



REKINDLING RELATIONSHIP

**Report Book
MC Sask 2024
Annual Delegate Sessions
March 8 & 9, 2024
North Star Mennonite Church, Drake, SK**

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Registration available at
<https://mcsask.ca/event/11596>

Co-hosted by
North Star Mennonite Church
Pleasant Point Mennonite Church
& Grace Mennonite Church

Accommodations

Ross Inn, Lanigan

\$90 + tax (about a 10 minute drive)

Call 306-365-2877 or email stayrossinn@live.ca to book

Lanigan Inn & Suites, Lanigan

\$119.99 + tax (about 10 minute drive)

call 1-306-360-9100 to book

Super 8, Watrous

\$157.50 + tax (about 25 minute drive) light breakfast included

Block name MC Sask; Itinerary #5136B430578925

call 1-877-361-2508 to book and mention itinerary #

Manitou Springs Hotel, Manitou Beach

from \$164.95 + tax (about 30 minute drive)

reservations@manitousprings.ca or call 1-306-946-2233

Billeting

A limited number of billet spaces are available.

Please email your request to: mcsaskbillets@gmail.com

You are strongly encouraged to bring your own travel mug for beverages (they do not have a dishwasher and we want to cut down the amount of handwashing they have to do)



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Agenda

FRIDAY

1:30 p.m. – Registration

2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Pastors and Leaders Gathering – Doug Klassen leading

6:30 p.m. – Registration & gathering

7:00 p.m. – Opening Session & Worship (includes Memorial)
Input - Doug Klassen and Jeanette Hanson, MC Canada

- **Coffee & Conversation & Crokinole following the service**

SATURDAY

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. – Registration

9:30 a.m. – Welcome & Morning Worship

- Input – Sharon Schultz (Interim Moderator) & Gary Peters (Interim Executive Minister)

10:15 a.m. – Business Session One

- Welcome/Opening
- Introduction of Guests
- Adoption of Minutes and Agenda
- Introduction and Call for Resolutions
- Introduction and Presentation of Nomination Slate
- Greetings from MC Manitoba – Michael Pahl
- Introduction of Breakout Room Options

10:45 a.m. – Coffee Break

10:55 a.m. – Breakout Rooms

- Pastoral Leadership Commission, Ministries Commission, Finance & Budget, International Witness

11:40 a.m. – Business Session Two

- Camps Subcommittee Update
- Announcements

12:15 p.m. – Lunch

1:15 p.m. – Afternoon Worship

- Input – Josh Wallace (Church Engagement Minister) & Kirsten Hamm-Epp (Youth Minister)

2:00 p.m. – Breakout Rooms

- RJC High School, Elim, Shekinah, Youth Farm Bible Camp (*camps annual report and budget discussion*)

2:45 – Coffee break



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3:00 p.m. – Business Session Three

- Final Call for Nominations
- Resolutions
- Finance
 - 2023 Finance Report
 - 2024 Budget
 - Approval of Accounting Firm
- Approval of Slate of nominations
- Approval of Reports as printed
- Final announcements

3:30 p.m. – Closing Worship (including Commissioning and Communion) Official Closure & Benediction

Logistics

Offering



MC Sask thanks you for your generosity. Four ways you can give:

1. E-transfer to mcsask@mcsask.ca
2. Online at www.mcsask.ca/giving
3. Offering envelopes will be provided
4. Mail offering to MC Sask, 600 45th Street W., Saskatoon, SK S7L 5W9



Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available at North Star Mennonite. However we strongly recommend you download the report book prior to the event.



Zoom Live Feed

We are hoping to provide a static live feed for people to watch. However, *delegates must be in attendance for the sessions.* This will be reviewed in case of bad weather.



Environmental Kindness

- * Please bring your own mug or water bottle
- * Consider carpooling to the ADS
- * Download the report book to your device instead of printing



Parliamentarian

Kevin Koop is our parliamentarian and advises us on procedural process when necessary. Thank you Kevin.



Resolutions & Listening Committee

Charlene Krahn (Herschel Ebenfeld Mennonite)
Patrick Preheim (Nutana Park Mennonite)



Name Tags

When leaving, please place your name tag in the box provided at the registration table.

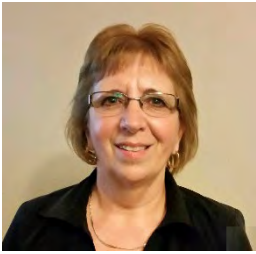


Evaluations

An evaluation form will arrive by email. We would appreciate if you would take a few minutes to complete the evaluation.



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Moderator's Report --- Sharon Schultz

Welcome to the 2024 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions, at North Star Mennonite Church in Drake, SK.

I have recently been reflecting on the past year while I have served as Interim Moderator. I accepted the position with some reluctance but was able to transition into the role with the support and encouragement of so many. With your prayerful support, I have found it a blessing to serve in this capacity. Together, as we have each used our unique and God-given gifts, God has been with us, Jesus continues building His Church among us, and the Holy Spirit has worked through us to accomplish more than we could possibly asked or imagined. (Ephesians 3:20, 23)

As Interim Moderator, and as Council, we are thankful for Gary Peters taking on the position of Interim Executive Minister in March 2023. Gary has been a real blessing as he worked in the office, with staff, Council, churches and pastors, and with our committees, commissions, other connected organizations and wider Church family. Gary, we continue to be so blessed by your cheerful and faithful willingness to serve MCSask and God in this way. Gary will continue as Interim Executive Minister until the end of May 2024.

In November, MCSask Council was pleased to announce the hiring of Len Rempel as our new Executive Minister. Len is currently pastor at Warman Mennonite Church and Pleasant Point Mennonite Church and has been very involved in the work of the larger Church. Please pray for Len as he transitions into this leadership position in early June, 2024.

An important part of the Council's work this past year has been discerning our relationship and governance of our three MCSask summer camps. In spring of 2022 the Council initiated a Camp Study with our three camps and the larger constituency, with the assistance of consultant Tim Nickel of Fifth Business Consulting. Since completing the consultation process, Council set up a camps review subcommittee of Council comprised of Alison Jantz, Brent Guenther, and Christine Epp. This past summer and fall numerous meetings and ongoing dialogue with representatives of each camp continued to inform our discernment. At the Fall Leadership Assembly in November a presentation to attendees provided several draft proposals. Camps were given opportunity to make presentations and all participants were provided with the opportunity to discuss the proposals and provide feedback to the camps review subcommittee. Based on the Study's Final Report, the feedback provided at the FLA, and conversations with the camp boards,



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***“we are
being built
together like
living stones
into a
spiritual
temple. As
we join with
Jesus in the
work he is
doing among
us we offer
up spiritual
sacrifices
that are
acceptable to
God through
Jesus Christ”
(1 Peter 2:4)***

MCSask Council has deliberated next steps and will propose a resolution at these upcoming Annual Delegate Sessions.

An exciting announcement was made by Council this fall about the creation of a new Special Projects Fund. The special projects would be one-time endeavors designed to build organizational capacity, or seed money for new programs within MCSask and other related organizations. Council is very pleased to award our first two recipients in 2023: Rosthern Junior College and Shekinah Retreat Centre.

It the fall of 2023 Laird Mennonite Church withdrew membership from MCSask. We deeply grieve this decision and desire God’s best for them as they continue their worship and work in Laird.

As Council and staff, we are aware that our church membership numbers have declined. This has had an impact on the work we can accomplish through our programs and Commissions. Together, with the Nominations Committee, we continue to seek individuals to serve in different capacities in MCSask. We welcome you to consider being more involved in the Regional Church.

Lastly, I want to extend a special thank you to our MCSask Staff - Josh, Kirsten, Marianne and Gary, to all the volunteers who serve on Council, Commissions, Committees, Boards and Camps, and to our Pastors and church leaders and the congregations they serve, all of whom make up this great family we call Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. It has been a blessing to work together with you.

I am reminded of the Apostle Peter’s words “*we are being built together like living stones into a spiritual temple. As we join with Jesus in the work he is doing among us we offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*” (1 Peter 2:4). We are living stones, part of the family of God. Stones sometimes need to be smoothed or reshaped to fit together with other stones. Being family together isn’t always easy but what a blessing it is to share and work together, in our similarities and differences, growing together in grace, unity and love, and knowing that Christ is building us into a place where God lives through His Spirit (Eph 2:22),

May God grant us wisdom and much joy as we continue to serve together in the name of Jesus.

Sharon Schultz



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Interim Executive Minister's Report

Gary D. Peters

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

The apostle Paul is addressing these words to the church at Ephesus. It is, however, a timeless message which challenges us today. We are tested in many ways to keep our witness humble, patient, and forbearing. In peace we are called to nurture the unity of the Spirit not only within our personal selves but in the structures of the church. May we be attentive to God's call as we serve.

I have been fortunate to have experienced the witness of our church this past year. It has been a privilege for me to serve as Interim Executive Minister and to see the many ministries we support as MC Sask and MC Canada. I have been pleased to observe the dedication and enthusiasm people have given to the life of the body of Christ.

Locally, the dedication of the volunteers who serve on our Commissions and committees has encouraged me. I have also witnessed the dedication, enthusiasm, and joy pastors have serving their congregations. I have been blessed to have participated in the ordination services of Rodney Hennessey at Grace Mennonite Church and Curtis Wiens at Aberdeen Mennonite Church. I was honored to officiate at the installation service of Zachary Stefaniuk at Zion Mennonite. I commend Zion Mennonite Church for making special arrangements to support Zachary as he begins his ministry career.

It has given me hope to see pastors gather for fellowship, study, and prayer during Pastors Day, Pastor-Peer groups, and other groups which gather informally to discuss the joys and challenges of ministry. One group is talking about the challenges the contemporary church has and is asking the question--how can the church be shaped to speak to where people are today?



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*“I, therefore,
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which you have
been
called, with all
humility and
gentleness, with
patience,
bearing with
one another in
love, making
every effort to
maintain the
unity of the
Spirit in the
bond of
peace: there is
one body and
one Spirit, just
as you were
called to the
one hope of
your
calling, one
Lord, one faith,
one
baptism, one
God and Father
of all, who is
above all and
through all and
in all.”*

(Ephesians 4:1-6)

There are also other challenges and obstacles we face. We have numerous congregations whose pastors have resigned and are searching for possible candidates. The pool from which these candidates can be drawn is not large but it can lead to other ministry possibilities. There may be the possibility for more lay and part-time involvement.

I have also had the opportunity to witness the ministries in which the larger church is engaged. I have been filled with hope and excitement when Doug Klassen, Executive Minister of MC Canada has told us about the: the growth of the church in Quebec; the growth of the church in Ethiopia; the peace work accomplished in the Philippines by Dann and Joji Pantoja; and the many other ministries taking place around the world. God's Spirit is active.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as Interim Executive Minister this past year.

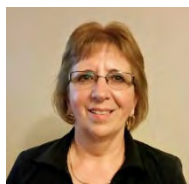


Zachary Stefaniuk's
installation service



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2023 MC Sask Council Members



Sharon Schultz
Interim Moderator
Eyebrow Mennonite
(T2, 2024)



Brent Gunther
Vice Moderator
Nutana Park Mennonite
(T1, 2026)



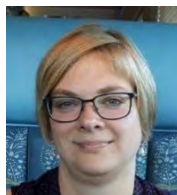
Tim Wiens
Finance Chair
Herschel Mennonite
(T1, 2026)



Christine Epp
Secretary
Wildwood Mennonite
Completed term
(T2, 2024)



Andrea Enns-Gooding
Member at Large
Completed term
(T2, 2024)



Alison Jantz
Nutana Park Mennonite
Secretary elect
(T1, 2025)



Len Rempel
Member at Large
Resigned
(T1, 2026)



Vacant
Member at Large
(T1, 2027)



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MC Sask Camps Subcommittee Report

Following the completion of the *Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Camps Review Final Report* in spring of 2023, a subcommittee of MC Sask Council (Brent Guenther, Christine Epp and Alison Jantz) met with board representatives of Camp Elim, Shekinah Retreat Centre, and Youth Farm Bible Camp to discuss next steps and a path forward with regard to their relationship with MC Sask. These conversations took place with each camp individually, as each camp is uniquely interacting with their own opportunities, challenges, and vision for the future.

Following meetings with representatives of each MC Sask camp, the camp subcommittee discerned next steps for each of the camps and brought questions and recommendations to MC Sask Council. At the Fall Leadership Assembly (FLA) in November, the camp subcommittee made a short presentation to attendees and provided them with an opportunity to provide feedback on four draft proposals:

1. MC Sask will require some or all camps to incorporate
2. MC Sask representation on the newly formed board of directors may or may not change
3. MC Sask will lease land to camps that are newly incorporated
4. MC Sask will support each camp financially through the above processes

Camps were given the opportunity to make short presentations and all participants were provided with the opportunity to discuss the proposals and provide feedback. With the feedback provided at the FLA and ongoing conversations with camp representatives, the camps subcommittee and MC Sask Council discussed next steps and will be proposing a resolution involving Youth Farm Bible Camp at the upcoming Annual Delegate Sessions. The work of the MC Sask Camps Subcommittee is ongoing, and MC Sask Council is deeply committed to the work ahead as we work in partnership with the camps.



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Motions

Approval of Minutes of 2023 Annual Delegate Sessions

MOTION: “That we accept the minutes of the 2023 Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Annual Delegate Sessions held on March 11, 2023.”

Approval of Executive Council Actions for 2023

MOTION: “That we approve all actions taken by the MC Sask Executive Council for the year 2023.”

Adoption of the Audited Financial Statements FYE December 31, 2023

MOTION: “That we accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023 as printed.”

Approval of Slate of Nominated Volunteers

MOTION: “That we accept the 2024 slate as presented.”

Approval of Reports as printed in 2024 Report Book

MOTION: “That we accept the Reports as printed in 2024 Report Book.”

Approval of MC Sask Budget for 2024

MOTION: “That we accept the 2024 budget as presented.”

Approval of Accountants

MOTION: “That we appoint **Davies & Drury Chartered Professional Accountants** as auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024.”

Resolutions

Resolution for YFBC:

MC Sask has limited capacity to own, operate, and support three separate camping ministries. Youth Farm Bible Camp has successfully operated for many years, with relative independence from MC Sask. YFBC has indicated that they would like to be supported by a third party outside of MC Sask.

