2018 Report Book
Volume 61

MCM Gathering 2019
Mennonite Church Manitoba
March 2, 2019
Hosted by Steinbach Mennonite Church, Steinbach, MB

Leadership Day - Friday, March 1  |  8:45am
Springfield Heights Mennonite Church
Winnipeg, MB

Delegate Sessions - Saturday, March 2  |  8:30am
Steinbach Mennonite Church,
Steinbach, MB

Cover Photo: InFuse 2018. Jesse Wolfe
Steinbach Mennonite Church (Steinbach Mennoniten Gemeinde) was accepted as a member of the Canadian Conference on July 8, 1942. Over the decades, the congregation has mainly been composed of Russlaender Mennonites, Canadian Mennonites of the 1870s, immigrants arriving after World War II, people from South America and sponsored refugees. This mosaic has enriched the faith journey of SMC’s worshippers.

The German language was used exclusively in the early years. English was gradually introduced, and in 1977 the Sunday morning schedule contained a service in German as well as English. German services discontinued after February 2017.

Four meeting houses were built, each structure bigger than the previous one. Many programmes have been developed within those walls – for boys and girls, youth, women and men. Missions and service have always been emphasised. The work of Mennonite Central Committee continues to be a focus since many of the initial members benefitted from this organisation. One of the church’s strengths has always been music. At various periods, choirs/small groups were formed for virtually every age. Currently a piano and organ enhance services with the addition of handbells at Christmas time.

SMC celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2017! Two charter members were honoured – the last one recently passed in January. A commemorative Peace Pole was planted in front of the building in November 2017. The public statement was enhanced almost a year later with a welcoming Peace Garden including an accessible path from the boulevard’s sidewalk. A recently adopted mission statement encapsulates this flock’s purpose. Steinbach Mennonite Church is striving to faithfully follow Christ in worship and service by making disciples, building community and reaching out to the world. Most churches occasionally encounter storms and this vibrant congregation is no exception. SMC has definitely experienced God’s faithfulness in countless ways – all praise and glory be to Him!
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<th>Acronyms</th>
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<td>Church Community Building Ministry</td>
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72nd Annual Gathering Program
Friday, March 1, 2019

Leadership Day (at Springfield Heights Mennonite Church, Winnipeg)

8:45am-4:15pm  Theme - Love thyself as thy neighbor: Resilience by fulfilling God’s call

Saturday, March 2, 2019

8:15 AM  Lobby - Registration
9:00 AM  Sanctuary - Worship
   Congregational Life Storytelling
   Communion

9:30 AM  Sanctuary - Session #1
   Review agenda, introductions, 2018 minutes, 2018 Board actions
   Staff reporting
   Conversation with staff

10:15 AM  Gym - Coffee
10:45 AM  Sanctuary - Session #2
   2018 Financial Report
   Introduction of new financial reporting formats
   Introduction of 2019 Budget
   Nominations Report
   International Witness update
   MC Canada Gathering

12:00 PM  Gym - Lunch

1:00 PM  Workshops: workshops on topics related to ministry areas
2:00 PM  Gym  Coffee
2:15 PM  Sanctuary - Session #3
   Reports from workshops
   Approval of Nominations
   Approval of 2019 budget
   Other business

3:00 PM  Sanctuary - Worship
   Congregational life storytelling
   Celebration of congregational life
   Commissioning
   Sending
Foreword

Thank you for opening the Mennonite Church Manitoba report book for the year 2018! You are reading a theological, churchly, and practical accounting for how we worked together to live as faithful people of God. This report book contains information on a very small part of all the work we do together but it is such important work that we delight in sharing it with you!

Mennonite Church Manitoba has faced some interesting challenges in the past few years. We have faced some difficult theological discernment and with God’s grace we have begun to embrace a more congregational practice in determining how we will face differences in our midst. We have been challenged as a country to live into new relationships with our Indigenous sisters and brothers. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission created Calls to Action which can help us as a Church move toward healing and reconciliation. We as MCM have faced financial restraints which have affected our programming. We have lived into a restructuring of our Nation-wide Church attempting to be faithful to Jesus’ call to go into all the world (including across the street) and make disciples.

We are grateful for the past and we look to the future with hope. These reports are prepared for our delegates so that when we gather, we can test and discern the voices of God that we are hearing in our midst, shape our joint ministry, and worship the God of our future, past and present. The reports contained in this book can never do complete justice to all the work that we do together, however we hope that you can glean enough information from these pages to engage in important conversations about the directions we are headed, the resources required to do our work, and the prayers that are needed.

Ken Warkentin,
Executive Director
Mennonite Church Manitoba
Vision and Mission

VISION
Our vision is to be a community of congregations unified in Jesus Christ, living a biblical Anabaptist faith, together presenting Jesus Christ to the world.

Our Vision is the ideal we want and hope to become. We see ourselves growing in size and faithfulness, and building up our community of churches. Our reason for being is our faith, lived and known and, specifically, articulated in the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective. As a community, we will strengthen each other and our member congregations, to follow Jesus Christ and present Him to all people.

MISSION
Our mission is to resource and empower each other, and to facilitate spiritual growth, service and evangelism.
To fulfill our mission, we are committed to ministries such as:

• proclaiming the gospel of Christ
• promoting Christian education
• planting and nurturing new congregations
• dialoguing and working with congregations, conferences and other denominations
• fostering relationships of mutual accountability
• calling, nurturing and providing leadership
• planning joint worship and faith celebrations

Values

COMMUNITY
MCM is a covenant community whose sense of togetherness flows from common vision, understanding of scripture and confession of faith. Our commitment is to be together and to grow closer in love without insisting on uniformity.

LOVE, CARE AND NURTURE
God’s message of love motivates us to nurture and care for others and each other.

MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY
MCM and member congregations are accountable to each other in matters of doctrine and discipleship.

DOCTRINE
All doctrine is grounded in the holy Word of God as found in the Bible. The core of our doctrine is articulated in the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.

DISCERNMENT
As a community and as individuals, we seek the will of God for the church through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, by searching scripture, discerning the culture and the times in which we live, and waiting patiently for God’s revelation.

DISCIPLESHIP
We encourage churches and their members to be obedient disciples of Christ, living holy and God-honouring lives.

EVANGELISM
We proclaim and witness to the good news of salvation in Christ, and God’s kingdom.

SOCIAL CONCERN
We reach out to, and walk with, people afflicted by poverty, conflict and injustice.

PEACE
We believe that peace is the will of God, and that we are called to live and work as Christian peace-makers.

STEWARDSHIP
We embrace the biblical message about the management of all we are and have been given under God’s creation.

—as adopted at delegate meeting @ Bethel Church, June 17, 1998
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

The past few years have been intense for Mennonite Church Manitoba (MCM). Discussion (or was it debate?) around camps took a lot of energy; dealing with the Being a Faithful Church process and its fallout with a number of congregations leaving MCM was heart wrenching; working at restructuring in response to the Future Directions Taskforce was complex, involved and time consuming. And regretfully, each of those issues tended to pit us against each other rather than unify us, each tended to divert us from discussion of our primary identity and mission as part of the Body of Christ.

I was privileged in that my first year with the MCM Board was considerably less contentious, even if some of the older agenda did remain on the table. Camping has reached a clarity as Moose Lake has been sold, and the management of Koinonia taken over by a local group, even as MCM continues to make use of Koinonia for some weeks in the summer. This means that Camps with Meaning, the MCM camping ministry arm, now will administer programming for Camp Assiniboia and a set number of weeks at Camp Koinonia, but only have facilities responsibility at Camp Assiniboia.

The new structures precipitated change in MCM financial systems and reporting format, a change that had been talked about for some years. One significant feature of this change is that Camps with Meaning finances will be separated out from the main MCM budget and reports. This will make it easier to track how MCM allocates donations received from congregations, even as it contributes to aligning MCM reporting with that of the other Regional Churches. Previously the significant revenue generated through rentals and fees by the camps tended to distort the overall MCM numbers.

A consequence of this reworking of financial systems, along with financial pressures, led to the reduction of staff in this area. Tom Seals, a long-time stalwart in MCM finances left his role at the end of January. This transition was a painful one for both sides. It is anticipated that in the future there will be some sharing of bookkeeping and accounting functions among MCM, MCCanada and MCEC.

The reworking of financial systems and reporting formats reminds us that finances will remain a major challenge and agenda for the years ahead. A year ago the Board presented the possibility of hiring a Congregational Engagement staff person. That was not possible this year. Will it be possible next year? I hope so, but as we move into the future, it will be important that we (as Board, as congregations) develop a balance between financial resources and programming and staffing, with the need to assess carefully what our priorities are, and how they best contribute to our mission.

One of the most significant consequence of moving beyond some of the earlier debates is that it has allowed greater attention to questions of identity and mission. One practical example of this is the shift from having two delegate business gatherings a year to only one. The Fall session was replaced by a congregational resourcing day, called Infuse (Nov. 3, 2018). At that event Betty Pries inspired us with two presentations on the theme, “Mission and Vulnerability.” She had spent the previous day with MCM pastors at their leadership day. In addition to plenary sessions Infuse included a number of workshops, some related to the central theme, some designed to resource specific roles in the congregation, e.g., for congregational moderators, those involved in personnel, etc. The chatter at the hour-long coffee time in the afternoon was enthusiastic.

We are already thinking of next year’s Infuse, again with the goal of resourcing congregations, through inspiration towards mission, and help with practical matters in the life of the congregation (e.g., finances, committee work, personnel, etc.). First Peter speaks of us as a many persons who become one people through receiving God’s mercy, a people with the mandate to “declare to the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

May that be our priority in the years ahead.

Gerald Gerbrandt
Moderator
When you gather in your congregational settings you also gather as Mennonite Church Manitoba. When you gather as delegates to Mennonite Church Manitoba you also gather as Mennonite Church Canada. Even as we strongly state that the local congregation is the foundational unit of the church, we also acknowledge that we are more than individual congregations. We are much more! Mennonite Church Manitoba is a collection of 40 congregations who gather regularly to worship, pray, share, learn, and act out our faith in the communities in which we live. We are a dynamic community of faith with our authority rooted in the life of Jesus as told through the gospels. Our inspiration is found in the presence of the Holy Spirit who continues to lead, challenge, and disrupt of lives when we become too centered in the seduction of individualism. Our mission is borne in the love of God who is the author and perfect example of love without measure or boundary. Whenever we gather, we join hands and hearts with our sisters and brothers not only in the other congregations in Manitoba, but we also find our fellowship within Mennonite Church Canada, Mennonite World Conference, and the Holy Church of God worldwide.

Authority in our structure is found in the body of Christ which regularly gathers to pray, worship, learn, and discern what God’s will for us as a people might be. Our unity is found in our common tasks and mission as we live out Jesus’ call to “come and follow me”.

So, the role of the Mennonite Church Manitoba staff is to strengthen our congregations and pay attention to how the mission of the Church is being carried out locally, nationally, and globally. We do this through offering different inspirational and training events such as the first annual “Infuse” in which Betty Pries offered words of encouragement to be the voice of God’s hope and healing in the current context of Canadian society, and then presented helpful options about how to be faithful in a rapidly changing milieu. Building Bridges is an annual event through which we listen to the voices of our indigenous neighbors and learn from them what it may mean to walk together in this country. We also offer other leadership development workshops and seminars for pastors and other leaders, we create opportunities for pastors to gather for support and sharing ideas, and we work with churches in times of transition or crisis. We participate in Global Witness through our partnerships which form Mennonite Church Canada.

We also operate a children’s summer camp ministry in two locations: Camp Koinonia and Camp Assiniboia. This provides hundreds of children with an opportunity to have an incredible camping experience under the leadership of dedicated and eager counsellors. The combination of summer staff being supported by their home congregations, children from a variety of backgrounds and the call of Jesus to “Follow me” creates what some have called the “Summer Miracle”.

This year we have been able to turn the operations at Camp Koinonia over to a Property Management Group. This group from the southwest corner of our province is better able to manage the property and maintain our facility so that we can focus on offering a stellar Camping Ministry there in the summer months. In the rest of the year this group will continue to rent out the camp to church and school groups. We are grateful that this group, who has a keen knowledge of the camp from many years of service with it, can support the ministry of Camps with Meaning.

Ken Warkentin
Executive Director
The Faith and Life Choirs are a ministry of Mennonite Church Manitoba’s “Church Community Building Ministry.”

The mission is... to participate in the mission of the wider church by leading others into worship of God through music.

The choirs sing in Sunday morning worship services; at Nursing Homes; present concerts and lead in songfests in Manitoba and beyond. The choirs have recorded numerous CD’s, and provide music for the Frohe Botschaft radio program.

Visit the Mennonite Church Manitoba website and find the choirs under ‘Programs’ to watch video of the choirs in action. www.mennochurch.mb.ca
Mission Ministry

Camps with Meaning

Summer Camp & Strategic Plan Initiatives

2018 was a year of excitement, changes and challenges as we continued to implement the strategic plan for camping ministry that was approved in 2016. One of the more notable changes of the past year is the transition from a three camp model to two (Camp Assiniboia and Camp Koinonia). While it has taken some time to adjust to the closing of Camp Moose Lake, the immediate impact of the two-camp system was significant in that we had enough staff and volunteers to run our programs well and we were able to recruit summer staff and volunteers with relative ease. As a result of this transition, camper attendance at Camp Koinonia also increased (as many campers who previously attended Camp Moose Lake chose to attend Camp Koinonia in 2018), giving new life and energy to the programs there.

Another change that stems from the strategic plan relates to the ongoing financial viability of the summer camp program. In 2018 we increased our registration rates so that they would be more in line with what other camps with comparable programs & facilities charge. Along with this rate change, we also introduced a new Campership Fund program to help offset the increase for families requiring assistance. This past year, a total of 61 families applied and received assistance through the Campership Fund; we hope that more will make use of this program in 2019; so please spread the word and encourage people to apply. Thanks to the generous donations from our banquet fundraisers this year, we can accommodate more requests!

While we have many wonderful stories to share from this past summer (See Janet Peter’s Summer Camp Report) and our camping ministry continues to be a tremendously valuable program and experience for children, youth, young adults and adults with disabilities, we have seen in decline in numbers over the past eight years. This year, we had 95 fewer campers than the year before; and while we had anticipated some loss in numbers due to the closing of Camp Moose Lake, our surveys, our call out campaigns and other trends in our campership data suggest that other issues are in play and probably have been for quite some time. Of the 515 calls that we made during our call-out campaign in late spring, 136 families said that their children “might go to camp, but they hadn’t decided yet” or that they were “planning to go, but just hadn’t registered yet”. Since we began doing call-out campaigns in 2015 these responses, along with “having other plans” have been consistent and far out-weight any other response. This leads us to the question, of what motivates families to send their children to camp? What are the values and experiences that encourage campers and/or their parents to register for camp?

To this end, Janet Peters has begun a listening tour with pastors, and in 2019 she will continue the tour with parents and other camp supporters. The listening tour will delve into the question of what camping ministry from an Anabaptist perspective should look like, and what values & experiences are important to campers and their parents. We will use the findings of this initiative to articulate simple messages and outcomes that are relevant to one’s age and spiritual & developmental stage in life and we will then apply these to our Bible curriculum, programs and activities.

