

Rooted in Good Soil

Resourcing the Rural Church



Mennonite
Church
Saskatchewan



Mennonite Church Saskatchewan
2023 Annual Delegate Sessions
March 11, 2023
Bethany Manor, Saskatoon

MC Sask 2023 Annual Delegate Sessions
Saturday, March 11, 2023
Bethany Manor, Saskatoon
Guest speaker David Boshart, President AMBS

Pre-registration is required for everyone at
<https://mcsask.ca/event/8602>
Each congregation may register
one delegate for every 25 members or portion thereof

Each congregation is invited to appoint a youth delegate
in addition to their regular delegates. Youth delegates have all the responsibilities, rights and privileges of regular delegates, except holding office in elected positions. They are expected to prepare themselves in the same manner as other congregational delegates by attending any congregational delegates' meeting and reading the reports.

Youth delegates must register!

Contact youthminister@mcsask.ca for further information.

This is a hybrid in person and online event

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
2023 Annual Delegate Sessions Agenda
Saturday, March 11, 2023

- 9:00 Gathering & Singing, Morning Prayer
- 9:15 Worship
- 9:30 Opening
- Plenary Session: David Boshart
- 10:00 Coffee Break
- 10:15 Business Session:
- Finance Report and presentation of Proposed Budget
 - Nominations: 1st call and presentation of slate of nominees
- 10:45 Camp Study
- 11:45 Lunch
- 12:45 Gather & Singing
- 1:00 Worship, Commemoration and Offering
- 1:15 Plenary Session: David Boshart
- 1:45 Reports and Discussion:
- Moderator
 - Former Interim Executive Minister
 - Regional Minister
 - Pastoral Leadership Commission
 - Ministries Commission
- 2:30 Coffee
- 2:45 Business Session:
- Report and Discussion MC Sask Programs & Affiliations
 - Final Presentation of Nominations and Vote
 - Budget Discussion and Vote
 - Approval of Auditors
- 3:30 Worship: Communion Commissioning and Blessing
- 6:30 **You are invited to a viewing of *Custodians: a Story of Ancient Echoes* documentary at Wildwood Mennonite Church.** Indigenous peoples' ancestors left their marks on the land for millennia. Artifacts everywhere, many lost forever to agricultural and other development. Still some places remain untouched; beautiful natural settings with artifacts, all with stories to tell. Come watch the documentary about Ancient Echoes' work to protect this ancient Indigenous sacred site. Think about how you can contribute to protection of the marks of Indigenous history. There will be time to share your response following the documentary.

Nominations 2023

	Position presently	Eligible for	Will accept	Nomination	Length of
	filled by	Re-election	Nomination	Accepted by	Term
<u>Executive Member</u>					
Moderator	Terry Stefaniuk Term 2, 2023	Yes	No	Sharon Schultz	Interim, 2024
Finance Chair	Gordon Peters Term 3 2023	No	N/A	Tim Wiens	Term 1, 2026
<u>Council Member</u>					
Member	Glenn Sawatzky Term 1 2023	Yes	No	Len Rempel	Term 1, 2026
Member	Pauline Steinmann Term 2, 2023	Yes	No	Brent Guenther	Term 1, 2026
<u>Pastoral Leadership Commission</u>					
Member	Garth Ewert Fisher Term 3, 2023	No	N/A	Ric Driediger	Term 1, 2026
Member	Patty Friesen Term 1, 2023	Yes	Yes	Patty Friesen	Term 2, 2026
Member	Vacant	--	--		Term 1, 2026
<u>Ministries Commission</u>					
Member	Eric Olfert Term 3, 2023	No	N/A	Katherine Penner	Term 1, 2026
Member	Mark Bigland Pritchard Term 1, 2023	Yes	Yes	Mark Bigland Pritchard	Term 2, 2026
Member	Claire Ewert Fisher Term 2, 2023	Yes	No	Zach Dueck	Term 1, 2026
<u>Camp Elim Board</u>					
Member	John Woelk Term 2, 2023	Yes	Yes	John Woelk	Term 3, 2026
<u>Shekinah Retreat Centre Board</u>					
Member	Phyllis Goertz Term 2, 2023	Yes	No	Julie Bergen	Term 1, 2026
<u>Youth Farm Bible Camp Board</u>					
Member	Kalene Bartsch Term 1, 2023	Yes	No	Ric Driediger	Term 1, 2026
<u>Youth Farm Complex Board</u>					
Member	Ernie Epp Term 3, 2023	No	N/A		Term 1, 2026
Member	Elaine Janzen Term 2, 2023	Yes	No	Edith Regehr	Term 1, 2026
Member	Gwen Laughlin Term 1, 2023	Yes	Yes	Gwen Laughlin	Term 2, 2026

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)
Alison Jantz (2025)

Pastoral Leadership Commission

Curtis Wiens, Chair (2024)
Garth Ewert Fisher, (2023)
Patty Friesen (2023)
Lisa Martens Bartel (2024)
Krista Martens (2025)
Vacant (2025)

Ministries Commission

Claire Ewert Fisher, Chair (2023)
Jeanette Hanson (2024)
Mark Bigland-Pritchard (2023)
Eric Olfert (2023)
Nancy Epp (2025)
Amy Peters (2025)

Nominee Bios

Julie Bergen - Shekinah Retreat Centre

Julie Bergen is a Spiritual Care Practitioner and teaches spiritual care (CPE) at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon. Originally from Altona, MB, she is a CMBC alumni and lives in Osler. Julie attends Osler Mennonite Church with her husband, Matthew and her children Nora (14) and Emmett (11), who both love attending camp and look forward to one day being camp counsellors

Ric Driedger – Pastoral Leadership Commission

I served on the Pastoral Leadership Commission for 8 years from 2012 to 2020. I trust I was able to contribute to this commission. It is where my passion lies. I was the 'winter pastor' at Langham Mennonite Fellowship for 5 winters. I own and operate Churchill River Canoe Outfitters in northern Saskatchewan.

Zach Dueck - Ministries Commission

My name is Zach Dueck, I'm currently associate pastor of youth & youth adults at Mount Royal Mennonite Church. Previously I've held several different positions at Camp Elim, and worked as a support worker and inclusion worker for different organizations in Winnipeg. I've been very interested in the social justice side of my work, specifically when it comes to including others. I have specific interest in climate change and Indigenous issues within ministry as well. Joining Ministries Commission gives me the chance to work with others with a similar passion in the church.

Brent Guenther - Council

I live in Warman with my wife, Marie, and our two children, Anna and Benjamin. I am the principal of Dundurn School where I work with students from Pre-K to Grade 6. We attend Nutana Park Mennonite Church in Saskatoon, where I previously served on the Board of Deacons, and now enjoy working with our church's Kids' Club and Choir program. I believe that Mennonite Church Saskatchewan has a unique and important voice in our local communities and I look forward to supporting the ministry of our provincial churches and programs.

Len Rempel - Council

I am currently pastor at Warman Mennonite and Pleasant Point Mennonite. I was born and raised in Ontario but moved to Saskatchewan in 2021. I was trained as an accountant and worked for 30+ years in the field, including more than 20 years with Ten Thousand Villages and Mennonite World Conference. I began pastoring in 2016 and was ordained in January 2020. I have a passion and a confidence in the church and look forward to serving MC Sask in this way.

Katherine Penner - Ministries Commission

My name is Katherine Penner, I'm from Osler and I'd like to say I'm passionate about peace work. I'm a member of Osler Mennonite Church, enjoyed my time as a student at RJC, and graduated from CMU in spring of 2022 with a BA in Peace & Conflict Transformation Studies. I am now working as a disability support worker, serving two wonderful individuals in their own home and learning what it looks like for me to be an engaged adult, using my gifts and my Mennonite roots to participate in community.

Edith Regehr - Youth Farm Complex Board (Nursing Home)

My name is Edith Regehr born and raised in Rosthern Sask. I graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1975 in Saskatoon after which I was employed at St. Paul's Hospital, then on to serving with Mennonite Central Committee for six plus years in both Brazil and Indonesia after which I was a RN at the Mennonite Nursing Home and worked with Nightingale Nursing for 35+ years before retiring in 2019. I am a member of the Rosthern Mennonite Church where I serve on the Pastoral Committee for the past 6 years. Previous experience has involved leadership in women's groups and serving on the RJC High School Board. I look forward to serving on this Board as I appreciate the need and importance of this facility in our community and the greater valley area.

Sharon Schultz - Moderator

My name is Sharon Schultz, and I am Pastor at Eyebrow Mennonite Church. I am on MC Sask Council, and have been Deputy Moderator for the last 5 years. My husband, Duane, and I live in Eyebrow, SK. We have 3 adults children, a son-in-law, and a Siamese cat named Lewis!

Tim Wiens – Council – Finance Chair

Hello all – I have served on boards at Herschel Ebenfeld as well as agriculture commodities such as Farm and Foodcare, Sask Pulse, Pulse Canada, and Sask Canola. I have often chaired Audit and Finance committees. I held most positions available in Herschel including Chair and Treasurer. I am looking forward to my time on Council.

Motions and Key Items from 2022 MC Sask Council Meetings

January 11, 2022

Key Actions, Discussions, Decisions & Guests to Council Meeting:

- Executive Minister Search underway
- Conversations with MC Alberta re possible collaboration on projects

Motion: Gordon Peters moved that up to \$4500 be taken from the SMYO Reserve Fund to be used as funding for MC Sask youth travelling to the MC Canada event at Camp Valaqua, Alberta. Seconded by Andrea Enns Gooding; Carried.

February 23, 2022

Key Actions, Discussions, Decisions & Guests to Council Meeting:

- Mark Bigland-Pritchard and Claire Ewert Fisher present “*Climate Proposal to MC Sask Council*” – a proposal for a partnership, as a starting point for MC Saskatchewan’s climate ministry called Climate Emergency Response Team (CERT). This volunteer group should act both as a resource and as an engine for action. Next steps activated: Terms of reference are created and approved at June 14, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Christine Epp moved that Council approves the application for a low-limit credit card for MC Sask for use for the youth ministry work. Gordon Peters seconds. All approved. Carried.

April 19, 2022

Key Actions, Discussions, Decisions & Guests to Council Meeting:

Motions:

Motion: Gordon Peter moves that Josh Wallace and Terry Stefaniuk contact Tim Nickel to finalize proposal for camp ministry study project to the maximum cost of \$20,000. Pauline Steinmann seconded. Carried.

June 14, 2022

Key Actions, Discussions, Decisions & Guests to Council Meeting:

- Guests to Council meeting: Walking the Path (sub-committee of Ministries Commission) for discussion and Q & A.
- Guest to Council meeting: Tim Nickel, Fifth Business Consulting, presented revised proposal for Camp Study. Next steps activated.

Motions: none

August 30, 2022

Key Actions, Discussions, Decisions & Guests to Council Meeting:

- Camp Subsidies: Discussion how to divide the funds. For 2022 we will divide the funds on a five-year average of camper numbers, and moving forward it will be divided equally between the camps with some recommendations for use (i.e. strongly recommend investment in seasonal staff training)
- Personnel and Re-Imagineering – next steps for hiring of Executive Minister

Motions: none

October 11, 2022

Key Actions, Discussions, Decisions & Guests to Council Meeting:

- Guests from YFBC - Mark Wurtz, (executive director) & Bruce Jantzen (board chair) join meeting to share highlights of programs.
- Shekinah shares information about an incident in summer; Discussion and next steps initiated.
- MC Canada asks if MC Sask is willing to host Joint Council in-person meetings on May 6-7, 2023. Agreed.

Motion: Gordon Peters moves that MC Sask Council endorse the Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy Addendum as presented. Andrea Enns- Gooding seconded. Carried.

Motion: Gordon Peters moves that MC Sask Council endorses both the MC Operating Agreement and Shared Revenue Agreement. Seconded by Alison Jantz. Carried.

November 22, 2022

Key Actions, Discussions, Decisions & Guests to Council Meeting:

- Tim Nickel, Fifth Business Consulting, guest to Council, reports on status and next steps in Camp Study
- Cheryl Pauls, President of CMU, guest, shares highlights and challenges
- Invitation extended to Doug Klassen, MC Canada EM, to meet with MC Sask leaders in February.
- MC Canada Covenant, drafted update, is brought to Council for review and feedback.
- Mennonite World Conference – Fair Share Agreement is under review.
- EM search update

Motions: none

Moderator's Report – Terry Stefaniuk

Written, January 23, 2023: Prior to the conclusion of the Camp Study

Welcome to the 2023 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions. We gather here at Bethany Manor, the home to many elders in the church. Last year we gathered at the Youth Farm Bible Camp, the place where formation is taking place for children and youth from within Mennonite circles and the larger community. It is fitting that we acknowledge the span of ages within MC Sask.

This year we gather with an open position on the leadership team. It is a trying time and one of uncertainty. The road is not without its twists and turns nor without potholes. MC Sask Council continues to work through this time and re-imagine what it is to be a leader within MC Sask. The search for an Executive Minister continues. MC BC and MCEC are searching for Executive Ministers as well. As a Church we pray that the call to leadership will be heard within Mennonite Church Canada. In His time our Lord God will provide. We must continue in faith. We must support one another in the work of the Church.

