shirley Redekop, Executive Council Secretary, highlighted the minutes of the 2014 Annual Church Gathering and moved
MOTION – *On behalf of Executive Council, I move that we accept the minutes of the 27th annual meeting of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, held April 25 and 26, 2014. Seconded by Dave Tiessen (Community MF). Motion carried.*
15. **Review and Accept Executive Council Actions** – Shirley Redekop moved
MOTION – *On behalf of the Executive Council, I move that we approve all actions taken by the MCEC Executive Council for the year May 2014 to April 2015. Seconded by Craig Frere (Living Water). Motion carried.*
16. **Introduction of the Slate** – Chair of the Gift Discernment Committee, Lois Konrad, introduced the MCEC slate of volunteers and noted the changes that took place since the slate was printed in the discernment booklet.
 - a. **Executive Council**
17 – 2 – Lloyd Redekopp
 - b. **Administrative & Financial Services Council**
16 – 2 – Eugene Reesor
 - c. **Conrad Grebel University College Board**
18 – 1 – Jim Tiessen
18 – 1 – Paul Fieguth
17. **Lead, Equip, Disciple (LED) Talks – Sharing Our Faith** - The MCEC Leadership Team shared stories of faith from their ministry context.
Henry Paetkau shared that going to church gives meaning to his life and offers hope in this crazy world. He participates in changing the world to be the way that God meant it to be.
Brent Charette has met God through numerous *Emmaus Road* experiences. Being fully present with God and being fully present with another, listening to them deeply and fully, and learning who they are is realizing that Jesus is there and God is present.
Ester Neufeldt's commitment to faith and church was modeled to her each day by her parents: following Christ wherever you were. Ester's role at MCEC allowed her to use her gifts to serve the church.

Brian Bauman's conversations of faith and spirituality require him to be silent, to listen and reflect, and to notice that God is already having a conversation with the person across from him. It is Brian's job to listen to what God is saying to them.

Jeff Steckley quoted St. Francis, "*Share your faith, and if you need to, use words.*" This has guided how Jeff lives out his faith. Sharing faith is very contextual. Having faith is not knowing and being content with that; remaining curious and open rather than judgemental. God's love is always with us and among us.

Everyone was invited to respond in table conversations with the following questions: *What did you hear in these stories that encourages you? How would you (do you) tell your story of faith?* Conversations were recorded on paper and picked up at the end of the day.

18. **Spending Plan** – David Martin introduced the spending plan, and Ester Neufeldt gave a budget overview. We use our finances to share our faith stories.

Ester received a standing ovation in appreciation for her work over the past 27 years. Eugene Reesor declared, "Well done Ester, our good and faithful steward!" David presented a gift on behalf of Executive Council. Ester gave some words of thanks and reflection.

19. **LED Talks – Sharing Our Faith**

Joanne Loepp Thiessen – Sharing faith is hard in this society, especially in high school. We plant seeds of love in others by saying a simple phrase like "Jesus loves you so much. You are perfect in God's eyes."

Tim Wagler – Tim told two stories about sharing his faith. Tim learned how to listen to God when he was in Arizona and met a man who lived on the streets. They each shared their faith with each other and became friends. Tim urged everyone to act on the urges we feel as God nudges us into new experiences.

Hans Peters, on behalf of C.J. Barnett. "To me, my journey with God has been interesting and special. God has shown me that you cannot take things for granted. Life has been a mystery. I have never lost my faith but my mind wanders sometimes. My church is a blessing to me and has guided me on the right path." CJ has become part of the leadership team at Jane Finch Faith Community.

Everyone was invited to respond in table conversations with the following questions: *What did you hear in these faith stories that you might take back to your congregation so that you may encourage one another?* Conversations were recorded on paper and picked up at the end of the day.

Cyrille Fopoussi, Avon MC responded, on behalf of his table, that it is hard to be vulnerable even though there is something incredibly powerful in doing so. Be silent and listen. It opens us up to experience God. Sometimes we think that we are there to help when in reality the other person is helping us. We do not have all the answers. We all need help.

Lisa Carr-Pries, Waterloo North MC – Listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Everyone has the task of being an evangelist. Take the opportunities and just do it. Trust promptings even when you do not understand. Reflect at the end of day where we experienced God that day. Take risks. Parents need to trust that God "has the backs" of our children.

Sharon Dirks, Niagara United MC – God is everywhere and anytime. Allow ourselves to take time. Be flexible for a God moment. Being open we reverse the expectation. Step outside of our labels, such as being the pastors' child. Pay attention to the Holy Spirit – how do I share today?

Linda Brnjas, Regional Minister – It is okay to struggle with faith. Pastor Kassa (Rehoboth Evangelical Church) found himself deported from his country and discouraged in a shelter in Toronto. A woman recognized him as a pastor and the ministry God had called him to was able to be realized. God can do good with anything.

20. Welcome of Congregation into Full Membership – Bryce Kraeker, Assistant Moderator, described emerging and full status for MCEC congregations.

- a) Toronto Mennonite New Life Church has been with MCEC for 27 years. They have been full members in all ways, except there was no record at MCEC of full status membership for this congregation. To clarify our record-keeping and ensure the status that was already assumed, the Executive Council received the Toronto Mennonite New Life Church into full membership in recognition of the full membership they have shared with us for years. Maciel Arias Hernandez gave greetings from the church. Members of the congregation displayed signs of their gifts. Maciel emphasized that it is important when you recognize what God-given gift you have. They wrote a parable based on Matthew 44. Through the parable, they shared their history.
- b) Brian Bauman, Mission Minister, briefly introduced Chin Christian Church from Kitchener, ON. The Chin people began to arrive in Kitchener in 2003. In 2004 they gathered together for fellowship and Bible study. The First Hmong Mennonite Church introduced them to Anabaptist theology and they began their relationship with MCEC in 2009. There are 13 Chin congregations in North America who have joined the Mennonite family because of this congregation.

Paul Wideman and Jason Martin, Mennonite Church Canada, gave tokens of their full membership. When congregations join MCEC, they also join Mennonite Church Canada.

Pastor Ching Jehu Lian of Chin Christian Church prayed a blessing for MCEC.

21. Offering – Offering was collected as a response of gratitude for what God was doing through the church and especially for new member congregations. The Rockway Concert Combo performed.

22. Pastoral Transitions and Pastoral Resourcing- Henry Paetkau, Area Church Minister, introduced pastors who were new to MCEC in the past year and led in a prayer of dedication for them. He acknowledged the pastoral transitions in MCEC and ordination milestones listed in the Discernment Documents. Henry P. Epp celebrated 65 years in ministry and was unfortunately missed in the book. Henry presented an update on continuing education opportunities.

23. Bequest and Strategic Plan Update – David Martin gave an update on the Legacy Initiatives Fund.

Approved Legacy Fund projects and new initiatives:

- Rockway Mennonite Collegiate and UMEI Christian High School received \$300,000 collectively for faith-based education.
- ReLearning Community will hold an introductory workshop on June 6, 2015.
- Leadership training for under-resourced young adult leaders.
- theExchange interactive website shares ideas and resources across congregations.
- Anabaptist Learning Workshop, a non-academic program developed in partnership with Conrad Grebel for leaders who are new to Canada, pastors, and lay-leaders. Funds from the Lebold Fundraising Banquet in June will support this initiative.
- Urban Anabaptist exchanges.

- A grant to Mennonite World Conference so new congregational leaders can attend the assembly in the United States this summer.
- Go & Grow Fund for congregational new initiatives to connect with their communities.
- Next Steps: use these dollars to make MCEC more relevant today.

Everyone was invited to respond in table conversations with the following questions: *The Strategic Plan and Legacy Initiative Fund are intended to equip our congregations in their ministry and adapting to the new challenges the Church is facing. What do you affirm? What wisdom would you like to share?* Conversations were recorded on paper and picked up at the end of the day.

The following people commented on behalf of their tables:

Ingrid Loepp Thiessen, The Gathering Church, affirmed the support of emerging congregations and the emphasis on new projects, congregations working together, reaching out to communities of first generation Canadians and seeking greater emphasis on the needs of youth.

Fred Redekop, Floradale MC, liked the intentionality of extending the peace of Jesus Christ, new programming and not going back to the old. Spending the money is good; do not sit on our talents. Keep fulfilling the good and faithful servant nature of our community.

Carl Bender, Crosshill MC – Keep building on exciting programs. Make them sustainable. Do yearly reviews.

Craig Frere, Living Water, affirmed that this was laid out according to MCEC priorities. This table affirmed the tithe and longer term strategies.

Upcoming Dates: Sports, Faith and Leadership program is not directly funded by the legacy funds. Three events are scheduled in May to discuss issues around sports and faith. *Skylight* is an arts and faith festival event over the August long weekend at the Paris Fair Grounds.

24. **Future Directions Task Force** - Paul Wideman highlighted the partner relationship between MCEC as an area church and Mennonite Church Canada as the national church. As our national church body, MC Canada is one of our primary ministry partners. Terry Keller and Rebecca Steiner are MCEC representatives on the Task Force. Aldred Neufeldt, Chair of the Future Directions Task Force, briefly introduced their work. The Task Force prepared a document called *God, Mission and a People* available from MC Canada. We spent 20 minutes in conversation in response to these questions.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of each model in terms of:

Supporting your congregation's mission?

Fostering collaboration across Canada for joint programming and mission?

Fostering unity among us as a unique part of the larger people of God?

What other counsel might you have for us as the Future Directions Task Force?

Everyone was invited to respond in table conversations with the following questions: *As you reflect on these questions, I think the key question is, 'How have you as congregations experienced resourcing by the wider Church and which of these models can most effectively resource congregations for ministry in the future?'* Conversations were recorded on paper and picked up at the end of the day.

A sampling of comments were read

John Rempel, Waterloo North MC – The downside of the first model was there is already a sense of feeling disconnected. In the second model, the autonomy is a strength.

Tobi Thiessen, Toronto United MC – The regional connections are very important. Her table leaned towards model B. There is a lot of value in staying close to the grass roots.

Dmitri Faludy, Jane Finch Faith Community – There is a lot of benefit to connection with the local church.

25. **Partner Updates** - Jason Martin reported a strong finish to Mennonite Church Canada's year end. They finished the year without a deficit. He introduced their mission partners.

26. **Executive Council Business**

- a. Property Update
- i. 74 Firvalley/Warden Woods update – Bryce Kraeker commented on the legal dispute brought by Warden Woods Community Centre (WWCC) against MCEC. Representatives from both boards have been in dialogue, without lawyers, since last August and it is hoped that a solution will be found soon. If parties do not reach an agreement, there will be a trial later in the year. Both boards are working towards avoiding this. MCEC is seeking to have a Mennonite presence at WWCC with a new church plant.
- b. Approval of Spending Plan - Eugene Reesor, Chair of Administrative and Financial Services Council, stated that budgeted givings are down \$100,000. Funds of \$300,000 were needed from reserves to balance the budget. Eugene encouraged church leaders to assess their donations to MCEC. Eugene made the following motion

MOTION – *On behalf of the Executive Council, I move that we accept the 2015/2016 spending plan as printed on pages 19 to 25 in the Discernment Documents. Seconded by Norm Dyck (Listowel MC). Motion carried.*

Miriam Reesor, Hagerman MC, asked if MCEC considers decreasing expenses alongside increasing revenue. Eugene replied that MCEC is always doing that.