Facility Development – Camp Assiniboia

We have had some very exciting developments at Camp Assiniboia with respect to facilities and infrastructure this past year. A major initiative funded by the three levels of government to repair the camp’s existing dike and extend it along our horse pasture to protect local residents in the area is now completed. The cost to repair the camp dike alone was estimated at $650,000. These repairs should not only mitigate some of the perennial issues that we have faced with flooding at Camp Assiniboia but it opens development possibilities that we could not consider before because of flooding issues. As we move into the development campaign for Camp Assiniboia it is good to know that our facilities will be dry and safe from future floods!

An exciting offshoot of the dike development will be making a significant impact on the activities that we offer at Camp Assiniboia. To build the dike, approximately 4 acres of soil was taken from the pasture. This “borrow area” is now being developed into a lake that will be used for swimming and other watersport activities. We hope to have the lake in working order by mid-summer 2019 so that campers can swim, paddle and enjoy the sand and sun! We have received some financial compensation for the use of the dirt. These monies will be used to develop the lake and a walking path around it. We estimate that an additional $30,000 will be needed for an aeration system and dock. Some money (approximately $6,000) has already been raised, if your congregation would like to support this project we will gladly receive your contributions.
This year we also built a new maintenance shop that is located along the main road that leads to the horse barn. Many thanks to those who gave donations through events like the Song A Thon fundraiser at Fort Garry Mennonite Church and our annual Square Dance and Pie Spectacular. We’d also like to extend our thanks to all of those who offered countless hours of volunteer labour to see the shop through to its completion. Pictures, video and more information on both the shop and dike can be viewed on our website http://www.campswithmeaning.org/category/news/. With the completion of these projects, the new cabins that were built in 2016 and other upgrades to the lodge and facilities we estimate that over 1.1 million dollars has been invested into our facilities in the past four years!

Winter Season – Guest Group Programs

I would be remiss if I did not make mention of the wonderful programs and ministry of hospitality that we offer throughout the fall, winter and spring. In 2019, the management group, Koino Inc. will take over the year-round management of Camp Koinonia. The facilities there are available to guest groups throughout the winter and will continue to be used for Camps with Meaning’s camp program in the summer. For booking information please go to www.campkoino.ca.

Camp Assiniboia is also available to guest groups from fall to spring. Last year approximately 6,900 visitors (totally 184 groups) came through our doors in 2018! Sixty one of these groups were schools, 41 churches and the remaining comprised of families, retreaters, business groups and charitable organizations.

During this season there is a worshiping community, This Ground, which gathers two times per month – see https://www.facebook.com/thisgroundassiniboia/ for worship times or call the camp office. All are welcome to come. We also continue to develop our Land Based Education program which is available to all groups who come. This program includes teaching sessions and tours in the lodge and along the trails with Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Audrey Logan. It also includes tours of our farm and garden and a Nature Scavenger Hunt in the forest!

As we continue with our development plans at Camp Assiniboia we will be developing meditation trails, incorporating a learning center in the forest and continuing with the development of our farm so there is much to look forward to in the coming years!

Partnership Circles

Last year I noted that when people and congregations engage in the work of reconciliation, transformations, both big and small seem to happen. This shouldn’t be surprising because reconciliation is at the heart of the gospel and God’s desire for the world. When we get on board with the work that God is doing we (and others) inevitably grow and change. The hope of our Partnership Circle endeavors is ultimately to remain faithful to this call.

Ministry Circles

This past summer eight congregations from northern and southern Manitoba joined together for fellowship, picnics & BBQ’s, worship, summer camp and DVBS. While most of the gatherings occurred in the communities of Riverton, Manigotagan, Cross Lake and Pauingassi, earlier in the summer Pauingassi residents who evacuated to Winnipeg because of a forest fire gathered joined Winkler Emmanuel in Winkler for their church picnic.

MMIWG Circle

Approximately 40 MMIWG family members came out to Camp Assiniboia for the day early June. A number of members of MCM congregations were also there to host, meet families, and help with the lunch that we served. This was the first time that many families had been to the camp. We had a wonderful day, families were given a tour, engaged in some camp games and activities and then we had an initial conversation on building a cabin for families at the camp. Families were very open and supportive of this idea. More conversations with families are forthcoming.

Bill C262 Circle

In 2017 and 2018 MCM churches and individuals participated in a number of events (from a 600 kilometer pilgrimage, to letter writing campaigns and learning events) that encouraged Members of Parliament to support Bill C-262 which is an act that ensures that the Laws of Canada are in Harmony with the UNDRIP. This bill was passed in the House of Commons in June of 2017 and will now be debated in the Senate, and if it passes in June of 2019, it will receive Royal Assent and become one of the statutes of Canada.

UNDRIP has been identified by the TRC as the blueprint for reconciliation in Canada. If you or your congregation would like to send letters of encouragement to Senate
members, more information can be found here www.commonword.ca/go/1283).

**Partnership Circle Events**

We also co-sponsored a number of events this year including:

- Our annual Building Bridges event at the Thunderbird House Good for Us All: UNDRIP and the Church. This event was hosted by Jamie Howison and a panel of guests (Brenda Gunn, Professor of Law at the U of M), Marcus Rempel (author of Life at the End of Us vs. Them) Lynell Bergen (pastor Hope Mennonite) and Dave Driedger (pastor First Mennonite). The panel explored specific articles of the Declaration and how churches can engage them.

- 147 Pathways to Treaty Relations. This was the second annual Treaty Pathways event. It was held at at Lower Fort Garry where Treaty 1 was signed. This year we invited guest teachers Allan Sutherland and Chris Henderson to conduct workshops on Treaty 1 and on Land Entitlement. We will also be having a picnic lunch and a time of sharing from organizations such as Share the Gifts who resource churches and communities that are working towards living into our treaty relationships.

- This year, our fall gathering was at the Odena Circle at The Forks where a vigil for MMIWG families was held. After the vigil, we had a gathering at the Forks Market for coffee & informal conversation.

This year Mennonite Church Manitoba also joined the City of Winnipeg’s Indigenous Accord which is a new initiative that invites individuals and groups from multiple sectors across Winnipeg (churches, interfaith groups, community groups, charities, businesses etc.) to create new initiatives and partnerships with Indigenous peoples in order advance reconciliation efforts. This initiative is guided by the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The goal is to “create experiences of positive change between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.”

If you are interested in participating in any of our Partnership Circles or would like information on upcoming events, please contact Dorothy Fontaine dfontaine@mennonchurch.mb.ca.
Bible Curriculum and Theme Song

Our Bible curriculum for summer 2018 was titled “Peace: at All Times and in Every Way.” Written by Tim Wenger with support from a small group of experienced individuals, the curriculum’s focus Scripture text came from 2 Thessalonians 3:16: “Now may the Lord of peace give to you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.” The daily lessons moved us ever inward from the big picture of peace with creation to peace between nations, between people, and between us and God.

As has become our habit, we held a songwriting workshop in spring at which present and past staff worked together to create a song reflecting our Bible theme. This has become an integral part of our curriculum and our worship over the years, and we now have quite a list of Camps with Meaning songs that reflect our Anabaptist theology and the camp worshipping community. This year’s song, “Now may the Lord of peace,” includes a chorus based on the Scripture text and verses that call us to peace with creation and with each other while claiming God’s presence with us through it all. Lyrics, chords and recordings of all of our songs can be found at www.campswithmeaning.org/summer/memories-of-camp/music.

This next summer’s overarching theme is “Community.” With the input of past Bible instructors, pastors and teachers, Selenna Wolfe will be crafting lessons and activities to help campers engage with that theme. What a blessing to have a community with the talents to craft curriculum and music for our camps!

Summer Program

This summer we had a total of 649 campers come through our programs. Over 450 children and youth from grades 1 through 12, as well as almost 200 adults with mental and physical challenges experienced a week at one of our camps. We had a number of families take advantage of our campership program, receiving a discount based on their household income and number of campers coming from their family.

Getting up in the air was the highlight of summer – ziplining at both camps, the climbing wall at Koinonia and the ropes course at Assiniboia scored high on camper surveys. Animals are also a big hit! Campers of all ages and abilities were able to learn and grow in their faith through singing and the evening firesides where staff share pieces of their journeys with God. Conversations and relationships with old and new friends and our amazing staff allowed for more sharing and growing together in faith, as did time simply spent outdoors in our beautiful camp settings.

Both staff and campers come back from camp transformed in big and small ways – they are kinder to their siblings and classmates, more considerate and confident, have created a deeper relationship with God, and are often energized to get involved in their churches back home. We want to continue making those connections and making a difference in the lives of our campers and our staff. To that end I have begun having conversations with the MCM pastors about what Anabaptism looks like at summer camp, what are the messages and values we want to pass on, and how camp ministry and church ministries can benefit each other.

Camps with Meaning’s biggest transformation over this last year has been the move to two camps. While we saw a slight drop in camper numbers overall, our weeks were actually fuller and we had little trouble filling our staff and volunteer needs, and were able to comfortably and confidently offer a stellar program at our two beautiful sites.

Assiniboia has also seen a physical transformation in the
renewal of our dike and the formation of what will soon be a substantial lake. We are currently dreaming about how best to use this new water feature in our programming.

Next summer will see us expand our weeks at Koinonia to include a spring ADV week, extend our Assiniboia day camp age to grade 5, and try some new things in our Junior High programs at both camps.

Retreats

Throughout the spring, fall, and winter months Camps with Meaning was also able to support some very wonderful retreats. In February we held a retreat for our ADV (adults with disabilities) campers at Camp Assiniboia. Anna Epp directed the retreat, and Mackenzie Hildebrand provided the Bible lessons and many of our senior summer staff volunteered to make this a meaningful time for the 23 participants.

In May we had 30 people of all ages and birding experience head out to Turtle Mountain Bible Camp and the surrounding area for a birding retreat directed by Dieter Schonwetter. Highlights included presentations from Heidi den Haan on banding and identifying birds and wildlife photographer and author Dennis Fast.

In November we held a Sabbath retreat for our summer staff at Camp Assiniboia. 22 staff, including TVs, SLTs, and leadership, came out for all or part of the weekend and enjoyedwalks, puzzles, cards, worship, sharing and good fellowship.

All of these retreats are planned to continue in 2019, and we are starting to dream about at least one more – details to come!

Staff and Volunteers

This summer we had more than 140 staff and volunteers working with us to make our summer camp program possible. The 67 volunteers who gave of their time and talents in the kitchen, on maintenance, as pastors and as health officers were not only essential to the running of our program, but also contributed to fullness that is our summer camp community.

We continued to partner with Urban Stables in caring for and running our horse program. There were some chal-
lenges with scheduling and adjusting to working within the requirements of two organizations. We are currently trying to reimagine what the horse program can look like and how to help our campers get the most out of their time at the barn.

Our staff of 77 young people was as amazing and creative and faithful as ever. We had 11 Teen Volunteers who, guided by their directors and a few experienced staff, provided care and an atmosphere of welcome and fun to our full day camp weeks. We were also blessed with our largest Servant-Leader-in-Training cohort in recent memory at 26. Every one of them stepped up and stepped in to all sorts of new experiences and roles, and should provide a solid staff body for years to come. Our experienced counsellors continued to shine as they helped campers thrive and grow in all sorts of ways, while continuing to grow themselves.

The program had strong leaders once again this summer. Many of them were in new roles or were new to leadership, and we all learned a lot together through the four months. Their creativity and passion for the ministry of camp was an inspiration for the staff and volunteers, and continues to inspire me as I look ahead to summer 2019.

Janet Peters
CwM Assoc. Program Director
Leadership Ministries

Mennonite Church Manitoba cares about the Leadership of our congregations. MCM is active in providing training and educational opportunities for our Pastors so that they are better equipped in meeting the changing needs of our congregations and societal trends. MCM seeks to resource our leaders in providing workshops, seminars and retreats for well-balanced ministries. Monthly cluster gatherings for all pastors give opportunity to connect and talk with other colleagues on particular issues that need addressing as well as providing a place of encouragement and support for one another. MCM serves to help bring congregational leadership together to find ways of strengthening the local congregation's mission and ministries as well as identifying new paths of faithful discipleship.

The past year included Leadership Days focused on the central theme of “Leadership for Changing Times.” In March, Eric Stutzman of the ACHIEVE Center for Leadership Training and Workplace Performance served as our resource facilitator. We heard stories from local MCM Pastors of organizational decisions around change within their own congregations in order to better address their current needs. Through these stories, we heard about challenges that come with change and the factors of resistance that congregations/leaders often face. We recognized the importance of lament and loss of the past while also learning to embrace the future with new hope and possibility.

In November, MCM hosted a two day conference entitled INFUSE. Betty Pries of Credence and Co. was the keynote speaker and her skills of facilitating conversation around areas of discernment within the group were highly valued. During the first day, Betty led MCM Pastors in identifying the important realities of our time and current church context and invited us to reflect on ways of addressing these issues. Opportunities for connecting with one another for times of learning and sharing are highly valued.

Each year MCM offers a one day retreat at Camp Assiniboia for MCM Pastors. The purpose of this retreat is for spiritual enrichment and renewal. This past year included the opportunity to join some of our Camps with Meaning Leadership Team for a time of worship and communion together.

Pastoral ministry is carried out in the context of relationships. Sometimes these relationships are conflictual, sometimes they are intense or intimate, sometimes they are friendly and collaborative and sometimes more business-like. Responsible Pastors are constantly required to assess the relationships that they are involved in and respond in ways that bring healing and growth to the other, while also caring for one self. In May, we spent a full day with Pastors and Leaders to think about Healthy Boundaries within our work and lives. Jaymie Friesen – Prevention for Sexual Abuse Coordinator (MCC) was our resource person. The expectation for MCM Credentialed Pastors is that this training will be an essential element of their professional growth as spiritual leaders within the congregation.

As a Regional Church body, MCM holds credentials for all of its congregational Pastors. The Ministerial Leadership Committee discerns the calling and gifts of each candidate together with the local congregation. We have three categories of credentials that are offered including: Licensing toward Ordination, Ordination and Licensing for Specific Ministry. This past year, credentials were granted to Andrea De Avila (Sargent Ave. Mennonite Church), Doug Unrau (Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church) and Wes Goertzen (Whitewater Mennonite Church).

MCM continues to value the work of spiritual care that is provided in a number of health care facilities within our region. We have approximately 10 people who visit and give support to individuals and families who are experiencing health concerns and /or end of life issues. Peter Dyck serves as the Spiritual Care Coordinator for a monthly gathering of this group and he provides support and training for continuing spiritual care education.

Number of MCM Pastors Credentialed (including Retired Pastors) – 215
Number of Credentialed Pastors in Active Congregational Ministry - 70
New Pastors to MCM who began in 2018 - 5
Concluding Pastoral assignments within MCM – 4
Interim Pastors - 1
Credentials Granted – 3
Credentials Transferred IN – 2
Credentials Transferred OUT – 1
Our long time German-speaking radio broadcast – “Frohe Botschaft” continues to touch many listeners near and far. Dorothea Kampen works diligently to help set themes and to find speakers for the many speaking slots throughout the year. The program is carried through 950 CFAM and 1250 CHSM radio of Golden West Broadcasting.

