

# Called to Here

**Mennonite Church Saskatchewan  
Annual Delegate Sessions  
March 12, 2022**

**MC Sask 2022 Annual Delegate Sessions**  
**Saturday, March 12, 2022**  
**Youth Farm Bible Camp, Rosthern**  
**Guest speaker Dr. Preston Pouteaux**

**Pre-registration is required for everyone at**  
**<https://mcsask.ca/event/10774>**  
**Each congregation may register**  
**one delegate for every 25 members or portion thereof**

**This is a hybrid event**  
**\*\*masking is required for in person attendance\*\***

*We love seeing one another and being together!* To ensure that everyone, especially those more vulnerable, can be with us, we will wear masks for in person attendance at this year's ADS. Please wear [a high-quality mask](#) throughout the event! (There will be N95 masks at the door if you do not have a quality medical-grade mask.)

Out of the same love for all the vulnerable folks at the session and in our households, we encourage to take a rapid test *in the morning before you attend the sessions*. (There will be a limited number of rapid tests available at the door to test before entering the building.)

If you are feeling even slightly under the weather *OR* if you have someone in your household who has symptoms *OR* if you or someone in your household have a known exposure, *please stay home*. You will still be able to fully take part in ADS virtually (even asking questions, commenting, and voting as a delegate) via Zoom.

Thank you for helping us to love one another just as Jesus does!

Acronyms used at Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

AMBS	Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
COSA SS	Circles of Support and Accountability South Saskatchewan
CMU	Canadian Mennonite University
MC Canada	Mennonite Church Canada
MCEC	Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
MCM	Mennonite Church Manitoba
MC Sask	Mennonite Church Saskatchewan
MCA	Mennonite Church Alberta
MCBC	Mennonite Church British Columbia
MCC Canada	Mennonite Central Committee Canada
MCC Sask	Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan
MHSS	Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
PLC	Pastoral Leadership Commission
Restorative Justice	CoSA SS, Micah Mission, Parkland Restorative Justice
RJC	Rosthern Junior College High School
PRJ	Parkland Restorative Justice
SMYO	Saskatchewan Mennonite Youth Organization
TMM	The Micah Mission
YFBC	Youth Farm Bible Camp
YFCB	Youth Farm Complex Board

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# **Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2021 Annual Delegate Sessions Agenda**

**Saturday, March 12, 2022**

- 9:15 Gathering Singing and Morning Prayer
- 9:30 Worship
- 9:45 Business Session
- Opening
  - Finance Report and presentation of Proposed Budget
  - Nominations: 1<sup>st</sup> call and presentation of slate of nominees
- 10:15 Coffee Break
- 10:30 Plenary Session: Preston Pouteaux
- 11:00 Reports and Discussion:
- Moderator
  - Interim Executive Minister
  - Pastoral Leadership Commission
  - Ministries Commission
  - MC Alberta – Tim Wiens-Neufeld
- 11:30 Memorial and Baptism recognition, Church closing recognition
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Gather & Singing
- 1:15 Plenary Session: Preston Pouteaux
- 1:45 Reports and Discussion: Remaining reports
- International Witness – Janette Hanson
  - MC Canada – Executive Minister, Doug Klassen
- 2:20 Coffee
- 2:35 Business Session:
- Final Presentation of Nominations and Vote
  - Budget Discussion and Vote
  - Approval of Auditors
- 3:05 Worship, Service of Release for Ryan Siemens, Commissioning and Blessing, Communion

## 2022 Nominations

	Position presently	Eligible for	Will accept	Nomination	Length of
	filled by	Re-election	Nomination	Accepted by	Term
<b>Council Member</b>					
Member	vacant	N/A	N/A	Alison Jantz	Term 1, 2025
<b>Pastoral Leadership Commission</b>					
Member	Carrol Epp	No	N/A	Krista Martens	Term 1, 2025
Member	Ric Driediger	No	N/A		Term 1, 2025
<b>Ministries Commission</b>					
Member	Nancy Epp (Term 1, 2022)	Yes	Yes	N/A	Term 2, 2025
Member	Ron Nickel (Completing term 2022)	Yes			Term 1, 2025
<b>Camp Elim Board</b>					
Member	Colin Zacharias (Term 1, 2022)	Yes	Yes	N/A	Term 2, 2025
	vacant	N/A	N/A	Wynn Bueckert	Term 1, 2025
<b>Shekinah Retreat Centre Board</b>					
Member	Jeff Olfert (Term 1, 2022)	Yes	No	Lori Wieler- Thiessen	Term 1, 2025
<b>Youth Farm Bible Camp Board</b>					
Member	Bruce Jantzen (Term 1, 2022)	Yes	Yes	N/A	Term 2, 2025
<b>Youth Farm Complex Board</b>					
Member	Agnes Epp (Term 3, 2022)	No	N/A	Linda Swab	Term 1, 2025
Member	Charlotte Neufeldt (Term 3, 2022)	No	N/A	Gerhard Luitjens	Term 1, 2025
Member	Ruth Quiring Heppner (Term 1, 2022)	Yes	No		Term 1, 2025
<b>Canadian Mennonite Magazine Board</b>					
Member	Larry Epp (Dec, 2021)	No	N/A	Alex Tiessen	Term 1, 2025
<b>Nominations Committee</b>					
Member	vacant	N/A	N/A	Denise Epp	Term 1, 2025

## **Current Council, PLC and Ministries Members**

### **Executive**

Terry Stefaniuk, Moderator (2023)  
Sharon Schultz, Deputy Moderator (2024)  
Gordon Peters, Finance Chair (2023)  
Christine Epp, Secretary (2024)

### **Additional Council Members**

Andrea Enns-Gooding (2024)  
Pauline Steinmann (2023)  
Glenn Sawatzky (2023)  
Vacant (2025)

### **Pastoral Leadership Commission**

Curtis Wiens, Chair (2024)  
Garth Ewert Fisher, (2023)  
Patty Friesen (2023)  
Lisa Martens Bartel (2024)  
Carrol Epp (2022)  
Ric Driedger (2022)

### **Ministries Commission**

Claire Ewert Fisher, Chair (2023)  
Jeanette Hanson (2024)  
Mark Bigland-Pritchard (2023)  
Eric Olfert (2023)  
Nancy Epp (2022)  
Ron Nickel (2022)

## **Nominee Bios**

### **Denise Epp – Nominations Committee**

Denise Epp is a retired teacher who has served two terms with MCC, on the Labrador coast and in Amman, Jordan and has served on the MCC Saskatchewan board. She volunteers at the Clothes Basket and is active in the life of Rosthern Mennonite Church having served on various committees. Denise was part the Saskatchewan Women in Mission, on the nominating committee. She has also been active in the arts community, having previously served on the Station Arts Centre board.

### **Alison Jantz – MC Sask Council**

I am a member of Nutana Park in Saskatoon and have been for many years. For a number of years, I was on church council and that helped to become familiar with the operations and work of the congregation. I work as an Operations Manager at the University of Saskatchewan Libraries and have been in this role since 2018. My educational background brings a B.A., an MDiv and an MLIS. I look forward to serving on the MC Sask Council to learn about new processes and vision for the regional church.

### **Gerhard Luitjens – Youth Farm Complex Board**

I am now retired, living in Rosthern for the last 16 ½ years. Of those years, 12 were spent as 0.5 time pastor of Hope Mennonite Fellowship in North Battleford, SK. I am presently Church Chairperson of the church board in North Battleford. Before that I worked for Sasktel for 31 years before opting for their early retirement program in 2005. Through those years I always ended up on the church board, no matter what church we were part of. Some were Mennonite churches but others were Christian and Missionary Alliance churches. I am married to Kathleen Schmidt Luitjens. We have 5 grown children, and 10 grandchildren.

### **Krista Martens – Pastoral Leadership Commission**

Krista lives in Fiske Saskatchewan where she is raising her family of four children with husband Darren. Originally from Manitoba, Krista move to Fiske in 1997 to start her career as an occupational therapist and help out on the family farm. Krista has been active in the Fiske Mennonite Church in various capacities including teaching Sunday school, worship leader, lay speaker, and serving on several committees. She enjoys following all of her kids in their activities and spending time outdoors in God's great creation.

### **Linda Swab - Youth Farm Complex Board**

I am pleased to offer to serve on this board for MCSask. My family have been involved in Eigenheim Mennonite Church since our move to Rosthern in 1995. I was raised in Saskatoon and did my training at the U of S, receiving my MD in 1976 after deciding I was more interested in people, than the machines I was working with in the laboratory. I like to describe myself as a transplanted city slicker, finding rural practice much more to my liking. I am now a retired family physician who at one time served at MNH, taking care of the residents. My own mother was a resident there for 6 years and I have the deepest respect for the care given there. I believe that I have knowledge and interest in helping maintain the excellent service to seniors in all 3 levels of care provided in MNH, Pineview and Sunrise Place. Previous board experience includes libraries, music festivals, Station Singers, and Eigenheim Church.

### **Lori Wieler Thiessen - Shekinah Retreat Centre**

I was introduced to Shekinah after marrying and moving to Saskatoon. Our church (Nutana Park Mennonite Church) held retreats at Shekinah and our family loved participating! We often attend the Winter Fun Days, bringing friends to enjoy time in Shekinah's winter beauty. Sadly, our kids only had one summer at Shekinah as campers, but their experiences there had deep impact. Our son, after a week of enjoying the camaraderie at camp, agreed to try RJC! Our daughter, who enjoyed the laid back and relaxing cadence of camp said, "Why did I waste all those summers at Kadesh?" Dave and I are longtime supporters of Shekinah; we enjoy being volunteer weekend hosts and occasional volunteers on work bees. I am interested in fundraising for the organization. I have enjoyed helping Shekinah staff write grant applications and would be eager to continue. I would like to help organize events (once it is safe to do so). I would also love to assist on a new Shekinah Cookbook fundraiser or any other fundraising efforts. I am delighted for this opportunity to serve on the board.

### **Alex Tiessen – Canadian Mennonite Magazine**

Alex Tiessen lives in Rosthern and serves at RJC High School as Director of Admissions & Development, and attends Osler Mennonite Church. Alex moved to Rosthern in 2019 and has previously served on church, camp, and regional church boards and committees both in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Alex is excited about the opportunity to sit on the *Canadian Mennonite* board and understands its importance for fostering discussions, and connecting the wider church.

## Mennonite Church Saskatchewan: Council 2021 – Items of Note

- Jeanette Hanson with International Witness
  - International Witness Support Networks
  - China ministry
  - Upcoming Learning Tours
- Policies: Financial Reserves: annual draw percentage of 10%
- Council Membership Changes
  - Zahara Kwajalein Alli steps aside
  - Glen Sawatzky asked by Council to complete the term
- Henry Funk completes term as additional representative to MC Canada Joint Council
  - Allison Jantz is appointed to the position
- Ian Epp (Eigenheim) is appointed to the Mennonite Trust board
- Covenant for members of MC Sask Council adopted
- Speaking and Civil Disobedience Policy adopted
  - This policy is for MC Sask staff and Council, Commissions and Committees.
- Representatives from Council meet with Camp Elim board members on two occasions to discuss the road forward.
- MC Canada: Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure
  - Council affirms this policy and procedure.
- Rod Suderman steps aside from Council, moving to a pastoral position in Abbotsford, BC
- Ryan Siemens steps aside as Executive Minister, moving to MCC Alberta as Executive Director effective January 31, 2022
- Executive Minister Search Committee established
  - Andrea Enns- Gooding, Chair Person
- Listening Session with pastors and congregational chair persons related to the Executive Minister search
- Josh Wallace appointed as Interim Executive Minister at .6 FTE
  - Effective January 1, 2022
- Kirsten Hamm-Epp takes parental leave end of January 2022



## **Moderator's Report**

As I write this the hope is that we will meet in-person after two years of being apart for the Annual Delegate Sessions. We have been apart from one another physically but remain connected to one another through the church. It is our faith that continues to hold us together. Each of us struggles some known to others but I would think many remain hidden from those around us and are known only to the Father. We remain strengthened knowing that we do not struggle or walk alone.

There is much for which to be thankful. I give thanks to the many volunteers serving in congregations of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. They serve in many capacities that have fostered worship and reached out to others in new ways. To the pastors, the hours are long, the personal contact so important to your work may be difficult to maintain but I pray that faith carries you and those with whom you come into contact through these times of uncertainty.

To the members of Council and Commissions for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan my words are insufficient to express the gratitude for the time and energy you have spent on behalf of the Church. To the Camps, RJC and Nursing Home Complex, few will know of the challenges faced and overcome. Thank you for the perseverance and faith to continue with your vision and mission. As a body we continue to do the work of the Church and move forward facing new challenges.

And to Executive Minister Ryan Siemens,

We give thanks for the blessing of your time serving Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. You have touched many hearts, be they of congregations, congregants and or pastors. Your faith in the Church was unwavering as is your passion for the work of the Church. May you take your passion for Christ's work to reach out to others with you to MCC Alberta. May it find expression in news ways and enrich the lives of others.