Dave Tiessen, Community MF, encouraged MCEC to nurture relationships with church treasurers. Perhaps AFSC could develop a relationship with them by calling.

Cyrille Fopoussi, Avon MC - If we are trying to accomplish God's mission, it is not a matter of doing less, but doing what God is calling us to do. Cutting is avoiding the issues.

- c. **Approval of Slate** - Lois Konrad, Chair of Gift Discernment Committee, reported updates to the slate.
- i. **Executive Council**
- 18-1 – Eleanor Epp-Stobbe, Breslau Mennonite
- She asked delegates to keep the Gift Discernment Committee in their prayers as they seek to fill vacant positions. Lois Konrad made the following motion

MOTION – *"On behalf of the Gift Discernment Committee, I move that we accept the 2015 - 2016 Slate as amended." Seconded by Paul Wideman (Community MF). Motion carried.*

27. **LED Talks – Sharing Our Faith**

Maciel Aries Hernandez is a nurse at St. Clair O'Connor and attends Toronto Mennonite New Life Church. Faith is not a one-time deal; it is a constant experience throughout the different phases in our lifetime. Maciel shared about how she was led to the Mennonite church as various Mennonite organizations stepped in to prevent her deportation.

Joel Warkentin is a Religious Studies, English, Geography, and Hospitality & Tourism teacher at UMEI Christian High School and attends Leamington United Mennonite Church. Most of his life has been spent in the Mennonite world; he lives, works and worships in a Mennonite environment. UMEI has many students who do not claim a faith. Joel's goal is to help students become active critical-thinkers who can own their faith.

Bernard Sejour is an ordained minister, attends Ottawa Mennonite Church and is working with MCEC as a catalyzer in the Ottawa area. The name Bernard means brave but he does not think he is brave at all. He shared a time when he started to wonder, "Who am I?" People kept telling Bernard that he looked like a pastor or a priest, which he initially rejected. Attending a Mennonite church in Kansas he began to feel loved by the people there which gave him the confidence to go forward with his faith.

Everyone was invited to respond in table conversations with the following question: *What has worked for you when sharing your faith?* Conversations were recorded on paper and picked up at the end of the day.

28. Moderator's Closing Comments

- a) There was unscheduled prayer for Jane Finch Faith Community who received news of a fire on the fourth floor of 15 Tobermory, Toronto, ON.
- b) Paul Wideman thanked Sandy Shantz for her role as Moderator - she is continuing as a member of Executive Council, Bryce Kraeker for his role as Assistant Moderator and for his six years on Executive Council, Eugene Reesor for his term on Executive Council and his role as Chair of Administrative & Financial Services Council, and Earl Martin for his term on Administrative & Financial Service Council. All received a token of appreciation from MCEC.
- c) Paul thanked the planning committee and the churches of the K-W Cluster for their hosting and hospitality, spiritual directors, and all the volunteers who assisted.
- d) It was announced that the 2016 Annual Church Gathering will be held in Leamington, ON.
- e) Everyone was asked to complete the evaluation form which they will be sent electronically.

29. Closing Worship

- a) Staff, volunteers, and delegates were commissioned for the work ahead.
- b) Sending song and blessing

Adjourned: 4:40 pm

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS

MAY 2015 - MARCH 2016

May 19, 2015

- Approved the Executive Council minutes of March 24, 2015.
- Authorized signing authority for day-to-day operations of MCEC that bind the corporation in terms of cheque signing and contracts to the Executive Council Secretary, Executive Minister, Operations and Church Engagement Minister, and the Financial Manager effective June 19, 2015.
- Authorized the Operations Minister (until June 19, 2015), Executive Minister, Operations & Church Engagement Minister, Moderator, Terry Keller, and Eleanor Epp-Stobbe to have signing authority on behalf of the MCEC Executive Council for the sale of properties inherited from the Schmidt Estate.

June 25, 2015

- Approved the Executive Council minutes of May 19, 2015.
- Approved a Legacy Initiatives Fund grant of \$330,000 over three years to support the leadership and faith formation ministries of Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp and Retreat Centre, Ontario Mennonite Music Camp, Silver Lake Mennonite Camp, and Willowgrove Day Camp. This grant is in addition to the money the camps receive from MCEC's annual budget.
- Approved the transfer, at the nominal cost of one dollar (\$1), of the land and all assets related to the Blenheim Cemetery, located at 967244 Oxford-Waterloo Road, Washington, ON, including the Trust Fund (Mennonite Savings and Credit Union Acct. #1406016) and the Operating Fund (MSCU Acct. #4012472) to Blenheim Ecumenical House Church Trustees.
- Approved the transfer, at the nominal cost of one dollar (\$1), of the land and all assets related to the Reesor Cemetery and Memorial Gardens, located in the Municipality of Mattice-Val Côté, ON, including the Trust Fund (MSCU Acct. #1409218) and the Operating Fund (MSCU Acct. #4012480) to the Municipality of Mattice-Val Côté.

- Authorized the Executive Minister, Financial Manager, and Operations & Church Engagement Minister to enact all the necessary transactions required to transfer ownership of the above named cemeteries.

August 19, 2015

- Approved the Executive Council minutes of June 25, 2015.
- Clarified that the action taken at its February 24, 2015 meeting to strike a task group to address a sexual misconduct complaint an adaptation as per MCEC policy.
- Endorsed one final attempt to resolve the legal dispute over 74 Firvalley with Warden Woods Community Centre and expects this process to be completed prior to the next court date extension.

September 22, 2015

- Approved the Executive Council minutes of August 19, 2015.

November 24, 2015

- Approved the Executive Council minutes of September 22, 2015.
- Affirmed in principle the motion passed by the Mennonite Church Canada General Board that took action on a recommendation from Area Church leaders to adopt the *Future Directions Task Force Report*.
- Approved the strategy of holding a vendor take-back mortgage when selling development properties held by the Schmidt Estate.
- Approved the strategy of transferring properties from the Schmidt Estate to the beneficiaries (MCEC and Shantz Mennonite Church) for those properties for which additional value would be achieved.
- Affirmed the recommendation to maximize investment opportunities for MCEC funds and instructed MCEC staff to use their best judgment in maximizing investment yields for those funds by depositing them in secured investment vehicles with Mennonite Savings and Credit Union or Mennonite Foundation Canada.

MCEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS

MAY 2015 - APRIL 2016

- Approved the nomination of Jeff Taylor for a second term on Gift Discernment, serving now as Chair.
- Appointed Paul Wideman, David Martin, and Bryce Kraeker to represent MCEC in mediation proceedings with Warden Woods Community Centre (WWCC) re: the legal dispute over the ownership of 74 Firvalley Court.

Given the limited funds available to WWCC, the Executive approved MCEC covering the costs of both mediation exercises. MCEC will cover WWCC's cost of the court-appointed mediation up to \$5,000.

December 15, 2015

- Approved the Executive Council minutes of November 24, 2015.

January 19, 2016

- Approved the Executive Council Minutes of December 15, 2015.
- Affirmed Mission Council's recommendation for emerging church status for Shalom Worship & Healing Centre.
- Strongly affirmed the proposed resolution as laid out in the letter from MCEC legal counsel, dated January 15, 2016, to legal counsel of Warden Woods Community Centre (WWCC), with additional amendments related to city of Toronto lease, potential merger of WWCC with another organization, and amending use of MCEC affiliates including daytime use.
- Supported in principle the congregational coaching project, *Going Local*, proposed by Steve Drudge and Kara Carter.

February 23, 2016

- Approved the Executive Council Minutes of January 19, 2016.
- Affirmed retaining a trust law lawyer to write an opinion on the transfer of ownership in trust to Warden Woods Community Centre (WWCC) as it was outlined during mediation with WWCC.
- Appointed Carol Penner, member of St. Catharines United Mennonite and former Gift Discernment Chair, to the Gift Discernment Committee.
- Supported the motion to be a co-sponsor of the resolution to the Mennonite Church Canada July 2016 Assembly to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.
- Approved the proposal submitted by Pastors in Exile (PiE) with a Legacy Fund grant of \$75,000 over five years.
- Approved a Legacy Fund grant of \$70,000 for the *Going Local Project*.
- Approved a Future Directions Task Force resolution for the Annual Church Gathering. (*Resolution on page 31 of these Discernment Documents.*)
- Approved Administrative and Financial Services Council's recommendation to transfer \$65,000 from the Faithful Steward Fund (above the usual 15% draw) in order to cover extraordinary expenses in fiscal year 2016.

MCEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS

MAY 2015 - APRIL 2016

March 22, 2016

(Draft - not yet approved by council)

- Approved the Executive Council Minutes of February 23, 2016.
- Adopted the Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year End 2016 as printed for delegate approval at the 2016 Annual Church Gathering.
- Approved Administrative and Financial Services Council's recommendation to transfer all assets from the Third Century Fund to the Mission Bequests and Donations Fund.
- Adopted the 2017 Spending Plan for delegate approval at the 2016 Annual Church Gathering.

SLATE OF VOLUNTEERS



MCEC Slate 2016-2017

MCEC COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Executive Council

17-2	Pieter Niemeyer		Rouge Valley
17-2	Terry Keller		Nith Valley
17-2	Lloyd Redekopp	AFSC Chair	Niagara
18-1	Brian Quan	Assistant Moderator	Toronto Chinese
18-1	Eleanor Epp-Stobbe		Breslau
19-1	Paul Wideman	Moderator	Community, Drayton
19-1	_____		
19-1	_____		
19-2	Sharon Lamont		First
	<i>David Martin, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister</i>		

Administrative and Financial Services Council

17-2	Lloyd Redekopp	Chair	Niagara
18-0	Robert Thiessen		Toronto
18-1	Shari Nash		Shantz
18-1	Joyce Collard		Erb Street
19-1	Brian Koop		Vineland
19-1	_____		
19-2	Linda Van Bergen	Vice-Chair	Bethany
	<i>Brent Charette, Ex-officio, MCEC Operations and Church Engagement Minister</i>		
	<i>David Martin, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister</i>		

Leadership Council

17-1	Jessica Reesor Rempel		Stirling Avenue
17-2	Steve Cox		Niagara
18-2	Myrna Miller Dyck	Chair	Steinmann
18-2	Claire Osinkosky		Preston
19-1	Louise Wideman		Vineland
19-1	Kevin Derksen		St Jacobs
19-1	Richard Ratzlaff		Toronto
	<i>Henry Paetkau, Ex-officio, MCEC Area Church Minister</i>		

Mission Council

17-1	Chung Vang		First Hmong
17-1	Tim Wagler		Living Water
18-2	Craig Frere		Living Water
18-2	Jim Jantzi		Avon
18-2	Fanosie Legesse		Zion
19-1	_____		
19-2	Norm Dyck	Chair	Listowel
	<i>Brian Bauman, Ex-officio, MCEC Mission Minister</i>		