Be it resolved:

1. MC Sask and YFBC will create an agreement for YFBC to become an independent entity.
2. The new entity will enter into an agreement with MC Sask for the use of MC Sask land and facilities.



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Minutes from 2023 Annual Delegate Sessions

Rooted in Good Soil Resourcing the Rural Church

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

Present: 67 delegates, 18 guests, 32 non-delegates, 6 volunteers & 17 screens on zoom.

Total registered 105 representing All 22 churches represented.

1. **Gathering & Singing, Welcoming Words** – Kirsten Hamm-Epp, MC Sask staff, Josh Wallace, MC Sask staff, Terry Stefaniuk, MC Sask Council Moderator, Jerry Letkeman, Bethany Manor (location host)
2. **Worship & Prayer** – Josh Wallace
Lighting of the Peace Lamp - Lois Siemens, Bethany Manor Spiritual Care Coordinator
Readers Theatre – Wildwood Mennonite Church
3. **Plenary Session:** David Boshart, President, AMBS
4. **Coffee Break**
5. **Business Session:**
 - a. Introduction of Kevin Koop, Carrot River Mennonite, as Parliamentarian / If Resolutions Committee is needed, it will be appointed as needed
 - b. Introduction of Guests & Partners
 - c. Adoption of Minutes of ADS March 12, 2022 ADS (page 47 in report book)
Motion: Jake Buhler, Osler Mennonite, moves to adopt minutes as presented.
Seconded by Gordon Peters, NPMC. Carried.
 - d. Adoption of Agenda
Motion: Bob Neufeldt, NPMC, moves that we adopt agenda as presented.
Seconded Nancy Epp, Rosthern Mennonite Church. Carried.
 - e. Finance Report and presentation of Proposed Budget (page 14 in report book) – Gordon Peters, MC Sask Council.
Presentation of:
 - Non-consolidated Financial Statements for 2022 (separate document)
 - Youth Farm Bible Camp, Camp Elim, Shekinah – Financial Statements**Motion:** Gordon Peters, MC Sask Council, moves to receive these non-audited reports, and that once audited, MC Sask Council will make motion to approve reports. Seconded by Bob Neufeldt, NPMC. Carried.
 - Presentation of Draft Budget for 2023. Highlighted that this includes the full salary for Executive Minister for the year, although we do not have one in place at this time.
 - f. Nominations: Alex Tiessen, Nominations Committee makes 1st call and presentation of slate of nominees (as page 5 in report book). Thanks to those outgoing.



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6. Camp Study

- a. Introduction – Christine Epp, MC Sask Council. Highlighted timeline and purpose of study and that no decision or resolution today. Next steps include working with the camps in planning forward based on the recommendations.
- b. Presentation of Final Report – Tim Nickel, Fifth Business Consulting
- c. Responses & Reflections:
 - Ike Epp, MDS – as an FYI – MDS sees themselves as a servant, not a partner
 - Ron Schellenberg, Shekinah
 - Mark Wurtz, YFBC
- d. Discussion at tables; notes recorded on sticky notes to be gathered at end of day. See Appendix A.

7. Lunch

8. Gather & Singing, Worship, Commemoration and Baptisms, Offering

9. Amendment to agenda – Terry Stefaniuk, MC Sask Council Moderator.

Announcement that there will be an open discussion on camp study after plenary session.

10. Plenary Session: David Boshart

Rebuilding the Bridge: Seven Planks for Relevant Witness

Trust the words of Jesus more than words in the world

Economic Development as congregation-based ministry

Rejecting victim identities in shrinking communities

Theological approaches to healthcare

A theology of food and creation care

Acting as guest and host to the nations

An alternative theology of retirement

11. Responses to Camp Study – reflections, questions from the floor and Zoom:

- Spiritual formation is #1 priority
- Are the camps/MC Sask committed to the spiritual formation of children and youth at camps?
- Concern about capacity to lead/govern
- Thanks to Tim Nickel; consider using his skills moving forward
- Re governance option 1.2 – what does “agreed definition of Mennonite ministry at camp” mean? What and for how long?
- Decisions need to be value-based
- Can the camps collaborate more in the future? Resources, staffing, etc.
- Thanks for the work

12. Reports and Discussion (as presented in the report book)

- a. Moderator – Terry Stefaniuk; announcement of the hiring of Interim Executive Minister, Gary Peters, for 0.5 FTE for 6-9 months
- b. Former Interim Executive Minister – Josh Wallace
- c. Regional Minister – Kirsten Hamm-Epp
- d. Pastoral Leadership Commission – Curtis Wiens



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- e. Ministries Commission - Clare Ewert-Fischer – word missing “not” in first sentence of report on pg. 17 “... include but are not limited to work ...”; thanks to Eric Olfert for his service and influence.

Motion: Audrey Kampen, Nutana Park Mennonite, moves to accept reports as presented.

Seconded by Phyllis Goertz, Wildwood Mennonite. Carried.

13. **Alex Tiessen, Nominating Committee** – second call for nominations. Update: George P. Epp, (Eighenheim), has allowed his name to stand for MC Sask rep on Youth Farm Complex Board.

14. **Coffee**

15. **Business Session:**

- a. **Custodians** video – David Neufeld shares background of the film and invites everyone to a viewing of **Custodians: a Story of Ancient Echoes** documentary at Wildwood Mennonite Church tonight at 6:30 PM.

b. **Report and Discussion** MC Sask Programs & Affiliations

- International Witness – Jeanette Hanson
- MC Canada – Doug Klassen
- MCC, Grow Hope Project (page 44 in report book) - Rick Guenther
- MDS – Ike Epp

- c. Alex Tiessen makes **Final Presentation of Nominations**. Update: Rachel Wallace has let her name stand for PLC.

Motion: Allan Laughlin, Fields of Hope, moves for nominations to cease. Seconded by Gwen Laughlin, Mount Royal MC. Carried.

Motion: Bob Neufeldt, NPMC, moves that we accept nominations as presented. Seconded by Luke Bushman, NPMC/Osler, Carried.

- d. **Budget Discussion** – Gordon Peters, MC Sask Council

Motion: Gordon Peters moves the approval of the 2023 budget as presented. Seconded by Ike Epp, Glenbush MC. Discussion. Carried.

- e. **Approval of Auditors** – Gordon Peters, MC Sask Council.

We are at the end of our 3 year commitment with McKenzie & Co. and Gordon recommends that the incoming Council decide on the appointment of the auditors to review our books. Note that our books are reviewed, vs audited.

Motion: Gordon Peters moves to defer the appointment of an auditor to the new MC Sask Council, to decide at a later date. Seconded by Jake Buhler, Osler Mennonite. Carried

- f. **Update:** Terry Stefaniuk, Moderator share that re Gary Peters as Interim Executive Minister: the position will be 0.5 FTE for 6-9 months. Gary Peters responds / the voice of God called him.

- g. **Announcements and thanks to Bethany Manor**, host churches – Wildwood Mennonite, and Terry Stefaniuk as outgoing moderator. Marianne Siemens, MC Sask Office Administrator.

- h. **Terry Stefaniuk – closing comments.** Request for hosts for 2024 ADS .Business portion of day closed.

16. **Worship: Commissioning, Communion and Blessing** – led by MC Sask staff.

Minutes taken by Christine Epp, MC Sask Council Secretary



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Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Council 2023 Motions & Resolutions

January 2023

1. **Adoption** of Minutes – Minutes of November 22, 2022, Council Meeting adopted by consensus.

February 28, 2023, Council Meeting Resolutions

1. **Adoption** of Minutes of January 10, 2023, with change: Curtis Wiens will be asked to join Personnel committee, not be Chair of Search Committee. Adoption of notes from February 7, 2023, meeting re camp study.

2. **Motion:** Gordon Peters moved that the 2023 Budget, as updated, be presented at the ADS on March 11, 2023. Seconded by Glenn Sawatzky. Carried.

3. **Decision** was made by Council, by consensus, as follows:

The Search Committee will be dissolved, effective immediately and two additional seats will be added on the Personnel Committee, to be filled on an ad hoc basis, when the need for a personnel search arises or other personnel issues deems this necessary and beneficial.

This arrangement will allow the Personnel Committee to solicit the participation and expertise of individuals whom they deem well suited to the demands of a specific search or personnel related issue. The individuals filling the two ad hoc seats may be allowed to take on leadership roles within the de facto search committee, as appointed by the Personnel Committee Chair.

4. **Affirmed** Mennonite World Conference funding model as proposed. We will communicate with MC Canada that MC Sask will initiate this fundraising, budget for it, and forward all those funds.

April 18, 2023, Council Meeting Resolutions

1. **Motion:** Tim Wiens moved that the Financial Statements, as presented at ADS, be approved. Brent Guenther seconded. Carried.

2. **Decision:** A Finance Committee of Council will be formed, as advisory to Council Finance Chair. Len Rempel will join.

3. **Motion:** Christine Epp moves that Tim Wiens is granted signing authority for all financial transactions for MC Sask. Seconded by Len Rempel. Carried.

4. **Affirmation of Appointment:** Tim Wiens has consented to be the Council rep to the RJC Board.

5. **Affirmation:** Two new members from Council are needed for the Personnel Committee. As per bylaws, Sharon Schultz, Interim Moderator, and Tim Wiens, as Finance Chair, will sit on Personnel Committee. Already on the committee is PLC reps Lisa Martens Bartel and Patty Friesen.



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May 17, 2023, Council Meeting Resolutions

1. **Adoption of Minutes:** The minutes of April 18, 2023, are adopted with one spelling correction noted.
2. **Motion:** Tim Wiens moves that the MC Sask Financial Policy be approved, as presented, with one amendment that a minimum balance \$50,000 remain in the Special Projects fund. Seconded by Len Rempel. Carried.
3. **Affirmation of Appointment:** Brent Guenther will accept the position of Deputy Moderator.
4. **Affirmation re Camp Study:** Council affirmed that this work and the process is very important, and we will proceed with a commitment to communication and relationship building. The next steps include: meet with Tim Nickel, our consultant, (June 19) and explore our next steps and processes. Moderator to send a letter to all camp boards to update them on our discussion.

July 21, 2023, Council E-Meeting Resolution

1. **Motion:** Brent Guenther moves that MC Sask Council work with Tim Nickel, Fifth Business Consulting, to set up a casual or ad hoc consultation agreement, up to a maximum of 15 hours, at a rate of \$200/hour plus taxes, for this budget year, 2023. Seconded by Christine Epp. Carried.

August 22, 2023, Council Meeting Resolutions

1. **Motion:** Gary Peters moves that the Council approve the distribution of education scholarship funds as recommended by MC Sask staff. Seconded by Brent Guenther. Carried.
2. **Adoption of Minutes:** Minutes of June 19, 2023, Council Meeting adopted by consensus.

September 19, 2023, Council Meeting Resolutions

1. **Motion:** Gary Peters moves that \$500 be withdrawn from the SMYO Reserve Fund for Kirsten Hamm-Epp's work. Brent Guenther seconded. Carried.
2. **Motion:** Tim Wiens moves that Council approve the Special Project Funds policy as presented. Seconded by Len Rempel. Carried.
3. **Motion:** Alison Jantz moves that \$50,000 be granted to the current applicant, Shekinah Retreat Centre. Seconded by Brent Guenther. Carried.
4. **Motion:** Tim Wiens moves the Scholarship Policy, as presented, be approved by Council. Seconded by Brent Guenther. Carried.
5. **Motion:** Len Rempel moves that MC Sask sign the CMPS Covenant. *(Canadian Mennonite Publishing Services (Canadian Mennonite) Publishing Partner Covenant with MC Canada and the Regional Churches)* Seconded by Andrea Enns-Gooding. Carried.



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RELATIONSHIP

October 2, 2023, Council E-Meeting Resolution:

1. **Motion:** Tim Wiens moves that the signing authorities be updated, effective immediately, for banking with Affinity Credit Union, with signing authority given to Finance Chair, Tim Wiens, and/or Office Administrator, Marianne Siemens. One signatory has the authority to sign cheques and other transactions on the accounts. Seconded by Len Rempel. Carried.

October 24, 2023, Council Meeting Resolutions:

1. **Affirmed:** Charlene Krahn has accepted the appointment to serve on MC Canada Joint Council.

2. **Motion:** Tim Wiens moves that the Council appoint DAVIES & DRURY CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS as auditors for MC Sask and the camps for the 2023 year. Seconded by Alison Jantz. Carried.

3. **In-Camera Motion:** Tim Wiens moves that the candidate presented by the Personnel Committee of Council be hired for position of Executive Minister for MC Sask. Seconded by Christine Epp. Carried.

4. **Motion:** Alison Jantz moves that \$50,000 from the Special Projects Fund be awarded to RJC for the for the roof project as submitted. Brent Guenther seconded. Carried.

5. **Adoption of Minutes:** Minutes of September 19, 2023, Council Meeting adopted by consensus.

6. **Affirmation:** MC Sask Representative to MCC SK – Karl Martens (Osler)

December 5, 2023, Council Meeting Resolutions

1. **Adoption of Minutes:** The minutes of October 24, 2023, were adopted by consensus.

2. **Affirmation:** Brent Guenther & camp review subcommittee of Council will prepare a draft resolution, communication timeline and present at next council meeting, based on feedback gathered at the Fall Leadership Assembly.



