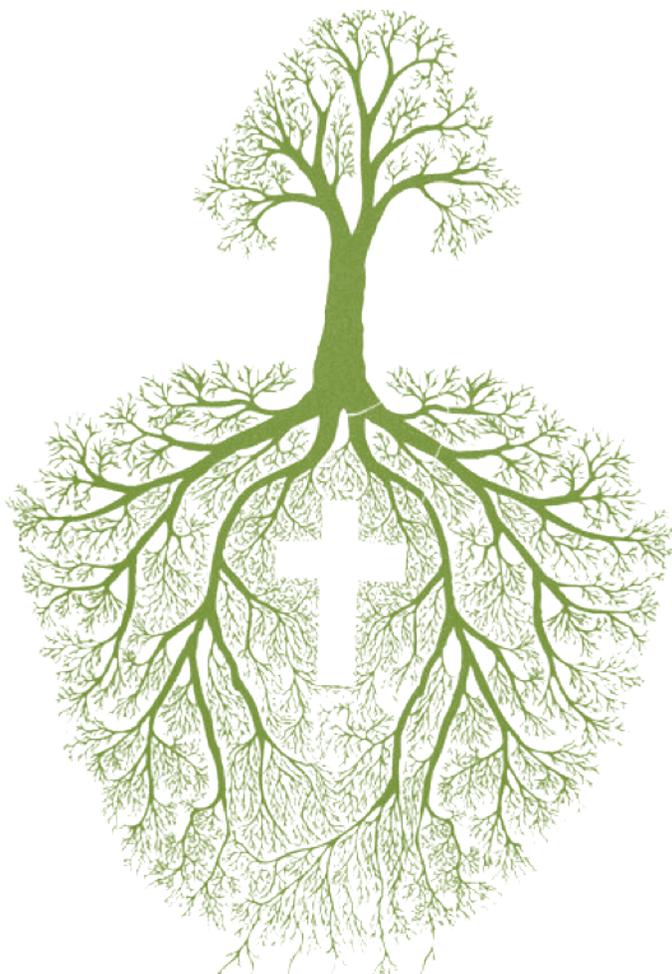




MC Sask Fall Leadership Assembly

Agenda & Docket

Nov. 24/2018 ~ Langham Mennonite Fellowship



Continuing to Deepen our Walk, Together

Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. Presentation and Discussion of Reports
 - a. MC Sask, p. 3
 - b. Ministries Commission, p. 4
 - c. Pastoral Leadership Commission, p. 5
 - d. Shekinah Retreat Centre, p. 6
 - e. Youth Farm Complex/Mennonite Nursing Home, p. 7
 - f. CoSA South Saskatchewan, p. 8
 - g. Micah Mission, p. 9
 - h. Parkland Restorative Justice, p. 10
 - i. Rosthern Junior College, p. 11
 - j. *Canadian Mennonite Magazine*, p. 12
 - k. Bylaws Committee, p. 13

**Additional reports for information purposes continued on p. 14*

3. Lunch break

4. Session: Deepening our Walk, Together

Coffee breaks will take place as needed.

Times of prayer & song will be interspersed throughout the day as well.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Report



The Council of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan is excited about the activities happening both within our regional church and across our nationwide community of faith. 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 across Canada to form a nationwide Communications Team, Kirsten working alongside Church Engagement Staff and closer with the Ministries Commission here at home and Ryan with the Executive Ministers. The Executive Staff Group is excited about working with Henry Paetkau as the interim Executive Minister for MC Canada and looks forward to working with Doug Klassen, the new permanent MC Canada Executive Minister, beginning in June.

Over the last several months, council has been focusing its energy around camps and concerns raised about the accountability of MC Sask Programs. When does the MC Sask Council get involved and when should it not? Our programs are given much latitude, however, when crises/challenges arise, when does council express responsibility?

And lastly, June 28-July 1, 2019, the newly formed MC Canada will be holding its first nationwide gathering called "Igniting the Imagination of the Church" in Abbotsford, BC. This four-day gathering will consist of a Leadership/Pastor's Day (June 28), a delegate/business meeting (the morning of June 29), and an inspirational gathering (June 29, 2pm - July 1st at noon). In the past, congregations sent delegates. In our new nationwide church, regions are required to send delegates. MC Sask is able to send 14 delegates to the business meeting; six council members and eight members at-large.