Congregational Ministries Council – In Transition



MCEC Slate 2016-2017

Gift Discernment

Appointed by Executive Council, Accountable to Executive Council

17-2	Lois Konrad		Leamington
17-2	Mary Anne Neufeld		The First
19-1	Jeff Taylor	Chair	Toronto
19-1	Carol Penner		St Catharines
19-1	<hr/>		
	<i>David Martin, Ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister</i>		

MCEC REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Board of Directors of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

Term begins in November

17-2	David Carr-Pries	Waterloo North
18-1	Dennis Gingrich	Breslau
19-2	Mark Diller Harder	St Jacobs

Canadian Mennonite University Council

17-3	Don Neufeld	Bethany
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Conrad Grebel University College Board

17-0	James Barber	Hagerman
17-0	<hr/>	
17-1	Carol Ringer	Danforth
18-1	Jim Tiessen	Hamilton
18-1	Paul Fieguth	The Gathering
18-2	Victor Winter	Leamington
19-1	Max Kennel	Rainham
19-1	Cate Falconer	Hagerman
19-2	Steve Manske	Stirling Avenue

Detweiler Meeting House Board of Directors

17-0	Laverne Martin	St Jacobs
19-2	Doug Roeder	Calvary Ayr

Mennonite Central Committee Ontario

17-2	Tim Wichert	The First
18-1	Lynn Rempel	Waterloo North
19-1	Ken Ogasawara	Shantz
19-2	Luke Jantzi	Hawkesville

SLATE OF VOLUNTEERS



MCEC Slate 2016-2017

Mennonite Church Canada Assembly Delegates

	Paul Wideman	MCEC Moderator/Designate	Community, Drayton
	David Martin	MCEC Executive Minister	
	Brent Charette	MCEC Staff	
16-1	Randell Neudorf		The Commons
16-1	Cameron Kaufman-Frey		Community, Stouffville
16-1	Emily Rempel		East Zorra
16-1	Anneli Loepp Thiessen		The Gathering
16-1	Steve Drudge		Steinmann
16-1			
16-2	Kevin Derksen		St Jacobs
16-2	Don Neufeld		Bethany
16-2	Ryan Jantzi		Kingsfield-Zurich

Mennonite Church Canada General Board MCEC Executive Council Member Appointee

Paul Wideman	MCEC Moderator	Community, Drayton
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Mennonite Church Canada Nominating Committee Appointee

17-1 Marilyn Zehr	Toronto
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Mennonite Publishing Service Board

19-3 Tim Reimer	Danforth
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Ontario Mennonite Music Camp

17-1 Carolyn Strathdee	Breslau
18-0 Elizabeth Loewen-Andrews	Toronto
19-1 Brandon Leis	Stirling Avenue

Ontario Multi-Faith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care

17-1 Susan Kennel Harrison	Windsor
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Silver Lake Mennonite Camp Board

19-1 Wendy Janzen	St Jacobs
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United Mennonite Educational Institute Board

Term begins in November

19-2 Jennifer Driedger	Leamington
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Ministry Transitions 2015-2016

Ordained

Steve Brnjas	Zion Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
Kara Carter	Wellesley Mennonite Church	Minister
Ben Cassels	Waterloo North Mennonite Church	Minister
Alicia Good ◇	North Leamington United Mennonite Church	Minister
Chris Hutton *	The First Mennonite Church	Minister
Hans Peters	Jane Finch Faith Community	Minister
Tanya Dyck Steinmann	East Zorra Mennonite Church	Minister

Licensed Toward Ordination

Sarah Freeman	Elmira Mennonite Church	Minister
Fanosie Legesse ◇	Zion Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
Diane Pinnell ◇	Bethany Mennonite Church	Minister
Anthony Siegrist ◇	Ottawa Mennonite Church	Minister

Licensed For Specific Ministry

Marlow Gingerich	East Zorra Mennonite Church / Mennonite Foundation of Canada	Consultant
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Placements

Doug Amstutz	Riverdale Mennonite Church	Intentional Interim Minister
Steve Brnjas	Poole Mennonite Church	Intentional Interim Minister
John Docherty	Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal	Minister
Ken Driedger	Wideman Mennonite Church	Interim Supply Minister
Paul Dyck	Hawkesville Mennonite Church	Minister
Eleanor Epp-Stobbe	Breslau Mennonite Church	Minister
Sara Erb ◇	Breslau Mennonite Church	Associate Minister
Jessica Falk	Bethany Mennonite Church	Co-youth Worker
Katie Gerber	Floradale Mennonite Church	Youth Worker
Lora Gerber	Crosshill Mennonite Church	Children's Worker
Jim Horsthuis	St. Catharines Mennonite Church	Interim Supply Minister
Chris Hutton ◇	The First Mennonite Church	Minister
Angela Ishaka	Floradale Mennonite Church	Music Ministry Worker
Max Kennel	Rainham Mennonite Church	Interim Supply Minister
Susan Kennel Harrison	Windsor Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
Clare Lebold	The Gathering Church	Interim Minister
Fanosie Legesse ◇	Zion Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
Jim Loepp Thiessen	North Leamington United Mennonite Church	Intentional Interim Minister
Nancy Mann	Floradale Mennonite Church	Associate Minister
Jordan Moffatt	Bethany Mennonite Church	Co-youth Worker
Diane Pinnell ◇	Bethany Mennonite Church	Associate Minister
Doug Schulz	Grace Mennonite Church	Outreach Worker
Anthony Siegrist ◇	Ottawa Mennonite Church	Minister
Tom Warner	Erie View Mennonite Church	Minister
Jim Whitehead	Community Mennonite Fellowship	Interim Supply Minister
Ryan Jantzi	Kingsfield-Zurich Mennonite Church	Minister

* Ordination credentials received

◇ Participants in the Transitioning into Ministry (TIM) Program

Concluding Assignments

Doug Amstutz	Rainham Mennonite Church	Interim Supply Minister
Phil Bender	The First Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Steve Brnjas	Zion Mennonite Fellowship	Intentional Interim Minister
Jim Brown	Riverdale Mennonite Church	Minister
Carmen Brubacher	Ottawa Mennonite Church	Interim Supply Minister
John Docherty	Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal	Interim Minister
Paul Dyck	Poole Mennonite Church	Minister
Eleanor Epp-Stobbe	Breslau Mennonite Church	Interim Supply Minister
Sara Erb	First Mennonite Church (Kitchener)	Interim Supply Minister
Angelika Guenther Correa	Windsor Mennonite Fellowship	Associate Minister
Gary Harder	Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal	Interim Minister
Lydia Harder	Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal	Interim Minister
Philip Klassen	Bethany Mennonite Church	Youth Worker
Jim Loepp Thiessen	The Gathering Church	Minister
Scott Mabee	Erie View Mennonite Church	Minister
Ester Neufeldt	Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Specialized Minister
Kevin Quesnel	Calvary Mennonite Church (Monteville)	Minister
Doug Schulz	St. Catharines United Mennonite Church	Minister
Jonathan Slater	Markham Area Youth	Youth Minister
Jeff Steckley	Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Specialized Minister
Craig Stephens	The Gathering Church	Youth Worker
Stacey Weber	Milverton Mennonite Fellowship	Youth Pastor
Kendra Whitfield Ellis	Floradale Mennonite Church	Associate Minister
Bruce Wiebe	North Leamington United Mennonite Church	Minister
Erv Wiens	Hawkesville Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Ryan Jantzi	Kingsfield-Clinton Mennonite Church	Minister

Deaths

Sam Shantz	Retired MCEC Minister	Dec 7, 2015
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Ordination Milestones

65 years	25 years
Henry P. Epp	Nancy Brubaker Bauman
	Mark Hurst
60 years	Mary Hurst
Gordon Bauman	Fred Lichti
Herbert Schultz	Ray Martin
	Arnold Neufeldt-Fast
55 years	Ann Weber Becker
Gerald Schwartzentruber	
	10 years
50 years	Phyllis Kramer
Laurence Martin	Kevin Peters Unrau
Milton Schwartzentruber	
40 years	
Clayton Kuepfer	
Brian Laverty	

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

From Frederick Buechner’s book *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC* (New York: Harper and Row, 1974), page 95

Jessica Falk, Co-Youth Worker - Bethany Mennonite Church



I believe that God has called me into ministry to relate with children and grow in my own faith. Throughout 2015 I was constantly inspired to find God in my daily life. I have tried to pass this on to the children in my youth group. Two songs that have been very inspirational and grounding for me are: *Holy Spirit You are Welcome Here* by Francesca Battistelli and *Nothing’s Holding Me Back* by Brian Towalt. My desire is to feel God in every aspect of my life.

Lora Gerber, Children’s Worker - Crosshill Mennonite Church



I believe that by taking this position of children’s ministry leader, God has called me to the place where I need to be. The Bible is repetitious in telling us the high value of children, and how God uses them to help adults understand spiritual truth. By leading and teaching them, I too am gaining a greater knowledge of God’s presence each and every day. My reward is knowing that I am doing what God Himself instructed the disciples to do. (“Let the little children come.” Mark 10:14) Truly, this is the greatest blessing of all. To see their light shine and know, that in time, my goal is being met.

Katie Gerber, Youth Worker - Floradale Mennonite Church



Through expressing my heart and passion, I have been able to work at blessing a beautiful group of youth at Floradale Mennonite. But as much as I have worked at blessing them, they have blessed me, such an elegant exchange!

Jim Horsthuis, Interim Minister - St. Catharines United Mennonite Church



My deep gladness is to serve ministering persons, helping them to discover the immensity of God’s love, the freeing contours of Christ’s grace, and the unique place the Holy Spirit is guiding them to fill in the community of faith. The world’s deep hunger is to be accepted as we are, but lead into God’s transforming vision. So I endeavour to participate by the Spirit in Christ’s on-going ministry in the church and world according to the Father’s will.

Chris Hutton, Minister - The First Mennonite Church



Many people in the Vineland-Niagara region are looking for hope and an understanding of what God thinks about them, if He even exists. Life is simply the working out of that conversation and that includes everything that takes place, including the highs and the lows. I’m looking forward to many opportunities to walk with people and live life together through that conversation.

Angela Ishaka, Music Ministry Worker at Floradale Mennonite Church



It gives me great joy to respond to spiritual hunger in my role as minister of music and worship when I know that I have met a need in someone by bringing them closer to God through music and/or worship. What a privilege to do what I love and have the capacity to help others at the same time!

MINISTERS NEW TO MCEC

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

From Frederick Buechner's book *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC* (New York: Harper and Row, 1974), page 95

Susan Kennel Harrison, Minister - Windsor Mennonite Fellowship



Practicing the presence of God is the concept that shapes what it means for me to be in ministry. I continue to resonate with the vision that God calls us to be communities of grace, joy, and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world. Being in ministry is a beautiful risk; that sometimes means finding myself staring at the depth of human brokenness as well as times of being awed by the profound transformation into abundant life that God invites us to participate in.

Clare Lebold, Interim Minister - The Gathering Church



God's call to ministry has changed little for me from an educational role to a pastoral role. I see His call as such that all of the "whatever's you do" (Colossians. 3:17) are done in the name of Jesus with thanks to God. Clothed in compassion, embraced in love, we touch a hurting world and find His peace.