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Individuals highlighted in yellow have agreed to serve an initial or subsequent term

All elected terms are for 3 years

green items are vacant or will be reviewed

Key

T1, T2, T3 Term 1, 2, 3
CT Completing Term
year Term completion

Elected Council, Commissions & Representatives

MC Sask Council

T1, 2025	Alison Jantz	Secretary	Nutana Park Mennonite
T3, 2025	Sharon Schultz	Moderator	Eyebrow Mennonite
T1, 2026	Brent Guenther	Vice Moderator	Nutana Park Mennonite
T1, 2026	Tim Wiens	Finance Chair	Herschel Mennonite
CT, 2026	vacant	member at large	
T1, 2027	Peter Lipmann	member at large	Wildwood Mennonite
T1, 2027	Bob Neufeldt	member at large	Nutana Park Mennonite
T1, 2027	vacant	member at large	
Exofficio members:			
Executive & Regional Ministers			

Pastoral Leadership Commission *Pastor

T1, 2025	Krista Martens		Fiske Mennonite
T1, 2025	Rachel Wallace*		Eigenheim Mennonite
T1, 2026	Ric Driediger		Rosthern Mennonite
T2, 2026	Patty Friesen*		Osler Mennonite
T3, 2027	Curtis Wiens*	Chair	Aberdeen Mennonite
T3, 2027	Lisa Martens-Bartel*		North Star Mennonite

Ministries Commission

T2, 2025	Nancy Epp		Rosthern Mennonite
T1, 2025	Amy Peters		Wildwood Mennonite
T1, 2026	Katherine Penner		Osler Mennonite
T1, 2026	Mark Bigland-Pritchard		Osler Mennonite
T1, 2027	Harry Harder		Pleasant Point Mennonite
T1, 2027	vacant		

Camp Elim

T2, 2025	Colin Zacharias		Zion Mennonite
T1, 2025	Wynn Bueckert		Eyebrow Mennonite
T3, 2026	John Woelk		Zion Mennonite

<u>Shekinah Retreat Centre</u>			
T1, 2025	Lori Wieler-Thiessen		Nutana Park Mennonite
T1, 2026	Julie Bergen		Osler Mennonite
T3, 2027	Mike Neufeld		
T3, 2027	Audrey Kampen		Nutana Park Mennonite
<u>Youth Farm Bible Camp</u>			
CT, 2025	vacant		
T1, 2026	Ric Driediger		Rosthern Mennonite
T1, 2027	vacant		
<u>Youth Farm Complex Board</u>			
T1, 2025	Gerhard Luitjens		Rosthern Mennonite
T1, 2025	Kathleen Rempel		Warman/Pleasant Point Mennonite
T1, 2025	Linda Swab		Eigenheim Mennonite
T1, 2026	George P. Epp		Eigenheim Mennonite
T2, 2026	Gwen Laughlin		Mount Royal Mennonite
T1, 2026	Edith Regier		Rosthern Mennonite
T2, 2027	Trevor Siemens		Mount Royal Mennonite
T1, 2027	Terry Stefaniuk		Osler Mennonite
T1, 2027	Joy Kroeger		Mount Royal Mennonite
<u>Non Elected Positions (Appointed by MC Sask Council)</u>			
<u>MC Sask Personnel Committee</u>			
	Sharon Schultz	Council	Eyebrow Mennonite
	Tim Wiens	Council	Herschel Ebenfeld Mennonite
	Patty Friesen	PLC	Osler Mennonite
	Lisa Martens-Bartel	PLC	North Star Mennonite
<u>MC Canada Joint Council Rep</u>			
	Charlene Krahn		Herschel Ebenfeld Mennonite
<u>MC Sask Music Librarian</u>			
	Anna Rehan		
<u>MC Sask Archives</u> (at Bethany Manor)			
2027	Hilda Voth		Wildwood Mennonite

<u>MC Sask Nominations Committee</u>		
2025	Denise Epp	Rosthern Mennonite Church
2026	Krista Nelson	
2027	Vacant	
<u>MC Sask Women's Rep</u>		
	Mel Harms	Warman Mennonite
<u>MCC Saskatchewan</u> Terms change in November		
T2, 2025	Davida Bentham	Pleasant Point Mennonite
T2, 2026	Rachel Wallace	Eigenheim Mennonite
T1 2026	Karl Martens	Osler Mennonite
<u>Canadian Mennonite Magazine</u>		
T1, 2025	Alex Tiessen	Osler Mennonite Church
<u>Amity Trust</u>		
	Charlotte Bueckert	Langham Mennonite Fellowship
	Ian Epp	Eigenheim Mennonite Church
<u>Rosthern Junior College High School</u>		
T1, 2026	Tim Wiens	Herschel Ebenfeld Mennonite Church
<u>Canadian Mennonite University</u>		
	Vacant	
<u>The Micah Mission</u>		
	Nancy Epp	Rosthern Mennonite Church
	Berny Wiens	Herschel Ebenfeld Mennonite Church
	Joe Heckman	Wildwood Mennonite Church
<u>Parkland Restorative Justice</u>		
	Doris Wiens	Formerly Grace PA
	Melanie Knight	Formerly Grace PA
<u>Circles of Support & Accountability South Saskatchewan</u>		
	Vacant	

Nomination Bio's (first term)



Ministries Commission – Harry Harder

Harry Harder graduated from Canadian Mennonite Bible College and studied agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. He served 5 years with MCC in Egypt, Jordan, and West Bank as an agriculturist. Harry served for 21 years as pastor at Pleasant Point Mennonite Church retiring in 2021. He continues to be a sheep farmer. Refugee sponsorship and involvement with new Canadians has been a particular interest. For many years he has volunteered with Micah Mission and visits inmates at the Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon. He is married to Kathe and they have 3 adult children with spouses and 4 grandchildren.



Council Member at Large - Peter Lipmann Wildwood Mennonite

Peter Lippmann has spent 25 years pastoring, 20 years in funeral care, and 6 years care aide for senior citizens. He has been involved in MC Sask for 9 years with Pleasant Point Mennonite Church and currently at Wildwood Mennonite Church. He has been a participant in local, provincial & national Queer Senior Organizations. Peter and his spouse Lyle live in Saskatoon and have a blended family of 4 children & 3 grandchildren.



Council Member at Large - Bob Neufeldt Nutana Park Mennonite

I have been a member of Nutana Park Mennonite Church (NPMC) since 1982. More recently I joined the NPMC Board of Deacons and am currently serving as chair. I had a long career as a Social Worker and Administrator in the Health and Social Service Sectors and at the time of my retirement from government was the Director of Community Service Delivery for Saskatchewan Social Services. I am pleased to have been asked to join the board of MC Sask and look forward to learning more of its issues, challenges and opportunities.



Youth Farm Complex Board – Terry Stefaniuk, Osler Mennonite

It is humbling to be asked to serve on the nursing home board. New experiences and challenges are an exciting aspect of life that should be nurtured. As the population of seniors continues to grow, providing quality care and safe space is becoming increasingly important.

Currently I am in my third term on the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary board (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana. Presently, I am vice-chair of the board and chair of the board Finance and Audit Committee, member of ICUR (Inter-cultural Competency and Undoing Racism committee, was chair until I became vice-chair of the board.)

My past experience includes: Moderator MC Sask., two terms; MC SK Council, council member; Rosthern Junior College, board member and then representative from MC SK; Shekinah Retreat Centre, board member.



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RELATIONSHIP**



Youth Farm Complex Board – Joy Krueger, Mount Royal Mennonite

I am a retired professional accountant (CPA) who spent most of my working life in finance with the Saskatoon Health Region (now Saskatchewan Health Authority). My focus there was primarily long-term care. I grew up in Winnipeg, am a CMBC grad and volunteered on the boards of Rosthern Junior College and MC Canada. I was a long-time member of Hanley Mennonite Church until it closed in 2021 and am now a member of Mount Royal Mennonite Church. My husband and I have chosen to journey with our parents in their final years, so seniors' health care is extremely important to us. As a result, I look forward to serving on this board and welcome the new perspective it will bring.

MC Sask 2024 Budget

The MC Sask 2024 Budget is based on previous year's revenues and expenditures, and we are pleased to present a balanced budget. The MC Sask Council is able to monitor expenditures on a continuous basis. We rely on donations from congregations and individuals to fund our programs as well as a number of external organizations. This budget was developed anticipating that all donations would be above last year's actual amounts.

Revenues are consistent with previous year's budgeted amounts with the exception of Relational Giving, which was down last year. Expenses are slightly less this year. Ministries commission expenses are different due to reallocation of staff salaries elsewhere.

Tim Wiens
Finance Chair



**REKINDLING
RELATIONSHIP**

MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN
Fiscal Year 2024

	BUDGET 2024	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE		
Revenue - Congregational Donations	\$400,000	\$400,000
Revenue - Individual Donations	75,000	75,000
Bequests		
Revenue - Interest Income	2,500	2,500
Revenue - Relational Witness Giving	25,000	40,000
Revenue - Youth Farm Rental	40,000	30,000
Revenue - Other Canadian Mennonite	15,270	15,270
Revenue - Other Coffee sales		1,000
TOTAL OPERATING FUND REVENUE	\$557,770	\$563,770
EXPENDITURES		
Mennonite Church Canada - Operating	\$105,980	\$98,951
PARTNER MINISTRY SUPPORT		
Mennonite Church Canada - Relational Witness	25,000	40,000
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary		
Camp Elim	4,000	4,000
Canadian Mennonite Magazine	15,270	15,270
Canadian Mennonite University	50,000	50,000
MennoMedia		
Restorative Justice Ministries Sask	35,500	35,500
Rosthern Junior College	60,000	50,000
Shekinah Retreat Centre	4,000	4,000
Youth Farm Bible Camp	4,000	4,000
	\$303,750	\$301,721
OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES		
Executive	\$50,841	\$59,855
Pastoral Leadership Commission	46,141	47,450
Ministries Commission	6,250	35,305
Congregational Resourcing	55,300	43,630
Operations	81,350	81,200
Occupancy	13,496	11,802
Total Operating Fund Expenditures	\$253,378	\$279,242
Net Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations	\$642	-\$17,193



Youth Minister's Report, ADS 2024 Kirsten Hamm-Epp

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." - Hebrews 12:1-2a

Dear MC Sask,

This year marks my 10th Annual Delegate Session with Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. It feels like a significant milestone, so in addition to some notes about 2023, this report will also include some reflections on my time as your Area Church/Regional Church Minister/ Youth Minister/ Administrator!

As noted, my tenure with MC Sask has included a wide variety of job descriptions, and titles! Over the years, and maternity leaves, I have served at full-time, half time, and at least two different part-time levels. I have done website development and communications, donor relations and church engagement, international witness and university interfaith work, in addition to that lovely catch-all line "other duties as required."

If you've ever been confused about my title or what I do, you are not alone! And for those keeping track, my current title is Youth Minister and I work 0.3 FTE (12 hours/week). Through all of these changes however, youth ministry has always been at the centre of my work, and, my heart.

While the work perhaps looks a little different than it did 10 years ago, helping youth discover the Good News and learn to live into the love that God has for them continues to be the highest of honours. It is work that regularly feels like holy ground, and has the bonus of usually involving candy and popcorn!

In 2023 this work included classic events like Menno Run and MCC Generosity night, new things like a TRC Reconciliation event and Mega Menno 'Mensch' Matching, and an engaged SMYO Leadership Committee who has challenged me to find new ways for them to be involved! My work as Campus Pastor at RJC High School has been especially life-giving, and I was so pleased to be able to gift the 2023 graduates with a tool kit (with scriptures) for the next stage on behalf of MC Sask.

In 2023 we also bid farewell to Zach Dueck, who left his role at Mount Royal Mennonite Church to follow a new call to ministry in Winnipeg, MB. Zach left his mark on youth ministry MC Sask, and we are very grateful for the time he spent here!



**REKINDLING
RELATIONSHIP**

*“Therefore,
since we are
surrounded by
such a great
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witnesses, let
us throw off
everything that
hinders and
the sin that so
easily
entangles. And
let us run with
perseverance
the race
marked out for
us, fixing our
eyes on Jesus,
the pioneer
and perfecter of
faith.”*

*Hebrews
12:1-2a*

From big trips and events to one-on-one conversations and mentoring, from closing programs (Vacation Bible School) to starting new ones (Mega Menno), each year has been unique, and I am grateful for the ways MC Sask has given space for following the Spirit’s leading as we seek to create and nurture spaces for youth to be part of the Church.

A reflection like this could include a list of people a few pages long of people whom I am grateful to have walked alongside. Youth, parents, youth leaders, mentors, co-workers, volunteers, MC Sask’ers – it really is a long list, one I think I’ll write one day, but this time around, I’m going to limit myself to mentioning two. The first being the Youth Ministry Peer Group. I recently heard in a podcast that if you are lucky enough to call your colleagues your friends, you’re pretty much set for life. I might just be the luckiest.

The other people I simply cannot omit are my fellow MC Sask staff members. I want to thank Gary for his willingness to answer the call to interim leadership, and Josh, who also answered this call in a much-needed time, and who models wisdom and servant leadership and the grace and peace of Christ in gentle and powerful ways that ripple through us, to the world.

And then, of course, Marianne. She doesn’t get to write a report, but this year is also Marianne’s 10th ADS/Anniversary with MC Sask. To have spent the last 10 years working alongside this talented, insightful, and caring woman has been the biggest gift of all. She is the unseen glue that keeps us all together, and she has been the mother hen, watching over us and ensuring all of MC Sask is gathered under the wings of the Church and nothing is lost.

Thank you, Marianne, and congrats on 10 incredible years!

Dear MC Sask, you have walked with me through becoming a wife, a mother, an Interim Executive Director (Shekinah), and have been unwavering in your support of my calling to share my gifts in service of the Church. You are my cloud of witnesses, and I am proud and humbled to have been on this journey with each and everyone of you!

As we continue to discern together where God is calling our deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger to meet, I look forward to walking together with you, whatever the job title may be!

In love,
Kirsten



REKINDLING
RELATIONSHIP



ADS 2024 Church Engagement Minister Report

Submitted by Josh Wallace

In January 2023, I transitioned from the role of Interim Executive Minister back to my work as Church Engagement Minister (CEM) for MC Sask. I can't express fully enough my joy in the return of Kirsten Hamm-Epp as Regional Church Minister at the start of this last year; she and Marianne Siemens, our Office Administrator, offer depth of wisdom and patient skill in helping our congregations work together well anchored in years of faithful service. I was also incredibly grateful for Gary Peters' decision to take on the task of Interim Executive Minister, freeing me to focus on the work of accompanying congregations facing new challenges and connecting us all to the wider work of God's Spirit in the world.

I currently serve as CEM at just 0.3 FTE (= 12 hours per week) alongside pastoring a small congregation that meets in my backyard (and living room during the winter) and teaching courses like Introduction to New Testament and Introduction to Christianity at St Thomas More College. These contexts keep me my work as CEM grounded in the realities of small congregational life, the questions and concerns younger folks are bringing for the church, and ever-expanding horizons of situations longing for God's *shalom* to be made full.