Terry Stefaniuk,

Moderator

## Executive Minister Report

If you would have asked me a year ago that *a*) COVID would still be impacting our day-to-day life and *b*) I would be leaving MC Sask to serve MCC in Alberta, I probably would have laughed loudly (and then cried, COVID, still?) And yet, as I prepare my final report for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, I do so with tremendous gratitude intermixed with a touch of sadness. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as executive minister for the last six and a half years and giving me space to lead our regional church during this time. It was a great privilege to work with our pastors, to visit and get to know our congregations, to serve with Kirsten, Marianne, and Josh, and to represent MC Sask at Mennonite Church Canada. In looking back over 2021, I would like touch on a few highlights.

To help alleviate Sunday morning worship planning and to give pastors, worship leaders, and tech people a break, we provided MC Sask Worship @ Home, six worship services that could be downloaded and used anytime throughout the year. Like many of you, it gave us (the office staff) the opportunity to learn new tech skills and “visit” you in your home or congregation.

While we longed to gather in person, the MC Sask 2021 ADS was a Spirit infused time of worship and gathering, even though it was on Zoom! Kirsten’s message, along with meaningful worship music, and the sharing offered by Superb Mennonite Church, Hanley Mennonite Church, and Zoar Mennonite Church, touched us all. We received many positive emails and comments from across Canada, and beyond, stating how moved people were from “attending” our gathering.

Other personal highlights throughout 2021 include participating in the ordination services of Susanne Guenther Loewen and Emily Summach; installing Andrea Enns-Gooding at Rosthern Mennonite Church; and walking alongside Warman Mennonite Church and Pleasant Point Mennonite Church as they came together to call, and install Len Rempel as their new pastor.

One of the exciting developments in 2021 is the Reimagination work being done by Church Engagement Minister, Josh Wallace. Through our connection with the New Leaf Network, Josh has created a “Reimagine Church” process to help congregations discern God’s call for them in this time and place. After completing an all congregational interview in May, North Star Mennonite Church in Drake has been the first congregation to invite him to lead this process.

There are many more things I could add. Zoom pastor gatherings. In November, Meghan Good was here to teach 21<sup>st</sup> Century Preaching. Kirsten's ongoing connection with RJC students in Faith Exploration Classes. Marianne keeping the website up to date and looking good. And your generosity in making all that we do together possible.

As I prepare to leave from this work, and live into my new call as Executive Director of MCC Alberta, my time in Saskatchewan will be bracketed by Grace Mennonite Church, Prince Albert. Fifteen years ago, Grace PA, invited me to come and be their pastor and connect with the ministries that mattered to them; Person-to-Person, reconciliation work between Indigenous and Mennonite Communities, and a love of music. On Jan 30, 2022, in my last service as your executive minister, I will help bring their ministry, and life together as a congregation, to a close. This service will be bittersweet for MC Sask, for Grace Mennonite Church, and for me.

As MC Sask becomes 22 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred and Sent, it is my prayer for you that you continue to walk alongside each other in these times of lament and change; that you open yourselves to God's call in the midst of the challenges we find ourselves in and embrace the future God has for you.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Siemens', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ryan Siemens  
Outgoing Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

## Regional Church Minister Report MC Sask Youth Ministry 2021 Report

Reflecting back on 2021, while COVID was still largely the center of attention, what comes to mind more is the incredible resilience and heart I have seen both in our youth, and those who work with them. It feels like youth ministry becomes more challenging, but also more needed, each year, and I am grateful to be part of a community that honours both of these calls.

After spending much of the winter missing one another we were able to hold a one-day virtual retreat on March 27, with speaker Tracey Mitchell on the theme of **Whose Right/Wrong: Fact, Friction and Friendship in an Era of Information Overload**. This event was a great way to reconnect, discover a fun new online platform, and gain some really helpful tools when thinking about how to have confidence in potential conflict situations.

The retreat led to further online game nights throughout the spring and summer, and on July 25, after more than a year since an in-person event, we met at Shekinah for a Mega Menno **Camp Day**. This event included lots of fun and running around, as well as time acknowledging our position as settlers, and what we can do to stand with our indigenous neighbours.

As the school year began, we were grateful to continue meeting in person, first participating in the **Shekinah Move-A-Thon** on September 18, and then gathering at the **Youth Farm Corn Maze** for a fun night exploring in the dark on October 15. An in-person **Games Night** was held on November 19 at Mount Royal Mennonite Church, and here we also discerned with the youth a theme for the 2022 youth retreat – *The Climate is Changing: Now What??* This event was postponed due to COVID, but we are hopeful it will be rescheduled, and we will find a time to hear from speakers Brenda & Wayne Macdonald. The final event of 2021 was **Menno-lympics**, with MC Canada Witness Workers George and Tobia Veith on December 3. Through a variety of games and activities, the Veiths invited us to challenge stereotypes and stigmas, and recognize the possible avenues of reconciliation between Chinese and Canadian cultures. And medals (favourite Chinese chocolates) were of course awarded to all the Menno-lympians!

Throughout all of these events and the ins and outs of attempting to plan during an ongoing pandemic, I was extremely grateful for the advice, guidance, and constant support of the **Youth Ministry Group**; Zach Dueck (Mount Royal MC), Nora Pederberg (Osler MC), Sarah Rinholm (Wildwood MC), Alex Tiessen (Rosthern Junior College), and myself. For most of the year, and for the last nearly 10 years, this group also included **Sarah Unrau** on behalf of Nutana Park MC. In September Sarah concluded her time as Youth Leader with Nutana, and it was with MANY fond memories and deepest gratitude for all that she has done within MC Sask youth ministry that we said farewell to her, and wished her all of God's richest blessings as she and her family enter a new chapter in life (thankfully, still in Saskatoon!).

Finally, I am grateful for the willingness of others to step in and serve once again during my maternity leave. **Zach Dueck** will be filling in as Interim Youth Worker until January 2023, and this summer's trip to Amplify, the MC Canada youth gathering, will be coordinated by **Mel Harms**. Thanks Zach and Mel!

Blessings,  
*Kirsten Hamm-Epp*



Carter Ian Epp arrived on February 8 to the delight of his big brother and parents



## **Church Engagement Minister Report**

**Submitted by Josh Wallace**

In Spring of last year, we looked expectantly to a year marked by vaccinations and life finally "getting back to normal." We didn't quite anticipate new variants, fourth and fifth waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing weight of daily decisions about public and personal health and safety. We were in for a surprise.

As Church Engagement Minister, it's been my privilege to walk with and witness our congregations adjusting and faithfully persevering with each new twist and turn of this pandemic.

From January to May, I joined the MC Sask office in producing six prerecorded worship services to ease the pandemic weight of worship committees planning virtual and hybrid services. As vaccines did rolled out and we experienced a pandemic pause, I was able to join Eigenheim, North Star, Aberdeen, and Laird MCs for worship, as well as virtually speaking at Warman, Grace (Prince Albert), and First MCs.

I was able to extend virtual support and community to MC Sask congregational leaders through Zoom pastor check-ins, virtual books studies of Andy Root's *Faith Formation in a Secular Age* and Elaine Enns & Ched Myers' *Healing Haunted Histories*.

Through July and August, I got a taste of filling in for the Executive Minister, covering pastoral search conversations while Ryan S was away. In those months I also began an ongoing "Called to Hear Listening Project," meeting with congregations and congregational leaders to hear the stories of God's work in their midst.

The work of the USask Faith Leaders Council has been radically curtailed by pandemic, though we have continued to meet sporadically online. The New Leaf Network, however, has been a deepening relationship and resource for MC Sask. I facilitate that via a periodic denominational leaders round table and taking part in weekly Learning Centre virtual gatherings. (To learn more see <https://www.newleafnetwork.ca/learning-centre>). New Leaf also hosted a conference in December, an introduction of their Multivocational Ministry Toolkit, called the Sacred Side Hustle (<https://www.newleafnetwork.ca/sacredsidehustle>).

Drawing on resources from New Leaf and elsewhere, I've organized a Reimagining Process, which equips congregations in charting the next chapter of God's story with them. Thank you to North Star MC for helping me refine this process.

I continue to be a connecting point between Ministries Commission and MC Sask staff, as well as serving on MC Canada's Intercultural Church Steering Committee. I've also been deeply joyed in taking part in Witness Support Network calls with International Witness partners in Thailand, China, South Korea, the Philippines, and an emerging partnership in Colombia. Finally, I'm delighted to partner with my spouse Cindy in leading the MC Sask Digital Sunday School (for kids).

Throughout these months of unexpected changes and challenges, God faithfully invites us into God's love for us, for our neighbors, and for all creation. God is endlessly creative--even flexible--in God's love. I'm thankful for how our family of congregations joins in that love.

## Finance Report

First, thank you for all your faithful giving in these uncertain times. The work of MC Sask, and by extension, MC Canada, matters to you and we are grateful for that. We were able to fulfil most of our commitments but we ended the year in a deficit.

Second, thank you to Marianne for all her work as our bookkeeper. It is appreciated.

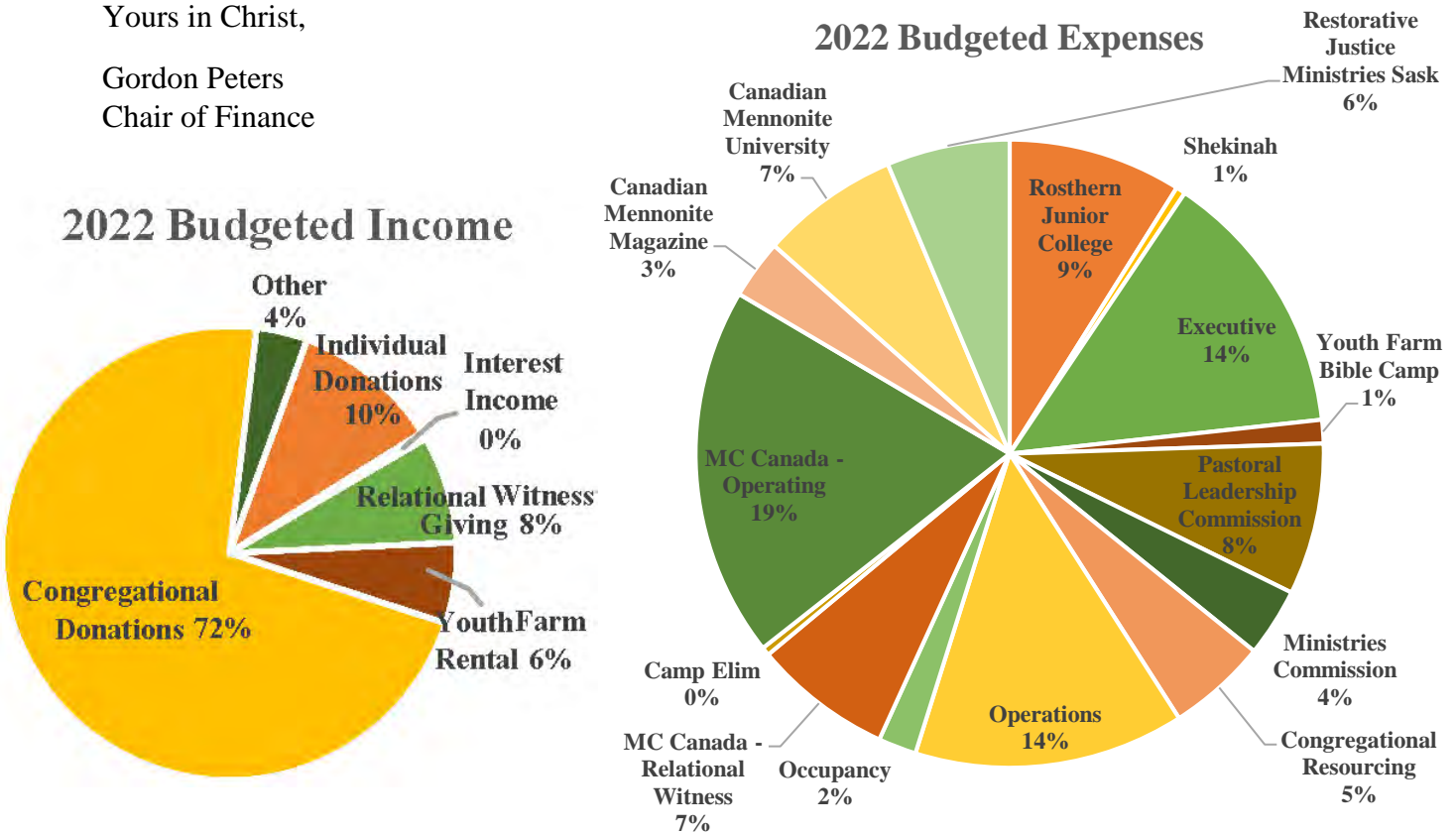
The report is about what happened in 2021, but as most of you already know, the future will be different, with Ryan Siemens leaving us for a position in Alberta. I do want to acknowledge all the work Ryan has done in Sask for these many years. First as a pastor in Prince Albert with Grace Mennonite Church and then he took up the challenge to be our Executive Minister, formerly known to many of you as Conference Pastor. His leadership has been very much appreciated by all who worked with him. He has been a great resource to many churches looking for new pastors, to many pastors, new and old and the workings of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. I was quickly impressed how eagerly he got involved in MC Sask's finances and worked hard to provide timely and accurate reports. Thank you so much Ryan, you were a great teammate to have on my side.