Fanosie Legesse, Minister - Zion Mennonite Fellowship



I am rejoicing in the Lord and am excited to join the seasoned pastors of MCEC in proclaiming the good news of salvation in Christ as we serve Him by extending His peace, love and reconciliation to those who need it the most. Indeed, I praise the Lord who builds us up to Christ's own likeness as we take every opportunity to nurture one another through the word of God and the gifts of ministry He has bestowed upon us.

Jordan Moffat, Co-Youth Worker - Bethany Mennonite Church



Diane Pinnell, Associate Minister of Connections and Pastoral Care - Bethany Mennonite Church



I believe that the world's deep hunger can only be fully satisfied through a growing, intimate, relationship with a real and personal God. As a pastor, my greatest joy is to be able to share my experience of God with others and invite them to experience the same.

Anthony Siegrist, Lead Minister - Ottawa Mennonite Church



Buechner's sentimental definition of God's call is terribly out of touch with Scripture and with the lives of most people. Thankfully so, what could be more discouraging than thinking that we have to satisfy the world's deep hunger? I'm grateful that God is the one who worries about such things, and that as a minister I just have to bear witness to this fact.

Tom Warner, Minister - Erie View Mennonite Church



As a youth, I felt a heart's desire to care for people. I had thought of being a doctor, but people's spiritual life was more interesting. For me, being a pastor is caring for the soul of people like a doctor cares for the body. Pastoring gives me joy and fulfillment at the same time.

A NEW APPROACH TO CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING

MCEC has spent time over the past several years listening to what congregations are experiencing and the challenges that they face in adapting to a rapidly changing social context and an increasing secular society. In its listening to congregations, MCEC has heard a call for fresh resources to help congregations sharpen their sense of mission, adapt to changing circumstances, and become more confident in engaging with their neighbours and local communities.

In order for our congregations to adapt and thrive in a changing world, MCEC is committed to continue walking alongside congregations in the role of resource broker and catalyst. MCEC began this shift with the 2005 restructuring and more recently in significant initiatives like ReLearning Community. As we continue on this journey, MCEC believes that the congregation will benefit from helping their members to use the gifts and resources that God has given them in order to engage their neighbour and community with the transforming love of God. A more intentional extending of the peace of Jesus Christ has the potential to turn us from being onlookers into being a sent people. To move in this direction will require a new set of skills and resources for ministry.

Historically, MCEC has connected congregations to a wide range of resources for their ministry – likely more than many are aware. MCEC, however, is in the process of expanding that range of resources. The wide diversity among congregations calls for an approach from MCEC that looks for new ways to grow and strengthen congregations that are suited to their unique calling, their needs for resources, and their ways of being a body of Christ. The role of MCEC is to creatively support the changing needs of our congregations in these rapidly changing times.

MCEC is experimenting with a new approach that will support congregations in assessing their current situation and help them connect to the resources that they need by:

- Networking congregations with ministry partners for the creation and provision of resources, training, and partnering for congregational ministry initiatives.
- Communicating the many opportunities available for how congregations might connect with those opportunities.
- Directly walking alongside congregations who are interested in pursuing a journey of congregational development and renewal through a relationship with a Regional Minister or other service provider. This renewal journey would include listening to congregations as they discern how God is calling them to respond to their ministry context and encouraging them as they connect to resources that will help them walk an exciting new path of renewal and discovery.

MCEC is developing new resources to support the new approach to congregational resourcing:

- MCEC is in the process of commissioning a new congregational reflection tool specifically designed for Mennonite congregations that will help congregations to discern and embrace next steps on their journey of congregational vitality. This reflection tool is currently in the process of design and development.
- Customized workshops conducted onsite in congregations that address specific needs that are identified as they arise out of the congregation's listening, reflection, and ministry experience.

A NEW APPROACH TO CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING

- Where helpful and desired, congregations may invite a coaching relationship with MCEC staff or another ministry partner who will walk with them on this journey of discovery and congregational renewal.

This new approach to serving MCEC congregations will reflect the vision, priorities, and strategies of our MCEC mission statement, while at the same time responding to the individual discernment of congregations. MCEC values your feedback, wisdom, and discernment so that together we can listen to the voice of the Spirit and take steps that will keep our congregations strong, healthy, and relevant. In particular, please be alert for new resources as they become available. If approached, please also consider an invitation to become a part of a pilot project. We need your congregation's experience and wisdom as we test some of these new ways of resourcing congregational ministry and mission so that in the future we can all benefit.

Please remember to pray for these new initiatives. As we partner together to join with where God is at work in the world, we want to be both faithful and bold in our call to extend the peace of Jesus Christ.

David Martin
Executive Minister

As a community of congregations, everyone in MCEC has a duty to ensure that our congregations are safe spaces so that persons of all ages can freely enjoy the many gifts and opportunities of our faith communities. Protecting persons from sexual harassment and abuse is everyone's responsibility.

Sexual misconduct by church leaders is a topic most people want to avoid. Unfortunately, the church is not immune, abuse does occur, and the effects can be devastating. It is a topic we need to talk about in our congregations. When sexual misconduct occurs (that is, uninvited sexual engagement of any kind by a church leader), the church takes this very seriously. At no time, can we as a church cover-up or ignore sexual abuse or even the risk of sexual abuse.

As the MCEC community of congregations, we need to create an environment that is as highly "abuse proof" as possible. As congregations, we must do everything we can to ensure that our congregational environments, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, are as immune as possible to the potential for abuse. Every congregation needs to have its own Safe Spaces policy that is rigorously implemented and frequently reviewed and updated. Creating a culture where sexual harassment and abuse are not tolerated and ongoing education equips both young and old to be resistant to abuse attempts should be a priority of every MCEC congregation. Zero tolerance for abuse by church leaders needs to be the standard for the church, however, zero tolerance for abuse must also become the standard for every relationship in the faith community.

In addition, the church needs to foster an environment that is as "victim friendly" as possible. Despite our best attempts, abuse can still occur. When it does, victims deserve to be heard and the harm must be acknowledged. If ongoing, it must be stopped immediately. When persons have experienced sexual misconduct, they need to be heard and offered support to move beyond the pain to a place of restoration and healing. It is vitally important that the church creates an environment that is safe for victims of abuse to tell their story, where victim confidentiality is respected, and where victims are encouraged to seek support and generously receive compassion and care from the faith community.

In the past few years, MCEC has unfortunately dealt with several incidents of sexual abuse by ministerial leaders. Whenever MCEC is informed of a suspicion or incident of abuse the concern is taken seriously. Allegations of abuse are investigated according to MCEC's ministerial misconduct policy and appropriate discipline is enforced. If MCEC is informed of an allegation of abuse by a non-credentialed church leader, MCEC does not investigate directly but provides support and guidance for the appropriate congregational leaders so that they can conduct their own investigation. MCEC funds an interdenominational resource group called the Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Resource Response Team (SMARRT), which is available to MCEC and to congregations to assist with investigations and provide guidance for follow-up in the congregation. SMARRT also offers preventive education on sexual abuse.

In response to the above concerns, MCEC has taken additional steps to help congregations become safer communities that are more immune to sexual harassment and abuse.

- In September 2015 MCEC launched a series of web pages entitled, *Reporting Sexual Misconduct by Church Leaders*. This web resource can be accessed on the MCEC homepage (mcec.ca) and provides an overview of what constitutes sexual misconduct, describes how MCEC responds to sexual misconduct, and offers a mechanism to report misconduct.

SACRED TRUST

FOSTERING SAFE SPACE IN CONGREGATIONS

- In January 2016 MCEC added an educational feature to the website entitled *Sacred Trust – Fostering Safe Space in Congregations*. Carol Penner, former MCEC pastor, has been commissioned to write a series of educational stories that help us to understand the nature of sexual misconduct. These will continue to be released online throughout the year and it is MCEC's intent to publish them in print at some point in the future. Congregations are encouraged to promote these resources and to use them for Sunday School material for youth and adults.
- MCEC has also promoted the SMARRT curriculum, *Circles of Grace*, which gives children and teens concepts and language to enable them to feel safe in their various environments (linked from mcec.ca/sacredtrust). MCEC encourages every congregation to include this resource in their congregational strategy to prevent sexual harassment and abuse. SMARRT has a promotional video to help acquaint leaders with this material.
- MCEC has also adopted a therapeutic counselling policy to support persons who have experienced misconduct by a credentialed leader. Persons who are victims of ministerial sexual misconduct can confidentially request support for counselling by contacting SMARRT or the MCEC Area Church Minister.

What else does MCEC do to prevent sexual misconduct?

- All MCEC ministers sign a *Covenant Regarding Ethics in Ministry* with MCEC and the congregation in which they are serving.
- Every five years all active and credentialed ministers are required to attend continuing education events such as the Healthy Pastoral Relationships Workshop which outlines appropriate behavioral boundaries.
- As an Area Church, MCEC has its own misconduct and sexual harassment policies that govern staff conduct and protocols.
- MCEC also has its own Safe Spaces policy that guides how MCEC sponsored events such as Youth retreats or Jr. Youth events are conducted, including a requirement for police checks, reference checks, supervision ratios, etc.
- MCEC strongly encourages all congregations to construct and implement a Safe Church Policy, which outlines appropriate and inappropriate behavior, requires windows in commonly used meeting spaces, and sets in place practical procedures to ensure that their faith community is a safe space for everyone.
- MCEC funds and works with SMARRT to provide education and resources to foster Church as a safe space for persons of all ages.

MCEC is committed to supporting congregations to ensure that they are safe for everyone. Together, let's do our part to foster safe space in our congregations. It's a sacred trust!

David Martin
Executive Minister

SACRED TRUST: INTRODUCING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND ABUSE RESOURCE RESPONSE TEAM

The SMARRT team is a cooperative Restorative Justice Program and includes representatives from the Brethren in Christ Canada, the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Mennonite Church of Eastern Canada. While functioning within the three constituent conferences the team also assists other conferences part of the family of Mennonite Central Committee Ontario upon request and as exemplified in this year a congregation outside of our community.

Requests come through the MCCO office. For more information please contact us at 519-745-8458 x 254 or toll free 1-800-313-6226 ex 254 or email smarrt@MCCO.ca.

Our primary mandate continues to assist conferences and congregations with information and resources about a number of issues including sexual misconduct, abuse and the establishment of healthy boundaries. We also continue to support and mentor pastoral and lay leadership in these areas as well.

We continue to champion the “Circle of Grace” safe place program which has been implemented by a number of congregations. This program is valuable curriculum for children and youth in the area of healthy boundaries and is a key tool in the prevention of abuse. SMARRT is available with information on this program for any congregations contemplating using this resource.

The Team is aware of the risk of the internet as it relates to sexual misconduct. We have identified a number of informative resources to assist church leadership and members in this area of concern. Team members have gained insight into these types of concerns due to our involvement in supporting various congregations.

SMARRT Continues to respond to incidents of sexual misconduct and abuse by providing leadership in investigations, facilitating counselling, and helping with healing and restoration. Over the last year the team has been involved in eight incidents by providing consultations to MCEC leadership and local pastors, meeting with congregations, and providing counselling to affected individuals. During one particular incident almost the entire team was involved with providing assistance.