My work as CEM in the last year has focused on five areas:

- 1) Resourcing pastoral leaders. With input from MC Sask's PLC, I organize and coordinate graduate-level continuing education for pastors. While a course didn't work out for 2023, I'm thrilled to announce a course [on decolonizing discipleship led by Elaine Enns](#) coming in November 2024. I also serve on an advisory for [CMU's ReNew conference](#) for pastors. Finally, I represent MC Sask on the nationwide Congregational Leadership Ministers group (CLM), overseeing credentialling and placements, as well as Company of 1,000 grants and scholarships. CLM has spent a lot of energy this last year renewing ethics policies for credentialed ministers. In this next year you can expect new guidance for pastoral leaders, including accountability for healthy boundaries training.
- 2) Supporting pastors & congregations in transition. Both Gary Peters and I seek to walk closely with congregations in searches for new pastoral leadership, in discerning new shapes for ministry, or facing tense questions about congregational sustainability. I also meet frequently with pastors facing new questions or difficult moments in ministry.



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- 3) Imaging a future for the church. I regularly meet with a group of MC Sask pastors wrestling with questions about what it means to be church in the midst of incredible cultural change. Partners like the [New Leaf Network](#) host similar conversations, and programs like [AMBS's Practical Leadership Training](#) and Youth Farm Bible Camps' [3E Internship](#) have offered me glimpses of what it looks like to form Christians and congregations for this future. In June 2023, I joined CLM and regional church Executive Ministers for a conversation with presidents from MC Canada's partner institutions of higher education about the formation of future congregational leadership. In August I drew what I've been hearing from congregations trying out new things in [an article for Canadian Mennonite](#).
- 4) Nurturing national and international solidarity. Part of my role as CEM is reminding us of our connections within and beyond our regional church. I relish the stories I hear in Witness Support Network meetings where MC Sask congregations connect with International Witness partners in [Thailand](#), [Korea](#), [China](#), [Ethiopia](#), and the [Philippines](#). I join in an advisory group to plan the annual [International Witness Sunday](#). I'm also thrilled to take part in MC Canada's [Intercultural Church Steering Committee](#), helping build solidarity and shared life across the mishmash of cultural groups that make up MC Canada.
- 5) Collaborating with what God's doing in the world. I cherish witnessing the reports of the shared work of MC Sask congregations as I serve as the MC Sask staff representative on Ministries Commission. From working at decolonizing to climate action, our congregations are in the thick of what God is doing to bring *shalom* to the world! I heard more stories at events we co-hosted with the New Leaf Network, an April [Learning Party](#) and an October hub for [The Table](#). Since September, I have served as MC Sask's contact person for MC Canada's [Palestine Israel Network](#); these conversations have taken on fresh urgency in the midst of the ongoing war in Gaza. Some of these conversations have also shown up in the conversations of the USask [Faith Leaders Council](#), where I work on behalf of MC Sask supporting students.

My deep joy is joining in the dreams, prayers, grief, and celebrations of MC Sask congregations. I've been privileged to join in worship with Warman MC, Forest Church, Grace MC, Mount Royal MC, Rosthern MC, and Eyebrow MC, as well as speaking at Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship in MC BC this year.

Thank you for the joy of walking with you as CEM this past year. I look ahead with eager anticipation, joy, and a bit of trepidation as we wait for God to weave us each and all together deeper into God's life given for the sake for the world.

Peace and joy,

josh wallace



REKINDLING
RELATIONSHIP

Ministries Commission Annual Report for the year 2023

While every commission of MC Sask is vital to the health, growth and mission of the church, the participants in the Ministries Commission are privileged to witness to God's presence in the world around us in tangible ways. We are passionate about seeing God at work in Christ reconciling all things to God's self. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Ministries Commission consists of Mark Bigland-Pritchard (Osler), Nancy Epp (Rosthern), Amy Peters (Wildwood), Katherine Penner (Osler), Josh Wallace (MC Sask), Jeanette Hanson (Rosthern). Sharon Schultz (Eyebrow) stepped away temporarily as she took on the role of interim moderator.

While the agenda of Ministries focuses on the three areas described below, there are also programs and connections including: supporting hospital chaplaincy, CPT volunteer opportunities, New Leaf Network church resourcing collaboration, support for congregational ministry initiatives. If your congregation is developing ministry in your community, let the Ministries Commission know and they will find networking and resourcing possibilities. <https://mcsask.ca/ministries>

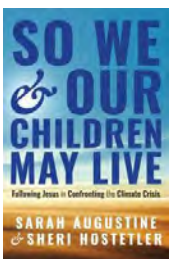


Singing under the Arbor at Muskeg Lake

Walking the Path committee organized several events including "Singing Under the Arbor" with Muskeg Lake First Nation with support from Ministries on August 6. The video "Custodians: The Story of Ancient Echoes" by Rebel Sky Media did very well in the 2023 award season across Canada. Spruce River Folk

Festival was supported by Ministries on August 13.

Climate Emergency Response Team developed a website and bulletin inserts to help resource our congregations: <https://mcsask.ca/cert> CERT continues to network and cooperate with other MC Canada regional groups. Three representatives of MC



Sask attended the Youth Climate Summit in MCM. Lenten and Season of Creation prayers for creation, developed by Len Rempel and some by Mark Bigland-Pritchard, were well received, and used widely. A prayer walk for creation was organized. Registration now open for a nationwide book study, "So That We and Our Children May Live", <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/31851-nationwide-book-study-so-we-and-our-children-may-live>

Congregations connected to the global family of faith through Witness Support Networks and celebrated International Witness Sunday in October with the theme "Knit Together in Christ". Witness worker, Bock Ki Kim, from South Korea visited several congregations in June. International Witness intern, Sarah Wood, was welcomed back from Thailand and spoke about her experiences in several congregations. Participants in a learning tour to Thailand in January 2023 met her as well as Witness workers, Tom and Christine Poovong. Short-term resource worker, Nancy Epp left for Thailand to serve for 6 weeks helping house churches develop English teaching centres as outreach and income generation in their communities.



Mennonite Church Canada learning tour participants visit Pastor Kachen, Tom and Christine Poovong (middle three people).



REKINDLING
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Pastoral Leadership Commission Report for 2024 Annual Delegate Sessions

Pastoral Leadership Commission (PLC) is composed of pastors and lay leaders who work to both credential and resource those involved in ministry throughout our various congregations.



Curtis Wiens

In 2023 we facilitated the ordination process for Rodney Hennessey (Grace Mennonite, Regina) and Curtis Wiens (Aberdeen Mennonite). We also had the privilege of speaking with several incoming and outgoing pastors in the form of entrance and exit interviews.



Carol Penner

PLC organized a few events for pastors to participate in, both in-person and online. John Roth joined us by zoom in February to talk about the Anabaptism at 500 project. Claire Ewert-Fisher guided us in an outdoor bbq gathering centered around prayer in May at Manitou Beach. Carol Penner provided some excellent insight on the theme of worship during a 2-day October workshop entitled "Called to be a worship leader" that was held in Saskatoon. PLC also participated in the Fall Leadership Assembly in November to contribute to the deliberations about camps.

Looking forward to 2024 and beyond, we are engaging in some feedback regarding a new set of guidelines for ministry at the MC Canada level. Some of the changes to these policies will affect how we go about our work and we look forward to seeing how that will take shape.

Thanks must be extended to our representatives on the MC Sask Personnel Committee who put in extra work searching for a permanent Executive Minister: Lisa Martens-Bartel and Patty Friesen. We benefitted greatly from Gary's presence and input during our PLC meetings and thank him for answering the call to serve in an interim capacity. Len, welcome aboard!

Peace,

Curtis Wiens

PLC Chair



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RELATIONSHIP



Camp Elim

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

www.campelim.ca

campelim1@sasktel.net

Camp Elim had a fantastic season in 2023! We had strong leadership in our directors, complemented by a full roster of exceptional staff, that made the summer camp program flourish this year. Our director sought out to make many new connections and rekindle others in the local church community surrounding the lake and Swift Current.

Campers who attended Elim this summer had an excellent, well-rounded experience and were able to enjoy beautiful weather at Lac Pelletier. Our theme this summer was "Built on a Solid Foundation". The days and nights were filled with a wide array of activities, friendship, and fellowship which all helped set the stage for a very exciting summer at Lac Pelletier!

We reached 73 campers this year. We anticipate that our numbers will continue an upward trend in the years to come, as more connections are made with youth in the local area as well as throughout the province. Our teen camp has remained steady as one of our most successful weeks, 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 who were new to Canada to spend a week with us. Seeing the impact of the time spent at Elim on these children's lives was inspiring and served as a good 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.

In 2023, Madeline Ellard was our Summer Director, with Shane Friesen as Assistant Director. Madeline and Shane did an excellent job of planning, preparing, and leading staff throughout the summer. They were a strong leadership team that brought a renewed energy and passion for camp to our program. Both Madeline and Shane had previously served at Camp Elim for many years, which provided Elim with a level of knowledge and understanding that served us well this summer. They recruited a full roster of passionate and enthusiastic Christian staff, cabin-leaders, and CITs who worked tirelessly to realize camp's mission and vision!

The Camp Elim board continues our recruitment of a year-round Executive Director. However, we are well-positioned for Summer 2024, as Madeline Ellard has signed on as Summer Director again next season.

This year, we lost Sigrid Warkentin, a *(re)new(ed)* board member. Erin Weiss also moved on. We are thankful for all of their contributions. We upgraded our floating dock, replaced toilets in the tab, and built a gaga ball pit.

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, gaga ball (new in 2023), 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 foundation 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 2024 has in store!

Future Plans for Camp Elim

We are at a period of transition. We are exploring next steps from the [Camps Review](#) that was completed and presented by MC Sask this spring. A Board Chair is required as soon as possible, and additional board members would be welcomed. 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!

The Elim board is planning for the flooring to be replaced in the main tabernacle in the spring of 2024. 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.

Camper Statistics and Staffing for 2023:

Staff:

Camp Pastors:

Lois Bukar
Kelly Peters
Daniel Unger
Sonya Zabaleta

Directors:

Madeline Ellard
Shane Friesen
(Assistant)

Lifeguards:

Carley Ens
Cecilia Ledding

Cabin Leaders: CITs:

Shay-Lee Arno	John Albrecht
Dalas Cone	Cassidy Evans
Aydynn Cox	Seth Hannouch
Lydia Fehr	Matthew Hughes
Simeon Fehr	Azaliyah Wegman
Claire Ledding	Ella Weiss
Elyssa Martens	Abdiel Zabaleta
River Mulhall	René Zabaleta
Steven Unger	
Mitchell Wiens	

Cooks:

Danna Mulhall	Janet Friesen
Diedra Whitell	Trina Friesen
	Emma Peters

Support Staff:

Isaac Hintze
Tadeo Zabaleta

Manager/Maintenance:

Herman & Esther Wiebe (Seasonal)

Camper Statistics:

Children's 1 - 9
Children's 2 - 9
Children's 3 - 13
Day Camp 1 - 20
Day Camp 2 - 10
Teen - 12

Total: 73



Some members of Camp Elim Staff, 2023

We are grateful to all of the people who continue to generously support Camp Elim through prayer, service, and/or finances.

Camp Elim Dates for Summer 2024:

Staff Orientation - July 2nd - July 5th

Children's 1 (ages 7-12) - July 7th - July 12th

Day Camp 1 (ages 5-10) - July 15th - July 19th

Children's 2 (ages 7-12) - July 21st - July 26th

Teen Camp (ages 13-18) - July 28th - August 2nd

Day Camp 2 (ages 5-10) - August 6th - August 9th

***Campers and staff can apply online! Visit our website at
www.campelim.ca!***

Or, call: (306) 627-3339

*Submitted by: Gilbert Braun, Wynn Bueckert, Laura Grassing
(Interim Board Chair), Carla Phoenix, John Woelk, Brayden
Zacharias, and Colin Zacharias.*



Camp Elim - Budget

Camp Elim Budget Year Ended December 31st	Budget 2024 <i>Board approved Jan 18/2024</i>
Revenue	
Leases /Lease fees	107,000.00
Leases /Dock & parking fees	3,000.00
Leases /Property tax reimbursements	75,100.00
Leases /Transfer & development fees	3,000.00
Camp fees	25,000.00
Donations	15,000.00
Rentals	24,000.00
Fundraising (net)	2,000.00
MCSK grant	20,000.00
Government grant /summer student	32,480.00
Patronage	100.00
Interest /bank	85.00
Interest /overdue lease accounts	1,200.00
	307,965.00
Expenses	
Administration	500.00
Advertising & promotion	900.00
Insurance	13,000.00
Interest (bank charges & LOC)	5,300.00
Linens & supplies (lodge & kitchen)	2,000.00
Postage & office supplies	600.00
Professional fees (auditor)	5,000.00
Professional fees (treasurer)	16,200.00
Programs /summer camps	16,000.00
Programs /camperships	2,000.00
Property tax /camp	6,900.00
Property tax /leases	75,100.00
Repairs & maintenance /buildings	2,000.00
Repairs & maintenance /equipment	3,000.00
Repairs & maintenance /boat	500.00
Repairs & maintenance /grounds & yard	2,500.00
Utilities, septic, telephone & internet	25,000.00
Vehicle /fuel & mileage	2,000.00
Vehicle /licenses & maintenance	700.00
Wages, benefits & workers compensation	
- Summer Director (17 weeks) \$22.00	17,069.18
- Assistant Director (17 weeks) \$19.00	14,732.28
- Cook (8 weeks) \$20.00	7,299.41
- Lifeguard (7 weeks) \$17.00	4,424.84
- Counsellors (6 weeks x 6) \$14.00 min wage	22,229.04
- Facilities & Mtce (5 mos) \$3520/mo	19,053.55
- Workers compensation	1,000.00
	265,008.30
Operating Profit (Loss)	42,956.70
Capital Fund & Reserves	
Repayment of revolving loan principal	1,000.00
Projects & purchases of capital assets:	
Flooring in Tabernacle (Dec 14, 2023 minutes)	23,135.49
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	18,821.21

Shekinah 2023 Annual Report to MC Sask.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

2023 was a year of many seasons and transitions at Shekinah. Summer Camp remains the heart of Shekinah. We hired a new program director, Mackenzie Hildebrand, who started in April. Like some other camps, we struggled to get as many counsellors as we wanted, especially male counselors. We were fortunate that Owen Gustafson returned as camp director as well as several counselors from 2022. The normal progression is from camper to CIT to counselor to Camp Director. Covid is still affecting this pipeline, but it is very encouraging that just over half our campers were in the younger children's camps. This is a promise of wonderful summer camps to come. We are very grateful for the CITs (our future counselors), the Bible teachers, the camp cooks and other volunteers who helped make camp a success for the 122 who attended.