For discussion:

- 1) How do we select delegates that represent the diversity of MC Sask? And
- 2), How should we fund delegates?

Ministries Commission Report

Something you are excited about:

God is doing something amazing in our midst! Someone in the Education Hour at First Mennonite Church said, "We want to hear what God is saying to us." That is where the Spiritual Resource Team is offering some assistance. Team members have led contemplative or listening prayer practices at Mount Royal, Tiefengrund, Eigenheim, Herschel, Langham, Warman, First Mennonite and Wildwood in Saskatoon. We have preached, taught contemplative prayer forms in worship, education hour and midweek. Three more churches have extended invitations for 2019. A Lenten Silent Retreat is being planned for April 6 at Shekinah.

Something you are concerned about or a challenge you are facing:

The work of Reconciliation is long and complicated. Changing attitudes and entrenched behavior is not easy. Walking the Path team members come from MC Sask, MC Canada, and MCCSK. Communities who hosted Ted and Co. for the summertime play Discovery: A Comic Lament included the Lutheran and United Churches. Visits to Muskeg Lake were made by a limited number of MC Sask folks. Work at reconciliation between Indigenous and Settler populations seems to attract a core of our MC Sask constituency. We need to find a way to move this beyond the group of interested/engaged participants to the general population of our congregations.

An item or question for group discussion:

In developing international partnerships, MC Canada strives to be guided by these three questions:

- * What is it that you are already doing and what are the gifts with which God has blessed you?
- * How can we come alongside you and support what God is doing in your context?
- * How can the gifts that our partners possess be shared with MC Canada/MC Sask congregations?

Ministries Commission's question: How could our congregations and/or MC Sask be more engaged in gift sharing with international partners?

Pastoral Leadership Commission Report

Pastoral Leadership Commission members:

Chair	Garth Ewert Fisher
Secretary	Carrol Epp
Personnel rep	Ric Driediger
Equipping Day rep	Curtis Wiens
Members at large	Lisa Martens Bartel Florence Dreidger
Executive Minister	Ryan Siemens

1. Something you are excited about.

Eugene Peterson has said that the pastoral calling is the best work in the world 'if you are called to it.' One of the most exciting parts of our work is interviewing pastors who have been called to this important work. We have interviewed two candidates for ordination: Lois Bukar (Zion SC), and Daniel Janzen (Carrot River MC). We have also interviewed three persons called by congregations to serve: Andrea Enns-Gooding (Walheim), Ed Olfert (Grace, P.A.), and Lois Siemens (Bethany Manor). We affirm their giftedness and the excellence they bring to their congregations and our larger church.

2. Something you are concerned about or a challenge you are facing.

'The times they are a changin' (theologian Bob Dylan).

One of the challenges we face as MC Sask is smaller congregations seeking pastoral leadership but unable to hire full-time people as we have traditionally done. As we see it, there are two questions (among others) we face: One, theological/pastoral training will need to be more 'local.' A positive step is that CMU is considering adding an MDiv program beginning in Fall of 2019? Two, what kind of competencies are needed for pastors in 2018 and beyond. Is the Competency Grid put out several years ago by MC Canada still useful or do we need a new model?

3. An item or question for group discussion?

What kind of expectations does your church have when calling a pastor? Is the M Div degree, CPE training, or seminary education still crucial?

Shekinah Retreat Centre Report

Something you are excited about:

We are excited about the relationships that we are creating or rebuilding. These relationships have resulted in two cabins being built in 2018, with another two already pledged for 2019. Our Timber Lodge bookings are very strong for the rest of 2018, with 2019 having very few weekends left open. We are working more closely with RJC and other conference “cousins”. We are offering more programming options for school groups and local community programs. We have good staff, a good board, and we are hard at work in our community.

Something you are concerned about or a challenge you are facing:

One challenge that we face is staff capacity. We have come through a very difficult year. There has been a large staff turnover. In the space of one week, we had to replace our walk-in cooler, rebuild our water handling system, and deal with our large white tents collapsing. The tightness of our financial situation resulted in not rehiring an administrative staff person. This has increased the workload for all the other staff members. The result is that staff is overworked and unable to properly dream and plan for what Shekinah can be.