Retired ministry can be a valued gift within our congregations. Pastors who have served the church in the past can offer respectful wisdom and insight for the present-day church. MCM holds an annual retreat where Retired Ministers and Lay Leaders can gather together for fellowship and worship. The 2019 retreat will be May 29 @ Camp Assiniboia.

MCM Leadership is involved in partnerships with others in planning workshops and events that invite collaborative gathering across denominational lines. Events such as the annual ReNew are meant to bring together Pastors and Church Leaders for learning and resourcing around a variety of pertinent themes. This past year “Sola Scriptura” was the theme and focused on ways in which scripture is read and understood personally within our own spiritual lives but also within the context of our corporate gathering and congregational worship times.

MCM, together with other partners from CMU, MCC and MCMB have begun to plan an event called #ChurchTooManitoba where church leaders will be invited to engage on the topic of clergy sexual abuse affecting the church. The date of this conference is May 31-June 1 and will be hosted at CMU. This is in keeping with MCM’s continuing effort to educate and resource leadership and congregations in the area of clergy sexual abuse prevention and the painful devastation that results when matters of authority and trust are violated.

I am grateful for the Pastoral Leadership within our congregations. It is my prayer that we will continue to support and equip our Pastors within our congregations. I thank you for the ways that you, as local congregations, are providing care and support for those who serve in leadership roles.

Rick Neufeld
Dir. of Leadership Ministries
Associate Director of Leadership Ministries Report

It takes ……(Wide) Church to:

Tap, nudge, discern and call people into ministry. MCM provides guidance, accompaniment and discerning processes to people who are exploring a call to ministry. Many a ‘coffee’ are had as I walk with young leaders being nudged by the Spirit through their congregation, CMU professors, grandparents and peers to consider serving in pastoral ministry. Most could have never imagined ….so we help them imagine.

Create circles of nurture, growth and support for new and young pastors. MCM’s YMF (Youth Minister’s Fellowship) does just that. Offering 4 Retreat/Resource days a year to youth/young adults pastors, we seek to provide the input and care these pastors need.

These pastors are also invited to participate in peer small groups for care and consultation.

Pay attention to the entering and exiting of pastors, providing spaces for orientation and processing. Pastors, who are taking their first steps into their vocation, are offered mentors and pastoral care. Pastors who are leaving a congregation are offered exit interviews, along with supportive care. Through these actions of the wider church, it is the hope that young pastors will sense that their community of faith is there for them through out their journey.

Create spaces and places for our youth to explore faithfulness in wide and wonderful ways! We continue to offer our annual ‘On the Eve’; peace witness gathering in the Fall and Winter Retreats for both Jr. and Sr. high. These retreats continue to be well attended and appreciated by MCM youth groups.

Strengthen congregational youth/young adult ministry by working in collaboration. MCM works in strong partnership with CMU, MCC MB, UofM Menno Office, Westgate, MCI to imagine, create and offer new opportunities for faith examination, exploration and experience. The 6.8 Equipping Peacebuilders youth gathering is a good example of creative collaborative work.

Give energy to various working groups with our faith community. I, have been an active participant of the Mennonite Women MB working group since it re-formed in 2014. This group has offered an annual Day for Women in the past 3 years, this past year focusing on resilience. They also hosted Conversation Circles for women in the Fall, asking the question; ‘What is your experience, as a woman, within your MCM congregation?’

Imagine a gathering for youth that infuses, inspires and ignites their passion for Jesus! Shake; Rattled by the Radical is being planned by a group from MCM and MCSK. We,(MCM planners- Erika Enns Rodine, Anna Epp and myself) are pumped about the possibilities this July 28- Aug.1 gathering holds!

Grateful to God for our life together,
Kathy Giesbrecht
Assoc. Dir. of Leadership Ministries
## Pastor - Congregation Linkages

### MCM PASTORAL PLACEMENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congregation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bethel Mennonite</td>
<td>Kathy McCamis</td>
<td>Associate Pastor</td>
<td>July 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenlea Mennonite</td>
<td>Cheryl Braun</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>September 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steinbach Mennonite</td>
<td>Darry Climenhaga</td>
<td>Associate Pastor</td>
<td>September 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altona Bergthaler Mennonite</td>
<td>Mark Tiessen-Dyck</td>
<td>Lead Pastor</td>
<td>September 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope Mennonite</td>
<td>Lisa Martens</td>
<td>Associate Pastor</td>
<td>October 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carman Mennonite</td>
<td>Rachel Siemens</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>November 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Kildonan Mennonite</td>
<td>Elizabeth Schrag</td>
<td>Pastor of Faith Formation</td>
<td>November 15</td>
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### CONCLUDING ASSIGNMENTS:

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<th>Congregation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Altona Bergthaler Mennonite</td>
<td>Walter Hiebert</td>
<td>Interim Lead Pastor</td>
<td>January 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel Mennonite</td>
<td>Reynold Friesen</td>
<td>Pastor of Community Outreach</td>
<td>February 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverton Fellowship Circle</td>
<td>Sam Bergen</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>April 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carman Mennonite</td>
<td>Karen Schellenberg</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>June 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sargent Ave. Mennonite</td>
<td>Mark Tiessen-Dyck</td>
<td>Associate Pastor</td>
<td>August 19</td>
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### CREDENTIALING ACTIVITY:

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<th>Congregation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Credential</th>
<th>Service Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sargent Ave. Mennonite</td>
<td>Andrea De Avila</td>
<td>Licensing toward Ordination</td>
<td>April 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowe Farm Bergthaler</td>
<td>Doug Unrau</td>
<td>Ordination</td>
<td>September 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitewater Mennonite</td>
<td>Wes Goertzen</td>
<td>Ordination</td>
<td>February 3, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credentials Transferred IN: Rachel Siemens (Central District MCUSA); Barry Lesser (MCBC)  
Credentials Transferred OUT: Walter Hiebert (MBMB)
Abram G. Neufeld Minister And Missionary Education Fund

The goal of the Abram G. Neufeld Minister and Missionary Education Fund is to provide financial support to pastors and missionaries who would like to further their training. Leadership Ministries administers the proceeds of this fund. We also attempt to invest in the fund as possible. We invite your donations.

If we can build the invested amount, it will be possible to help more pastors and missionaries. Your gifts are an investment in people preparing for Kingdom work. We'd love to hear from you.

Each year we are able to award bursaries based on the earnings of the fund. Since the monies have been invested in mutual funds (administered by Mennonite Foundation of Canada), the amount varies from year to year. The earnings are made available to us in mid-June.

Based on the applications we received, we were able to make awards to three deserving applicants: Andrea De Avila in the amount of $1,200, Ken Quiring in the amount of $500, and Valeriia Alipova in the amount of $750. The unused funds were re-invested.

Applications received by June 1, 2019, will be considered.

Jake And Dorothy Pauls Pastoral Leadership Training Fund

The idea for this fund grew out of a vision of Jake Pauls that the training of pastors should be given high priority in the Mennonite Church. The purpose of this fund, therefore, is to support leadership training for people who are called to pastoral ministry and who are in a program of studies with an Anabaptist/Mennonite focus.

Those who apply are eligible for up to $2,500.00 per year dependent on the earnings of the fund. Monies are invested with Mennonite Foundation of Canada and are administered by Mennonite Church Manitoba.

Based on the application we received, we were able to make an award to Judith Friesen-Epp in the amount of $850. The unused funds were re-invested.

If you would like to apply for this fund in 2019, please contact MCM Leadership Ministries to receive guidelines and an application form.

Applications received by June 1, 2019 will be considered.

Johann Funk Memorial Fund

The Johann Funk Memorial fund provides interest free loans to students who desire theological training. An applicant may borrow up to a maximum of $1,500.00 per year and make a maximum of two consecutive loans. (Since the fund is quite small, we cap the total loan for any one student at $3,000.00).

In 2018, we made an interest free loan to Vlady Dibrova in the amount of $2,500.

If you would like to apply for a Johann Funk loan in 2019, please contact Leadership Ministries.

Applications received by August 1, 2019, will be considered.

If you would like to apply for the Abram G. Neufeld Bursary Jake and Dorothy Pauls Pastoral Leadership Training Fund, Johann Funk Memorial Fund in 2019, please contact MCM Leadership Ministries to receive guidelines and an application form.

Donations are welcome.
The Resolution on Palestine - Israel which passed on the floor of the Delegate Sessions of Mennonite Church Canada in Saskatoon 2016 has 6 follow-up points. The co-sponsors of the Resolution were invited to develop a volunteer group to work with staff in implementing the resolution. This has developed into Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network which meets quarterly by conference call. Since the denominational restructuring in late 2017, each leader made an effort to develop a Working Group in his/her own region.

The following is the report of the MC Manitoba Working Group, which meets monthly and consists of about a dozen members from several Winnipeg churches. In keeping with our mandate, our activities are organized according to the points in the Resolution:

1. We look to the gospel of Jesus Christ …
   • taught adult Sunday School at River East MB church June 3 & 10
   • gave Sermon at Charleswood Mennonite church August 26
   • taught adult Sunday School at Charleswood Mennonite Church Sept 16, 23, 30
   • led Bible Study at Bethel Place Sept 11, 18, 25

2. We commit ourselves to ongoing prayer …
   • began each meeting with prayer
   • sent prayer requests to the churches

3. We affirm the efforts of Israelis and Palestinians who are committed to non-violent ways of overcoming the injustice in their region … partnership …
   • met with Rabbi Greene January 9
   • co-sponsored event My Jerusalem at U of Winnipeg Feb 28
   • met with Rabbi David Mivisar March 1
   • organized meeting with CMU students April
   • co-sponsored speaker Naim Ateek at CMU April 25

4. We urge our member congregations to deepen their understanding …
   • periodic updates and event announcements through an email list of over 100 interested constituents, this included promoting Learning Tours to Palestine and Israel
   • sent insert to churches called Shop Ethically for Palestine in June
   • promoted Zatoun fair trade olive oil Peace boxes in a small sample of 4 churches
   • sent Advent meditations “Bethlehem Then and Now” to churches in November
   • tested Advent children’s stories in several churches
   • worked with Canadian Mennonite to publish articles
   • developed a Speakers’ Bureau available to churches and schools in Manitoba
   • met with Sargent Mennonite Church Fellowship group December 15

5. We ask the MC Canada General Board … to avoid investing in or supporting companies …
   • checked MC Canada pension investing strategy

6. We encourage the government of Canada to support measures that put pressure on Israel …
   • signed onto letters urging Members of Parliament to support justice

We welcome new members to our committee, participation at events, and invitations to speak.

Submitted by Carolyne Epp-Fransen, Chairperson
Minutes of Mennonite Church Manitoba Annual Gathering
Saturday, March 3, 2018

9:00 Call to order
Moderator Peter Rempel called the meeting to order at 9 am. Host pastor Dave Driedger shared a welcome, announcements, opening meditation, and prayer.

Opening worship
Darryl Neustaedter Barg led gathering songs and Kathy Giesbrecht shared a meditation.

9:15 Review agenda
Moderator noted additions and corrections: partnership reporting at 2:45 pm is a report of MCM mission ministry; the Executive Minister report includes a financial report; and elections are added to actions at 4:15 pm.

Motion to accept the agenda with amendments. M/S Colleen Edmunds/Alex Tiessen. Carried.

Review minutes
Ray Hamm, Altona MC, noted two content errors and recommended thorough proofreading.

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2017 annual gathering. M/S Lynell Bergen/Wes Sawatzky. Carried.

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2017 fall gathering. M/S Virginia Gerbrandt-Richert/Katrina Woelk. Carried.

Board actions
Board actions were provided as a meeting handout. Proposed constitutional amendments were sent to congregations in December 2017 and will be addressed later in the agenda.

Nominations slate
Bob Wiebe presented the nominations slate. Two openings remain including one with Eden Health Care Services (EHCS) and one on the MCM Board. Additions to the nominations in print: Cheryl Braun, nominee to the EHCS Board, and Yvonne Stoesz, nominee to the MCC Manitoba Board. Thanks were extended to members completing terms on committees and sister agency boards. Delegates were invited to identify candidates for boards and committees from within their congregations, as the reach of three nominations committee members is limited.

Quorum was met with 32 congregations represented by 113 delegates.

Resolutions
The MCM Board will serve as the resolutions committee. Board members present included: Richard Klassen, Alex Tiessen, Katrina Woelk, Colleen Edmunds, and Virginia Gerbrandt-Richert. Resolutions can be brought to any board member present.

Parliamentarian
Harold Peters Fransen is absent.

9:30 Seven priorities introduction
Alex Tiessen and Katrina Woelk provided an introduction to the seven priorities exercise and discussion to take place throughout the gathering. In June 2017 the board and staff met to discuss MCM goals and priorities, and established priorities for future MCM ministries. Congregational life and community of congregations were discussed in length and 7 priorities were identified.
Q. Ray Hamm, Altona MC: What is the connection between these priorities and the values listed in the report?
A. Ken Warkentin: All fit within the 10 values of the statement passed. The priorities identified by board and staff are a reworking of energy around these values.

Q. Dave Bergen, Bethel MC: Where do church leadership development and pastoral training fall?
A. Peter Rempel: These would fall under pastoral support.
A. Alex Tiessen: Where do you find that priority fits within the church? You can write that on your coloured note [in reference to 7 priorities exercise].

10:00 Camp report
Dorothy Fontaine reported: 175 guest groups; 6,769 guests; 744 campers; 39 volunteers throughout the year; 81 summer volunteers; 72 leadership staff, counselors, SLTs and teen volunteers; and 28 permanent camp staff.

The top 10 Camp Assiniboia video highlighted: summer horse program partnership with Urban Stable; September square dance and pie spectacular; deer fence; plans for meditation trails; land based education with 2 Indigenous knowledge keepers; 4 new Oak Grove cabins; art and wilderness camps piloted; staff and volunteers; “This Ground” volunteer group; and development plans.

Phase 1A of the Camp Assiniboia development plan was reviewed and includes: dike construction and repair, relocation of the Camp Moose Lake picnic shelter, and construction of a maintenance shop.

The Province of Manitoba and RM of Cartier proposed building a dike on Camp Assiniboia property to protect the local community of Lido Plage. Without the proposed dike, Camp Assiniboia would be underwater with a flood of 2 centuries. MCM staff has met with RM and provincial government representatives, and engineers who will prepare a proposal for dike construction. The proposal will include extensive reconstruction of Camp Assiniboia’s dike including an increase in its height. The dike project would be funded by the federal and provincial governments at 90% and the RM of Cartier would cover the remaining 10%. If the project moves ahead, it will need to take place in spring or early fall to accommodate summer camps. If 2 acres were excavated from the north pasture, Camp Assiniboia would be able to construct a pond. The pond would provide MCM more control of an area prone to flooding. Harv Sawatzky, consultant on this proposal, noted that this plan is consistent with the commitment the MCM Delegate Body previously made to long-term care of the environment at Camp Assiniboia. The next step will be to review the engineer’s proposal. If the proposal accommodates MCM’s needs, MCM staff will negotiate an agreement, speak into a proposal for tender, and retain services of Harv Sawatzky and ft3.

The Camp Moose Lake picnic shelter will be moved to Camp Assiniboia in spring. Construction of a maintenance shop will take place in the summer. The cost is $120k with approximately half this amount already raised through fundraising efforts. A song-a-thon fundraiser is planned again for this year and congregations will be asked to contribute.