Summer also brought the resignation of our executive directors, Ron and Sue Schellenberg. We are grateful for all the ways they helped Shekinah flourish and for all the relationships they fostered over their five years of service. We recognized their service and dedication at our Very Shekinah Christmas.

We held three great “fund” and “fun” raisers this past fall: a Burger Night in October at Shekinah, a “Treemendous” Time with Trifle at Bethany Manor in November and a Very Shekinah Christmas event in December. We solicited special donations to help us pay off our \$40,000 CEBA loan from the federal government. Small businesses were given \$60,000 loans and if \$40,000 was paid off by Jan. 18, 2024, the other \$20,000 was forgiven. Thanks to the work of the board and to so many generous donations from our supporters, we were able to raise the needed \$40,000.

It has taken some time to hire a permanent full time Executive Director. We managed to continue to make arrangement for interim Executive Directors. We wish to thank Curtis Wiens and Vic Pankratz who shared the job from August to October. Amy Peters worked part time from October to January and we are very grateful for her leadership. As of January, Audrey Kampen has taken over as interim Executive Director. We are very thankful that as of Mar. 4 Sharon Murugiah will join our staff as permanent full time Executive Director. Sharon worked for many years in Sri Lanka with World Vision's child sponsorship program. He has an MBA, a Project Management certificate and a diploma in IT networking. His skills will be well used at Shekinah. We are grateful for this answer to prayer. Please join the board in welcoming and supporting Sharon to this important role in our church community.

Timber Lodge bookings in 2023 followed the pre COVID seasonal cycle with high demand June through September. Our bookings in 2024 are not as high as they were at this time last year. However, we continue to get inquiries on a regular basis, and one never knows how many of those inquiries will turn into bookings. We are fully booked from June 7th to September 1 except for one weekend. We continue to be a very popular place for weddings.

There are two seasons that remain the same at Shekinah. One is the season of miracles. Miracles at Shekinah come in various shapes and sizes: prayers, words and cards of encouragement; financial donations; people who agreed to be interim Executive Directors; volunteers and gifts of food and equipment. The other is that Shekinah continues to be an amazing beautiful place where all can experience “the glory and presence of God.” We are grateful that God has entrusted this part of creation to us and thankful that God continues to sustain us in all seasons.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Goertz, Chair



REKINDLING
RELATIONSHIP

Shekianh 2024 Budget

	2024 budget	Year End 2023
Income		
donations-operating	\$ 62,000	\$ 28,850
donations camperships		
Rental-cabins	\$ 7,500	\$ 6,435
Rental-chalet	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,085
rental-school programs	\$ 35,000	\$ 23,986
Rental-Timberlodge	\$ 256,000	\$ 222,710
Food service income	\$ 100,000	\$ 97,140
summer jobs grants	\$ 21,000	\$ 20,804
summer camp	\$ 50,000	\$ 45,399
Fundraisers	\$ 54,000	\$ 54,814
MC Sask summer camp subsidy	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
House rental	\$ 11,000	\$ 10,000
rebates	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,400
other income	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200
Total Income	\$ 626,700	\$ 539,823
CEBA loan donations & gov't grant		\$ 41,644
total		\$ 581,467
Expenses		
Admin		
mileage	\$ 684	\$ 587
accountant fees	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,889
advertising	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,139
conferences/staff meetings	\$ 400	\$ 292
web site		
membership fees	\$ 1,000	\$ 820
office supplies	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,170
postage	\$ 300	\$ -
prof dev	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 12,384	\$ 15,897
auto	\$ 21,273	\$ 19,367
building repairs/maintenance	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,874
Fundraising costs	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,628
Groceries (food expenses)	\$ 70,000	\$ 88,461
Honorariums		
Interest and bank charges	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,084
Supplies/equipment	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,815
Total	\$ 123,073	\$ 156,229

Payroll			
5350 vacation	\$	8,893	\$ 14,390
Group Health Benefits	\$	10,655	\$ 3,435
WCB	\$	3,500	\$ 3,332
CPP	\$	15,638	\$ 14,163
EI	\$	6,677	\$ 6,035
MC Canada pension	\$	8,578	\$ 4,747
bookkeeper	\$	31,055	
Food service casuals	\$	9,800	\$ 23,179
housekeeping	\$	11,696	
Maintenance	\$	57,389	
Program Director	\$	43,105	
summer camp	\$	50,000	
Hospitality/Admin	\$	23,166	
Ex. Dir.	\$	70,910	
all wages	\$	297,121	\$ 253,031
Total payroll	\$	351,062	\$ 322,312
programming/software			\$ 4,800
Property taxes	\$	22,500	\$ 21,032
Insurance	\$	44,615	\$ 7,731
summer camp expense	\$	5,000	\$ 5,129
Total	\$-	\$ 72,115	\$ 38,692
utilities			
electricity-residence/cabins	\$	1,561	\$ 1,487
electricity-Timber/chalet	\$	11,972	\$ 11,402
gas-chalet	\$	3,394	\$ 3,232
gas-residence/shop	\$	3,448	\$ 3,284
gas-Timberlodge	\$	9,023	\$ 8,593
telephone	\$	6,200	\$ 6,177
Shaw satellite TV			\$ 292
StARLINK satellite internet	\$	1,650	\$ 1,632
total utilities	\$	37,248	\$ 36,099
Total Expenses (without payroll)	\$	244,820	\$ 246,917.00
Payroll	\$	351,062	\$ 322,312.00
Grand Total	\$	595,882	\$ 569,229.00
Total surplus/(deficit)	\$	30,818	\$ 12,238.00
mortgage payment	\$	32,061	
projected total surplus/(deficit)	\$	(1,243)	

2023 YFBC Report

There has been a lot going on at the Youth Farm Bible Camp over the last 12 months! In January we started by driving to San Diego and having our interns fly to Nicaragua to spend six weeks with our Staff/missionary Daniel Wiebe and family. It was great to see how they were able to take in the experience and connect with the Youth Group, kids and families. Bringing hope through Jesus Christ to one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere is one of the many goals. We also want to learn from different cultures and have relationships with others to be a stronger Christian witness in this world.

In April we went on the 14th Mexico Impact trip and had an incredible time building a home for a family that greatly needed it. This is another time to learn about different cultures and find ways to be open to people both around the world and across the street. Our deep connection with Francisco and Isela help to make the experience be one of spiritual formation, relationship building and deep learning. It was great to see how even on the last day of the trip, in the bus, there was so much excitement and energy from the group.

Summer was a busy time with camp, canoe trips, church rental groups, riding lessons, Tabernacle tours and much more. King Jesus was our theme for the year and we learnt how we need to give our full lives over to Christ. It's not just a quick decision but a life long journey where we give allegiance to our King. Jesus is our KING! He is our saviour, redeemer, friend, and KING! Our campers enjoyed the many activities - mega slide, climbing wall, pedal karts, water games, campfires, low ropes, jumping pillow, swimming, archery, sports, cabin time and so much more. It was a summer filled with joy.

Fall brought another exciting season at the Corn Maze. We had great weather and close to 30,000 people came out to enjoy our fall festivities. We enjoy having all the families come to our yard to spend a precious moment with us. We also had the Corn Maze Christmas this year, hoping to start another annual tradition at our camp. Bringing families to the yard to explore the incarnation, how God entered into our world. We also had a new group of six interns start the program in the beginning of September.

For more info, see our Annual Report at www.yfbc.ca/report



REKINDLING
RELATIONSHIP

Youth Farm Bible Camp

2024 Budget

Income

Donations	\$	350,000
Grants		40,000
Program Income		800,000
Rentals		110,000
Horse Program		60,000
	\$	1,360,000

Expenses

Animal Program	\$	20,500
Camperships		16,000
Maintenance		94,000
Mexico Trip		25,000
Office		55,000
Payroll		580,000
Program		240,000
Gifts in Kind		60,000
Utilities		110,000
Vehicles		30,000
	\$	1,230,500

Capital Expenditures		129,500
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Mennonite Nursing Home Complex Report for 2023

The MCSask ADS theme of “Rekindling Relationships” is very appropriate for life and work at MNH. With Covid restrictions in the rearview mirror and new protocols mostly in place, we can again focus on the interpersonal relationships among residents and staff and administration.

Our CEO/Administrator, Mark Hildebrandt completed his first full year with us. During the year, the new Director of Care resigned in June leaving Mark to look for a replacement. Finally, in December, Sheena Ratte was hired for that position. It did mean that we were short a DOC for nearly 6 months. There continues to be a shortage of health care workers in the province, and MNH also feels that trend. Managers and administration are constantly searching to keep a full complement of workers.

God remains faithful and constant through these transitions. With God’s continued care and guidance, and our staff striving to serve God by serving others, MNH is providing quality care for its residents.

The board was able to spend a day focusing on “What are the Duties and Responsibilities of a Governing Board”. Sherry Janzen retired administrator of the Salem Care Home in Winkler provided quality leadership at the event. Her wealth of knowledge and experience were very much appreciated.

You will note that the road onto the campus has been newly paved. What an improvement.

MNH continues to participate in discussions regarding funding from the Saskatchewan Health Authority, directions from the Ministry of Health, and finding our place and our voice in the restructured health care system. The ever-changing regulations and opportunities often do not adequately consider the Affiliated Care Homes in the province.

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



**REKINDLING
RELATIONSHIP**

RJC BY THE NUMBERS:

2023-2024

106	Total Students
58	Girls
48	Boys
37	Grade 10
31	Grade 11
38	Grade 12
59	Day Students (11 Shuttle Students)
48	Dormitory Students
89	Saskatchewan Students
4	Out-of-province
13	International

Percentage of total students:

27%	Students of Alumni
66%	Indicated a Church Affiliation
10%	First Nations & Metis
\$1.5M	dollars in 2023 capital spending (new gym and chapel roofs and school boilers)

WAYS RJC HAS CONNECTED WITH MC SASK:

- Generous support from MC Sask through the Special Projects Fund - \$50,000 toward the RJC chapel/gymnasium replacement project. Thank You!
- MC Sask appreciation chapel with staff & council
- Church choir visits at Eigenheim Mennonite Church (Nov '23), and Mount Royal MC (Jan'23)
- ALSO Guatemala trip reporting at Rosthern Mennonite Church, Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite Church
- Preaching at Warman Mennonite Church and Osler Mennonite Church
- Choir and coffee & conversations visits at Bethany Manor and Mennonite Nursing Home
- Invitations for MC Sask pastors to lead chapels at RJC
- Weekly Faith Exploration sessions/pastor on campus with Kirsten Hamm-Epp
- RJC staff rep on the Youth Ministry Group with other MC Sask youth pastors
- Use of RJC vans for many MC Sask and affiliated events
- MC Sask staff gift presentation during Grad Chapel
- Continued Christian Ethics programming through chapels and classes at RJC

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Songs & Sweets - A Fundraising Concert and Cake Auction	March 10
RJC Singers at First Mennonite MC (Saskatoon)	March 24
CAMS National Music Festival (Winnipeg)	April 17-21
ALSO service trips to SK, AB, BC and USA	May 1-6
RJC Golf Classic	May 25
RJC Musical	June 20-22
RJC Graduation	June 23





Greetings to Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

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.

Denominational Enrolment Snapshot

Mennonite Church Canada: 35 congregations

Mennonite Brethren: 21 congregations

Mennonite (Other): 10 congregations

Hutterite: 7 colonies

Other Denominations: 118 congregations

Small university Big opportunities



Arts | Science | Business
Music | Social Work

For more information and connection to CMU view our **Report to the Community** at cmu.ca/communityreport.

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter **Through this Place** for more stories and happenings at cmu.ca/newsletter.

cmu.ca



Here's a glimpse into CMU classrooms this year

The Art of Preaching | Dr. Andrew Dyck

Cultivates the skills needed to preach effectively by exploring topics like the nature and purpose of preaching, how to move from biblical text to sermon, creative sermon forms, and the power of stories.

Biochemistry I: Biomolecules and Metabolic Energy | Dr. Candice Viddal

Introduces the structure and function of biomolecules, including proteins, carbohydrates, nucleic acids, and lipids.

Adult Development: Aging and Society | Dr. Heather Campbell-Enns

A comprehensive study of aging in individual and societal contexts, including the psychological aspects of aging in society today.

Exploring Social Work Practice | Dr. Alex Sawatsky

Introduces the profession of social work, including the history and theoretical evolution of social work practice through a critical lens.

Ways of Knowing | Professors of various disciplines

This course introduces students to the university by getting them involved in asking a big question alongside other students and professors from many subject areas. Our big question this year is "what are people for?"

Resourcing the church

Xplore | A lifelong learning program investigating dimensions of Christian faith, our world, and life. Spring session begins February 20, 2024.

Visit cmu.ca/xplore.

renew | Pastor and church leader conference, happens February 5-6, 2024.

Visit cmu.ca/renew.

Graduate School of Theology and Ministry | Study part- or full-time, in person or online. Full scholarships for full-time students available.

Visit cmu.ca/gstm.

CMU 2030: Four Strategic Directions

Visit cmu.ca/cmu-2030 to explore these strategic directions in more detail.



Relationships



Program Renewal



Lives



Reckoning... with
life out of balance

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*
- Doctor of Ministry in Leadership*
- Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction*
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies* (fully customizable)
- Mennonite Education Agency Hispanic Ministries – AMBS Graduate Certificate in Theology* (in Spanish)
- 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

- Practical Leadership Training modules*
- Online Short Courses*: six weeks, discussion-based, noncredit (no grades, no papers!)
- Invite AMBS*: request a speaker (in person or online)
- Pastors & Leaders conference*: Feb. 17–20, 2025

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



(Above) In April 2023, 12 men and eight women from five countries — Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, the U.S. and Zimbabwe — graduated from AMBS. Ten completed part or all of their studies at a distance.

Regional church connections

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

AMBS statistics

- In 2023–24, 149 graduate students are enrolled at AMBS: 65 from the U.S., 11 from Canada and 73 international students. The undergraduate-level Journey program has 40 participants in Canada, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, Uganda and the U.S.

Want to try out seminary?

