

The background of the entire page is a photograph of several hands of different skin tones reaching in from the edges to hold together a circular arrangement of colorful interlocking puzzle pieces. The puzzle pieces are in shades of yellow, orange, red, purple, blue, and green. The hands are positioned around the perimeter, with some fingers pointing towards the center where the puzzle pieces meet.

MC SASK

Gathering 2025

(Annual Delegate Sessions)

Differences for the Common Good

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

**RJC High School
Rosthern, SK**

MARCH

7 & 8

2025

www.mcsask.ca

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Registration available at
<https://mcsask.ca/event/11890>

Co-hosted by
RJC High School and
Rosthern Mennonite Church

Please note that we do not have a block of hotels reserved as the nearest available hotels are in Saskatoon.

Suggested hotels:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites 315 Idylwyld Dr N, Saskatoon
<https://www.guestreservations.com/holiday-inn-express-suites-saskatoon/booking>

Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, 617 Cynthia St, Saskatoon
<https://www.guestreservations.com/country-inn-suites-by-carlson-saskatoon/booking>

Motel 6, 231 Marquis Dr, Saskatoon
<https://www.motel6.com/en/home/motels.sk.saskatoon.5704.html>

You are **strongly** encouraged to bring your own travel mug or water bottle



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Agenda

FRIDAY

- 11:30 a.m.** Pastors and Leaders - Chapel with RJC Students
- 12:00 p.m.** Pastors and Leaders - Lunch at RJC
- 12:30 p.m.** Pastors and Leaders Registration
- 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.** Pastors and Leaders Gathering at RMC
- 5:30 p.m.** Supper
- 6:30 p.m.** Registration & gathering
- 7:00 p.m.** **Opening Session & Worship**
(includes Memorial & offering {offering going towards Global Youth Summit and Youth travel to MC Canada Gathering})
**Worship recorded for congregational use **

SATURDAY

- 8:30–9:15 a.m.** Registration
- 9:15 a.m.** Welcome & Morning Worship
- 10:00 a.m.** Business Session One
- 10:45 a.m.** **Breakout Rooms** (coffee in breakout rooms)
Finance & Budget
Pastoral Leadership Commission
Youth Farm Bible Camp (*annual report and budget discussion*)
International Witness
- 11:45 a.m.** Business Session Two
- 12:15 p.m.** **Lunch** – lunch information meetings:
Amity Trust
Mennonite Central Committee
- 1:15 p.m.** **Afternoon Worship** (includes offering {offering going towards Global Youth Summit and Youth travel to MC Canada Gathering})
- 2:00 p.m.** **Breakout Rooms**
Elim (*annual report and budget discussion*)
Shekinah (*annual report and budget discussion*)
Canadian Mennonite University
Palestine Israel Network (PIN)
- 3:00 pm** Coffee break
- 3:15 p.m.** Business Session Three
- 4:00 p.m.** **Closing Worship** (including Commissioning and Communion)
Official Closure & Benediction



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Logistics

Offering

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

1. E-transfer to mcsask@mcsask.ca
2. Debit donations – see Marianne at the registration table
3. Offering envelopes will be provided for cheques or cash
4. Scan QR code on table for credit card donations
5. Mail offering to MC Sask, 600 45th Street W., Saskatoon, SK S7L 5W9



Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available at RJC High School, however we ***strongly*** recommend you download the report book prior to the event.



Youtube 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 Gathering**
- * **Download the report book to your device instead of printing**



Parliamentarian

Terry Stefaniuk is our parliamentarian and advises us on procedural process when necessary. Thank you, Terry for your wisdom and direction.



Resolutions & Listening Committee

Charlene Krahn & Emily Summach



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

I encourage all of you to come to our 2025 MC Sask Gathering (Annual Delegate Sessions), hosted by Rosthern Junior College and Rosthern Mennonite Church, SK. On the weekend of March 7 & 8 we will meet together as MC Sask, as the church, coming together to reflect on the ministry of the church and the work that we do together. We gather not as a business or as a corporate organization. We are the church of the living God. We are followers of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit lives within us, as individuals and as a body, to guide us and give us new life. I'm often reminded of a song we sing at Eyebrow Mennonite Church that I learned from my United Church friends. Each verse ends with the words "worship and work must be one". I discovered that the word avodah means work, worship, and service. So, when Joshua tells the people of Israel as for me and my house, we will serve (avodah) the Lord (Joshua 24:15), he is declaring that in his work, as he leads the people, and as he serves the Lord, it is ALL worship unto God.

I love this! As we hear about the work of MC Sask Council, finances, Pastoral Leadership Commission and Ministries Commission; Camp Shekinah, Elim and Youth Farm Bible Camp ; Rosthern Junior College, Restorative Justice, Mennonite Nursing Home, MC Canada, and all the various ministries we are connected to; as we sing together; as Fanosie Legesse, Intercultural Minister at MCEC, shares with us -- in everything we do, we do it as worship unto the Lord. As we gather from different parts of our province, from churches small and large, blessed with the different gifts the Holy Spirit has given us, God is with us. And together we worship and discern the work of the Lord. Each one of you is a necessary and important part of that work and worship. So, whatever we do, whether in word or deed, we do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him (Col. 3:17).

Here are some of the things that happened since March 2024, and that MC Sask Council have been working on. In May 2024, Gary Peters finished his role of Interim Executive Minister. We gratefully give thanks for the leadership Gary provided during a time of transition. Len Rempel began as our Executive Minister in June 2024 and a commissioning service was held in July. We are so thankful for Len's leadership in MC Sask. Please continue to pray for Len as he visits your churches and pastors, as he works with MC Sask council, commissions and churches, and as he represents us in so many different places and capacities. May God fill him with energy, passion and joy as works for us and the Lord our God.

The Camp Review Subcommittee continues its work with Youth Farm Bible Camp as YFBC takes steps towards independence from MC Sask. The committee has been working on a draft lease agreement as well as a joint use agreement that would be used to provide clarification for both YFBC and Mennonite Nursing Homes Inc. in



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years ahead. Thank you to Alison Jantz, Denise Martens, and Brent Guenther who serve on this subcommittee of MC Sask Council.

The Special Projects Fund approved about \$145,000 to 10 organizations. They include two camps, one school, three churches and one senior's residence to enhance their buildings for better access and ability to serve their members; two organizations to enhance programming; and one organization to enhance communications. It has been a blessing to provide assistance in this way to help our various ministries in the work they do.

Instead of a Leadership Assembly in November, comprised of our different commissions, committees, boards and other organizations, Len and council decided to visit our churches. Len gave leadership and we looked at questions that would give us guidance as we plan for the future: themes of youth ministry; our structure and volunteer positions; finances; how we say and remain connected as MC Sask, MC Canada, and as part of the broader church around the world through Mennonite World Conference; and questions or thoughts you as a church wished to express to us. Thank you for welcoming us into your churches and for your thoughtful and inspiring words. It was such a blessing to gather this way; and it was clear to us that it is important to you for us to be together as MC Sask and to talk about the work of the church.

I have worked together with the Nominations Committee over the past year. Our church membership numbers have declined and it has been hard to find people to fill various positions on our commissions, boards, committees, council and other connected organizations. Denise Epp and Krista Nelson have worked hard to find people, and it has been discouraging at times. As a council, we have been looking at our structure and bylaws over the last few months and have been in contact with our various ministry partners to look at their needs in the future. Council will continue working on this. I encourage you to seriously consider becoming more involved in the ministries of MC Sask. I have found it to be such a blessing to be involved in the work of the larger church and see more clearly what God is doing among us. It could be a life-changing experience for you!

As MC Sask, we are one of 5 Regional Churches that make up MC Canada. As Moderator, I have been a part of MC Canada Joint Council for the last 2 years. Charlene Krahn also represents you on the Joint Council and I offer a special thank you to her for her work and dedication in this role. It has been a blessing to be part of this work and to be more exposed to the work of the broader Mennonite Church. A few things we have worked on together as MC Canada include approving a new clergy conduct policy in October 2024. The Guiding Ministerial Leadership in Mennonite Church Canada (GMLC) policy replaces the Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure (MSMPP) and addresses some matters that have previously resided in A Shared Understanding of Church Leadership: A Polity Manual for Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. The GMLC



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provides a common understanding of how we do things in the church, specifically in the area of leadership.

We have also been working on ways we can tell our story better -- what we do together as MC Canada and Regional Churches. And we are looking at bylaw changes regarding how we come together for our MC Canada Gathering. The next Gathering is at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener, ON, July 2-5, 2025.

I want to extend a special thank you to our MC Sask Staff: to Len who has so smoothly transitioned into the role of Executive Minister for MC Sask. We are so thankful for the way he has gotten to know us so quickly and for his support. A big thank you to Marianne, whose voice you hear when you call the MC Sask office. Marianne keeps things flowing smoothly in the multiple ways she serves us in her position as Administrator and Financial Administrator. Len and Marianne have been a huge support to me! A big thank you to all of you who volunteer on council, commissions, committees, boards, camps, and other organizations within MC Sask and MC Canada; and to our Pastors, church leaders and congregations, all of whom make up this great family we call Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. It's such a blessing to work together with you.

We said a sad farewell for now to Kirsten Hamm-Epp, MC Sask Youth Minister the end of August; and to Josh Wallace, MC Sask Church Engagement Minister at the end of December. We are so thankful for their passion for youth and the church, and the work they did among us. We welcomed Evan Bueckert as our new MC Sask Interim Youth Minister the beginning of October. This is a quarter time position that concludes in July. During this time we are looking at the specific needs for youth ministry in our province to guide us towards what youth ministry will look like in the future.

As I have reflected on the past 2 years I have served as Moderator, I have felt such joy and gratitude. It truly has been a blessing to serve in this capacity. Thank you so much for your prayers and encouragement. I feel blessed to be part of you, part of MC Sask, part of MC Canada, part of Mennonite World Conference, and part of the larger body of Christ that sweeps across our beautiful country of Canada and around the world. I have had the opportunity to get to know people and the organizations that make up MC Sask in a greater way; to hear stories of what God is doing within our Mennonite Church family and the larger family of God; and to pray together with people as we seek to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to us and calling us to today. I have been filled with hope! Together, as we each use our unique and God-given gifts, we are built together as the church, with Jesus Christ as our chief cornerstone. God is with us; we can live out the life Jesus calls us to; and the Holy Spirit works through us to accomplish more than we could possibly asked or imagined. (Eph. 3:20). As we continue to serve God in this place and in this time, may our worship and work be an expression of praise to the One who makes us one.



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Executive Minister's Report Len Rempel

*I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.
I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me.
I've given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one.
I'm in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one.
Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them
just as you loved me. ~John 17:21-23*

There are many times in the gospels where we are told that Jesus prayed. There are only a few cases where we are told what he prayed. John 17 is one of those cases and it is here that we read Jesus' prayer for us, his followers, his church, today.

In my first months as Executive Minister I have had the privilege of visiting the MC Sask congregations and I am convinced that these words of Jesus, his prayer, is for us in this place and time. There are differences between us but that doesn't need to separate, in fact, it makes us stronger, as long as we are drawn to the centre, which is Jesus Christ.

As I visit our congregations, it is exciting to hear about everything that is happening: baptism classes, welcoming newcomers to Canada, programs within the congregation and connections with the broader community. In some cases, our attendance numbers are decreasing but yet we continue to see the spirit of God at work.

In addition to visiting our congregations, one of the joys of my role is connecting with pastors. In this province we have an excellent group of pastors who work together to support each other through pastor peer groups, pastor gatherings, along with courses and workshops. This past year we saw a few pastors end their time with MC Sask; some moved on and others retired. We thank God for each one and ask God's blessing in whatever lies ahead for them.

We also welcomed new pastors into our midst. I had the privilege of officiating at the installations of Lisi Schröttner (Wildwood), Evan Bueckert (Mount Royal), and Andrea Enns-Gooding (Bethany Manor). Please pray for each of our pastors as they serve in their varied ministries across MC Sask.

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Lisi



Evan



Andrea

A major focus of the fall has been the various Town Hall meetings. In the past we have held Fall Leadership Assembly meetings, although this has not always been done since COVID. In 2024 we decided rather than asking everyone to come to one place, I would go out to the congregations accompanied by a Council member or two. In total we held 10 of these meetings and we had very good discussions around various topics including youth ministry, finances, volunteering, and connectedness. The discussions have been encouraging as people have spoken openly and honestly about the struggles and the joys of congregational life. We do have some challenges ahead, but I believe there is much to be hopeful and optimistic about. After all, this is God’s church.

Our theme for this year’s Gathering is “Differences for the Common Good” based on 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. As I have connected with all the congregations of MC Sask, I am convinced that as we work together, with all our uniqueness and our different gifts, we are stronger and better prepared to listen for the spirit’s leading and continue to work together as the church for the good of all.



Our Guest Speaker: Fanosie Legesse

Fanosie Legesse is the Intercultural Minister of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada for the last five years. He served as a pastor of Zion Mennonite Fellowship in Elmira Ontario for four years. He, his wife Dianne and their two children served as Mennonite Church Canada witness volunteer workers at the Meserete Kirstos College in Ethiopia for three years. Fanosie taught Intro to African Traditional Religion (ATR), New Testament Greek and other Bible Courses at the MK College. He grew up in Ethiopia. Fanosie was a member of The Meserete Kristos Church (Ethiopian Mennonite). He served as a pastor of Sire Meserete Kristos Church in the Oromia region of Ethiopia for three years. Fanosie has lived through 18 winters in Canada. He is passionate about becoming an intercultural body of Christ. You can contact Fanosie directly via his work email: flegesse@mcec.ca. Fanosie and his family are members of Zion Mennonite Fellowship in Elmira, Ontario. They live in Fergus, Ontario.



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2024 MC Sask Council Members



Sharon Schultz
Interim Moderator
Eyebrow Mennonite
(T3, 2025)



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



Tim Wiens
Finance Chair
Herschel Mennonite
(T1, 2026)



Alison Jantz
Secretary
Nutana Park Mennonite
(T2, 2025)



Peter Lippmann
Member at Large
Wildwood Mennonite
(T1, 2027)



Bob Neufeldt
Member at Large
Nutana Park Mennonite
(T1, 2027)



Heather Peters
Member at Large
Wildwood Mennonite
(T1, 2027)

Vacant
Member at Large



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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 9, 2024

Approval of Executive Council Actions for 2024

MOTION: “That we approve all actions taken by the MC Sask Executive Council for the year 2024.”