The Camp Study has drawn to a close. It is now time for Council to consider what has been learned from the study. Then it will be time to discern next steps.

In closing, thank you to MC Sask for the call to serve the church. It has been a blessing to visit the camps, nursing home and RJC during these past five years. Thank you to churches that have extended the invitation to speak. And in closing thank you for extending grace and sharing your wisdom.

May the Lord's Blessing be upon each of you, the new members of Council and new Moderator.

Respectfully,
Terry Stefaniuk

Interim Executive Minister Report – Josh Wallace

Reviewing the life of MC Sask in 2022, we might describe the year with a variety of terms. Two that rise to the top of the list are *transition* and *sharing*. We began this year in a season of *transition*--for congregations, for pastoral leaders, and for the MC Sask office. For the office, our bold, straight-talking, full-of-laughter Executive Minister Ryan Siemens was departing and our wise, creative, incredibly capable Regional Church Minister Kirsten Hamm-Epp was heading into a yearlong parental leave. Zach Dueck and I stepped into the gap, as Interim Youth Leader and Interim Executive Minister--but both with reduced hours and many other responsibilities on the go. It was clear that there'd be adjustment and reshuffling of routines and rhythms, programs and priorities.

My own availability for ministry was further complicated that late winter by family health crises, new treatments, and new health protocols. I had started January hoping to be present in the office a couple days a week, doing this work primarily in-person. But plans had to shift: suddenly my Zoom schedule filled up as virtual became the best way to care for my household's health vulnerabilities. Visiting congregations, leading ordination and installation services, and meeting with congregational councils and search committees became (once again) a matter of good masking, hand sanitizer, and skipping out on potlucks and coffee breaks.

I was so worried that the life of MC Sask was slipping through the gaps in my personal availability. But the wisdom of God is that our congregations do not stand or fall with any one person (well, beyond Jesus). God has knit us into a body, the body of the Son of God's love. As each muscle and ligament, each finger and foot performs its part, we pull together. The work of healing and hope gets done.

I have been astounded by the way in which MC Sask members have *shared* in our work of worship, mutual care, and mission this past year. ADS 2022 offered a shining example, with Alex Tiessen jumping into manage our Zoom presence, and Pastors Emily Summach, Claire Ewert Fisher, and Sharon Schultz leading in worship when a health emergency meant I could not be present.

This sharing together in the work carried through the year: Nora Pederberg carried the voice of MC Sask to the Mennonite World Conference Assembly in Indonesia. Mel Harms coordinated MC Sask youths' trip to Amplify. At the same time, Curtis Wiens and Sharon Schultz represented MC Sask at MC Canada Joint Council meetings during Gathering 2022 in Edmonton. Throughout the autumn, Andrea Enns-Gooding stepped in to attend Joint Council on behalf of MC Sask, and Christine Epp helped keep MC Sask Council up to date on the MC Sask Camping Ministry Study. Throughout the whole season, Terry Stefaniuk has shown up as sure and steady presence in the MC Sask office and meeting with partners. Most of all, MC Sask Office Administrator Marianne Siemens has graciously shouldered so much additional work to keep our family of congregations working well together. I am filled with thanks and praise.

Congregational Transitions

Our congregations also navigated many transitions this year. The lingering reality of late-stage pandemic has meant frequently flipping back and forth between full-throttle gatherings and events modified but protocols for the care for the vulnerable among us. It's meant last-minute rejigging plans when a speaker is sidelined by illness. It's meant rethinking worship habits and committee structures in light of altered giving and attendance patterns. These are elements of a "new normal" we face together.

We've marked other transition together as well this past year.

- A few weeks before last year's ADS, Grace Mennonite Church, Prince Albert, celebrated its final worship service on January 30, 2022.
- The following day, January 31, 2022, marked the conclusion of Ryan Siemens' service as Executive Minister, as well as Kirsten Hamm Epp's last day before a 12-month parental leave.
- On February 1, 2022, Zach Dueck began his role as Interim Youth Leader.
- Carrot River Mennonite Church celebrated the ordination of Kevin Koop to pastoral ministry on May 1, 2022.
- Nora Pederberg concluded her ministry as Pastor of Faith and Community at Osler Mennonite Church in July 2022.
- On September 25, 2022, Eigenheim Mennonite Church celebrated the ordination of Rachel Wallace to pastoral ministry.
- At the end of October 2022, Pastor Dan Graber retired from ministry at North Star Mennonite Church.
- Luke Bushman began a joint role as Pastor of Faith & Community at Osler Mennonite Church and Nutana Park Mennonite Church on November 1, 2022.
- Lisa Martens Bartel began her role as Pastoral Leader at North Star Mennonite Church on November 6, 2022; her installation was celebrated on February 19, 2023.
- And on January 1, 2023, I transitioned from being MC Sask's Interim Executive Minister back to my former role of Church Engagement Minister.

The Work of the Church - Regionally, Nationwide, Internationally

Throughout 2022 the emphasis of my work has been calling our congregations to renewed (and, at points, reimagined) sharing together in the work of worship, mutual care, and mission. As we face a social landscape freshly aware of its vulnerabilities and brewing divisions, we can't help but be aware of the need for God's healing and hope to flow through us to each of our neighbors, small towns, and neighborhoods. We experience that healing as we stand with and care for one another.

In our regional church family, I've witnessed such solidarity and mutual aid in Zoom pastors calls and pastor peer groups, in church members travelling to share in other congregations' events and celebrations (like ordinations! also, anniversaries!), in the creative and discerning conversations held by MC Sask's Pastoral Leadership Commission. We also share in this healing and hope through the various programs that report at Ministries Commission. I continue to be astounded by how MC Sask members jump into the work of Walking the Path and the newly-formed Climate Emergency Response Team (CERT). Youth events, like Mega Menno, have also been sights of sharing in mutual care and compassion, through the energy of Zach Dueck and other youth leaders, like Mel Harms and Alex Tiessen. Finally, MC Sask members' passionate response to our Camping Ministry Study has reminded me of our shared deep commitment to the formation and well-being of young people within and beyond our own congregations.

Summer 2022's triple gatherings--MWC's Assembly in Indonesia, Gathering 2022 in Edmonton, and Amplify at Camp Valaqua--reminded us how our sharing and solidarity bind us deeply to fellow believers across Canada and far beyond. Our family of congregations has also been reenergized for the ongoing work of decolonization and reconciliation by MC Canada's recent hiring Indigenous Relations Coordinator Jonathan Neufeld, and for the work of responding faithfully to the climate crisis by Climate Action Coordinator Sandy Plett. I'm deeply thankful for the ways our local actions are knit into the nationwide and global action of the body of Jesus.

Thank you for the joyful privilege of walking with our congregations as Interim Executive Minister throughout 2022. Thank you for sharing in this work with me, as we each and all together seek and find God's healing and hope.

With the peace, joy, and deep compassion of Jesus,
Josh Wallace

Interim Youth Worker Report – Zach Dueck

This year I (Zach Dueck) took on the role of Interim Youth Leader for MC Sask and had a great time shepherding the youth through the year providing them with opportunities to learn, build community and just have fun with each other throughout the year. While we met on a monthly basis, I just wanted to pull out a few highlights of the year to talk about here. Starting with...

Shekinah Fun Day - With our first attempt at bringing back a kind of winter retreat at Shekinah falling through earlier on in the year, this was an opportunity to bring back some of that energy with the speakers who were supposed to come out in winter able to shift their schedule and head out for attempt number 2. We had a great day of fun in the sun learning about Climate Change and how we as people of faith can respond to this climate crisis the world is currently facing.

Amplify - Then in the summer we found ourselves out at Camp Valaqua in Alberta making even more friends from across the country at this marked the return of the national youth gatherings for MC Canada. Here we found ourselves exposed to hard realities of colonialism and our role in this system that has caused a lot of pain. As we learned more about a lot of the issues indigenous people face today, we found ourselves guided to a place of hope, of how we might take this knowledge and use it to help build better healthier relationships as we try to approach a space where healing can occur.

SMYO Youth Retreat - But by far my favourite event of the year was the winter youth retreat for a number of reasons. 1) It marked a return of SMYO as a guiding force in planning the event as they selected the theme for the event (Social Media and Mental Health) and took the reins on a number of activities including the coffee house, injecting their personality into the event in such a wonderful way! and 2) after a year where we attempted a retreat which fell through, it was great getting the band back together for some great worship, finding a speaker who could touch on the topics that spoke to the youth and of returning to this space that has been a mainstay of youth engagement since I was a youth myself.

And all of this would not have been possible without all the help and support I received from the wonderful team of youth leaders helping me out every stage of the way consisting of: Nora Pederberg (formerly Osler MC), Luke Bushman (currently Osler MC and NPMC), Sarah Rinholm (Wildwood MC), Alex Tiessen (Rosthern Junior College), and Mel Harms! Big thanks to all of them as I pass the reins back to Kirsten Hamm-Epp for another hopeful year of great youth encounters!

Peace,

Zach Dueck

Finance Report – Gordon Peters

First, thank you for all your faithful giving in these continuing uncertain times. The work of MC Sask, and by extension, MC Canada, matters to all of us. I am always grateful and amazed by the level of support we receive from churches and individuals. MC Sask matters to all of you and I trust we will keep that priority high in our thoughts and prayers.

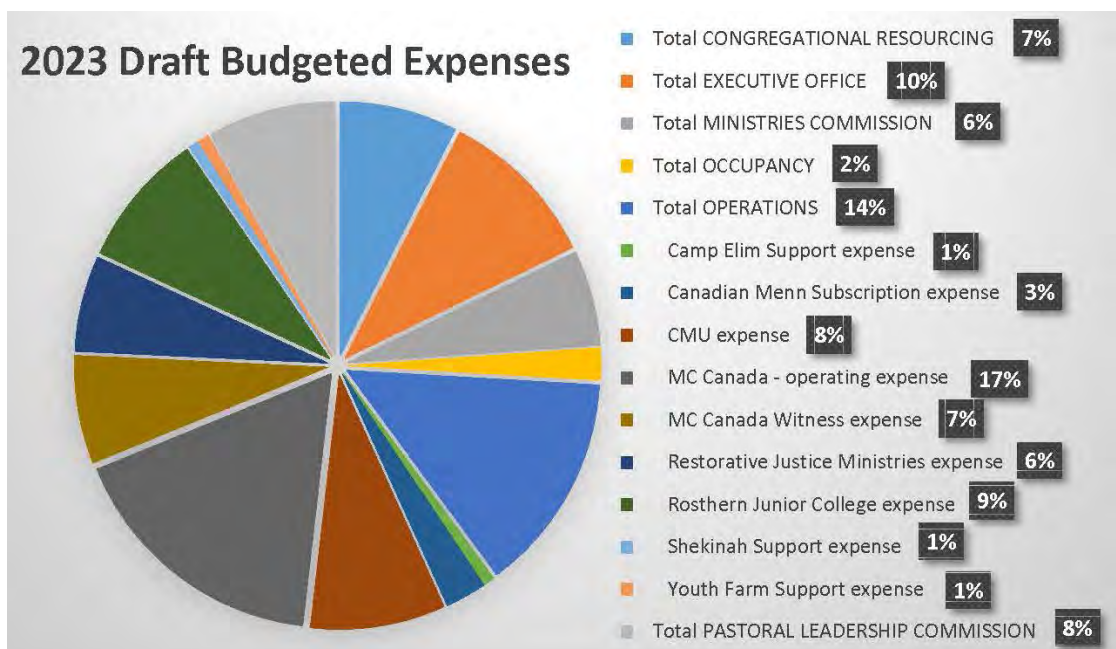
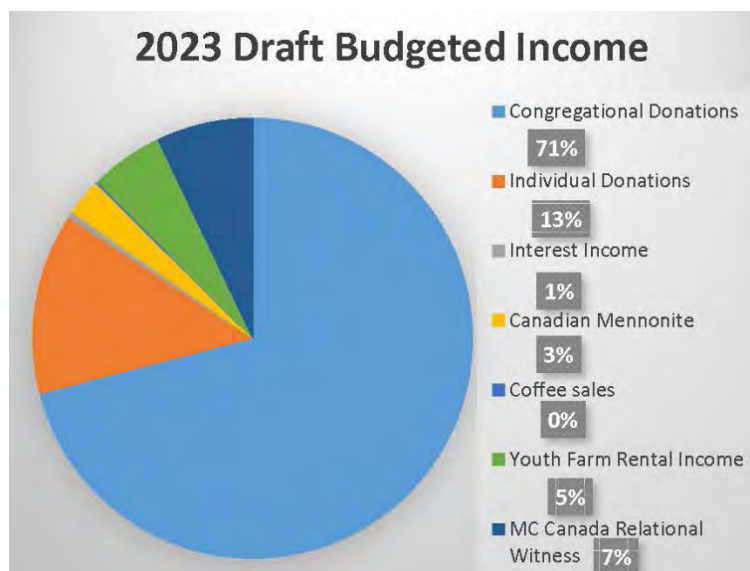
As we have navigated this past year, many challenges have come our way, an extended search for a new Executive Minister, and other work, life, societal challenges. Many of the usual activities and programs of MC Sask have continued through the year, with the great help of our staff and the many volunteers on committees and support groups. We on MC Sask Council encourage anyone to share with us your joys and concerns for the work of the church. MC Sask is only as strong as the individual members and congregations; Council is there to assist you in your journey.

