

MCEC 28th Annual Church Gathering April 24 & 25, 2015

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate 110 Doon Rd., Kitchener, ON



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Facility/Logistical Information



Emergency Telephone 519.569.1785



Twitter

Look for **@extendthepeace** and use hashtag **#sharingfaith** to share your reflections electronically.



Red Aprons

If you have a question or need assistance, people wearing red aprons are here to assist you in any way that they can.



Photos

Photographs will be taken for MCEC purposes. Please speak with the photographer, Dan Driedger, or someone with a red apron if you have a concern.





Name Tags

Please help us recycle the name tag holders at the end of the Annual Church Gathering. Remove white name tag from holder, carefully wrap the string, and tuck the string inside the holder. Leave name tag holder in box by the doors as you leave.



Information Poly Envelope

Please help us recycle the poly envelopes at the end of the Annual Church Gathering by removing the contents from the envelope and leaving the empty envelope in box by the doors as you leave.



Medical Assistance

If you require medical assistance, contact someone wearing a red apron who will direct you to our nurse, Gladys Bender. The first aid room is located in the Student Services Room as indicated on the floor plan on page 21.



MA

Prayer Room

Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada are once again providing prayer support. We are grateful. The prayer room is open to everyone and is located in the Student Services Room as indicated on the floor plan on page 21.



Ministry Displays & Bookstore

Visit the display area and meet the various representatives from MCEC Partners in Ministry.



Evaluation

Watch for an evaluation form to arrive in your inbox within the next week. We sure would appreciate it if you would take a few moments to complete it. Thanks.



MCEC in Ministry Congregational Mailing

Please ensure that your congregation's mailing has been picked up. Pick-up is located at the registration table.

Sharing Feedback



How We Communicate — Sharing Our Wisdom

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



Parliamentarian Sam Steiner is our parliamentarian and will advise us on procedural process when necessary.

Friday Evening Worship (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)

Worship Leaders Worship Team Rachel Brnjas & Jim Loepp Thiessen, The Gathering Church
The Gathering Church, Kitchener, ON

6:00 p.m. Registration and Refreshments

6:45 p.m. Gathering Music

7:00 p.m. - Welcome 9:00 p.m.

David Martin, Executive Minister

LED Talks: Lead, Equip, Disciple Sharing Our Faith

- » David Martin, Executive Minster
- » Catherine Gitzel, The Gathering Church
- » Fanosie Legesee, Bethel Mennonite Church

Table Discussion and Reflection

Celebrating and Thankfulness

David Martin & Paul Wideman, Moderator

» Milestone Celebration

» 2014/15 Financial Statements

Eugene Reesor, Administrative & Financial Services Council Ester Neufeldt, Operations Minister

- » Approval of Auditors
- » Celebrating MCEC in Ministry
- » Offering
- » Closing Worship

Shirley Redekop, Executive Council

Continuing the Fellowship Reception and Refreshments



Rachel Brnjas



Jim Loepp Thiessen



David Martin



Catherine Gitzel



Fanosie Legesee



Paul Wideman



Eugene Reesor



Ester Neufeldt



Shirley Redekop



Scott Brubaker-Zehr

Congregational Milestone Anniversaries

Bethany Mennonite Church 50 years



Wellesley Mennonite Church 40 years



Community Mennonite Fellowship 25 years



Church of the Living Word in Ottawa 10 years



The Gathering Church 10 years



1. Adoption of the FYE 2015 Financial Statements

MOTION: "That we accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year

ending January 31, 2015 as printed."

2. Approval of Auditors

MOTION: "That we appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditors for the fiscal year

ending January 31, 2016."

3. Minutes of 2014 Annual Church Gathering

MOTION: "That we accept the minutes of the 27th annual meeting of

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, held April 25 & 26, 2014."

4. Approval of Executive Council Actions for 2014-2015

MOTION: "That we approve all actions taken by the MCEC Executive Council

for the year May 2014 to April 2015."

5. Approval of MCEC Spending Plan for 2015-2016

MOTION: "That we accept the 2015-2016 spending plan as printed in the

Discernment Documents."

6. Approval of Slate

MOTION: "That we accept the 2015-2016 Slate as presented."