SMARRT will continue to be available to the conferences and congregations in the areas of resources, prevention and in dealing with incidents. The Team contains a wide range of skill sets and experience. We encourage you make use of our services.

This year one of our charter members retired after almost 25 years of service. Her service is appreciated and we deeply cherish her faith and friendship.

The members of SMARRT appreciate your prayers and support.

The Team:

Leonard Chester, Administrative Manager, BIC Representative

Joan Hyatt, Mennonite Brethren Representative

Julie Torrance-Perks and John Rempel, MCEC Representatives

Beth Springle and Allister Field, Brethren in Christ Representatives

Eileen Henderson, MCC Staff member

FUTURE DIRECTIONS TASK FORCE

Understanding the Future Directions Task Force Recommendation: A Vision for a Stronger Mennonite Church Canada

Introduction

The Future Directions Task Force (FDTF) Report was commissioned in fall 2012 by Mennonite Church Canada (MC Canada) and the five Area Churches across Canada (BC, AB, SK, MB and MCEC – Area Churches in MC Canada were formerly known as Regional Conferences.) After much research and requests for input from a number of different parties, in November 2015 the Task Force submitted a final report, with a recommendation to change how we work together as congregations across MC Canada. The directions recommended in the report were adopted by the General Board of MC Canada in November and Area Churches are now being asked to affirm these new directions. The national MC Canada Assembly being held this July in Saskatoon will also be asked to affirm this new direction for the mission of the church. In January 2016, the MCEC Executive Council endorsed the same recommendation for approval by delegates at the 2016 Annual Church Gathering.

For an overview of the FDTF documents, see the accompanying recommendation to the General Board, overview document, FAQ document, and the longer five-page summary. The full report can also be accessed online using the link at the end of the summary document.

A number of misunderstandings have arisen about the intentions of the FDTF recommendation and misinformation has at times distorted the vision of the FDTF Report. A key clarification that needs to be made is that the Future Directions Task Force Report is a vision and directions document. While finances were a factor, the primary concern of national church leaders was that we as a national church require a stronger sense of purpose and mission to address the new social context of the 21st century. In this sense, the FDTF Report is not a blueprint for a detailed reorganization of our national church. The vision being presented by the FDTF Report offers a direction for a new organizational approach for MC Canada and the Area Churches. It was not intended to be a document that provides a detailed structure for a newly configured national church. If the directions outlined in the FDTF Report are endorsed, the details of a new structure will be worked out by a transition task force in the coming year in consultation with the MC Canada constituency. A final recommendation for a new structure will be approved as needed by Area Church boards or delegates. A full transition to a new structure may in fact take several years to accomplish.

The Context for the Future Directions Task Force Report

The FDTF was commissioned in response to the following concerns from our National and Area Church leaders:

- Congregations are facing challenges as they adapt to an increasingly secular society
- Declining congregational membership
- Aging congregations
- A long term decline in giving to the wider church
- Ongoing disengagement from the life of the church at all age levels
- The need for stronger engagement with mission at the congregational level

The vision of the FDTF Report is to help congregations to adapt to these new realities and remain relevant to their members as well as to people who are new to the church. In MCEC, congregations have said that they want to go beyond “survival mode” so that they can continue to be vital faith communities in an increasingly secular society. Congregations have told MCEC that they want to learn how to reach out to persons beyond the church, have a clearer sense of mission, and increase their ability to talk about their faith and experience of God.

The FDTF Report addresses the above concerns and encourages congregations to embrace a broader understanding of their role. Congregations tend to think of themselves as primarily worship and nurture centres but the FDTF report challenges congregations to also think about being a centre of witness and mission in both their local and global communities.

A Renewed Vision for Mennonite Church Canada

The FDTF report envisions:

1. Strong, healthy, revitalized congregations who are:
 - Centres of worship and faith formation
 - Supportive faith communities caring for each other
 - Actively engaged as centres of mission by expressing their Christian faith through local and global witness
2. Strong Area Churches resourcing congregations for ministry:
 - Connecting and empowering congregations to engage in ministry
 - Support pastoral and lay leaders
 - Oversee pastoral credentialing and calling of pastors
 - Help congregations innovate and adapt to our new social context
 - Equip congregations for ministry within and beyond the congregation
3. A Strong National Church that resources Area Churches for ministry:
 - Area Churches collaborate around a common covenant for mission and ministry
 - Connects the Area Churches and congregations to the global community for witness
 - Area Churches collaborate on national priorities and agenda
 - Initiatives at a national level are determined by the needs of the Area Churches
 - Ongoing national discernment with pastors and lay leaders through bi-annual study/discernment conferences

What will this new national structure look like?

The proposed national structure would no longer be governed by congregational delegates but by a national board comprised of representatives from each Area Church. Working together, the Area Churches in consultation with congregations, will determine what resources they need from a National Church in order to keep congregations strong and healthy.

Although not directly involved in national governance, congregational members would continue to meet every two years for study and discernment conferences. National and regional gatherings of pastors would strengthen the church’s capacity for learning, discernment, and sharing of best practices.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS TASK FORCE

The national structure/staff would focus on key priorities identified by the Area Churches such as:

- Developing strong Anabaptist/Mennonite identity and vision
- International mission
- Communications strategy that is integrated with the Area Churches
- Leadership development for pastoral leaders
- Integrated strategy with the Area Churches for disciple-making
- Indigenous relationships
- Providing accessible Anabaptist/Mennonite resources for congregations
- Coordinated strategy for Mennonite education & leadership training in Mennonite colleges
- Administrative support services for pastors' pension plan, benefits, and national gatherings

What are the outcomes anticipated by this change in structure?

The anticipated outcomes for this vision for a newly configured MC Canada that is built upon the foundation of strong Area Churches is as follows:

1. Stronger focus on mission, especially at the congregational level
2. Stronger sense of a national Anabaptist/Mennonite identity
3. Stronger Area Churches with means to better equip congregations
4. Stronger connection to international witness
5. Stronger leadership development across the Area Churches
6. Stronger, more integrated disciple-making across the Area Churches
7. Stronger focus on collaborative learning and discernment through the College of Ministers and national study/discernment conferences
8. Stronger integration of Mennonite education and leadership development
9. Stronger, simpler, sounder, more financially viable denominational structure

MCEC Executive Council Recommendation re: the FDTF Report

The Executive Council is recommending approval of the directions envisioned in the Future Directions Task Force report. We believe that this direction addresses the needs of MCEC and the National Church at this point in time and will strengthen the Mennonite church in Canada.

Resolution for Delegates

"The Executive Council moves that MCEC adopt the directions set by the Future Directions Task Force Report and collaborate with MC Canada and the other Area Churches to implement a newly reorganized national body along the lines envisioned in the task force report, with its purpose being the resourcing of the Area Churches so that they can better respond to God's call to equip our congregations for the living out and sharing of the peace of Jesus Christ with our local and global neighbours."

Conclusion

The FDTF Report calls the congregations of MC Canada to adapt to the changes we are experiencing in our churches and society and take steps to strengthen the ministry of our congregations for the future. The purpose of a reorganized national body is to strengthen us as a national church. In particular, it provides a new opportunity for Area Churches across the country to collaborate in innovative ways around a common covenant for mission, so that together we can respond to God's call to more intentionally share the peace of Jesus Christ with our local and global neighbours. Please pray that God will continue to guide this process of change.

MCEC Executive Council

Recommendation to the General Board re: the Future of Mennonite Church Canada

After a careful review of the final report of the Future Directions Task Force and following extended dialogue on the directions named within it, the meeting of assembled Moderators, Executive Ministers, and Area Church Ministers of the five Area Churches recommends the following to the General Board:

Recommendation:

That the General Board of Mennonite Church Canada adopt in principle the understandings of the Future Directions Task Force Report and invite each of the Area Churches to do likewise, with the intention of creating a reconstituted national entity along the lines envisioned in the task force report. The purpose of this reconstituted national entity is to resource the Area Churches (or regional variations of the same) as they respond to God's call to lead our congregations in more intentionally sharing the peace of Jesus Christ with their local and global neighbours.

More specifically, a newly constituted national entity will:

- Hold, articulate, and foster an Anabaptist Mennonite identity and peoplehood that partners together to align itself with God's mission in the world
- Provide a collaborative framework within which Area Church leaders strategize, define, and hold a common covenant for a shared national mandate for mission
- Exist for the purpose of supporting, resourcing and equipping Area Church leaders to catalyze the mission of local congregations as it is actualized in the local, regional and global contexts
- Provide staff and resources to support that mission based on the collective request and discernment of Area Church leaders
- Act as the representative and spokesperson of the Area Churches to the wider ecumenical and secular community
- Be funded by the Area Churches based on revenue from their member congregations and regional fundraising

To accomplish its purposes, the national entity will:

- Function under a mandate as provided by the Area Churches in their collective covenant to collaborate with each other in engaging God's mission in their respective regional contexts
- Be a separate legal body whose actions and purposes are governed by a board comprised of representatives of the boards of each Area Church, in addition to several members at large
- Relate primarily to Area Church leaders and staff in the exercise of its mandate

This vision and mission will be implemented based on the following affirmations:

- Affirmation in principle of the above recommendation by the General Board by December 31, 2015
- Affirmation in principle of the above recommendations by each Area Church board by January 31, 2016
- Affirmation in principle by each Area Church delegate body by April 30, 2016
- Affirmation in principle by the Mennonite Church Canada delegate body by July 15, 2016

November 13, 2015



Vision and Structure

WHAT IS GOD'S SPIRIT CALLING US TO IN THE 21ST CENTURY? Future Directions Task Force Summary

After considerable consultation, testing, and prayer, the Future Directions Task Force finds most support for a simpler, sounder, and more integrated understanding of church as outlined below. For details, please see our *Final Report* and *The Backstory*.

VISION

Revitalizing and Enriching **Local Congregations**

The congregation is the primary setting for worship, witnessing to our faith as intergenerational and intercultural communities, and working together to embody God's justice, peace, and reconciliation. We envision local congregations as sources of inspiration, challenge, and Christian community. Pastors and other congregational leaders nurture the Anabaptist-Mennonite identity and theology of their congregations, empowering them as the church gathered and sent—living out their faith and mission to follow Jesus and inviting others to follow.

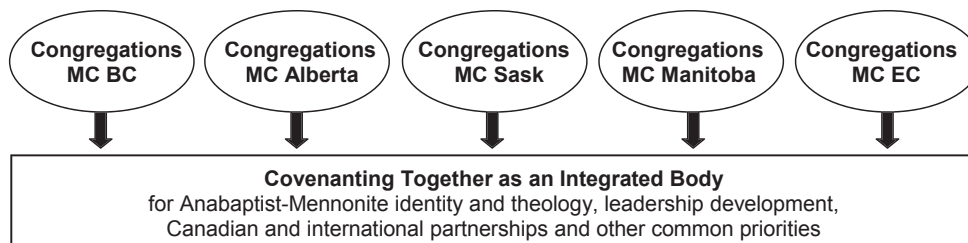
Regional Churches as Catalysts for Mission

We envision regional church bodies that encourage, inspire, and resource local congregations for the work God calls them to. The regional church empowers gifted leadership, credentials pastors, encourages congregational leadership teams, fosters relationships between diverse congregations through regional assemblies and common ministries of peace, healing, and hope (e.g., Indigenous relations, church planting, advocacy for the marginalized).