As we work through the ideas and concerns shared with us concerning the camping programs in Saskatchewan, we will look to the membership for further guidance and support. This is a big question, one which Council will not tackle alone.

I want to thank all those that encouraged me in this work of the church. My term is ending and I hope you will support the new person as much as you supported me. I am truly grateful.

God Bless.

Gordon Peters, Chair of Finance



Mennonite Church Saskatchewan			
DRAFT BUDGET			
2023			
			DRAFT
	2022 Budget		2023 Budget
INCOME			
Bequests			
Congregational Donations	\$ 375,000.00		\$ 400,000.00
Individual Donations	\$ 55,000.00		\$ 75,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00
Other Income			
Canadian Mennonite	\$ 18,000.00		\$ 15,270.00
Coffee sales	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Youth Farm Rental Income	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00
Partner Ministries			
MC Canada Relational Witness	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 40,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 521,500.00		\$ 563,770.00
EXPENSES			
CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING	\$ (5,000.00)		\$ (5,000.00)
Program expenses	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 34,945.00
Staff Travel	\$ 1,300.00		\$ 1,300.00
Youth & Young Adult Program Expense	\$ 10,385.00		\$ 10,385.00
Total CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING	\$ 28,685.00		\$ 43,630.00
EXECUTIVE OFFICE	\$ (10,000.00)		\$ (10,000.00)
Camp Task Force	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
Council & Committee Travel	\$ 16,855.00		\$ 1,000.00
D&O insurance			\$ 1,855.00
Delegate expenses	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$ 41,261.00		\$ 45,000.00
Staff Travel	\$ 7,000.00		\$ 7,000.00
Total EXECUTIVE OFFICE	\$ 77,616.00		\$ 59,855.00
MINISTRIES COMMISSION			
Chaplain's Cell phone	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
Church Planting Conference	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Ministries programming	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
staff salary & payroll	\$ 13,000.00		\$ 28,555.00
Creation care	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
events	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Church Grant program	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Walking the Path	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00
Total MINISTRIES COMMISSION	\$ 19,750.00		\$ 35,305.00

OCCUPANCY			
Insurance	\$	485.00	\$ 485.00
Office Rent	\$	10,500.00	\$ 11,316.50
Total OCCUPANCY	\$	10,985.00	\$ 11,801.50
OPERATIONS	\$	(11,150.00)	\$ (11,150.00)
Legal and professional fees	\$	11,500.00	\$ 11,500.00
Office/General Administrative Expenses	\$	12,950.00	\$ 12,950.00
Program expenses	\$	7,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Registrations & Workshops			\$ 100.00
Staff Professional Development			\$ 100.00
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$	57,547.00	\$ 62,500.00
Staff Travel	\$	100.00	\$ 200.00
Total OPERATIONS	\$	77,947.00	\$ 81,200.00
PARTNER MINISTRIES EXPENSES			
Camp Elim Support expense	\$	2,400.00	\$ 4,000.00
Canadian Menn Subscription expense	\$	17,000.00	\$ 15,270.00
CMU expense	\$	50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
MC Canada - operating expense	\$	107,000.00	\$ 98,951.00
MC Canada Witness expense	\$	40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Restorative Justice Ministries expense	\$	35,500.00	\$ 35,500.00
Rosthern Junior College expense	\$	50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Shekinah Support expense	\$	2,736.00	\$ 4,000.00
Youth Farm Support expense	\$	6,792.00	\$ 4,000.00
Total PARTNER MINISTRIES EXPENSES	\$	311,428.00	\$ 301,721.00
PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COMMISSION	\$	(4,500.00)	\$ (4,500.00)
Staff Salary	\$	41,261.00	\$ 45,000.00
Pastor & Congregational Support	\$	2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Pastors events (Con't Ed, Pastor days, etc)	\$	4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00
Council & Committee travel & expenses	\$	750.00	\$ 750.00
Total PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COMMISSION	\$	43,711.00	\$ 47,450.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	560,122.00	\$ 580,962.50
PROFIT	\$	(38,622.00)	\$ (17,192.50)

Ministries Commission Report

Agenda for Ministries Commission (MC) meetings include but are limited to work taking shape through Walking the Path (WTP), Climate Emergency Response Team (CERT), Church Engagement, International Witness, and Council reporting. Reporting from WTP and CERT will appear below. Others will report elsewhere.

Members of the team identified the necessity of MC even though “we mostly hear reports from sub-groups. The connection that happens at Ministries is vital. It is important to hear what each other is doing. Church means developing relationships with God and developing relationships with people.”

Walking The Path

Walking the Path met 9 times during 2022, with most of its time and energy given to two agendas. The first was the completing of production, fundraising, launching, arranging screenings and providing study materials for the Custodians video. This took much time, and we feel good about the product, the feedback and the reach the video has achieved.

The second major agenda has been Treaty Land questions more broadly and specifically the government sale of Crown Lands. It has proven much more difficult to discover and engage practical paths towards solutions here. We anticipate this set of issues remaining central to our work into 2023.

Many other issues filled our agenda, including expanding WTP membership, re-planning several projects that were negated by COVID. And coping with the sudden departure of Steve Heinrichs from our orbit.

Walking with our Indigenous cousins continues to be a vitally important agenda for the church.

Eric Olfert

Climate Emergency Response Team

Part of being rooted in good soil is being grounded in reality. CERT has been established to help the church to come to terms actively with the immensely difficult realities of the climate crisis, while trusting in the greater reality of God’s love.

Last autumn, we provided prayers to congregations for the Season of Creation; we are doing something similar for Lent this year. We have begun to talk with congregations about their own climate education and action possibilities, and will continue to do so – recognizing the considerable diversity of needs, opportunities, livelihoods and perspectives among our churches.

Mark Bigland-Pritchard

Pastoral Leadership Commission Report

Pastoral Leadership Commission consists of Curtis Wiens (Aberdeen), Lisa Martens-Bartel (North Star), Krista Martens (Herschel/Fiske), Garth Ewert-Fisher (Mount Royal) and Patty Friesen (Osler). In 2022, we made good soil for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan pastors through planning continuing education events such as: Sylvia Keesmaat with Paul in the Shadow of Empire, pastors' gathering at ADS in March with Dr. Preston Pouteaux and fun day of sharing and hiking Shekinah June 29. We sent representatives Lisa Martens-Bartel and Curtis Wiens to Mennonite Church Canada in Edmonton and Nora Pederberg went to Mennonite World Conference in Indonesia.

We led welcome interviews with Luke Bushman (Osler), Lisa Martens-Bartel (North Star), ordination interviews with Kevin Koop (Carrot River), Rachel Wallace (Eigenheim) and exit interviews for Ryan Siemens (MC SK), Rod Suderman (First), Nora Pederberg (Osler), Andrew Waite (Grace Regina), Dan Graber (North Star). This is a way of us to support important periods of transition in pastoral leadership.

We try to stay on top of ongoing education in pastoral boundaries and misconduct and stay connected with Mennonite Church Canada developments. We have enjoyed working with insightful Josh Wallace as Interim Executive Minister this past year and say good-bye to Garth Ewert-Fisher after serving nine years on our committee!



2022 spring Pastors Gathering at Shekinah



Pastor's Gathering with Dr. Preston Pouteaux



Camp Elim

c/o 78-6th Ave. N.E. Swift Current, SK S9H 2L7 Ph: (306) 627-3339 www.campelim.ca campelim1@sasktel.net

2022! We were finally back in action at Camp Elim! After two years of not being able to host summer camp, everyone was eager to get Elim's programming up and running again! We kicked off the 2022 season with a new logo, updated website, and a fresh new sign on the camp property. We knew this would be a rebuilding year for both staffing and campers, but fortunately we were able to fill all summer positions and welcome many campers to the beautiful shores of Lac Pelletier. Our theme this summer was "Defined", where campers learned about finding identity in God. The days and nights were filled with a wide complement of varied activities, friendship, and fellowship which all helped set the stage for a very exciting summer at Lac Pelletier!

We reached 116 campers this year, which was lower than our pre-pandemic levels, as we expected. We anticipate that our numbers will continue an upward trend in the years to come, as people start returning to their routines. Our teen camp was one of our most successful weeks we've had in many years, with lots of very enthusiastic campers (many returning after their years of children's camp)! One of the greatest highlights of the summer was welcoming campers through the Angel Tree Prison Fellowship Camping Program. Seeing the impact of one week at Elim on these children's lives was incredible and served as an excellent reminder of why we exist. Our children's camps continue to be attractive, and our day camps have been exceptionally popular with our lake neighbours and surrounding southwest SK communities.

Katelyn and Zack Green were our directors this year at Camp Elim. They brought along their daughter, Isla, and enjoyed a wonderful summer at Elim. Katelyn and Zack did an excellent job of planning, preparing, and leading staff throughout the summer. We appreciated their wisdom and maturity, especially when mentoring a brand new group of staff. Both Katelyn and Zack had previously served at Camp Elim as counselors (Katelyn as a co-director in 2015), which provided Elim with a level of expertise that served us well this summer. We would've loved to have them back for another year, but life has taken them in a different direction. We wish them all the best in their future, as their family is expanding and new careers are being pursued! We were also able to have a full roster of staff, cabin-leaders, and CITs this summer, who worked tirelessly to realize camp's mission and vision! We received funding through the Canada Summer Jobs grant program to help with employment costs.

The Camp Elim board continues our recruitment of a year-round Executive Director. However, we are well-positioned for Summer 2023, as we have already hired our Program Director for next season.

We continue to promote our Saskatchewan Camps Association accredited program as a one-of-a-kind camp in the southwest. We offer a wide range of activities, including: bible time and worship, watersports, canoeing, kayaking, paddle-boarding, paddle-boating, windsurfing, sailing, swimming, archery, nature and survival, crafts, wide games, beach volleyball, Frisbee golf and trampoline, mini zip-line, slackline, hiking, orienteering, campfires, and the always anticipated "overnighter".

Camp Elim is a place where we are able to provide opportunities to form positive mentoring relationships among campers and staff. These relationships provide the building blocks for youth to step out of their comfort zone, take risks and try something new, ask important questions, and gain experiences that they might not encounter anywhere else. Often, life-long friendships are created in only one week, and our repeat campers and staff look forward to coming back year after year because of the great fun and fond memories they have made at Camp Elim! We can't wait to see what 2023 has in store!

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 are envisioning updates to the main tabernacle flooring in the near future. As well, we are exploring options to help preserve and improve our beachfront. We will be encouraging rentals in the off-season and promoting the use of our RV park as additional sources of revenue to support our program.

Camp Elim Budget		2022		2023	
Year Ended December 31st		Board approved Nov 30/2021		Board approved Jan 17/2023	
Revenue					
Leases /Lease, dock & parking fees		110,000.00		110,000.00	
Leases /Property tax reimbursements		68,000.00		72,000.00	
Leases /Transfer & development fees		3,000.00		3,000.00	
Camp fees		26,000.00		26,000.00	
Donations		9,000.00		10,000.00	
Rentals		15,000.00		15,000.00	
Fundraising		-		2,000.00	
MCSK grant		-		2,400.00	
Government grant /summer student		8,000.00		8,000.00	
Patronage		-		40.00	
Interest		60.00		85.00	
		239,060.00		248,525.00	
Expenses					
Administration		500.00		500.00	
Advertising & promotion		500.00		800.00	
Insurance		12,000.00		13,000.00	
Interest (bank charges & LOC)		5,200.00		5,200.00	
Linens & supplies (lodge & kitchen)		1,000.00		1,000.00	
Postage & office supplies		1,000.00		1,000.00	
Professional fees (auditor)		7,000.00		7,000.00	
Professional fees (treasurer)		12,000.00		17,500.00	
Programs /summer camps		12,000.00		15,000.00	
Programs /camperships		-		2,000.00	
Property tax /camp		-		6,631.76	
Property tax /leases		75,000.00		71,572.89	
Repairs & maintenance /buildings		5,000.00		4,000.00	
Repairs & maintenance /equipment		1,500.00		2,000.00	
Repairs & maintenance /boat		-		1,000.00	
Repairs & maintenance /grounds & yard		6,000.00		3,000.00	
Utilities, septic, telephone & internet		12,000.00		21,000.00	
Vehicle /fuel & mileage		600.00		700.00	
Vehicle /licenses & maintenance		900.00		900.00	
Wages, benefits & workers compensation					
- Summer Director (4 mos) \$3,400/mo		14,516.44		15,847.40	
- Cook (8 weeks) \$18.00 to \$19.00		6,497.44		6,930.14	
- Lifeguard (7 weeks) \$15.00 to \$16.00		4,728.43		5,101.99	
- Counsellors (6 weeks x 6) \$13.00 min wage		19,396.98		21,291.99	
- Facilities & Mtce (5 mos) \$3,400/mo		17,302.45		19,080.00	
- Workers compensation		-		400.00	
		214,641.74		242,456.17	
Operating Profit (Loss)		24,418.26		6,068.83	
Capital Fund & Reserves (extra approvals from board minutes)					
Reserves (projects):					
New furnace (main building)		-		8,500.00	
Metal roofing on 3 cabins		-		6,800.00	
Floating docks		-		8,000.00	
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses		24,418.26		(17,231.17)	

Shekinah

The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams. Matthew 13:23 (The Message)

Any farmer will tell you that farming has ups and downs, and that it is best to take a long-term view. Many things (like the weather) are out of your control, so you should also be prepared to change your definition of “success” as-you-go.

