

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

Dear Mennonite Church Saskatchewan;

At the end of June, over 300 people from across our nationwide community of faith gathered in Abbotsford, British Columbia, for Mennonite Church Canada's **Gathering 2019: *Ignite the Imagination of the Church.*** During this Holy Spirit-filled event, we gathered around Christ in worship and communion, we heard "Fire-Starter" stories from congregations across Canada, we were inspired by Elaine Heath's fresh articulation of the Good News for our time and place, and we were reminded that as we ***deepen our walk with each other,*** this "walking with" extends beyond the borders of our congregations to our sisters and brothers across Canada and around the world. While Sunday morning worship can sometimes feel rather small, especially in summer, this nationwide gathering reminded me that we are a part of a church family that is much larger and much more diverse than we can imagine!

**Gathering 2019** also marked the beginning of a new era for MC Canada. Doug Klassen, pastor for 21 year at Foothills Mennonite Church, was installed as the new Executive Minister of MC Canada. Doug is passionate about the faith and life of the Mennonite Church and looks forward to connecting with each region. **MC Sask invites you to come and meet Doug on Wednesday, October 16, 9:30am in the chapel at Bethany Manor.** This will be an opportunity to get to know him, to hear about his passion for the church, to hear updates about the work we do together through MC Canada and for Doug to learn who we are. This **"Meet the new MC Canada Executive Minister"** event is open to all, and we hope you will be able to join us (*please RSVP to [mcsask@mcsask.ca](mailto:mcsask@mcsask.ca) or call 306.249.4844 by Friday, October 11*).

Secondly, **Gathering 2019** marked the first MC Canada nationwide event as a coming together of the five Regional Churches (MC British Columbia, MC Alberta, MC Sask, MC Manitoba, and MC Eastern Canada). Where in the past the Regional Churches often worked separately from each other and MC Canada, now the Regional Churches have covenanted together to form MC Canada. In the past, you sent a cheque to MC Canada to support national and international ministries, and to MC Sask to support regional ministries. Now, every donation to MC Sask supports the work we do together at all levels. A portion of each non-designated donation supports the work of Youth and Young Adult Programming, our schools (RJC & CMU), our camps, Restorative Justice Ministries, resources and support for pastors and congregations, CommonWord Resource Centre, Indigenous-Settler Relations, and International Witness.

By deepening our walk with each other as Regional Churches, it is our hope and desire to strengthen our work together as a nationwide body. This work is able to happen because of your prayer, commitment, and financial support. Please consider making a donation today! Thank you!

In Christ,  
Ryan Siemens



Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan