

Report Book

MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN

Annual Delegate Sessions

March 13 & 14, 2020

Sessions at First Mennonite Church, Saskatoon SK
Co-hosted by Wildwood Mennonite & First Mennonite

Table of Contents

4	Agenda
6	Slate of Nominations
7	Current Members of Council, PLC & Ministries
7	Nominations Bios
9	MC Sask Council 2019-2020 Actions & Major Decisions
10	Moderator's Report
11	Executive Minister's Report
13	Refresh, Refocus, Renew - Year 3
15	Interim Youth Worker's Report
16	2020 Draft Budget
17	Bylaws Committee Report
20	Draft 2020 Bylaws
36	Governing Bodies of MC Sask
40	MC Sask External Appointments
40	MC Sask Related Organizations
41	Pastoral Leadership Commission & Chaplains
42	Ministries Commission
44	Women's Ministry
45	Camp Elim
47	Shekinah Retreat Centre
50	Youth Farm Bible Camp
52	Rosthern Junior College
53	Canadian Mennonite University
54	Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
55	CoSA South Saskatchewan
56	Micah Mission
57	Parkland Restorative Justice
58	Mennonite Nursing Home and Youth Farm Complex
59	Mennonite Church Canada
60	Mennonite Church Manitoba
61	Mennonite Church Alberta
63	Mennonite Church British Columbia
64	Canadian Mennonite Publication
65	MCC Saskatchewan
66	Mennonite Trust Ltd.
67	Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
71	Mennonite Disaster Service
72	Mennonite Men
73	Minutes from 2019 Annual Delegate Sessions
80	Index

**Online registration or printable registration forms
available at www.mcsask.ca/registrations**

Printed registrations forms available from your church office

**Hosted by
Wildwood Mennonite
First Mennonite**

**All sessions will be held at
First Mennonite Church
418 Queen Street
Saskatoon, SK**

**For billeting information contact:
Victoria Neufeldt
Email: mcsaskbillets@gmail.com
Phone: 1-306-955-8910**

**Each congregation may send
one delegate for every 25 members or portion thereof.**

Each congregation is invited to appoint a youth delegate
in addition to their regular delegates. Youth delegates have all the responsibilities,
rights and privileges of regular delegates, except holding office in elected positions.

They are expected to prepare themselves in the same manner as other congregational delegates
by attending any congregational delegates' meeting and reading the report packages.

Youth delegates must register!

Contact youthminister@mcsask.ca for further information.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2020 Annual Delegate Sessions Agenda

Friday, March 13, 2020

- 1:00-4:00pm Pastor & Leaders Gathering: **Deepening Our Walk with the Global Church: Conversations on being Sent & Received.** With Arli Klassen & Jeanette Hanson
- 5:00pm Registration Opens
- 5:00pm Supper
- 6:30pm Gathering & Singing
- 7:00pm Opening of Business Sessions
Welcome to First Mennonite & ADS
Opening of the Business Meeting
Adoption of Minutes & Agenda
Introduction of Resolutions Committee
Introduction of Nominating Committee & Update
Moderator's Report
Introduction of Staff
Youth Update
MC Saskatchewan Executive Minister's Report
MC Canada Executive Minister's Report
Get to know a Regional Church: Mennonite Church Manitoba
- 8:00pm Worship: **Deepening Our Walk with Each Other & the World**
Speaker: Arli Klassen
Celebration of Baptisms, Memorial & Communion
Offering will go to supporting Global Youth Summit (GYS) & International Witness Work