2022 was a challenging year for Shekinah. Previous forced closings caused by Covid severely limited the number of applicants who applied for spring and summer work at Shekinah. Those who did apply often had no camp experience - even as previous campers; however, this was offset by a large demand for outdoor programming.

Youth Programming

Teachers were anxious to get students out into nature, and this resulted in Shekinah serving over 1200 students. In addition to providing a valuable service to the schools, the program actually made a small profit for 2022. This prompted the question “Whatever shall we do with the tens of dollars worth of profit?”

Summer camp was both difficult and rewarding. As we were in startup mode, we intentionally limited our summer camp offerings to four weeks. Those weeks were well attended. It was fantastic to hear happy voices echoing through the valley again.

Behind the scenes, summer camp was difficult, with inexperience being the major issue. Taking into account the summer camp team’s experience (including our program director, summer camp leader, and counselors), we had a grand total of two years of camp experience. You may be able to imagine the behind-the-scenes goings on as we struggled to give our young campers a meaningful experience, and we were very grateful for summer camp help from unexpected sources.

Our summer camp does not happen without faithful volunteers, and 2022 was no exception. We are grateful to all of the people who give significant time and energy to our summer camp program: cooks, bible leaders, mentors, and maintenance people.

Rentals

Shekinah saw strong demand for rental services, out in our beautiful valley; however, Covid was still a very real concern, and we weren’t able to create bookings until June. This meant a significant reduction in income, which has translated into our profit and loss statements. While our momentum going into 2023 is strong, there are realities that come with decreased income.

We were able to host weddings, family reunions, and other gatherings. While many look only at our summer camp as an outreach program for MC Sask, the number of people who find a chance to unplug, unwind, and find moments of peace and healing shouldn’t be forgotten.

Shekinah does not exist without community. We continue to rely on donations of time, prayers, and financial support. As any good farmer knows, it takes faith to plant a seed in hopes of a payoff at harvest time. We appreciate your gifts as we plant and trust God for the increase.

Shekinah Budget

		2023 budget	Year End 2022			2023 budget	Year End 2022
Income				Expenses			
donations-operating	\$	80,000.00	\$ 88,487.00	Admin			
donations camperships	\$	5,000.00		mileage	\$	399.00	\$ 342.00
Rental-cabins	\$	7,000.00	\$ 7,503.00	accountant fees	\$	8,000.00	\$ 10,378.00
Rental-chalet	\$	5,100.00	\$ 4,150.00	advertising			\$ 28.00
rental-school programs	\$	40,000.00	\$ 32,335.00	conferences/staff meetings	\$	400.00	\$ 353.00
Rental-Timberlodge	\$	195,000.00	\$ 106,261.00	web site			
Food service income	\$	70,000.00	\$ 49,179.00	membership fees	\$	1,000.00	\$ 900.00
summer jobs grants	\$	33,000.00	\$ 32,596.00	office supplies	\$	3,500.00	\$ 4,308.00
summer camp	\$	60,000.00	\$ 45,108.00	postage			
Fundraisers	\$	32,000.00		Donor Wall	\$	-	\$ 3,492.00
MC Sask summer camp subsidy	\$	2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	Total	\$	13,299.00	\$ 19,801.00
House rental	\$	12,000.00	\$ 11,000.00				
miscellaneous	\$	1,000.00	\$ 1,230.00	auto	\$	12,247.00	\$ 11,873.00
other income	\$	1,000.00	\$ 1,575.00	building repairs/maintenance	\$	15,000.00	\$ 24,808.00
Total Income	\$	543,500.00	\$ 381,824.00	Fundraising costs	\$	7,500.00	\$ 1,878.00
govt support			\$ 39,702.00	Groceries	\$	45,753.89	\$ 33,397.00
total			\$ 421,526.00	Honorariums			
				Interest and bank charges	\$	3,300.00	\$ 3,109.00
				Supplies/equipment	\$	5,000.00	\$ 4,158.00
				Total	\$	88,800.89	\$ 79,223.00
				Payroll			
				5350 vacation	\$	12,000.00	\$ 12,540.00
				Group Health Benefits	\$	1,500.00	\$ 1,515.00
				WCB	\$	3,000.00	\$ 2,823.00
				CPP	\$	14,508.00	\$ 11,431.00
				EI	\$	6,443.00	\$ 5,085.00
				MC Canada pension	\$	7,206.00	\$ 4,421.00
				Chalet			
				Food service	\$	23,800.00	
				housekeeping	\$	10,864.00	\$ 10,428.00
				Maintenance	\$	31,200.00	
				School programming	\$	41,600.00	
				summer camp	\$	50,000.00	
				Timberlodge			
				admin/general	\$	124,876.00	
				all wages	\$	282,340.00	\$ 218,541.00
				Total payroll	\$	326,997.00	\$ 266,784.00
				Property taxes	\$	15,500.00	\$ 14,311.00
				Insurance	\$	42,000.00	\$ 40,583.00
				summer camp expense	\$	7,500.00	\$ 2,137.00
				Total	\$	65,000.00	\$ 57,031.00
				utilities			
				electricity-residence/cabins	\$	1,769.04	\$ 1,638.00
				electricity-Timber/chalet	\$	9,319.32	\$ 8,629.00
				gas-chalet	\$	1,576.80	\$ 1,314.00
				gas-residence/shop	\$	2,652.00	\$ 2,210.00
				gas-Timberlodge	\$	4,560.00	\$ 3,800.00
				telephone	\$	5,600.00	\$ 5,604.00
				Shaw satellite TV	\$	300.00	\$ 281.00
				StARLINK satellite internet	\$	3,300.00	\$ 3,141.00
				total utilities	\$	29,077.16	\$ 26,617.00
				Total Expenses (without payroll)	\$	196,177.05	\$ 182,672.00
				Payroll	\$	326,997.00	\$ 266,784.00
				Grand Total	\$	523,174.05	\$ 449,456.00
				Total surplus/(deficit)	\$	20,325.95	\$ (27,930.00)
				mortgage payment	\$	25,658.64	
				projected total surplus/(deficit)	\$	(5,332.69)	

Youth Farm Bible Camp

Rooted in Good Soil

When we talk about good soil from a Biblical perspective, we always go to the parable of the sower. In the well-known passage, it states that good soil allows the seed to multiply 100, 60 or 30 times! Every year we plant corn, sunflowers, petunias, hay seed, grass seed and more. We do it for the enjoyment of our campers and the enjoyment of people coming to our yard. We have so many stories to share about how the good soil at the Youth Farm Bible Camp impact our community, our province, and beyond – to Mexico and Nicaragua. To find out more, make sure you download our 2022 Annual Report Book.

When we think of the seed that is multiplied, another story comes to our memories – the parable of the talents – one servant receiving ten talents, one five, and the last received one. We have so much wealth, talent, resources and time to share with the world around us – both neighbours and across the world. We are called to be good stewards of our land, talent and resources. As we make decisions at YFBC, we seek to be one of the first two servants and have a mindset of abundance. Although it is easy to have the mindset of scarcity that befalls the third servant. A mindset of abundance means that we are open to partnering with other organizations. A mindset of abundance means we can share our time with others. A mindset of abundance means that we are in this together. Sometimes we do well, sometimes there is further learning and confessing to do.

The cover of our report book has a picture taken during our Junior Teen week where we are worshiping in the hayloft of our barn. Fifty years ago, haylofts were used for sleeping at our camp, now we are going back to that tradition and using it for a loft experience. After singing together, staff bless the campers by praying for them individually. Seeking to sense Holy Spirit we pray for the camper and their families. It's a beautiful time that many say is their highlight of the week. May a mindset of abundance affect our prayer life. May we lift each other's names up to our King more every day.

Mark Wurtz

Executive Director



SUMMER
CAMPS
PAGE 5



AHA!
ADVENTURES
PAGE 11



CORN MAZE
PAGE 12



Read the Youth Farm Bible
Camp's 2022 Report Book
by scanning the QR code
or go to

www.yfbc.ca/report

Youth Farm Bible Camp

2023 Budget

Income

Donations	\$	262,000
Grants		36,000
Program Income		704,000
Rentals		93,000
Horse Program		68,000
	\$	1,163,000

Expenses

Animal Program	\$	18,500
Camperships		6,000
Maintenance		88,300
Mexico Trip		24,000
Office		41,700
Payroll		497,600
Program		210,300
Gifts in Kind		60,000
Utilities		106,000
Vehicles		34,000
	\$	1,086,400

Mennonite Nursing Home Complex Report

The year 2022 has been a bit of a challenge at Mennonite Nursing Home (MNH). We have learned what it is like to live to live under Covid rules. Decisions the administration had to make were at times difficult. It was not always easy because visitation rules changed frequently depending on Covid cases. Both residents and families were at times unhappy. Working and living at MNH continues to be different than it had been before.

Staff and management also had to learn to adapt to a new administration and also a new director of care. We had to turn to Joan Lemauviex to return to cover administration duties until the board hired Mark Hildebrandt to be the new administrator in late June. Sarah Warkentin consented to a 9 month DOC position to give us time to find a permanent Director of Care. We are pleased to announce that Deanna Tucker was hired as DOC this past December. She comes with a wealth of nursing and human resource experience. We look forward to this new management team to lead MNH into the future.

God remains faithful and constant through theses transitions. MNH is rooted in good soil. The dreams and actions of past boards and administrator have taken hold and with God's continued care and guidance, MNH is providing quality care. The leadership team certainly strives to focus on providing patient centered care by serving God by serving others.

We are happy to report that the MNH facility is usually at capacity, so are Pineview, Country Gardens and Sunrise Place. All entities are on a sound financial footing.

Respectfully submitted,
Ted Janzen – Board Chair MNH



Mark Hildebrandt



Deanna Tucker



Report to the MC Saskatchewan Annual Delegate Sessions 2023

Imagine. Thrive. Explore. Belong.

RJC High School finished the school year last June with a balanced budget and an increase in student numbers from the previous year.

In September, we opened the doors for the 2022/2023 school year and were excited to, once again, begin with an increase in enrollment. There is certainly an appetite from students and parents for an Anabaptist education in the 21st century.

We continue to be grateful for our relationship with MC Sask, its member churches and affiliate organizations. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. MC Sask's financial support has allowed us to provide accessible tuition rates and bursaries for students in need.

Here are some ways RJC has interacted with MC Sask since our ADS last spring:

- Church choir visits at Wildwood Mennonite Church, Carrot River Mennonite Church, Osler Mennonite Church, Rosthern Mennonite Church, and Nutana Park Mennonite Church
- Preaching at Rosthern Mennonite Church, Osler Mennonite Church, Fields of Hope Mennonite Church, Aberdeen Mennonite Church, Warman Mennonite Church
- Visits to Bethany Manor and the Mennonite Nursing Home
- Invitations for MC Sask pastors to lead chapels at RJC
- Weekly Faith Exploration Sessions / Pastor on Campus Wednesdays (Thank you to Andrea Enns-Gooding & Rachel Wallace, and Kirsten Hamm-Epp)
- RJC staff rep on the Youth Ministry Group with other MC Sask youth pastors
- RJC staff rep part of the planning committee for the Amplify! Youth Conference at Camp Valaqua this summer
- Use of RJC vans for many MC Sask and affiliated events
- Bible presentations on behalf of MC Sask during our Grad Chapel
- Bible Leading at Shekinah Summer Camp
- Connections with Shekinah for class retreats and learning days
- Continued Christian Ethics programming through chapels and classes at RJC
- Many connections and interactions with MC Sask members at athletic, music and fundraising events

As demographics change and our student body diversifies, we adapt accordingly but remain committed to our vision to be an Anabaptist school for the world.

Thank you for your continued support of our school, our students and our shared mission.

Sincerely, Ryan Wood,
Principal, RJC High School

RJC by the Numbers: 2022/2023

99 Total Students

56 Girls / 43 Boys

31 Grade 10

35 Grade 11

33 Grade 12

42 Day Students

8 Shuttle Students

57 Dormitory Students

22% Students of Alumni

19% MC Sask/MCA Affiliation

52% Have Indicated Some
Church Affiliation

17% First Nations & Metis

75 Saskatchewan Students*

24 Out-of-province/
International

1 British Columbia

4 Alberta

1 Ontario

15 Hong Kong

1 China

1 Singapore

1 Brazil

* SK students include new Canadians from countries such as Burma, the Philippines, Ukraine, India, Nigeria & Sudan

[RJC 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 for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.