If I knew what 2022 would bring to the churches and to MC Sask, I would be out buying lottery tickets. The future is very much unknown, as we are still working around Covid-19, its variants and the impact that has on all of us. In person gatherings are limited, and most of us yearn for that to return. So, how do you feel about your church, the provincial church body and how we should move forward?

We thank God for providing us with so much, people, support and money to carry out the programming in Saskatchewan. We are so blessed.

Yours in Christ,

Gordon Peters  
Chair of Finance



**Note: 2021 actuals are unaudited**

**Updated February 24, 2022**

**MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN  
Draft Budget 2022**

	<b>BUDGET 2022</b>	<b>BUDGET 2022 Monthly</b>	<b>**unaudited** ACTUALS 2021 YtD</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Revenue - Congregational Donations	\$375,000	\$31,250	\$375,114
Revenue - Individual Donations	\$55,000	\$4,583	\$57,646
Bequests			\$110,000
Revenue - Interest Income	\$2,500	\$208	\$3,103
Revenue - Relational Witness Giving	\$40,000	\$3,333	\$32,946
Revenue - Youth Farm Rental	\$30,000	\$2,500	\$31,500
Revenue - Other (Canadian Mennonite, Coffee Sales)	\$19,000	\$1,583	\$16,693
Revenue - Government Subsidies	\$0		
<b>TOTAL OPERATING FUND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$521,500</b>	<b>\$43,458</b>	<b>\$627,002</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>PARTNER MINISTRY SUPPORT</b>			
Mennonite Church Canada - Operating	\$107,000	\$8,917	\$92,167
Mennonite Church Canada - Relational Witness	\$40,000	\$3,333	\$36,256
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary			\$860
Camp Elim	\$2,400	\$200	\$310
Canadian Mennonite Magazine	\$17,000	\$1,417	\$16,904
Canadian Mennonite University	\$40,000	\$3,333	\$50,000
MennoMedia			
Restorative Justice Ministries Sask	\$35,500	\$2,958	\$35,500
Rosthern Junior College	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$59,500
Sask Women in Mission			
Shekinah Retreat Centre	\$2,736	\$228	\$5,977
Youth Farm Bible Camp	\$6,792	\$566	\$310
	<b>\$301,428</b>	<b>\$25,119</b>	<b>\$297,784</b>
<b>OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES</b>			
Executive (Schedule 1)	\$77,616	\$6,468	\$54,249
Pastoral Leadership Commission (Schedule 2)	\$43,711	\$3,643	\$46,446
Ministries Commission (Schedule 3)	\$19,750	\$1,646	\$27,635
Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)	\$28,685	\$2,390	\$45,749
Operations (Schedule 5)	\$77,947	\$6,496	\$70,381
Occupancy (Schedule 6)	\$10,985	\$915	\$10,503
Transfer to Internally Restricted Funds (Schedule 7)	\$0	\$0	\$99,000
<b>Total Operating Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>\$258,694</b>	<b>\$21,558</b>	<b>\$353,963</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations</b>	<b>-\$38,622</b>	<b>-\$3,218</b>	<b>-\$24,745</b>
<b>Transfer (to)/From General Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$2,208</b>	<b>\$24,745</b>
<b>Net Operating Fund revenue (expenditures)</b>	<b>-\$3,622</b>	<b>-\$1,010</b>	<b>\$0</b>



**MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN  
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES**

	<b>BUDGET 2022</b>	<b>BUDGET 2022 Monthly</b>	<b>**unaudited** Actuals 2021 YtD</b>
<b>Executive Office (Schedule 1)</b>			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$10,000	\$0	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$41,261	\$3,438	\$45,870
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$7,000	\$583	\$3,755
Staff Professional Development	\$2,500	\$208	\$1,699
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$16,855	\$1,405	\$2,840
Program Expenses	\$20,000	\$1,667	\$86
	<b>\$77,616</b>	<b>\$7,301</b>	<b>\$54,249</b>
<b>Pastoral Leadership Commission (Schedule 2)</b>			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$4,500	-\$375	-\$5,810
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$41,261	\$3,438	\$45,870
Council & Committee Travel & Expenses	\$750	\$63	\$0
Pastor and Congregational Support	\$2,000	\$167	\$62
Pastor's Events (Conintuing Education, Pastor Days, Etc	\$4,200	\$350	\$6,323
	<b>\$43,711</b>	<b>\$3,643</b>	<b>\$46,446</b>
<b>Ministries Commission (Schedule 3)</b>			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$13,000	\$2,073	\$24,873
Education, Promotion & Outreach			\$0
Walking the Path	\$2,500	\$208	\$2,600
Creation Care	\$1,000	\$83	\$0
Chaplain's Cell Phone	\$250	\$21	\$162
Church Planting Conference	\$500	\$42	\$0
Church Grant Program	\$500	\$42	\$0
Committee Travel & Expense	\$1,000	\$83	\$0
Events	\$1,000		
	<b>\$19,750</b>	<b>\$2,552</b>	<b>\$27,635</b>



**MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN  
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES**

	BUDGET 2022	BUDGET 2022 Monthly	**unaudited** ACTUALS 2021 YTD
<b>Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)</b>			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$5,000	-\$417	-\$1,180
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$20,000	\$39,473	\$39,473
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$1,300	\$108	\$486
Staff Professional Development	\$0	\$0	\$912
Church Engagement Program Expenses	\$2,000	\$167	\$0
Youth & Young Adult Program Expenses	\$10,385	\$865	\$6,057
	<b>\$28,685</b>	<b>\$40,197</b>	<b>\$45,749</b>
<b>Operations (Schedule 5)</b>			
Revenue - Dues, Fees, Donations, Recoveries	-\$11,150	-\$929	-\$1,815
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$57,547	\$4,796	\$50,012
Staff Travel and Expenses	\$100	\$8	\$0
Staff Professional Development	\$0	\$0	\$10
Office and Admin Expenses	\$10,950	\$913	\$10,851
Legal & Professional Expenses	\$11,500	\$958	\$10,210
Program Expenses	\$9,000	\$750	\$1,114
	<b>\$77,947</b>	<b>\$6,496</b>	<b>\$70,381</b>
<b>Occupancy Costs (Schedule 6)</b>			
Rent & Common Area Maintenance	\$10,500	\$875	\$10,017
Office & Building Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Insurance	\$485	\$40	\$485
	<b>\$10,985</b>	<b>\$915</b>	<b>\$10,503</b>
<b>Transfers to Internally Restricted Funds (Schedule 7)</b>			
	\$45,870		
	\$0		\$0
			\$0
	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## **Ministries Commission Report**

Ministries Commission is only effective when we have the support of the MC Sask churches and the General Council who represent you. Thank you for continuing to value our work.

### **International Witness**

MC Sask congregations who are active members of MC Canada Witness support networks are:

- Carrot River, Rosthern, Zion (Swift Current) - China ministry
- Eyebrow - Thailand ministry
- Grace (Regina), Eigenheim - South Korea ministry
- North Star (Drake) - Ethiopia ministry

We are grateful for these congregations working to deepen relationships in the global family of faith and encourage others to explore this opportunity.

Many congregations celebrated International Witness Sunday in October and hosted George and Tobia Veith, Witness workers in China, as they spoke in Saskatchewan in November and December, speaking about their 30 years' service in the greater China area.

Many thanks for your prayers and generous financial support of these ministries.

### **Care for Creation**

2021 started with a large group from Mount Royal church participating in [Faithful Climate Conversations](#). After that, planned activities proved difficult - but two initiatives have breathed new life into MCSask creation care work. Forest Church (initiated by Curtis Wiens and others) has been meeting monthly since June at Shekinah. Then, in October, the national 7 Calls initiative brought together church members seeking serious action to address the climate emergency. Expect new developments in 2022.

### **Church Planting**

A collection of MC Sask members took advantage of the [New Leaf Network's weekly virtual Learning Centre](#), joining in conversations about trying new things and new perspectives as congregations. Church Engagement Minister Josh Wallace took part in New Leaf's [Sacred Side Hustle conference on multivocational ministry](#). Josh has also welcomed congregations at a crossroads of exhaustion and possibility into a ReImagining Process, exploring how the story of a congregation might extend beyond waning energy or even closure.

### **Walking the Path**

Walking the Path sees a wide scope of possibilities as we organize and promote opportunities to connect MCSask constituents with our indigenous neighbours.

Events postponed due to Covid: discussion of the documentary "We Shall Stand Up" with Tasha Hubbard, and "Singing Under the Arbor II" at Muskeg Lake FN. TBA

The Ancient Echoes documentary is nearly complete.

Going Forward: Saskatchewan governments have not shown much understanding of treaty land rights particularly in selling of crown lands and clear-cutting traditional hunting lands. We propose to: 1. Support and promote the Treaty Land Sharing Network. 2. Continue to listen to new ideas on land sharing and act on them.

## **Pastoral Leadership Commission Report**

March 2022: like it or not, most pastors have felt the continuing need to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic as a major area of time and energies. As we have gone through the second full year of this, concerns about isolation grow even greater and questions inevitably arise regarding what the church will look like "on the other side" of this all. Some losses we mourn and some changes we embrace.

A recent AMBS report highlighted the need for congregations to clarify how they can connect in meaningful ways with their contexts of ministry. While this is true across North America, we in SK need to ask these questions for ourselves. The closure of several of our sister congregations keeps this question near as we wade through the grief associated with their closure.

The work of resourcing pastors and providing opportunities for continued education continues. A series of topical zoom seminars focused on topics like MAiD and mental health. A preaching course taught by Meghan Good helped enrich the homiletical skills of the participants.

This past year we celebrated the ordination of Susanne Guenther Loewen and Emily Summach. We offer God's blessing to our fearless leader Ryan as he heads west for more mountainous pastures and thank him for serving MC SK. A hearty thanks to outgoing PLC members Carrol Epp and Ric Driediger for three terms each of wisdom and grace.

In the name of Christ,

Curtis Wiens (chair)



# Camp Elim

c/o 78-6th Ave. N.E. Swift Current, SK S9H 2L7 Ph: (306) 627-3339

www.campelim.ca      campelim1@sasktel.net



Camp Elim (view from Midget Mountain)

2021 was a year that brought many challenges to society as a whole. Camp Elim was not exempt from these difficulties, but we did make the best of what presented itself as a very challenging and unpredictable year.

We started off the year hopeful that we would be able to run our programming this summer. We had set camp dates, were recruiting staff, and were waiting on the green light from the Government of Saskatchewan to reopen summer camp programs safely. We had an alternate plan ready to go for Day Camps, if staffing them was a possibility. Unfortunately, the green light to allow overnight camps came too late in June for the board to organize an effective summer program, taking into consideration all safety and pandemic-related requirements. This, combined with a staffing shortage, meant that the board had to painstakingly make the decision to forego our summer camping program for another season.

Camp Elim's focus for the summer season shifted once again. We had qualified for a summer grant to hire several student employees, but unfortunately, we had minimal interest in filling these positions. Because camps weren't running, we seized the opportunity to provide rentals to families and groups. There was high demand for the use of some or all of Camp Elim's facilities throughout the summer. Our RV park is becoming a more popular destination for people looking to camp at Lac Pelletier, and we received many comments that it was a great alternative to the other campgrounds around the lake. Our facility manager helped to coordinate and oversee renters on site throughout the summer, all while keeping our camp in tip top shape. During the off-season, the board manages the facility ourselves.

This year, the board continued its focus on refreshing facilities. Blinds were replaced in the tabernacle and house. Our craft shack has been rejuvenated and is ready for campers to enjoy. We have tabernacle flooring replacement and washroom renovations on our list of priorities for the future.

The Camp Elim Board also experienced some transition this year. Lorna Wiens stepped down as Acting Chair, leaving a void for us to fill. We had two new members join us, Wynn Bueckert (Eyebrow), and Erin Weiss (Saskatoon). We are still looking to fill the chair position. Currently, board members have each stepped up in different ways to help temporarily fill this void.

Camp Elim is still actively recruiting an Executive Director. We hope to fill this position in time for the 2022 camping season. Please refer any interest in the position to the Camp Elim board. We are already planning for next year as if summer camp will go on as usual.

### **Future Plans for Camp Elim**

We are at a period of transition. A Board Chair ***is required as soon as possible*** to help ensure that Camp Elim is able to continue operating. Please speak with a current member of the board if you are interested in helping to keep Camp Elim's mission and vision alive! We cannot do it without you! Our Executive Director position is open, waiting to be filled immediately. Spread the word!

We continue to explore new activity offerings for our camping program, and we are continuing with our long-range plan of the steady renewal of aging camp equipment and facilities. We are envisioning a rebrand of our logo and signage. Demand for children's programming was high, even in 2021 when we were unable to operate, so we have added an additional week of Day Camp to the 2022 schedule. We will be encouraging rentals in the off-season, when possible, and promoting the use of our RV park as additional sources of revenue to support our program.