Adoption of the Unaudited Financial Statements FYE December 31, 2024

MOTION: “That we accept the unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024 as printed.”

Approval of Slate of Nominations

MOTION: “That we accept the 2025 slate as presented.

Approval of MC Sask Budget for 2025

MOTION: “That we accept the 2025 budget as presented.”

Approval of Financial Accountants

MOTION: “That we appoint **Davies & Drury Chartered Professional Accountants** as Financial Accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025.”

Resolutions



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MINUTES of MC Saskatchewan Annual Delegate Sessions

March 8 - 9, 2024 - North Star Mennonite Church, Drake, SK

Friday, March 8, 2024

1. Pastors and Leaders Gathering with Guest Doug Klassen, MC Canada
2. Opening Session & Worship with input from Doug Klassen and Jeanette Hanson, MC Canada

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Morning Worship

1. Declaration of ADS Business Sessions open – Sharon Schultz
2. Sharing and highlights from reports, as printed in Report Book, from Sharon Schultz (Interim Moderator) & Gary Peters (Interim Executive Minister) with Luke Bushman and Alex Tiessen.

Business Session One

Present: 49 Delegates, 9 Guests, 22 Non-Delegates, 18 Volunteers. Total Registered 80 representing 20/21 churches

1. Welcome/Opening – Sharon Schultz, Interim Moderator
 - a. Introduction of Guests
 - Kevin Koop – Carrot River Mennonite Church, Parliamentarian
 - Patrick Preheim & Charlene Krahn – Listening Committee
 - Jeanette Hanson – Mennonite Church Canada, Director, International Witness
 - Doug Klassen – Mennonite Church Canada, Executive Minister
 - Michael Pahl – Mennonite Church Manitoba, Executive Minister
 - Reynold Friesen – CMU, Director of Alumni, Church and Donor Relations
 - Sandy Plett – Mennonite Church Canada, Climate Change Coordinator
 - Erika Thogersen, MCC Saskatchewan, Constituency Relations & Education Coordinator
 - Will Braun – Canadian Mennonite, Executive Editor
 - Cory Regier – Amity Trust, CEO
 - Ryan Wood – RJC, President and CEO
 - Sharon Murugiah – Shekinah Retreat Centre, Executive Director
2. Approval of Minutes of 2023 Annual Delegate Sessions – Sharon Schultz



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- a. Corrections to the March 11, 2023 Minutes reported in the 2024 Report Book
 - Change in title from 2022 to 2023
 - Home church of Audrey Kampen changed to NPMC

MOTION: Florence Driedger moves the acceptance of the minutes of the 2023 Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Annual Delegate Sessions held on March 11, 2023, with corrections. Seconded by Charlene Krahn. Motion carried.

3. Adoption of Agenda – Sharon Schultz

MOTION: Ken Bechtel moves the adoption of the Agenda for the 2024 Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Annual Delegate Sessions held on March 8-9, 2024 as printed in the 2024 Report Book. Seconded by Peter Peters. Motion carried.

4. Introduction and Call for Resolutions – Sharon Schultz
 - a. Introduction of the resolution printed in the 2024 Report Book regarding YFBC, will be presented in business session #2.
 - b. If there are any other motions – see Kevin Koop, Patrick Preheim or Charlene Krahn.
5. Introduction and Presentation of Nomination Slate – Alex Tiessen, Nominating Committee
 - a. First Call for Nominations from floor for vacant positions
 - b. Introduction of slate as presented in the 2024 Report Book, page 19
6. Greetings from MC Manitoba – Michael Pahl, Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Manitoba
7. Introduction of Breakout Room Options & Announcements
8. Coffee Break
9. Breakout Rooms
 - Pastoral Leadership Commission,
 - Ministries Commission,
 - Finance & Budget,
 - International Witness



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Business Session Two

10. Camps Subcommittee of Council Update – Brent Guenther, Alison Jantz, and Christine Epp
 - a. Presentation of report, including background, work to date and introduction of resolution, as printed in the 2024 Report Book.
 - b. Questions & Discussion – facilitated by Brent Guenther. Feedback from Ric Driediger, YFBC board member

MOTION: Alex Tiessen moves that the ADS delegates vote on this resolution at this time. Seconded by Emily Summach, Langham Mennonite Fellowship. Motion carried.

MOTION: Christine Epp, Wildwood Mennonite, moves the adoption of the following resolution:

Be it resolved:

1. Mennonite Church Saskatchewan and Youth Farm Bible Camp (also known as 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.

Seconded by Luke Bushman. Motion carried.

11. Announcements & Lunch
12. Afternoon Worship
 - a. Input – Josh Wallace, Church Engagement Minister & Kirsten Hamm-Epp, Youth Minister
13. Breakout Rooms
 - RJC High School
 - Camp Elim
 - Shekinah
 - Youth Farm Bible Camp
14. Coffee break

Business Session Three

15. Final Call for Nominations – Alex Tiessen, Nominations Committee
 - a. There are no additional names to add to the slate.

MOTION: Alan Laughlin moves that we accept the 2024 slate of nominated volunteers for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan as presented in the 2024 Report Book. Seconded by Gwen Laughlin. Motion carried.



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16. Call for Motions / Resolutions – Sharon Schultz.

- a. No new resolutions presented.

17. Finance Report – Tim Wiens, Finance Chair

- a. Acknowledgement that the audited financial statements were not received by all delegates. The Audited Financial Statements FYE December 31, 2023 were reviewed, as projected on screen.

MOTION: Gordon Peters moves that we accept the audited financial statements for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023 as distributed. Seconded by Alison Jantz. Motion carried.

- b. Approval of Accountants

MOTION: Tim Wiens moves that we appoint Davies & Drury Chartered Professional Accountants as auditors for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. Seconded by Audrey Mierau Bechtel. Motion carried.

- c. 2024 Budget – as printed and distributed in the 2024 Report Book. Discussion.

MOTION: Terry Stefaniuk moves that we accept the Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2024 budget as presented in the 2024 Report Book. Seconded by Peter Peters. Motion carried.

18. Approval of Reports as printed in the 2024 Report Book – Sharon Schultz

MOTION: Ric Driediger moves that we accept the Reports as printed in the 2024 Report Book for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Annual Delegate Sessions. Seconded by Ken Bechtel. Motion carried.

19. Final announcements and thank yous – Sharon Schultz & Gary Peters

- a. Sharon thanks North Star Mennonite Church and other host congregations, all volunteers and MC Sask staff for work in hosting the ADS 2024. Sharon also thanked those volunteers that have completed terms with Council, Commissions, and Committees.
- b. Acknowledgement of Staff 10-year milestone – Gary Peters thanks Kirsten Hamm-Epp and Marianne Siemens for their service for the past 10 years as staff.
- c. Sharon Schultz thanks Gary Peters for filling the Interim Executive Minister position (and staying on until May 31, 2024). Len Rempel will take on the position of Executive Minister on June 1, 2024.
- d. Sharon Schultz declares the ADS Business Sessions over.

20. Closing Worship (including Commissioning and Communion) & Benediction

Dismissal at 4:10 PM

/Minutes recorded by Christine M Epp, Council Secretary



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Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Council
2024 Motions & Resolutions
(April-December)

April 2024

1. **Motion:** Tim Wiens moved that MC Sask will pay \$750 for Marianne's travel and lodging to go to MCEC gathering. Seconded by Bob Neufeldt. Carried.
2. **Motion:** Tim moved that MC Sask pay Len's expenses for MCEC Gathering. Seconded by Brent Guenther. Carried.
3. **Motion:** Tim moved to give Marianne primary administrative privilege to QuickBooks; Seconded by Peter Lippmann. Carried.
4. **Motion:** Tim moved to approve Minutes of the meeting, the reports and all decisions made. Seconded by Brent. Carried.
5. **Action:** Moderator (Sharon Schultz) and EM (Gary Peters) need to discuss MC Sask donor relations process so that EM can discuss with staff: The first step will be to look into the donor relations process, see what has been done in the past, and how to rejuvenate a process.
6. **Action:** Council (Finance-Tim) will move the account from Winnipeg to a Credit Union locally.
7. **Action:** Bob will join Tim to be a finance committee
8. **Action:** Sharon Schultz will contact CMU to let them know Len will be the rep on their board, and will contact Christie for Council and Ben Bartel for Ministries
9. **Action:** Peter Lippmann will be the rep for this next year; next meeting is June 1; Tim will let RJC board know.

May 2024

1. **Motion:** Peter moved to Approve the Minutes of the April 9, 2024 council meeting. Seconded by Brent. Carried.
2. **Recording of e-mail decisions: Motion** made by Peter to accept the minutes of ADS 2024, held at North Star Mennonite Church, Drake SK, March 8-9, 2024. Seconded by Bob. Carried.
3. **Action:** It needs to be clear on the website that we are not accepting applications at this time for the Special Projects Fund. Change to be made on the website.
4. **Action:** Nomination ideas for council: Brent will contact people from Tiefengrund; Sharon will contact Heather Peters



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June 2024

1. **Motions – made by consensus**
2. **Action:** Over the summer months, Brent, Alison and Denise will get together and create skeletons of two lease/property management agreements and mou's and bring them back to council.

August 2024

1. **Motion:** Tim moved that Council empowers Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Executive Minister (currently Len Rempel) to sign contractual and financial documents on behalf of MCSask. Seconded by Brent. Carried.
2. **Motion:** Brent moved to accept minutes from the June 18, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Bob; Carried.
3. **Motion and Decision by consensus re;** hiring of a Youth Minister position on a 10-month contract at 0.25FTE based on the MC Sask salary guidelines.
4. **Action:** Sharon will contact Denise Epp to see how council can best support the Nominations Committee; either by them coming to a council meeting or a couple of council members going to meet with them; Sharon will connect with the committee and provide some support.
5. **Action:** Sharon will ask Marianne to come up with a list of past committee and council members over the past 5 years.
6. **Action:** Len will begin thinking of how to organize the cluster groups (where, etc) ; the themes and topics; Tim will help with finances -this would be in place of Fall Leadership Assembly; but then move the cluster topics and energy into the ADS
4 topics: nominations bylaws, connections, youth ministry, finances

September 2024

1. **Motion** to approval the agenda. Carried by consensus.
2. **Motion:** Tim moved to approve August 13, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Brent
Carried.
3. **Action:** Len Rempel will come up with a tentative schedule for smaller area meetings around the province with churches and council members will sign up to attend

October 2024

1. **Motion:** Brent moved to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2024 council meeting. Seconded by Bob. Carried.
2. **Motion:** Bob moved to appoint Gordon Peters to the MCC SK board as treasurer. Peter seconded. Carried.

3. ***From an email/letter from Len, September 30, 2024:***
MOTION: Tim moved to approve the scholarship recipients selected by MC Sask staff awarded to:
Davida Bentham (MA CMU), Nora Bergen Braun (RJC) - \$1000
Lenae Martens Funk (RJC) - \$800
Zenon Borne (RJC), Eliza Rinholm (RJC), Derek Neufeld (CMU) - \$400
Bob seconded. Carried.

***All other motions made by consensus**

4. **MOU between YFBC and MNH will need to be started;**
Action: Brent will begin by asking each party what is big-picture important; Tim will ask farmers for rental info for the YFBC farmland.
5. **Action:** Len will dig into Al Rempel's report on church support and fundraising as an ecosystem and will bring back a recap for council by next meeting

November 2024

1. **Motion:** Bob moved to approve the agenda with the addition under new business of: ADS (Sharon), Multi Faith Saskatoon (Len) and Ecclesiastical Authority (Len). Seconded by Peter Lippmann. Carried
2. **Motion:** Tim moved to adopt the minutes from the October 15, 2024 council meeting. Second by Peter. Carried.
3. **Motion:** Alison moved that Len be named as the Ecclesiastical Authority for MC Sask. Seconded by Tim. Carried.

December 2024

1. **Motion:** Peter moved to adopt the minutes of the Nov. 19, 2024 council meeting. Seconded by Bob. Carried.

Nominations

<u>Executive:</u>	Nominee
(T3, 2025) Moderator: Sharon Schultz	Brent Guenther (T1, 2026)
(T1, 2026) Deputy Moderator: Brent Guenther	**
(T1, 2026) Finance Chair: Tim Wiens	
(T1, 2025) Secretary: Alison Jantz	**
**Council will choose who will be Deputy Moderator and Secretary	
<u>Council Members At Large:</u>	
(T1, 2027) Peter Lippmann	
(T1, 2027) Bob Neufeldt	
(T1, 2027) Heather Peters	
(T1, 2028)	Claire Ewert Fisher (T1, 2028)
(T1, 2028)	Patrick Preheim (T1, 2028)
(T1, 2028) vacant	
<u>Exofficio Council Members:</u>	
Executive Minister	
<u>Pastoral Leadership Commission:</u> (P- Pastor)	
(T1, 2025) Krista Martens	Christy Krahn (T1, 2028)
(T1, 2025) Rachel Wallace (P)	will continue (T2, 2028)
(T1, 2026) Ric Driediger	
(T2, 2026) Patty Friesen (P)	
(T3, 2027) Curtis Wiens (chair) (P)	
(T3, 2027) Lisa Martens Bartel (P)	
<u>Ministries Commission:</u> (Rotating Chair)	
(T2, 2025) Nancy Epp	Lisi Schröttner (T1, 2028)
(T1, 2025) Amy Peters	will continue (T2, 2028)
(T1, 2026) Katherine	
(T2, 2026) Mark Bigland-Pritchard	
(T1, 2027) Harry Harder	
(T1, 2027) Vacant	
<u>Camp Elim Board:</u> *MC Sask Elected	
(T2, 2025) Colin Zacharias*	
(T1, 2025) Wynn Bueckert* [now camp director]	Katelyn Green (T1, 2028)
(T3, 2026) John Woelk*	
Local rep Laura Grassing	
Local rep Carla Phoenix	
Local rep Gilbert Braun	

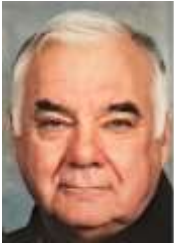
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<u>Shekinah Retreat Centre Board:</u> *MC Sask Elected	
(T1, 2025) Lori Wieler-Thiessen	will continue (T2, 2028)
(T1, 2026) Julie Bergen*	
(T3, 2027) Mike Neufeld*	
(T3, 2027) Audrey Kampen*	
Local rep Phyllis Goertz (Chair)	
Local rep Paul Olfert	
Local rep Mark Hildebrandt	
Local rep Ric Driedger	
<u>Youth Farm Bible Camp Board</u> *MC Sask Elected	
(T1, 2026) Ric Driedger *	
(T1, 2027) Vacant *	
(T1, 2025) Vacant *	Kirsten Hamm-Epp (T1-2028)
Local rep Bruce Jantzen (chair)	
Local rep Les Nickel	
Local rep Jordan Bergen	
Local rep David Ratzlaff	
<u>Youth Farm Complex Board</u>	
(T1, 2025) Gerhard Luitjens	Jim Epp (T1, 2028)
(T1, 2025) Kathleen Rempel	Dick Braun (T1, 2028)
(T1, 2025) Linda Swab	will continue (T2, 2028)
(T1, 2026) George P. Epp	
(T2, 2026) Gwen Dynes	
(T2, 2026) Edith Regehr	
(T1, 2027) Joy Kroeger	
(T2, 2027) Trevor Siemens	
(T1, 2027) Terry Stefaniuk (chair)	



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Nomination Bio's (first term)



Dick Braun I grew up in the village of Neuhorst in the Hague Osler Mennonite reserve. I got interested in history at a very young age. I listened to my grandmothers and my parents life stories. I grew up in an Old Colony home and attended that church in my growing up years. I have been employed in many different vocations but mostly as a mechanic repairing equipment. My wife

Kathy and I have owned a few different businesses and farmed for some years. I enjoy collecting personal history stories and old documents for the MHSS Archives. I have volunteered in the community in such areas as Osler Fire Dept , Osler Housing Authority and over seas with MCC in Bolivia. I am a member of the Osler Mennonite Church and the Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan .



Jim Epp I'm a retired educator having spent my entire 32 year career at Rosthern Junior College. I retired as Principal in 1998 after 19 years in administration. In retirement I have enjoyed substitute teaching, our grandchildren, travel and fishing as often as possible in summer. I also serve as the chairperson at Rosthern Mennonite Church. I want to provide sound policy-

based council and support to the CEO and staff of the Mennonite Nursing Home.



Claire Ewert Fisher Claire is currently serving with her husband, Garth, as interim pastors at Rosthern Mennonite Church. Life is an adventure with four grandkids and their parents, and the ever-changing realities of life in the 21st century. She believes the church is in a position to play an ever-significant leadership and prophetic role in our world.



Katelyn Green Hi! I'm Katelyn Green and I'm excited to become a Camp Elim board member this spring. I currently attend Eyebrow Mennonite Church with my husband and two kids. In the summer I love being outdoors, fishing, camping, and gardening. And in the winter we spend most of our time skating. I

have a huge heart for Camp Elim and can't wait to see what I can offer in this new season. I was co-director of the camp in 2015 and then again in 2022. I'm a graphic designer and artist, which are skills that I hope to be useful for the camp.



Brent Guenther Brent lives in Warman with his wife, Marie, and their two children. They attend Nutana Park Mennonite Church, where Brent helps lead Kids' Club & Choir. Brent is the principal of Dundurn School and enjoys woodworking in his spare time.

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Kirsten Hamm-Epp is enjoying a season of stay-at-home parenting and volunteering in her local church (Eigenheim). Having spent much time working for, and with, camps during her 11 years with MC Sask, Hamm-Epp is looking forward to representing MC Sask on the YFBC board and strengthening the relationships and work already taking place.



Christy Krahn was raised on a farm near Wymark, Saskatchewan. After attending RJC and CMU/CMBC she obtained an Education Degree from the U of S and taught for 27 years primarily on Hutterite Colonies. She resides with her husband Peter of 29 years on the family farm near Kindersley

where they continue to be active members of Fiske Mennonite Church. She has two young adult sons Seth and Levi. In retirement, Christy enjoys taking an active role on the farm. In her free time, she enjoys reading, gardening and crafting



Patrick Preheim I was raised on a small farm near the town of Henderson, Nebraska (USA). After a B.A. in history, a year of voluntary service, a stint as a youth pastor, three years of Divinity study, and a marriage, my wife Patty and I spent ten years in Minneapolis, Minnesota co-pastoring Faith Mennonite

Church. In 2007 we relocated to Saskatoon. Since then I have been shoveling snow, enjoying walks along the river, and savouring some of the best locally harvested produce in the world. In addition to this, I am a pastor at Nutana Park Mennonite Church as well as Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite Church.



Lisi Schröttner is currently serving as Co-Pastor at Wildwood Mennonite Church. She is originally from B.C., growing up as a first generation Canadian with her sisters and Austrian parents. She recently moved to Saskatoon and lives with her husband Andy. Lisi holds a B.A. in Intercultural Studies from Columbia Bible College and a M.A. in Religious Studies from the

University of British Columbia. Her training in critical biblical scholarship informs her work in the church, where she has served in pastoral and worship ministry since 2019. Lisi seeks to encourage the church in thoughtful and generous faith, and finds great joy in curating meaningful worship spaces for those who are drawn to the person of Jesus. She is always learning to walk in solidarity with others, extending God's radical welcome and seeking justice for marginalized communities and the earth around us

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Financial Report for year end 2024

Fiscal Year 2024

Monitoring and guiding the finances of MC Sask has its share of both joys and concerns. Firstly, thank you to all of you who have contributed to the work of MC Sask either through your congregation's donations or your personal support. We had two extraordinary donations this year. A bequest and a one-time donation to the work of the church.

One of the highlights was the implementation of our Special Projects fund. We followed along as nine recipients from churches and related organizations used their funding to increase operational capacity. This was done by creating new programming and updating infrastructure to be more accommodating to their members. At this time we are not considering a second intake of applications. Finance did some streamlining to make cash flow more accessible. We transferred our reserve funds to another institution so we could earn more interest and have funds more readily available when cash in the bank is low. We should not have to access our line of credit anymore and pay interest on it. We have two reserve funds. One is for a shutdown fund in case the organization closes, and we can pay all of the outstanding bills. The other is our reserve operating fund that we keep for special areas such as youth and music library, and the rest to cover operating deficits.

Donations started behind schedule at the beginning of the year and never really caught up. Congregational giving was \$30,000 less than the five-year average. If we take out the one-time individual donation then this category is \$6000 less than then the five average. Expenses for 2024 came in at \$5000 under budget.

2025 Financial Budget

We developed the 2025 budget using hopefully more realistic targets for donations. Congregational giving is set at the five-year average level. With a full-time executive minister, we will have more time and resources to devote to enhancing our donations and we have set our projected individual donations slightly higher.

Last year's total expenses were \$552,000. We project 2025 expenses to be \$521,000. The variances are as follows: MC Canada receives 25% of last year's donations. This will be about \$5,000 less this year. We plan to spend an additional \$14,000 to send staff and MC Sask delegates to the MC Canada Gathering in Waterloo this July. We have allocated \$7,000 for professional engagement in creating the new operating agreement with the YFBC. Our staff has been reduced to 2.25 FTE, and this will save a little over \$10,000 this year.

Tim Wiens, Finance Chair



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**MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN
BUDGET 2025**

REVENUE

Revenue - Congregational Donations	\$375,000
Revenue - Individual Donations	50,000
Revenue - Interest Income	5,000
Revenue - Relational Witness Giving	25,000
Revenue - Youth Farm Rental	51,250
Revenue - Other Canadian Mennonite	15,270
Bequests	
<u>TOTAL OPERATING FUND REVENUE</u>	<u>\$521,520</u>

EXPENDITURES

Mennonite Church Canada - Operating	\$100,500
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PARTNER MINISTRY SUPPORT

Mennonite Church Canada - Relational Witness	25,000
Camp Elim	3,000
Canadian Mennonite Magazine	15,270
Canadian Mennonite University	28,000
Restorative Justice Ministries Sask	30,000
Rosthern Junior College	42,000
Shekinah Retreat Centre	3,000
	<u>\$246,770</u>

OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES

Executive (Schedule 1)	\$26,100
Pastoral Leadership Commission (Schedule 2)	7,400
Ministries Commission (Schedule 3)	5,750
Congregational Resourcing (Schedule 4)	5,450
Operations (Schedule 5)	22,500
Occupancy (Schedule 6)	19,100
RM Taxes	
Salaries	187,982
<u>Total Operating Fund Expenditures</u>	<u>\$274,282</u>
<u>Total All Expenditures</u>	<u>\$521,052</u>
<u>Net Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations</u>	<u>\$468</u>

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Interim Youth Minister's Report **Evan Bueckert**

“Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.” – Proverbs 19:21'

Dear MC Sask,

A new Job always takes time to get settled into. It feels a bit strange to write a report after only half a year because I still haven't gained that feeling of being 'settled' into the role. I can count myself truly blessed by all the people who have been around to help, guide, and support me as I do everything I can within the role. Without Len, Marianne, Josh, and a small team of youth leaders I would be lost.

I have come to see my role as being the connective tissue between the different youth groups across Saskatchewan. I am meant to keep these different groups from becoming isolated from the rest of the province, and to some extent the rest of the country. There are four main ways that I have attempted/am attempting to do this: Mega Menno events, The Youth Retreat, creating space for the youth to participate in this gathering, and planning for the trip to the MCC youth gathering in Waterloo later this year.

The Mega Menno events happen monthly, usually involving some fun activity as well as a time for the youth to connect with some aspect of faith and spirituality. The youth retreat is a tradition of gathering youth across the province for a weekend away full of singing, games, and worship. With this gathering, and the one in July the hope is that youth within our churches can be seen, heard, and involved in more of the workings of the church. If we as a church wish to cultivate leaders, we must show them how they can take charge and be a part of what the church does beyond singing and praying.

Spending time with the youth has filled me with a sense of hope for our future. The desire to ask questions and be involved is ever present. Whatever problems we may face, and whatever stumbling blocks we run over, I am sure that there are people ready and willing to tackle it all. As long as we continue to give them the chance! Thanks to all of you for giving me this chance to be a part of the Lord's work in these young followers of God!

With Love and Gratitude,

Evan

A vertical decorative graphic on the right side of the page. It features several hands of different skin tones reaching in from the sides to assemble colorful puzzle pieces (yellow, orange, red, purple) on a light background. The text "Differences for the Common Good" is overlaid on this graphic in a large, black, serif font.

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Church Engagement Minister Report

Josh Wallace

It's been my joy and privilege to journey closely with many MC Sask congregations and initiatives this past year.

My role as Church Engagement Minister continued to flex and grow as congregations moved in and out of seasons of transition, as new crises (and new opportunities) overtook our world, and as our great team of coworkers continued to change. I was incredibly thankful to hand back some responsibilities to Len Rempel as he began the full-time Executive Minister role.

Throughout this past year, my work focused on walking with a number of congregations, pastors, and pastoral candidates through transition processes. I especially enjoyed spending time this fall with Grace Mennonite Church as they journeyed through a revisioning process, discerning the shape of the congregation's stories, feelings, and hopes as they move forward.

I also gave a lot of energy to some of the programs, opportunities, and partnerships which gather in MC Sask's Ministries Commission. This last spring saw strong MC Sask participation in the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage. That event generated an ongoing collaboration with ecumenical partners seeking to respond faithfully to the war in Gaza and the oppression of Palestinians. In connection with Ministries Commission, Walking the Path, and CERT, I was also able to participate in an MC Canada book study on *So We and Our Children Can Live* and in a Kairos Just Transition Dialogue at Wanuskewin.

It's been a delight to see MC Sask congregations supporting International Witness. I got to listen in on Witness Support Network calls with partners in Thailand, China, the Philippines, and Ethiopia. It was our congregations' privilege to host partners from both Thailand and China this last year. And it's always fun to dream up ideas for International Witness Sunday--I think this year's IW giving cookbook was especially cool!

A vertical decorative graphic on the right side of the page. It features several hands of different skin tones reaching in from the top and bottom, assembling colorful puzzle pieces (yellow, orange, red, purple, blue) on a light background. The text "Differences for the Common Good" is overlaid on the puzzle pieces in a serif font.

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A lot of time behind the scenes time went into processing and shaping MC Canada's new Guiding Ministerial Leadership in our Churches (GMLC) document, as well as new credentialing guidelines. While I'm delighted to hand over future responsibilities with MC Canada Congregational Leadership Ministers group to Len, I learned a lot as this group processed and then laid the groundwork for the implementation of these new and important policies over the last few years.

Finally, I continued to serve MC Sask as our representative on University of Saskatchewan's Faith Leaders Council. This group supports students in a variety of ways, including the incredible Good Breakfast program that supports food security and community building for sixty to more than a hundred students three times a week. (If your congregation would like to bake muffins for this program, please contact me!)

As my time as Church Engagement Minister drew to a close at the end of December 2024, I looked back with gratitude over the last five years during which I served in this role. These years saw a lot of disruptive change, beginning with the COVID-19 pandemic. Through each change, I witnessed curious and courageous MC Sask members, persevering in faithfulness and trying out new ways to be avenues of God's healing and hope to the world.

Camp Subcommittee Report

Brent Guenther, Alison Jantz, Denise Martens

Following the motions that were passed at the 2024 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions, the MC Sask Camps Review Subcommittee met with Youth Farm Bible Camp (YFBC) in order to hear their priorities and feedback for a lease agreement that will be created in order to restructure a relationship between MC Sask and YFBC. We also met with Mennonite Nursing Homes Inc. (MNH) and YFBC in order to draft a joint use agreement between the two organizations because they share the same MC Sask property. The subcommittee drafted a lease agreement and joint use agreement and presented them to MC Sask Council. With council's approval, we have solicited the help of lawyers at McDougall Gauley LLP for feedback on both the lease agreement and the joint use agreement. After we receive feedback from the lawyers, we plan on meeting with both YFBC and MNH and presenting the agreements for their feedback.



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Ministries Commission Report

Ministries Commission handles a diverse range of work and callings. 2024 saw new developments and action in a number of areas.

Josh Wallace has represented MCSask in conversations across MC Canada about church planting, new styles of church, and connecting with newcomer churches. Discussions have been underway with a Vietnamese congregation in Regina. MCSask also maintains active involvement in sessions organised by the New Leaf Network.

MCSask has been developing strong relationships with international witness workers and the churches they support, with eight of our congregations connecting with the ministries in China, Thailand, South Korea and Ethiopia. 2024 saw a visit by a group of Thai pastors to MCSask churches; Nancy Epp continues to strengthen the links there, travelling to spend time with the growing Thai network of churches and teaching English.

Years of work pursuing Indigenous-settler reconciliation and justice are beginning to show signs of progress, with the Young Chippewyan band's federal land claim making progress. Meanwhile, Walking the Path would welcome new membership, especially from younger church members; and is looking to strengthen Indigenous input. MC Canada has established a national task force to work to dismantle the doctrine of discovery (with Nancy Epp representing Saskatchewan).

NPT also continues to work to dismantle colonialist attitudes and practices. In May, Amy Peters joined their action supporting the Apache people of Oak Flat, Arizona, whose sacred land is threatened by a copper mine proposal. In September they called a day of prayer for Oak Flat.

The deep connection between recognition of Indigenous rights and addressing the climate crisis formed the background to the work of the Climate Emergency Response Team in 2024. Several SK people participated in national zoom meetings in the early part of the year, studying Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler's book, *That We And Our Children May Live*.



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In October, regional climate action and Indigenous-settler relations representatives met together in Manitoba. Here in MCSask, inCERTs continued to be posted on the website and sent to church bulletins, and we were represented at a Saskatoon consultation/workshop organised by Kairos Canada on just transition (subsequently followed up by a workshop at the MCC SK peace conference).

Plans are in progress – together with the Osler MC youth group - for a series of short videos on Christian climate concern.

Church members have also been responding to the crisis in Palestine and Israel – planning and participating in a pilgrimage for justice and peace in April, and in arranging a number of film screenings through the summer. Wildwood MC will host a trail run of a newly-revised Palestine blanket exercise in March.



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Pastoral Leadership Commission Report

The work of PLC is divided into two broad categories:

1. The first is resourcing pastors for ongoing connection and development. To accomplish this, we have met in pastor peer groups and as a larger group for a summer BBQ. We had two online sessions of boundaries training facilitated by professional with MCC Manitoba. We were pleased to be joined by the pastors of MC Alberta for this as well. In November, we offered a course "Healing Haunted Histories" in partnership with CMU, for credit of audit. Elaine Enns and Ched Myers were the professors. Ongoing work continues in finding ways to help congregations resource one another and share ideas and gifts. One example of this is to make recorded sermons available to be used during Sunday morning worship.

2. The second category is credentialing of ministers. The major development in this area in the last year was the introduction of the new Guiding Ministerial Leadership in our Churches (GMLC) passed by MC Canada joint council. This document contains a Ministerial Code of Conduct which pastors will be asked to affirm annually as part of the credentialing process along with a fee to be passed on to MC Canada for administrative costs of the MLI database and misconduct complaints. The second major change introduced with the GMLC is a new procedure for addressing ministerial misconduct. Some details of this process are being finalized but the policy is now in place, replacing the old version which was narrowly focused on sexual misconduct and otherwise in need of an update.

In addition to the administrative changes brought about by the GMLC, we held exit interview with outgoing ministers: Susanne Guenther Loewen, Bruce Janzen, Emily Summach, Rodney Hennessey, Lois Siemens, and Paul Matheson. We held entrance or licensing interviews for Emily Summach, Lisa Martens-Bartel, Lisi Schrottner, and Andrea Enns-Gooding. Hearing from our pastors as a "listening ear" for MC Sask is one of the great joys of our work.

There are different kinds of working but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 1 Corinthians 12:6

Submitted by:

Curtis Wiens, Chair



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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 an excellent season in 2024! We had strong directors, complemented by a full roster of exceptional staff, that allowed the summer camp program to thrive this year. Campers who attended Elim this summer experienced a well-rounded camping program and were able to enjoy beautiful weather at Lac Pelletier. Our theme this summer was "God's Promises". The days and nights were filled with a wide array of activities, friendship, and fellowship, which contributed to a summer of creating core memories at Lac Pelletier!

We reached 92 campers this year, which was a 26% increase over last year! As our Executive Director works on promoting Elim throughout the province, we anticipate that our numbers will continue in an upward trend in the years to come. Our Teen Camp continues to be a great success, with many campers returning after their years of children's camp, and others seeking out a new camp experience! Day Camps have also continued to draw strong numbers from our lake neighbours and surrounding southwest SK communities. Our Children's Camps remain attractive, as we offer unique activities that set us apart from other area camps. A summer highlight was welcoming campers who were newcomers to Canada for overnight camp. Witnessing 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.

In 2024, Madeline Ellard returned as our Summer Director, with Steven Unger as Assistant Director. Madeline and Steven did a terrific job of planning, preparing, and leading staff throughout the summer. They hired a full roster of enthusiastic staff, cabin-leaders, and CITs who worked tirelessly to realize camp's mission and vision!

Great news! In September, the Camp Elim board was able to successfully recruit and hire a new Executive Director after several years of searching! We are pleased to welcome **Wynn Bueckert** to the role. Wynn comes to us with a wealth of experience serving Camp Elim, and we look forward to working with him as he steps into this new role. He will be in charge of several administrative tasks, camp promotion, rentals, staffing, and programming. Wynn can be reached at elimdirector@sasktel.net if you have any questions or suggestions for him! Wynn plans to work remotely from his home in Moose Jaw, but you will see him out and about at camp with his wife, Maddie, and soon-to-be-born baby, throughout the year!

This year, we took on the task of replacing our main tabernacle flooring and toilets, along with a fresh coat of paint. This was a major project, and we thank everyone who contributed their time and/or funds to make this happen. We received a grant through the MC Sask Special Project Funds program to complete the project.

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, 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 2025 has in store!

Future Plans for Camp Elim

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! Spread the word!

Our future plans include washroom renovations, beach restoration, and tabernacle lighting. We will continue to promote rentals in the off-season and our RV park as additional sources of revenue to support our program.

2025 marks Camp Elim's 80th anniversary! Stay tuned for more information on how we will celebrate this milestone!

Camper Statistics and Staffing for 2024:

Staff:

Executive Director:
Wynn Bueckert

Camp Pastors:
Marion Bueckert
Jesse Fehr
Zach Stephaniuk
Daniel Unger
Sonya Zabaleta-Bagren

Summer Directors:
Madeline Ellard
Steven Unger (*Assistant*)

Lifeguards:
Cecilia Ledding
Claire Ledding

Cabin Leaders:
Shay-Lee Arno
Alex Bowman-
Olmstead
Joshua Brown
Lydia Brown
Shane Friesen
Claire Ledding
Elyssa Martens
River Mulhall
Mitchell Wiens

Cook:
Danna Mulhall

Manager/Maintenance:
Herman & Esther Wiebe (Seasonal)

CITs:
John Albrecht
Seth Hannouch
Matthew Hughes
Emma Legare
Madison Rawson
Elisa Richardson
Azaliya Wegman
Zienna Zanidean

Kitchen Help:
Aemelia Burley
Diedra Whitell
Kaydence Wieler

Camper Statistics:

Children's 1 - 9
Children's 2 - 13
Day Camp 1 - 27
Day Camp 2 - 26
Teen - 17

Total: 92



Some members of Camp Elim Staff, 2024

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 2025:

Staff Orientation - July 2nd - July 5th

Children's 1 (ages 7-12) - July 6th - July 11th

Day Camp 1 (ages 5-10) - July 14th - July 18th

Children's 2 (ages 7-12) - July 20th - July 25th

Teen Camp (ages 13-18) - July 27th - August 1st

Day Camp 2 (ages 5-10) - August 5th - August 8th

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

Or, call: (306) 627-3339

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

 Find us on
Facebook [mcsask.campelim](https://www.facebook.com/mcsask.campelim)

 Follow us on
Instagram

Camp Elim Budget Year Ended December 31st	Budget 2025 <i>Board approved</i> Jan 30/2025
Revenue	
Leases /Lease fees	108,073.61
Leases /Dock & parking fees	2,400.00
Leases /Property tax reimbursements	76,000.00
Leases /Transfer & development fees	3,000.00
Camp fees	25,000.00
Donations	15,000.00
Rentals	35,000.00
MCSK grant /camp subsidy	2,600.00
Government grant /summer student	32,380.00
Patronage	130.00
Interest /bank	85.00
Interest /overdue lease accounts	1,300.00
	300,968.61
Expenses	
Administration /memberships & fees	2,000.00
Advertising & promotion	900.00
Computer, postage & office supplies	1,500.00
Insurance	16,000.00
Interest (bank charges & LOC)	5,500.00
Linens & supplies (lodge & kitchen)	2,000.00
Professional fees (auditor)	5,000.00
Professional fees (treasurer)	16,200.00
Professional fees (lease administration)	2,500.00
Programs /summer camps	20,000.00
Programs /staff training	1,000.00
Programs /camperships	2,000.00
Programs /CIT credits	2,000.00
Property tax /camp	8,500.00
Property tax /leases	76,000.00
Repairs & maintenance /buildings	6,000.00
Repairs & maintenance /equipment	4,500.00
Repairs & maintenance /boat	1,000.00
Repairs & maintenance /grounds & yard	1,500.00
Utilities, septic, telephone & internet	18,000.00
Vehicle /fuel & mileage	2,000.00
Vehicle /licenses & maintenance	700.00
Wages, benefits & workers compensation	
- Executive Director (\$2500/mo)	34,149.00
- Assistant Director (12 weeks @ \$19.00/hr)	10,376.53
- Cook (8 weeks @ \$21.00/hr)	7,663.99
- Lifeguard (7 weeks @ \$18.00/hr)	5,743.99
- Counsellors (6 staff @ 6 weeks @ \$15.00/hr)	24,593.64
- Facilities & Maintenance (5 mos @ \$3600/mo)	19,481.25
- Workers compensation	1,100.00
	297,908.40

**Differences
for
the
Common
Good**

Operating Profit (Loss)	3,060.21
Capital Fund & Reserves	4,500.00
Repayment of revolving loan principal	
Projects & purchases of capital assets (current):	1,130.13
Sign /Department of Highways	
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	(2,569.92)



**Differences
for
the
Common
Good**



Shekinah Retreat Centre Annual Report 2024

Jesus said “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” – John 14:27



In a world that is yearning for peace, it has become one of the most urgent needs across the globe. As the world grapples with crisis in its search for peace, it has also become the theme for Shekinah in 2024. It was truly inspiring to engage in meaningful conversations about PEACE with the campers during Summer Camp. We are grateful to God for an incredible week filled with both fun and purpose. Below are some highlights from Summer Camp 2024:

Total Number of Campers attended	122
CIT's - 5	Jacob Martens-Bartel Linus Neufeldt Eliza Rinholm Nora Bergen-Braun Clara Ross
Counsellors for 2024 - 9	Jonah Ginther Burke Babyak Tyreese Hilderbrandt Nohl Gustafson Jordan Morin Sarah Wood Kaylee Rosenfeldt Rachel Box Monica Steinke
Bible Leaders	We had 5 bible leaders who lead the campers with engaging sessions: Luke Bushman (Osler MC) Zac Schellenberg (RJC) Jonah Ginther (Counsellor) Adelle Sawatzky (RJC) Sharon Murugiah (ED)

Kitchen Coordinator	Karen Kruger
Kitchen Volunteers	Volunteers from Osler MC, Nutana Park MC, Wildwood MC and Mount Royal MC helped the camp weeks in the Kitchen.

This camp year was a great success, thanks to the leadership of Audrey Kampen as Interim Program Director and Owen Gustafson as Camp Director. We had an amazing kitchen staff that volunteered every week at camp, providing the kids with fantastic meals. It was truly inspiring to witness the children’s eagerness to learn about God and build new relationships. That’s the beauty of Summer Camps!



Picture 1: Summer staff 2024

The Spring season also saw strong attendance from many school groups across Saskatoon and the surrounding areas. We were fortunate to hire two summer staff members early in the season to help support the school programming, which was a great addition.

We are pleased to highlight some of the notable achievements and blessings Shekinah experienced in 2024.

- **Financial Blessing to the Summer camp** - While the success of Summer Camp was truly remarkable, it wouldn’t have been possible without the generous financial support of our donors. Unfortunately, Shekinah faced a setback when the Canada Summer Jobs Grant application was declined, which was a significant disappointment and impacted our annual budget. However, as always, Shekinah has witnessed God’s amazing miracles. Just when we lost the grant, we received an Estate fund contribution from Vernon Ratzlaff, which was equivalent to the amount we had lost from the grant application. We are also thankful and appreciate all our donors who supported Shekinah’s programs.

- **Upgrading the Water Storage System** – We are incredibly grateful to MC Sask for providing us with a grant to upgrade the water storage system in the Timber Lodge, which has significantly alleviated the water scarcity issue for our staff. Previously, our water system produced 350 gallons per day and could store up to 2,000 gallons. With the upgraded system, we are now able to store up to 7,500 gallons and increase our production rate to 600 gallons per day. A big thank you to MC Sask for their support in making this important improvement possible.



Picture 2: Upgraded Water storage system

- **Clearing the CEBA Loan** – In January 2024, we successfully paid off the CEBA loan that we had received from the government during the pandemic. This achievement was made possible thanks to the generous support of Shekinah's community of donors.
- **Shekinah Winter Adventures** – We are grateful to have received a special grant from Sask Tourism to winterize and add electrical upgrades to the Timber Frame Cabins. This funding has been a blessing for Shekinah. The project is still underway, with the initial phase completed. The goal of the project is to boost cabin and chalet bookings during the winter months, ultimately increasing revenue.
- **Shekinah 45th Anniversary** – We had a wonderful time celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Shekinah on September 8th, 2024, giving thanks to the Lord and reflecting on His goodness in this land. The event was well attended by many Shekinah supporters and donors, all proudly wearing their favorite Shekinah T-shirts. It was a great time of fellowship, complete with a cupcake party and a farmers' sausage roast.