2022-23 Enrolment

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

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

753 Total CMU FTE

Small university Big opportunities



Why CMU?

Academic excellence
Professors know you
Work experience in every program
Faith and community matter

For more information and connection to CMU:

View our Report to the Community at cmu.ca/communityreport. Sign up for **Through this Place** our monthly e-newsletter for more stories and happenings at cmu.ca/newsletter.

cmu.ca



Greetings to Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Here's a glimpse into CMU classrooms this year:

Introduction to Global Health | Dr. Rachel Krause | Examines infectious and neglected tropical diseases, malnutrition and the nutrition transition, maternal and child health, and environmental health.

Business and Sustainable Development Goals | Dr. Jerry Buckland | Critically examines the UN's sustainable development goals as objectives to achieve human and environmental health.

Graphic Design | Craig Terlson | Studies the creative use of the elements and principles of design as applied to graphic communication, and of the use of symbols, pictographs, writing, and letter forms.

Bible and Emotion | Dr. John Boopalan | Asks if human flourishing today is better enabled in allowing the manifestation of the full range of human emotions in religious and public life.

Disruptive Good News: The Church in Acts | Dr. Shelia Klassen-Wiebe | Asks how the contemporary church can learn from and be challenged by the same disruptive Spirit found in the book of Acts.

The Neuroscience of Social Behavior | Dr. Delmar Epp | Explore the neural processes underlying important aspects of our social behavior, including neuroscience perspectives on person perception, the need to belong, intergroup relations, and aggression.

Resourcing the church

Xplore | A lifelong learning program investigating dimensions of Christian faith, our world, and life. Spring session begins February 21, 2023.
Visit cmu.ca/xplore.

Graduate School of Theology and Ministry | Study part time or full time, in person or online. Full scholarships for full time students available.
Visit cmu.ca/gstm.

ReNew | Pastor and church leader conference, happens January 30-31, 2023.
Visit cmu.ca/renew.

"Alongside its theological commitments, we also recognize and value the unique approach to academics and pedagogy that CMU embodies. We value its rigorous, dialogical, interdisciplinary, and deeply embodied way of knowing."

— Letter from Hutterite students 2022

[CMU Video](#)

Report to Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

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 — in person or at a distance, full time or part time — and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

Degrees and programs (* = distance-friendly program)

- Master of Divinity*
- Master of Arts in Christian Formation
- Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies
- Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism*
- Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction*
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies* (fully customizable)
- Doctor of Ministry in Leadership*
- Journey Missional Leadership Development Program* (undergraduate-level, nondegree)

ambs.ca/degrees-and-programs

We offer generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and matching grants for both full- and part-time graduate students. See also benefits for Canadian students: ambs.ca/canadian-students

Leadership and enrichment

Grow your ministry skills and gain Anabaptist approaches to today's leadership challenges through our nondegree offerings. (* = distance-friendly program)

Short-term options

- Online Short Courses*: four to six weeks, discussion-based, noncredit
- Invite AMBS*: request a speaker (in person or virtual) on a topic of your choice
- Pastors & Leaders conference*: Feb. 19–22, 2024
- !Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth (summer)

Yearlong offerings

- Spiritual Direction Seminars*
- Transition to Leadership: program for new pastors
- Integrity Circles*: reflect theologically on leadership within a group

ambs.ca/leadership-and-enrichment



(Credit: Jason Bryant)

Regional church connections

- **Board member:** Terry Stefaniuk, Vice Chair (Osler)

AMBS statistics

- In 2022–23, 141 graduate students are enrolled at AMBS: 61 from the U.S., six from Canada and 74 international students. The undergraduate-level Journey program has 16 participants from the U.S., Canada and Uganda.
- In 2021–22, need-based financial aid and scholarships covered 75% of graduate student tuition costs.
- In April 2022, 14 women and seven men from seven countries — Canada, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Nigeria, Tanzania and the U.S. — graduated from AMBS (see above). Ten completed part or all of their studies at a distance.

Want to try out seminary?

- Sign up for an Online Short Course (no grades, no papers!):
 - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
 - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
 - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture
 - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
 - Resisting Christian Nationalism with the Gospel of Peace

ambs.ca/online-short-courses

- Take a graduate-level course — online or on campus. Nonadmitted students get 50% off tuition for their first three credit hours! ambs.ca/upcoming-courses
- Schedule a virtual or in-person visit. Talk with students, faculty and staff and learn what AMBS has to offer! ambs.ca/visit
- Stay connected: facebook.com/followAMBS • twitter.com/ambs_seminary • ambs.ca/subscribe

2022 CoSA South Saskatchewan

Prepared by Otto Driedger for CoSA SS

"Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly" Micah 6:8

The year 2022 has seen a number of major changes at CoSA SS.

National funding support ended March 31, so the balance of the year was funded by the support from MCC, MC Sask., and the Roman Catholic communities as per usual, and from reserves that were tapped. National funding continues to be elusive, so the Board has been developing a plan of operation if no additional funding is forthcoming. Hopefully a drastic revision will not be necessary, but one must plan.

With regard to personnel, Niki Shuba had twins - congratulations! As a result, Charles Kooger was engaged on a part time basis to provide staff support. Charles was providing services for CoSA SS in the "Faith Communities Reintegration Project", so it was logical to engage him for CoSA services in that he already was involved, including connections with Sask Pen. As a result, there has been a smooth transition, which has been very beneficial in continuity of services.

Provincial financial support for persons on probation and on 810's has been discontinued so that has further limited financial support for services.

At the end of 2022, we had 15 core members in Circles. The number of new circles has been limited, partially due to the results of COVID. There have been a number of new volunteers.

We continue to have regular Steering Committee meetings, generally once a month to share developments in the circles. The Steering Committee includes representatives from parole, probation, police, circles and CoSA staff. It is a good venue to communicate, share issues and experiences in dealing with issues, and nurturing continued relationships and trust as well as reviewing the work of circles. Peter Peters has been chairing the committee from its beginnings. Thanks for your continued commitment.

Our lease on office space expired in the Fall. We arranged alternative office space at Sunset United Church which reduced the cost. We appreciate Sunset's willingness to have us in their space. The pastor is a strong supporter of CoSA and has been involved in a Circle when he was pastor in Moose Jaw.

We sincerely appreciate the continuing support of MCC and MC Sask. Support from faith and community groups is essential, not only in terms of finances, but also in terms of volunteers and community acceptance of persons returning to the community.

We look forward to continued support and would very much welcome increased support!



How is the Micah Mission rooted in good soil?

In 2009, the fertile soils of MC Sask, MCC and Community Chaplaincy were mixed together, fertilized and watered to bring forth the tree that is now Micah. Today, MC Sask and MCC continue to provide nutrients to Micah through financial supports, volunteers and resources.

The Community Chaplaincy soil has changed significantly, but its soil continues to bear fruit in the Ecumenical and government supports we receive and involvement we have on our board and volunteers. We continue to seek out more faith communities to join us in the work of reintegration by supporting released offenders who are also seeking good soil.

This year we added an abundance of fertile soil from the University of Saskatchewan in the form of 20+ students interested in volunteering their time with us. Imagine that, University students, some with families, some working part-time jobs, having the time to volunteer! It's great! And bearing fruit.

We have also lost some good soil due to the erosion of government projects. We have survived (for now) the ending of the CoSA National Capacity Project and the significant funding that came with it.

We long for the days when we had what seemed to be unlimited funds – funds which allowed us to comfortably go about our daily tasks in the midst of sometimes uncomfortable conversations with persons who have offended sexually. Now we seek to discern whether there is sufficient fertile soil and funding for our programs to carry on and what needs to change in order for that to happen.

We are thankful to the soil of churches and individuals who include us in their financial giving, particularly those who shared their “Moe” bucks with us, and the initiative by Wildwood Mennonite Church to encourage people to do so.

We invite your prayers, your donations, your participation and your direction as we seek to ensure we continue to have good soil in which to grow.



Back on solid soil(?) for a feast of burgers (but no fish!) after a fun, but hot, day of fishing.

Submitted by Dave Feick, Executive Director



Rooted in Good Soil: Resourcing the Rural Church

This year has been a great experience of learning and growth for our organization. We have had the chance to be stretched and shaped in new ways in ways that could not have been foreseen. At the start of 2022, the pandemic was still surging, and our programs were still being hampered by the restrictions. We have faced a few major challenges such as the CoSA federal funding project ending in March and then quickly learning how to be innovative stewards of the surprising gifts that God has given. At the same time our board and staff were completing a yearlong sustainability coaching process. Ending the year, we still have challenges, but I believe we have grown in our resilience and learned to lean into our faith in the knowledge that we will indeed surface from any waves that may come our way.

Grace Mennonite Church concluded their service to the Prince Albert region in January 2022. Parkland Restorative Justice board and staff mourned with, and then celebrated alongside Grace MC leadership as it was announced that they had chosen to cement their long-term legacy by gifting the church building to us. What a tremendous gift!! The small beginnings of this rural church, bely the tremendous impact in the community and region where they were planted years ago. Those deep roots continue to be the base from which many lives will be impacted for years to come.

As the final date of the 5-year CoSA federal funding project loomed ahead on March 31, 2022, we became resigned to the fact that we needed to start making other plans to supplement our reintegration portfolio. We were very fortunate to be approved for a one-year grant from the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan. It has allowed us some time to further lobby federal and provincial governments in the hope of restoring the funding for the highly effective CoSA program as well as continue to employ Seth Michael as coordinator of our reintegration programming. We are disappointed that as of this date, any promise of CoSA funding being restored has not been received and so we continue the search for alternative sources. Pastor Seth and I were able to work together and manage to move forward with CoSA-style reintegration supports after the end of the official CoSA project while still navigating Covid outbreaks and the resulting lack of parole referrals.

In May, the board of Parkland Restorative Justice accepted the gift of ownership of the Grace Mennonite Church property with the end goal of spending the next year investigating the potential of establishing a sustainable mission space for restorative justice initiatives. We learned much about the process with the City of Prince Albert through conversations around property assessment and zoning. We continue to discern the usage and sustainability of the property at the time of this report.

It was very joyful to have the first visits of Person to Person take place in September, after being on pandemic hiatus for 2 ½ years! We had maintained connections as much as possible through various means, but those first in person visits were full of joyful mini-reunions as long-term volunteers came together with their inmate/friends. Saskatchewan Penitentiary has had many changes in staffing and security protocols which has made organizing P2P feel like we are starting from scratch! I am thankful for the flexibility and assistance of staff and volunteers as we navigate the new normal.

PRJ Director Kerry Reimer
January 2023

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



In mid-November I attended a workshop in Mennonite Church Eastern Canada entitled the "Wheat and Weeds Challenge." Presenter Robert (Jack) Suderman, former General Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada asked us the question "why?" Why do we go to all this effort to gather as faith communities? Why do we think that any effort on our part is going to change the trajectory of this world?

With the ongoing difficulties of the pandemic, record high inflation, and instability in our health care and education systems, it's easy to frame church as just another bottomless pit sucking away our time and energy. Also tugging on our heart strings are the ongoing discoveries of unmarked graves found at Indian Residential School sites, the war in Ukraine, climate crisis. It can all get overwhelming.

Indeed, listening only to the news suggests our efforts are not changing the trajectory of the world at all. But despair not! Jesus' first words in the gospel of Mark are, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe the good news." In other words, "Change your minds, refocus, the reign of God is arriving!"

I want to share with you some of this good news — news you won't learn from the major networks in their year-end highlight reels of 2022.

Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong overcame several hurdles with visa issues to serve Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia with their teaching gifts. We are again dipping our toes into youth service opportunities, with Sarah Wood helping teach English to children in Thailand under the guidance of Tom and Christine Poovong. Bock Ki Kim (Sook Kyoung Park) facilitated peaceful conflict resolution for 18 middle school classes in a Seoul school. Gerald and Rie Neufeld are in Japan to reconnect and revitalize churches there. Nor will you find news about how the Palestine Israel Network, with representatives from four regional churches, are hosting speakers to challenge beliefs about living in that part of the world.

No radio stations will report that our church regions are embracing the journey of reconciliation with Indigenous

peoples and eco-harm with the help of the newly appointed Jonathan Neufeld (Indigenous Relations Coordinator), and Sandy Plett (Climate Action Coordinator).



Indigenous elder Jerlina (centre) speaks to Dann Nor will they and Joji Pantoja, Witness workers in the Philippines. review Neil and Edith von Gunten's book of uplifting stories of learning from and with Indigenous peoples in their four-plus decades of ministry with MC Canada (*WalkingTogether*).

You won't see news on any major TV networks that CommonWord this year has enriched the lives of thousands with over 25,000 sales, loans, and downloads of resources, equipping more and more people to bring good news.