2021 Staff: Manager/Maintenance: Herman & Esther Wiebe (Seasonal)

Submitted by Gilbert Braun, Wynn Bueckert, Laura Grassing (Acting Board Chair), Carla Phoenix, Erin Weiss, John Woelk, Brayden Zacharias, and Colin Zacharias.

<b>Camp Elim Budget</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>proposed 2022</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>			
Leases/2021 fees	\$ 111,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	
Leases/property tax reimbursements	\$ 67,000.00	\$ 68,000.00	
Leases/transfer & development fees	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Camp fees	\$ -	\$ 26,000.00	
Donations/church,business & individual	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	
Rentals	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
Fundraising income	\$ -	\$ -	
MCSask subsidy	\$ 2,800.00	\$ -	
Government grant - summer students	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00	
interest	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 212,350.00</b>	<b>\$ 239,060.00</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration	\$ 700.00	\$ 500.00	
Advertising & promotion	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
Insurance	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	
Interest/bank charges/loan	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,200.00	
Linens & supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Postage & office supplies	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Professional fees (auditor )	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	
Professional fees (treasurer )	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	
Programs	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	
Property tax	\$ 73,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	
Repairs & maintence/yard	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	new sign?
Repair & maintence/buildings	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
Repair & maintence/equipment	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	
Utilities/telephone/internet/power/water	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	
Vehicle/fuel & milage	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	
Vehicle/Licences & maintenance	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	
Summer Director - Salary (4 months )	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 14,516.44	
Wages,benefits &workers compensation	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -	
Cook ( 8 Weeks )	0	\$ 6,497.44	
Lifeguard ( 7 weeks )	0	\$ 4,728.43	
Counsellors ( 6 weeks x 6 )	0	\$ 19,396.98	
Maintenance and Facilities Manager ( Herman)	0	\$ 17,302.45	
Moving allowance - director	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 211,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 214,641.74</b>	
<b>operating Profit ( -loss)</b>	<b>\$ 450.00</b>	<b>\$ 24,418.26</b>	



# Shekinah 2021: The Report For MC Saskatchewan



Canada Summer Jobs Crew - L-R: Austin Goertzen (Hepburn), Jake Molander (White City), Hamilton Fast (Shekinah), Blade Wiggins (Saskatoon), Owen Gustafson (Saskatoon), Connor Molander (White City), Matt Pederberg (Saskatoon, in front)

The challenge of Covid-19 continues to shape our decisions. Our main source of income derives from serving large groups of people, so the pandemic has put significant strains on our finances and viability. In addition, Shekinah operates under some of the strictest Covid restrictions (serving large groups and serving food), hampering our efforts further.

This affected our ability to run summer camp in 2021. While provincial restrictions changed to allow overnight camps, the shortened time frame – combined with running Shekinah on a skeleton staff – didn't allow us to offer summer camp. This was a difficult decision to make, as it meant we wouldn't have run summer camp for two years in a row.

While we were able to – safely – host some events at Shekinah in 2021, we met reluctance from groups to venture out. In addition, the groups who did come were much smaller than we are set up for. While it was emotionally rewarding to have people on site (finally!), it was financially disheartening.

So we looked to other areas where we could provide much needed relief to smaller groups to get out of their self-imposed exiles and into nature. We renovated the Cabins-By-The-Pond, updating all appliances and making the interiors more comfortable. This includes indoor toilets, which were a big hit. We were able to recoup our expenses for the renovations very quickly, and the cabins continue to be rented, even in -30 weather.

We were fortunate to get a number of Canada Summer Jobs placements, which allowed us to get six workers here for the summer. In addition to their help with the work that had been piling up, having a larger team onsite was a great boost to our spirits, and it was great to hear laughter echoing through our valley. In addition, it was hard to find a weed anywhere.

One of the many projects we wanted to accomplish was a permanent bridge across the creek on Ravine Trail. RJC High School was able to come out to Shekinah for two days during their ALSO week. While their ability to do some of the heavy lifting and physical work that is difficult for us, their energy and spirit was just as important. Thanks, Thrive crew! Your presence was more of a gift than you know. The bridge is complete and usable, by the way.

We continued to make use of federal and provincial programs to help us survive, although these are coming to an end. Our coffers, and hearts, got a real boost from your donations. Many of you continued your graceful support of Shekinah. In addition, we were the grateful recipients of legacy giving by Superb Mennonite and Zoar Mennonite Waldheim. We are blessed that they continued to invest in Shekinah's future, even as they were closing their own doors.

As we look forward to 2022, our plan is to run school groups and summer camp. The chance to see young people again fills us with hope. We don't know how Covid will affect us, but we are investing in these programs as-if we will be able to carry them out. Our Timber Lodge is already booked solid in our summer months and continues to fill up for the fall.

This will be a difficult year, as we look at our business model, hire new staff, and re-imagine ways to allow Shekinah to be a place where all who come feel the glory and love of God. We ask for your prayers and wise counsel.

Ron & Sue Schellenberg,  
Co-Executive Directors

## Shekinah Budget 2022

### Income

donations-operating	\$ 70,000.00
Donation Waldheim Zoar Mennonite	\$ 94,000.00
donations camperships	\$ 5,000.00
Rental-chalet	\$ 5,000.00
rental-school programs	\$ 40,000.00
Rental-Timberlodge	\$ 122,417.00
Food service income	\$ 109,473.00
summer jobs grants	\$ 25,000.00
summer camp	\$ 40,000.00
Fundraisers	\$ 32,000.00
MC Sask summer camp subsidy	\$ 2,500.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 545,390.00</b>

### Expenses

**Admin** **\$ 13,800.00**

#### Other operating expenses

auto	\$ 10,500.00
building repairs/maintenance	\$ 14,000.00
Fundraising costs	\$ 7,500.00
Groceries	\$ 40,000.00
Honorariums	
Interest and bank charges	\$ 1,500.00
Supplies/equipment	\$ 4,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 77,500.00</b>

**Payroll** **\$ 320,404.00**

Property taxes	\$ 16,000.00
Insurance	\$ 34,200.00
summer camp expense	\$ 7,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 57,700.00</b>

**Utilities** **\$ 26,548.00**

**Total Expenses** **\$ 495,952.00**

Repay federal covid loan \$ 40,000.00

**Grand Total Expenses** **\$ 535,952.00**

Total surplus/(deficit) **\$ 9,438.00**

**mortgage payment** **\$ 15,817.00**

**projected total surplus/(deficit)** **\$ (6,379.00)**



# Youth Farm Bible Camp 2021 Report

This past twelve months have been an exciting time to be a part of the Youth Farm Bible Camp. We saw the Valley Equestrian Centre grow significantly with a long waiting list of people for riding lessons. We started a new program called AHA! Adventures by hiring Angela Harder as an expert in canoe trip planning/guiding. Our Corn Maze was a popular destination with 22,000 people coming out in the fall. Our summer camp was able to run at around 60% capacity and many great stories of friends reconnecting. We also restarted the internship program with four people joining the year-round program to take classes, read, travel and serve. As I write this report, we are travelling to Nicaragua for an Impact trip with the four interns. One of our summer staff lives in the country with his family and will be our basecamp for an amazing experience of loving God and loving people.

We were able to do a lot of infrastructure development this past year as well. We installed a yard wide Wi-Fi network, outdoor speakers for the Corn Maze, new sewer lines and manholes for future housing development, four winterized watering bowls for our horses and animals, a new horse shelter, upgrade to our burger shack, some RV sites, fencing and much more. Our yard has been active with both people and projects.

That is the here and now, as we look forward to the future year, we hope to celebrate the coming of the Russlanders to Canada. One hundred years ago, David Toews signed a loan agreement with CPR to bring Mennonites from the Ukrainian Steppes to the Prairies of Canada. We would like to celebrate the 100 year anniversary at the Corn Maze this year. Stay tune for more announcements, we hope that it will be a great event.

Our mission at the Youth Farm is to *share Jesus with people and provide a place to serve*. We have helped hundreds to serve in 2021 at our facility. We have also put a priority in sharing Jesus by both word and action. Come be a part of the Youth Farm in 2022. Visit the commaze when we celebrate the russlanders. Go on a canoe trip. Send a child to camp. There are so many more options to serve or be served at YFBC.



CORN MAZE



VALLEY EQUESTRIAN CENTRE



CANOE TRIPS



TABERNALE OF MOSES EXPERIENCE



INTERNSHIP



## Youth Farm Bible Camp 2022 Budget

### Income

Donations	\$ 175,000	
Grants Camper	35,000	
Fees Corn Maze	200,000	
Rentals Horse	300,000	
Program Retail	65,000	
Sales	75,000	
	<u>8,000</u>	
 Total Income		 \$ 858,000

### Expenses

Animal Program	\$ 20,000	
Campership	8,000	
Maintenance	84,000	
Mexico Trip	20,000	
Office Expenses	30,000	
Payroll Program	475,000	
Insurance	92,000	
Utilities	35,000	
Vehicles	50,000	
	<u>15,000</u>	
 Total Expenses		 <u>\$ 829,000</u>
 Net Profit		 <u>\$ 29,000</u>

**2021 Annual Report**  
**Prepared for the churches of**  
**MC SK & MCA**



Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be a challenge for schools throughout 2021. In spite of this we were able to continue with much of our regular programming, including our annual service week (ALSO Week) in May. We were excited that cases dropped and gathering sizes expanded in late June as it meant we were able to celebrate the successful completion of our 2020/2021 school year with an in-person graduation. This was a refreshing change as graduation in 2020 was online.

In September we launched the 2021/2022 school year and got off to a great start. We began the year with 89 students and a positive spirit. I am thankful for all the work that was done in previous months, and over the summer, by so many people to put us in this favorable position as we began the school year with another increase in enrollment. We hope to continue this trend moving forward.

In late October we hosted our annual corporation meeting via Zoom and were happy to report a balanced budget from the previous year and propose another balanced budget for the current year. Thank you to all our supporters who continue to donate and pray for us as we pursue our mission as a church school.

Currently the omicron variant is causing some concern, but we have been able to begin our 2021/2022 school year with four months of relative normalcy in terms of athletics, arts and academic program. Our students have been able to meet in the chapel, tour with the choir, and gather in the dorm for games and activities. These are the types of activities that help students grow and thrive, and we are thankful that they have resumed again.

We feel blessed and ask for your continued prayers and support as we seek to keep our students and staff safe while we fulfill our mission.

Ryan Wood  
Principal, RJC High School  
December 2021

[\*\*RJC High School Video\*\*](#)



## CMU Mission

Canadian Mennonite University is an innovative Christian university, rooted in the Anabaptist faith tradition, moved and transformed by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Through teaching, research, and service CMU inspires and equips women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.

## 2021-22 Enrolment

**592 FTE Main Shaftesbury campus** (full-time equivalent) for Undergraduate and Graduate

**673** Total students  
**616** Undergraduate  
**56** Graduate

**264 FTE Menno Simons College** (CMU programming in Conflict Resolution and International Development at UW)

**856 Total CMU FTE**

## CMU Report to the Community

View the report and listen to President Cheryl Pauls give glimpses into our financial story by visiting: [cmu.ca/communityreport](http://cmu.ca/communityreport).



## Why CMU?

Teaching is exceptional  
Faith & community matter  
Learning & career connect  
Professors know you

*"Coming to CMU has been a big blessing for me. I have experienced tremendous growth in my life, not only musically and academically, but also spiritually and emotionally... I am very thankful to be part of this community, where staff and faculty show genuine care for us."*

– Tania Mulki



## Greetings to Mennonite Church Saskatchewan from Canadian Mennonite University

### Here's a glimpse into CMU classrooms this year

**Biochemistry I: Biomolecules and Metabolic Energy** | Dr. Candice Viddal | Studying the structure and function of biomolecules, including proteins, carbohydrates, nucleic acids, and lipids.

**Business and Organizational Communications** | James Magnus-Johnston | Studying the oral and written communications used in business and organizational settings. Topics include methods of logic, analysis, presentation, and mechanics of written and oral communication.

**Coaching Theory and Practice** | Jayme Menzies | Preparing students for certification in the National Coaching Certification Program by examining the philosophical, psychological, ethical, and technical significance for coaching.

**Economics of Development** | Dr. Jerry Buckland | Introducing neoclassical and alternative economic theories relevant to understanding various aspects of development at local, national, and international levels.

**Journalism and Peacebuilding** | David Balzer | Investigating what is possible when journalism practice is informed by nonviolent responses to conflict by drawing on a growing scholarly and practitioner-based dialogue that is known as peace journalism.

**Psychology of Health and Illness** | Dr. Heather Campbell-Enns | Examining the psychological factors involved in promoting and maintaining health, the development of illness, and the treatment of illness.

**The Problem of Evil in Biblical Perspective** | Pierre Gilbert | Examining the major responses to moral, amoral, and metaphysical evil offered in various religious and philosophical traditions, through the perspective of biblical theology.