Regions Covenant as an **Integrated Body** for Canadian and Global Partnerships

We envision regions covenanting to work together on existing and new Canadian and international partnerships, with common priorities in mission, leadership development and Anabaptist-Mennonite identity and theology, as well as common group benefit plans and other supports for congregations. A Congregation of Ministerial Leaders will bring together pastors, perhaps with other congregational leaders and educators from across Canada for networking, encouragement, formation, and sharing their wisdom.

INTEGRATED STRUCTURE



Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS GOD'S SPIRIT CALLING US TO IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

Future Directions Task Force Summary

1. In what way is the proposed vision different from what we have now?

The proposed vision sharpens our focus on revitalizing and energizing congregations in mission, with regions as catalysts and supporters of congregations, working together as regions across Canada on Anabaptist-Mennonite identity and common priorities. It expresses the vision statement: God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

2. In what way is the proposed structure different from what we have now?

Currently congregations are members of both an area church and a national body. The proposal is that congregations would be members of a regional body only, with the regional bodies covenanting together on nation-wide and international missions, as well as common program strategies and support services. The new structure invites congregations to engage more closely with the work of the larger church, and for the larger church to engage more closely with congregations.

3. What would be the common national initiatives that we would work together on?

Our report identifies: Anabaptist-Mennonite Identity, Leadership Development including our post-secondary schools, Resource Centre, Indigenous Relations, International Partnerships, Support Services like Communication and benefit plans for congregations. We also propose a Congregation of Ministerial Leaders that would bring together pastors, congregational leaders, and educators for networking, encouragement, formation, and sharing their wisdom.

4. Where are the cost savings in this model?

The proposed Transition Team will need to work on final staffing, budget, and governance decisions, with greater sustainability coming from:

- o A significantly smaller national staff,
- o A smaller national board and phasing out current program councils,
- o Greater cost efficiencies from more closely aligned regional and national programming,
- o Cost efficiencies by developing common communication and other program supports,
- o Linking international witness commitments to confirmations of call from congregations along with commitments for financing,
- o A clear expectation that all initiatives have specific goals and time-lines, accompanied by tangible measures and accountability.

5. What are the next steps?

Area church leaders and the General Board of the national church have approved this report in principle and commended to Area Churches for consideration before bringing it to Assembly 2016 for final decision. We continue to pray, receive feedback, refine details, and wait for national and area church delegates to respond at their annual meetings. If approved, a Transition Team would be appointed to implement this proposal.



Future Directions Task Force

Formed by:

Mennonite Church Alberta
Mennonite Church British Columbia
Mennonite Church Canada
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
Mennonite Church Manitoba
Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Future Directions Task Force
Supplement to Final Report
07 December 2015 Penultimate

WHAT IS GOD'S SPIRIT CALLING US TO IN THE 21st CENTURY?

Future Directions Task Force Final Report

GOD'S SPIRIT IS MOVING

Two nurses coordinate shifts so they can share lunch together and watch a you-tube video about rediscovering what life would look like with Jesus as the centre. Their discussion continues even during their next break.

Although most people at First Mennonite Church choose to worship on Sunday mornings, other times of community worship are regularly offered, and revised annually, to help encourage connection and discipleship in the midst of people's diverse schedules.

An early morning jogger listens to a podcast sermon from a local Mennonite church about current violence in the world and what it means to love our enemies. An email address follows to contact the nearest Anabaptist small group.

A public transit commuter glances at the daily text message and is reminded that the Spirit of God is at work among those who know Christ and in the world at large.

Broadway Mennonite Church has become more and more open to its surrounding neighborhood with many community activities taking place in the church building. Among the active participants, only a handful have any kind of historic Mennonite heritage, with the majority from many different ethnicities and diverse backgrounds. Together, they form a welcoming and energized faith community.

Anabaptist community members regularly participate in missional teams both locally and internationally. A website lists a rich variety of options that are updated regularly.

Reflecting the ethnic diversity of Anabaptist communities of worship, multicultural teams provide the necessary leadership.



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Clusters of Anabaptist Christ followers form around shared activities and events, like hosting faith conversations with spiritual seekers, playing hockey, gathering in coffee shops, taking morning walks in shopping malls.

Persons who have been in Anabaptist community all their lives are freshly invigorated by the experience and testimonies of newer Anabaptists.

Calloused hands and tender hearts share good work and conversation during weekly service projects.

The church is changing. Some things we have not yet imagined will emerge. Some things we have always done will fade. In this final report of the Future Directions Task Force, we set out both strengths to build on and recommendations for creatively engaging God's calling. For further details and background considerations leading to this report, please see *The Backstory*. God's Spirit is moving, and the future of the Anabaptist Mennonite expression of Christian faith and ministry will be a movement of Christ followers with

Vibrant faith Renewed community Creative mission

STRENGTHS TO BUILD ON¹

1. Grounded in Scripture as inspired by God and spoken to in our Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, three core convictions have been treasured by Anabaptist Mennonites: 1) **Jesus** is the centre of our faith; 2) **Community** is the centre of our lives; 3) **Reconciliation** is the centre of our work.
2. Our identity as an **'upside-down' kingdom people** means sharing the good news of Jesus and extending the peace and reconciling love of God to all people; nurturing followers of Jesus to grow in relationship with God; cultivating loving, caring and praying Christian communities; living out our faith in Jesus as a people of integrity, with simplicity, and generosity in sharing time, talents, money and goods.
3. The **congregation** is the foundational unit and expression of God's work in the world and the primary setting for worship, being a caring community, discernment, and mission. At the same time, because the body of Christ is not limited to any one congregation, for most effective mutual support and witness, congregations are best served by partnering together in congregational clusters, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

CREATIVELY ENGAGING GOD'S CALLING²

¹For more detail, see *The Backstory*, pp. 4 - 5.

² See *The Backstory*, pp. 6 - 10

4. We envision **vital and spiritually healthy congregations** led by gifted, empowered and inspired leaders. Together they:

- **Invite all to follow Jesus**, whether for a first-time commitment or renewal, for those outside of the church, within it, and on the margins;
- Draw near to God in **worship and prayer**;
- Find new and creative ways to engage young, middle and older people in **forming faith**, increasing biblical literacy, and enhancing their sense of Christian community and identity;
- Nurture a **loving and caring community** of support;
- **Partner with other congregations** for mutual support, resourcing, and accountability;
- Encourage **Individuals and families** to take part in worship, faith studies at home, small groups and congregational programs using existing and creative new resource materials;
- Engage in **missional outreach initiatives** to share the good news of Jesus beyond our faith communities, and to encourage young, middle and older people to align themselves with God's activity in addressing injustice and working together with disadvantaged and disempowered people;
- Encourage and develop **different leadership gifts** for ministry; and
- **Affirm people** for their commitment of faith and generosity of spirit, time, energy and resources.
- Discern and set **tangible measures and accountability**, with specific goals and time-lines for these ministries.

5. To support and encourage vital and spiritually healthy congregations, we envision **each region as a catalyst to**:³

- Encourage **congregational clustering to share** information, support one another and imagine together where joint mission might be undertaken;
- Encourage 'missional catalyst teams' of volunteers to bring **creative new ideas for mission/service** aligned with God's activity in the world;
- Encourage **ministerial leadership teams** in all congregations including those who are more experienced and younger, men and women, paid and unpaid;
- Establish **best practices in discerning, calling, training, and empowering gifted leadership** both paid and unpaid;
- Establish criteria and accountability for **credentialing**;
- Encourage **greater diversity** (ethnic, racial, economic) within congregations and through congregational partnerships.
- Support **development of alternative, innovative models** of being congregation to complement more traditional models.
- Discern and set **tangible measures and accountability**, with specific goals and time-lines for these ministries.

³ See *The Backstory*, pp. 10 - 13



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6. We envision that our current model of area churches and a national church working independently be replaced by a **simpler and integrated body with regions covenanting to work together** on common priorities including to:

- Proclaim that **the good news of Jesus** is the reconciliation of the whole world. Towards that end, our task is to **facilitate domestic and international opportunities** that engage young, middle and older people in witness/service that extends the peace and reconciling love of God beyond our congregations.⁴
- Encourage **church schools and camps** as an intentional resource for congregations in creatively shaping faith and identity of children through adults, developing leaders, engaging mission beyond our communities and learning from each other through exchanging ideas and collaborating across Canada.⁵
- Develop and maintain a **common virtual Resource Centre and network** that curates content for Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective, age-appropriateness and other criteria, with the capacity to facilitate idea and information exchange networks;
- Form a **Congregation of Ministerial Leadership**, a collegial gathering of paid and unpaid ministers (i.e., members of the congregational ministerial leadership teams), perhaps with individuals from church schools and other bodies involved in theological study and leadership development, that meets regularly (e.g. biannually) for purposes of studying ethical and theological issues, fellowship, networking, discerning vision on theological matters the denomination might consider, mutual encouragement and support;⁶
- Create an **integrated Ministerial Leadership Development plan and program**, focusing on the formation and training of both paid and unpaid ministerial leaders for diverse congregations;⁷
- Provide consultation and deliver **support services** to regions and congregations on human resources, governance, legal issues, finances (e.g., pension plans), etc., possibly with an arms-length Support Services Agency.
- Discern and set **tangible measures and accountability**, with specific goals and time-lines for these ministries.

7. To **integrate the work** we do together, we envision a simpler, sustainable structure where:⁸

- Each **congregation is a member of a region**, to which it sends delegates for annual assemblies for worship, inspiration, setting regional direction, etc.;
- **Regional leaders meet together regularly** for aligning vision, theological identity and programming;

⁴ See *The Backstory*, pp. 13 - 16

⁵ See *The Backstory*, pp. 16 - 18

⁶ See *The Backstory*, pp. 18

⁷ See *The Backstory*, pp. 19 - 20

⁸ See *The Backstory*, pp. 22 - 24



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- An **Executive Minister** works with an integrated board to provide spiritual oversight and vision for mission, including development and pursuit of common priorities, and to represent our collective voice in ecumenical relationships and international partnerships;
- An **integrated identity** reflected in name, logo, and web presence;
- An **effective communication plan** with a unified flow between congregations and the integrated body;⁹
- A unified flow of **financial resources**, with a covenant determining the allocation of regional/national/international initiatives, with some consideration of an equalization of resources to make similar programs possible across the regions and opportunity for congregations to allocate funds to specific programs.
- A **covenant** to pursue common priorities with room for regional variation, allocation of financial resources, mutual accountability, etc.
- Discern and set **tangible measures and accountability**, with specific goals and time-lines for these ministries.

To prepare transition plans and finalize organizational arrangements we recommend a **Transition Team** of 1-3 constituents, led by a chair, be appointed conjointly by area and national church moderators. The transition process led by the Team, working with 7 senior staff (1 from each area church [presumably the Executive Director] plus 2 from the national church) would prepare the covenant and transition plan (including details of program transitions, staffing and budgeting) within 6-12 months for final approval by our existing area and national boards; implementation of transition plan to take place within 2 years. More detail is provided in *The Backstory*.