Janet Peters, Camps with Meaning Director, shared personal experiences with Camps with Meaning from childhood to adulthood. The bible theme for camps in 2018 will be “Peace at all times in every way” drawn from 2 Thessalonians 3:60. The Camps with Meaning 2018 promotional video was shown.

Moderator clarified that detail regarding the dike proposal has been provided in follow-up to a commitment made by leadership in 2010 to report updates on the plans, especially affecting the forest, to the delegate body. A notice was sent out to congregations about 2.5 weeks ago regarding a motion on dike construction. Action will be taken on the board’s recommendation in the afternoon.

Floor conversation:

Q. Ray Hamm, Altona MC: It sounds like we should do the dike as soon as possible. We were given a bunch of numbers. Is there any comparison on averages over the past years? How does this year’s picture look over the longer term?
A: Dorothy Fontaine: Camper numbers are similar to numbers of the past few years. There has been a steady decrease in camper numbers since 2011. The strategic report gets into those issues and is available in paper copy to delegates.

Q. Laverne Siemens, Gretna Bergthaler MC: How deep would the pond be and how would the dike impact the fish?
A. Dorothy Fontaine: We don't know that yet.

Q. Randy Penner, Home Street MC: It sounds like a fantastic idea, but what is the dollar amount incurred by MCM? Often construction costs are beyond what is anticipated. Is there a cap on how much we're approving?
A. Dorothy Fontaine: There is no immediate cost to MCM as 90% would be covered by the provincial and federal governments with the remaining 10% covered by the RM. MCM would likely contribute some funds through property taxes. If we build a pond, we would incur landscaping costs.

Q. Earl Reimer, Emmanuel MC: There was an earlier resolution made with a commitment not to develop the forest property, retaining it as it was, but this plan seems to be in contradiction to this. Are you viewing this in another fashion?
A. Dorothy Fontaine: After the study was done in 2009 a team was put together and was led by Harv Sawatzky. Harv will speak to the impact this proposal would have on the forest in the afternoon. Flooding has increased in the forest since that resolution was made. The province has indicated that they will be increasing the flow rate of the river so it's going to get worse. The flood in 2011 is still impacting the forest today. We see this as an opportunity to support the forest.

Q. Earl Reimer, Emmanuel MC: Where are the costs born for engineering studies, design and development, and how are they accounted for?
A. Dorothy Fontaine: Engineering costs would be covered by the government. MCM would incur costs for landscaping and design. We don't yet know the costs because we're waiting to find out if a pond can be built before pursuing a landscaping and design proposal.
A. Ken Warkentin: Earlier in development planning the dike was seen as a necessity, which would have been paid fully by MCM. The proposal by the RM and government represents significant savings to MCM.

Q. Dave Bergen, Bethel MC: What is in the plan for rejuvenation of the forest after construction?
A. Dorothy Fontaine: We are currently in negotiation with the government about this. It will be part of the cost that government covers.

Q. Dave Bergen, Bethel MC: What is the impact on use of the pastureland during and after construction?
A. Dorothy Fontaine: They will be building an easement or access ally for horses to get over the dike.

C. David Hogue, Camp Assiniboia staff: The idea of building a pond reduces overall costs to the camp. It may actually protect some of the pastureland. The design of the pond and drainage to the river could be incorporated into costs covered by government.

Q. Ray Hamm, Altona MC: Could you clarify our ownership of Camp Koinonia? Are we hoping that a local group will cover what happens there?
A. Peter Rempel: Ken will address this question later in the meeting.

10:30 Guest and workshop introductions
Ken introduced guests: Brian Bauman (guest speaker), Garry Janzen (MCBC Executive Minister), Ferd Funk (Bethania), Kathy Rempel Boschman (Concordia), Ron Falk (EMHS), Ken Hawkley (AMBS), Terry Schellenberg (CMU), Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe (Canadian Mennonite), Reynold Friesen and Sandy Plett (Camp Committee), and Ross Penner (MDS).

Camp Assiniboia staff present include: Jake Fehr, Paul Dueck, and David Hogue. Other MCM staff present includes: Tom Seals, Jessie Thiessen, Darryl Neustaedter Barg, Dorothy Fontaine, Janet Peters, and Kathy Giesbrecht.

Terry Schellenberg reported vibrancy in education and commitment to the life of the church at CMU. CMU and the Prairie Area Churches of MC Canada are on the cusp of a new ownership agreement. CMU is deeply committed to
working at a vibrant connection with the Prairie Area Churches.

10:40 Break

11:00 Workshops

- Re NEW’ing a Relationship: MC Manitoba, a Prairie Regional Church and CMU
- Medical Assistance in Dying (Bethania, Eden, and Concordia)
- Relearning Community
- What happens when Mennonite women gather?
- MCM Seven Priorities
- MC Canada and International Witness
- Camps with Meaning – Next Steps!

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Worship

Darryl Neustaedter Barg led the delegate body in a gathering song. Ken Warkentin shared a meditation based on Ephesians 1:3-10.

1:15 Proposed dike construction

Harv Sawatzky reported he felt the RM and governments' proposal presented a good opportunity for the camp to participate in. The camp is awaiting a tenure package. The critical piece will be to review mitigation and protection measures for the camp to ensure that construction does not leave the camp in a messy state. We will review the extent to which construction will impact the camp and monitor construction to ensure that it enfolds as it is intended to without shortcuts that would result in lesser quality construction.

Floor conversation:

Q. Justin Zacharias, Emmanuel MC: Is it possible for MCM to participate in the selection process of tenders?
A. Harv Sawatzky: It is typically not the case when working with government. They have an obligation to use MERX, which is a national posting site. There are small components that might be able to go through a selection process, but we can't shortcut government process.

C. Richard Bage, Altona Bergthaler MC: I love this proposal. I wanted to come here with a process and this solves a practical need. It makes a lot of sense. This doesn't only protect ourselves, it protects others. By entering into this proposal it shows that we're good neighbours.

C. Harv Sawatzky: The Camp Assiniboia forest is evolving and has been heavily impacted by past floods. As soon as you put a dike on a property, it changes where the deposition of sediment occurs on the property. We don't know what that will look like at this point. We can only monitor, observe, and adapt with it.

Q. Bob Wiens, Nominating Committee: My question is around the claim and hope that the mosquito population would move out of the forest, but I'm not sure if a drainage ditch could do that. What could one hope for?
A. Harv Sawatzky: Until we've seen the tenure package, there are a lot of unknowns around how much work needs to be done on existing dikes and how the forest will be affected.

Motion to approve the construction of a dike, drainage ditch, and a pond in and near the forest on Camp Assiniboia property with funding from government sources. Resolution carried. None opposed.

1:25 Leadership report

Reports were provided by Director of Leadership Ministries Rick Neufeld and Associate Director Kathy Giesbrecht.
Kathy shared a video report and spoke to investment in youth and young adult pastors via regular gatherings; investment in youth and young adults; and partnerships and collaborations with CMU, MCC, Christian Peacemaker Teams, Westgate Collegiate, and MCI.

Mark von Kampen shared about the Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy ministry at the University of Manitoba (U of M) where he hosts a space termed the “Menno office.” This ministry is affiliated with MCM and EMC, and provides a safe space for students to have enriching and challenging conversations, find community, and worship. The “Menno office” has international and multi-faith representation. “Menno office” traffic varies by year with high traffic in this academic year.

Susan Reynar shared about the ministry of Emmaus House, whose mission is to provide a safe community living space for young adults. Susan and Rod Reynar opened Emmaus House in 2014. The household covenant includes commitments to a weekly house meeting, sharing supper meals together, and supporting each other to keep the household running. They aim to support academics, healthy life choices, spirituality, relationships, and fun for young adults within the household.

Kathy highlighted the upcoming peacebuilding conference for youth, sixpointeight, planned in collaboration with several Mennonite organizations and educational institutions, for April 29.

Rick noted that approximately 45 church leaders gathered for a leadership day on March 3. Eric Stutzman spoke on themes of storytelling, resistance, and leading change. Rick highlighted chaplaincy ministries including the Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy at the U of M and hospital chaplaincy coordinated by Peter Dyck. The ministerial leadership committee continues to provide discernment and guidance to candidates throughout the credentialing process; assists with the training and education of pastors; gives direction and guidance in matters of discipline; and provides accountability where professional expectations have been violated. Other highlights included monthly meetings of each of the 5 cluster groups, pastoral training events, and Centre for Faith & Life workshops. Rick provides support to congregations during pastoral searches and noted the important role interim pastoral ministry plays when congregations are in transition. A new strategy is in place for pastoral leadership development. This will involve collecting data, engaging with CMU and congregations.

Ken Quiring, pastor at Grace MC in Brandon, shared about biblical storytelling. Ken was supported by MCM to complete biblical storytelling training. Biblical storytelling has been shaping Ken and his congregation, who have come to see it as an important component of spiritual formation. Ken is resourcing other MCM churches in appreciation for the support he received through this training.

Rick introduced new pastors including: Jose Luis Moraga (Springfield Heights MC), Lee Hiebert (Steinbach MC), Cheryl Braun (interim at Glenlea MC), Marvin Thiessen (North Kildonan MC), Kristy Letkeman Hochstetler (Morden MC), and Paul Dueck (interim at Carman MC).

**2:20 Seven priorities conversation**

Alex Tiessen and Katrina Woelk summarized results of the exercise and workshop discussion. Perspectives are diverse around the importance of priorities. Delegates have different understandings of each category based on their context. A couple of trends observed include: congregational health highly prioritized, and fellowship events and wider external linkages seen as a lesser priority. The delegate body’s prioritization of these two categories was consistent with the board and staff’s prioritization. Other priorities were less clear with more diversity in opinion.

Floor conversation:

C. Julia Thiessen, Charleswood MC: It makes sense that congregational health is high on the priority list. I think that we build our congregational health by fellowshipping with each other so the ranking of the fellowship events and wider external linkages priority confused me.

C. Katrina Woelk: We recognize that there is overlap in what priorities include, specifically in terms of congregational health, ideas around resourcing, accountability, conflict mediation, and outward looking initiatives.

Q. Ray Hamm, Altona MC: We’ve just been through this major process with MC Canada. We’re supposed to be the ini-
tiators of new programs and ideas. When or how will this begin? Is this a part of that?
A. Peter Rempel: At this point we want to be in a stance of listening to feedback rather than giving you the answers.
A. Ken Warkentin: We have a staff leadership retreat at the end of this month and plan to take the feedback from today to address how we work with congregations. We will be working on that over the next 2 months.

Q. Adam Robinson, Douglas MC: Is a ranked order needed? I like these seven areas of priority. I think they’re well articulated but I’m curious what the ranking will serve.
A. Peter Rempel: Think of this more as 100% of our resources. What percentage do we apply to each of these priorities? I think this chart helps us sort out the weighting. This will be an exercise that the board and staff will sort out.
A. Katrina Woelk: At our last retreat there was push back, but prioritizing helped us to see where focuses could lie.

C. Richard Klassen, First MC: I was one of the people who had to go through this exercise the first time. The collage looks like a mishmash of colours, but I’ve stared at it for a bit and to a large extent we’re quite unified in what we think. As a group I think this shows that we’re kind of headed in the same direction. That is valuable information.

C. Waldy Ens, Bethel MC: I’d like to expand on one idea that was discussed in the workshop. The terminology that was used perhaps doesn’t fit some of our sensibilities, such as the linkages terminology. I’d prefer to see the word “witness” rather than “mission.” What are we talking about when we say congregational health? Are we talking about finances, size, or more nebulous theological perspectives?

C. Hugo Peters, Bethel MC: As an ex-teacher, I distinctly recall in a particular unit of studies you had 5 things you were supposed to accomplish. When you treated them equally it was more or less a disaster. It took me a few years to sort out which of the 5 should be focused on and I found that these would then draw in the others in an effective and efficient way.

C. Julia Thiessen, Charleswood MC: I’m noticing a lot of pink at the top. Faith formation may very well be one of those priorities that draws others in. I see some unity in that and a lot of hope in that area.

Q. Dave Neufeld, Home Street MC: In his workshop, Brian Bauman said one of the big challenges for churches is in knowing how to relate with our neighbourhoods. Where does that challenge fit within our priorities? The idea of helping a church move outside of their four walls is really important, but I’m having trouble fitting it in one of those boxes.
A. Alex Tiessen: That came up in the workshop in almost every category. Outward focus can be supported by MCM and by other congregations.

C. Julie Derksen, Charleswood MC: If I look at worship and fellowship, they tend to be further down the list, but I don’t know if we can be successful or be inspired by each other’s congregations if we don’t include fellowshipping together. It’s tricky to separate some of these priorities.

2:45 Mission Ministry report
Dorothy Fontaine reported on reconciliation efforts MCM has been involved with in relations with Indigenous peoples. She noted that since the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) published its findings, a hand of reconciliation has been extended to the church. The Calls to Action are blueprints for action and invite us into relationship.

MCM is engaging in reconciliation through:
• Partnering with families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) through vigils, camp, memorial walks, round dance and feast, and Dragon Red searches;
• Educational and information events;
• Participating in Club 262: a group working to bring awareness to Bill C-262, which calls for the adoption and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP);
• Ministry circles, which include a number of longstanding partnerships between congregations from northern and southern Manitoba;
• Community circles;
• Signing onto the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord: The City of Winnipeg has invited organizations to pursue new initiatives with Indigenous peoples to advance reconciliation. MCM will now report annually on MCM’s activities and progress to other signatories.

Floor conversation:

C: Moses Falco, Sterling Mennonite Fellowship: I would like to speak a word of affirmation to Dorothy for the work she is doing on behalf of us. To see that we as a church are doing all of that plus more makes me excited and proud of the things that are going on. When I think of some of the initiatives we're involved with I sometimes wonder if it makes a difference. I had a chance to tune into a House of Commons discussion about Bill C-262 and heard Mennonite church and Steve Heinrichs mentioned by an MP, which reminded me that the stuff we do really does have an impact and witnesses to the people we have relationships with. This summer Sterling is going to Cross Lake for the ninth time to do community work and run VBS programming. We did this in partnership with Bethel MC last year. It has been affirming for our congregation that we've been invited back for 9 years.

Q. Phil Campbell Enns, Bethel MC: Dorothy could you talk about what happened at the Let’s walk the talk event with the box. I think it speaks to the hand you’re talking about reaching out to us. It was so significant.
A. Steve Heinrichs, MC Canada: Thanks for raising that story that we were welcomed into. It was a profound moment. In April and May 50 plus of us went on a 600 km journey in support of Bill C-262. We took a journal with us for 3 weeks with encouragement from Indigenous friends and fellow walkers. Then we carried it for a number of months back in Winnipeg and invited churches and grassroots groups to add their hopes and dreams into the journal. During the Let’s Walk the Talk event in Winnipeg we walked to the U of M where the National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation is. In that place they house a sacred box with expressions of commitment from churches, community organizations, and businesses to live into reconciliation. The box was closed in June 2015 when the Calls to Action were released. They opened the box to receive the pilgrimage journey and say thank you to the Mennonite community. That was their initiative. It was significant and we have a lot more power than we imagine. I want to say a huge thank you to the larger community for stepping into stuff that’s unknown. That takes a lot of courage.