Saturday March 14, 2020

8:30 am	Registration opens
8:45am	Gathering & Singing
9:00am	Plenary: Deepening Our Walk with Each Other & The World Offering go to GYS & Witness
10:00am	Business Session Continues Introduction of Guests Finance Report & Proposed Budget Resolution for Bylaws Motion to adopt updated bylaws. Motion: Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Council recommends the adoption of the updated By-Laws as presented in the Annual Delegate Report Book
10:40am	Coffee Break
11:00am	Ministries Commission: a) Walking the Path b) Introduce MC Sask Church Plant
11:30am	Highlight on Camps: a) Elim Bible Camp b) Shekinah Retreat Centre c) Youth Farm Bible Camp
12:00pm	Lunch
1:30pm	Deepening our Walk with our Neighbours
2:00pm	International Witness
2:30pm	Highlight on Schools: a) Rosthern Junior College b) Canadian Mennonite University c) Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
3:10pm	Pastoral Leadership Commission:
3:30pm	Business Session Approval of Nominations Approval of Budget/Auditor Other Resolutions
4:00pm	Invitation to Mennonite World Conference 2021 in Indonesia Commissioning & Official Closing of ADS Supper

Nominations

	Position presently	Eligible for	Will accept	Nomination	Length of
	filled by	Re-election	Nomination	Accepted by	Term
Executive					
Moderator	Terry Stefaniuk (Term 1, 2020)	Yes	Yes		Term 2, 2023
Finance Chair	Gordon Peters (Term 2, 2020)	Yes	Yes		Term 3, 2023
Council Member					
Member	Pauline Steinmann (Term 1, 2020)	Yes	Yes		Term 2, 2023
Member	Rod Suderman (Term 1, 2020)	Yes	Yes		Term 2, 2023
Member	Berny Wiens (Term 3, 2020)	No	NO	Zahara Alli	Term 1 (2023)
Pastoral Leadership Commission					
Member	Garth Ewert Fisher (Term 2, 2020)	Yes	Yes		Term 3, 2023
Member	Florence Driedger (Term 3, 2020)	No	NO	Patty Friesen	Term 1, 2023
Ministries Commission					
Member	Eric Olfert (Term 2, 2020)	Yes	Yes		Term 3, 2023
Member	Valerie Wiebe (Term 1, 2020)	Yes	NO	Mark Bigland- Pritchard	Term 1, 2023
Member	Claire Ewert Fisher (Term 1, 2020)	Yes	Yes		Term 2, 2023
Member	Joel Kroeker Resigned	Yes	NO	Ron Nickel	Complete term, 2022
Camp Elim Board					
Member	Doug Dueck Resigned	Yes	NO	Lorna Wiens	Complete term, 2021
Member	John Woelk (Term 1, 2020)	Yes	Yes		Term 2, 2023
Shekinah Retreat Centre Board					
Member	Phyllis Goertz (Term 1, 2020)	Yes	Yes		Term 2, 2023
Youth Farm Bible Camp Board					
Member	Annette Bergen (Term 3, 2020)	No	NO	Kalene Bartsch	Term 1 (2023)
Youth Farm Complex Board					
Member	Ernie Epp (Term 2, 2020)	Yes	Yes		Term 3, 2023
Member	Elaine Janzen (Term 1, 2020)	Yes	Yes		Term 2, 2023
Member	Doris Wiens (Term 2, 2020)	Yes	NO	Gwen Laughlin	Term 1, (2023)

Current Council, PLC and Ministries Members

Executive

Terry Stefaniuk, Moderator
Sharon Schultz, Deputy Moderator (2021)
Gordon Peters, Finance Chair
Christine Epp, Secretary (2021)

Pastoral Leadership Commission

Garth Ewert Fisher, Chair
Florence Driedger (term completed)
Curtis Wiens (2021)
Lisa Martens Bartel (2021)
Carrol Epp (2022)
Ric Driedger (2022)

Additional Council Members

Pauline Steinmann
Rod Suderman
Andrea Enns-Gooding (2021)
Berny Wiens (term completed)

Ministries Commission

Claire Ewert Fisher, Chair
Eric Olfert
Valerie Wiebe (term completed)
Jeanette Hanson (2021)
Nancy Epp (2022)
Joel Kroeker (resigned)

Nominations Bios

Council

Zahara Kwaje Alli (Term 1 – 2023) (306) 541-4567; zaharaalli@gmail.com

Zahara is originally from South Sudan but from the age of 8 years grew up in Uganda due to civil war in S. Sudan. After the 1972 Peace Agreement, her parents moved back to South Sudan but she stayed in Uganda to complete her studies before joining them. Her father was a physician who worked for the Sudan government for 45 years before he died in 2008. Her mother was a strong community leader. They both came from a family of 20; while she is 5th in a family of 13.

Zahara is a mother of 7 children and grandmother of 6. She immigrated to Regina with her husband and children as well as two nephews and a niece. They arrived in April 1993 and became part of Peace Mennonite Church who have been part of her family to this present day.

In Sudan she worked for several ministries: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; Ministry of Housing; Ministry of Agriculture as secretary and community worker. Later she joined the United Nation High Commission for Refugees as community worker helping new comers to Sudan. When the war began again in South Sudan in 1990 they went as refugees to Kenya.

She began work with Regina Open Door Society in 1994 and has worked in many areas with them. After working with them for 26 years it is now time to retire. She was also used as an interpreter as she speaks several languages – Arabic, Swahili and many languages of Sudan.

She has hosted a few IVEPers and also exchange students for University of Regina.

Pastoral Leadership Commission

Patty Friesen (Term 1 – 2023) (306) 260-6069 (cell); oslermcpastor@sasktel.net

Patty Friesen is in her 6th year serving as pastor at Osler Mennonite Church, after serving 6 years as chaplain at the Mennonite Nursing Home in Rosthern. Patty believes this hybrid of chaplaincy and pastoral work has benefitted both ministries. She also serves as a MC SK volunteer on-call chaplain several times a year in Saskatoon hospitals. When she's not serving the church, she is serving herself by walking along the South Saskatchewan River by her home, kayaking and camping with her trailer. Patty is happily married to Patrick Preheim.

Ministries Commission

Mark Bigland-Pritchard (Term 1 – 2023) (306) 827-7431 (cell);

markbiglandpritchard@mccsk.ca or mark@lowenergydesign.com

Mark is in membership at Osler Mennonite Church, where he has chaired the mission and service committee and the refugee support committee, played piano and occasionally preached. He is currently seeking a new church home closer to where he lives in Saskatoon. He is employed by MCC Saskatchewan as Migration and Resettlement Coordinator, supporting refugee sponsorships and working on advocacy campaigns to address the root causes of forced displacement.

Mark came to faith in Jesus at university in England; his commitment to an Anabaptist understanding of scripture came a few years later through extensive reading and connection with the London Mennonite Centre.

Mark's professional background is in applied physics, and consultancy in sustainable energy and green building. His concern for the integrity of God's creation, and awareness of the impacts of the climate emergency on both human society and global ecology, has also led him to be active in the climate justice movement, both locally and nationally.

Ron Nickel (completing term, 2022) (306) 862 6445; lornanickel@me.com

Ron is a member at Carrot River Mennonite Church where he has served as Assistant Pastor for many years. He is retired from a career in Social Work at the Child & Family Services. He enjoys working on a hobby farm he shares with his extended family where they have cattle and chickens, large gardens and an orchard of haskap and sour cherries. A family project he enjoys is baking fruitcakes to sell at various trade shows in the area along with jams and other baking. He enjoys spending time with his children and 13 grandchildren.

Camp Elim

Lorna Wiens (completing term, 2021) (306) 778-2331; lornawiens@sasktel.net

I have served on the Camp Elim Board for 15 years. My husband, Allen and I, live and farm in the Wymark area. We have two married daughters and six grandchildren. I worked full time in the financial industry until retirement 5 years ago. Since that time, I have worked part time for Mennonite Trust LTD in the Swift Current office. My home church was Emmaus Mennonite Church in Wymark, SK. until it's closure in 2018. Currently, I attend Zion Mennonite Church in Swift Current.

Youth Farm Bible Camp Board

Kalene Bartsch (Term 1 – 2023) (306) 222-0509; 4kbartsch@gmail.com

The legacy of YFBC has been an ingrained constant in my life. I grew up hearing about Henry Friesen's "vision" and how my parents were TOLD by Henry where he needed them and what jobs they were GOING to do at Camp. Henry simply didn't accept a "no". My mother as Cook and camp teacher. My late Father wore many hats at YFBC over his years there. From unofficial maintenance/fix-it-all kinda guy to board member and chairman of the board and everything in between. My dad had a real passion and heart for this camp.