Our Mennonite Church Canada statement of purpose and identity reminds us of our calling. "God calls, equips and sends the church to engage the world with the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Because of this, all that you will read in the pages following, all that you will read about CommonWord, Indigenous Relations, International Witness, Climate Action and what you will read in the work of your Regional Churches are anchored in these words. What you will see and hear at your regional AGM's will also reflect these words.

May you be encouraged to imagine your life and the life of your congregation in the future of God's coming reign.

Doug Klassen
Executive Minister



[MC Canada Executive Minister Update Video](#)



CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

CommonWord is your bookstore and resource centre, a nationwide ministry of Mennonite Church Canada and Canadian Mennonite University. We are here for you!

Looking for a small group study, worship resource or an inspirational read? We can help connect you with Anabaptist and related materials – to buy, borrow or access online – that inspire, provoke, equip, and engage.

Here are a few services that help make Anabaptist resources accessible to you:

- A website (www.commonword.ca) with over 14,000 materials, easily searched by keyword or scripture text
- Borrowed items ship free – to your home and back to Winnipeg
- Online resources are free to listen, view, download or read
- Retail products are competitively priced

In the past year we have helped worship leaders, teachers, small group leaders, pastors, treasurers, deacons, musicians, other congregational volunteers, and avid readers of all ages, in addition to our regular and Christmas gift shoppers. As of November 23, 2022, we have processed nearly 700 online retail orders, 5,800 in-store purchases, 2,200 loans, and 18,000 downloads. Thank you for your engagement!

What might you find at CommonWord? This only scratches the surface, but here are several resource lists (based on our search filters):

- [Visual \(Type\) resources](#) – In addition to our Print, Video and Audio materials, we are adding visual resources for personal and congregational use. Perhaps you want to contribute to our [Visio Divina](#) project?
- [Parts of Worship](#) (Genre) – This is a large Genre within our collection that includes hundreds of complete worship services and thousands of related materials (calls to worship, prayers, sermons, etc.). We are grateful to partner with Together in Worship in gathering [free Anabaptist digital materials](#). Perhaps you have an original worship resource to contribute?
- [Narrative/Novel/Story](#) (Expression) – Another large collection, including biblical retellings, biography, fiction, and other titles.
- [Lent](#) (Church Season) – Worship, study, devotional and family resources for the coming Lenten season in the church year.
- [Creation Care](#) (Topic) – Includes many resources specific to the critical issue of climate change/action.
- [CommonWordKids](#) (Audience) – Hundreds of illustrated children's books for the pre- and early-reader.
- [Korean](#) (Language) – All resources are filterable by language.

To learn more about how to access our resources and use our filters, please view a [short video tutorial](#) of our website. You may, of course, also contact us directly with any question.

We are grateful for the church and university's ongoing

[CommonWord Update Video](#)

ing commitment to Christian formation. Thank you for your continued trust as we bring you resources to strengthen the church. Please remain in touch by calling 1-877-846-1593 or e-mailing info@commonword.ca. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Subscribe to our bi-weekly Curator email. Embed our RSS feeds on your congregation's website. Keep reading!

Submitted by Arlyn Friesen Epp
Director, CommonWord Bookstore and
Resource Centre
afriesenepp@commonword.ca



International Witness

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?
- Micah 6:8*

Mennonite Church Canada's Witness program is not splashy. We don't often shout about it from the rooftops. In fact, it might be the best kept secret of MC Canada! But in many corners of the world, together with our global family of faith, we are part of a movement that invites people to justice, kindness, and a humble relationship with God. We are witnesses of God's mission in the world, restoring relationships and building peace. As the Peace-Builders Community in Mindanao, Philippines describes it, following Jesus brings harmony.

Building transformative relationships in meaningful ways takes time, takes presence. Witness workers live this daily and consistently: Werner and Joanne De Jong teaching at the Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia, Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park building peace networks and church planting in South Korea, Dann and Joji Pantoja developing peace and reconciliation teams together with income generation, and Tom and Chris-

A HOLISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF PEACE
THE PEACE OF THE CREATOR IS CENTRAL TO THE GOOD NEWS
SHALOM--HARMONY IN OUR BASIC RELATIONSHIPS



- **Harmony with The Creator**
(Spiritual Transformation)
- **Harmony with one's Being**
(Psycho-Social Transformation)
- **Harmony with Others**
(Social-Political Transformation)
- **Harmony with the Creation**
(Economic-Ecological Transformation)

PEACEBUILDING=SHALOMLIVING

Source: www.Peacebuilderscommunity.org

tine Poovong (with children Phim and Joseph) supporting a growing network of Jesus followers with leadership training and income generation in Thailand.

Witness workers are only present in 4 out of the 15 countries where we have active partnerships. A new category of resident bridge builders called "Relationship Catalysts" started officially this year as Gerald and Rie Neufeld moved to Japan and began to strengthen the relationship between MC Canada and Tokyo Area Fellowship of Mennonite Churches. We hope to appoint more relationship catalysts in the future to deepen our relationship with the global family of faith.

After some years of hiatus, Witness has resumed calling young people into cross-cultural internships with Sarah Wood spending six months living and learning in rural Thailand. Serving in a small Christian school is providing her with opportunities and challenges that will build cross cultural skills, leadership capacity and faith formation. Watch for more opportunities in the next year!

Bethlehem Bible College speaking tours brought Palestinian theologians into our schools, congregations, and community in the Winnipeg area. There were also conversations

with Indigenous and Palestinian theologians on issues of land and people. Watch for an opportunity to hear from Palestinian theologians coming to your area in 2023.

Another exchange of college faculty is happening as Conrad Grebel University College and MC Canada signed an agreement

to use some of their faculty resources in international settings. Derek Suderman spent several weeks in Thailand teaching Old Testament courses.

The networks of supporting congregations are important



Sarah Wood

[International Witness Update Video](#)

witnesses to what God is doing in the world. I appreciate the congregations who have committed to these relationships. Several learning tours to Thailand and Philippines this year meant that some of these partners could meet face to face for the first time. Learning from each other, enjoying new experiences and seeing first-hand what God is doing in other places and cultures is an important part of faith formation in our communities. When we see God through the eyes of siblings in faith who are different from us, we get a broader picture of who God is.

Where is God transforming relationships to build harmony in you, in your community, in your world? You and your congregations can get involved with global partners and discover how God will transform you. Contact your Regional Church Engagement staff for more information.

Submitted by Jeanette Hanson
Director, International Witness
jhanson@mennonitechurch.ca



Indigenous Relations

Greetings Church! As a community minister for Seattle Mennonite Church over the past 15 years, I had the regular privilege of welcoming volunteers who engaged with people experiencing injustice. I would often say that they should be ready to be surprised by the welcome and trust that community members would immediately extend. This welcome is rooted in the trust and presence seeded by all the efforts that have gone before them. While they are present, whether it is a day or a year, people are inheriting this trusted memory and adding their own good intentions and actions to strengthen these relationships. We are all just stepping into a stream that has been flowing before we showed up and will continue to flow after we have stepped away.

In that same spirit, I am struck (but not surprised) by the expressions of blessing, gratitude, openness, connection and collaboration I have received – even in just the first few weeks of inhabiting the role of Indigenous Relations Coordinator. It is a testimony to the trusted relationships formed by passionate and gifted people who have represented MC Canada in this way.

I have been focusing on connecting with the Executive Ministers and Regional Indigenous Relations Working Groups of our church in these early days, hearing about common concerns and questions we are facing as we seek to walk the path of reconciliation with Indigenous neighbours. The

[Indigenous Relations Update Video](#)

coming weeks will be spent introducing and connecting with national and ecumenical partners who are aligned with Indigenous priorities for action and change. I am excited to offer myself in this role, adding to the story of respectful engagement with Indigenous communities that co-conspirators now and in coming generations can pick up and continue to embody.

Submitted by Jonathan Neufeld
Indigenous Relations Coordinator
jneufeld@mennonitechurch.ca



Climate Action

The journey to this work as Climate Action Coordinator has been an interesting one! I grew up loving the outdoors, being a thrifty shopper and a gardener. In recent years, my passion for the church and growing concern about climate change led me to explore my personal role in the struggle for climate justice. I began looking for ways that I could lend my gifts and skills to the work.

Through the ecumenical initiative called [For the Love of Creation](#), I started leading Faithful Climate Conversations locally. These guided discussions help participants move through anxieties and experiences of climate crisis and consider ways that they might take action. This work led me to get involved with the Mennonite Church Manitoba Climate Action Working Group in 2021, and now and as Climate Action Coordinator for Mennonite Church Canada.

I hope to facilitate connections between the regions of MC Canada around the important and diverse work of addressing the climate crisis. Across the country, groups within our church families are working at this in different ways. I'm excited to lift the themes and threads of this work into the light, and share them with all of you.

I'm eager to learn what shape climate action is taking in your church, and in your region. What a gift to be able to support and encourage the hands and feet of Christ in this way!

Submitted by Sandy Plett
Climate Action Coordinator
splett@mennonitechurch.ca



[Climate Action Update Video](#)



Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

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2022 IN REVIEW

**WE ARE A DIVERSE COMMUNITY,
TRANSFORMED BY THE LOVE OF GOD,
INSPIRED BY THE HOPE WE FIND IN JESUS,
CALLED TO ACTION BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

MCEC DELEGATES EMBRACE NEW IDENTITY AND PRIORITY STATEMENTS

Over 300 people gathered at the 2022 Annual Church Gathering and enthusiastically adopted new identity and priority statements to guide us into who God is calling us to be. Thanks be to God!

SEVEN CONGREGATIONS AND 25 PASTORS WELCOMED INTO MCEC

The new provisional congregations welcomed at the Annual Church Gathering are Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Québec, Burning Bush Forest Church, Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches, Église Mennonite Agape, Goshen Mennonite Church and The Meeting Place. Meheret Evangelical Church moved to full membership in MCEC. Twenty-five ministers were installed and welcomed into MCEC as ministering persons with a service of installation and a signing of a covenant of ethics in ministry.

ANN SCHULTZ BEGINS AS INTENTIONAL INTERIM EXECUTIVE TEAM LEADER

Beginning in January 2023, Ann begins her part-time role with a focus on supporting the MCEC staff team and to developing a broader understanding of and commitment to the strategic priorities 2022-2027. The MCEC executive council now also begins the process of searching for an executive minister, in order to have a permanent executive minister begin in January 2024.

MESERETE KRISTOS SEMINARY OPENS MULTIPURPOSE HALL

Mennonite Church Canada joined Meserete Kristos Church in celebrating with it's Seminary. After two years of construction, the new kitchen and dining room in the Multipurpose Hall at the Seminary are open! The hall, which seats 1,000 people, is now being used for educational conferences, seminars, workshops, weddings and other events. Thanks be to God!

WE COME TOGETHER AS A REGIONAL CHURCH TO:
ENERGIZE CONGREGATIONS, ENCOURAGE LEADERS, EMBODY GOD'S RECONCILING MINISTRY

AT A GLANCE

MCEC Community of Congregations

- 105 congregations
- 83 full membership
- 21 provisional membership
- 1 long-term church plant
- Worship in 20 languages

Supporting Pastors & Congregational Leaders

- 5 pastors ordained
- 1 pastor transferred ordination
- 3 pastors licensed
- 36 pastors installed
- 3 Transitioning into Ministry (TiM) graduates
- 41 Admin Day participants from across Canada
- 57 pastors supporting each other through 5 online Pastoral Conversations

Supporting Congregations

- Innovate – resourcing to 13 MCEC congregations
- 3 active working groups
 - Truth & Reconciliation
 - Palestine Israel Network
 - Sustainability

Congregational Transitions

- New Provisional Congregations
 - Centre Béthésda Mennonite de Québec
 - Burning Bush Forest Church
 - Église de Dieu Réparateur des Brèches
 - Église Mennonite Agape
 - Goshen Mennonite Church
 - The Meeting Place
- Full Membership Congregation
 - Meheret Evangelical Church

Church Plants

- 3 Online resourcing days for Church Planters
 - 56 Church Planters in Ancaster (Spring)
 - 44 Church Planters in Montreal (Fall)
 - 24 Church Planters in Toronto (Fall)



Left: Doug Klassen, MC Canada, gives Norm Dyck, MCEC, a piece of the official ribbon at the grand opening of the Multipurpose Hall at Meserete Kristos Seminary.

Right: Montreal Mennonite Fellowship on ecotheology retreat reflected on how they would take of the world. This was one of four retreats Wendy Janzen, MCEC Eco-Minister, led this past year.

Mennonite Church Manitoba - Year in Review 2022

Thirty-nine congregations across Manitoba covenant together to be Mennonite Church Manitoba, coming together for mutual support and shared ministry. Five regional churches, including MCM, covenant together to be Mennonite Church Canada, likewise coming together for mutual support and shared ministry. We are grateful to God for these relationships built on trust and respect and care.

2022 was a year of tentative steps into an unknown future for MCM, with all the surprises and opportunities this brings. The easing of pandemic protections but with the pandemic still present, along with political, social, and economic uncertainties among us and around us, have prompted congregations to ask identity and mission questions afresh. Who is God calling us to be and what is God calling us to do in these days?