**Vocation, Meaning, and Work** | Dr. Christine Kampen-Robinson | Uncovering the meaning of "work" and "career" in Christian contexts, and as a domain of reflective practice that can inform our life's choices and their meanings.

To read CMU stories throughout the year, sign-up for our monthly **Through this Place** e-newsletter at [cmu.ca/newsletter](http://cmu.ca/newsletter).



[cmu.ca](http://cmu.ca)

[CMU video](#)



## Resources for faith formation and leadership development

### *Academic programs*

AMBS serves the church as a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world. Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice. Join us — whether in person or at a distance — and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

- **Study at a distance**
  - **Master of Divinity Connect** (online and hybrid courses)
  - **Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism** (fully or partially online)
  - **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies** (fully or partially online; customizable)
- **Study on campus**
  - **Master of Divinity Campus**
  - **Master of Arts in Christian Formation**
  - **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies**
  - **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies**  
[ambs.ca/degrees-and-programs](https://ambs.ca/degrees-and-programs)
- **Yes, you *can* afford seminary!** We offer generous need-based financial aid, matching grants and scholarships for both full- and part-time students. See benefits for Canadians: [ambs.ca/ambs-financial-aid-for-canadians](https://ambs.ca/ambs-financial-aid-for-canadians)
- **Want to explore seminary study?** Take an online, campus or blended class, even if you're not yet admitted to AMBS, and your first three credit hours are 50% off! Check out our offerings: [ambs.ca/upcoming-courses](https://ambs.ca/upcoming-courses)
- **Experience AMBS:** Talk with students, faculty and staff and learn what AMBS has to offer! [ambs.ca/visit](https://ambs.ca/visit)

### *Center for Faith Formation and Culture*

- **!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth:** Students in grades 10–12 can explore ministry and theology, grow in spiritual practices and listen for God's call through a summer congregational internship and a Group Experience (at MWC in 2022!). Participants receive a \$1,000 stipend. Tap a shoulder! [ambs.ca/explore](https://ambs.ca/explore)

AMBS: Rooted in the Word, Growing in Christ | March 2022  
3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517 | 574.295.3726  
[facebook.com/followAMBS](https://facebook.com/followAMBS)  
[twitter.com/ambs\\_seminary](https://twitter.com/ambs_seminary)  
[ambs.ca/news-and-updates](https://ambs.ca/news-and-updates)

### **Board member from MC Saskatchewan:**

Terry Stefaniuk (Osler)

### **AMBS statistics (2021–22)**

- This year, 116 students are enrolled in graduate-level degree or certificate programs; 11 are guest students. Sixty-four are from the U.S., nine are from Canada, and 54 are international students.
- The nondegree Journey Missional Leadership Development Program has 18 participants in the U.S., Canada, Southeast Asia and Uganda.
- The 2021 graduating class comprised 13 men and eight women from seven countries on five continents.

### *Lifelong learning*

AMBS's Church Leadership Center offers various nondegree options for you to continue your education and strengthen your leadership skills:

- **Online short courses:** Join the forum discussions in these six-week online courses. Some courses include optional weekly video conversations with professors in real time. No grades, no papers!
  - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
  - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
  - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?
  - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
  - The Bible and Christian Nationalism: Faithful Leadership in a World of Political Idolatry  
[ambs.ca/online-short-courses](https://ambs.ca/online-short-courses)
- **Pastors & Leaders 2023:** Feb. 13–16  
[ambs.ca/pastors-and-leaders](https://ambs.ca/pastors-and-leaders)
- **Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program:** This two-and-a-half-year nondegree program offers mentor-mentee partnerships, distance-learning opportunities and community support. [ambs.ca/journey](https://ambs.ca/journey)
- **Spiritual Direction Seminars:** Cultivate your ministry of spiritual direction. [ambs.ca/seminars](https://ambs.ca/seminars)
- **Invite AMBS!** Faculty are available to speak on trauma-informed caregiving, undoing racism, intercultural competence, improvisational leadership, and more. Ask about virtual visits!  
[ambs.ca/invite](https://ambs.ca/invite)

## CoSA South Saskatchewan

*Two thousand and twenty was again an important journey for both CoSA SS, including the Board, volunteers and core members as well as for the persons in the FCRP (Faith Community Reintegration program). Niki Shuba who took full time responsibility for CoSA SS for the latter part of 2018, has continued to be the coordinator through 2021. She has asked that I prepare the report for MCSask.*

COVID 19 continues to have a major impact on CoSA SS as it has on so many other aspects of life. Some circles continue to meet by zoom or phone, but a number also meet face to face judiciously. Board meetings continue by zoom. In the Faith Community Reconciliation Project (FCRP) has the same complications related to COVID 19. The annual meeting and meeting of volunteers are not possible on a face to face basis.

The number of core members continues to be around 15 at any given time. A number of referrals have been made to assist persons who have been charged with a sexual offense before they have had their hearing. There is no service available for these persons, so CoSA SS has had meetings which assist them in what to expect when being sentenced and that connection continues after sentence. Several persons in such a situation have served their sentence and returned to the community with circles continuing. They have found the preparation for court and incarceration have made the experience much less traumatic and have made the experience to be useful in facing their issues.

Visits to institutions has been possible on a very sporadic basis, depending on outbreaks of Covid which result in lockdowns. Covid continues to have a major impact on new referrals and on communication with core members who have been returned to prison because of a breach of conditions. The delays in court proceedings has increased due to Covid, which means some persons who are incarcerated of breaches are on remand for several years, which is tragic.

The five year financial contract with the Federal Department of Public Safety is completing its fifth year March 31, 2022. CoSA Canada is actively pursuing ongoing funding support which is difficult with the many demands on Federal funding during this COVID time. CoSA Canada is very active in attempting to establish continuing funding federally. So far (by January 15, time of writing this report) federal funding has not been confirmed. If this does not come through, CoSA SS will be impacted very directly. The only other funding by the Catholic community and by MCS and MCC is but a small percentage of what is needed. The requirements for information by the sites to CoSA Canada to meet the evaluation requirements of the Federal Government have meant a lot of work for Niki.

We are collaborating with Mika Mission, Saskatoon and Parkland in P.A. who also provide CoSA services to seek government and additional non-government provincial funding.

The small contract we have with the chaplaincy division of Correctional Service of Canada for the FCRP (Faith/Community Reintegration Project) was suspended for most of the year due to complications in security clearances. It has now been solved and funding is re-established. Charles Kooger is continuing to take leadership in this project.

We appreciate collaboration with Mennonite Church Saskatchewan in this important service to integrate persons who have offended and spent time in prison and assist them to connect with a faith community if they so desire.

Submitted by Otto Driedger, Board member on behalf of CoSA South Saskatchewan. January 15, 2022.





What is the Micah Mission calling us to, here and now?

We are called to Restorative Relationships in the prisons and in the community. As you might imagine, that takes a bit of creativity in the midst of a pandemic. With prisons having been closed to volunteers for much of the past two years, our visitors have been able to communicate via letter and phone call with the patients they are partnered with in P2P.

CoSA circles meet via Zoom, Facetime, etc. or in outdoor coffee venues and when allowed, in private spaces or public restaurants in order to continue to support and encourage the core members.

We are also called to focus on the funding aspects of our work. We have been blessed by an increase in individual and church donations in the past year. With the CoSA National Capacity Project coming to an end on March 31, we will lose significant funding. Together with Parkland RJ and CoSA SS, we have formed CoSASK Partners to apply to foundations that might provide the funding that we will be losing. In the meantime, we prayerfully wait as CoSA Canada's staff and volunteers lobby the government for ongoing funding.

All the while, we support our clients, and our volunteers in doing what we can to encourage the integration of individuals into the community and leading a responsible, meaningful, and accountable life.

We are called to do (Restorative) justice, love mercy and walk humbly, showing that the better way to be tough on crime is one friendship at a time.



Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation



CoSA Graduation BBQ



Circle meeting after 6 months online





250 28<sup>th</sup> St. West, Prince Albert, SK S6V 4S9  
parklandrestorativejustice.com

This past year, 2021 was my first full year as Director of Parkland Restorative Justice. It has been filled with exciting new challenges as together we are all learning new ways of being and working here.

Work has changed for many of us over the past two years and that goes for PRJ as well. The Saskatchewan Penitentiary has restricted access for much of the year and so much of my work has been done from my home office. We have become much more comfortable with Zoom virtual meetings, initiating new working relationships and professional partnerships. The phone and pc have become the central tools in continuing the work that we do. Previously, I assumed these activities should be face to face with a handshake while looking the person in the eyes. However, my attitude was challenged and then changed as the times have dictated innovation in personal and work connect-ability.

We continue to seek resources to prepare for the upcoming end of CoSA funding from the federal government in March 2022. Advocacy efforts with all levels of government to continue their support of this vital program are ongoing.

PRJ has formally partnered with Micah Mission of Saskatoon and CoSA South Saskatchewan in 2021 as we pursue innovative, sustainability solutions. We are thankful for our growing relationships with John Howard Society, Str8UP, The Compassion Prison Project, The Anglican Diocese of SK(PA), Cornerstone Church Saskatoon, Eigenheim MC, as well as our longer-term partners: MC Sask and congregations, MCC, Living Skies/United Church of SK, Evangelical Covenant Church, CFCN, The Roman Catholic Diocese PA, CoSA Canada, Sask Penitentiary and others.

However, we are saddened by news of the imminent closing of Grace MC in Prince Albert. We honour this church as the birthplace of P2P prison visitation in Saskatchewan as well as being active restorative justice supporters for decades. We hold space with them as they grieve.

In the current environment of social distancing becoming so widely practiced, we are reminded of the vital importance of human connection and communal presence; **Being here, together**. When something is taken away from you, initially, you mourn its loss. You wish and hope and wait for its return. Indeed, if you stay ingrained in old ways of being, and if you are hedging against change and innovation, it will be that much more difficult and time consuming to move forward. Inevitably, we must move on, adapt, innovate, and work with the resources available. The human brain, our hearts, our bodies, our spirits are capable of tremendous transformation, and growth.

Parkland Restorative Justice board of directors have been consistently generous in giving their support as well as showing adaptability as we learn together, grow together as a team, and passionately serve our people in the justice system. I am very thankful to be working for an organization that has a growth mindset; to be able to shift and innovate when the times call for it. This fills my heart with positive anticipation as we look forward to 2022 and beyond.

Director Kerry Reimer  
January 2022

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*Parkland Restorative Justice is a charitable organization providing positive social support to those in the justice system.*

## **Mennonite Nursing Home Complex Report**

Mennonite Nursing Home (MNH) began the year under a new way of doing things. Covid had settled in and MNH adapted to the four waves as orders and mandates came from the SHA. It was not always easy because visitation was at times severely restricted and the debate about getting vaccinated raged. Decisions the administration had to make became difficult. By now at Covid wave number five we have learned what it is like to live under Covid rules.

Over the course of the year people recognized that the staff and administration had to follow the restrictions imposed on them by the Health Authority. Working and living at MNH was going to be different than it had been.

How long will this go on? I hope not as long as the People of Israel as they entered the Babylonian captivity. A new life was forced on them in Babylon, they longed to be home in Jerusalem near their temple, But they adapted to their new life. When finally released from their captivity, their world in Jerusalem was not the same. The temple had been destroyed –they found a new way to worship in local synagogues. They moved on in a changed world. In all their turmoil – God remained faithful and constant.

If we look at our situation – I think we too can say – God remains faithful and constant. Out of the Covid experiences has come a new way of living and working at MNH. And MNH will continue to adapt.

We are happy to report that Sunrise place is at capacity. It certainly is a needed addition to the whole MNH complex.

The year has also seen some significant changes. It became evident that our lagoon system was no longer working properly and we had reached our capacity. This summer a new larger lagoon that would service the MNH complex and the Youth Farm Bible Camp was completed.

Our CEO/Administrator, Joan Lemauviel, retired effective Dec 31/2021 and the Director of Care Karen Chaskavivh resigned in mid January. A new CEO/Administrator, Dana Heinrichs began her work Jan 1/2022. MNH will also have a new Director of care effective mid February 2022.

The board is thankful for the leadership Joan displayed during her tenure as CEO. She retired with many projects on her plate completed and MNH on a sound financial footing. Thank you, Joan, for your 27 years of service.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ted Janzen – Board Chair MNH





## Executive Minister's report

"...for I do hope..." (Romans 15:22)

It has been a difficult year.

In 2021, on the world stage, tension and trouble abounded. As Canadians, our hearts sank when we learned of the unmarked graves of hundreds of Indigenous children in Kamloops, and then at Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan. More discoveries followed. We experienced another summer of drought and forest fires, followed by disastrous floods clearly attributed to our changing climate. This, with along with global political uprisings, supply chain disruptions, market uncertainties...we have almost grown numb to the struggles that we hear in the daily news.

Discouragement has also been felt in many of our congregations as well. As of mid-January, many congregations across the nationwide church have returned, yet again, to worship via recorded video and livestreaming. Hopes for in-person Sunday School, kids' clubs, adult bible studies, pastoral visits and potlucks have once again been postponed.