Saturday Morning Worship (8:50 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)

Worship Leaders Worship Team

Brandon Leis, Josie Winterfeld, Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church Kitchener Waterloo MCEC Cluster

8:00 a.m. Registration & Refreshments

8:50 a.m. **Gathering Music**

9:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m. Moderator's Welcome

Paul Wideman, Moderator

Opening Worship

Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church choir

Celebrating and Reviewing MCEC in Ministry

Introduction Executive Council

Minutes/Executive Council Actions

Shirley Redekop, Executive Council Intoduction of Slate of Volunteers Lois Konrad, Gift Discernment

LED Talks: Lead, Equip, Disciple Sharon Lamont, Executive Council Sharing Our Faith - MCEC Leadership Team Henry Paetkau, Brent Charette, Ester Neufeldt, Brian Bauman, Jeff Steckley

Table Discussion and Reflection

Spending Plan/Budget

David Martin, Executive Minister Ester Neufeldt, Operations Minister

Break

LED Talks: Lead, Equip, Disciple **Sharing Our Faith**

Sharon Lamont

Joanna Loepp Thiessen, The Gathering Church

Tim Wagler, Living Water Christian Community Fellowship

CJ Barnett, Jane Finch Faith Community

Welcome of Full Member Congregation

Chin Christian Church in Kitchener

Bryce Kraeker, Assistant Moderator Brian Bauman, Mission Minister

Offering

Strangers No More

Grace for Noon Meal

Bryce Kraeker

12:00 p.m. **Rockway Mennonite Collegiate choir**



Paul Wideman



Brandon



Josie Winterfeld



Shirley Redekop



Lois Konrad



Sharon Lamont



Henry Paetkau



Brent Charette



Ester Neufeldt



Brian Bauman



Jeff Steckley



David Martin



Joanna Loepp

Thiessen



Tim Wagler



CJBarnett



Bryce Kraeker



Willard Metzger



Scott Brubaker-Zehr

Chris Brnjas Congregational Ministries Council



Chris is a pastoral intern and interim youth pastor at The Gathering Church in Kitchener. He would like to see MCEC remain faithful to God's movement and calling for congregations though being an equipping and enabling organization with flexible and innovative practices.

Joyce Collard

Administrative & Financial Services Council



Joyce attends Erb Street Mennonite Church in Kitchener and is a retired accountant. She currently operates a part-time bookkeeping practice and has served in various positions within her home congregation. She has an interest in administration and accounting of Not For Profit Organizations and looks to be a part of developing policies that will enable MCEC to operate in a fair and equitable manner to all involved.

Paul Fieguth
Conrad Grebel University College Board



Paul attends Waterloo North Mennonite Church and is a Professor and Department Chair in Systems Design Engineering at the University of Waterloo. He would like to see MCEC thrive and believes that what MCEC churches will look like a generation or two from now depends an awful lot on the education, values, outlook, and involvement of today's students. As a CGUC board member representing MCEC, he believes this is an important opportunity to best understand what young people need, what they are looking for, and how to effectively create connections.

Dennis Gingrich
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Board



Dennis is a member at Breslau Mennonite Church and has served previously with MCEC as Chair of the Congregational Ministries Council.

Welcome of New Volunteers

Brandon LeisOntario Mennonite Music Camp



Brandon is an educator, performer, church music director, and a community musician. He enjoys having fun while making music and sees music as a positive agent of community development and societal change. He desires to encourage active participation by all members of MCEC based on the belief that we all have gifts to share that will enrich the lives of others and glorify God.

Shari Nash Administrative & Financial Services Council



Shari, a member of Shantz Mennonite Church, is currently an Administrator at Western University. She looks forward to expanding the knowledge of the MCEC story and how it spreads the good news by communicating through an Anabaptist lens.

Jim Tiessen Conrad Grebel University College Board



Jim is a member of Hamilton Mennonite Church and is a Senior Corporate Development Advisor of an oil company. He is involved at a congregational level in a number of areas and looks forward to connect with the people MCEC serves and to ensure they understand what MCEC has to offer. He wants to be a part of looking for ways to help MCEC and CGUC thrive in the coming years.