As a Future Directions Task Force, we respectfully submit this report with our **prayers for the present and future church**. May God's Spirit continue to guide us as we seek to follow Jesus, and may God be glorified in our congregations, wider church and world. **Amen.**

For an additional document providing more extensive background material, please download the full text:
http://www.commonword.ca/FileDownload/21840/FDTF_Final_Report_Bundle_2015-12-07.pdf

⁹ See *The Backstory*, pp. 20 - 22

MCEC PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

2016-2017

	Budget 2017 \$	Actual 31-Jan-16 \$	Budget 2016 \$
Revenue - Above Budget	\$57,000	\$56,250	\$68,500
Revenue - Covenant	\$2,055,274	\$2,033,630	\$2,210,000
Revenue - Women of MCEC	\$7,000	\$7,030	\$8,000
Revenue - Interest Income	\$90,178	\$92,796	\$90,375
Total Revenue	\$2,209,452	\$2,189,706	\$2,376,875
Partner Ministries			
Mennonite Church Canada (Covenant)	\$757,163	\$747,691	\$814,164
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Covenant)	\$61,658	\$60,934	\$66,300
Mennonite World Conference	\$6,962	\$8,162	\$6,962
Conrad Grebel University College	\$154,171	\$154,171	\$154,171
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate	\$73,911	\$73,911	\$73,911
United Mennonite Educational Institute	\$27,905	\$27,905	\$27,905
Ontario Mennonite Music Camp	\$2,300	\$1,821	\$1,821
Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp	\$11,498	\$9,580	\$9,581
Silver Lake Mennonite Camp	\$11,498	\$16,770	\$16,771
Willowgrove	\$11,498	\$8,623	\$8,624
Canadian Mennonite	\$73,566	\$75,335	\$75,500
Total Partner Ministries	\$1,192,130	\$1,184,903	\$1,255,710
Net Operating Revenue	\$1,017,322	\$1,004,803	\$1,121,165
Executive Council (Schedule 1)	\$124,695	\$106,777	\$119,655
Leadership Council (Schedule 2)	\$118,023	\$102,120	\$113,973
Regional Ministry (Schedule 3)	\$150,459	\$123,988	\$129,872
Mission Council (Schedule 4)	\$190,323	\$190,566	\$233,055
Congregational Ministries Council (Schedule 5)	\$69,049	\$139,895	\$103,220
Programme Resourcing (Schedule 6)	\$410,850	\$450,760	\$458,585
Occupancy Costs (Schedule 7)	\$104,415	\$103,385	\$104,575
Operations Support of Restricted Funds (Schedule 8)	\$14,000	\$24,500	\$24,500
Total Ministry Expenses	\$1,181,813	\$1,241,991	\$1,287,435
Surplus/(deficit) from operations	-\$164,491	-\$237,188	-\$166,270
Transfer from/(to) Faithful Steward Fund	\$164,491	\$218,310	\$153,310
Net Operating Surplus/Deficit	\$0	-\$18,878	-\$12,960

MCEC PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

2016-2017

	Budget 2017 \$	Actual 2016 \$	Budget 2016 \$
Executive Council (Schedule 1)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	\$0	-\$754	-\$6,365
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$85,980	\$83,925	\$93,655
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$7,500	\$16,085	\$7,500
Staff Professional Development	\$500	\$500	\$500
Staff Professional Development Pool	\$9,250	\$5,033	\$9,250
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$16,000	\$1,523	\$5,200
Special Projects	\$5,465	\$465	\$9,915
Total Executive Council	\$124,695	\$106,777	\$119,655
Leadership Council (Schedule 2)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$15,000	-\$26,578	-\$14,100
TiM - Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$21,150	-\$26,331	-\$35,250
Lebold Banquet - Tickets, Donations, Sponsorships	-\$16,000	-\$11,448	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$77,773	\$85,738	\$106,623
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$6,000	\$5,463	0
Staff Professional Development	\$500	\$1,155	0
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$1,200	\$973	\$4,100
Pastor & Congregational Support	\$8,700	\$8,304	\$8,350
TiM Program Expenses	\$25,000	\$26,331	\$28,250
Education & Training	\$35,000	\$27,115	\$16,000
Lebold Banquet Expenses	\$3,850	\$11,398	0
Lebold Banquet ALW Support	\$12,150	\$0	\$0
Total Leadership Council	\$118,023	\$102,120	\$113,973
Regional Ministry (Schedule 3)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	\$0	-\$655	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$136,859	\$112,958	\$129,872
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$12,600	\$11,318	0
Staff Professional Development	\$1,000	\$367	0
Total Regional Ministry	\$150,459	\$123,988	\$129,872

MCEC PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

2016-2017

	Budget 2017 \$	Actual 2016 \$	Budget 2016 \$
Mission Council (Schedule 4)			
Transfer In - Mission Donations & Bequests	-\$233,238	-\$150,000	-\$150,000
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	\$0	-\$2,965	-\$250
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$107,561	\$77,199	\$87,055
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$7,000	\$8,510	0
Staff Professional Development	\$500	\$804	0
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$1,000	\$1,141	\$1,900
Education, promotion and outreach	\$10,000	\$9,955	\$14,000
Mission Associates	\$47,000	\$48,786	\$65,000
Missional leadership development	\$11,000	\$6,917	\$11,000
Church plant support	\$227,500	\$182,810	\$200,350
Other Mission Initiatives	\$12,000	\$7,409	\$4,000
Total Mission Council	\$190,323	\$190,566	\$233,055
Congregational Ministries Council (Schedule 5)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$28,430	-\$43,737	-\$45,050
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$0	\$126,938	\$85,520
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$0	\$3,314	\$0
Staff Professional Development Pool	\$0	\$2,117	\$0
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$0	\$383	\$1,000
Education, promotion and outreach	\$0	\$156	\$1,500
Congregation Resourcing Program Expense	\$64,300	\$3,499	\$12,850
Y/YA Program Expense	\$26,679	\$43,225	\$40,900
New Ministry Initiative Expense	\$6,500	\$4,000	\$6,500
Total Congregational Ministries	\$69,049	\$139,895	\$103,220
Operations (Schedule 6)			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$32,200	-\$26,500	-\$37,250
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$344,575	\$377,949	\$405,735
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$3,000	\$4,048	\$0
Staff Professional Development	\$2,250	\$3,164	\$0
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$750	\$281	\$750
Office & Admin Expenses	\$32,975	\$33,074	\$37,975
Equipment and Furniture (expensed)	\$4,000	\$6,719	\$10,375
Legal & Audit Expenses	\$32,500	\$36,250	\$21,000
Program Expenses	\$23,000	\$15,775	\$20,000
Total Program Resourcing	\$410,850	\$450,760	\$458,585

MCEC PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

2016-2017

	Budget 2017 \$	Actual 2016 \$	Budget 2016 \$
Occupancy Costs (Schedule 7)			
Rent & CAMS	\$98,764	\$98,781	\$98,875
Office & Building Maintenance	\$200	\$83	\$200
Insurance	\$5,451	\$4,521	\$5,500
Depreciation Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Occupancy Costs	\$104,415	\$103,385	\$104,575
Transfers to (from) Operating			
Leadership Enrichment Fund	\$14,000	\$10,750	\$10,750
Theological Leadership Development Fund	\$0	\$13,750	\$13,750
Total Transfers to (from) Operating	\$14,000	\$24,500	\$24,500

We Celebrate Shalom Worship & Healing Centre Moving into Emerging Church Status

Meeting in Kitchener, ON

- Pastor: Jonathan Abraham
- Country of Origin - Eritrea
- Worship Language: Tigrinya

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

Emerging Church Status is a time of mutual discernment and testing for a long-term relationship with MCEC.



Children of Shalom

Meeting at First Mennonite Church in Kitchener, ON for the past six years, Shalom Worship & Healing Centre is a Tigrinya speaking church with roots in Eritrea. They have a hope and a dream to see the healing of people through true worship. "This is our vision," says Pastor Jonathan. "Healing comes through true worship of God. Although we are known by the name Shalom, this is why our full name is Shalom Worship & Healing Centre."

Many of the people at Shalom, if not all, have fled their country of Eritrea. Prolonged periods of conflict and severe drought have affected Eritrea's agriculture-based economy and it remains one of the poorest countries in Africa. Many churches are underground and many pastors are in prison. "Every night my daughter prays, 'God please help the refugee people, the Eritrean people. Keep them in every corner,'" states Pastor Jonathan. "God is our shelter, the Bible says. He is our everything."



Celebration at Pastor Jonathan's graduation.

Over the past year, Shalom has baptized eight persons, six of them were new believers. All newcomers are required to take a Bible study class and their church is growing, almost filling the space where they are meeting. With approximately 100 children in their congregation, they have recently hired a young woman to help teach them. "We have to shape the children now. We are praying for them," Pastor Jonathan shares. "Every woman in the congregation holds two names of children in our congregation and each day they pray for those two children."

Aware of the Mennonite denomination when he was in Eritrea, Pastor Jonathan greatly values the relationships he has developed over the past six years within MCEC. "I feel very strongly that God is leading us to be affiliated with the Mennonites now – it is time," says Pastor Jonathan. Shalom is led by 23 elders who were unanimous in their decision to join MCEC, further confirming for Pastor Jonathan that the time is now.

Shalom Worship & Healing Centre will be welcomed into MCEC as an emerging congregation at the April 2016 Annual Church.



Spontaneous worship at celebration.



Pastors Nancy Brubaker-Bauman, (First Mennonite), Brian Bauman (MCEC Mission Minister), and Jonathan Abraham (Shalom).

AN OVERVIEW OF UNDERSTANDINGS FOR DECISION-MAKING

An Overview of Understandings for Decision-making in the Mennonite Church in Relation to the *Being the Faithful Church* Discernment Process

This summer delegates from congregations and Area Churches are being asked to respond to a recommendation that has emerged out of the *Being the Faithful Church* (BFC) discernment process initiated by Mennonite Church Canada. The *Being the Faithful Church* documents can be accessed from the home page of the MC Canada website. Responding to feedback from congregations, MC Canada invites the church to embrace a degree of diversity in relation to how churches understand same-sex relationships. See Recommendation V on page BFC7:3. In advance of this vote and in respect to the diversity of understandings in MCEC congregations, the MCEC Executive Council would like to remind congregations of the historical understandings that we as a Mennonite church have in terms of decision-making in the life of the church.

Every organization has certain patterns or understandings when it comes to decision-making. These understandings help to determine who makes what decisions and who takes the lead in particular circumstances. The same is also true in the Mennonite church. Mennonites have an organizational structure that might be characterized as collaborative and mutually accountable. Unlike some church structures, Mennonites have never had structures or decision-making practices that are heavily hierarchical and dictated from “the top down.” Throughout our history, Mennonites have relied primarily on discernment and decision-making that is rooted in the congregation. Congregations are not told what to do by a higher denominational authority but confer together and then commit to work alongside each other for the good of the church as a whole.