We had envisioned that, by now, congregations and regions would be sharing together the new ways they have found to be the church, as we emerged from the pandemic. However, we continue to tune into what public health officials recommend so we can limit risk to the most vulnerable among us.

I am reminded of the Apostle Paul whose plans to visit the Christians in Rome (Romans 15:22ff) were repeatedly delayed. Then, in due time, he was able to travel and minister again. Like Paul, the delay doesn't

mean that we have stopped hoping and dreaming! I'm so thankful to those who have volunteered to be part of the Community of Spiritual Leadership and the Intercultural Church Steering Committee, new groups that will provide leadership and discernment for our nationwide community of faith in the coming years.

Our Sustainability Leadership Group (SLG) worked with students from The King's University in Edmonton who [produced a resource](#) to help our congregations take steps to become more sustainable communities.



One of the blessings of pandemic restrictions has been that Mennonite Church Canada executive has had time to clarify nationwide church governance structure and ministry priorities. We

have engaged with MC USA to update our ministerial misconduct policy and we are currently expanding the mandate of the SLG to anchor a nationwide climate-action response.

As you will read in the following reports, our program directors have also adapted their activities to continue to resource congregations across the nationwide church and to grow our engagement with our international partners and Indigenous neighbours.

Sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you for your generous support of the nationwide church. We are so blessed to be the recipients of your financial contributions and your gifts of time, talents and abilities.



We trust that God will grow strong ministries and witness in 2022.

Submitted by  
Doug Klassen  
[dklassen@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:dklassen@mennonitechurch.ca)

[MC Canada video](#)





# CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

CommonWord is your bookstore and resource centre, a nationwide ministry of Mennonite Church Canada. We help connect you with Anabaptist and related materials – to buy, borrow or access online – that inspire, provoke, equip and engage.

Don't let the pandemic keep you from reading or accessing new resources. Let CommonWord help encourage your faith conversations. Peruse our carefully selected reading lists. Circulate bulk loan orders among your church members. Pick up our discounted Common Read titles. Attend our book launches (virtual and in-person). Engage children with our CommonWord Kids collection.

We especially want to serve those of you who haven't engaged with us before. Our ministry is:

- **Simple.** We are a loan library, an online forum and a retail bookstore combined in one location – [commonword.ca](http://commonword.ca). Visit us for a good book to borrow, a small group study to purchase or a worship resource to download, in English, or many other languages.
- **Comprehensive.** We are Mennonite Church Canada's resourcing arm and have a complete list of nationwide church resources (from pastor salary guidelines to International Witness materials) and Herald Press titles, in addition to Canadian Mennonite University and other partner materials. Visit us if you're looking for an Anabaptist podcast, Mennonite

author, or denominational publication.

- **Accessible.** Our digital resources, including hundreds of [Together in Worship](#) (digital worship) materials, are free. Our loan items ship at no cost, both ways, anywhere in Canada. Our retail titles are competitively priced. Visit us, whether you're in New Brunswick, Vancouver Island or any place in between.
- **Unique.** There's no other Anabaptist centre quite like us. Visit us for a unique title on climate action, Indigenous-Settler relations, intercultural church or other timely topics. Or, when in Winnipeg, come for the frozen perogies or Thai curries!
- **Personal.** Our staff are knowledgeable and dedicated – and are available over the phone or by email. We value the relationships we have with many of you – and look forward to serving more pastors, parents, congregational leaders and avid readers.

We are grateful for the church and university's ongoing commitment to Christian formation. Thank you for your continued trust as we advance resources that seek to strengthen the church.

Please remain in touch by calling 1-877-846-1593 or e-mailing [info@commonword.ca](mailto:info@commonword.ca). Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Subscribe to our bi-weekly *Curator* email. Embed our RSS feeds. Keep reading!



Submitted by Arlyn Friesen Epp  
 Director of CommonWord  
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[CommonWord video](#)



# Indigenous-Settler Relations

In 2021, Canadians were forced to reckon with genocide, the government finally affirmed Indigenous human rights in law and Indigenous land defenders – in multiple places – stood their ground to resist climate catastrophe. Through these events – both heartrending and regenerative – churches like ours could hear the call of Creator and found ways to respond.

## Unmarked graves

On May 27, 2021, news broke that shocked the country—[215 unmarked graves](#) found on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School. In the weeks to come, hundreds, then thousands more graves were identified in other locations across Canada. So many Indigenous children buried on schoolyards, some as young as three years old.

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report contained an [entire volume](#) on the reality of missing children and unmarked burials. Not many took notice. But now, through multiple "discoveries," a floodlight was shone on this violent piece of Canada's history – one that moved the [Canadian Historical Association](#) to declare that the Canada's treatment of Indigenous peoples warrants the use of the word "genocide."

## Be it Resolved Challenge

In June, more than one hundred people joined Mennonite Church Canada's [Be it Resolved Challenge](#) a group that committed itself to: 1) remembering the commitments that Mennonites have made to Indigenous justice over the past 50 years and 2) making a personal pledge to live out specific "calls to action."



## Recognition of Indigenous rights

For decades, Indigenous activists and their allies have been trying to get Canada to embrace the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in law. Mennonite Church Canada joined the effort in 2016. On June 21,

2021 – Indigenous Peoples Day – [Bill C-15](#), *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, achieved Royal Assent. Implementation will take time, but C-15 should bring us closer to the Declaration's vision of "harmonious and cooperative relations" rooted in justice and respect.



UNDRIP supporters at CMU in 2019.

## #LandBack

As Canadians wrestled with the violence of colonialism past, as government embraced the possibility of a post-colonial future, many Indigenous peoples in the present were out on their lands and waters, risking their lives to protect their territories from resource development that lacks consent. From the east coast fisheries of the Mi'kmaq to the Haudenosaunee-led "1492 Land Back Lane"; from the "Tiny House Warriors" in Secwepemc territory to the Unist'ot'en and Gidim'ten water protectors



Esther Kern (front row middle) and David Janzen (right) visited Wet'suwet'en.

in Wet'suwet'en; frontline, land back movements are growing in frequency due to the increasing threat of global warming. Mennonite Church Canada, in partnership

with regional church working groups and [Christian Peacemaker Teams](#) supported two of these resistance movements. We brought weekly meals and supplies, wrote solidarity [statements](#) and hosted awareness-raising [webinars](#). We sent teams out [to the land](#), to be with, learn from and support Indigenous land defenders in their divine vocation of protecting creation.



The work isn't easy. But it is important, necessary and often joyful. Together!

Submitted by Steve Heinrichs  
Director of Indigenous-Settler Relations  
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## [Indigenous-Settler Relations video](#)



# International Witness

Through prayer and online conversations, International Witness has traveled the world this year. Mennonite Church British Columbia organized a Road Trip visiting three countries in June. Witness Support Networks connected with Witness workers and local partners on regular Zoom calls. Witness workers, in live and recorded messages, spoke in churches across Canada while in their countries of service.

## Highlights from 2021:

- We prayed for an end to violence and for peace to reign, together with siblings in faith [in Myanmar](#), [Colombia](#) and Ethiopia.
- In July, IW hosted [an online conversation](#) with the Colombian Mennonite Church (IMCOL) to share our churches' responses to the discovery of unmarked graves at former Indian residential school sites in Canada and to ongoing violence against civilians in Colombia. Forming congregation-to-congregation partnerships with us is a priority for IMCOL.
- In October, we went on [a virtual tour](#) of Bethlehem Bible College with faculty and students who shared about life in Bethlehem.
- Witness workers George and Tobia Veith returned to Canada in the fall, [ending 30 years of service](#) in the greater China area. They spoke in churches from October (2021) to January (2022) sharing how they witnessed God at work.
  - Thirteen of the 37 peace and reconciliation (PAR) teams trained by Witness workers [Lakan Sumulong and Lakambini Mapayapa](#) (Dann and Joji Pantoja) in the Philippines have asked for sustainable-agriculture training with Coffee for Peace. Several Indigenous people groups in Mindanao also invited PeaceBuilders Community Inc. and Coffee for Peace to work with them on sustainable-agriculture and inclusive development training. Other PAR teams are focused on community service and peacebuilding.
- Chuncheon Community Peace Center in South Korea, founded by Witness worker Bock Ki Kim, is now financially independent and pays its trainees, who are invited to work in local schools, with the police service and other community groups. Training



George and Tobia Veith.



Bock Ki Kim (middle) trains facilitators in the restorative justice circle.

happened twice this year to increase facilitators of the restorative justice circle because of high demand.

- Worshipping groups in China are breaking off into smaller groups to avoid criticism from authorities. They are finding creative ways to share resources. This means an even bigger need for the leadership development and training Mennonite Church Canada is supporting.
- Leaders of four Mennonite Peace Houses, small house church gatherings, are mentored by Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong in Thailand. They are part of Friends of Grace Church Association, where 43 congregations share resources for leadership development, outreach and income generation. Due to COVID-19, these leaders meet online every week. They are now developing an eight-month online training course.
- Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia has invited [Werner and Joanne De Jong \(MCA\)](#) to teach and support faculty development. After a lengthy delay due to visa issues, the De Jongs left for Ethiopia in mid-January (2022).
- Mennonite Seoul, a worship group founded by Witness workers Sook Kyoung Park and Bock Ki Kim, continues to meet online and in person when able. Sook Kyoung and Bock Ki hosted a retreat for the group during a break in COVID-19 lockdowns.



Werner and Joanne De Jong.



Thank you for your support as we continue to witness what God is doing in the world.

Submitted by Jeanette Hanson  
Director of International Witness  
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[mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness](http://mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness)

## [International Witness video](#)





**A Word From Leah Reesor-Keller, Executive Minister**  
[lreesorkeller@mcec.ca](mailto:lreesorkeller@mcec.ca)

**Greetings from MCEC!**

I am so grateful to be a part of the MCEC community of faith. I continue to be amazed by the resiliency and faithfulness of MCEC congregations as together we extend the peace of Jesus Christ in our neighbourhoods, nationwide as Mennonite Church Canada, and globally.

Over this past year, we have been on a journey listening for God as we build a shared story about who we are and who God is calling us to become. Where is God at work doing new things? What seeds are sprouting around us? Our verse for this time of community discernment is Isaiah 43:19. *I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

Through interviews, social media, ten Courageous Imagination podcast episodes, conversation forums and regional gatherings, we gathered input and feedback on new identity and priority statements as we look to where God is calling us together into the future. Each conversation, whether in-person or online, was filled with hopefulness and deep insight. Across our community, we heard a deep desire to be open to transformation by the Spirit, to follow Jesus with costly discipleship as we put our faith into action, and a longing to stay rooted and grounded in scripture, prayer and worship. Our Annual Gathering April 29-30, 2022 will be a significant milestone on our journey as we prayerfully receive and consider the updated identity and mission statements, along with priorities building on the feedback from the Courageous Imagination listening journey.



Leah Reesor-Keller  
MCEC Executive Minister | [lreesorkeller@mcec.ca](mailto:lreesorkeller@mcec.ca)



**Mentoring relationships are an important part of Transitioning into Ministry – Pastors Jim and Jonathan**



**Fall Courageous Imagination gatherings in Leamington, Niagara, Kitchener, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Zoom.**

**MCEC Community of Congregations**

- 99 congregations
- 82 full membership
- 16 provisional membership
- 1 long-term church plant
- Worship in 19 languages

**Supporting Pastors & Congregational Leaders**

- 5 pastors ordained
- 9 pastors licensed
- 13 pastors installed
- 5 Transitioning into Ministry (TIM) graduates
- 40 Admin Day participants from across Canada – online networking day for administrative assistants
- 50 pastors supporting each other through 5 online Pastoral Conversations
- Monthly youth leader conversations

**Supporting Congregations**

- Innovate – providing discipleship resourcing to 11 congregations through ReLearning Community and Community of Practice
- Creative Faith: Live youth online Sunday School series – 20-30 participants
- 2 active working groups
  - Truth & Reconciliation
  - Palestine Israel Network

**Congregational Transitions**

- New Provisional Congregations
  - Hiyaw Amalak, Ottawa
  - Ma Destinée, Montreal

**Church Plants**

- Online Resourcing Day for 41 Church Planters focused on Courageous Self-Care
- Active conversations with 40 church plants/congregations



## Mennonite Church Manitoba 2021: Year in Review



**Mennonite Church Manitoba** ([www.mennochurch.mb.ca](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca)) is a community of 38 member congregations with almost 7,000 individual members. We gather throughout the province of Manitoba in the territories of Treaties 1, 2, 3, and 5, the homelands of diverse Indigenous peoples. We covenant together to follow Jesus and live out the call of Christ within an Anabaptist perspective. We also covenant together with our partner regional churches of MC British Columbia, MC Alberta, MC Saskatchewan, and MC Eastern Canada as Mennonite Church Canada ([www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca)), to be a nationwide church that extends God's love to our neighbours locally, nationally, and globally.

