

October 26, 2017

Dear Mennonite Church Saskatchewan,

On the weekend of Sept. 15 and 16, 75 of us gathered for the second of two mini-retreats during this year of Refresh, Refocus, Renew.

In April during our first mini-retreat, Betty Pries, our facilitator throughout this process, helped set the context for the dramatic shift taking place in society and the church, and then invited us into a season of prayer. Over the summer we prayed the following statements; “Lord, open our hearts to receive you; Lord, open us to your healing; Lord open us to your future” and questions; “Lord, what are you calling us to embrace? Lord, what are you calling us to let go of? And Lord, what are you calling us to live into.” In September, we gathered to share with each other what we heard in our prayers, and after much lively conversation, three themes rose to the surface. First, we are hearing that MC Sask become a place to deepen our Christian Spirituality by being attentive to the presence of God. Second, we believe we are being called to nurture our core Anabaptist practices for today (the 21st Century). And third, we hear God calling us to to serve our communities and world by living more fully into God’s ministry of reconciliation.

As the reference group worked through the material, the image of three concentric circles emerged. At the centre is our core – our spiritual foundation focused on the person of Jesus Christ. From that centre, we move into the second circle where our Anabaptist convictions are developed and formed. This second circle leads us into our communities to serve as ministers of reconciliation in the name of Christ.

Within this framework, we are testing whether the role of MC Sask is to focus on the inner two circles: working with congregations to deepen our walk with Christ and helping to shape our Anabaptist identity and witness. The third circle then becomes the work of congregations as they put feet to their faith and Anabaptist witness.

For those who attended our second mini-retreat, how do these themes and this sense of direction resonate with you? Is this what you heard? For those who didn’t attend, how do you resonate with this direction? We welcome your feedback. As we move toward a renewed focus within MC Saskatchewan, we continue to pray for God’s guidance and wisdom as we seek to be Christ Centered and Sent, together.

Yours in Christ,

Ryan Siemens  
Area Church Minister  
Mennonite Church Saskatchewan