Picture 3: Shekinah 45th Anniversary Celebration

- **A Powerful testimony** - Nora Bergen-Braun, a senior teen camper and CIT, shared her faith journey during her baptism at Osler Mennonite Church in January 2025. In her testimony, she spoke about how camp has deeply impacted her life and played a significant role in her spiritual transformation. She especially highlighted the 2024 camp, where teachings about becoming a peacemaker through confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation, along with Jesus's powerful teachings, led her to decide to commit her life to God and be baptized. This testimony is a powerful reminder of how young lives are being transformed through the Gospel. It reflects the ultimate mission of Shekinah Summer Bible Camps – to nurture and grow faith in the next generation.
- **Staff Transitions** – Saralyn Andres has joined the Shekinah team as the full-time Program Director. With extensive experience in camping, having previously held a similar position at Ranger Lake Bible Camp and worked at various other camps across Saskatchewan, she brings a wealth of knowledge to the role. Saralyn holds a BA from Nipawin Bible College and is currently enjoying her time at Shekinah while preparing for Summer Camp 2025.

In conclusion, we are profoundly grateful to God Almighty for His unwavering and abundant mercies, which have been the foundation of Shekinah's continued growth and sustainability. His faithfulness has guided us through every season, providing the strength, wisdom, and resources needed to carry out the mission of Shekinah. We recognize that it is through His grace that we have been able to serve so many over the years, and we give thanks for His constant presence and provision in all that we do.

SHEKINAH RETREAT CENTRE**Annual Budget - 2025 - Summary****REVENUE**

Account Name	Amount
Fundraising Income	\$52,000.00
Campership - Donations	\$2,900.00
Subsidies and Rebates (Including Grant programs)	\$37,000.00
Donations - Operating	\$100,000.00
Facility rentals	\$302,738.57
Food Service Income	\$90,000.00
Camp Income	\$56,400.00
GST Retainage	\$4,000.00
Total Revenue/Income	\$645,038.57

EXPENSES

Administration / Direct Cost	\$38,765.16
Auto Expenses	\$16,000.00
Repair and Maintenance	\$19,700.00
Fund Raising Expenses	\$3,000.00
Groceries (Catering fee and Summer Camp)	\$50,340.00
Supplies and Equipment	\$48,220.00
Payroll	\$372,554.27
Summer Camp Expenses	\$6,100.00
Utilities	\$84,264.80
Bank Charges	\$1,860.00
Total Expenses	\$640,804.23
Total Surplus/Deficit	\$4,234.34

Youth Farm Bible Camp | 2024 Ministry Report

"Different gifts, but the same Spirit." – 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

At Youth Farm Bible Camp (YFBC), we believe that God calls each of us—across generations, backgrounds, and abilities—to serve for the **common good**. Through diverse programs, we create opportunities for **discipleship, community, and service**, all rooted in our mission to **"Share Jesus with People and Provide a Place to Serve."**

In 2024, we saw this mission come to life as people from all walks of life—children, teens, adults with special needs, interns, volunteers, and international partners—gathered to grow in faith and serve together.

📄 See the full report: www.yfbc.ca/report

Diverse Programs, One Purpose

Summer Camps: Hundreds of children, teens, and adults with special needs **encountered Christ** through worship, Bible study, and relationships.

3E Internship: Young adults deepened their faith through **study, leadership training, and impact trips** to Nicaragua, Mexico, and Greece/Rome.

Youth Farm Corn Maze: With **27,000+ visitors**, this event connected families, supported outreach efforts, and provided leadership opportunities for young staff.

Aha! Adventures: Canoe trips in **Saskatchewan, Utah, and BC** challenged participants to grow spiritually and embrace the beauty of God's creation.

Tabernacle of Moses Experience: Thousands encountered **biblical history** in an interactive, faith-deepening journey.

Valley Equestrian Centre: Riding lessons and mentorship programs fostered **confidence, discipline, and Christlike character** in students.

During the **Mexico mission trip**, our team built a home for a struggling family. One mother, moved to tears, shared how **this simple act of service gave her children hope**. From campers with disabilities experiencing **unconditional love**, to staff learning **humility through serving corn maze guests**, we see daily how **God weaves our different gifts into one mission**.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to:

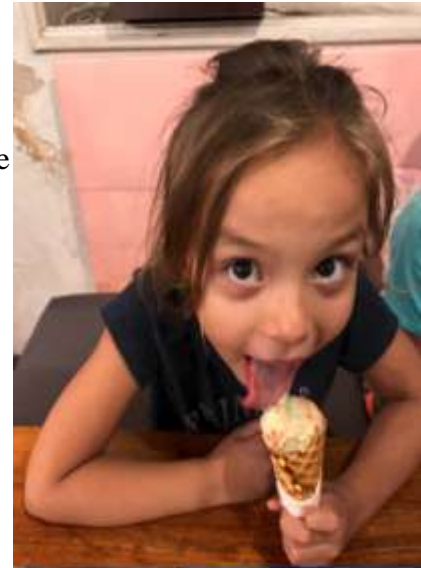
Expanding our intergenerational community, uniting older volunteers and young leaders in mentorship.

Growing the 3E Internship equipping more young adults in **faith and leadership**.
Strengthening our global partnerships, serving communities in **Nicaragua and Mexico**.

Building a Mennonite/Faith Exhibit at the Corn Maze preserving our history while inspiring future generations.

We are grateful for your prayers, support, and shared commitment to **making a difference for the common good**.

Learn more & get involved: www.yfbc.ca



Youth Farm Bible Camp
Budget 2025

	Actual 2024	Budget 2025
Income		
Donations	\$ 306,093.00	\$ 292,000.00
Grants	\$ 28,072.00	\$ 31,000.00
Program Income	\$ 826,749.00	\$ 927,000.00
Rentals	\$ 97,909.00	\$ 98,600.00
Horse Program	\$ 59,605.00	\$ 96,400.00
	\$ 1,318,428.00	\$ 1,445,000.00
Expenses		
Animals	\$ 33,405.00	\$ 31,000.00
Campership	\$ 18,092.00	\$ 18,000.00
Maintenance	\$ 91,614.00	\$ 103,000.00
Mexico	\$ 36,612.00	\$ 27,000.00
Office	\$ 67,193.00	\$ 65,200.00
Payroll	\$ 527,165.00	\$ 552,000.00
Program	\$ 254,980.00	\$ 334,400.00
Gifts in Kind	\$ 78,533.00	\$ 50,000.00
Utilities	\$ 107,010.00	\$ 111,000.00
Vehicles	\$ 21,837.00	\$ 27,000.00
Loan payment	\$ 109,777.00	\$ 69,778.00
	\$ 1,346,218.00	\$ 1,388,378.00
Retained Earnings	-\$ 27,790.00	\$ 56,622.00

Mennonite Nursing Home Complex Report for 2024

2024 was a year of transitions and change for Mennonite Nursing Home Complex. Ted Janzen completed his term as chair of the board of directors. Kathleen Rempel is completing her term on the board as of this ADS gathering. The board along with the Nursing Home Complex mourns the passing of Gerhardt Luitjens, former board member. New members joining the board in March of 2024 were Joy Kroeger and Terry Stefaniuk.

CEO/Administrator Mark Hildebrandt has completed his second full year. CEO Hildebrandt has been leading MNH through a time of change and challenge. Sheena Ratte has settled into her role as Director of Care, providing strong leadership to the team. Sheena has initiated a renaming contest with residents and staff of the East and West wings. The goal is to have names reflecting more of a 'home' feeling, something for which the residents have some ownership.

Quality of care remains the focus of MNH. This is home for our residents. MNH strives to provide person focused care upon the individual. As such, training and the upgrading of skills for staff is ongoing.

The staff along with board of directors participated in a workshop facilitated by Tim Nickel of 5th Business Mediation and Consulting. Later in the year a visioning and strategic planning workshop was held for the leadership team and board of directors. Led by the CEO, the leadership team is developing a strategic operational plan for MNH.

MNH continues to work with Saskatchewan Health Authority regarding funding and the changing administrative landscape moving forward. Part of the change includes the process of becoming a union facility. Staff have voted to join SEIU-West. The process of engaging in conversation continues as MNH moves toward the writing and implementation of a union agreement.

Financially MNH is in a solid financial position.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Stefaniuk, Board Chair MNH



**Differences
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RJC BY THE NUMBERS:

(as of Feb. 1 2025)

92 Total Students	62 Day Students	84 Saskatchewan Students	Percentage of total students:	
21 Grade 10	7 Shuttle Students	2 Out-of-province		28% Students of Alumni
42 Grade 11	30 Dormitory Students	6 International		54% Indicated a church affiliation
29 Grade 12				26% MC Sask/MCA affiliation

RJC High School seeks to nurture the development of each student’s identity and potential in the preparation for a life of faith, service, and peacemaking. We do this in the following ways:



Chapels:

RJC students attend chapel four times a week. This year’s chapel theme is ‘Radical Love, Radical Lives’.

Christian Ethics Classes:

RJC offers Christian Ethics courses including Bible Survey 10, Shalom 20, Anabaptist Studies 20, Social Ethics 30, Servant Leadership 30 and Worship Arts 30.

Church Engagement:

RJC hosted a Pastors and Church Leaders Day this year on Sept. 26. RJC has students from many different faith and church backgrounds and we seek to work with local and community churches, along with MC Sask and MCA churches, to nurture the faith of all our students.

Deeper Life Day (DLD):

Organized by the Faith and Life committee, DLD provides space for the RJC community to explore important ideas relevant to one’s understanding of the world. Guests and speakers are invited to present on a variety of topics. This year’s theme for DLD is ‘Seeking God’, and will held be on April 1.

Alternative Learning & Service Opportunities (ALSO):

ALSO is a year long, cross-curricular program that culminates in a designated ‘ALSO Week.’ During this time, every student travels to an off-campus location to participate in alternative learning and service opportunities with the purpose of exploring and reflecting on issues of service, compassion, poverty and social justice.

Retreats and Initiative Trips:

Each year our students attend class retreats at our camps. This year’s retreats were held at Camp Quest, Shekinah Retreat Centre and Big River Bible Camp. We also engaged in grade-based trips to Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Living Waters Bible Camp.



Community & Educational Partnerships:

RJC partners and engages and connects with many different community partners including MCC, PMP, MNH, MCC Clothes Basket, Good Neighbours Food Centre, The Town of Rosthern, The Rosthern Lions Club, YFBC, Shekinah, CMU and many more.

Faith and Life Committee and Community Fundraiser:

The Faith & Life committee organized a Dine & Donate supper in support of Good Neighbours Food Centre in December 2024. The supper raised over \$5000 for GNFC.

BELONG:

Through our dormitory and after school programming we invite all students to BELONG. This is done through youth events, trips, games and activities including our Sam and Sadie Hawkins events, guys’ and girls’ nights out, and our outdoor club. These invitational community events celebrate each person’s gifts and importance in our community.

Thank you for your prayerful support during the 2024/2025 school year!

2024/25 CMU Report to the Church

Greetings to Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Thank you to our church community for your steadfast support of CMU and the ways you partner with us in nurturing lives of faith, learning, and service. Your commitment to Christian education helps inspire and equip students to make a meaningful difference in the world.



Undergraduate Degrees

- » Bachelor of Arts
- » Bachelor of Business Administration
- » Bachelor of Music
- » Bachelor of Music Therapy
- » Bachelor of Science
- » **NEW!** Bachelor of Social Work

Graduate Degrees

- » Master of Divinity
- » Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
- » **NEW!** Master of Arts in Spiritual Care
- » Master of Arts in Theological Studies
- » Master of Business Administration



Geographical Representation

- » 75% from Manitoba (13% First Nations, Inuit, or Métis)
- » 25% from other provinces and international (30 countries)

Faith Representation

- » 70% from Christian traditions, including 30% from Mennonite/Anabaptist traditions
- » 27 MC Canada congregations
- » 15 MB congregations
- » 15 other Mennonite congregations and Hutterite communities



2024/25 Enrolment

- » 10% overall increase in students on main campus (40% increase in incoming students)
- » 694 students on main campus (630 full-time equivalent)
- » 125 full-time equivalent students at Menno Simons College (CMU courses in UW degree programs)

Work-Integrated Learning (WIL)

- » 100% of graduating students complete an experiential learning opportunity
- » 84 students completed their WIL placements in 2023/2024
- » Placements include: Assiniboine Park Zoo, Children's Hospital Research Institute, Legal Aid Manitoba, Sport Manitoba, Turning Leaf



25

25 Years of CMU Join us in celebrating 25 years of CMU at Fall at CMU, September 19 and 20, 2025. Events include special celebratory program, Song Feast, alumni reunions, Farmers' and Makers' market and more. Learn more at cmu.ca/fall.

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.



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 Global Anabaptism*
- Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies
- 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 certificate)

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. 23–26, 2026

Offerings of one to two years

- Transition to Leadership*: program for new pastors
- Ministry Reflection Circles*: reflect on current ministry challenges with the support of a group
- Spiritual Direction Seminars*

ambs.ca/leadership-and-enrichment



Regional church connections

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

AMBS statistics

- In April 2024, 13 women and nine men from four countries — Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania and the United States — graduated from AMBS (*see above*). Sixteen completed part or all of their seminary studies at a distance.
- In 2024–25, 149 graduate students are enrolled at AMBS: 82 from the U.S., four from Canada and 63 international students. Ten students are pursuing the Spanish-language Graduate Certificate in Theology.
- The undergraduate-level Journey program has 41 participants in Canada, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, Tanzania, 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
 - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
 - Challenging Christian Nationalism
 - Biblical Interpretation Across the Two Testaments

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 about what AMBS has to offer! ambs.ca/visit
- Stay connected: facebook.com/followAMBS • instagram.com/ambs_seminary • youtube.com/ambsedu • ambs.ca/subscribe

2024

The Year in Review



Every day, some aspect of Mennonite Church Canada inspires me!

One day it might be an email that I receive from one of our International Witness workers. Another day it is a discussion that we have in a staff meeting, or connecting with the Regional Church executive ministers.

An inspirational highlight I can count on is when I join one of our 203 congregations for worship. Whether I am in a congregation of 13 or 300, God is present and the Holy Spirit moves among us.

Annual visits to a dozen or so congregations and meeting Regional Church colleagues remind me of who MC Canada aims to serve. In the 2017 restructuring process, congregations were the centre of our attention, and leaders re-shaped our governance structures at the national and regional levels to support these local communities.

Since 2017, it has become clear that some early communal expectations of looking to congregations and regional churches for select expertise created unprecedented challenges. For example, it has been a struggle for congregations and regional churches to effectively speak into matters of nationwide programming and binational and global partnerships.