I grew up in Rosthern and attended Youth Farm Bible camp first as a camper, then counsellor, as camp pastor/teacher, and now, I'm proud to graduate to Board Member. Although my family has never lived in Rosthern we always spent part of our summers here, visiting family, doing swimming lessons and...attending YFBC. I've watched all 3 of my children graduate from being campers to taking leadership roles at YFBC.

YFBC has changed over the years...it's grown, expanded, it's...become its own living, breathing, mission of Christ; Hearing the children of the world and giving them a place to learn, grow and THRIVE in CHRIST. I love the history of YFBC but I'm EXCITED to be on the Christ driven journey YFBC has yet to discover/and uncover.

Youth Farm Complex Board

Gwen Laughlin (Term 1 – 2023) (306) 460-6217; gwen.laughlin@gmail.com

Gwen graduated from RJC in 2012 and then from the University of Saskatchewan in 2016. She is interested in being on this board because she worked at the Youth Farm for 2 summers and is interested in being involved in the larger communities in the Mennonite circles.

MC Sask Council Actions & Major Decisions 2019-2020

MC Sask council approved a three-person bylaw review committee, Tim Wiens (Herschel Mennonite Church), Heather Driedger (Grace Mennonite Church, PA) and Kirsten Hamm-Epp (Staff)

MC Sask council appointed the following people to serve as delegates to MC Canada 2019 Gathering in Abbotsford, BC; Sharon Sschultz (Eyebrow), Andrea Enns-Gooding (Zoar), Gordon Peters (Nutana Park), Pauline Steinmann (Eigenheim), Rod Suderman (First), Terry Stefaniuk (Osler), Lisa Martens Bartel (North Star), Rose Graber (Grace, Regina), Lois Bukar (Zion), Time Wiens (Herschel), Gord Siemens (Mount Royal), Josh Wallace (Warman), Henry Funk (Zoar, member of MC Canada Joint Council), and Matt Wiens (Wildwood).

MC Sask council invited Sean East, accountant for MCEC, MC Canada and MC Sask to review our financial reporting methods and work to align our reporting with MC Canada and the other regional churches.

MC Sask council accepted Personnel's recommendations in updating the Regional Church Minister's job description and the Office & Financial Administrator's job description.

MC Sask council selected Madison Harms to represent MC Sask for the Global Youth Summit at Mennonite World Conference 2021 in Indonesia.

Moderator's Report

Annual Delegate Sessions of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

March 13 & 14, 2020

As the we reflect on the past year and look forward to the upcoming there is much for which to be thankful. Personally, I am thankful for the support of the members of MC Sask Council. They are a tireless group of individuals working diligently on your behalf to further the Lord's work through Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. In addition, under the leadership of Tim Wiens much has been accomplished with the revision and updating of bylaws. The Personnel Committee, with Andrea Enns-Gooding as chair, has accomplished a great deal. Thank you to Andrea and members of the committee for their diligence as MC Sask moves forward updating personnel related documents and procedures.

Throughout, Council has been supported by Office Administrator Marianne Siemens and Executive Minister Ryan Siemens. They are the individuals with whom you, as members of MC Sask, have contact on a regular basis. The time spent behind the scenes often goes unrecognized. At this time MC SK Council thanks them for their work on behalf of the congregants that comprise MC Sask.

I would like to thank you, the congregants of MC Sask. Without you and your support of your congregations and MC Sask, there is no regional church body. A body that supports its members and member congregations. In turn we, as a regional church, support the work of the nationwide church in Canada and abroad.

It has been my pleasure over the past two years to meet and get to know people. Making connections with others has helped me to learn more about the church. Time spent in meetings and in churches bringing a morning message has helped to facilitate getting to know you further. Please forgive me if I do not remember your name. That is one of my weaknesses.