An item or question for group discussion:

What is MC Sask’s mission for its summer camps? Are our conference camps an outreach program for MC Sask? Are they a Christian educational program? If Shekinah is an outreach for MC Sask, how can we better utilize the facility that is Shekinah? What are your dreams and vision for Shekinah?



Youth Farm Complex/ Mennonite Nursing Home Report

The Rosthern Mennonite Nursing Home continues to serve a growing population of mostly senior persons with debilitating and chronic health conditions. All areas of health services provided by the Nursing Home are functioning at full capacity with much expressed satisfaction by its guests/ patients and their families.

A point-form information profile is provided here for your consideration:

A. Guests currently served

- Full service care - 68
- Pine View(assisted living) - 36
- Country Gardens(rentals) 8units

B. Personal Care Home SUNRISE PLACE....under construction

- Capacity for 20 guests....34 on the waiting list
- Funding Plan for this project:
 - \$1.5m in donations
 - \$1m RMH budget
 - \$ 1.8m Abundance Canada

C. Total staff to operate the Nursing Home program 145

The Rosthern Mennonite Nursing Home is one of 13 other Faith Based nursing homes affiliated with Saskatchewan Health. Since Sask. Health has now been placed under the governance of one Provincial Health Authority, a number of organizational and administrative matters are currently being worked on. Our Nursing Home strongly maintains its Faith Based status and is respected for this. Carefully maintained statistics clearly indicate this home to be one of the most efficient and appreciated place of nursing services.

What concerns me as a Board Member: *The completion of the new Personal Care Home is considerably overdue. It is very disappointing that the timelines for completion are not being met.*

What excites me as a Board Member: *This Nursing Home has become a 'Dream Come True' for those whose Vision for it is being fulfilled. It provides affordable care for those with serious health needs at an enormous saving to the Provincial and Canadian health care systems. Our management and staff deserve our commendations and gratitude for their dedicated and competent service.*

Discussion item: request for feedback on the overall report and program.
Ernest Epp vice-chair of the Nursing Home Board

CoSA South Saskatchewan Report

Something you are excited about:

As many of you know, Circles of Support and Accountability came out of a faith community taking what appeared to be a very risky step of providing friendship to a person who had offended sexually. He never re-offended and continued to be part of a group of ordinary people, like members of MCSK who follow God's call to relate to the unwanted, marginalized and unloved. It is this which excites me. It is ordinary people, taking the time to share their lives with those who may have never experienced family life which was wholesome, friends who he or she could call on when needing a shoulder to cry on because a loved one died, someone cared enough to have a birthday party for a 58-yr old who never had had a birthday party, or someone to go with to a football game. Ordinary people who do ordinary things out of compassion and friendship because they care. Ordinary people who care for the other, not just for ourselves or their own family.

Something you are concerned about or a challenge you are facing:

In Saskatchewan, all three sites who provide CoSA services also provide some other restorative justice services such as chaplaincy type and faith community re-integration service, Person to Person service, and perhaps other community restorative initiatives. The Justice services of the Federal and the Provincial governments also provide some restorative services. This is good. My concern is the amount of time spent in finding a way in which the need of the person who is vulnerable, or who already has entered into the system, remain the main focus of receiving the needed services. It seems every system wants easy, quick solutions to problems and issues which have taken years to develop. In our experience, relationship building, compassion, trust takes time. It takes time for an offender to begin to trust, when coming out of an institution in which this is not fostered. It takes time for a congregation to gain experience in reaching out to the vulnerable, it takes time for a business to gain the confidence of hiring someone out of prison, and it takes time for a community to accept a person coming into our community. And it takes even more time for someone coming into our communities to trust us, who are surprised our generosity is genuine. I am sure there are those among you who have been asked "Why do you take each Sunday afternoon to visit me?" And later may tell you he had asked the question because he did not believe someone could extend friendship to him without getting something out of it journalist doing the background work for a book on why and how people change, we were asked if some of our core members would be prepared to be interviewed. Eight core members and their volunteer circles spent about an hour answering his questions. The core members were of different nationalities, different abilities, ages, etc. Each one without prompting emphasized that the most important thing they valued was the respect shown to them by the volunteers, and the trust which was built up. It was not the coffee or the meals, but that they were valued as human beings first and foremost. The circles had been functioning from 2-16 years.