C. Heidi Garcia, Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship: What I hear from our congregation is the need and desire to know what action the conference is taking. I’ve heard a lot of it today. Knowing all of these action points MCM is taking to put into action truth and reconciliation, it’s really important. I think each of us holds a responsibility to take this back to our congregations to share what’s going on and encourage MCM to continue thinking about how we can respond.

3:05 Break

3:30 Executive Minister report

Ken Warkentin reported many conversations with congregations, primarily around the Being a Faithful Church resolution. Niverville Community Fellowship and Winnipeg Chinese MC both recently chose to withdraw from MCM. MCM will engage in a process for resolution and reconciliation as outlined in the constitution if agreeable to these congregations.

Camps: MCM is in the process of finalizing an agreement with the Friends of Camp Koinonia group with the agreement currently under review by legal counsel. Friends of Camp Koinonia will manage the camp, but MCM will continue to hold the lease. MCM will be permitted to use Camp Koinonia for summer camps; Friends of Camp Koinonia are committed to meeting Manitoba camping standards. MCM sold Camp Moose Lake for $250k to Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine. MCM also holds a balance of $80k in the Camp Moose Lake Reserve Fund. The board will consider the best use of these funds, which may include loan repayment and internal transfers. MCM is thrilled to continue to own and operate a fantastic facility at Camp Assiniboia.

600 Shaftesbury Blvd: The past MCM office space on the second floor is vacant with an intention to rent it out; MCM hopes to engage CMU in management of the building. MCM and MC Canada have switched office spaces on the main floor.
Relationship with the national church: Ken’s energy has been focused on changes within the new church structure and a changed relationship with MC Canada. MC Canada is now a part of regional churches. Ken introduced Willard Metzger (MC Canada Executive Minister), Steve Heinrichs (Director of Indigenous-Settler Relations), and Arlyn Friesen Epp (Director of Common Word). Congregations used to own both MCM and MC Canada; now congregations own MCM and regional churches own MC Canada. Delegates have opportunity to speak into what is important to the regional and national church at every MCM gathering. Churches are asked to send contributions that were previously sent to MC Canada to MCM and to send the same total combined into one contribution to MCM. MCM will then forward funds to MC Canada as per its annual commitment. Current national agenda items include: International Witness work; Indigenous-Settler relations; Anabaptist resources; national benefit and pension plan for pastors; leadership development; ecumenical and inter-Mennonite connections; community of spiritual leadership; and national assemblies. The Executive Staff Group (ESG) has presented options for Joint Council (JC) to consider regarding policies that address how regional churches will work together. These include an operating agreement, governance protocols, and covenant. A ministry grid is also in draft.

Finances: Ken addressed the following commonly asked question: MC Canada just laid off a bunch of staff. Why do you need the same amount of money? MCM now funds the national church. MC Canada will continue to fund International Witness (IW) with most workers able to return to their posts after a June return to Canada. Over the next 3 years MC Canada will work with regional churches and IW workers to develop a relational funding formula. MCM has been underfunded in recent years and the request of congregations to continue giving at the same level is intended as a right sizing of ministry. MCM’s share of the national budget is approx. $425k, which is a lesser amount than what MCM congregations have contributed in the past. MCM now has an additional commitment in a $100k contribution to CMU and has added new staffing roles due to the increased responsibilities of regional churches. To meet these commitments, MCM needs funding to continue at the same combined level that had previously been directed to the regional and national churches.

Leadership development: Congregational ministries include engagement with schools and congregations. MCM recognizes that the context of congregations is changing. Ken anticipates that, in future, the church will increasingly be led by lay pastors due to financial limitations of congregations.

Communications development strategy: Communications staff across regional churches is in the process of developing a national communications strategy.

Regional church connections: Ken introduced Garry Janzen, MCBC Executive Minister. Regional church EMs are visiting a cohort’s annual gathering in order to understand each other’s contexts better as the collective national leadership group, ESG. Garry Janzen brought greetings and updates from MCBC. There were agenda items that were challenging at the recent MCBC Annual Gathering, but delegates affirmed MCBC leadership and the collaboration with regional churches. Garry noted MCBC staffing changes, a process of identifying priorities similar to MCM’s, and collaboration with Columbia University and CMU through ReNew. MCBC is pursuing training in a values based leadership program, as it is a leadership development opportunity that the ESG would like to bring to Canada. A Reading the Bible Together conference is planned and MCBC has committed to hosting the first nationwide gathering in July 2019.

MCM relationship to CMU: Under the new conference structure, prairie regional churches now hold the governance relationship with CMU.

Executive Minister sabbatical: Ken has been granted a sabbatical leave from May 15 – August 15, 2018.

Ken extended thanks to MCM staff and board. Recent staff resignations include Shawn Klassen Koop and Katherine Hogue.

Financial report
Richard Klassen presented the 2017 Financial Statements. The Statement of Financial Position was reviewed. At fiscal year-end, cash and cash equivalents were at $391k; the capital assets fund including property and equipment at $421k;
and total assets were $1.005m. At year-end, current liabilities were at $46k; externally restricted funds at $22k; internally restricted fund at $238k; unrestricted funds at $134k; and long-term fund balances at $394k. Investment in capital assets includes Camp Assiniboia assets plus lesser office, building, and equipment assets totaling $421k. The depreciation of camp assets is concerning. Total commitments were at $1.005m.

Richard reviewed the Statement of Operations. The gain from the sale of Camp Moose Lake totaled $344k. A graph comparing 2017 income and expenses to 2016 was reviewed. Fees and rent, church donations, and other donation income lines were similar across 2016 and 2017; other donations were down slightly in 2017. Camp costs decreased from 2016 and mission expenses increased slightly. 2017 revenue totaled $1.833m and expenses $1.553m. The excess of revenue over expenditures totaled $280k.

Budget: The delegate body approved a 2018 congregational giving amount of $1.032m at the Fall Gathering in November. Following approval, the board requested staff prepare the 2018 budget. The original draft showed a year-end balance of -$2k. The board requested the budget be redrafted as a year-end balance of -$2k did not address MCM's financial strain of recent years. Following receipt of 2017 congregational donations, it was determined that this amount could be increased by $40k for 2018. Other changes to the 2018 budget included: a reduction in CCBM Support Services revenue to a total of $163k due to lower than anticipated actual revenue in 2017; reduction in support to MC Canada by $15k; and a reduction to the CCBM Support Services expense line by $30k. It was noted that since the budget was redrafted, some congregations have informed MCM that they are unable to maintain the same giving levels as were provided in 2017. The MCM Board requests the delegate body approve the revised congregational giving amount on the condition that the church engagement staff person (fundraising and connecting congregations with International Witness workers) only be hired after observing actual revenue received.

Motion to approve the revised projection of Congregational Donations for 2018 of $1,072,000. M/S Colleen Edmunds/Bill Thiessen. 1 opposed. Carried.

Floor conversation:

Q. Elsie Rempel, Charleswood MC: With reference to line 673, CCBM Support Services, why do you think MCM will receive about $60k less?
A. Ken Warkentin: One difference is in board fundraising. Last year, $25k of board fundraising revenue was included within this line; it was determined that this would not be a commitment carried forward. The reduction also includes lesser rent revenue for MCM's office space on the second floor of 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. CMU has suggested MCM put money aside to complete renovations that will be necessary within the next few years.

Q. Melissa Miller, Home Street MC: I understand you're waiting on monies before you make a move on hiring. Could you give more specifics to what that looks like?
A. Ken Warkentin: It's a bit awkward because we don't have previous years to judge how monies will come in. We don't know how combined monies will come in. We will make assessments by mid summer to early fall before we're able to make a call on that.

Q. John Peters, Charleswood MC: I think I understand correctly that you're not going to hire an engagement person, fundraiser, because you're uncertain if you're going to have enough money. Does that mean that hiring an engagement person would lose us money?
A. Ken Warkentin: The church engagement is much more than a fundraiser. This person will also help connect congregations to International Witness workers. I'm not saying that money is not important, but we think that one marker of congregational health is to engage in missional activity. It is an important part of who we are. This person is not just a fundraiser, but is helping congregations engage in missional activity. We also want them to raise money. Leadership staff will take some of this agenda with them to congregations in the interim.
A. Peter Rempel: The board has been encouraging hiring an executive assistant. One of the hopes is that this will allow leadership to do more church engagement work. MCM is on the cusp of posting an executive assistant position.
Q. Waldy Ens, Bethel MC: Ken described a change in the funding structure whereby the churches only pay one sum to MCM and part of it is forwarded to the national church. When did or does that switchover happen?
A. Ken Warkentin: That happened January 1, 2018. There is a difference between MCM and MC Canada’s fiscal year-end dates. MC Canada’s ends January 31st; ours ends December 31st so there’s a month of awkwardness. I hope you will trust us to figure out how to cut that cheque properly.

Q. Dan Nighswander, Home Street MC: It seems that the greatest uncertainty is in the line for congregational giving. We’re at a disadvantage because of this transitional time, but if we all do what we’ve been asked to do, and taking into account the congregations that have withdrawn, how much was received last year and how it would compare with the budget for this coming year?
A. Ken Warkentin: I don’t have the exact figure in my head, but it’s a little higher than $1.1m. We have had congregations that have withdrawn and some have indicated that they can’t contribute at the same level. If churches continue to contribute at the same level, we will be ok, but because it’s a transition we’re a little cautious.

Q. Dave Bergen, Bethel MC: My numbers are approximate but if I take numbers from last year with MCM’s budget at $1.7m and MC Canada’s at about $3.5m, you would like us to forward the same amounts, but there has been a reduction of staff probably around $1m in recent months and the amount forwarded to MC Canada would total significantly less than the $3.5m. Can you give us a sense of how the math was worked out?
A. Ken Warkentin: I’m not clear on the percentage that congregational donations contributed to MC Canada revenue. I know what the Manitoba church contributions were.

Q. Marla Langelotz, Sargent MC: Richard, thank you for your report. I’m grateful that MCM is optimistic and hopeful. I’ve found that church budget is often planned with prudence and our church prides itself in pulling its weight. For the first time in years, it isn’t possible for Sargent MC to contribute the same amount and I see the increase in the congregational giving budget line with some reservation. If MCM will be waiting until September to hire a church engagement staff person, what might 2 or 3 more months look like to really get a full sense of congregational donations?
A. Ken Warkentin: Jason’s job as Director of IW is to coordinate the structure of IW. The engagement of location, evaluation, and partnerships with other global Mennonite churches will primarily be processed through Willard’s office. Willard will inform ESG who take it to regional churches. I would like to propose that a mission committee be formed to help develop a structure and plan for IW.

Motion to approve the revised projection of Congregational Donations for 2018 of $1,072,000 with the amendment that MCM holds off on hiring a church engagement staff person until it is confident that Congregational Donations will come in according to budget. M/S Earl Reimer/Andrew Wiens. 1 opposed. Carried.

4:15 Board report

Motion to accept the proposed amendments to the MCM Constitution. Carried.

Motion to accept the reports. M/S Virginia Gerbrandt-Richert/Shawn Klassen Epp. Carried.

Motion to accept the board actions of 2017-2018. M/S Laverne Siemens/Katrina Woelk. Carried.
Dan Nighswander noted a correction to board actions on February 20, 2018. Point 5 should be recorded as a sub-point of point 4.

Motion to accept appointments and elections with the addition of Cheryl Braun as representative to the EMHS Board and Yvonne Stoesz as representative to the MCC Manitoba Board. Carried.

Motion to thank Virginia Gerbrandt-Richert, Donna Peters Small, and Peter Rempel for their service as MCM Board members. M/S Katrina Woelk Don Rempel Boschmann. Carried.

Thanks were extended to Sargent Avenue MC and First MC for their hospitality as host churches for the 2018 Leadership Gathering and Annual Gathering. Well wishes were extended to incoming moderator Gerald Gerbrandt.

**4:45 Final worship**
Rick Neufeld led a commissioning of workers within MCM. Darryl Neustaedter Barg led a sending song.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Minutes recorded by Nikki Hamm
MCM Representatives to Related Organization Boards

ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO MCM
(and MCM Board representatives, if applicable)

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
Sara Wenger Schenk, President, 3003 Benham Ave., Elkhart, IN 46517
Phone: 574-395-3726

Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service
Ginny Hostetler, Editor, Tobi Thiessen, Publisher, 490 Dutton Dr. Unit C5, Waterloo, ON N2L 6H7
Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe, Provincial Reporter, mb@canadianmennonite.org

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Ken Reddig (Pinawa) 2020

Canadian Mennonite University
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Phone: 204-487-3300 ext. 667

Mark Wiehler 2020

Eden Health Care Services
204 Main St. Box 129, Winkler, MB R6W 4A4

James Schellenberg (Douglas) 2020
Laura Unger (Glenlea) 2020
Cheryl Braun (Glenlea) 2021

Mary Penner (Sargent) 2020
Lawrence Siemens (Morden) 2021

Graduate School of Theology and Ministry
Karl Koop, Director 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2
Phone: 204-487-3300 ext. 630

Marla Langelotz (Sargent) 2019

Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association
Mark von Kampen, Campus Chaplain
Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Assoc. University Centre
University of Manitoba, R3T 2N2
Phone: 204-474-9691 FAX 204 275-8098

Scott Kroeker (FGMF) 2020
Sara Kunkel (First Menn) 2019
Dieter Schonwetter (FGMF) 2022

Manitoba Multifaith Council

Peter J Dyck (Bethel) 2019
Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba
Darryl Loewen, Executive Director, 124 Plaza Dr. Winnipeg, MB R3T 5K9
Phone: 204-261-6381

Kevin Drudge (Covenant) 2020  Yvonne Stoesz (Pembina) 2019
Kelsey Hutton (Hope) 2019

Mennonite Collegiate Institute
Bernie Loeppky, Principal, Box 250, Gretna, MB R0G 0V0 Phone: 204-327-5891

Mennonite Disaster Service
Ross Penner, Regional Manager
6A-1325 Markham Rd. Winnipeg, MB R3T 4J6 Phone: 204-261-1274

Ken Loewen (Bethel) 2019  Daniel Horne 2020

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate
Bob Hummelt, Principal, 86 West Gate, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2E1
Phone: 204-775-7111
Our Nationwide Ministry Together

The New Covenant
As of October 2017, a new covenant binds five Regional Churches together to create Mennonite Church Canada. Mennonite Church Manitoba is one of these regions. This is a new and intentional partnership which is bringing us into a new level of community across Canada.

Joint Council
This new covenant is ‘governed’ by a Joint Council. Each region has two members on the Council: The moderator and one member-at-large. The Executive Minister of Mennonite Church Canada, the national moderator, vice-moderator, and secretary/treasurer make up the balance of the Council. They will meet three times per year.

Executive Staff Group (ESG)
The ESG is comprised of all the Executive Ministers: Five regional, and one national. This is a critical working group in the new model which meets four to six times per year in person or via video conference.

Other regular nationwide staff meetings
- The regional communicators meet bi-weekly via video conference to discuss regional and nationwide communications.
- A financial working group is being formed.

Nationwide Gatherings
1. Every Regional Church gathering will include national agenda.
2. Mennonite Church Canada delegates (see below) will meet biannually for a short business meeting.
3. The biannual meeting will also be the Gathering for leaders and representatives from all the churches to learn, discuss, worship and build community.