	Proposed		
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Budget	Actual	Budget
Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2016	FYE	FYE	FYE
with Comparison to Actual and Budget	Jan. 31, 2016	Jan. 31, 2015	Jan. 31, 2015
For Year Ended January 31, 2015	\$	\$	\$
Total Contributions to Area/National Church Covenan	t 2,210,000	2,213,747	2,320,500
MCEC Operations			
more operations			
Revenue			
Contributions based on 60.16% of Giving to Covenant	1,329,536	1,331,790	1,396,013
Corporate and Individual Donations	68,500	41,563	68,500
Support from Women of MCEC	8,000	7,464	8,000
Interest	90,375	87,799	90,375
Total revenue	1,496,411	1,468,616	1,562,888
Expenditures			
Executive Council	119,655	109,965	124,375
Leadership Council	94,045	91,875	92,149
Regional Ministry	230,965	217,698	224,476
Mission Council	384,055	349,397	382,401
Congregational Ministries Council	103,220	91,146	100,616
Partner Ministries	375,246	374,305	374,346
Programme Resourcing	377,045	355,092	367,930
Occupancy Costs	114,950	132,661	115,172
Relocation Costs	-	8,975	10,000
Total expenditures	1,799,181	1,731,114	1,791,465
Not recovered former difference	(000 770)	(000, 100)	(200 577)
Net revenue (expenditures)	(302,770)	(262,498)	(228,577)
Transfers to (from) Operating Fund	302,770	238,197	228,577
Operating Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	-	(24,301)	-
Amortization (not requiring cash)	-	24,301	-
Cash Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	-

New Congregation

Chin Christian Church Pastors: Joseph Raltong and Jehu Lian



Pastors Joseph Raltong, Jehu Lian, and David Martin celebrate as the Chin Christian Church in Kitchener acquire their own worship space this past November.

Chin Christian Church was welcomed into MCEC as an emerging congregation in 2009. They are a congregation of approximately 130 worshippers.

Through a close friendship with First Hmong Mennonite Church, who warmly welcomed the Chin to share worship facilities, Chin Christian Church learned more about Christianity from an Anabaptist perspective. They have developed many meaningful relationships with MCEC congregations, organizations, and people.

They seek full membership within the MCEC community of congregations at this year's Annual Church Gathering.

Litany of Response for Welcoming New Congregations

Leader: These persons now presented to you have witnessed to their faith in Jesus Christ and offer

themselves as companions in our obedience to Christ. It is our privilege and joy to welcome

them into our family of faith.

People: We freely receive you, even as Christ has received us.

We open ourselves to fellowship with you in worship, study, service, and discipline.

We pledge our willingness to give and receive counsel and to offer and accept

forgiveness in the redeemed community.

We joyfully accept you as partners, both in the care of our spiritual family, and in our

mission to the world.

Saturday Afternoon Worship (1:25 - 5:00 p.m.)

Worship Leaders Worship Team Brandon Leis, Josie Winterfeld, Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church Kitchener Waterloo MCEC Cluster

1:25 p.m. - Gathering Music 5:00 p.m. Welcome

Paul Wideman, Moderator

Celebrating and Reviewing MCEC in Ministry

- Pastoral Transitions
 MCEC Strategic Directions
 Henry Paetkau, Area Church Minister
 Paul Wideman/David Martin, Executive Minister
- Legacy Initiatives Fund
- Table Reflection and Discussion
- MC Canada Future Directions Task Force Willard Metzger, Executive Director, MC Canada
- MC Canada Update

Stretch Break

Celebrating and Reviewing MCEC in Ministry

Property Update
 Approval of Spending Plan
 Approval of Slate
 Bryce Kraeker, Assistant Moderator
 Eugene Reesor, Administrative & Financial Services Council
 Lois Konrad, Gift Discernment

LED Talks: Lead, Equip, Disciple Sharing Our Faith:

Shirley Redekop, Executive Council

- Maciel Arias Hernandez, Toronto Mennonite New Life Church
- Joel Warkentin, UMEI Christian Highschool
- Bernard Sejour, Ottawa Catalyst

Closing Worship Commissioning of Staff, Volunteers, and Delegates



Paul Wideman



Brandon Leis



Josie Winterfeld



Henry Paetkau



David Martin



Willard Metzger



Bryce Kraek<u>er</u>



Eugene Reesor



Lois Konrad



Shirley Redekop



Maciel Arias Hernandez



Joel Warkentin



Bernard Sejour



Scott Brubaker-Zehr

MCEC Workbook 2015

Pastors New to MCEC

Pastors new or returning to MCEC were asked to reflect on ministry based on this quote from Frederick Buechner. These are their responses.