This past year the "Group of 5" – an ad hoc committee of the Joint Council – made recommendations to address our challenges. Here are a few of them:

- The Joint Council gave MC Canada staff more freedom to navigate national, binational, and global partnerships.
- Additionally, the Joint Council decided to reintroduce congregational representation at nationwide Gatherings (formerly Assemblies). This will take effect at Gathering 2025 in Kitchener (July 2-5).
- MC Canada will coordinate and lead revenue generation efforts to provide congregations, Regional Churches, and Nationwide Church with coordinated approaches to raising needed funds for ministry.

In making the above adjustments to our governance, we strive to strengthen the ministries we do together:

CommonWord: Your centre for congregational resources is celebrating 10 years of serving churches as your national bookstore and resource centre! Arlyn Friesen Epp also reports on special activities as Mennonites prepare to celebrate 500 years of Anabaptism in 2025.

International Witness: Whether at home or abroad, we strive to cultivate the gifts an intercultural church offers. Learn more about how that's happening in Jeanette Hanson's report.

Indigenous Relations: Reconciliation is a long word that describes a long journey. Jonathan Neufeld's report brings us healing initiatives with intriguing names like the Secret Treaty, the Strawberry Communion, and more in his report.

Climate Action: Sandy Plett shares survey results that show congregations are deeply and biblically rooted in the ethics of social justice and stewarding our resources. However, we need to better understand how social justice and creation care connect with how we care for our neighbours.

Leadership Ministries: Top of mind for Al Rempel is his work with Regional Churches to equip and grow those who are called to congregational ministry. In his report, learn about financial assistance to pastors and congregational leaders wishing to grow their skill set and a policy update that will interest all church leaders.

Please read the ministry report summaries that follow, and engage MC Canada staff with any questions you have.

Thank you for your companionship as together we seek to be People of God!

Doug Klassen
Executive Minister
dklassen@mennonitechurch.ca



LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES

My ministry provides oversight to regional churches as they credential leaders, equip leaders with tools and resources for the congregation-pastor relationship, and develop leaders for the church.

It has been a year of significant steps:

- This year we launched a reformatted program called Transition into Ministry (TiM). All five regional churches have joined together with our primary partner, AMBS, to deliver formation experiences alongside ongoing coaching and mentoring. Thanks to the Company of 1000 leadership development fund, each participant is entitled to \$500 for an additional elective of their choice provided by one of our other Mennonite education partners across Canada to pursue excellence in one of the six core competencies of pastoral ministry. Your gift to the Company of 1000 <mennonitechurch.ca/company-of-1000> helps build strong new leaders for our church.

- Thank you to the many individuals and particularly credentialed leaders who have helped shape new policy for Mennonite Church Canada. Joint Council formally adopted the Guiding Ministerial Leadership in Mennonite Church Canada (GMLC) in October of 2024. This strengthened policy reflects our best intentions to deal with conflict and create safe spaces for all. Regional church leaders will be introducing the new policy with congregations and their credentialed leaders in the coming months.

Looking ahead: Church leaders, pastors, and other interested individuals are invited to attend Leadership Day on July 2, 2025, as part of Gathering 2025. Plan to attend this day of worship, enrichment, and blessing for church leaders.

I'm grateful to my colleagues from the Regional Churches for the many ways they encourage leaders in our church!

Al Rempel
Associate Executive Minister
arempel@mennonitechurch.ca



CLIMATE ACTION

When I joined the MC Canada team just over two years ago, the big question for Climate Action was: How does the church 'respond faithfully to the climate crisis'?

Two years later there still are many unanswered questions, but the questions reveal a church that is engaged, wrestling, thinking, and moving toward action.

The MC Canada Environmental Sustainability Survey shows that a stewardship ethic built on biblical creation narratives is firmly established in our church family alongside a strong justice ethic.

The survey also showed that we need a stronger understanding of how environmental sustainability/creation care connects to social justice and care for our neighbours. And we discovered that the link between peacemaking and creation care are not yet fully formed in our thinking as a faith family.

While there's loads to do, congregations are meaningfully engaged:

- Six congregations greened their buildings with help from the Emissions Reduction Grants totalling \$18,000.
- Congregations looking to weave climate justice themes and learning into the life of the church now

have even more help from new resources created by collaborators in MC Canada and MC USA:

- *Journeying with Creation: Advent Prayers in a Time of Climate Change.*
- *Worship series – To Hope and Act with Creation: A Season of Creation Worship Guide.*
- Several events this past year gathered young adults, Anabaptist organizations, Indigenous relations, and regional climate working group leaders to nurture the health of the nationwide church, invite the Spirit, and spark energy for the work of climate justice.
- Organized online meet-ups helped equip participants to green our buildings, green our burials, and preach about hope in a time of crisis.

Up next? From February to July of 2025, pastors and church leaders will gather for "Faithful Leadership in the Climate Crisis: Responding in Hope" to strengthen their skills and understanding of how to weave creation care into the life of the church.

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



INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

I believe this to be true: that being in relationship with Indigenous neighbours is not an opt-in/opt-out concern.

From coast to coast to coast, we are neighbours—touching the earth, living on the same lands, walking the same streets, breathing the same air, sustained by the same earth, and loved by the one Creator. It is never a question of our being in relationship but rather what sort of relationship we seek to nourish and incarnate.

- Through the Secret Treaty project <commonword.ca/go/3972>, Mennonite Church Manitoba congregations and schools are learning how treaty was the starting place for a relationship of reciprocity and mutuality. We are invited to reclaim our treaty commitment to one another as neighbours on these lands.
- Similarly, congregations of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada showed up with reparative gifts to the Strawberry Communion <canadianmennonite.org/strawberry-communion-at-six-nations>, a spiritual covenant between churches and Six Nations.
- Congregations of Mennonite Church Alberta oriented themselves to the history, protocol, and role of powwow in Indigenous communities. They ventured together to bear witness to the sounds, sights, and movements of powwow.

- In Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, the ongoing work of sacred site protection was cinematically shared through the film *Custodians* <commonword.ca/go/3338>
- In Mennonite Church British Columbia, congregations have been encouraged to support Indigenous Theological Education through the Elijah Harper Fund.

Choices to embrace and incarnate relationship is being discerned and pursued on many levels across MC Canada. To encourage regional church collaboration, the MC Canada Climate Action and the Indigenous Relations working group leaders met for a weekend in October (see below). This in-person gathering was important to building relationships across the regional churches of MC Canada to reinforce that none of us are alone, that we have ideas and passion to share, that we are co-conspirators in Climate Action and Indigenous Relations, and that we share many overlapping concerns and hopes.

In 2025, we anticipate building on these more recent nationwide connections to make further strides in our shared ministries of healing and restoration.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Neufeld
Indigenous Relations Coordinator
jneufeld@mennonitechurch.ca



Leaders of Indigenous Relations and Climate Action/Creation Care working groups from all five regions of our nationwide family of faith gathered in picturesque Pinawa, MB on October 4-6.

The weekend served to deepen connections across the regions and discuss collaborative possibilities. They hope this initial gathering will inspire and ultimately lead to broader awareness and hyper-local uptake of earth-care and Indigenous reconciliation among congregations.

Photo by Ruth Bergen Braun

INTERNATIONAL WITNESS

The theme for the MC Canada's Gathering 2025 is "Each has a gift" (based on 1 Peter 4:10). It emphasizes the diversity of gifts that everyone brings to enrich the ministry of an intercultural church. In the International Witness program, we have talked about this as bringing dishes to a global potluck where God is the host, and we share with each other the gifts that God has given us. Welcome to God's Global Potluck!



The table in Asia is being set by small conferences of Mennonites coming together to share what they are doing and what they dream to do in Anabaptist training in Asia. Mennonite Church

Canada, in partnership with Mennonite Mission Network, and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, is invited to the table to share what we have as these Asian churches build pathways to lay leadership training, pastor in-service training, and theological education. Ten church leaders from different parts of Asia met together in September 2024, and formed working groups to move forward with this dream, developing curriculum, and forming a platform where resources can be accessible.

A study guide for Anabaptist Essentials piloted with the Evangelical Vietnamese Mennonite Church by Nhien Pham and Garry Janzen (MC Canada liaison workers for Vietnam), is being shared with congregations in China. Youth Peace Conferences set up in Myanmar are brought to the table by the Bible Missionary Church Mennonite. Anabaptist centres in Northeast Asia are connecting to share ideas. Witness workers, Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park, are active in connecting congregations and church leaders in China, South Korea, and Japan with opportunities to share experiences in restorative justice and peace education.

The Malipayon Peace Hub, a coffee production and peace training facility, was opened in November 2024. PeaceBuilders Community (PBCI) and local Indigenous communities celebrated this space for training and economic development. It continues to be a work in progress as Coffee for Peace expands its collaborative work in the area.

In 2024, MC Canada congregations had the opportunity to learn from and develop relationships with global

companions from Thailand and China with visits across the country. This is an important part of the mutual learning that is a basis of working together.

Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong completed three years of teaching at the Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia. Their contributions to the development of theological education at MKS are deeply appreciated by church leaders there.



Palestine Israel Network volunteers worked tirelessly at advocacy and education in the ongoing crises in Palestine. Several members participated in a solidarity visit to the area in November, bringing stories from Palestinian Christians living with war.

Sharing also happened globally through a three-part online conversation on "Land, Identity, and Faith" – a conversation about decolonization from South Africa, Palestine, Philippines, and North America – building solidarity, relationships, and learning from each other.

These and many other gifts are being brought to God's banquet table. Thank you for participation in this potluck through your prayers, relationships, and financial gifts.

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



(l to r) Tom Poovong, Khamphan Sudcha, Doug Klassen, Jeanette Hanson, and Thipawan Sucha on a visit to our MC Canada offices. Talked about the growth of *Friends of Grace* church network in Thailand and the need for leadership development training.

CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

In 2024, CommonWord recognized several significant milestones. We completed our tenth year as a combined national bookstore and resource centre. Over that time, we have served about 93,000 retail customers and have circulated over 29,000 loan items across Canada. This past year we also celebrated 50+ years of Christian formation efforts nurtured through a resource centre and bookstore. We compiled a [brief history](#) of CommonWord and its predecessor organizations <commonword.ca/go/3828>.

A highlight this past year has been our partnership with MennoMedia in the Canadian distribution of the Anabaptist Community Bible. Your response has been overwhelming! We pre-sold almost 1,400 copies. This significant publication – with marginal notes from 600 small study groups around the world – helps mark the 500th anniversary of Anabaptist beginnings in Europe in 1525. Please consider ordering yours, if you have not already done so, and watch for other anniversary publications in the next months. See [full collection](#) <commonword.ca/go/500>.

CommonWord served as a public venue for various resourcing events. We hosted ten book launches, a climate action conversation, and a Christian formation seminar. Each of these events were livestreamed and attended by a total of 540 people. One highlight was a touching personal conversation between literary icons Rudy Wiebe and Margaret Atwood during the launch of *Rudy Wiebe: Essays on His Works*. This and all past discussions are available to view [here](#) <commonword.ca/go/4173>.

CommonWord's partnership with [Together in Worship](#) <commonword.ca/go/tiw> remains strong. We have seen the addition of many digital Anabaptist worship resources to our website again this year, including original music, video, visual art, and words for worship. These resources are free to use in your congregational settings. And we welcome your own [submissions](#) <togetherinworship.net/Content/tiw-submissions>.

We continued to shoulder our three main daily responsibilities: curation, accessibility, and communication. We carefully select materials through an Anabaptist lens for the purpose of Christian formation in the home and congregation. We make

these materials accessible instore and through our website (to buy, borrow or access online). We also ship loan items across Canada for free. These materials and services are profiled through your regional church newsletter, social media, and our Curator newsletter.

Thank you for your engagement this past year. In eleven months (as of November 30), we have fulfilled over 850 online retail orders, completed nearly 8,500 in-store purchases, delivered over 2,300 loans, and had 16,300 items downloaded.

We want to hear from you. Are there titles you would recommend? Are there original resources you would like to share? Are there displays of loan materials you would wish to host? Are there ways we can serve you better? Are you unfamiliar with us? Please be in touch (1-877-846-1593 or info@commonword.ca).

We are grateful for the church and university's ongoing commitment to Christian formation. On behalf of the rest of our staff - Anita Neufeld, AnaSara Rojas, Josh Paetkau, and our student employees and volunteers - we look forward to serving you in 2025.

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



Left: Marilyn Rudy Froese, MCEC Church Leadership Minister, anoints Chinda Kommala during his ordination ceremony.
Middle: A shocking experience at a junior youth event in Leamington.
Top: Anthony Siegrist hired as Executive Minister.

We celebrate congregations and pastors.

108 congregations

- Welcomed 5 congregations to provisional membership: FreeChurch Toronto; Mennonite Disciples Swahili Church (Ottawa-Gatineau); Rehoboth Inner Healing Church; Shalom Worship and Healing Centre, Guelph; Shalom Worship and Healing Centre, Windsor.
- Congregations Closed - Hawkesville Mennonite Church (June 2024); Agape Fellowship (July 2024). We appreciate the generosity of these congregations and their support of MCEC through their legacy gifts.

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

- 14 pastors installed in congregations
- 6 pastors licensed toward ordination
- 3 pastors ordained

We are inspired by ministry throughout MCEC.

- At the Annual Church Gathering in Leamington, 236 delegates and congregational leaders were inspired by the hope we find in Jesus as we came together to worship and collaborate in community. We grow, learn and serve best in relationship with others, listening for God together.
- In the area of youth engagement, 150 voices contributed to a research project focused on ways to better engage youth in the church. Alongside our partners, junior youth gatherings in Kitchener and Leamington brought together 144 junior youth and their sponsors for meaningful connection and growth. This effort reflects our commitment to leadership development, intergenerational discipleship, collaborating with our partners to nurture both the current and future generations of the church.
- To encourage leaders of hope, vision and transformation, 39 pastors attended renewing retreats, focused on the seasons of Lent and Advent. Additionally, 50 pastors participated in Healthy Boundary Workshops online, equipping them to maintain healthy boundaries while leading with integrity and care.
- The INNOVATE Ministry concluded after a decade of impactful service. Over the past 10 years, 48 MCEC congregations have participated in discipleship events and workshops, fostering growth and renewal. Additionally, the Transitioning in Ministry (TiM) Program saw the graduation of 5 pastors this year.
- We are privileged to journey alongside congregations during transformative moments, whether it's through pastoral searches, discernment processes, revitalizing mission, or reimagining facilities. A wonderful example of this is the shared co-ownership journey of Shalom Worship & Healing Centre and First Mennonite Church.
- We celebrate the hiring of Anthony Siegrist as Executive Minister, effective February 1, 2025.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of congregations, pastors and leaders through prayer, time and finances. We continue to grow into the future as a transformed, inspired and called people of God.