Mennonite Church Canada

Henry Petkau, (Interim) Executive Minister, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg, MB
R3P OM4 204-888-6781

National Moderator
Calvin Quan (Ontario)

Joint Council Manitoba reps
Gerald Gerbrandt (Bethel) 2021
Andrea De Avila (Sargent) 2021

Nominating Committee
Eric Rempel (Steinbach) 2020

Additional tasks for the Nominating Committee: Mennonite Church Canada Biannual Gathering Delegates
- Five from Regional Church (Each RC gets five delegates)
- Nine more members (Each RC also gets 1 delegate per 1000 members)
- Finally each RC sends six of their board members including their moderator and second board member to the Nationwide Church Gatherings

Gathering 2019: Igniting the Imagination of the Church
- Abbotsford, BC - June 28 to July 1
- Visit home.mennonitechurch.ca for more information
Mennonite Church Canada continues to adjust to its new structure of being a regionally centered, covenanted partnership between the five Regional Churches. These have covenanted to form MC Canada to implement the nationwide and international priorities that they have collectively determined will foster the health and mission of the Regional Churches and their congregations.

The covenant, renewed on October 21, 2018, reaffirms our shared statement of Vision: Healing and Hope:

God calls us to be followers of the 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.

International Witness
A significant transition that took place this past year was the completion of faithful ministry by four of our Witness worker families: the Barkman family in Manila, Philippines, after 6 years; the Nicolson family in Tin, Burkina Faso, after 20 years; the Otto/Rabus family in Mannheim and Ludwigshafen, Germany, after 6 years, and the Tshimanga family in Bloemfontein, South Africa, after 2 years.

MC Canada currently has 6 Witness worker units serving in 5 countries:

- Bock Ki Kim & Sook Kyoung Park (South Korea)
- Jeanette Hanson (Canada & China)
- Mike & Cheryl Nimz (United Kingdom)
- Dann & Joji Pantoja (Philippines)
- Tom & Christine Poovong (Thailand)
- George & Tobia Veith (China)

Indigenous-Settler Relations
ISR took significant steps forward in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action:

- *Unsettling the Word* (May, 2018). We published an anthology advocating respect for Indigenous spiritualities through a re-reading and decolonization of classic Biblical texts (Call #60).
- Bill C-262, *The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. Through ecumenical letter writing, a postcard campaign, public teach-ins and faith-based organizing, we helped get Bill C-262 passed in the House of Commons (Call #43 and #44). We continue to pray and mobilize so that it will receive royal assent by June 2019.
- Please see Steve Heinrich’s full report on the MC Canada website for more on ISR’s work in 2018.

For MC Canada’s full annual report, go to www.mennonitechurch.ca. May you experience the love, peace, joy and hope that we celebrated at Christmas and seek all year long. Blessings to your congregation this new year!

Henry Paetkau, Interim Executive Minister

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"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid: that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11
MCBC has had several key undertakings in 2018. As a result of significant research and work, a new curriculum was rolled out at our LEAD Conference, called “Made in the Image of God: Engaging Prejudice, Power and Privilege.” This was done in collaboration with Betty Pries of Credence & Co., including some good work by Chris Lenshyn and Joon Park of MCBC. Venues for our people to benefit from the curriculum continue to be developed.

The MCBC Leadership Board was planning to do a review of our Executive Minister (myself) in the spring of 2018. As the result of conversations at the MCBC Annual Gathering, it was determined that it would be best to bring in Arrow Leadership to do an external review of the Executive Minister. This also became a review of work of the Leadership Board. The result was an affirmation of the Executive Minister, with some actions identified for growth in best practices. Details of this will be in my report in the MCBC Report Book for the 2019 Annual Gathering in February.

An affirmation of the authority of Scripture has been called for by some of our MCBC leaders. In response, MCBC put on the “Reading the Bible Together” conference on April 14th with Tim Geddert as the speaker. This was well-attended, well-received and appreciated. Tim Geddert was invited to return to be the speaker at the Pastor/Spouse Retreat in November. He lead us on the topic, “Reading the Bible Together: Gaining Insights through Life’s Transitions.” Again, this event and Tim’s input was very much appreciated.

Building trust within MCBC, becoming equipped to deal well with conflict, and finding good ways to have difficult conversations have been expressed as desired outcomes in the evaluation. Building trust happens through developing relationships that have integrity. Some ways we have been building trust in 2018 include: a Leadership Board Retreat in May, the #ChurchToo Conference at CBC in June (which served as MCBC’s annual Relationships with Integrity course), and the Pastor/Spouse Retreat.

On the Saturday morning of our Annual Gathering in February, Betty Pries lead us in a conversation and prayer time regarding discord in MCBC. As training for our pastors and the Leadership Board, John Radford was brought in to teach and facilitate a conversation on “Using Conflict to Facilitate Growth.” A trusted mediator, Wayne Plenert, was also brought in to help MCBC successfully navigate a difficult conversation.

MCBC sadly said goodbye to two congregations that felt they could no longer stay with us. We are also continuing to discern with other congregations who are finding their way through significant challenges in our relationship together. Lastly, I have recently had two conversations with congregations who are considering joining MCBC as their church family.

Another helpful outcome of the evaluation was for me to be reminded to prioritise MCBC concerns over other involvement. I have made it a point to look at all of my work with this in mind. When MCBC congregational needs arise, they are first priority. For example, there have been a number of pastors seeking credentialing and ordination; these processes have received much of my attention. This fall I have also worked with several congregations and their pastors who have been going through some significant challenges. In the area of nationwide and global opportunities; I have focused on the opportunities that best serve the interests of the MCBC congregations.
MCBC and the CBC Travelling Ministry Team had two wonderful connections with two very different congregational settings in the fall – Chinatown Peace Church and Crossroads Community Church.

We have been continuing to research and develop a plan for the property of the former Clearbrook Mennonite Church. Details of this will be coming to the MCBC 2019 Annual Gathering.

We thank Sarah Symons for an excellent half a year of work as MCBC Communications Coordinator and Administrative Assistant. We welcomed Kevin Barkowsky to this role in April, 2018. We also welcomed Kevin as Interim Church Engagement Minister in June. Kevin has been doing excellent work in all of these portfolios. Brander McDonald concluded his time as MCBC Indigenous Relations Coordinator at the end of February. An Indigenous Relations Group was established to continue to move this work forward, and to discern best practices for the future.

In our fundraising efforts, we conducted our third annual Symphony of Hymns celebration with Calvin Dyck. We expanded by adding a service in Vancouver. These have proven to be a good experience for making connections with our MCBC family and providing opportunity for our people to bring their individual donations in support of MCBC.

During the last few years, MCBC has been on a journey of reimagining who we are. We have discerned three key themes: To Define and Engage Anabaptist Identity, To Be a Missional Community, and To Build Connections and Trust between and within Congregations. In 2019 we are looking to redeveloping our structures in order to best live into these themes.

I want to end by thanking you for your participation in this partnership of MCBC. You have prayed. You have sent delegates. You have provided volunteers. You have given generously. We have served together. This ministry is work that we can only do together; kingdom work that could not be done without each other. We are thankful for what God has done in 2018 and we look forward to what is in store for us in 2019 as we continue to seek to follow Jesus together.
One of the gifts I’m privileged to experience as Moderator of Mennonite Church Alberta is glimpses into the ways in which the Holy Spirit is working in the lives of the people of MCA. Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Executive Minister, and I had the opportunity to visit several congregations in Edmonton in the fall of 2018. We had an inspiring day of listening to people tell us of the joys of being church together, as well as shared passion for ministry and mission both here and overseas. We also heard some of the common challenges that are faced by many of our congregations, such as concerns about church attendance and competing priorities in people’s lives.

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

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

Pastoral Transitions:

- Harold Schilk retired from his position as pastor at Springridge Mennonite Church, Pincher Creek on December 31, 2018 after serving since 2009.
- Werner De Jong, pastor at Holyrood Mennonite Church in Edmonton, was on sabbatical September 2018-January 10, 2019 to teach in Ethiopia.
- First Mennonite Church, Edmonton has called Craig Neufeld to serve as pastor beginning in 2019. Craig has been serving as pastor of Rosthern Mennonite Church.
- Chau Dang began as part-time Interim Pastor of Edmonton Vietnamese Mennonite Church on July 29 2018. Thomas Pham had been serving as pastor of EVMC until July of 2018.
Burkina Faso Mennonite Church Celebrates 40 years

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

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

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

Worshippers at the Burkina Faso Mennonite Church anniversary celebrations.

International Witness

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

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

MC Canada Working Connections

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

Communication Coordinators (June Miller) work together to share local and international stories and events, and in doing that, expand our sense of community and neighbour.

In my work with Joint Council, which includes Moderators and representatives (Margaret Kruger-Harder) from each Regional Church, I have found that the word “covenant” very much characterizes the way in which we work together, even though the varying dynamics of each region may draw us into engaging in God’s work in different ways.”

March 15—16
Bergthål Mennonite Church
Didsbury, AB
Online registration opens February 15th.

Phase III: Discerning God’s Call
In conjunction with our Annual Delegate Sessions
He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea
“Peace! Be still!”
Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.
Mark 4:39

For many people here and around the world, 2018 was a tumultuous year. The winds of economic uncertainty, the rising waves of political populism, and the deepening chaos of climate change are battering the boat and, like the disciples, causing us to ask, “Are we perishing?”

From within this stormy sea, Betty Pries, our presenter at the 2018 Annual Delegate Sessions in Swift Current (thank you Zion and Emmaus for hosting us!), invited us to **Deepen our Walk**, so that we can live into the changes and challenges from a place of being centered on Christ, instead of from a place of fear and anxiety. To help us **Deepen Our Walk**, the Ministries Commission “Spirituality Resource Team” has been leading workshops on prayer and spiritual disciplines, Kirsten Hamm-Epp and Craig Neufeld developed a 4-part worship resource on this topic, and Rachel Miller Jacobs, Associate Professor at AMBS, facilitated our Continuing Education Days and led the opening workshop at Equipping Day (thank you Warman for hosting us!). Many of our congregations also took the suggestions presented in Betty’s final report, or developed their own, and used them within their worship to help deepen our walk and trust in Christ in these days of change.

And yes, these are days of change and transition. Congregationally, on September 9, Zoar Mennonite Church closed the doors of their old building and opened their new building as Langham Mennonite Fellowship. On October 27th, people gathered from across MC Sask to join Emmaus Mennonite Church as they worshiped together and concluded their time together as a community of faith.

On the pastoral front, we wished Ben Pauls (Zoar Mennonite), Ray & Sylvia Friesen (Emmaus Mennonite) and Vern Ratzlaff (Aberdeen Mennonite) a happy retirement and offered Craig Neufeld (Rosthern Mennonite) words of encouragement and blessing as he becomes pastor at First Mennonite Church, Edmonton, AB in late winter/spring. Pauline Steinmann concluded her time as interim pastor at Eigenheim Mennonite and we welcomed Andrea Enns Gooding as pastor of Zoar Mennonite and Nora Pederberg as interim associate/youth pastor at Nutana Park Mennonite. In April, Lois Siemens was commissioned as Spiritual Care Coordinator of Bethany Manor and at the office we were grateful to receive Kirsten back as we celebrated with Shekinah in the hiring of Ron & Sue Schellenberg.

Beginning January 1, 2019, Claire Ewert Fisher will serve as intentional interim at Rosthern Mennonite and Eileen Klaassen as interim pastor at Wildwood Mennonite.
We continue to live into the changes brought forth by the Future Directions Task Force and integrating the work of MC Sask and MC Canada. Some of these changes include Marianne working with a nationwide Communications Team, Kirsten working with a nationwide Church Engagement Team and closer with the Ministries Commission here at home, and Ryan working with the nationwide Executive Ministers. This Executive Staff Group looks forward to working with Doug Klassen, the new permanent MC Canada Executive Minister, beginning in June and who will be installed at the MC Canada Gathering Igniting the Imagination of the Church, June 28 – July 1, 2019, in Abbotsford, BC.

Looking to 2019, we invite you to Zoar Mennonite Church, Waldheim, March 8 & 9, for our 2019 Annual Delegate Sessions. David Fitch, author of Faithful Presence: Seven Disciplines that Shape the Church for Mission will be our guest presenter and will lead us into next year’s theme, Deepening our Walk with Each Other, which will explore what it means to be church (locally, regionally, nationally, internationally) today. Look forward to regional worship services, Tom Yoder Neufeld leading Continuing Education days and Equipping Day in October, and other events that bring us together!

Lastly, thank you for your continued support of the work that we do together as a community of congregations. In the 2018 fiscal year, your generosity allowed us to fulfil all of our commitments and record a small surplus. Thank you for your trust, it is deeply appreciated!

As we continue journeying together, may the Peace of Christ, the Peace that calms the storm, be with you.

Sincerely,

Your staff,
Ryan, Kirsten, & Marianne
MCEC is 12,500 people in 109 faith communities together extending the peace of Jesus Christ through making disciples, growing congregations and forming leaders. Alongside Mennonite Church Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia we are part of a nationwide community of faith reaching out with God’s love to our neighbours locally, nationwide and globally.

Famille Assemblée de la Grâce joined our community of congregations this past year. Under leadership of Pastor Westerne, this congregation of 70 people worship in the Creole language in Montreal. They have a strong calling to minister to Haitian people both here in Canada and in the Caribbean. Pastor Westerne says, “I want to teach this Good News so that the freedom that we have can free others too.”

Matu-Chin Christian Church also joined our family this past year. Now known as Kitchener Emmanuel Church, this congregation of 14 adults and 16 children meet at First Mennonite Church in Kitchener, Ontario on Sunday mornings. “Keep us in your prayers,” Pastor Thingsai asks. “We are a very small group. We want to walk together with MCEC. We want to be together as a partner, like a friend. We don’t want to be alone.”

MCEC commissioned Theatre of the Beat, a Canadian touring theatre company, in the production of #ChurchToo because we are committed to supporting congregations to ensure that they are safe for everyone. #ChurchToo explores the struggle of wading into the realities of sexual assault and examines the difficulties of speaking out, bringing to life stories about hidden trends within our church communities. Twenty shows were held in congregations and communities across Canada.
Some other highlights:

- We released the Hakha-Chin translation of the Confession of Faith in an Anabaptist Perspective. “The confession of faith has been translated into many languages,” said Cung Lian Bik. “It was time for my people to read it in their own language.” Cung Lian Bik and Jehu Lianching from Chin Christian Church spent countless hours carefully translating and editing this confession into Hakha-Chin.

- We were excited to hire Jean Lehn Epp as interim coordinator of youth ministry resources. She connects congregations with youth ministry resources and promotes annual events for the training of youth, pastors, youth workers, sponsors and parents. “I am very excited to be laying the groundwork for networking and sharing of youth ministry resources within the MCEC church family,” says Jean.

- “I do not take lightly the sacred trust that I am being given,” says Marilyn Rudy-Froese, church leadership minister. Marilyn began her ministry with MCEC this past year. She supports and encourages strong pastoral, chaplain and congregational leadership throughout MCEC.

- More than 25 congregations intentionally explore being disciples, making disciples and building relationships with God, each other and the world through ReLearning Community.