"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)

Gordon Allaby Waterloo North Mennonite Church



I have pondered Buechner's quote many times, especially during periods of transition. I even used it in the first Ministerial Leadership Information form I filled out. I am usually slow to realize and grasp God's gracious providence in my life. Still, I rely on God's guidance and presence during the uncertainty of change, albeit reluctantly, with foot dragging at first. So far, God has known better than me, and I appreciate that God tolerates my doubts and likely smiles when I catch on.

Rachel Brnjas The Gathering Church



It is a true honour and joy to walk alongside children in my ministry; to watch them grow and ask thoughtful questions, to deepen their compassion and understanding of others, and to know they are loved, cherished, and valued. I feel privileged to join in with the work God is already doing in the hearts and lives of children and families in our faith community and neighbourhood.

Carmen Brubacher Ottawa Mennonite Church



In taking on this role as Supply Minister at Ottawa Mennonite Church I feel like I have found myself in a new way. It is such a gift to be able to hear people's stories, to have time to explore scripture, and to think deeply about being God's people with the ordinary and extraordinary community at OMC. It simply feels right.

Sara Erb First Mennonite Church



I've always liked the Book of Jonah, probably because I have always understood his fear. Most of my journey with call has been to actively run away from it. I never realized that I could find so much joy in saying *yes* to God and engaging the world as a pastor.

Sara Freeman Elmira Mennonite Church



As a pastor, I journey alongside congregants providing a conversation partner for the individual lives of people and for the life of the church. It is in the midst of these stories, questions, silences, tears, and laughter that we explore the world's deep hunger and meet God.

Gloria (Lili) Hurtarte Toronto Mennonite New Life Church



Ser pastora Espiritual es el llamada de Dios, a llevar Su grandioso amor a todos los hambrientos de su misericordia, a todos los de duro corazon en donde quiera que esten. Es el don espiritual dado por El Senor para entregarse plenamente a su obra, la cual es construir el reino de Dios.

To be a spiritual pastor is a calling from God. It is to bring compassion and understanding to all those with hardened or broken hearts wherever they may be. It is a message from God to give ourselves entirely to God's work, to the construction of His Kingdom.

Josh Martin
Community Mennonite Fellowship



I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to have ministered within my home church. I truly believe that God pushed me through the doorway to the next step of my entire life. It has been a blessing to watch these young, energetic youth grow in their personal understanding of Christ and his overwhelming love.

Pastors New to MCEC

Judith McCartney Church Without Walls



My greatest delight as a minister is the role of pastoral care and leadership development. It gives me incredible joy being present during times of my congregants' struggles and celebrations. My objective is to establish believers in their faith and to equip and resource them to be leaders in the church, their schools, the marketplace, and beyond. That clearly is my call and it gives me deep gladness.

Colin McCartney
Leadership for Under Resourced Neighbours



To me being a pastor is to embrace young adults living in high-risk urban centres and to encourage and empower them to be all that God has created them to be. My greatest joy is seeing Jesus work through them to impact their world, their way, in accordance to their unique calling, gifts, and talents.

Laura Mullet Koop

Quest Christian Community



My work as spiritual director is to help us collectively tune our attention to God's transforming beauty, love, and creativity as it is revealed among the joys and struggles of our community.

Sean SeroPoole Mennonite Church



Sean Sero began as the youth pastor at Poole Mennonite Church on June 1, 2014. He has experience in church planting and has a Bachelor of Religious Studies from Heritage College in Cambridge.