- Sign up for an Online Short Course:
 - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
 - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
 - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?
 - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
 - Biblical Interpretation Across the Two Testaments
 - 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 and learn what AMBS has to offer! ambs.ca/visit
- Stay connected: facebook.com/followAMBS • instagram.com/ambs_seminary • youtube.com/ambsedu • ambs.ca/subscribe

2023 Year in Review (comprehensive)

It thrilled me to read the 2023 year-end reports from staff this year!

The reports thrilled me because of how closely they reflect the themes of MC Canada's refreshed priorities. Though still a work in progress, the priority statements are meant to help staff and the Joint Council define how we work toward our broad Vision: Healing and Hope statement.

The priorities read as follows:

To be a People of God who

- **Pursue God's CALLING** to join in the restoration of all creation.
- **Embrace our COMPANIONS** creating spaces where God's welcome, generosity, and forgiveness are known.
- **Cultivate a CULTURE** as multi-voiced, intercultural communities, empowering each other to live, grow, and share the peace of Jesus Christ with joy.

In each of the priorities, the words "join in," "creating spaces," and "empowering each other" bring focus and definition to how we work at the tasks of responding to "God's calling", to "embrace our companions," and to "cultivate a culture." These words remind me that God intends for us to work together. That we are not alone in our journey to be more Christ-like is happily evident from our work in 2023.

In 2023, the coordination of leadership development was moved to the national church office. Thank you to MCEC for assisting with this work in the past. Al Rempel has been appointed associate executive minister to work with pastoral and church leadership development programs and updating related policies.

In just over one year in the job of Indigenous Relations coordinator, Jonathan Neufeld has been growing our collective capacity to address reconciliation and move toward right relationships with Indigenous communities. Read more in this report about his work in connecting with

reconciliation work in MC SASK, MCBC, MCA, MCEC, Orange Shirt Day events, and an ecumenical initiative to help churches learn about Indigenous spirituality.

Sandy Plett, also just one year into her work, has made great strides in Climate Action. Nine congregations have made commitments to reduce their emissions with support from MC Canada's Emissions Reduction Grant. She also reports that many more congregations and networks are engaging in conversations to address the threats of climate change. Helping to kick-start these conversations are five regional church working groups and events like MCM's Living Hope Retreat.

Jeanette Hanson shares about her work in connecting North American resources and teachers with church leaders in China in a time of tightening restrictions on churches. Similar connections have and are being made with church leaders in numerous other countries to exchange gifts of learning with one another.



Doug Klassen engages with faculty and students of the Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia.

It was exciting to hear from Arlyn Friesen Epp that CommonWord has fulfilled orders for approximately 750 copies of the new family storybook Bible, The Peace Table. It's exciting to see that this connection with MennoMedia will help shape the faith formation of households for future generations!

May you as congregations be blessed in your work together in 2024!

Doug Klassen
Executive Minister
dklassen@mennonitechurch.ca




Leadership Development

In the new role of associate executive minister, I've taken over responsibility for leadership development for MC Canada, which was previously shared among regional church leadership ministers. My responsibilities include the Company of 1000 pastoral development fund, which helps pastors finance continuing education. I also work with the TiM (Transitioning into Ministry) program, which helps new pastors adjust and integrate into the life and ministry of a congregation. In addition, I'm updating important policies that involve leadership calling and credentialing. I invite congregations, pastors, and others with questions about this work to contact me.

Al Rempel
Associate Executive Minister
arempel@mennonitechurch.ca



Indigenous Relations

When describing the pathway of Indigenous Relations, Repair, or (Re)Conciliation, my mentor and friend Sarah Augustine often says: 'we proceed together or not at all'.

Not meant to be dismissive, the statement recognizes that we have a larger call to build a collective movement toward right relationship with Indigenous communities.

It has been a privilege over the past year to witness and encourage varied expressions of peacemaking across Mennonite Church Canada. Together, we embody an alternative to colonial relationships.

I was blessed to join the Singing in the Arbor gathering on Muskeg Lake Cree Nation with Mennonite Church Saskatchewan's Walking the Path Initiative. I can't say enough about this intimate and tender time of sharing music, food, fellowship, and faith around the potluck table.

Mennonite Church Manitoba's Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity felt encouraged when all five regional churches joined a national ecumenical action group in support of searching a Winnipeg landfill for the remains of murdered Indigenous women.

Other ecumenical expressions of learning and remembrance: MCBC's annual participation in the 'Walk in the Spirit of Reconciliation'; MCEC congregations partnering with others in touring Ted and Co's play about the Doctrine of Discovery; MCA members' connection with Indigenous Neighbours through their Buffalo Shout group; regional participation in Orange Shirt Day; my

opportunity to join the Christian Interfaith Relations committee of the Canadian Council of Churches to resource churches' respect for Indigenous spirituality.

Building collective capacity is happening at many levels. Thanks be to God for what is and what is yet to be, as we follow the spirit of reconciliation.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Neufeld
Indigenous Relations Coordinator
jneufeld@mennonitechurch.ca



Climate Action

Healthy ecosystems are diverse and full of interdependent life: what a grand vision for the nationwide church!

In MC Canada, we've nurtured interdependence towards being a Creation Care church.

Leaders of the five regional church working groups on climate/creation care meet regularly to share ideas and encouragement. MCM's Living Hope Retreat gathered folks from across generations and four regions of MC Canada to help us move from grief and lament to action. We went home with new tools for leadership on climate issues. Folks who support youth and children studied In Deep Waters together, building capacity to provide spiritual care for younger generations in a time of climate crisis.

I'm deeply encouraged to see many congregations begin conversations about the changing climate and how the church can and must respond. The network of nurture and conversation is bearing fruit! A highlight of the year are the nine congregations that have taken steps to reduce emissions, supported by MC Canada's Emissions Reduction Grant.

In the year ahead, I am eager to hear how the body of Christ will shine as we find ways to build just practices and share Jesus's message of hope in our communities.

In the new year, watch for an invitation from Climate Action and Indigenous Relations to study So that we and our children may live. And please visit Together in Hope, a new collection at CommonWord specifically curated to support intergenerational action and dialogue around climate issues.

Submitted by

Sandy Plett
Climate Action Coordinator
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International Witness

“While the last few decades have been a time where the church was able to spread widely in China, this is now the season to go deep.”

This is what a Chinese pastor (name withheld) said to me about the tightening restrictions on Chinese churches. He urged Mennonite Church Canada to share its “deep” resources in biblical and theological training in a gift exchange. “God has given you this gift to bless the wider church family. You will receive other gifts from us.”

We received similar encouragement from many parts of Asia and beyond.

Connecting and Sharing

Much of my work involves connecting people with one another’s gifts.

One gift MC Canada can offer is biblical, theological, and discipleship teaching through its ownership share in Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS).

Twenty-five students in the Philippines, Thailand and Laos are studying in the AMBS Journey program, some in their own languages of Hmong and Thai. Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong help by translating material and mentoring students.

In South Korea, AMBS is offering a Master of Arts in Theology and Global Anabaptism together with the Nehemiah Institute. With help from the Korea Anabaptist Center and Mennonite Church South Korea, this initiative will have a long-term positive impact. Another hopeful sign in South Korea: Witness workers Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park are increasingly being asked for training in restorative justice and peace theology.

Nhien Pham, MC Canada Witness liaison with the Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam, continues weekly Bible training online with leaders in Vietnam.



An outdoor Bible training class in Vietnam.

CMU professor Dan Epp-Tiessen taught a ground-breaking Old Testament and Peace course online for Mennonite pastors in Japan. Many said that it changed the way they read the Bible!

Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong work with leaders in more than 100 worshipping groups in Thailand called the Friends of Grace network. They have hosted Old Testament training from professor Derek Suderman (Conrad Grebel), and Sister Care seminars featuring pastoral counselling for women provided by Mennonite Women USA.

Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong support biblical/theological education at many levels for students and faculty at the Meserte Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia

It is exciting to see Colombia’s Mennonite seminary (IMCOL) provide its unique perspective on peace theology in the Mennonite church there, and in partnership with others like SEMILLA, the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary in Guatemala. MC Canada continues to support this work financially.

In the Philippines, Witness workers Dann and Joji Pantoja work with their team at Peacebuilders Community to prepare for the Pantoja’s retirement and a future of sustainable ministry. The team expects to complete the construction of a permanent facility for the school of peacebuilding in March 2024.

Some Asian Mennonite leaders are already planning to gather face-to-face with Witness workers and others for a time of gift-sharing. They will look at the resources available to learn more about how Anabaptism can inform faith in Asia, and what Asian churches can teach us.

I look forward to connecting and exchanging gifts of teaching and learning with more people in 2024. It feels like God is doing something new in the global church. I invite you to lean into these church-to-church relationships and share in this rich experience. Pray, give, and/or join a Witness Support Network. See www.mennonitechurch.ca/witness-support-networks for more information.

Thank you for your continuing support of Mennonite Church Canada International Witness!

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



CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

In 2024 [CommonWord](#) will be entering its 10th year as a combined national bookstore and resource centre. We are in a strong position to move into our next decade.

Over 50 years of service

CommonWord owes its strength to a long history as a university bookstore and congregational resource centre that dates back to the 1940s and 50s. In 1974, the Conference of Mennonites in Canada hired its first Resource Centre staff person. Since then, our ministry has grown in its ability to foster faith development by serving you with Anabaptist and related resources to buy, borrow, and more recently, access online. Watch for further information about our 50th anniversary in 2024!

Our Pandemic story

Since the lifting of Covid restrictions, retail and loan activity has rebounded well. Up to December 19, 2023, we fulfilled over 700 online retail orders, transacted nearly 8,000 in-store purchases, delivered over 2,600 loans, and saw 17,000 items downloaded—all reflecting a year-over-year increase. Thank you for your engagement.

New for You

CommonWord partnered with MennoMedia this past year to distribute a new family storybook Bible, *The Peace Table*. As of this writing, buyers have ordered almost 750 copies. Thank you to Mennonite Church Canada for advancing funds to purchase inventory. Consider ordering yours—for your children, grandchildren, congregation, children ages 6-10.

Staying Current

We make a point of gathering and curating materials on important current topics. Several examples from this past year include:

- » The Palestine-Israel Network's recommended resources on the current war (and long-standing conflict) in the Middle East <[www.commonword.ca/go/3301](#)>.
- » Regional Church climate working groups offer recommended resources under the banner "Together in Hope" <[www.commonword.ca/go/3698](#)>.
- » Indigenous Relations resources that reflect our calling as Mennonite Church Canada <[www.commonword.ca/go/2098](#)>.
- » Materials to inspire, inform and equip congregations

in mission and in partnership with the wider work of the church <[www.commonword.ca/go/2283](#)>.

» Formal regional church conversations on:

- Death and dying (including green burials, palliative care, Medical Assistance in Dying) <[www.commonword.ca/go/3687](#)>.
- The Character of Jesus <[www.commonword.ca/go/1406](#)>
- Church Identity/Vision <[www.commonword.ca/go/2941](#)>
- The Rural Church <[www.commonword.ca/go/3299](#)>
- Hope <[www.commonword.ca/go/1725](#)>
- Vocation/Calling <[www.commonword.ca/go/2285](#)>
- LGBTQ+ Inclusion <[www.commonword.ca/go/3002](#)>

Here for you

We are eager to amplify and support wider church conversations. Discover how to access CommonWord resources with the short video tutorial at <https://www.commonword.ca/go/tutorial>. Or contact us directly with any question by calling 1-877-846-1593 or e-mailing info@commonword.ca. Subscribe to the bi-weekly Curator email updates. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Embed our RSS feeds on your congregation's website.

Thank you

We are grateful to Mennonite Church Canada and Canadian Mennonite University for an ongoing commitment to Christian faith formation. And we thank you for your support as well.

CommonWord is your bookstore and resource centre. We look forward to serving you in 2024!

Submitted by Arlyn Friesen Epp

Director, CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre
afriesenepp@commonword.ca



Staff (L to R):

Arlyn Friesen Epp
Anita Neufeld
Josh Paetkau
AnaSara Rojas

Identity

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
is 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

Purpose

We come together as a regional church to:

Energize congregations

in worship, discipleship and mission

Encourage leaders

of hope, vision and transformation

Embody God's reconciling ministry for all creati

We celebrate congregations and pastors

105 congregations

- 2 congregations transitioned to full membership congregations: Hochma (Montreal) and Shalom Worship and Healing Centre (Kitchener)
- 2 congregations welcomed to provisional membership: Église Jésus-Christ Appelle Tous (Trois-Rivières) and Église Bethésda Mennonite de Saint-Hyacinthe (Saint Hyacinthe).
- 42 years of ministry celebrated with Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship who closed on August 31, 2023.

188 pastors serve as congregational pastors, chaplains and in other capacities

- 17 pastors installed in congregations
- 6 pastors licensed toward ordination
- 6 pastors ordained

We give gratitude for volunteers, donors and prayer

- Over 60 volunteers serve on councils, committees or as board representatives
- Volunteers assist in pastoral credentialing interviews and provide support for MCEC events.

We are excited by ministry throughout this past year

- Church planters met to talk about the joys and challenges of multi-vocational ministry
- Church leaders gathered for workshops focused on connecting to God's creation, intercultural church, medical assistance in dying, becoming a restorative church and more.
- Pastors learn together in Pastoral Circles and Transitioning into Ministry initiatives.
- Youth, and those who work with youth, gather at junior youth events and participate in conversations about youth engagement in the church.

Your support has brought inspiration and allows us to journey together in ministry as we become a transformed, inspired and called people of God. We are grateful.



Shalom Worship & Healing Centre led in worship at Annual Church Gathering.



Transformed by the love of God – 230 met in Kitchener at Annual Church Gathering.



Jr. youth from across MCEC came together for games, fun, worship (and cookies!)

Mennonite Church Manitoba Annual Report for 2023



At our annual Gathering March 3-4 at Douglas Mennonite Church, delegates from our community of congregations began “Re-Imagining Church Together.” We called on God, who is “able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,” to work among us and through us as we began dreaming of new ways of being and doing church in these days of change and turmoil.

Two new congregations joined MCM at that Gathering, even as we grieve the departure of two other congregations this year. Thirty-nine congregations have covenanted together to be MCM, and we are grateful to God for these relationships of common identity, mutual support, and shared ministry.