- Many workshops held for pastors and congregational leaders through the Anabaptist Learning Workshop, now in its fourth year. School for Ministers provided three days of discovery as pastors sought to understand and embrace the Word of God together. Congregational leaders, pastors and chaplains gathered in January for a day of examining the skills and the spirituality of listening for God in spiritual formation, the biblical stories, intercultural dynamics, in pastoral care, in the context of congregational conflict, to the elderly, and the role of listening in worship.

- Transitioning into Ministry (TiM) continues to provide support to new or returning pastors to MCEC.

We anticipate God’s continued faithfulness as we discern God’s leading and engage our world with the peace of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

David T. Martin
Executive Minister

Contact Us:

225-476-2500 (local)
855-476-2500 (toll free)
mcec@mcec.ca
www.mcec.ca
Resources for faith formation and leadership development

**Academic programs**
AMBS serves the church as a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God’s reconciling mission in the world.

- **Deepen your understanding of Scripture, Anabaptist theology and faith:** Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice, equipping students to read the Bible with an Anabaptist lens, apply critical thinking skills, lead compassionately and live faithfully — wherever God may call them to serve.
- **Master of Divinity**
- **Master of Arts in Christian Formation**
- **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies**
- **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies**
ambs.ca/academics

- **Distance education options** include the MDiv Connect (with online and hybrid courses) or the customizable Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies (fully online). ambs.ca/mdivconnect or ambs.ca/certificate

- **Financial aid:** AMBS offers generous need-based financial aid, grants and scholarships to help make your education affordable. ambs.ca/financialaid

- **A collaborative arrangement** between AMBS and Conrad Grebel University College allows Canadian students to complete a Master of Theological Studies at Grebel/University of Waterloo and apply eligible course credits toward a Master of Divinity at AMBS. ambs.ca/grebel

- **Canadian students pay tuition at par** and can exchange up to $1,200 CAD at par with U.S. dollars each semester to use for living expenses. Students in a graduate program at Canadian Mennonite University or Conrad Grebel University College receive a **50-percent tuition discount** on all online classes. ambs.ca/admissions/canadians

- **Want to explore seminary study before applying?** Nonadmitted students get a 50-percent tuition discount on their first online, hybrid or campus class. Check out our upcoming offerings: ambs.ca/onecourse

- **Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth:** Students (grades 10–12) can explore ministry, develop their leadership gifts and listen for God’s call through a 100-hour Congregational Experience and a 16-day Group Experience (July 9–25). Encourage someone you know to apply for 2019! ambs.ca/explore

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**Regional church connections**
Left, AMBS Board member from MC Manitoba:
Mark Tiessen-Dyck (Sargent Avenue)

We thank God for your support and ask for your prayers as we prepare leaders for the church through programs that are biblically, spiritually, ethically and theologically grounded.

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**Lifelong learning**
AMBS’s Church Leadership Center offers various nondegree options for you to continue your education and strengthen your leadership skills:

- **Online short courses** (2019–20): Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology; Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture; Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible; Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication

- **Pastors and Leaders 2020** (March 2–5)
- **Leadership Clinics** (March 2, 2020) ambs.ca/lifelong-learning

- **Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program:** Explore your call to ministry in this 2-1/2-year distance-friendly nondegree program that features a five-unit online curriculum, biweekly mentor-mentee meetings and one visit to the AMBS region per year. ambs.ca/journey

- **Host a speaker!** Bible teacher Bryan Moyer Suderman, MTS, is available to lead “Reading the Bible with Jesus” workshops in English or Spanish. David B. Miller, DMin, speaks on holistic witness, Christian leadership, healthy boundaries, and the missional church. ambs.ca/workshops

- **Spiritual Guidance Seminars:** Prepare for a ministry of spiritual direction through this supervised program led by Dan Schrock, DMin. In 2019–20, Spiritual Guidance Seminar will take place online and on campus. Advanced Spiritual Guidance Seminar will meet Oct. 7–8, 2019; Feb. 17–18 and May 4–5, 2020. ambs.ca/seminars

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AMBS, 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517, USA
574.295.3726; 800.964.2627; ambs.ca
Rooted in the Word, Growing in Christ
March 2019
Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 2 Cor. 4:16

Jane Marie Thibault & Richard L. Morgan in their book Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life: 7 Gateways to Spiritual Growth suggest that later life is not only a random series of events to be endured. It is an intentional movement toward God; a purposeful, sacred search for our Beloved. Death becomes our sacred destination, not a place to be feared.

At Bethania Mennonite PCH and Pembina Place Mennonite PCH it is our goal to support Residents and their family members on this final stretch of their pilgrimage.

The landscape of care for the elderly in our community has changed significantly over the last year. The WRHA Long Term Care Program under the umbrella of the Health Transformation has launched an initiative to support the independence of the elderly population in the community and to delay placement in Personal Care Homes as long as possible. Consequently, the residents admitted into long term care come with a complexity of care needs that challenge the resources of the system.

It goes without saying that the challenges faced by the elderly as they enter the Personal Care Home often stir up profound spiritual and existential questions. Feelings of inadequacy, questions about meaning and purpose, loss of independence, relationships, and property and even the feeling of being a burden to society often creep up uninvited.

As we journey with the Residents and their family members in the last stages of life we provide a safe place to lament their losses, to celebrate their rich past life experiences, and to intentionally foster their spiritual growth. When possible we connect residents with their faith community leaders and we work collaboratively with clergy from various denominations to support the residents and their families.

Our chaplains Ferdinand Funk (Bethania) and Michele Barr (Pembina) offer a wide range of religious and spiritual programs for residents and their families supported by clergy, music groups, visitors and a host of volunteers from various faith communities.

At Bethania Spiritual Care programming includes weekly English and German worship services in the Mennonite tradition as well as chapel services provided by United, Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Catholic, Mennonite and Lutheran clergy. At Pembina Place, Chaplain Michele Barr provides weekly ASL interpreted chapel services supported by a group of dedicated volunteers. We also provide monthly Roman Catholic and Anglican services.

Michele and the Recreation staff run an Intergenerational Music Program with Pembina Place Residents and Prairie Children’s Daycare Center at 285 Pembina. The Bethel Church has graciously provided a Livestream link of their Sunday Worship services for residents and family members to be able to “attend” church on Sundays.

Spiritual practices that provide meaning and comfort to Residents include quarterly Communion services led by our chaplains. Various Church groups also arrange for communion services for their congregational residents. Our annual Spring Tea, Dankfest, Christmas Candlelight program, weekly chapel services, Bible studies and Sunday services continue to benefit from strong support from our affiliated congregations. Special seasonal services include Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Advent and Lent.

A favorite activity for many residents is the Life Review sessions led by our chaplains. These sessions offer an opportunity for intentional reflection on significant (as well as ordinary) life events, memories and relationships. Residents, often accompanied by family members, are able to process their feelings of accomplishment as well as regrets they may have experienced in life.

This past Summer we witnessed a tangible example of Psalm 92:12-14, The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age. Motivated by a feeling of profound gratitude to Bethania and the Mennonite community 94-year-old Resident Gerry Kuik endeavoured to give back to the Home that had supported members of his family and the Canadian Reformed faith community in the past. His vision of raising funds for a Well and Pond Renewal project for the Bethania Grounds inspired the generosity of Residents, their families, our staff and Board to collaborate on a project that will provide a beautiful space for reflection and enjoyment for residents and families for years to come.

We are greatly blessed to have ongoing pastoral and volunteer support for the spiritual care we provide for the residents and their families. We are grateful for the continued strong commitment from congregations, pastors and music groups for weekly chapel services as well as volunteers who porter residents to their activities of choice.
Our chaplains further provide support and bereavement care to families when a resident dies. Upon request our chaplains are available to minister at Funerals and Memorial services of Residents. Quarterly memorial services led by our chaplains provide an opportunity for family members to experience further healing on their journey of loss as they reconnect with the care staff and other families within the Bethania/Pembina community.

Our chaplains also provide support and leadership to staff in Ethics and End of Life Care, Palliative Care, Dignity in Care, building capacity for MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) conversations and Spiritual Care Referrals.

We collaborate with supporting Congregations - PINK (Pastors in North Kildonan) and hold Church Liaison meetings. These events provide an opportunity to stay connected with emerging themes within congregations and for our chaplains to be a support to pastors on issues affecting the care of seniors in the church.

Ferd gave a presentation at the Dementia Care Conference in Winnipeg on the topic of Spiritual Care for Persons with Dementia and Those Who Support Them. He also serves as the Long Term Care representative on the WRHA Spiritual Health Services Advisory Committee.

The final days of a Resident’s life often provides an opportunity for our chaplains to enter that sacred space where the earthly and the divine meet. The death of a Resident impacts not only the Resident’s family and friends, but also the care staff who have provided care for the resident, as well as fellow residents. These are opportunities to reach out with love and compassion to those who feel the loss most personally and to support healthy grieving practices.

As a Faith based health care organization affiliated with the Mennonite Community we take our role very seriously in matters of public policy. For instance, our Policy Committee finalized our Policy on Medical and Staff Operational Procedures on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), which the WRHA approved in the spring of 2018. We are pleased that the Minister of Health and WRHA have acknowledged and accepted the right of faith based organizations to opt out of providing MAID to our clients or allowing MAID on our premises. This Policy is posted on our Website and family and prospective Residents are informed of this restriction during pre-admission discussions.

Another important issue our Policy Committee and Board faced, was the new restriction on funding from the federal Canada Summer Jobs program. In brief, the federal government demanded that to be eligible for funding, all applicants sign an attestation statement which affirmed the organization supported a range of human rights including legal access to abortion. The Bethania Group along with hundreds of other faith based service organizations across the country, could not sign believing that this attestation was an infringement on the rights of faith based groups to be conscientious objectors. After our applications for 3 summer students were rejected, we voiced our objection to this statement in letters to local Liberal MPs and the federal Minister of Employment, Workforce and Labour. The Douglas Mennonite Church provided leadership along with the Pastors in North Kildonan group in meeting with a senior Liberal MP to express our serious objections to the attestation. We are happy to note that the federal government has changed its policy and is not asking for the attestation this year under the Canada Summer Jobs program.

In anticipation of our Bethania MPCH 75th Anniversary year in 2020 we invite the Mennonite community and our supporting congregations to participate with us as we plan our milestone Anniversary Celebration.

We want to express our deepest gratitude for Bethania’s supportive community of faith. For your prayers, your wise counsel, your hands and feet in service to the Residents, and your continued financial support we are truly grateful.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Bethania Group,

Henry Neudorf, Board Chair
Gary J. Ledoux, CEO
Ferdinand Funk, Director of Spiritual Care / Chaplain
The church was changing. It was a period of flux, with the old trying to maintain the status quo and the new looking for change to meet the needs of the time... To speak to the young people, to speak prophetically to the issues of the day, was urgent.

— founder Ted Friesen, reflecting on the start of The Canadian Mennonite, 65 years ago

Today, our community’s needs continue to change. We still need to connect with multiple generations and to speak prophetically. In addition to the 10,500 households that subscribe to the biweekly magazine today, we have seen a 50 percent increase in the electronic readership of the magazine, and an 87 percent increase in traffic on our website, over the past two years. Just as Mennonites gather together on a Sunday morning to worship, our community also gathers online and through print to share, discuss, debate, and to build connections.

MC Manitoba members are a welcome part of the Canadian Mennonite community, representing 30 percent of the print readership and 19 percent of website visitors.

Regional correspondent Nicolien Klassen Wiebe brings Manitoba stories to the rest of the country, including articles about MC Manitoba churches, camps, schools and other ministries. Nicolien published 31 articles and photos about Manitoba, such as “Paying attention to the invisible” about the Charleswood Mennonite Church women who lead a Bible study at a prison. Aaron Epp and Will Braun wrote many articles of broad national interest. Ken Warkentin, Darryl Neustaedter Barg and Virginia Gerbrandt Richert wrote for the From Our Leaders column. Numerous others contributed photos and articles.

MC Manitoba churches and organizations are welcome to promote their events in the Canadian Mennonite Calendar, which appears in the print magazine and on our website. To submit an event, go to www.canadianmennonite.org and click on Events. As well, Canadian Mennonite welcomes notices from church administrators about births, adoptions, baptisms, marriages and deaths, for publishing in the Milestones section. Our sense of being a nationwide community grows when we share with one another the important events that take place in our congregations.

We often hear that churches discuss Canadian Mennonite articles in their Adult Education classes. As well, readers tell us that Canadian Mennonite helps them feel connected to the church across the country. We pray that will continue for many years. Thanks for your support!

Ways to connect

- **Subscribe** to the print or digital edition, or both. If you attend an MCM congregation, subscription fees are paid for collectively through the church. Contact your church office for details.
- **Sign up** for “CM Now”— a free, biweekly email with links to recent stories.
- **Write** letters or web comments in response to articles.
- **Follow** CM on Facebook and Twitter.

Financial overview

- **Annual budget:** $750,000

  - **Revenue:** Subscriptions (church and individual) generate 1/3 of revenue. The remainder comes from advertising, donations, and a federal grant that supports Canadian content in magazines.

  - **Expenses:** Content creation (writing, editing, layout) accounts for 46% of costs. Printing and postage account for 31%. Administration, including website management, accounts for 23% of expenses.
CMU’s mission is entrusted through interdependent partnerships with Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Brethren peoples, extended through congregations of a wide ecumenical range. Together the church and CMU enliven Anabaptist commitments of faith and life.

**Academics and Vocation**
CMU bridges student passions, convictions, faith, and vocational paths with the needs and opportunities of church and society. Academic studies link Biblical and Theological Studies with 19 different BA majors, all while nurturing an imagination for the church. Academics and community life inspire and equip students for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation as they enter careers in ministry, medicine, farming, law, business, education, social services …and much more.

**Practica**
A Practicum requirement (a supervised opportunity for work and service-integrated learning, structured over an entire year or within one term) is a graduation requirement for every student, regardless of program degree. A Practicum forms a critical part of academic learning, career and vocational discernment. In 2017-18, 127 students completed practicum assignments across Canada and globally in congregations, businesses, hospitals, prisons, seniors homes, schools, camps, not for profit agencies...

**Bachelor of Science**
Along with BA degrees in Arts and Science and Environmental Studies, CMU now offers 3- and 4-year Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology, Mathematics and General Science. CMU’s BSc is distinctive in its inclusion of a broad interdisciplinary base that builds capacity to address pressing questions of science, life, and faith.

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**2018-2019 Enrolment**

**Shaftesbury Campus**
- 739 Students
  - 628 Undergraduate
  - 70 Graduate
  - 41 Outtatown

**CMU Centre for Faith and Life (cmu.ca/cfl)**

**Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM)**
- Anabaptist-Ecumenical Seminary learning in a Canadian context
- Theological formation on a university campus
- Semestered, livestreamed and intensive (one week) course delivery

### NEW: In September 2019, CMU will begin offering a Master of Divinity (MDiv) with commitments to:
- Learning and Formation
- Calling and Vocation
- Reflection and Praxis
- Discernment for Specific Ministry

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**A Faith-Nurturing University Community**

**Outtatown**
20 years of helping students learn to Know God, Know themselves and Know the world

**Chapels**
3 times weekly, focused on Seek First the Kingdom of God

**Biblical and Theological Studies**
(BTS) form part of the learning of all students. 18 credit hour minimum of BTS in all undergraduate degrees.