The year has not been without its challenges as we looked for an individual or individuals to fill the maternity leave of Regional Minister Kirsten Hamm-Epp. Council would like to thank those that stepped forward to fill the gaps as we await the return of the Regional Minister from maternity leave. We wish the young family well as they transition to a new phase in their lives.

We celebrate the masters studies facilitated through CMU and lead by members of MC Sask. We have a group of pastors furthering their theological depth of knowledge.

As I close, I would like to recognize the closing in May 2020 of Superb Mennonite Church. As a former member, and where I joined the Anabaptist Mennonite faith, it brings a sadness to my heart. There is also joy in recognizing the work done by this little church on the prairie. May God's blessings come upon all that have entered through her doors.

Respectfully,

Terry Stefaniuk

2019 Executive Minister Report

Submitted by Ryan Siemens

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a community of twenty-seven congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred and Sent. We support each other in ministry, do things together which we cannot do alone, be church together throughout the province and connect to the larger Mennonite Church body through Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference. As a community of faith of about 2500 members/attendees, we operate three camping ministries, support restorative justice work across the province, contribute funds and time to Mennonite education, run youth programming, operate a nursing home, give of ourselves to the work of MCC, and together with the four other Mennonite Church Regions in Canada, support nationwide ministries through MC Canada. This report book barely scratches the surface of all the ways we work together in ministry.

Throughout 2019, MC Sask continued on our three-year *Deepening* journey as we *Deepened Our Walk With Each Other*. We walked with each other in a variety of ways:

At our Annual Delegate Session with David Fitch in March (Thank you Zoar MC & Eigenheim MC for hosting us so well);

Eight people from MC Sask attended the MC Canada Mission Consultation in Calgary;

Through a worship series based on Fitch's *Faithful Presence* material, developed by several MC Sask pastors (available at mcsask.ca);

At Regional Worship Services and a workshop with the *Voices Together* hymnal committee in June;

By sending delegates to MC Canada's Gathering 2019 in Abbotsford to listen to Elaine Heath and one another from across Canada;

A Continuing Education Event focused on our *Life Together* with Tom Yoder Neufeld;

And at our annual Equipping Day in October.

Outside of these "formal" MC Sask gatherings, we continue to walk with each other when congregations join together for worship services, when pastors gather monthly for Pastor Peer meetings, and when we serve together on Committees and Commissions both within MC Sask and beyond.

In 2019, MC Sask continued experiencing transitions in ministry. Currently, MC Sask has twenty-seven active pastors, three youth workers, two chaplains and two pastors on maternity leave. Of this group, seventeen are female, seventeen are male, and fifteen are under the age of forty. We are blessed with a good mix of new and seasoned pastors, who offer wisdom and energy to each other and our congregations. Several of these younger pastors are exploring their call to ministry in ministry placements. To help resource these new pastors, in the fall of 2019, MC Sask partnered with Canadian Mennonite University and Susanne Guenther Loewen (Co-Pastor at Nutana Park Mennonite Church) to provide a graduate level course called ***Peace, Violence & The Atonement***. This partnership is continuing with CMU in 2020 as we provide another graduate level course this winter, called ***Mission in Perspective***, led by Josh Wallace and as we have invited Meghan Larissa Good to provide a course in the area of preaching in the fall.

In looking ahead, the 2020 ADS theme ***Deepening our Walk with Each Other & The World*** will conclude this year's focus and move us into ***Deepening our Walk with our Neighbours***. This will be a weekend of singing, fellowship and reflection, reminding us we are connected to a worldwide body of faith through Mennonite World Conference. But even more than that, "World" has double meaning in this theme. To quote from the MC Sask ***Refresh, Refocus, Renew*** final report, ***Deepening our Walk with our Neighbours*** reminds us that "we are being called to turn our faces toward the world, working for wholeness (shalom), joy and reconciliation. While our whole journey is missional in nature, we want to take time to focus our energies on how we are being called "to love our neighbours as ourselves." What does this look like practically? To what new (or old) thing is God calling us?" In times of institutional transition, our temptation is often to turn inward, to maintain the status-quo and to "hold the fort". Yet, year three of ***Deepening Our Walk*** encourages us to look out toward the world. And while during transitions there will be times of lament (the closing of Superb Mennonite Church, May 31, 2020; the closing of Ten Thousand Villages), we lament knowing our hope is found in a God of resurrection, a God who will spring forth new shoots from deep and rich roots (Josh & Cindy Wallace's church plant).