An item or question for group discussion:

Given our fast paced life, how can we as a church function in such a way which responds to those who have fallen along the way and cannot fit into the here today, gone tomorrow environment? This is not just a question for CoSA work, but I believe is a question for much of what we do today. Healing takes time, change takes time, building relationships takes time. Nurturing growth, nurturing faith, nurturing relationships takes time. We in CoSA SS have had quite a few couples who have volunteered as a couple and this has been a rich resource to the program. They provide a stability to the program and excellent models for core members. And they are some of most long term circle volunteers. What are your experiences? What can our congregations do to nurture longer term commitments? Or is this a pipe dream?

*Florence Driedger, CoSA Volunteer, Faith Community Reintegration Coordinator, CoSA SS
in collaboration with Otto Driedger who is on the Board of CoSA SS and CoSA Canada.*

Micah Mission Report

Greetings from Micah!

Something you are excited about:

We have plenty to be excited about. We have new staff! We have growing program and even a new program. Thanks to CoSA Canada funding we were able to hire one of our volunteers, Adriana Appleton who has proved to be an invaluable asset to the organization. She has come with wonderful organizational skills and an eagerness to do some great work.

We hired a summer student, Levi Graham, to assist the Restorative Justice Network in planning the National Restorative Justice Symposium in Saskatoon. He continues to volunteer his time even after the summer job has ended.

Thanks to further funding grants, we have been able to also hire an Indigenous Elder who enjoys sharing knowledge and teachings with volunteers, board and staff and any others who may be interested.

Something you are concerned about or a challenge you are facing:

We are concerned about what seems to be an ever-increasing epidemic of sexual offenders. More and more of our core members are people who have viewed, downloaded, shared child pornography. We are told that there are numerous people in our churches with sex addictions and as we know, the church is not immune to all sorts of sexual offenses as portrayed recently by Theatre of the Beat.

A challenge we are facing is longer wait times for volunteers who are waiting for their clearances to be approved and program staff taking away ownership of the P2P program.

An item or question for group discussion:

Given the increasing number of sexual offenses in our time, the #metoo movement which is showing that women have been powerless for far too long and now wish to do something about it, what should our response be? In the midst of reacting to past offenses by providing supports to people who have offended sexually, to ensure there are "No more victims" is there something we can do to be proactive? How do we encourage people with sex addictions which play themselves out in inappropriate actions to get the help that they need?



Parkland Restorative Justice Report

Something you are excited about:

This year we are excited to offer the Dad Hero program, a parenting based course to men serving time at the federal prison in Prince Albert, and men integrating back into the community. We received funding for this program through the Canadian Families and Corrections Network, an organization that focuses on families, children, and friends who have someone they care about in jail. The Dad Hero course gives these men a unique opportunity to learn about why they are necessary to their children. Session topics include; how to better connect to your children as a parent from prison; how you can work with your co-parent; what stages children go through; and how to communicate better with your children as you prepare to reintegrate.

Something you are concerned about or a challenge you are facing:

Throughout the last 5 years a number of our core volunteers and board members have retired or stepped away. Finding a new energized volunteer base to continue the work proves to be a challenge, considering we work with a difficult demographic. Since most of our work is done through our volunteers who build intentional relationships with both inmates and guys reintegrating, we continue to rely on several new volunteers annually to replace those who have retired or stepped away. Our board, a small dedicated core, is also in need of 2-3 new board members to replace those who have stepped away after years of service. The need to continue to provide support to inmates and assist them in healthy community reintegration continues to be great, and without volunteers and board members we struggle to meet this need. We recognize it takes a certain person to do this type of relationship work, and we encourage anyone who has this skill set to consider getting involved.