### Another COVID Year

2021 will be remembered as "2020 2.0." The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to ravage the globe, and this has had significant impact on our congregations and pastors as well as our collective ministry as MCM. Pastors are exhausted, programs are scaled back, budgets are tight, and congregations are left wondering who is still part of their fellowship and what their church will look like on the other side of the pandemic. The same realities are true for us as a regional church. Nevertheless, God has been at work among us! Read on for good news of the Spirit's movement within MCM.

### Camps with Meaning

Our Camps with Meaning ([www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org)) leaders and staff have done a tremendous job navigating the public health orders to provide a scaled-back summer camp program alongside retreat and rental opportunities. In 2021 we offered seven pop-up camps (4 for youth and 3 for adults with disabilities) at our campsites and churches, and five day camps (1 week at Koinonia, 4 at Assiniboia). We had close to 250 total campers served by 51 total staff. Summer campers played, ate, sang, and learned together around the theme, "Heroes of the Faith."

### Support for Pastors and Congregations

MCM staff have visited and walked alongside pastors and congregations in various ways, in person when possible, via phone or Zoom when necessary. Pastor cluster groups have continued to meet, complementing the individual support provided by staff. Staff have worked with church councils and search committees to find interim or long term pastors. Several pastors completed a credentialing process with MCM during 2021, and staff were delighted to participate in installation and ordination services virtually or in person. MCM staff also provide support for congregations in faith formation, worship, congregational care, and local mission, as well as misconduct response, conflict mediation, and resourcing for church councils.

### Re-Focused Programs

The range of programs we offer as MCM was reviewed in 2021, leading to a shift in our programs and staffing. Our four primary program areas are now Leadership Ministries (overseen by Rick Neufeld), Congregational Ministries (Kathy Giesbrecht), Mission Ministries, and Camps with Meaning. Dorothy Fontaine is shifting from Director of Mission to Director of Camps with Meaning as of January 1, 2022, and we will be hiring a Director of Mission Engagement to oversee our Mission Ministries as

well as to focus on church engagement. In addition, a new Congregational Health Committee has been formed to advise and support Kathy Giesbrecht in the area of Congregational Ministries, looking at ways to increase the health and vitality of our congregations.

### **New Working Groups**

Two new MCM working groups are being added to our MCM Palestine-Israel Network and Woven (Mennonite Women Together). The Manitoba Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity (MMCIS) will help our congregations to collaborate regionally for learning and action in solidarity with our Indigenous neighbours, and the MCM Climate Action Working Group (MCM CAWG) will do the same for our congregations related to our response to climate change.

### **Our Nationwide Ministry**

Just as our ministry as congregations extends beyond our communities as Mennonite Church Manitoba, so our ministry as a regional church extends beyond our province as Mennonite Church Canada. Together with our other regional churches, we provide resourcing for MC Canada congregations and others through our CommonWord resource centre and website ([www.commonword.ca](http://www.commonword.ca)). We have worked together in Indigenous-Settler Relations toward living out our commitments to truth and reconciliation. We work with International Witness partners around the world in over a dozen different countries to help bring Jesus' ministry of reconciliation to life in these contexts. We are also committed to significant action nationwide in response to the climate crisis.

### **Moving Forward**

We have two staff exits expected for 2022. Rick Neufeld will be retiring as Director of Leadership Ministries at the end of March, and David Hogue will be likewise be leaving as Site Manager at Camp Assiniboia at the end of April. We are grateful for their ministry among us and wish them well.

We are anticipating our MCM Gathering on March 5. Given the uncertainties in Manitoba related to COVID, this will once again be via Zoom. We are also anticipating our MC Canada Gathering in Edmonton from July 29 to August 1. We encourage all who are able to join us for these events.

2022 looks to be another year of challenge and change, yet with the Spirit of God working in us, among us, and through us in the world. At this point it looks to be "2020 3.0," another year of pandemic. This will continue to create challenges for us as congregations and pastors, and as a regional church. We will face those challenges as we have so far: with an abiding faith in God, with courageous hope for God's goodness to be shown among us, and with a deepening love for one another and for all, especially the most vulnerable of our world.

Michael Pahl  
Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Manitoba



*Executive Committee* Brenda Tiessen-Wiens *Moderator* Peter Sang *Vice-Moderator* Wayne Janz *Finance* Elizabeth Wall *Secretary* Tim Wiebe-Neufeld *Executive Minister*

## MCA welcomes new Staff

**Steven Giugovaz** joined MCA as our *Church Engagement Minister*. He focuses on connecting MCA congregations, exploring missional callings and building connections with the ministries we share.



**Suzanne Gross** began as *North Edmonton Ministry Interim Worker*. This Christ-centred ministry focuses on relationships and draws our interfaith community together through witness, peace-building, hospitality, and dialogue.



As we stand on the shifting sands of the COVID-19 pandemic, we're challenged to examine the places we are connected and rooted, and how we express God's love in contexts of ongoing uncertainty. In 2021, MCA was filled with numerous expressions of the connections that we share with one another as a community of congregations.

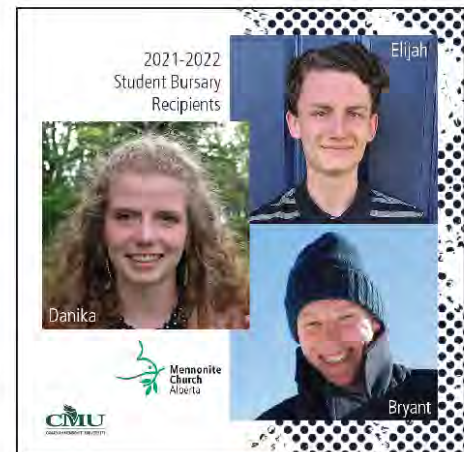
## Nurturing One Another

**Tim Wiebe-Neufeld** (Executive Minister) provides support for pastors and congregations including walking with congregations as they navigate transitions in leadership. He engages in meetings with chairs, treasurers and administrators, and connects with congregants through speaking opportunities.

Pastors Council is a place for our leaders to dialogue, vision and encourage each other as they provide spiritual leadership during these challenging times.

Delegate session workshops, the Heritage Retreat, Faith Studies sessions and the Pastors Retreat provided opportunities to participate in discussion, discernment and direction-setting.

Three post-secondary students were provided with bursaries as they explore faith and vocation at Anabaptist/Mennonite schools. The MC Canada Sustainability Leadership Group provides leadership and guidance as congregations examine their climate impacts and engage in creation care.



## Spreading our Wings

Our MCA community stretched and adjusted to staff changes in 2021. In addition to welcoming two new staff, we celebrated 10 years of ministry and retirement with **Donna Entz** (North Edmonton Ministry). **Werner & Joanne De Jong** received an invitation to ministry in Ethiopia. They join **Tom and Christine**



## Upcoming Events

### Snow Camp

February 26, 27



### Annual Delegate Sessions

including the launch of **E3:Y3**  
March 19 by zoom



### Gathering 2022

**We Declare:** Edmonton  
July 29 - August 1



**Amplify:** Camp Valaqua  
July 31- August 4



**Poovong** (Thailand) as Alberta-based workers in our team of International Witness workers who train and provide resources to church leaders. International Witness is made up of 13 country partnerships around the world.



### Celebrations

We celebrated together in 2021! On March 21, our 12 congregations met together on zoom to worship God, who invites us into community. Throughout the year congregations worshipped together, apart, in person and online, building on our **E3 theme: Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in Community.**



The return of summer camp elicited celebrations for people of all ages, from children, to parents, to staff and a range of volunteers.

**Camp Valaqua** provides a valuable space to encounter

God in nature and for future leaders to gain skills and experience.

The Congregational Leadership Committee has the privilege of exploring one of our greatest celebrations together with congregations - the call to ministry and ordination of leaders!

### Faith and Faithfulness

These, and the numerous other expressions of faith and faithfulness in MCA staff and committee members, and the stories we hear from our congregations are evidence of God's goodness. They're evidence of a community that trusts one another and of people who are inspired and empowered by their faith. We don't know what curves the road ahead will hold, but we enter 2022 knowing God is faithful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Tiessen-Wiens".

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens, Moderator

**The MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA (MCBC) Story to the Nationwide Regional Churches for 2021, Submitted by Garry Janzen, Executive Minister**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*

As we reflect on this past year, it has brought many more challenges. We spoke of 2020 being a year like none other with all the uncertainties brought to us by COVID-19. With many of the ravages of climate change landing in BC, including a heat dome, atmospheric rivers, and the destructive effects of fire and flooding, we are moved to look for what might give us hope. Romans 15 reminds us of where our hope comes from, ending with the benediction in verse 13 above. May this hope that we find in Jesus sustain us and carry us as our theme in 2022.

In 2021 we affirmed a new structure for MCBC. Task Groups have grown, and others have been formed. There is much that our people have said they care about and want to act on, and the work of our task groups reflect these interests. Our task groups are too numerous to name them all here. We give thanks to our Ministry Leaders: Andrew Haak (Cultivating Anabaptist Vision), Henry Krause (Engaging God's World) and Bob Boehr (Growing Community). They do quarterly reports on the work in their ministry area. As Leadership Board members they also help with giving overall direction to MCBC.

We have said that the local congregation is the foundational unit of the church. It has been brought to our attention that we still need to figure out how our MCBC task groups connect with this commitment. It might be good for those who are in task groups to let their congregations know what they are doing, and for congregational leadership to become familiar with the task groups that their people have joined and learn about their work.

MCBC has developed an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement statement. Here it is, "We respectfully and gratefully acknowledge that we gather on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral lands of Indigenous First Nations." It is designed to be general for use anywhere in the province, brief, and adaptable to the specific Indigenous lands on which any MCBC event may be taking place.

In September I announced my plans to retire mid-2022. The exact time will be dependant on when a new Executive Minister is found. There is hope that I might have overlap with the new person for some orientation. I am in my 15<sup>th</sup> year, and I am so thankful for this rich experience.

The 2022 MCBC Annual Gathering on February 26<sup>th</sup> will be on Zoom. Video reports will be posted in advance.

This fall it became possible to meet in person again for worship services. This gave opportunity to catch up with baptisms, pastoral installations, licensing, and ordination. It was a great pleasure to be able to do these celebrations, but with the continuing uncertainties regarding COVID, preparation was challenging. We learned to do a no-touch laying on of hands.

Appreciation needs to be given to the Calling & Credentialing Task Group for the many Zoom interviews they did and other hard work they were called to do virtually this year. Also, the Intercultural Church Task Group has been meeting with our non-English pastors and others interested in MCBC congregations becoming intercultural, thanks to the work of Joon Park. This is a very positive and hopeful initiative.

As 2022 unfolds, hopefully this will be the year to move beyond COVID-19 as a pandemic. Our Nationwide work together as the Mennonite Church gives me hope. May we be filled with hope in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, and may we find our way to amazing new beginnings as we serve together in God's work.





As the calendar turned from 2021 to 2022, Mennonite Trust Ltd., became Amity Trust.

### **Why Rebrand?**

In short, to reach more people. We heard it too often that people thought that they couldn't work with us because they weren't Mennonite. While we're extremely proud of our Mennonite heritage, we want to help everyone, whether they identify as Mennonite or not. The name was a barrier to us providing help to people, so, we needed to remove that barrier.

### **What is the meaning behind the Amity name and logo?**

The word Amity is synonymous with peace, friendliness, sociableness, and good will. These words capture the relationship that we have with our clients and also speak to the financial peace focus that we've had for years. The word Amity pays homage to our Mennonite roots of non-violence and pacifism, which are also captured by the olive branch icon that makes up part of the logo.

### **What has changed?**

The name and the logo. That's it.

### **What hasn't changed?**

- The Christian values that guide everything we do.
- The services that we offer.
- The oversight of our controlling church conferences by appointing board members that guide the company.



We're extremely grateful for the support of our controlling church conferences and their churches. As Amity Trust we hope to be able to help even more people achieve some measure of financial peace. If you've got people that need some financial guidance, we'd love to help them save wisely, borrow sensibly, and execute sound estate plans.



*Canadian Mennonite* tells the stories of our church family. With 26 issues per year, our website and social media, *Canadian Mennonite* also offers a place to talk about current faith issues. We are inspired by Paul's letter to the Hebrews, exhorting the church to spur one another on to love and good deeds. Sharing diverse perspectives in an atmosphere of respect helps us all grow as caring congregations and a nationwide community that makes a difference in the world.

Stories and contributions from Saskatchewan add to the richness of *CM* content. In 2021, correspondent **Donna Schulz** published 36 print and web-exclusive stories, including a feature on June 21. Emily Summach, Brenda Epp and Anita Retzlaff also contributed feature articles. Photos by Lois Siemens were showcased on February 15. Josh Wallace, Kevin Koop and Ryan Siemens contributed to the From Our Leaders column. Ed Olfert's monthly column is appreciated by readers in print and on social media. Numerous individuals sent in letters to the editor or wrote other articles or blogs. At year end, we thanked Donna for 8 years of service and welcomed Emily Summach as the new Saskatchewan correspondent.