To close, I would like to thank you for your continued trust and support of what we do together as Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. It is an honour to continue to serve you in this way and I look forward to the plans God has for us in 2020 and beyond.

In Christ,

Ryan Siemens



Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

ReFresh ReFocus ReNew

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.” (Frederick Buechner) What is MC Saskatchewan’s deep gladness? What is the world’s deep hunger?

In 2017, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan embarked on **Refresh, Refocus, Renew**, a year-long spiritual journey to listen for God’s call for us in this time and place. Betty Pries, CEO and Founder of Credence & Co, together with a local reference group, led us through this process. (To read the full final report, go to the Refresh, Refocus, Renew page at www.mcsask.ca)

From the work we did together, we concluded that MC Sask and its people are being called to pursue three essential themes:

Deepening our walk with Christ, with each other and with our neighbours...

- ... with Christ — We are being called to increase our openness to encounters with God’s presence in our lives, both individually and collectively. (2018)
- ... with each other — We are being called to reground ourselves in our core Anabaptist commitments of faith. (2019)
- ... and with our neighbours — **We are being called to turn our faces toward the world, working for wholeness (*shalom*), joy and reconciliation. (2020)**
 - While our whole journey is missional in nature, we want to take time to focus our energies on how we are being called “to love our neighbours as ourselves.” What does this look like practically? To what new (or old) thing is God calling us?

Year 3

As in past years, we offer two “bucket lists” to help us focus on deepening our walk. These lists are by no means exhaustive; they sketch a few ideas to get you (or your committee, or your congregation) dreaming. We invite you to try out some of the ideas in the “buckets” below or to dream up others suited to and rooted in your community.

- In the left “bucket” are ideas that require less energy, therefore one can do more of these. Feel free to try a couple (or more) of the items from this list.
- In the right “bucket” are ideas that have impact but require more energy, therefore one should do fewer of these. Try fewer items from this list.

After six months, evaluate the ideas you’ve tried out. Maybe you’ll want to continue an idea; maybe add a new idea or exchange one idea for another.

When choosing from among the items in these buckets, consider this question: If we want to lean into the intersection where our deep gladness in God meets the world’s deep longing for meaning, purpose and belonging, what would we do?

Bucket 1: Limited energy	Bucket 2: Greater energy
Congregation: On a Sunday morning during worship, walk around the community near your congregation. Prayerfully pay attention to how God is working there.	Congregation: Engage in a community/neighbourhood exegesis using the following tool: https://presbyphl.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2019/04/Neighborhood-Exegesis_worksheet_rev.pdf
Congregation: Invite the Walking the Path Committee to lead a Sunday school class and/or worship service	Individual: Pay prayerful attention in your half-circles (David Fitch, <i>Faithful Presence</i>). Keep a journal or log of what you witness, conversations you have, reflections. Find a way to share this with people in your congregation
Individual: Invite yourself to your neighbour's place of worship	Individual/Congregation: Commit to attending a number of Office of the Treaty Commissioner events in the coming year/Join a local Reconciliation Committee (e.g. Prairie Rivers Reconciliation)
Congregation: Invite Josh & Cindy Wallace to share their vision for a new church plant	Congregation: Host weekly/biweekly community meals, offering space to eat and pray together.
Congregation: Invite one of our Restorative Justice Practitioners (Micah Mission, CoSA South SK, Parkland RJ) to share about their work.	Individual/Congregation: Start/restart volunteering with one of our Restorative Justice programs.
Individual/Small Group: Attend the MCCS Peace Conference on Nov 7 th , 2020 and learn root cause of and responses to global migration	Congregation/Region: Plan an MCC 100 years celebration. Share stories about your MCC experiences over the years. Gather an offering for an MCC project.
Congregation: Invite <i>The New Leaf Network</i> to host a learning party. www.newleafnetwork.ca	Congregation/Small Group: Book study drawing on resources like <i>The New Parish</i> , <i>The Gospel Next Door</i> or <i>God's Country, No Home Like Place</i> , <i>The Art of Neighbouring</i>
Individual/Small Group: Make an MCC comforter or pack some hygiene, school, relief or sewing kits.	Congregation: Host a block party. Get to know the neighbours around your church building.
Individual/Small Group: Volunteer and/or shop at your local MCC Thrift Shop.	Congregation/Small Group: Participate in MCC's Buckets of Thanks in October (packing relief kits as an outpouring of gratitude).
Small Group/Congregation: Host a Blanket Exercise with an MCC facilitator to learn more about reconciliation with Indigenous neighbours.	Individual: Invite your neighbour/someone from the community, to your place of worship
Small Group/Congregation: Take a tour of or volunteer at the MCC warehouse, local Friendship Inn	Congregation: Hold community forums to discuss the concerns/issues in your neighbourhood