Tim Snyder Living Water Community Christian Fellowship



From 2003 - 2014, Tim ministered with Urban Promise Toronto, a Torchbearers school in Germany, and in Bosnia with Crossworld. Tim and his family then returned to Canada and Tim accepted the call to the Youth Pastor role at Living Water Christian Community Fellowship in December 2014.

Craig Stephens The Gathering Church



I am aware that youth ministry brings both a special kind of hunger and gladness. It is through witnessing and experiencing friendships, personal growth, and divine grace that the greatest gladness comes. It is wonderful when young people have the blessing of discovering these hungers at an early age.

Louise Wideman Vineland United Mennonite Church



As a pastor, I experience deep gladness

- » when we discover new ways that our stories intersect with God's story;
- » when we gather inter-generationally for worship, work, and play;
- when love and laughter, healing and hope, and generosity and grace are predominant threads in the fabric of congregational life.



Legacy Initiatives Fund Statement of Revenue to Date for period ending January 31, 2015

	Actual Accumulated				
	Actual FYE Jan 2015	Previous	Total Revenue to Date		
	\$	Year(s) \$	to Date		
Revenue					
Estate gifts (net)	280,224	4,532,036	4,812,260		
Interest earned	6,780	175,625	182,405		
Interest accrued	71,639	-	71,639		
Revenue to date	358,643	4,707,661	5,066,304		

Legacy Initiatives Fund for period ending January 31, 2015

	\$
Assets	1 949 046
Cash and short-term investments	1,848,016
Accounts Receivable (interest)	71,639
Loan Receivable from Property Fund	981,526
	2,901,182
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	6,289
Equity	
Balance beginning of year	4,253,309
Estate receipts (net)	280,224
Interest	78,419
	4,611,952
Grants and Expenditures	
Making Disciples	304,127
Forming Leaders	277,205
Growing Congregations	105,252
Tithing to the Wider Church	68,022
Tithing to Missional Infrastructure	962,452
•	1,717,058
Equity balance - end of year	2,894,894
Total Liabilities and Equity	2,901,182



Implementation of the Legacy Initiatives Fund For year ended January 31, 2015

		Actual Accumulated	Total	Balance remaining of	
Ministry Project	Actual FYE Jan 2015 \$	Previous Year(s) \$	Expenditures to Date \$	approved expenditures	Total Approved \$
	3	***		A."	**************************************
Tithing to the Wider Church	68,022	413,204	481,226	-	481,226
Making disciples	304,127		304,127	458,363	762,489
Forming leaders	277,205		277,205	47,795	325,000
Growing congregations	105,252	41,149	146,401	751,392	897,793
Tithe to Missional Infrastructure	962,452		962,452	-	962,452
_	1,717,058	454,353	2,171,411	1,257,550	3,428,960

Project Descriptions

Making Disciples

ReLearning Community: we are in conversation with an Anglican/Baptist Union church in the UK which is prepared to journey alongside MCEC leaders as we learn to make disciples in our context

Urban Young Adult Leadership Initiatives: equip and support young adult leaders to share their gifts with their neighbours and church communities

Faith Formation Support for new Canadians: explore new models of faith formation with congregations as they invite children, youth, and young adults to faith in a time of significant transition

Anabaptist resource persons: assist in providing resource persons who will help MCEC congregations explore Anabaptist history and theology and challenge us to greater faithfulness in extending the peace of Jesus Christ

Faith formation funding for Rockway and UMEI: MCEC will provide one-time financial support that is matched by school donors in order to provide greater accessibility for MCEC students to receive a faith-based high school education

Legacy Initiatives Fund

Growing Congregations

theExchange: a dynamic, interactive web space to facilitate the sharing of ideas and resources among MCEC congregations

Go & Grow! seed money for new initiatives disbursed to MCEC congregations in order to facilitate healthy congregational life through the discovery and release of God given gifts

Access for distant congregations: ensure that remote congregations have technology enabling them to access materials on-line as well as to participate in streamed events.