An item or question for group discussion:

As a restorative justice organization that engages mostly with male offenders, we recognize the need for the church to also do RJ work with victims, as well as females who are incarcerated. Keeping in mind that many of the male offenders we work with are also victims of harm/violence - how do we go beyond assisting this demographic and reaching a wider victim community that involves those who are not incarcerated?

Rosthern Junior College Report

Something you are excited about:

The upcoming Prairie Youth Gathering!!! Also, exciting opportunities for teaching in new and innovative ways.

Something you are concerned about or a challenge you are facing:

Mental health in youth. Also, declining involvement of people (youth) in church events/Sunday mornings.

An item or question for group discussion:

The role of MC Sask in supporting MC Sask institutions, and future funding.



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Canadian Mennonite Magazine Report

November 1 marked my fifth anniversary with *Canadian Mennonite*. Over the past five years I've written more than 200 news stories and four feature articles.

Something you are excited about:

I'm excited about the level of engagement among MC Sask. readers. In addition to the 1,043 MC Sask. households that subscribe, 300 - 400 Saskatchewan people read articles on the CM website in a two-week period. They are also quick to share CM stories on Facebook. In 2019 CM will hire an online media manager to focus on social media channels and carry CM's mandate (educate, inspire, inform and foster dialogue) into the online arena.

Something you are concerned about or a challenge you are facing:

Recently I attended two days of professional development in Winnipeg, together with other correspondents and CM staff. There we were encouraged to think outside the box and learn to tell stories using multi-media platforms. We were challenged to incorporate video, audio, still photos and even virtual reality into the stories we write in order to make CM relevant to a broader and younger audience. While the print magazine is still valued by many readers, the reality we face is that the world of information sharing is increasingly a digital world.

An item or question for group discussion:

In order to serve you better as Saskatchewan correspondent, I need story ideas. In particular, I'd like to hear what's happening in your congregations. What service projects are you doing? What unique worship experiences are you planning? What activities do you enjoy that foster community? Tell me about it and I'll write a story for CM. I'm also looking for stories about individuals. Can you name someone in your congregation who has an interesting faith story or who has contributed significantly to the life of the church? I'd love to share their stories with CM readers.

Donna Schulz
Saskatchewan Correspondent
Canadian Mennonite magazine

Bylaws Committee Report

Introduction:

Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee – Tim Wiens, Kirsten Hamm-Epp

Council developed this committee for three primary reasons:

1. MC Canada structure has transitioned into a new format with different responsibilities for national and provincial/regional churches, and their staff
2. It is good governance to review the bylaws on an ongoing basis.
3. It is important for the bylaws to be an accurate reflection of the current governance structure, its ways of operating, and the accountability of its committees and boards.

Timeline: Our goal is to present a draft at the 2019 ADS, and then have the completed bylaws ready for presentation and approval at the 2020 ADS.

Something you are excited about:

We are excited to be entering into this meaningful work, and for the clarity and guidance it will provide for MC Sask moving forward.

Something you are concerned about or a challenge you are facing:

Ensuring the bylaws, policies, and governance structure are in good working order, and together give proper guidance and oversight to an organization, to a body of the Church, is no small task. At this time our most significant challenge is assessing the extent of the work that is needed, and determining next steps.

An item or question for group discussion:

The bylaws state that only those who are official (baptized) members of congregations may serve as delegates for their home churches (Bylaw Part 1 (j)). Official membership is also required to serve on any MC Sask appointed or elected position (various Bylaws reference members as those being eligible for these positions).

Given the cultural decline in official membership and many of those attending wanting to participate in the work of the church, do you feel this requirement still serves MC Sask well? Is there another criteria or definition which could be used in one or both of these areas?

Additional Information Reports

Camp Elim Report

Camp Elim numbers continue to see steady growth allowing us the opportunity to add a few new weeks of camp to our summer offerings. This is exciting because we can reach more children and the more weeks of camp we offer the easier it is to attract staff.

Another recent concern is the closing of The Emmaus congregation in Wymark, as they have consistently supported Camp Elim.

We thought the idea of spending the summer out at the lake would attract a Maintenance couple, but the response to our search has been underwhelming. This is especially concerning as we were hoping these positions would help transition the board from a working board to a policy board. The less "hands on" work required of board members, the further abroad we can go for replacements, which is an important consideration as several long serving board members are currently approaching the end of their term.