**Pastor in Residence**
Jim Loepp Thiessen (Pastor at Floradale Mennonite Church, Ontario) spent 1 week engaging students on campus.

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**Upcoming**

**Sixpointhead: equipping peacebuilders.** A high school youth-gathering extending Micah’s call to ‘do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.’ On Sunday, April 28, 2019 youth from MB, MC, and other church backgrounds will gather at CMU to be inspired and equipped as peacebuilders in the way of Jesus.

**Emerging Perspectives on Ministry**
gathers pastors and ministry leaders from diverse Christian communions for fellowship and professional resourcing. On May 7 & 8, 2019, Diana Butler Bass will present on her latest book, *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks.*

#ChurchTooManitoba, a conference for pastors, council and ministry leaders focused on sexual misconduct in the life of the church. Planned jointly by Mennonite Church Manitoba, Mennonite Brethren Church Manitoba, Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba and CMU. Held on May 31-June 1, 2019 at CMU.

**Livestreaming:** Many CMU events are accessible wherever you live! Athletics games, Christmas at CMU, Face2Face conversations and various lectures and courses are all livestreamed.
Eden Health Care Services has hired a new CEO. Kym Kaufmann holds a Bachelor of Arts, Masters of Occupational Therapist, Certificate in Quality Management and Certificate in Public Sector Management from the University of Manitoba. Over the past ten years she has been working in mental health at Selkirk Mental Health Centre with her most recent position as Director of Operations. Since starting in September 2018, she has experienced incredible support and generosity from staff, board members, churches, conferences and community. Eden Health Care Services (EHCS) continues to provide a range of clinical services to individuals on their mental health journey.

This year Eden Health Care Services helped:

- Persons on the mental health journey move towards recovery
- Deliver a continuum of mental health recovery programs responsive to community needs
- Ensure satisfied, qualified staff equipped with effective tools and resources delivering creative evidence-informed practices in safe work environments.
- Create high quality, sustainable programs and welcoming environments
- Grow a range of clinical and community mental health programs including housing, employment and counseling services for all community members in Southern Manitoba and Winnipeg.

Specifically, Eden was able to help 82 individuals from youth to adults find employment through Segue, provided housing and supports for 200 individuals, provided 4442 counselling sessions, and helped 182 inpatients at Eden Mental Health Centre. Over the next year, Eden Health Care Services will remain committed to seeking direction from the church ownership groups and broader faith communities to help further advance this work and meet community needs.

Mental illness continues to be one of the most widely misunderstood and feared illnesses in society. The lingering stigma and myths associated with this illness often result in discrimination and, consequently, a reluctance to seek appropriate help. Mental illnesses are treatable and recovery is possible with individuals developing positive mental health and resiliency. It still takes a supportive and caring community of family and friends and colleagues. And the best mental health services are those closely tied to primary care and social care (Manitoba Schizophrenia Society, 2018).

Our Future

Partnerships continue to be one of the major factors that have allowed Eden Health Care Services to realize success and build strong, resilient and responsive communities. Strengthening partnerships with clients, families, churches, conferences, community partners and government will continue to be a consistent theme. EHCS will retain resources to provide a range of wrap around mental health services for individuals on their mental health journey. Throughout this process, there will be attention on adopting a broader focus on the social determinants of health and promoting recovery oriented programs and services. EHCS will also prioritize ensuring access to acute psychiatry services for individuals with mental health concerns in Southern Manitoba while ensuring safety and security.

Current Challenges

There is a health system transformation process underway and EHCS will need ensure active participation in this process. EHCS will continue to advocate for funding for security services to ensure access to acute psychiatry services for residents of Southern Manitoba. EHCS will also ensure continued success through partnerships service purchase agreements for affiliated health corporations.
The sincere hope is that we are able to continue to build capacity in our communities as we inform, challenge and engage individuals, churches, businesses and agencies in helping us advance effective mental health services. Ultimately, your support and belief in our mission strengthens our potential and helps make our achievements possible. On behalf of Eden Health Care Services, thank you for your continued support that allows us to find ways to express Christ’s love, particularly to those of us struggling with mental health challenges.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kym Kaufmann
CEO Eden Health Care Services
University of Manitoba Menno Office

Right at the heart of the University of Manitoba Fort Garry campus is a space affectionately known as the Menno Office. Located in room 102D of the University Centre, this campus ministry provided by Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association (IMCA) offers a spiritual sanctuary and caring Christian community within the large and sometimes impersonal secular institution. Open Monday through Friday, the office is staffed with a Chaplain on a half-time basis to serve student’s faculty and staff.

Students gather daily to connect with friends and build relationships in an atmosphere that is unabashedly Christian with an Anabaptist Mennonite perspective, yet welcoming to all. There are regular scheduled times for worship, devotionals and faith conversations. Outside of these scheduled times, students spontaneously discuss matters of faith and life or pick up the musical instruments and worship song books in the office.

The relationships formed in the office offer students emotional, social and spiritual resources. This support helps them to face the stresses of academic life, part-time jobs and personal and relational realities. Students, as well as those working on campus are able to schedule individual appointments with the chaplain.

New students continue to discover the Menno Office as they are invited by friends or siblings, introduced by their pastors, or simply walk by and are drawn by the energy and hospitality of those gathered inside. In attracting and serving students from Winnipeg, rural Manitoba, across Canada and around the world, the Menno Office allows the good news of Jesus Christ to have a local, regional and international impact.

As I’m writing this report I asked two students in the office to describe what this ministry means to them:

“I enjoy having a place to come where I can feel safe talking about theological questions...with music and laughter...and where I feel a sense of calm... It’s a great place to meet other Mennonites and talk about challenging topics with a pastor to facilitate conversations”

“In an academic setting there’s a need for compassionate ideals. The Menno Office provides a setting for students of diverse disciplines to work on this... students are united by Mennonite ideals such as love, humility and pacifism... a cultural identity that values resourcefulness and sustainability in a way that is integrated into our spiritual identities. These attributes assist students in creating the future changes to a society that struggles with inequity, hate and greed.”

This ministry could not exist without the partnership of the EMC, EMMC and MCM conferences and the prayers and financial support of congregations and individuals who recognize the importance of this shared ministry venture. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Rev. Mark von Kampen
Mennonite Campus Chaplain
102D University Centre
204-474-9691
mvonkampen@gmail.com
In 2018, MCC staff across the globe shared a prayer card with encouragement from Romans 12:14-18, including to “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” In ministries as in life, we often experience that rejoicing and weeping occur together. Often among the same folks, on the same day. To hold these apparently conflicting experiences together is truer to real life than to imagine that one must depart for the other to arrive. It is also truer to the lives of friends and partners touched by the activities of MCC. In every case these are people with whom we rejoice and weep. Together.

I am pleased to report some highlights of MCC’s work in Manitoba:

- **MCC Thrift** – Across Manitoba, 1800+ volunteers in 16 shops are the hands, feet and face of MCC. These – volunteers and staff, donors and customers – are “the MCC” in so many ways. These fine folks provide top quality second hand goods while generating nearly $3.0 million for local and international programs. Thanks!
- **Indigenous Neighbours** – MCC pursues reconciliation in response to Canada’s Truth & Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. One Manitoba activity this year included signing on to Winnipeg’s Indigenous Accord where MCC pledged to join with Manitoban churches to learn ways to become better neighbours to Indigenous neighbours.
- **Sam’s Place, Winnipeg** – The café saw a major kitchen renovation. Thanks to donors who helped to more fully provide for a greater number of youth and young adult volunteers to learn food handling/serving skills and certification as they overcome barriers to paid employment.
- **Material Resources** – Global crises in the last year resulted in high demand for relief kits. In Manitoba, corporate sponsors and donors packed kits at Springfest and various dedicated volunteer events. MCCM surpassed previous year’s total number of relief kits, for distribution in Bosnia, Lebanon, DR Congo, DPR Korea, and elsewhere.
- **Migration & Resettlement** – MCCs across Canada continued to show hospitality to displaced persons. MCC is grateful to church and community groups who provide hospitality and fellowship to the full quota of newcomer families via private sponsorship.
- **Peace & Advocacy - A Cry for Home**, is an education and advocacy campaign in response to the call of Palestinian Christians in the Middle East. MCCM hosted guests from the three Abrahamic faiths to tell the stories of life in pursuit of a just peace, rooted in non-violence, for everyone residing in Palestine/Israel.
- **Your gifts** – Once again Manitobans were generous with their resources. Your gifts are more than charity, more than answers to need. Your gifts help us all to identify with sisters and brothers in Manitoban communities and countries around the world. We become the worldwide family of God when we think of ourselves as connected to each other; connected to that which causes us all to rejoice and to weep. Together. Thank you!

MCC Manitoba seeks to grow closer to churches in meaningful ways. MCC staffers are expert in their field, eager to visit your church for education, sermons, conversation, etc. in a range of topics that matter to you. Email manitoba@mccmb.ca to invite MCC into your important ministries.
In reviewing my report of a year ago, I would say both the challenges and the signs of hope we saw at that time are still very much the dominant framework within which we are operating.

On the challenge side, our enrollment is essentially the same as it was at the end of last year – 61 students. We again are projecting deficit financing despite trimming costs to the extent we can without compromising programming. That means we will need to do depend on the generosity of our usual donors, plus some extra, to carry us through these lean times.

On the hopeful side, we have already seen wonderful generosity from the MCI community. In addition, we are expecting 4 or 5 new students for second semester. We also started the year with 29 new students, including a great crop of grade 9’s. If we can do the same, or even better over the next few years, our population will grow significantly.

Working to become a more sustainable MCI in the next few years has involved more intentional focus on fundraising, recruitment, and, maybe most important, school culture. To that end, our student leaders have created a community covenant based on Philippians 2: 1-5. The document goes on to name specific qualities that we at MCI will strive to live out – community, honesty, including others, humility, respect, and courage. This covenant is posted in a number of places throughout the school, including on a huge poster, which all members of the school community have signed.

This all sets the foundation for the ongoing daily life of the school – classes, chapels, meals, sports, special events, residence life, homework, and socializing – in which students are encouraged to learn and to grow in Christ. The atmosphere in the halls is positive and energetic. Music floats through the hallways out of the chapel and practice rooms, guided by our new choral director (Christina Banman) and band instructor (Dwayne Schott). We have much to be thankful for.

The book of Ruth has been a personal encouragement lately – in precarious and uncertain times, Ruth’s loyalty and faithfulness were rewarded with blessings that cascaded down the generations to the line of David and eventually to the birth of Christ. My prayer is for continued faithfulness of the MCI community to the ongoing work of helping young people mature and grow into the image of Christ.

In Christ,
Bernie Loeppky – Principal
Dear Mennonite Church Manitoba delegates,
As a "related" organization, it is our pleasure to partner with you all as individuals and congregations to train the next generation to hear God’s call. Westgate Mennonite Collegiate is a Christian School grounded in the Anabaptist tradition. It is the mission of the school to provide a well-rounded education, which will inspire and empower students to live as people of God.

The school has 320 students enrolled, with one class of Grade 6, three classes of Grade 9, and two classes of the remaining grades. Our enrolment campaign is in full swing and families of our supporting churches will be invited to consider Westgate for the 2019-2020 school year.

We are now in our second year in our redeveloped campus and students and staff have used the wonderfully designed space to its potential. The Capital Campaign Committee continues to work towards raising the remaining $2.1 million needed to retire the debt that is left from the $10.3 million project. The completion of the building permits the Board of Directors to direct attention to preparing for the school’s future, beginning with a strategic plan process in the months to come.

The theme “Peace in This Place” forms our weekly chapels this year, where we are examining what Christ’s peace in

THIS place is all about. Peace in THIS place has to take into account our location: our emotional, social, political, and also physical location. God intends us to live in peace with ourselves, in peace with our neighbours, in peace with all the peoples of the world, and in peace with Creation.

We are grateful to God for the unique opportunity we have to serve both the Mennonite Churches in Winnipeg and many other families who choose to attend Westgate. About half of the families are members from our churches. One quarter of the student body comes from various other denominations and many others from no faith community. It is a serious responsibility and a privilege to introduce these students to the call of discipleship and the love of God.

Our school strives to keep 50% of our students from the Mennonite Community. We request your prayers and student support of this important church work for our youth. We see ourselves as an extension of the churches and desire to work together to train our youth.

Submitted by: Brad Janzen – Board Chairperson (Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship)
Bob Hummelt – Principal (Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church)

The following MCM congregations are supporting congregations of WMC:
Home Street, Bethel, Hope, Charleswood, North Kildonan, Fort Garry, First, Springstein, Douglas, Springfield Heights, Jubilee, Sargent and Sterling.
Listing of MCM staff and Board of Directors

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Dorothea Rempel Kampen – Frohe Botschaft Producer

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*Assoc. Dir. of Leadership Ministries*

Jesse Wolfe  
*CwM Admin Assistant*

Janet Peters  
*CwM Assoc. Program Director*

Rick Neufeld  
*Dir. of Leadership Ministries*

Darryl Neustaedter Barg  
*Assoc. Dir. of Communications*

Dorothea Rempel Kampen  
*Frohe Botschaft Producer*

Ken Warkentin  
*Executive Director*

Stephanie Wenger  
*Administrative Assistant*

Not Pictured:  
Tom Seals  
*Treasurer*
MCM Staff Photo Directory cont.

Camp Assiniboia

David and Katherine Hogue
David: Camp Manager
Katharine: Guest Group Coordinator (until September 2018)

Alfridie Braun
Food Service Coordinator

Linda Dueck
Guest Group Coordinator (began September 2018)

Paul Dueck
General Assistant

Jake Fehr
Maintenance
MCM Board Photo Directory

Colleen Edmunds  James Friesen  Gerald Gerbrandt  Richard Klassen

Kathleen Rempel Boschman  Alex Tiessen  Katrina Woelk
Clusters of MCM 2018

Eastern
Arnaud Mennonite Church
Elim Mennonite Church
Glenlea Mennonite Church
Grace Mennonite Church, Steinbach
Steinbach Mennonite Church
Pinawa Christian Fellowship (Affiliate Member)

West/North
Crystal City Mennonite Church
Grace Mennonite Church, Brandon
Nordheim Mennonite Church
Oak Lake Mennonite Church
Trinity Mennonite Church
Whitewater Mennonite Church
Living Word Church
Riverton Fellowship Circle

Winnipeg
Bethel Mennonite Church
Charleswood Mennonite Church
Douglas Mennonite Church
First Mennonite Church
Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship
Home Street Mennonite Church
Hope Mennonite Church
Iglesia Jesus es el Camino
Jubilee Mennonite Church
North Kildonan Mennonite Church
River East Mennonite Church
Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church
Springfield Heights Mennonite Church
Sterling Mennonite Fellowship
Vietnamese Mennonite Church
Winnipeg Chinese Mennonite Church *
Lao Mennonite Church (Related Congregation)

Southern
Altona Mennonite Church
Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church
Carman Mennonite Church
Covenant Mennonite Church
Emmanuel Mennonite Church
Grace Mennonite Church, Winkler
Gretta Bergthaler Mennonite Church
Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church
Morden Mennonite Church
Pembina Mennonite Fellowship
Seeds of Life Community Church
Springstein Mennonite Church

Status at the end of 2018
* withdrawn
** in process of withdrawing
*** closed