**Donna  
Schulz**

Through the Every Home Plan, people from Mennonite Church Canada congregations subscribe to the magazine at half the cost of a regular subscription. Fees are paid collectively through the church. Talk to your administrator for details. If you already have a print subscription and would like to add digital delivery, email Graham Aberdein at [office@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:office@canadianmennonite.org).

Whether you read the magazine, visit our website or follow us on social media, *Canadian Mennonite* is grateful that you connect with our national church family through the magazine.

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up on meeting together ...but encouraging one another..."*

Hebrews 10: 24-25

### Canadian Mennonite in 2021

- 26 issues
- 87 stories and photos from Saskatchewan.
- 1,005 articles about the church in Canada and beyond
- 5,500 followers on social media
- 9,500 subscribers
- 200,000 website visitors



### Ways to connect

- **Subscribe** to get the magazine by mail, email or both. 26 issues per year (22 print plus 4 digital-only).
- **Sign up** for *CM Now*, a free, bi-weekly email with links to recent stories.
- **Write** letters or web comments in response to articles.
- **Follow** us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

### Like to take photos?

Individuals are welcome to submit photos and captions from church events, for possible publication.

### Submissions

**General:** [submissions@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:submissions@canadianmennonite.org)

**Readers Write:** [letters@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:letters@canadianmennonite.org)

**Obituaries:** [obituaries@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:obituaries@canadianmennonite.org)

**Events:** [calendar@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:calendar@canadianmennonite.org)

**Church administrators** send milestone announcements (births, baptisms, marriages and deaths) to share with the wider church family. Send to: [milestones@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:milestones@canadianmennonite.org).







“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” – Psalm 46:1 (NRSV)

Thank you, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, for your invitation to reflect upon *where* and *to whom* MCC Saskatchewan (mccsk.ca) has been called during these extraordinary times.

MCC bears witness to how COVID-19 reveals anew the deep inequalities that exist in our world. The risk of death and acute suffering from COVID-19 is compounded in those countries least able to respond to the pandemic. MCC is well positioned to minister to these inequities with our water, sanitation, hygiene, health and food programs that mitigate the threats of COVID-19 for some of the world’s most vulnerable people. As MCC’s Global Health Coordinator Paul Shetler Fast said, “MCC was built to minister in difficult times; founded in war and pandemic, we choose to walk a path of hope and solidarity in the midst of suffering”. This year MCC provided emergency COVID-19 assistance through healthcare in the Democratic Republic of Congo, hygiene supports in Chad, food assistance in Cambodia and mental health support in Nepal. MCC provided 25,000 households with hygiene kits and 2,000 health personnel with personal protective equipment (PPE).

MCC is well positioned to respond to disaster. On August 14<sup>th</sup> a major earthquake struck southwestern Haiti. 650,000 people needed emergency assistance, many suffering from the loss or severe damage to their homes. MCC donors gave quickly and generously to provide relief: \$75,000 was raised in Saskatchewan alone and \$1,000,000 raised across Canada, allowing MCC to provide relief kits and canned meat to affected families. Pictured here is Angie Mosie Bernard who received 12 cans of meat from MCC’s partner AVORDEDES on August 31<sup>st</sup>.



Here at home, MCC Saskatchewan partners with churches and community groups to support the world’s vulnerable people. We coordinated smaller, COVID-safe Buckets of Thanks events with 10 small groups this year. Together they packed 1,000 relief kits and 1,000 hygiene kits and raised \$30,000 to help cover the cost of the supplies. The kits are on their way to either Ukraine or Iraq. MCCS is also developing partnerships to respond to the Afghan refugee crisis. With the Taliban victory in July, 670,000 more Afghans were displaced, joining a total of 3 million internally displaced Afghans facing worsening conditions and insecurity. Thanks to new partnerships with sponsorship groups, we have begun with sponsorships of two Afghan families expected to arrive in Saskatchewan shortly. MCCS welcomes partnerships with churches and community groups interested in sponsoring refugees.

Our full interactive annual impact report, with local and global stories, is available [here](#). Thank you for your partnership in sharing God’s love and compassion for all.

[\*\*MCC Saskatchewan video\*\*](#)



## MDS Canada 2021: Faith in Action, Caring Relationships

*"It was nothing short of a miracle. It never would have happened without MDS. It's just so unreal. I don't know how to thank MDS. It's amazing how people we don't know came to help us. It's God sent, that's all I know."*

That's what Diane Rice of Triton, Newfoundland said after MDS Canatimeda, together with local volunteers in that community, rebuilt her home that was destroyed by fire.

Her comment reminds me of why MDS Canada exists—volunteers who are sent by God to be the hands and feet of Jesus when people are hurting and need help.

Although 2021 was a hard year for us—the pandemic curtailed most of our responses in this country and prevented Canadians from going to the U.S. to volunteer—it couldn't stop us from doing what we could to help people impacted by disasters. Despite the pandemic, and the restrictions it imposed, we still responded to people in need.

**In Ontario**, we worked with MCC to promote reconciliation with Indigenous people by providing volunteers to renovate the MCC Indigenous Neighbours office in Timmins. We also worked with MennoHomes, an organization that provides affordable housing in Kitchener, to renovate a derelict house into a home for a Syrian refugee family. In Barry's Bay we were able to renovate a house to accommodate a family with a disabled child, creating a safe, sterile, and temperature-controlled space.

**In B.C.**, we learned you can be off the grid but not out of God's plan when it comes to rebuilding a house. That's what happened after a fire destroyed the home of Cliff and Lydia Trudeau at Cuisson Lake. Rebuilding their house was challenging, since they live in a remote part of the province. With some creative thinking on the part of volunteers, along with energetic ingenuity and lots of prayer, the house was completed in August.

Also in B.C., volunteers responded to needs in Princeton, where about 300 families had their homes damaged or destroyed by flooding.

**In Saskatchewan**, we renovated the office and home of the director at the Westbank Bible Camp. Said the director about the volunteers: "They showed up with a servant attitude and posture, always asking what they could do for us, how they could serve us," he said. "It was phenomenal. They had such servant hearts."

Also in Saskatchewan, weather was the big story this year. Drought affected farmers in the province, hitting livestock farmers the hardest. Many don't have enough hay for their animals in winter. Together with the MDS

Ontario Unit, we created MDS Hay West, a way for farmers in Ontario—who enjoyed good growing weather—to send donated hay to Saskatchewan. Best of all, it was a way for farmers in Ontario to say thanks. It was nine years ago that farmers in Saskatchewan sent Hay East to them when drought was bad in that province.

**In Newfoundland**, MDS Canada supplied the funds and local people in Triton provided the volunteers to build a new

house for Diane and Reginald Rice after fire destroyed their home.

**Across Canada, we responded through the Spirit of MDS Fund.** Through the fund, we provided 81 grants worth \$206,900 to churches involved in frontline service to people impacted by the pandemic.

At MDS in Canada our goal is to use our core values of faith in action and caring relationships to be a witness to God's love for the world. We invite you to consider volunteering with us and joining us in praying for God's continued blessing on our work.

—Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations



Diane and Reginald Rice



**Mennonite  
Disaster  
Service**

[www.mds.org](http://www.mds.org)

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[mdscanada@mds.org](mailto:mdscanada@mds.org)



# MHSS

## Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan

### Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan (MHSS) Report

**Who are we:** We are a hard-to-define collection of Mennonites from more than a dozen conferences who are conservative and liberal with different traditions of worship practices, community profiles and mission. We are a non-profit group organized under the Corporate Branch in Regina registered under ISC. We have CRA status that issues tax deductible receipts. We have a 10-person board that reports annually to its 275 members. Due to COVID our volunteer numbers have been cut back. The public have limited access at this time.

**What God is calling us to:** God is calling us to collect and archive the stories of Mennonites and those they come into contact with.

**How we carry out our calling:** To make those stories come alive, MHSS has a three-time-a-year periodical, *The Saskatchewan Historian*. A quality website is a second way to communicate with inquirers. A third way is to call people together for presentations by master story tellers, both academic and traditional teller of stories. Fourthly, we archive the records in our archives located at Bethany Manor in Saskatoon.

#### **Key areas of our work:**

- We sent out 2 dozen book orders this year.
- We published 3 editions of our publication, *The Historian*.
- We have an archive of several tens of thousands of documents.
- We have contributed 3,000 photos to MAID.
- We have a website at <http://mhss.sk.ca>.
- We got a special grant from New Horizons Canada (Federal Government) to collect video stories from around the province.
- We archive the records of MC Sask.
- We archive Mennonite papers and collect obituaries.
- We have an extensive description of Mennonite Cemeteries
- We have dozens of donated collections from Mennonite people.
- We are the keepers of old, and sometimes rare books.



**Mennonite Church Saskatchewan**  
**2021 Annual Delegate Sessions**  
**March 13, 2021; 10 AM – 2:30 PM Via Zoom**  
**MINUTES**

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*Called to Hear*

**1. Morning Gathering Worship** – led by Kristen Hamm-Epp

**2. Morning Business Session 1**

- a. Welcome by Terry Stefaniuk, MC Saskatchewan Moderator, and introductions of guests.
  - i. 119 persons registered: 75 delegates, 25 guests and 19 non-delegates.
  - ii. All 25 MC Saskatchewan churches are represented.
- b. Approval of Minutes of 2020 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions (as presented in Report Book page 45- 48)

**Motion: To adopt the minutes from the 2020 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions.**

**Moved by MC Sask Council; Seconded by Claire Ewert. Carried.**

- c. Reports:
  - i. Moderator’s Report, Terry Stefaniuk (page 8)
  - ii. Executive Minister Report, Ryan Siemens (pages 9-10); also note Regional Church Minister Report, Kirsten Hamm-Epp (page 11) and Church Engagement Minister Report, Josh Wallace (page 12)
  - iii. Greetings from Leah Reesor-Keeler (MCEC); greetings from Doug Klassen, MC Canada;
  - iv. Note Slate of Nominations (page 5). Call for further nominations.

**3. Small Group Break-Out Rooms:**

Questions for Discussion:

*“How has the pandemic forced your congregation or organization to expose your limitations and vulnerabilities in the light of Christ?”*

*“In this time of wilderness journey where have you heard God calling your congregation or organization to help shine Christ’s light.”*



#### 4. Morning Business Session 2

- a. Finance Report, Gordon Peters, Chair of Finance (page 13 and forward)
  - i. Highlights and information regarding having a review engagement instead of an audit.
  - ii. Despite COVID-19 all MC Sask operations ended up in the black/positive financially due to hard work, innovation, and subsidies.
  - iii. Questions and discussion.

**Motion: That the Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Council be authorized to approve the December 31, 2020 Financial Statements when released by McKenzie and Co.**

**Moved by Gordon Peters; Seconded by Allan Laughlin seconded. Carried.**

- iv. Gordon highlighted on the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures.

#### 5. Approval of Reports – Terry Stefaniuk

**Motion: To approve MC Sask reports as presented in the 2021 Report Book.**

**Moved by MC Sask Council; Seconded by Peter Nicolson. Carried.**

#### 6. Ryan Siemens, Executive Minister, led sharing from congregations closing:

- Lois Siemens, Superb Mennonite Church closed May 31, 2020
- Gary Peters & Steve Kroeger, Hanley Mennonite, closing April 4, 2021
- Liz Baerwald, Zoar Mennonite, closing April 11, 2021

Prayer of Celebration and Blessing by Ryan Siemens;

Song VT 553 *How Many Times We Start Again*

Celebration and Worship – Baptisms, Memorials

#### 7. Break for Lunch

#### 8. Gathering Songs

#### 9. Break-Out Rooms x 2 – facilitated discussions.

Options included:

- Camps (Camp Elim, Shekinah, Youth Farm Bible Camp)
- Restorative Justice (Micah Mission, CoSA South Saskatchewan, Parkland Restorative Justice)
- Schools (RJC, CMU, AMBS)
- MC Canada Programming (International Witness, Indigenous-Settler Relations, CommonWord)
- MC Sask Programming (PLC, Ministries, Youth Farm Complex)
- Partner Agencies (Mennonite Historical Society, MCC< Canadian Mennonite)

10. Approval of Nominations

**Motion: To accept the nominations slate for 2021.**

**Moved by Anna Rehan, Chair of Nominations Committee; Seconded by Dave Feick. Carried.**

11. Approval of Budget and Auditor Review – Terry Stefaniuk

**Motion: To accept the 2021 budget as presented. Moved by Gordon Peters; Seconded by Myrna Wiebe. Carried.**

**Motion: That McKenzie and Co. be appointed to provide Mennonite Church Saskatchewan with a Review Engagement for the fiscal year, 2021. Moved by Gordon Peters; Seconded by Ted Janzen. Carried.**

12. Announcements – Kristen Hamm-Epp

- a) MC Sask Office – 3 additional worship services will be available for April 18, May 2, and May 23.
- b) Song Fest of Thanksgiving is being planned for October 15 & 16.
- c) Youth Retreat will be virtual on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

13. Closing - Terry Stefaniuk thanked all that were involved in making the session today successful. Thanks to all guests and delegates for your participation and commitment.

14. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM

15. Closing Worship – Josh Wallace

/minutes recorded by Christine Epp

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