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## **MCM Report for our Ministry in 2018**

### **Ken Warkentin – Executive Director**

Mennonite Church Manitoba is a collection of 40 congregations who gather regularly in their places of worship and pray, share, learn, and act out our faith where we live. We are a dynamic community of faith with our authority rooted in the life of Jesus as told through the gospels. 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.

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”. 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 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”.

In our new structure we are more engaged than ever with our sisters and brothers across this country. We continue to share the important task of International Witness with congregations all across this land and we hope to increase our connections between our workers and all of our congregations. We work together at nurturing a common Anabaptist vision through Sharing of Anabaptist resources and inspirational gatherings (come to Abbotsford B.C. this June 28 – July 2). We share a commitment to have a meaningful relationship with Indigenous sisters and brothers through our Indigenous Relations. Finally we support our congregations through some centralized benefits and pension plans for congregational staff.

MCM is so much more than an office or some staff. MCM is all of us when we gather in congregations, or when we live out our faith in our communities. We ask that you remember MCM in your prayers and support each other in our attempts to be the faithful Body of Christ.

*For other foundation can no one lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Corinthians 3:11*