One result of this reflection has been a greater desire to engage in God's mission for the church. Our new Director of Mission Engagement, Melanie Neufeld, has walked with congregations as they explore possibilities. Many congregations, some with the assistance of a Local Mission Grant from MCM, have stepped out in faith and love to sponsor refugees, open food banks, establish community centres or resource hubs, and more. Congregations have also looked to wider missional involvement through our regional working groups such as the Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity, the Climate Action Working Group, and the Palestine-Israel Network, or through partnering with International Witness workers or ministries.

Our Camps with Meaning summer program was back in full swing, led by Director Dorothy



Fontaine and our full-time Camp staff. Supported by 109 volunteers, leaders in training, and summer staff, Camp Assiniboia and Camp Koinonia welcomed 523 campers this summer, including our Adults with Disabilities programs. MCM also supported five young adults to attend the Global Youth Summit as part of the Mennonite World Conference Assembly in Indonesia, and we supported youth and leader participants from MCM in the Young Leaders Experience at MC Canada's Gathering in Edmonton.

A key aspect of our mutual support as MCM is our care for pastors and congregations. Rick Neufeld retired in March as Director of Leadership Ministries, and in August Karen Schel-

lenberg and Jeff Friesen stepped into this role as Co-Directors. Together they have walked with our 50+ pastors and other spiritual leaders through challenging



Faith and Life Choirs, Christmas 2022

times in 2022, and encouraged 5 people toward licensing or ordination. Kathy Giesbrecht has now had a full year as Director of Congregational Ministries, and she has walked with congregations seeking support in congregational care and faith formation. We are grateful also for the return of in-person church visits and concerts by our Faith and Life Choirs, an important aspect of our congregational ministries.

Who is God calling us to be and what is God calling us to do in these days? This is a question not just for congregations but for us as a regional church. "These days" are indeed filled with uncertainties; the future is very much unknown. Yet as we walk together in these days, we do not walk alone. Jesus is with us each step of the way. Let us draw strength and hope from this promise.

"Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

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

MCA is...

- **12** congregations worshipping in 5 languages
- **900** members and **1300** church participants
- **22** pastors, credentialed leaders, and year-round ministry staff
- **5** regions in covenant as MC Canada, our nationwide family of **225** congregations
- part of Mennonite World Conference, which includes **109** national churches from **59** countries

MCA's Vision is...

"...to be a community of Anabaptist-Mennonite congregations worshipping the one holy and loving God. Joined together in Jesus Christ, we are guided by the Holy Spirit and scripture as we seek to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace. Together we seek to embody Jesus Christ in the world."

MCA Constitution

Reflections on an amazing year!

The headline read, "So long, 2022, let us hope 2023 will be better."

Every New Year's it's the same thing: newspapers, comic pages, and blog posts emphasize the negative as they reflect on the year that was. Lists of the year's top news events are filled with stories of disaster. New Year's resolutions focus thoughts on our personal inadequacies. The turning of the calendar is seen as turning toward a future that couldn't possibly be as bad as what we just went through. It is such a pattern that on January 3rd a satirical news website offered that Canadians were already giving up on 2023, choosing to pin their hopes on 2024 instead!

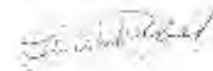
As I reflect back on 2022 I see many aspects that were difficult and challenging. But **I also see so many positives – so many ways God's spirit of healing and hope was present in the world in real and tangible ways:**

- The ebbing of the COVID pandemic allowed MCA's congregations to reconnect as communities in ways that had not been possible for nearly two years. A highlight for me was the in-person **Gathering** of our Mennonite Church Canada faith family in Edmonton this past summer.
- The **calling of pastoral leadership** for Foothills, Holyrood, Bethel, and First Mennonite Edmonton; the calling of volunteers and staff both young and old to the ministry at Camp Valaqua; and the calling of many others in service of congregations and the broader ministries we share.
- The living out of the 3rd year of MCA's action plan: **Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in the World**. As congregations reconnect and reset, many are looking for ways to be more present in their local communities. Globally, International Witness continues to build the church in 15 countries. This includes pastor supports and training in Thailand and Ethiopia. MCA is also funding pastor training for 2 church leaders from South Sudanese refugee camps.
- Seeing efforts made towards peace and wholeness of relationship in a world torn by division, injustice, and environmental destruction. **MCA's Bridge Building Facilitator** is nurturing intercultural and interfaith relationships, while our nationwide church has invested in staff to assist in caring for creation and building relationships with Indigenous people.



As people of faith we long for a future when God's healing and restoration will be made real for all creation. Yet that hope is built on the way we have seen God at work in the past, even through times of hardship and challenge. We see hope shining through in the highs and lows of the biblical story, we see it in the history of the church and MCA congregations, and we see it in our lives in so many ways--even in the year that was.

Throughout all that recent years has brought, the ministries we share as MCA have continued to build the church. As we look back, may we recognize the many ways God has been with us, even as we anticipate God's presence in the future to come. And may we look forward to God's provision, creativity, and inspiration as we seek to be the People God is calling us to be!



Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Executive Minister, MCA



Pastors Council Retreat November 2022

MCA Priorities are...

Supporting Congregations

- 5 new pastors called to serve in 4 congregations
- 4 pastors newly credentialed
- 1 congregation provided financing for an interim pastor team
- 8 students received bursaries for Canadian Mennonite University
- over 30,000 resources accessed through CommonWord
- 4 in-person and 3 zoom meetings of Pastors Council
- 1 Pastor's Council Retreat at Camp Valaqua
- 1 Spiritual Leaders Day at the MC Canada Gathering



Nurturing Connections

- 446 MCA households received the Canadian Mennonite nationwide magazine
- 207 received the weekly newsletter the MCA Communique
- 225 attended MC Canada's Gathering in Edmonton and 50+ attended online.
- 133 youth, volunteers and staff attended Amplify at Camp Valaqua
- 2 MCA young adults took part in the Youth Leaders Experience at Gathering
- 82 attended the MCA delegate sessions in March, while hundreds attended the Sunday worship
- 1 young adult sponsored to attend the Global Youth Summit and MWC Assembly in Indonesia

Celebrating Faith in Action

- near capacity summer camps at Camp Valaqua, and over 1500 people served through year-round rentals
- Suzanne Gross hired as the new Bridge Building Facilitator, to nurture interfaith and intercultural connections
- nationwide programs focused on Indigenous Relations and Climate Action
- International Witness relationships in 15 countries, with huge impact including:
 - Ethiopia, where Werner DeJong taught 150 students at Meserete Kristos Seminary and Joanne preached in chapels and offered community support
 - South Sudanese refugee camps, where 2 church leaders received support to attend MKS to train as pastors for their home communities
 - Thailand, where Tom and Christine Poovong lead 43 worshipping groups and 60 outreach centres

The MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA (MCBC) Story
Submitted to the Nationwide Regional Churches for 2022

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8

2022 has been a year of delayed expectations for MCBC. In September 2021 Garry Janzen announced his plans to retire as Executive Minister around the time of his 65th birthday in July 2022. A fantastic search task group was formed. They did thorough preparations of the understandings that would guide the search for a new Executive Minister. As the search got underway, applications were received, but none of them worked out. Garry extended his intended retirement date, eventually settling on the end of 2022. The second round of searching began in the fall of 2022. Again, applications were received. At the time of writing this report, mid-December 2022, there is hope. Yet, it has become clear that we will not have a new Executive Minister by January 1st, 2023. In response, Kevin Barkowsky will adjust his halftime position as Church Engagement Minister to include being Interim Executive Minister, with expectations that this could be a 3-6 month role.

As we wait for God’s purposes to be worked out, we trust in God’s love to lead the way. God is love, and God calls us to love one another according to this love (1 John 4:7-21). We continue in faithfulness and obedience as agents of God’s love, trusting that as we wait, God’s best will be revealed in due time.

In 2021 a new structure for MCBC was presented to the AGM, which received its final approval at the 2022 AGM. 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 reflects these interests. Our task groups are too numerous to name them all here. We give thanks for our Ministry Leaders: Andrew Haak (Cultivating Anabaptist Vision), Henry Krause (Engaging God’s World) and Isaías Rodriguez (Growing Community). They report on the work in their ministry area quarterly. As Leadership Board members they also help with giving overall direction to MCBC.

As a Nationwide Mennonite Church, we have said that the local congregation is the foundational unit of the church. In MCBC it has been brought to our attention that we still need to figure out how the participants in our task groups can help their congregations embrace the work of the task groups they are in. One of our congregations took a Sunday to celebrate the work of MCBC and their people who are involved. This gave the MCBC Executive Minister opportunity to preach and speak about MCBC; it also gave Task Group and Leadership Board participants from the congregation the opportunity to talk about what they do. Each of our congregations is encouraged to do something like this.

The work that we do together nationwide and globally is represented in our Engaging God’s World ministry area. We are thankful for the partnership we have in order to be able to do ministry that we each would not be able to do on our own. In MCBC we are thankful for the growing connection we are building with Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam. This is a relationship through MC Canada and the North American Vietnamese Evangelical Fellowship and is an extension of our relationship with the Vietnamese congregations we have in MCBC.

The 2023 MCBC Annual Gathering will be at Peace Mennonite Church in Richmond on February 25th; it will also be available for Livestream viewing. We will be having a LEAD Conference Friday, February 24th – Mark Baker from Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary will be speaking on themes from his new book, Centered-Set Church. New information regarding the future of the former Clearbrook Mennonite Church property will be presented at this gathering.

Our congregations continue to seek ways to thrive, especially as we come out of the pandemic. North Shore Japanese Church has not managed to do so, and is closing at the end of 2022. Bethel Mennonite Church in Langley withdrew its affiliation with MCBC as of June 30, 2022. We give thanks for the faithfulness of these congregations.

May we be filled with love in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, and may we find our way to amazing ministry opportunities as we work together in God’s Kingdom activities.



2022 was a significant year for Amity Trust for several reasons, not the least of which was our rebrand. After 51 years as Mennonite Union Waisenamt, and another 53 years as Mennonite Trust Ltd, it was our first year as Amity Trust! This change was well received by our clients and has already opened doors to our being able to help more people.



2022 was also significant as we celebrated the retirement of our two longest-serving staff members, Daniel Unruh, CFO, and Doug Dueck, Swift Current Branch Manager. While it is never easy to lose great team members, both our staff and our clients have been blessed by their careers, and it was great to take time to celebrate them.



With these retirements we were also blessed to welcome Darryl Balzer and Michael Smart to fill Daniel and Doug's positions.

Through these changes, we are blessed to have the deep roots of our continuing connection with our controlling conferences, the guidance and direction of our Board Members who are appointed by those controlling conferences, our staff who have chosen to be part of this work that we do because of their desire to help our clients, and, of course, our clients themselves who are the reason for everything we do.

As our ministry continues to grow, we experienced some new highs in 2022 in funds under administration, total loan portfolio, active estates being administered, and Wills on file for clients, which is fantastic because these are all areas where we aim to help people. Of course, all this work costs more than we've ever spent on staffing, so we were pleased to produce enough revenue to cover all our expenses and build a little capital to help with our continued growth.

We're extremely grateful for the support of our controlling church conferences and their churches. In 2023 and beyond we hope to be able to help even more people achieve some measure of financial peace. If you know people that need some financial guidance, we'd love to help them save wisely, borrow sensibly, and execute sound estate plans.

[Amity Video](#)

A silver anniversary

Thanks be to God for 25 years of publishing a magazine focused on the people and churches of Mennonite Church Canada! *Canadian Mennonite* has been in print since 1953 but under different titles. In 1998, we launched this magazine in a covenant with the churches of Mennonite Church Canada. Thanks also to MC Saskatchewan for partnering with us as we share how God is at work in the Mennonite church family across the country.

After we published our special 25th anniversary issue in October, executive editor **Virginia Hostetler** retired. She had been in the position since 2017 and is succeeded by **Will Braun** who began his work in November.



Will served *CM* as a staff writer since 2012, providing thorough and thoughtful coverage on a variety of topics. In becoming editor, Will said, "Our priority is to connect with the passions and pains of readers, to ask lively questions, to find beautiful stories of faith within our pews and around the world."

Saskatchewan correspondent **Emily Summach** tells some of those stories, publishing 49 articles or photos about the MC Sask family in 2022. **Ed Olfert** also tells stories of compassion and witness through his monthly column. We welcome your stories and ideas. Please contact Emily at sk@canadianmennonite.org.



We launched *CM* events in 2022 to offer a place for interactive and lively discussion on important issues. Saskatchewan was well-represented with Doyle Wiebe a panelist at our October event on Indigenous-settler relations. *CM* events will continue in 2023. Plan to join us! Go to canadianmennonite.org/events.