Missional consultant: support the Executive Council and staff in helping our congregations adapt and become an increasing missional presence in the changing social context in Eastern Canada

Expanded conflict resolution resources: assist congregations in acquiring the supports necessary when navigating a special challenge or crisis

Forming Leaders

Lebold Endowment: top up this shared MCEC/ Conrad Grebel endowment for leadership training to its \$1 million goal and use proceeds to develop and support new training initiatives for lay and pastoral leaders

Urban Anabaptist Exchanges: provide opportunities for young adult leaders to experience a variety of models of urban ministry and diverse expressions of church so that they are equipped and inspired to become missional leaders in their home contexts

ESL Leadership Training: where possible, expand the current teaching and training program offered in Spanish to other languages in MCEC

Missional Leadership project: this pilot project brings together a group of MCEC ministers to explore how we might develop and train missional pastoral leaders for the church

Missional Infrastructure

Website/communications: develop MCEC's capacity to communicate with everyone wanting to hear the stories. This will include social media and produced videos.

Live streaming of events: take advantage of new technologies that will make it easier for distant congregations to participate in MCEC learning opportunities and meetings



David Martin
Executive Minister
dmartin@mcec.ca
Spiritual leader of MCEC; works with
Executive Council to promote healthy and
spiritually vibrant Anabaptist congregations;
nurtures the vision of MCEC.



Brian Bauman
Mission Minister
bbauman@mcec.ca
Promotes missional church
ministries within MCEC in areas of church
planting; assists congregations to become
involved in God's activity at work in their
communities; works with Mission Council.



Ester Neufeldt
Operations Minister
eneufeldt@mcec.ca
Guides administration of financial
operations of MCEC; overseas
administrative, property, and legal
operations; works with Administrative &
Financial Services Council.



Henry Paetkau
Area Church Minister
hpaetkau@mcec.ca
Guides calling, training, and
credentialing of pastoral leaders within
MCEC; discerns leadership qualities and
practices for faithful ministry; works with
Leadership Council.



Congregational Ministries Minister jsteckley@mcec.ca
Works with churches to facilitate vibrant congregational ministry; provides support and resources for congregations; works with Congregational Ministries Council.

Jeff Steckley



Brent Charette
Church Engagement Minister
bcharette@mcec.ca
Works to connect congregations
and individuals to the ministries of
the wider church.



Sharon Brown
Coordinator of Leadership
Formation
mmellinger@mcec.ca
Works with MCEC and Conrad Grebel
University College in the formation and
education of pastoral and lay leaders for
the church.

Lisa Williams Director of Communications Iwilliams@mcec.ca Communicates with MCEC constituency concerning the life and ministry of MCEC.

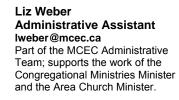








Joan Schooley
Administrative Assistant
jschooley@mcec.ca
Part of the MCEC Administrative
Team; office host; supports the work
of the Executive Minister, Church
Engagement Minister and Director
of Communications.







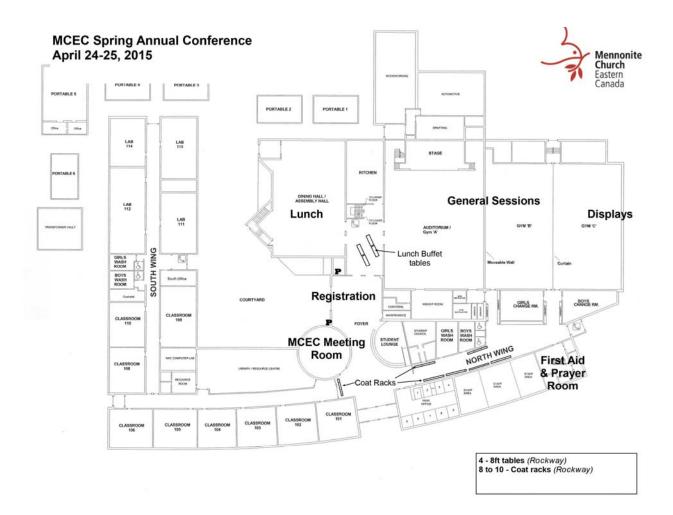






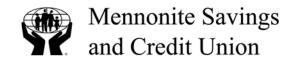






Thank you to our sponsors. Please thank them at their displays!







mark your calendar!

MCEC Annual Church Gathering 2016

April 29 & 30, 2016 Leamington



• Quebec
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