

May 10, 2017

Dear Mennonite Church Saskatchewan,

Greetings in the name of Christ!

In mid-March, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan began a year-long process called **Refresh, Refocus, Renew** to ask ourselves what it means to be the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The first phase of this time of renewal was an online survey sent to all our congregations to take a “pulse” of who we are. We are delighted to report that seventy-seven people filled out the survey, with representation from all our congregations. Thank you for responding! We were heartened by the overall response. The full survey summary is available at [www.mcsask.ca](http://www.mcsask.ca).

Two weeks ago, roughly fifty of us from across MC Sask, representing 26 congregations, gathered at Mount Royal Mennonite Church for phase two; a mini-retreat with Betty Pries. During this retreat, Betty led us in times of listening prayer, small group conversation, and the congregational life-cycle (see attached); helping us understand where we are in the life of our Area Church and in our congregations.

As Betty led us through the life cycle, she articulated that the journey of renewal leads through a season of prayer. Over the next four months, we are inviting all of us to enter this season of prayer together. Whether this time of prayer is done individually, or as congregations in worship, or both, *we are asking all of us to spend time in prayer*, listening for God to speak into the life of our church today. To guide us in this prayer, we are asking God to open our hearts to receive Him, to open us to God’s healing, and to open us to God’s future. Along with these prayers, as we consider our life together as Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, we have three questions; Lord, what are You calling us to embrace? Lord, what are You calling us to let go of? Lord, what are You calling us to live into?

As we pray through these statements and questions, please journal, reflect, and take note of what comes to you. We will have the opportunity to share what has been heard at our second mini-retreat, September 15-16 at Wildwood Mennonite Church. As we listen to God and one another, we trust that God will speak into our life together.

If you have any questions about Refresh, Refocus, Renew, do not hesitate to contact myself, or any other member of the Reference Group (Kirsten Hamm Epp, Pauline Steinmann, Josh Wallace, Anita Retzlaff and Christy Martens-Funk).

Yours in Christ,



Ryan Siemens, Area Church Minister, Congregational & Pastoral Relations  
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