In 2023 we re-imagined pastoral ministry. Co-Directors of Leadership Jeff Friesen and Karen Schellenberg supported our pastors with a New Pastors Orientation, training on Healthy Boundaries in ministry, and a Pastors Retreat which allowed pastors to rest and be refreshed for ministry. Two pastors were ordained in 2023; another three were licensed toward ordination. Fourteen pastors were installed in new positions, including nine new to MCM.

We also re-imagined congregational health. Director of Congregational Ministries Kathy Giesbrecht developed MCM Mondays, a series of online conversations on topics related to church life and ministry. We hosted “Living Hope,” a gathering of youth and young adults from across Canada joining with members of our Climate Action Working Group to lament and learn about climate change. This fall Kathy began piloting Congregational Check-Ups, an opportunity for congregations to reflect on their life and ministry and so move toward greater health as a community. Woven—our women’s ministries working group—has also been re-imagined, concluding its ministry by re-investing its funds in Anabaptist education for women in Asia through Mennonite Church Canada’s International Witness program.

Mission was re-imagined as Director of Mission Engagement Melanie Neufeld worked with our Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity to host “New Blood,” an Indigenous-led dramatic performance which sparked important conversation among us about reconciliation. She also worked with MCIS and MC Canada colleagues to host a session on land reparations, and with MCM congregations to connect our southern and northern communities. A key part of Melanie’s work has been supporting congregations as they re-imagine mission in their local communities and partnerships with our International Witness ministries. We have also relied heavily on our Palestine-Israel Network since the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas and the subsequent invasion of Gaza by Israel.

Camps with Meaning was re-imagined after three years navigating Covid and public health restrictions. This summer we had 549 campers, including 177 adults with disabilities, who were served by 82 youth and young adults as summer camp staff. In addition, throughout 2023 Camp Assiniboia hosted about 170 groups representing nearly 7,000 people. In 2024 we will celebrate 75 years of camping ministry, and all are invited to join us for this celebration June 21-23.

An important piece of “Re-imagining Church Together” is sharing our stories of what God is doing among us and through us. In 2023 this led to the launch of MCM Monthly, an online newsletter telling these stories of our regional church, complementing our weekly MCM Updates which highlight prayer items and upcoming events. Anyone is welcome to sign up for these at www.mennochurch.mb.ca/contact.

“Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Executive Committee Brenda Tiessen-Wiens *Moderator* Linden Willms *Vice-Moderator*
Doug Wiebe *Personnel* Elizabeth Wall *Secretary* Tim Wiebe-Neufeld *Executive Minister*

As each year draws to a close the celebration of Christmas reminds us of God's presence, entering the world in new ways in the form of a tiny baby. The birth of Jesus is known as the coming of "Emmanuel", a name which means "God with us".

*As I reflect on all that has happened within our MCA faith family this past year, it is so appropriate to do so through the lens of the Christmas season and its affirmation of God's presence. Through the blessings and challenges of life, God has been present in so many ways as we **Reconnect, Reset, and Renew.***

Reconnect:

After 3 straight years of zoom meetings and limited gatherings, **Springridge Mennonite Church** reminded us of the joy of being together in their hosting of the **Annual Delegate Sessions (ADS)** March 17-18. Highlights included:

- 66 participants enjoying the warm hospitality of the Springridge congregation, who made everyone feel welcomed and cared for. They added personal touches to our meetings, as well as adding a Saturday games night and Sunday worship experience for those who were able to stay.
- Guest speaker Joe Heikman presented messages of **"Hope and Trust during a time of Transition"**, sharing stories and scriptures of how we can trust God to be present even during trying times.
- Delegates made important decisions including resolutions, spending decisions, and feedback on priority areas for MCA ministries



In April **A Taste of MCA** brought people together to **Bergthal** church for a spectacular time of food and music from a variety of cultures represented within our MCA faith community. There are plans to host this event again in 2024, this time early in the fall.

Throughout the summer months and through rentals year-round **Camp Valaqua** brought people together to experience God in creation. Highlights were the annual Hike-a-thon and Garden Party in June, and of course the summer program that touched the lives of campers, staff, and volunteers.



In November **Fun and Fundraising** events in **Edmonton** and **Calgary** brought people together where they enjoyed entertainment from a Cowboy Poet to Barbershop Quartet to Jazz Duo and a variety of other musical ensembles; stories of the impacts of MCA and our nationwide MC Canada community of faith; and fundraising through silent auction and generous giving. A **Coffee and Conversation** event in **Lethbridge** nurtured further relationships and connection to the ministries we share.

MCA is...

- **12** congregations worshipping in 5 languages
- **900** members and **1300** church participants
- **24** pastors, credentialed leaders, and year-round ministry staff
- **5** regions in covenant as MC Canada, our nationwide family of **202** congregations
- part of Mennonite World Conference, which includes **109** national churches from **86** 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



Throughout the year **A Window Into** featured the 12 congregations of MCA in prayer notes, short videos, and stories, renewing our connection to each other.

Reset:

At the ADS in March MCA marked the conclusion of the **E3 Action Plan: Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in life, in community, in the world**. While the theme may have concluded, E3 will remain as a milestone on the journey represented by these words as we continue to seek Christ together. Since E3's conclusion MCA leadership has been focusing on who we are as congregations, individuals, and broader church connections that form our MCA faith family. Priorities include centring our faith in Christ as we **support congregations, nurture connections, and celebrate faith in action**.

In July MCA bid farewell to **Steve Guigovaz**, thanking him for his 2 years of service as **Church Engagement Minister**. This role remains vacant as MCA Executive re-evaluates how to best meet the goals of connecting congregations, building relationships with our shared ministries, and generating financial support.

The diversity of cultures present within MCA and our society emphasize the calling to become ever more united in Christ.

- The **Bridge Building** ministry continues to recognize the desire to develop intercultural and interfaith relationships. A highlight included the annual Muslim-Christian dialogue in Edmonton, which featured Indigenous leadership. Other Indigenous connections within MCA included re-engagement of the Buffalo Shout group in Calgary, and the continued work of Indigenous Relations nationwide through MC Canada.
- At the **ADS sessions at Holyrood Church** in March, the speaker Joon Park will focus on themes related to becoming ever more an intercultural church.

Renew:

MCA walks with congregations through the challenges of being the church in today's world.

- Hope for the future has been building at **Holyrood Mennonite** through the stability and guidance provided by Joon Park and Suzanne Gross as interim pastors. MCA continues to walk with Holyrood as it discerns its leadership needs.
- Jerry Buhler has begun part-time interim work at **Trinity Mennonite**. We continue to seek additional pastoral support during this time of leadership transition.
- Pastoral vacancies at **Foothills** and **First Edmonton** were filled by **Aiden Scherzinger** and **Debbie Bledsoe** respectively.
- A small amount of financial support has been provided for **Pastor Mezgebu** to assist **Bethel International** during its post-pandemic recovery.
- Preparations are underway for walking with **Bergthal Mennonite** as its pastor **Anna-Lisa Salo** looks to take on a chaplaincy role in Ontario in the summer of 2024.



Other nationwide ministries include the **CommonWord Resource Centre**; **International Witness** relationships in 15 countries, a Climate Action coordinator working with **Creation Care** networks in most regions, and a **Palestine-Israel Network** seeking peace for all in the Middle East.

Pastoral leadership, credentialing, accountability, and support are key elements of our relationship as part of the nationwide church. An Associate Executive Minister has been hired by MC Canada to work in this area.

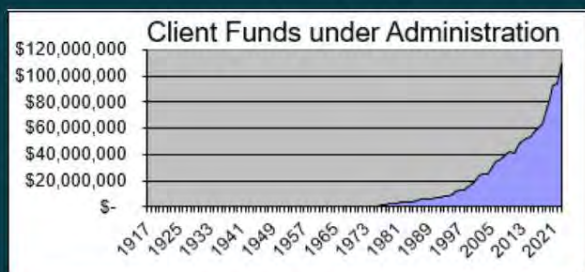
We live in a world in desperate need of peace, hope, and blessing. I pray that as 2024 unfolds we as the church may increasingly open ourselves to Christ, alive and at work in the world, and with it the promise of God's presence, where-ever God's spirit may lead!

Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Executive Minister, MCA

For more information about these and other ministries we share as **MCA** and **MC Canada** check out mcab.ca and mennonitechurch.ca

2023 was another great year of ministry for Amity Trust! We continue to help more people every year in our goal of helping clients achieve financial peace.

A highlight of 2023 was our Hundred Million Dollar Party - Our focus as an organization is more about people than dollars, but, Amity Trust is a financial institution, and the dollars help further the ministry, so, when the big round numbers come, those are milestones to be celebrated.



PICS FROM OUR PARTY!



In 2023, we crossed the threshold of having over \$100,000,000 in client funds under our administration, so we celebrated with what we jokingly called our Hundred Million Dollar Party. It was a fun evening of reflecting on the trust that people have put in us and also dreaming about the future of our organization. We were blessed to have Rev. Dr. Steve Brown join us for the evening and then also the next day of staff training on resilience.

In 2024, we're excited to take a couple steps of faith for continued growth:

- There's always more work for our growing team to do, so when the building next door to our office in Waldheim came up for sale, we were pleased to be able to buy it. We're currently in the midst of renovating it and connecting it to our existing head office. We built an addition to that office just in 2019, but are already out of space, so the opportunity to add the additional space came just at the right time.
- We're looking forward to opening a new branch office in Warman or Martensville in the second half of the year.

We're extremely grateful for the support of our controlling church conferences and the people in their churches. In 2024 and beyond, we hope to be able to help even more people achieve some measure of financial peace.

If you know of people that need some financial guidance, we'd love to help them save wisely, borrow sensibly, and execute sound estate plans, and, if you know anyone that would like to be part of our exciting ministry, we'd love to talk to them as the growing work means a continuing need to grow our team!

MALAWI – The Warm Heart of Africa

CFGB began project tours in Lilongwe on November 13-14. The first project we toured was Children of Blessing Trust (COBT). This is a three year nutrition program for children with special needs, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. The program seeks to increase nutrition outcomes by screening for malnutrition and providing supplementary food and nutritional products. We learned about the PT/OT (Physical and Occupational therapy) programs being done with the children. The project also provides training for the mothers in order for them to supplement their income.

On November 15 and 16 we visited a second program supported by CFGB. The Salvation Army Canada along with The Salvation Army Malawi has an agriculture and livelihood project in the Mangochi area of Malawi. Persistent drought, increased crop and livestock disease and degraded soil have worsened poverty as many households are dependent on agriculture for food and income. Lead farmers were trained in conservation agriculture. These farmers in turn teach the other farmers in their group. The new methods include zero tillage, targeted compost placement and field covers to prevent soil erosion and conserve moisture. Another part of this effort is a goat program. Successful applicants receive 3 female and 1 male goat. Recipients are required to pass on the first 4 offspring to a new applicant and then they can begin to multiply their own herd. The program also includes a lending co-operative. Member dues are used to supply loans to applicants who provide a viable business plan.

We travelled to southern Malawi on Nov. 17 and spent two days visiting projects operated by Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD). More than 4000 people had been displaced by Cyclones in 2022 and 2023. Crops were destroyed and livestock killed. In co-operation with Presbyterian World Service and Development, CFGB provides support to 2500 families. This support includes cash transfers, sweet potato vines and vegetable seeds so that farmers can begin to grow crops again.

Our last visit was in the Chikwawa area Nov. 20 and 21. CFGB provides support to a project operated by Brethren in Christ Church Malawi and MCC Agriculture and Livelihoods. This project promotes use of conservation farming techniques including crop diversification, ground cover and minimal soil disturbance practises. They also lead gender equality awareness and training sessions that address challenges faced by women in their communities and provide efficient cook stoves to reduce fuel requirements.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank strives to achieve food equity for all. Here in North America we hear so much about food security, food aid and climate change, but we can hardly understand what this means for so many places in the world. CFGB has four important principals: Prayer, Giving, Learning and Advocating. It was a privilege to see firsthand what kind of difference CFGB makes. Those working in the field had well thought out, long term plans and we were able to see real sustainable development in action.

If you would like to donate to this or other CFGB projects, check out their web site or email them at:

cfgb@foodgrainsbank.ca

Submitted by Denise Bartel, tour participant.



CANADIAN MENNONITE

2023

Report to Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Canadian Mennonite (CM) tells the story of the church, in partnership with the Churches of Mennonite Church Canada.

Online and in print, *CM* is a place for our faith community to gather. We share news about churches, pastoral transitions, milestones and passings. Readers write letters to the editor, opinion pieces, social media responses and website comments. Pastors and leaders contribute feature articles that foster dialogue. We seek to nurture a nationwide sense of belonging. We want people to feel connected to the broader faith community. And, we are interested in creative new ways to host conversations about what it means to be Mennonite today.

In 2023, approximately 9,000 households subscribed to the magazine. Online, 16,000 people per month read articles on our website. We hosted three *CM Events*, where *CM* moderates an online conversation between two or three panelists. The most popular event of 2023 was about medical assistance in dying. Videos of past events are available on the *CM* website.

At the end of 2023, Mennonite Church Canada and the regional churches signed a three-year covenant with *CM* to continue offering *Canadian Mennonite* magazine through the Every Home subscription plan. Anyone who attends a Mennonite Church Canada congregation can subscribe at a cost paid collectively through the church.

In 2024, *CM* will launch new initiatives to further engage Mennonites across Canada. We want to connect with, and give voice to, as broad a cross-section of the church as possible. Go to canadianmennonite.org to read more.

With your help, we are strengthening the faith community. We are making space for people with wide-ranging views to speak and to listen. Online, *CM* articles form a witness to the world about our faith. We do this in the spirit of Hebrews 10:24, spurring one another on to love and good deeds, to build up the Kingdom of God.

Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry to tell the church story.

✉ Have a story idea? Email Emily Summach at sk@canadianmennonite.org.

1-800-378-2524 canadianmennonite.org [Canadian.Mennonite](https://www.facebook.com/Canadian.Mennonite) [canadianmennonite](https://www.instagram.com/canadianmennonite) [CanMenno](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) [canadianmennonite](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Circles of Support and Accountability South Saskatchewan 2024 Annual Report for MCS

Circles of Support and Accountability South Saskatchewan has received funding from the Mennonite Church Saskatchewan for many years in support of our two-fold mission, “No more victims”, and “No one is disposable”. No more victims means safe communities, where no person suffers harm from others. No one is disposable reflects Jesus’ example of love especially towards the outcasts of society, including those who have caused harm.