Youth Farm Bible Camp Report



EXCITEMENT:

Equine Assisted Learning: When the Indoor Riding Arena is completed later this fall, we will be offering Equine Assisted Learning to schools in our area. We are looking for people to partner with us to bring this exciting program to our communities.

Summer Camp: We had a great summer camp season in 2018. Our theme was *BEHOLD - Seek God's Face*. There were moments throughout the summer when we knew God was doing something new. We had a camper come back from the previous summer with a new desire to spend time in scripture. His counsellor in 2017 had shared James 4:7 with him. The first thing he did when he came back to camp in 2018 was go to Michael, his counsellor, and recite by memory the verse and a few verses following it. He shared that it helped him deal with anxiety in his life. This was a great moment.

We sponsored a group of 8 kids from Beardy's and Okemasis Cree Nation for a week of camp. They were a fun group of kids that really enjoyed their time at YFBC. In order to be considered they needed to write an essay on why they wanted to come to camp. Many stated that their parents went to YFBC and they wanted to have the same experience. In the fall, Beardy's School came out for the Corn Maze and the ones that came to summer camp expressed a joy at being here again. It is important for our ministry to build relationships with the Cree Nations that are in our province.

CONCERN:

Corn Maze: The cool September made its presence felt at the Youth Farm Corn Maze. The weather impacted our numbers drastically, causing four weekends to be lost to rain and cool weather. We understand what it means to be a farmer! However, lower numbers enabled higher relational experiences for our staff. There were so many great conversations that we had with participants!

Saying Goodbye to Holly Epp: It is with a heavy heart that we had to terminate the position of Associate Director at the Youth Farm Bible Camp. The shortage of funds from the Corn Maze showed that we could not support the same number of staff as we would like to. Holly has spent 4 1/2 years in a variety of roles at YFBC. We greatly appreciated her heart for ministry, her work on designs, and her desire to develop relationships. Our best wishes and prayers go out with Holly.

QUESTION:

What are additional ways that the Youth Farm Bible Camp can serve Mennonite Church Saskatchewan?

Music Library Report

Something you are excited about:

The catalogue currently has 1,117 titles listed in voicing for children, treble, and men; in sections including General, Christmas and Easter; Octavos and Cantatas. There is a rich variety of styles with many new titles added from the Bethany Bible College collection. Both old and new music is being used and appreciated. All music is now available in one room, clearly labeled. Music is being returned in a timely manner.

Membership renewal notices were sent to churches and individuals in September and 10 have been received - 3-4 of these are new or first time. I go in to First Mennonite every month or so to check if music has been returned - then re-file it. I have a good relationship with Idena Thiessen (FMC Secretary) who lets me know when something needs my attention.

Something you are concerned about or a challenge you are facing:

I have no concerns.

An item or question for group discussion.

Nothing at this time.

Submitted by Anna Rehan, MC Sask Music Librarian

Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan Report

At MCCS, **we are excited about** new opportunities to build and strengthen our support base. Two new initiatives are being supported by individuals and congregations. We invite your participation! 1) Grow Hope is our new partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank and links urban and rural folks with a farm family willing to grow a CFGB crop on behalf of them all. 2) Buckets of Thanks is a new Thanksgiving tradition encouraging families and congregations to demonstrate their gratitude by creating relief kits for people whose lives have been disrupted around the globe.

We are being challenged to continue to find good, authentic and energizing ways to engage the next generations in shaping and sustaining the mission of MCC. 1) We are inviting new volunteers to support the activities of our Thrift Shops (Swift Current, Herbert, Lanigan, Rosthern, Warman, Saskatoon). 2) We are paying attention to generational trends regarding philanthropy and investing in good donor stewardship practices.

For your consideration: In 2020, MCC will celebrate its centennial – 100 years of relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. We will be encouraging new connections to MCC's future and will be offering a funding campaign focused on assisting displaced people to rebuild new lives. You'll hear more about this soon. As Mennonite Church Saskatchewan focuses on "Deepening our Walk – with each other and with our neighbours," how might the mission of MCC support your commitments?