Mennonite Church Manitoba Annual Report for 2024



Forty congregations have covenanted together to be Mennonite Church Manitoba, and we are grateful to God for these relationships of common identity, mutual support, and shared ministry. This includes one new congregation which joined MCM at our 2024 Gathering at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler, where delegates reflected together on what it would mean for us to be an intercultural church..

2024 saw the launch of two new initiatives among us. Hope and Courage is a two-year visioning process for MCM, prompting us as congregations and as a regional church to explore who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do at this time. This process includes focus groups, surveys of constituents, and our upcoming 2025 Gathering exploring one aspect of our core identity as Anabaptist Mennonites.

We also launched Light the Fire, a once-a-generation, multi-year, grassroots-based capital campaign to upgrade our facilities at Camps Assiniboia and Koinonia. In 2024 we celebrated 75 years of camping ministry with a wonderful weekend of singing, reflections, and activities; with Light the Fire we are looking to extend our camping and retreat ministries for another 75 years. Our summer camps this year saw 520 campers attend, including 178 adults with disabilities, led by 83 summer staff with 14 leadership staff. In 2024, Camps Assiniboia and Koinonia hosted over 180 guest groups representing nearly 8500 people.

Our Leadership Ministries Co-Directors, Jeff Friesen and Karen Schellenberg, supported our pastors through all the transitions of life and ministry during 2024. This year saw one pastor ordained, while four pastors received other forms of credentialing. Nine new pastors were installed in congregational ministry, while two retired from ministry. There were six pastors new to MCM in 2024.

Our shared Mission Ministries as a regional and nationwide church continued strong through this past year. International Witness currently works with partners in 16 countries around the world, and congregations across Canada share in this work through mission networks. Closer to home, Director of Mission Engagement Melanie Neufeld worked with elder David Scott of Swan Lake First Nation, along with members of our Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity, to tell David's story of a "Secret Treaty" between early Mennonite settlers and the Ojibwe people. Reception of this story has been overwhelmingly positive in encouraging reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours in Manitoba.

This past year saw the retirement of a much-loved staff member, Kathy Giesbrecht. She served for many years as Associate Director of Leadership Ministries, and for the past two years as Director of Congregational Ministries. We are grateful for her work in supporting our pastors and congregations over the years. Her work carries on in a scaled-back capacity, shared among other MCM staff.

We are looking forward to Gathering 2025, when we will come together for worship, information, and inspiration around the theme, "Looking to Jesus," based on Hebrews 12:1-2. Join us as we explore what it means for us to be Jesus-centered as congregations and as a regional church.

You can keep up with current MCM news by subscribing to our weekly MCM Update, which highlights prayer items and upcoming events, and our MCM Monthly, an online newsletter telling stories of our regional church. Sign up at www.mennochurch.mb.ca/contact or by emailing our office.



A community of Anabaptist-Mennonite congregations

growing as communities of grace, joy, and peace as we seek to embody Jesus Christ in the world

MCA ministries focus on:

Supporting Congregations

A community of 1300 participants in 11 congregations, worshipping in 4 languages

- Financial aid helped provide rental space for **Edmonton South Sudanese Mennonite**, assisted **Bethel** in supporting their bi-vocational pastor, and helped **Holyrood** hire their interim pastors.
- MCA walked with the **Edmonton Christian Life Community Church**, which closed in April after several decades of Chinese-language ministry; with **Holyrood** in its process discernment; and with **Trinity and Bergthal** in their pastoral searches.
- **19 credentialed leaders**, as Pastors Council, serve as congregational pastors, chaplains and in other ministry capacities
- **Terry Fach** was installed as interim pastor at **Trinity**, while at **Foothills**, **Bill Christieson's** Ordination was officially recognized, and **Aiden Scherzinger** was Licensed Toward Ordination.
- At **Camp Valaqua** 32 young people served as staff, growing in faith and developing leadership skills to serve the church.

Nurturing Connections

Part of MC Canada, including over 200 congregations in its 5 regions.

- **Annual Delegate Sessions** at **Holyrood** saw 100 participants from across MCA come about MCA ministries. Speaker Joon Park outlined Christ's calling to reach across cultural boundaries and join together in faith. The Saturday evening cross-cultural worship featuring music from Edmonton congregations was a highlight.
- **Pastors Council** met 5 times for relationship building, prayer, and peer support. A **Faith Studies** event in May focused on Creation Care, a **fall retreat** included personal sharing and discussions about anger, and pastors joined an **online Boundary Training**, hosted by MC Sask.
- **"Come Together"** events in Edmonton and Calgary brought together people to hear stories of transformation through MCA's ministries, raise funds, and have a good time!

Celebrating Faith in Action

Serving in ministries across the street and around the world.

- At **Camp Valaqua** 365 campers experienced God in creation, supported by 60 volunteers and staff.
- In Ethiopia, **Werner and Joanne De Jong** concluded 3 years of teaching and support for students at the Meserete Kristos Seminary (MKS), while **Tom and Christine Poovong** continued their ministry in Thailand. Through **MC Canada Witness** MCA helped build the church in 16 countries around the world.
- MCA continued to facilitate the training of two **South Sudanese** pastors at MKS.
- **Bridge Building** organized the annual dialogue with Christians and Muslims in Edmonton, which featured the study of the prophet Jonah. Bridge Building increased its focus on **Indigenous Relations** and offered **"Powwow Prep"** encouraging people to attend these open events.
- In August **Bethel, Holyrood**, and a few from **First Mennonite Edmonton** gathered to witness the baptism of 5 young people from Bethel in the river at a nearby park.

We are grateful for the ongoing commitment we share as congregations, pastors and leaders walking with each other in our service to Jesus Christ!



www.mcab.ca





GREETINGS TO OUR FAMILY ACROSS CANADA!

MCBC in 2024:

- Started a new congregation in Kelowna, Valley Road Church
- 23 Churches plus 1 developing congregation
- Celebrated many baptisms in our churches in 2024
- Our average weekly main worship attendance: 61 in 2023 - 67 in 2024
- Kids, youth, and young adults are around 14% of our total engaged constituents
- The average total of people engaged is roughly 131 if spread evenly between churches
- Average membership 90

Other items of note:

- We have partnered with a parachurch ministry for health assessments and revitalization work.
- Our forward-leaning simplification and prioritization of building a people continues.
- Our Executive Minister's primary areas of focusing more energy around are:
 - **New Congregations and Revitalization**
 - **Pastoral and Church Leadership Support, Training, Development**
 - **Funding Long-term Vision (get out of structural deficit mode)**
 - **Centre-Set Approach to Unity: Jesus.**
- The proposed New Congregational Categories bylaw will be before our Regional Church delegates at our AGM. We are wrestling with creating more of a network orientation and less denominational, given the post-denominational realities of thriving churches across North America. Currently, we have one category called "recognized congregation" and given our unique tensions and history, this has not served us well when engaging in church planting or established churches looking for a network home. So the proposal includes creating two categories of non-member congregations:
 - **Developing congregation.** Which would be for churches being "birthed" and in their initial years of life. And,
 - **Exploring congregation.** Which is for those established churches looking for a Jesus-centred Anabaptistish network. This would require assent to the Mennonite World Conference Shared Convictions and then a mutually established process for discernment between that congregation and existing MCBC congregations over a period of up to 5 years.

Our hope is that these open us more to the wider work of the Holy Spirit in new and other areas of the church.

- We continue to explore ways to encourage the calling and growth of pastors with our Columbia Bible College and other partnerships.
- Finally, our task groups around pressing local church social and spiritual issues are doing good work. Sign up for our regional newsletter at mcbc.ca for more details.



2024 has been a year of growth for Amity Trust, marked by several significant milestones. One of the key highlights of the year was the addition of our new branch in Warman, which we were quite pleased to open in November.

Earlier in 2024 we were excited to have moved into the new Northern wing of our Waldheim office, which we were able to add on when the building next door to our office came up for sale. This expansion of our building allows us to better serve our clients with space for our growing staff.



These new spaces and the new staff that we've hired are needed to serve our growing client base. We track that growth in a few different ways, but a couple of the highlights from 2024 were:

- An increasing number of families trusting us to handle their estate planning as evidenced by the most Wills on file we've ever had.
- A growing number of families trusting us to handle their financial affairs as evidenced by the most funds under administration we've ever had.



We're extremely grateful for the support of our controlling church conferences and their churches. In 2025 and beyond we hope to be able to help even more people achieve some measure of financial peace. If you know people that need some financial guidance, we'd love to help them save wisely, borrow sensibly, and execute sound estate plans, and, if you know people 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!

Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) - Thanks Saskatchewan!

As we look back on the year 2024, we celebrate many things, including:

- The **courage and ingenuity of Foodgrains partners** who provided food security support to nearly 1 million program participants amid grave, insecure, and heart-wrenching circumstances.
- The **generosity and compassion showed by Saskatchewan donors**, including growing- and community-project volunteers, farmers, businesses and individuals who generated nearly \$2 million in efforts to end global hunger.
- All the people from throughout Saskatchewan who took the **opportunity to learn about why people are food insecure** and how as Canadians we can respond.
- The renewal of **our core grant partnership with the Canadian Government**, and the willingness for folks to continue to advocate for change.
- The opportunity for **new staff and volunteer ambassadors** from all over Canada and in Africa to join the Foodgrains Bank network in this good work, and for those we remembered who left us this year.
- The **blessings that came as we prayed together** with church communities, on World Food Day, and our monthly staff prayer meetings.
- Since 2018, **Grow Hope Saskatchewan has been connecting SK farmers, urban-dwellers and businesses** that are working together to help end hunger, now thru 5 member agencies of CFGB. **In terms of fundraising, the cumulative amount throughout seven years is about \$1.35M.** Check out our [Facebook page](#) for updates and events!
- We are thankful that for the 6th consecutive year CFGB was listed by Charity Intelligence as a Top 10 Impact Charity. This designation is based on our reporting, financial transparency, need for funds, and the actual impact for each \$1 that is donated. This impact is only made possible through your donations, and our members and local partners. We share words from Andy Harrington, Canadian Foodgrains Bank Executive Director, inviting you to tell your friends and neighbor's about this good work, *“As we continue on our mission of ending hunger, especially in the midst of the ongoing global hunger crisis, we hope more Canadians will join us”*.

James chapter 1 offers a true and lasting anchor to hold us steady amidst the turbulent change happening around us - *“Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”* God’s offer of mercy, grace, love, and fellowship are indeed perfect gifts (in their completeness) that we have been empowered to share with others.

We hope that 2025 brings goodness and a spirit of gratitude to all of you. As you hear of more Canadians struggling to be food secure, we encourage you to consider the ways you can be a good neighbour locally, while you remain open to providing support to people around our world who face hunger.

Rick & Jacque Block, SK Representatives





CANADIAN MENNONITE

2024

The look and feel of *Canadian Mennonite* changed in 2024. Now monthly with longer feature sections, we offer **in-depth reporting on complex issues**. We continue to carry news from across the church, with regular articles from correspondents in B.C., the prairies and eastern Canada.

The Secret Treaty, our February feature, gave a unique new view on early Mennonite-Indigenous encounters. It has since been published as a book, with more than 1,000 copies sold, and was the basis for several events in Manitoba.

We launched several **new columns** in 2024, giving voice to a broad cross-section of the church. *Deeper Communion* is an ongoing conversation between four younger leaders in the church. *Life in the 80s* features some of our older members reflecting on lives of discipleship. *Faith Story* brings inspiration from one person's spiritual life.

We also launched **MennoCreative**, a residency program for creative communicators to tell the church story through new media and different channels. Three resi-

dents were hired. Watch for their work to appear in 2025 in a podcast, on our website and in the magazine.

Through all these voices, *Canadian Mennonite* seeks to strengthen the faith community. We want to represent the diverse church and encourage people to listen to one another, even on topics that could divide us. We do so in the spirit of Hebrews 10:24, spurring one another on to love and good deeds, to build up the Kingdom of God.

Through the Every Home Plan, people who attend a Mennonite Church Canada congregation subscribe at half the cost of a regular subscription. Fees are paid collectively. Talk to your church administrator for details.

Whether you read the magazine on paper or a mobile device; whether you visit our website or follow us on social media; whether you write letters, post comments, or discuss the articles at church; *Canadian Mennonite* is grateful that you connect with our national church family through the magazine.

✉ Have a story idea? Email Katie Doke Sawatzky at prairies@canadianmennonite.org.



Circles of Support and Accountability South Saskatchewan (CoSA SSK)
2024 Annual Report for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Why CoSA SSK?

Community Safety (No more victims). **Redemption of Persons** (No one is disposable).

Circles of Support and Accountability South Saskatchewan has had zero instances of “core members” causing harm in their communities this past year again. We are proud of this, and of our core members for maintaining this good standard. Typically, without CoSA support, about 40% of those who offended sexually will do so again. Sexual offences are traumatically harmful to the victims, and gravely debilitating to the offender as well.

We have received funding from Mennonite Church Saskatchewan for many years in support of our two- fold mission. “No more victims” means safer 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 standard metric in CoSA work is that 1 full-time coordinator is able to manage about 15 circles effectively. Such management would include volunteer recruitment and training; Circle establishment and core member participation; networking with prisons, chaplains, parole and probation services; fundraising and finances; community engagement and awareness; administration and record-keeping; and board leadership and development.

CoSA SSK has a ¼ time coordinator, and an excellent active board and volunteer base, in order to manage the 16 circles that we host. We are extremely cost effective and mission effective, and although not all of the functions listed above can be fully maintained (no Powerpoint today!), we are fully committed to serving our core members and advancing community safety, as is seen by our track record.

We begin our work with inmates by building relationships with them during their incarceration. When they are granted parole we create a covenantal Circle of 3-5 volunteers that meets with them weekly to give support and provide for accountability, or we may work one-on-one with an offender. In this past year we served 16 individuals with CoSA Circles. That included 14 ongoing Circles, 2 new Circles initiated during 2024-25, and 9 other individuals supported through CoSA SSK.