The purpose of CoSA SSK is to increase community safety by assisting people who have committed sexual offences to reintegrate into their communities in healthy ways, thus becoming positive contributors within their social networks. We begin our work with inmates by building relationships with them during the time of their incarceration. Then, when they are granted parole, we work with them in the community either one-on-one or through establishing a covenantal Circle of volunteers that meets with them weekly to give support and accountability.

In this past year, we served 17 individuals with CoSA Circles. That included 13 ongoing Circles, 2 new Circles initiated during 2024, and 2 Circles that ended when the core member passed away (each from natural causes). We also worked with 12 other parolees without placing them in a Circle, as their circumstances did not make it a good fit.

Our financial circumstances remain similar to last year. Our major funders are the Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina. With these funds, we are able to contract our coordinator for 35 hours per month, with 12 hours of administrative support staff per month as well. On this limited budget, we have been able to maintain good and effective partnering with the men we work with. All of the men, but especially the two newest core members in their Circles are vocal and enthusiastic in describing how important CoSA SSK has been for their healthy reintegration into the community.

Your continuing support is effective, necessary, and appreciated. Thank you very much, and may God bless your service through Christ Jesus.

Sincerely,
Charles Kooger, CoSA SSK Coordinator



Circles of Support and Accountability
South Saskatchewan

"Walking Together for Everyone's Well Being"



REKINDLING
RELATIONSHIP



Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. – 1John 4:11-12 NRSV

The work of Mennonite Central Committee is all about relationship: we “share God’s love and compassion for all in the name of Christ.” We’re grateful for the many close relationships we share with Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. We want to continue working with you towards MCC’s vision of “communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.” As we do so, we trust that God’s love does indeed become visible and tangible in the hundreds of places around the world where MCC is at work.

MCC’s international program continues to respond to conflicts and vulnerable communities around the world. After the terrible earthquake that hit **Türkiye** and an already war-torn **Syria** in Feb 2023, MCC is providing food packages, hygiene kits, trauma support, and winterization supplies throughout the region. In the aftermath of the Oct 7 Hamas attacks and Israeli military responses, MCC is supporting long-term partners in **Gaza** with food supplies and bedding.

Relief supplies continue to flow to victims of the on-going conflict in **Ukraine**, alongside longer term supports like a portable wood-burning stove (picture at right). MCC is also supporting trauma therapy for many Ukrainian children affected by the violence and displacement. In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, MCC is supporting local churches as they build wells, in order to welcome internally displaced persons with fresh clean water. We are grateful that MC Sask churches and donors continue to respond generously to support these and other vulnerable communities around the world.



Tangible gifts of Saskatchewan made comforters and kits also help to connect us in relationship around the world. In real-world terms, in the 2022-23 program year, 568 infants were given the hug of a warm blanket, 176 students were empowered by the gift of school supplies, the dignity of 450 teenage girls was upheld by the gift of feminine supplies, over 900 families received a relief bucket and over 1700 people received comforters (including 100 comforters distributed locally in Saskatoon, along with toques and mittens)—all because Saskatchewan people answered a call to share and support.



Watch this video to learn how infant kits are being used to reduce infant mortality in South Sudan.

One highlight of MCC Saskatchewan’s local work is the support of **refugee sponsorship groups** who welcomed 42 newcomers to Saskatchewan in 2023! Seventy further applications were completed (with the process taking an average of 2½ years waiting for these folks to arrive).

Other local program initiatives included: “**Transformation Tuesdays**,” monthly workshops exploring MCC’s various learning opportunities (the series goes until April, and you are invited to try out this [on-site Saskatoon experience](#)); “**You Are Not Alone**,” a support group for women who have experienced abuse in intimate relationships; and a new partnership with the **Enneagram Prison Project** (a first in Canada!), to bring a trauma-informed program for self-awareness and healing to women at Pine Grove Correctional Centre. In these and many other ways, relationships are built and nurtured—the love of God made visible.

Finally, thanks to the faithfulness and hard work of the many **Thrift shop** staff and volunteers across the province, over \$610,000 was raised to support this global work, alongside another \$60,000 contributed to local charities, community organizations, and local vulnerable households. Another almost \$300,000 was raised by local farmers for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, through **Grow Hope Saskatchewan**.

MC Sask, it’s good to know we’re related! Thank-you for your partnership in this good work! To learn more about MCC’s impact, check out our annual report here: < mcc.org/our-stories/20222023-annual-impact-report-saskatchewan >. We look forward to seeing you at our June [Relief Sale Festival](#), our November **Peace Conference**, or any time you drop into the **MCC Centre** in Saskatoon or invite us to your church!



Mennonite Disaster Service Canada **REPORT**

MDS Canada 2023:

"You brought hope and love to the community"

"You brought hope and love to the community." That's what Amanda McDougall-Merrill, mayor of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, said about volunteers from Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) who came to Cape Breton to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Fiona in Cape Breton.

After the storm, which struck on September 24, 2022, people "felt alone and hopeless," she said. "You did more than build walls and fix houses. You brought love here," she said. "There are no words that have the capacity to show how grateful we are."

Altogether, 458 volunteers from across Canada provided over 32,000 hours of service for 272 families and community organizations in Cape Breton. This included repairs to 44 houses, 28 new roofs or roof repairs and 179 tree-cutting and cleanup jobs.

Caroline Purnell's daughter, Rosalyn, had her house repaired by MDS volunteers. When it hit, the hurricane damaged the roof of Rosalyn's house, causing rain to leak in every time a new storm came along. Unable to afford repairs, and with a deadline from her insurance company to fix the roof or lose her house insurance, the situation seemed hopeless for the single mother of three boys.

When MDS offered to fix the roof, everything changed, Purnell said. "When you said you would do the repairs, not only were you helping someone with a leaking roof, you were changing the outcome of an entire family's life. I have seen my daughter go from hopelessness and despair to gratitude and hopefulness for her future," she added. What MDS did "was a miraculous answer to prayer and a

source of encouragement to everyone who hears how you answered God's call," she went on to say.

Along with service in Cape Breton, MDS Canada responded to a tornado in Alberta and did other repairs in other provinces. We also offered the Spirit of MDS Fund once again, providing 26 grants worth just over \$137,000 given to churches and organizations across Canada.

The goal of MDS Canada is to restore homes and hope for survivors of natural disasters in Canada and the U.S.



Caroline and Rosalyn Purnell and family

Hearing about the impact of our service in Cape Breton, I am happy to hear both of those things happened. We thank God for the mission God has called us to: To be the hands and feet of Jesus for those affected by natural disasters. We invite you to pray for us as we explore where in Canada we can be of best service in 2024.

—Ross Penner, Executive Director



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Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan (MHSS) Summary Report (2023)

Who are we: We are a hard-to-define collection of Mennonites from more than a half 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 an 8-person board that reports annually to its 225 members.

What do we do? **One**, we publish a three-time-a-year periodical, *The Saskatchewan Historian*. **Two**, we communicate with inquirers. **Three**, we call people together for presentations by master story tellers, both academic and traditional. **Four**, we archive extensive collections of family, church, books, newspapers photographs, electronic records/information, in our archives located at Bethany Manor in Saskatoon. **Five** we provide space for inquirers and researchers to read and do research. Our resources are our library of books and collections, and many other holdings both electronic and physical. **Six** we conduct research in the form of interviews and other methods. **Seven**, increasingly, we will use electronic media to archive records, maps, documents, newspapers, photographs and other records.

Key areas of our work in 2023:

- We sent out two dozen book orders this year.
 - MHSS is a member of *Walking the Path*, a group that promotes relations between Mennonites and First Nations. It made a documentary in 2022 called *Custodians*. This documentary won 4 awards at the annual Saskatchewan Film Festival in 2023.
 - We organized a special day of Russlaender activities to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of 21,000 Mennonites to Canada. We sponsored a special twin piano concert featuring two young pianists who played the Mennonite Piano Concerto. \$30,000 was raised for MCC.
 - We featured a guest speaker at the Hague Museum to talk about the departure of Mennonites to Mexico in the 1920s
 - We published 3 editions of our publication, *The Historian*, for our 225 members.
 - We have an archive of many thousands of documents. We are adding to that.
 - We have contributed 3,500 photos to MAID which is a North American collection of 75,000 scanned Mennonite photos. <http://archives.mhsc.ca/>
 - We have a website at <http://mhss.sk.ca>. Or try www.mhss.sk.ca.
 - We completed a New Horizons Project funded by the Federal Government that collected video stories over two years from people around the province.
 - We archived more of the records of Mennonite Church Sask. including the records of closed churches.
 - We archived more Mennonite papers and collected more obituaries.
 - We added additional description of Mennonite Cemeteries
 - We have dozens of donated collections from Mennonite people.
 - We added older books to our collection.
 - We held an AGM with our members by sending out our annual reports by surface mail. Members in turn respond by returning ballots, comments and suggestions.
 - We are coping with the loss of archival space at MHSS but we rejoice we will be able to sign a ten-year lease with Bethany Manor.
 - We are planning to install more mobile shelves in our archives in 2024.
 - We contracted the Provincial Archives to digitize the *Saskatchewan Valley News*
- Submitted by Jake Buhler, January 6, 2024

Micah Mission (Micah)

2023 was a year of change at Micah. In June 2023 we said goodbye to Dave Feick after 12 years and welcomed Adriana Appleton as the new Executive Director. In August 2023 we welcomed Deborah Ferber to the Micah team. Our programs – Faith Community Reintegration Project (FCRP), Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) and Person-to-Person (P2P) continue to keep us engaged in restorative justice practices within correctional institutions and the larger community.

Over the last year, Micah staff have supported an average of 10 incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals a month in FCRP. Support includes connections with Parole Officers, Community Residential Facility (half-way house) staff, community justice partners, physical and mental health support, financial aid, and faith communities.

P2P continues to operate at the Regional Psychiatric Centre (RPC) in Saskatoon. There are 26 active volunteers that average 30 visits/month. Our volunteers are a mixed group of individuals representing university students, retired folks, working individuals, and members of faith communities.

Due to the loss of financial support from CoSA Canada and the Federal Government, CoSA has been functioning as a part-time program. Reduced hours have resulted in reduced capacity. Micah is currently only supporting 8 core members on a bi-weekly, instead of weekly basis. On a positive note, we are currently celebrating an important milestone as we have maintained a sexual recidivism rate of zero percent for five consecutive years!

With the completion of the CoSA National Capacity Project in March 2022, the reduction of \$80,000 annually, as well as the end of a grant by an anonymous funder (\$100,000 over three years) in December 2023 Micah is in an alarming financial position. To assist in the financial longevity of Micah the follow measures have been put in place: reduction in staff hours from 2 full-time staff to 1 full-time staff and 1 part-time staff; \$20,000 in annual budget amendments; and programming cutbacks, including financial support for program participants (meals, coffee, phone minutes, etc.). We give thanks to all who continue to provide financial and in-kind support.

We are actively connecting with post-secondary institutions, faith communities, justice networks (local, provincial, and national), non-governmental organizations, and correctional institutions to talk about Micah's programs, funding opportunities, recruit volunteers and program participants.

Many thanks to Micah's 65 active volunteers. Without our volunteers, Micah would not be able to offer any programming. Our volunteers help incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals become their best selves through mentorship, support and accountability, honesty, compassion, and offering a safe judgement free place for individuals to grow and learn. Every day at least one of our volunteers are actively making Saskatoon and area a safer, healthier, place.



**REKINDLING
RELATIONSHIP**

Rekindling Relationship: MC Sask 2024 ADS Report

It has been a wonderful year of challenge and change in 2023. As an organization, we have much to be thankful for, even though we experienced a few bumps along the way. We started the year with a lot of unknowns as well as many decisions that had to be worked through. I am so thankful for the steadiness and wisdom of our board of directors.

In 2023, PRJ's organizational health has become more secure. Just as the funding from the Law Foundation Grant ended in June 2023, we were approved for funding from the CRSF (federal govt: Community Recovery Services Fund) which gave us security for one more year of reintegration programming. However, it wasn't until the first week of the final month of the year that we knew that PRJ's long term health became clear.

I am so very excited to announce that the legacy gift (church building at 250 28th Street in PA) from the former Grace Mennonite Church congregation in 2022 has been sold! We are so thrilled as PRJ moves into a new season knowing we can continue our mission of building safer communities from a state of positive, long term organizational health.

With the sale of our office space, we have had to find a new home for our offices. Gateway Covenant Church in Prince Albert, who are longtime supporters and partners with PRJ have generously offered us a comfortable office space on their lower level so we can continue to serve the community and region uninterrupted. We are now located at 1500 15th Street East, Po Box 2318, Prince Albert SK, S6V 6Z1.

Parkland Restorative Justice board and staff have completed a 3-year cycle of discernment and actions plans with a stronger sense of who we are and what kind of impact that we want to make. Our goal is to have a strong footing in the Saskatchewan Penitentiary as well as grow our impact in the local community and region. Post-pandemic we have our flagship program Person to Person fully back in operation; Dad Hero parenting courses going full bore; a more adaptable, modified version of COSA programming continues; and our new, developing ministry "Out of the Gate" has staffer Seth Michael escorting inmates into the community as he mentors them in preparation for healthy reintegration.



**REKINDLING
RELATIONSHIP**

Lastly, I (Kerry) will be taking a leave of absence for an indeterminate length of time from my position as executive director with Parkland Restorative Justice effective January 1, 2024. I submit this report to MC Saskatchewan as one of my last duties before I step aside. With that said, the operations of Parkland Restorative Justice will not be interrupted in any way.

I am very pleased that Seth Michael has agreed to step into this role. Seth has been with us for several years coordinating the CoSA, Dad Hero and the new Out of the Gate reintegration program. He will now be managing the P2P program as well as the role of interim Executive Director.

In 2023, Parkland Restorative Justice celebrated its 10th year of incorporation! (Sept 5, 2013) We were at a major crossroads to start the year 2023. We had been gifted a church building, we were renting our space to community groups and still discerning if we could grow the space into a Restorative Justice Center or community social service hub. We end the year with a huge potential and resources to dream new dreams, to reach high, and to impact the lives of many, bringing restoration to this community and region for years to come.

Kerry Reimer,

January 2024.

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



REKINDLING
RELATIONSHIP

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