

He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea
"Peace! Be still!"
Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.
Mark 4:39

For many people here and around the world, 2018 was a tumultuous year. The winds of economic uncertainty, the rising waves of political populism, and the deepening chaos of climate change are battering the boat and, like the disciples, causing us to ask, "Are we perishing?"

From within this stormy sea, Betty Pries, our presenter at the 2018 Annual Delegate Sessions in Swift Current (thank you Zion and Emmaus for hosting us!), invited us to *Deepen our Walk*, so that we can live into the changes and challenges from a place of being centered on Christ, instead of from a place of fear and anxiety. To help us *Deepen Our Walk*, the Ministries Commission "*Spirituality Resource Team*" has been leading workshops on prayer and spiritual disciplines, Kirsten Hamm-Epp and Craig Neufeld developed a 4-part worship resource on this topic, and Rachel Miller Jacobs, Associate Professor at AMBS, facilitated our Continuing Education Days and led the opening workshop at Equipping Day (thank you Warman for hosting us!). Many of our congregations also took the suggestions presented in Betty's final report, or developed their own, and used them within their worship to help deepen our walk and trust in Christ in these days of change.

And yes, these are days of change and transition. Congregationally, on September 9, Zoar Mennonite Church closed the doors of their old building and opened their new building as Langham Mennonite Fellowship. On October 27th, people gathered from across MC Sask to join Emmaus Mennonite Church as they worshiped together and concluded their time together as a community of faith.

On the pastoral front, we wished Ben Pauls (Zoar Mennonite), Ray & Sylvia Friesen (Emmaus Mennonite) and Vern Ratzlaff (Aberdeen Mennonite) a happy retirement and offered Craig Neufeld (Rosthern Mennonite) words of encouragement and blessing as he becomes pastor at First Mennonite Church, Edmonton, AB in late winter/spring. Pauline Steinmann concluded her time as interim pastor at Eigenheim Mennonite and we welcomed Andrea Enns Gooding as pastor of Zoar Mennonite and Nora Pederberg as interim associate/youth pastor at Nutana Park Mennonite. In April, Lois Siemens was commissioned as Spiritual Care Coordinator of Bethany Manor and at the office we were grateful to receive Kirsten back as we celebrated with Shekinah in the hiring of Ron & Sue Schellenberg.

Beginning January 1, 2019, Claire Ewert Fisher will serve as intentional interim at Rosthern Mennonite and Eileen Klaassen as interim pastor at Wildwood Mennonite.

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Rosthern Junior College
Canadian Mennonite
Univ.
AMBS
Parkland Restorative
Justice
Micah Mission
CoSA South Sask.

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 with a nationwide Communications Team, Kirsten working with a nationwide Church Engagement Team and closer with the Ministries Commission here at home, and Ryan working with the nationwide Executive Ministers. This Executive Staff Group looks forward to working with Doug Klassen, the new permanent MC Canada Executive Minister, beginning in June and who will be installed at the MC Canada Gathering *Igniting the Imagination of the Church*, June 28 – July 1, 2019, in Abbotsford, BC.

Looking to 2019, we invite you to Zoar Mennonite Church, Waldheim, March 8 & 9, for our 2019 Annual Delegate Sessions. David Fitch, author of *Faithful Presence: Seven Disciplines that Shape the Church for Mission* will be our guest presenter and will lead us into next year's theme, *Deepening our Walk with Each Other*, which will explore what it means to be church (locally, regionally, nationally, internationally) today. Look forward to regional worship services, Tom Yoder Neufeld leading Continuing Education days and Equipping Day in October, and other events that bring us together!

Lastly, thank you for your continued support of the work that we do together as a community of congregations. In the 2018 fiscal year, your generosity allowed us to fulfil all of our commitments and record a small surplus. Thank you for your trust, it is deeply appreciated!

As we continue journeying together, may the Peace of Christ, the Peace that calms the storm, be with you.

Sincerely,

Your staff,
Ryan, Kirsten, & Marianne