Our financial circumstances are improved from last year. We are hugely grateful to Parkland Restorative Justice in Prince Albert for their one-time gift of \$30,000 from the proceeds of their building sale. This will take us off the knife-edge of non-viability for at least a couple of years!

Our regular major funders are Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, MCC, the United Church - Living Skies region, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina. All your donations together came to about \$19,800 in 2024. On this limited budget we have been able to maintain good and effective partnering with the men we support. All of the men 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.

Charles Kooger, CoSA SSK Coordinator

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Circles of Support and Accountability
South Saskatchewan

“Walking Together for Everyone’s Well Being”

**Differences
for
the
Common
Good**



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15 NIV)

The work of Mennonite Central Committee is a beautiful story of **differences for the common good**. A century ago, diverse Anabaptist communities rallied in response to a cry for help. Today, congregations and individuals more diverse than ever continue to support MCC's work of **relief, development, and peace in the name of Christ**. We do this work in partnership with a vast array of churches and community groups around the world. We are deeply grateful for the important role that Mennonite Church Saskatchewan plays in our work, globally and here at home. We couldn't be doing this work without you!

MCC's **international program** continues to respond to conflicts and vulnerable communities around the world. This takes place in MCC-supported projects like emergency food deliveries in Gaza and South Sudan, or agricultural development projects in places like India, Bolivia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, in peacebuilding work like trauma therapy for children in Ukraine, peace libraries for youth in Rwanda, and enhancing girls' education opportunities in Afghanistan.

You are part of this work when you volunteer, donate or shop at one of MCC Saskatchewan's **Thrift shops** (545 volunteers serving in seven locations helped to raise \$734,000 for international program work). You are part of this when you participate in our **Relief Sale Festival** (\$92,000 raised). You are part of this when you sponsor an acre for **Grow Hope Saskatchewan**, our partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank and local farmers (nearly \$319,000 raised.) You are part of this when you make **quilts**, tie **comforters**, sew infant or education **kits**, or pack and pray over **relief kits (buckets)**. All for the common good.

A real highlight of MCC Saskatchewan's **local program** was our fall Peace Conference, **Climate Action for Peace**. Along with international input from James and Joan Alty (former MCC staff in South Africa and Palestine), we heard important local voices from **Mount**



Royal MC and the **Osler MC Youth** group. We want to continue to explore ways to reduce our impact, and support those near and far whose homes and livelihoods are being affected by a changing climate. (Watch this [inspiring video](#) to see how MCC is helping farmers adapt to shifting conditions in Rwanda.)

MCC's **Indigenous Neighbours** program continues to be active in offering the KAIROS Blanket Exercise to church and community groups (382 participants last year, learning a fuller history of this land). We launched a land-based podcast series, "[Doctrines &](#)



[Discoveries](#)." And we celebrate with the Young Chippewayan / Stoney Knoll First Nation, with the government's recognition of their land claim in March 2024. Watch for the sequel to **Reserve 107**, to be released shortly, updating this important story.

This was a year of **noteworthy birthdays**. MCC Saskatchewan turned sixty this past fall! And our Meadowgreen program, working with (mostly recent newcomer) youth in that Saskatoon neighbourhood, turned 20. At a celebration to mark this milestone, it was inspiring to meet a number of the early alumni returning as beautiful adult members of the community. MCC Saskatchewan engages **local youth** in a number of ways, including the Meadowgreen program, peace and justice education workshops (812 participants last program year), and multiple learning events for RJC students.

To learn more about MCC's work, check out our **Annual Impact Report** here: mcc.org/our-stories/20232024-annual-impact-report-saskatchewan-0 >. We look forward to seeing you at our June **Relief Sale Festival**, our November **Peace Conference**, any time you drop into your local **Thrift shop**, the **MCC Centre** in Saskatoon, or invite us to your church!



Bolivia



Gaza



India



Ukraine



Fiske growing project



Relief Sale Festival



Great Winter Warm-up



RJC

REPORT

MDS Canada 2024: Restoring hope

“It is a tremendous thing to have this happen. To have a house built for you, it’s beyond words,” said Jade Shamen, one recipient of a volunteer-built home in North Shuswap, British Columbia.

Jade, his wife Isabelle and their four-year-old son Able were among hundreds of North Shuswap area residents affected by the Bush Creek East Wildfire in August 2023. The family was one of four households in the North Shuswap area to benefit from an MDS volunteer-built home this summer, while four more were helped with home repairs and renovations. Over a five-month period, 227 volunteers served in the North Shuswap.

Around the same time, a smaller national crew rebuilt a house in Lytton, British Columbia. Patsy Gessey and Owen Collings survived a wildfire in 2021. Due to several complicating factors — including toxic ash removal, loss of town records, archeological surveying requirements and updates to the local building code — rebuilding began more than two years after the fire flattened their village.

“I’m so grateful and thankful that I’m working with [MDS] because your organization shows hope... Some people have given up... but you’ve stuck with us,” shared Owen.

Units were also active across the country with house builds taking place in Carstairs, Alberta, and Truro, Nova Scotia. Home repair projects were undertaken in Manitoba.



Isabelle Labelle and Jade Shamen in Celista, B.C.

In Carstairs, more than 130 people volunteered to rebuild a house for Elisa Humphreys after she lost her home to a tornado last year. The house was built almost entirely by daily volunteers, 95 serving with MDS for the first time.

“God [directed] but people had to say yes. So, my heart was really warmed by how giving people were and what a great community we live in,” said Jessica Lawrence, volunteer coordinator for the response.

In July, the Ontario Unit hosted the MDS Canada Family Project at Fraser Lake Camp near Bancroft, Ontario. Over four weeks, 48 people built three cabins and put the finishing touches on two more — to house camp volunteers and facilitate their program activities.

As I reflect on our work and relationships with disaster survivors and their communities in 2024, I am so grateful for the collective efforts of response coordinators, units, staff and the hundreds of daily, weekly and long-term volunteers who helped us achieve our mission to restore hope and homes. Thank you for your partnership in this work! I invite your continued prayers as we explore how to best serve our neighbours, across the country, in 2025.

—Ross Penner, Executive Director

2024 STATS

2 national responses	8 service scholarships awarded
263 national response volunteers	21 Spirit of MDS Fund grants totalling
4 unit responses	\$102,000 issued to churches and community orgs.
1 summer youth project	
1 family project	

Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan (MHSS) Summary Report (2024)

Who are we? We are Mennonites from a half dozen conferences with different traditions of worship practices, community profiles, and missions. We are a non-profit group organized under the Corporate Branch in Regina registered under Information Services Corporation. We have Canadian Revenue Agency status and issue tax-deductible receipts. We have an 8-person board that reports to its 230 members.

What do we do? **One**, we publish a three-time-a-year periodical, *Saskatchewan Mennonite Historian*. **Two**, we communicate with inquirers. **Three**, we call people together for presentations by master storytellers, both academic and traditional. **Four**, we archive extensive collections of family, church, books, newspapers photographs, and 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 2024:

- We sold used and new books. These were either mailed out or purchased at the Archives.
- With Paul Tiessen's leadership we held a fundraiser dinner and auction that raised over \$35,000
- MHSS continued to be an active member of *Walking the Path*, a group that promotes relations between Mennonites and First Nations.
- Elva Braun and Hilda Voth have taken leading roles in the archives; Kathy Boldt has stepped down from her leadership role.
- We published 3 issues of our periodical, *Saskatchewan Mennonite Historian*, for our 230 members. Ken Bechtel remains our fine editor.
- Victor Wiebe is engaging the Board to think about the future where digitizing records will become commonplace.
- We have about 4,000 linear feet of collections. They contain thousands of items.
- We have contributed 3,158 photos to Mennonite Archival Information Database (MAID) over the years. MAID is a North American collection of 83,192 scanned Mennonite photos. <http://archives.mhsc.ca/> We have thousands of unscanned photographs at the Archives some of which will be submitted to MAID in the future.
- We have a website at <http://mhss.sk.ca>. Or try www.mhss.sk.ca.
- We completed a New Horizons Project in 2023 funded by the federal government that collected video stories from people around the province for over two years. We continued to add interviews to our collection this year.



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- We archived more records given to us by Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, including those from churches that have closed.
- We archived more Mennonite documents and collected more obituaries.
- We added additional descriptions of Mennonite cemeteries.
- We process and archive donated collections from Mennonite people.
- We added older books to our collection.
- By invitation we spoke to several groups about our archives.
- We thanked all our volunteers at an appreciation banquet. Elmer Regier, Elizabeth Guenther, Kathy Boldt, Harold Loewen, and Elmer and Erna Neufeld were given honorary certificates for long-term Board service.
- We held an AGM with our members by sending out our annual reports by surface mail. Members responded by returning ballots, comments and suggestions. We featured a guest speaker, Ken Dahl (archivist at the City of Saskatoon) to talk to our members about the importance of archiving.
- We signed a longer-term lease with our landlord, Bethany Manor.
- Our biggest project was the installation of mobile shelves in our archives that can house 900 bankers' boxes. This complex project shut down the archives for 4 months.
- We sent two representatives to the annual sessions of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada held in Winnipeg.
- We hosted the 7-week virtual lecture series on Russia by Dr. Leonard Friesen.



MHSS board members are: Standing: Naomi Unger, Leonard Doell (vice chair), Ike Epp, Dick Braun, and Bill Wiebe. Seated: Susan Braun Treasurer), John Reddekopp (chair), Jake Buhler (secretary).



MHSS
Mennonite Historical
Society of Saskatchewan

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The Micah Mission - 2024 Annual Report

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share a few highlights from 2024 - an incredible year of restorative practice and meaningful connection in our community!

Last year:

- **203 Person-to-Person visits** took place at the Regional Psychiatric Centre.
- We visited **31 individuals monthly** in local federal correctional facilities. Providing **6 of these individuals with faith-based reintegration support** upon their release in the community.
- Thanks to the financial support of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Synod ELCIC, and the Living Skies Regional Council we **piloted Reintegration Circles** – circle-style support for medium and high-risk formerly incarcerated individuals who have not offended sexually but caused other instances of harm.
- Our two circle-based programs (Circles of Support & Accountability and Reintegration Circles) provided **9 individuals with bi-weekly programming** in the community.
- **3 individuals successfully graduated** from CoSA. **The sexual recidivism rate for CoSA program participants has now remained 0% for 6 years!**
- Over **50 volunteers** actively participated in Micah programs.
- Our Board of Directors established the **Remember Me Campaign**, an annual fundraiser for CoSA. 16 churches participated in our first campaign. We are looking forward to the **2025 Remember Me Campaign on Sunday, April 27th, 2025.**

Looking ahead, we are excited about this upcoming year. Together, we can continue to bring hope, healing, and positive change to our community.

To learn more about our restorative justice work and volunteer opportunities visit: themicahmission.org.



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Parkland Restorative Justice Annual Report – 2024

2024 was a year of both growth and transformation for Parkland Restorative Justice (PRJ). We navigated significant changes in leadership, staff structure, and strategic direction, which have laid a strong foundation for our continued success and impact.

Leadership Transition and Staffing Adjustments

In January 2024, Kerry, our former Executive Director, took a leave of absence. By June, Kerry announced that he would not be returning to the organization. In response, the Board formed a committee to reassess our staffing structure and organizational needs. During this period, Seth, who was managing both program delivery and executive duties, recognized that balancing two full-time roles was becoming overwhelming.

After thorough deliberation, the committee decided to establish two full-time positions to better meet the needs of the organization. The first position, Program Manager, was created to focus on program management and delivery, aligning with Seth's passion for hands-on work in our P2P (Person2Person) program. Seth transitioned into this full-time role, allowing him to concentrate on his core strengths.

The second new role, Executive Director and Community Engagement Coordinator, was designed to ensure strong organizational leadership and foster community partnerships. After a comprehensive recruitment process, the position was offered to long-time board member, Chrissy Halliday, who officially began her tenure on December 9, 2024. These leadership changes have resulted in greater capacity for Seth to engage directly with inmates and volunteers, furthering our program's impact.

<https://paherald.sk.ca/halliday-thrilled-to-take-executive-director-role-with-parkland-restorative-justice/>

Financial Update and Partnership Support

In 2024, PRJ also experienced a significant change in our financial landscape with the sale of the building generously gifted to us by the Grace Mennonite community. This sale provided us with a substantial influx of funds. Given the current challenges faced by nonprofit organizations, particularly the instability of funding sources, the Board made the decision to allocate \$30,000 from the sale to support our valued partner organizations, Micah Mission and CoSA South Sask.

<https://paherald.sk.ca/parkland-restorative-justice-makes-30000-donation-to-support-partners-in-saskatoon-and-regina/>



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These funds were particularly critical in light of the federal government’s decision to discontinue funding for the CoSA (Circles of Support and Accountability) program in 2023. The presentation of these funds to Micah Mission and CoSA South Saskatchewan was made on December 16, 2024, and both organizations expressed deep gratitude for this generous contribution.

Focus for 2025: Volunteer Recruitment and Sustainable Funding

As we look ahead to 2025, our organization is prioritizing volunteer recruitment and securing more stable funding sources. We recognize the growing challenges faced by churches and individual donors, as inflation and tightening financial budgets have made charitable giving more difficult. Additionally, our volunteer base is aging, with some individuals having contributed for nearly 40 years. While we are incredibly grateful for their dedication, the need for new volunteers—particularly for our P2P program—remains essential.

Ongoing Partnerships and Program Development

PRJ continues to operate out of an office at Gateway Convent Church, a partnership that has proven to be mutually beneficial. As we move forward, we are constantly evaluating our programs and services to ensure we are meeting community needs effectively.

One of our key initiatives, “Out of the Gate,” which was developed by Seth, has now completed its first year. The feedback from both participants and staff at Correctional Service Canada (CSC) has been overwhelmingly positive. The program has made a measurable difference in the lives of offenders, providing them with the support they need as they reintegrate into society.

We are excited about the continued growth and impact of Parkland Restorative Justice in 2025 and beyond. With a strong leadership team, strategic partnerships, and a commitment to volunteer engagement, we are confident in our ability to navigate the challenges ahead and continue to serve our community.

Yours in faith,

Chrissy Halliday February 2025



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