In our Mennonite churches, the understandings that we hold at the centre of our common commitments are described in our *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*. This document outlines the core understandings that guide us as a Mennonite church. Historically, Mennonite confessions of faith have been used as guide posts for the church and have been expressions of how we understand our Christian faith in our current social context. As the church and society changes, the ways that we apply our Christian faith may also change over time. This is why Mennonite confessions of faith are periodically updated to reflect new applications of our Christian faith to changing times. The current confession of faith released in 1995 replaced an earlier one from 1963. See the endnote below for a more detailed explanation of the role of a confession of faith as quoted from the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*.

It is also important to understand that Mennonites have not been inclined to use confessions of faith as “rule books” that must be enforced. Rather, confessions of faith have been treated as guides for the life and practice of the church, reflecting those things that the majority of congregations use to guide their life and Christian practice. Sometimes, however, congregational practice may vary on a particular matter such as the mode of baptism or the practice of communion. The way congregations practice their faith is discerned by the local congregation in dialogue with the wider church and not always dictated by denominational authority.

A helpful reminder for how Mennonites have typically delegated areas of responsibility for decision-making on items of faith and practice is found in the BFC7 document (page BFC7:3). The various roles for decision-making in the Mennonite church are outlined as follows:

AN OVERVIEW OF UNDERSTANDINGS FOR DECISION-MAKING

Responsibilities of the congregation include:

- i. Calling of gifts from within the congregation in collaboration with the Area Church.
- ii. Formation, calling to baptism and membership in the congregation.
- iii. Mission and outreach to the community beyond the congregation.
- iv. Calling of leadership to serve the congregation.
- v. Hiring policies of church staff.
- vi. Blessing of marriage.
- vii. Sending of delegates to Area and National Church Assemblies.

Area Church responsibilities include:

- i. Matters of ministerial credentialing and Area Church policy and documents.
- ii. Hiring policies of Area Church staff.
- iii. Maintaining relationships and providing support to congregations involved in matters of discernment.
- iv. Articulating Mennonite Church Canada's position on various matters of faith and practice to the outside world in the Area Church context.

Responsibilities of the National Church include:

- i. Hiring policy of national church staff.
- ii. Appointment of Board members.
- iii. The ownership and care for national policies and documents.
- iv. Articulating and fostering a sense of corporate identity.
- v. Providing resources for matters of on-going discernment.
- vi. Articulating Mennonite Church Canada's position on various matters of faith and practice to the outside world in the national and international context.

These understandings reflect how we have historically made decisions in the Mennonite church and the latitude that we have given to congregations to make decisions related to worship practice, the blessings of marriages, and the implementation of Christian ordinances such as baptism and communion. In respect to the ongoing conversation in the church on matters of Christian faith and practice, it is helpful to remind ourselves that while we are committed to ongoing dialogue as the wider church, we have also been committed to respecting the discernment of congregations on issues of pastoral care and local practice.

May we continue to discern together the voice of God in the life of the church and be respectful and generous as we both agree and disagree at times on specific items of Christian practice. While diversity of practice is the norm in a number of areas of congregational life, we are grateful that as the wider church we are united in our faith in Christ our Lord and in our common mission to extend God's peace in our world.

MCEC Executive Council

"How do Mennonite confessions of faith serve the church? First, they provide guidelines for the interpretation of Scripture. At the same time, the confession itself is subject to the authority of the Bible. Second, confessions of faith provide guidance for belief and practice. In this connection, a written statement should support but not replace the lived witness of faith. Third, confessions build a foundation for unity within and among churches. Fourth, confessions offer an outline for instructing new church members and for sharing information with inquirers. Fifth, confessions give an updated interpretation of belief and practice in the midst of changing times. And sixth, confessions help in discussing Mennonite belief and practice with other Christians and people of other faiths." (*Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, page 8.)



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2015 Update to Congregations and Area Churches

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor. 3:11

The scripture text above is very appropriate as the church heads into 2016. At Assembly 2006 in Edmonton, Alta., delegates voted in favour of 1 Cor. 3:11 as our official scripture motto – a text that Menno Simons often cited. As we look toward the future of our national and area church system and our shifting culture in Canada, we are reminded that Jesus is at the heart of all that we do.

2015 has been a year of celebration and challenge for our national church system:

Ride for Refuge - Thailand: On Oct. 3, ten teams comprising 42 cyclists from Ontario to Alberta rode their bikes in support of a church planting and income generation ministry led by Tom and Christine Poovong of Trinity Mennonite Church. Riders together with a generous contribution from the extended Poovong family here in Canada combined to raise over \$28,000 for this ministry!

Vietnamese Ministry in Cambodia: This fall, Thanh Pham will begin a 2 year ministry assignment as assistant pastor to Vietnamese migrants in Cambodia via the Phnom Penh Vietnamese Mennonite Church (<http://news.mennonitechurch.ca/new-assignment-serving-cambodia>)

Ethiopian Ministry: In 2015 a mission partnership with the world’s fastest growing Anabaptist church in the world. The Meserete Kristos Church projects a doubling from 500,000 to 1,000,000 members by 2025. We are inviting support for student scholarships at the church’s school, Meserete Kristos College, so they can keep up with projected growth. (<http://news.mennonitechurch.ca/they-can-t-keep>)

Peacebuilding: Canadian singer/songwriter Matt Epp has a passion for peace and justice. This past spring he visited Mennonite Church Canada’s peace building ministries in the Philippines. Matt shares his impressions and passions about Christian peace and justice in a 13 minute documentary at <http://www.commonword.ca/go/301>.

Indigenous Relations (IR): We estimate that over 1,000 of you have participated in Truth and Reconciliation Events across Canada over the last 5 years. A new children’s book from IR, *The Harmony Tree*, is scheduled for release in 2016. It will share the history of host people and settler relations in parable format.

• *Forming a People of God* • *Becoming a global church* • *Growing leaders for the church*



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Christian Formation: CommonWord – a collaboration of Mennonite Church Canada’s Resource Centre for churches and Canadian Mennonite University’s bookstore, have combined and moved into a new retail and online site to better serve the church across Canada. Visit CommonWord at <http://www.commonword.ca/Home>

Church History: After two years of planning, a treasure trove of Mennonite family and church history photos has gone online. MAID (Mennonite Archival Image Database) is a cooperative effort of several archives partners. It can be found at <http://archives.mhsc.ca/>

Evangelism: A new video and study guide about different forms of evangelism has been released, based on stories of Ethiopian newcomers and their new church starts in Toronto. This material would be excellent for an adult education class. See <http://www.commonword.ca/go/384>.

Finances: As of Nov. 30, donation income was \$300,000 behind our \$4.5 million donation budget and significantly behind last year’s levels for the same time period. Your prayer and financial support continues to be critical to the ministries we do together.

Task Forces: The Being a Faithful Church Task Force will present its final study findings from churches at Assembly 2016 and will present a statement for discussion and decision at Assembly 2016. In addition, the Future Directions Task Force will present its findings and provide direction on how to re-imagine a national and area church system that is closer to its congregational base while at the same time become smaller and more financially efficient.

Assembly 2016: Please save the dates of July 6 -10 for the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly in Saskatoon. More information will be coming your way over the winter and into spring.

In closing, I ask for your prayer support as I begin a term of service as a vice-president for the Canadian Council of Churches. This work positions Mennonite Church Canada as an important voice in ecumenical relationships. Persons from non-Mennonite faith traditions are eager to learn more about Anabaptist faith values. I also invite you to check out one or more of the many blogs maintained by Witness workers and staff. You can find them at <http://news.mennonitechurch.ca/blogs>.

Thank you for the many expressions of encouragement as well as concern that I have received from across the country. May God bless you all.

Willard Metzger, Executive Director
December, 2015

• *Forming a People of God* • *Becoming a global church* • *Growing leaders for the church*

MCEC VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for sharing your gifts, insights, and time with MCEC as together we extend the peace of Jesus Christ.

Amanatides, Margaret
Assad, Sam
Balzerson, Dan
Barber, James
Bedal, Sonya
Bender, Alissa
Bender, Alyssa
Bender, Gladys
Bergen, Ilene
Boehm, Ruth
Brnjac, Chris
Brown, Jim
Brubacher, Jonathan
Brubacher, Ray
Bults, Darcy
Burkard, Barb
Carr-Pries, Dave
Cober Bauman, Rick
Collard, Joyce
Cox, Stephen
Derksen, Kevin
Diller Harder, Mark
Driedger, Jennifer
Dyck, Norm
Dyck, David
Ellison White, Julie
Epp-Stobbe, Eleanor
Erb, Katie
Erb, Sara
Fehr, Mary
Fieguth, Paul
Francis, Crystal
Frere, Craig
Gerber, Jamie
Giesbrecht, Ted
Gingrich, Dennis
Grosz, Sherri
Isert Bender, Matthew
Jantzi, Jim
Jantzi, Darrell
Jantzi, Luke
Janzen, Peter
Janzen, Wendy
Jongejan Harder, Charleen
Keller, Terry
Kennel Harrison, Susan
Knarr, Gary
Konrad, Lois
Konrad, Robert
Krueger, Vic
Lamont, Sharon
Laverty, Juanita

Lee, Pader
Legesse, Fanosie
Leininger, Dita
Leis, Brandon
Lichti, John
Manske, Steve
Martin, Maurice
Martin, Ray
Martin, Shelley
Martin, Laverne
Martin, Phil
Martin Schiedel, Karen
Masyawong, Yoel
Miller Dyck, Myrna
Mustard, Amanda
Nash, Shari
Neufeld, Mary Anne
Neufeld, Don
Neufeldt-Fast, Arnold
Niemeyer, Pieter
Nightingale, Bob
Osinkosky, Claire
Pauls, Waldo
Penner, Sarah
Penner, Kristen
Quan, Brian
Ramer, Phyllis
Ratzlaff, Seth
Redekop, Shirley
Redekopp, Lloyd
Reesor, Eugene
Reesor Rempel, Jessica
Reesor-McDowell, Allan
Reimer, Tim
Rempel, Lynn
Ringer, Carol
Roeder, Dianne
Roeder, Doug
Roes, Marion
Samuel Tedla, Sesuna
Schlegel, Clare
Schultz, Ann
Schultz Huxman, Susan
Seiling, Jeanette
Shantz, Sandy
Smith, Earl
Steiner, Sam
Steiner, Sue
Strathdee, Carolyn
Suderman, Derek
Taylor, Jeff
Tiessen, Dave

Tiessen, Jim
Torrance-Perks, Julie
Turman, Michael
Van Bergen, Linda
van Sintern-Dick, Cathrin
Vang, Chung
Veitch, Bob
Wagler, Tim
Wagler, Patricia
Watson, Troy
Weber, Travis
White Scott, Jessica
Wichert, Tim
Wideman, Paul
Wideman, Dave
Wiens, Erwin
Winter, Victor
Yantzi, Greg
Yantzi, Mark
Zehr, Jodie
Zehr, Marilyn

A special thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with the Annual Church Gathering.

MCEC COMMUNITY OF CONGREGATIONS

The following list includes all faith communities - congregations and church plants (*).

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



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