"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 2022

- **Three** *CM* events
- **Four** digital-only issues
- **22** print issues
- **81** stories and photos from Saskatchewan
- **967** articles about the church in Canada and beyond
- **5,500** followers on social media
- **9,500** subscribers
- **200,000** website visitors



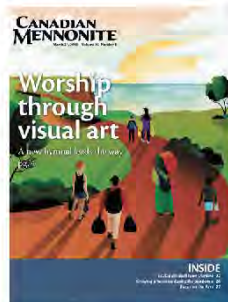
Canadian Mennonite is your magazine for reflecting on faith and connecting with the Mennonite Church Canada community. Through a magazine, website, social media and online events, we share news and talk about the important issues of our day. We are guided by Paul's letter to the Hebrews, exhorting the church to spur one another on to love and good deeds.

With the **Every Home Plan**, people from Mennonite Church Saskatchewan churches 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.

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, biweekly email service
- **Write** letters or web comments in response to articles.
- **Join** an online event (canadianmennonite.org/events)
- **Follow us** on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Church administrators send notices of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths to share with the church family. Send to: milestones@canadianmennonite.org.



“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” – John 15:5 (NRSV)

Thank you, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, for your invitation to reflect upon the soil in which we as MCC Saskatchewan are rooted, geographically, historically, and spiritually. We can’t help but reflect on MCC’s roots in the crisis of a century ago in southern Russia (present-day Ukraine), as we again have witnessed conflict erupt in this region. The terror and trauma of the 1920s came to shape generations of churches, families, and individuals across Canada, including many in Saskatchewan, who a century later continue to bear the good fruit of practical compassion and peace-building in the name of Christ.

The response to the current crisis in Ukraine was immediate and overwhelming. In the first five weeks of the conflict, Saskatchewan donations totaled over \$292,000 for Ukraine relief; in the current fiscal year, another \$200,000 continued to pour in. MCC is grateful for this overwhelming response. The roots of Saskatchewan generosity run deep! At the same time, we continue to meet our targets for responding to conflict and vulnerable communities in other parts of the world, such as Syria, DR Congo, and Haiti. Last year MCC provided emergency food assistance to almost 170,000 people. MCC shipped 38,000 comforters (including 1290 made in Saskatchewan), about 22,500 relief kits (“buckets”; 900 from Saskatchewan), and about 145,000 of the smaller kits (3,237 made in Saskatchewan). Each kit and comforter is fruit borne from faith and compassion deeply rooted in Saskatchewan churches and communities.

Locally, MCC Saskatchewan is walking with some MC Sask churches and individuals as they wrestle with what it means to be rooted on Indigenous land. We supported the development of a new Interpretive Site at Stoney Knoll (Reserve 107, pictured here on opening day, June 22, 2022, with students from Rosthern Community School). We partnered with MC Sask’s Walking The Path group in commissioning the new documentary *Custodians: A Story of Ancient Echoes*. Both the *Custodians* and *Reserve 107* films are important resources that help us explore the challenges and aspirations of our common rootedness in this land.



At the same time, MCC Saskatchewan is working with about 200 volunteers in 50 refugee sponsorship groups to welcome newcomers to Saskatchewan soil. In 2022, as arrivals have resumed after COVID, we have supported 17 households in setting down their roots here.

Finally, we celebrate 50 years of MCC Thrift shops in Canada, including six Saskatchewan communities (with Warman’s 25th birthday, and Saskatoon’s new Village Green). We celebrate Thrift’s faithful and energetic volunteers, whose grassroots efforts raised over \$630,000 for MCC’s work worldwide.

Our full interactive Annual Impact Report, with local and global stories, is available [here](https://mccsk.ca/sk-annual-impact-report-2021) <mccsk.ca/sk-annual-impact-report-2021>. Thank you for your partnership in sharing God’s love and compassion for all.

Grow hope.

Saskatchewan

Grow Hope Saskatchewan started in 2018 as a collaboration between the Saskatoon Catholic Diocese and MCC Saskatchewan to raise funds for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and our respective member agencies – Development & Peace Caritas Canada and MCC Canada. In addition to the goals of increasing support for emergency food distribution and creating long-term food security for vulnerable people, the project sought to build relationships between farmers and urban dwellers, and people of different denominations.

In its third year, Canadian Baptist Ministries also joined the project and together, the project raised \$300,000 last year. These funds are matched up to 4:1 by the Government of Canada each year which expands the total contribution significantly. Going into its sixth year in 2023, the Presbyterians in Saskatchewan have joined the project and the Anglicans are working towards doing so as well.

At this point, six farmers are creating the foundation of the project together with dozens of donors from both urban and rural locations. The project works by having generous farmers agree to donate land to grow a crop for the project. In turn, generous donors help cover the input expenses to grow the crop. After harvest, farmers sell the crop and donate the proceeds to the partners of Grow Hope and CFGB.

The project hosts small public events every year to foster the connections between the people involved. Regular updates are sent to all participants throughout each season. In light of the multiple layers of collaboration, Grow Hope Saskatchewan is rooted in good soil and is a useful resource for rural churches. For more information and see an introductory video click below.

For an intimate look at the impact of this project, below is an 8.5 minute video from a farmer and his family in Ethiopia.

Rick Guenther, MCC Saskatchewan

[Introductory Video](#)

[Ethiopia Project Video](#)

Mennonite Disaster Service Canada **REPORT**

MDS Canada 2022: "We became friends."

2022 was a busy year for MDS Canada. After the inactivity of 2020-21, due to the pandemic, we were busy responding to many needs across the country.

Through Hay West, farmers in Ontario who had good crops supported farmers in Saskatchewan who were threatened with the loss of their herds due to severe drought.

"I want to thank you," said Saskatchewan cattle farmer Curtis Mattson. "I was really up against it. It gave me some optimism to know there are people out there trying to help us."

In August 2021, the White Rock Lake Wildfire in Monte Lake, B.C. ravaged that community near Kamloops. MDS volunteers built four new homes in that community.

"The words don't come for how grateful we feel towards MDS," said Robert Hugh, who received a new home in Monte Lake. "Awesome, fantastic, incredible, that's what comes to mind when I think about what MDS is doing."

Following the devastating November 2021 flood in B.C., volunteers responded in Princeton and the Fraser Valley in B.C. Volunteers repaired 45 homes in both locations.

"I can honestly say we wouldn't be where we are today without your help," said Princeton Mayor Spencer Coyne. "You will never be forgotten. You will always be a part of our community." Added Dian Brooks, who lives with her brother, Danie, in a home that was repaired by volunteers in Princeton: "I don't know a better way to put it, but MDS

helped with that sense of hope," she said. Said Danie: "We became friends."

In the Fraser Valley, Tom Johnstone not only saw his house badly damaged by flood waters, but also lost his wife to cancer during that time. Help from MDS not only repaired his house—it helped him at a dark time.



Shelley Dueck presents a quilt to Michelle and Ted Swanson



Jobin family in front of their house, Barry's Bay

"MDS was there when I needed it the most," he said.

In Barry's Bay, Ontario, MDS volunteers worked with the Roman Catholic Knights of Columbus to help a family with a severely disabled child who needed special accommodation. Prior to building an addition to the farmhouse, the family had been separated so the child could have the controlled environment she needed. With help from MDS volunteers and the Knights, the family was reunited.

"God brought us together in an act of love," said the mother, grateful to be reunited with the rest of her family after living apart with her disabled child for about two years.

MDS volunteers also responded to Hurricane Fiona in Atlantic Canada. 133 volunteers spent ten weeks doing 179 tree clean-up jobs and 28 roof repair or rebuild jobs in Cape Breton. Homeowners were grateful. "It's beautiful what they did," said Edith Ball, a widow, of the volunteers who cleaned up the trees on her yard. Added Johnny Parson, a person living with a disability: "People here appreciate what MDS did."

For MDS Canada, it was privilege to be the hands and feet of Jesus for our neighbours across Canada in 2022. Thanks for your support

—Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations



**Mennonite Disaster Service
Canada**

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mdscanada@mds.org
mds.org



MHSS

Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan

Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan (MHSS)

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 9-person board that reports annually to its 231 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 in 2022:

- We sent out two dozen book orders this year.
- We published 3 editions of our publication, *The Historian*, to 231 members.
- We have an archive of many thousands of documents.
- We have contributed 3,209 photos to MAID which is a North American collection of 70,823 scanned Mennonite photos. Check <http://archives.mhsc.ca/>
- We have a website at <http://mhss.sk.ca>. Or try www.mhss.sk.ca.
- We got a special grant from New Horizons Canada (Federal Government) to collect video stories over two years from people around the province.
- We archive the records of Mennonite Church Sask including the records of closed churches.
- 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.
- We are coping with the loss of archival space at MHSS.

Minutes - 2022 Annual Delegate Sessions
Mennonite Church Saskatchewan
Youth Farm Bible Camp, Rosthern, SK & via Zoom

Saturday, March 12, 2022 – 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

91 persons in attendance; all MC Sask congregations represented: 51 in person, 40 via Zoom

1. **Gathering Singing**– led by Kirsten Hamm-Epp
2. **Worship & Prayers**– led by Emily Summach, Pastor, Langham Mennonite Fellowship (on behalf of Josh Wallace, interim Executive Minister)
 - Lighting of the Peace Lamp
 - Welcome and Story – Mark Wurtz, Youth Farm Bible Camp
3. **Business Session**
 - a. Opening & Welcome – Terry Stefaniuk, MC Sask Moderator
 - Welcome to YFBC – Mark Wurtz
 - Announcements and Guest Introductions
 - b. Adoption of Minutes of ADS 2021
 - **Motion:** Jake Buhler, Osler Mennonite moves the adoption of the Minutes of the 2021 ADS; Seconded: Allan Laughlin, Fields of Hope/Hoffnugsfelder Mennonite. Carried.
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - **Motion:** Dave Feick moves the adoption of the agenda; Seconded by Rachel Wallace, Eigenheim Mennonite. Carried.
 - d. Finance Report and presentation of Proposed Budget – Gordon Peters, MC Sask Council
 - Highlights from Draft Budget (page 15 in Report Book)
 - Explanation of Program Expense of \$20,000 in Executive Office/Schedule 1 (page 16) for consultation and review of MC Sask camping program as a whole; Discussion and questions.
 - e. Nominations: 1st call and presentation of slate of nominees (page 5) - Alex Tiessen

Coffee Break

4. **Plenary Session:** Dr. Preston Pouteaux, Lake Ridge Community Church, Chestermere, AB
5. **Reports and Discussion:** (as provided in the Report Book)
 - a. Moderator – Terry Stefaniuk (page 9)
 - b. Interim Executive Minister – Terry Stefaniuk presented on behalf of Josh Wallace

- c. Pastoral Leadership Commission – Curtis Wiens (page 19); Highlights new resource re grieving the closure of your church (downloadable from CommonWord resource centre)
- d. Ministries Commission – Claire Ewert Fischer (page 18); Highlights the formation of Addressing the Climate Change Emergency task force.
- e. MC Alberta – Tim Wiebe-Neufeld; Invitation to MC Canada gathering in Edmonton, July 31 – August 1, 2022, <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/gathering2022>

6. **2nd call for Nominations** – Terry Stefaniuk

7. **Memorial and Baptism recognition** (videos) - Claire Ewert Fisher on behalf of Josh Wallace

Church closing recognition:

- Grace Mennonite in Prince Albert – Ray shares highlights which include the future distribution of assets to Parkland Restorative Justice organization

Litany of thanks and release

8. **Offering** – to MCC & Ukrainian support

Lunch

9. **Gather & Singing**

10. **Plenary Session:** Preston Pouteaux

11. **Motion:** Nancy Epp, Rosthern Mennonite, moved that the reports presented in the morning are accepted as presented. Seconded by Ric Driedger, Rosthern Mennonite. Carried.

12. **Reports and Discussion:** Remaining reports

- a. International Witness – Jeanette Hanson; Also brought greetings from Doug Klassen, MC Canada
- b. YFBC – Mark Wurtz
- c. RJC – Ryan Wood
- d. Nursing Home Complex – Ernie Epp
- e. MCC SK – Eileen Klassen-Hamm

Motion: Jake Buhler, Osler Mennonite, moved the acceptance of the reports as presented; Ken Warkentin, Nutuna Park Mennonite, seconded. Carried.

Coffee Break

13. **Business Session:**

- a. 3rd and Final Call for Nominations: Alex Tiessen

New nomination received: Kathleen Rempel, Warman Mennonite, for the YFBC Board.
Nominated by Len Rempel, Pleasant Point Mennonite.

Motion: Ken Warkentin, NMPC moved the acceptance of all nominations as presented.
Seconded by Ron Harms, Warman Mennonite. Carried.

b. Budget Discussion and Vote – Gordon Peters

Motion: Gordon Peters moves that the 2022 budget be accepted as presented in the report book. Seconded by Trevor Janzen, Tiefengrund Mennonite. Carried.

c. Approval of Auditors – Gordon Peters

Motion: Gordon Peters moves that we appoint McKenzie & Co. as auditors of MC Sask.
Seconded by Brent Guenther, Nutana Park Mennontie. Carried

d. Thank you, closing comments, adjournment of business meeting @ 2:55 PM – Terry Stefaniuk, Moderator

e. Worship, Service of Release for Ryan Siemens, Commissioning and Blessing, Communion – led by Sharon Schulz

Minutes taken by Christine Epp, MC Sask Council Secretary

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