Interim Youth Worker Report

Submitted by Scott Feick

Since the middle of September I have been filling in for Kirsten Hamm-Epp's maternity leave in three main capacities. These have been as the director of the SMYO (Saskatchewan Mennonite Youth Organization) committee; the coordinator of the youth Ministry team, involving youth leaders in Saskatoon and the surrounding area; and as a pastor in residence at Rosthern Junior College.

The SMYO committee is a committee focused on fostering the development of leadership and faith for youth who are connected to the Mennonite Church. Throughout the year, I have met with the Youth to engage in conversation about these ideas, and to plan for the committee's big annual event the SMYO Youth Retreat. The retreat, which took place this past weekend, centered on the theme of "Living Our Faith" which was chosen by the committee to be one of their main foci for the year. This year we had roughly thirty-six youth and sponsors join us for a weekend full of winter fun, worship, and the engagement with faith through a lens of restorative justice. Relying on their experience and their profession in restorative justice, Heather Driedger and Dave Feick encouraged our thought in the areas of justice and injustice that exist in our society and prompted us to consider the resolution of conflicts in our society restoratively rather than retributively.

The Youth Ministry team that I work with consists of a group of youth leaders that are in official youth leadership roles as appointed by specific congregations. This group meets together to plan monthly events that bring together youth from various Mennonite churches within the conference. This year, so far, we have had this gathering of youth known as "Mega Menno" come together for a corn maze in Rosthern, a Halloween game night at Mount Royal Mennonite Church, a mall hunt at the circle and center mall, and a talent show and event night at RJC called Friday Night live. Also we look forward to a ski trip happening at the end of February, an all-nighter and retreat focussed on honouring the Earth in April, a Mega Menno Run in May, and a pool party and viewing of the RJC musical in June.

The role of pastor in residence at Rosthern Junior College is one that started in January of 2019, as one of Kirsten's roles. This role came about through the recognition from both MC Sask and RJC of the relationship that the two share and the desire to intentionally continue and foster that relationship with the constituencies and the students. In practice, it means that I spend one day each week at RJC in a space with my door open and with candy on the table to invite students to interact with me in some way. In my time there this year I have had many fun and meaningful interactions with students and staff as we have shared in conversation about faith, life, and many things in between.

This year has been an exciting and challenging year as I have taken on roles that are very new to me but in many ways incorporate my past, current, and future education and past and future forms of employment. It has been a great opportunity of learning and an enriching experience as I have been given the opportunity to serve in different communities that have shaped my own life.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan
2020 DRAFT Budget
January - December 2020

Income	
	2020 Draft Budget
Congregational Donations	\$ 399,000.00
Individual Donations	\$ 70,200.00
Investment Income	\$ 1,956.00
Non-Receipted Donations	\$ 42,000.00
Other Income	\$ -
Service/Fee Income	\$ 36,000.00
Youth Farm Rental Income	\$ 30,000.00
Total Other Income	\$ 61,000.00
Partner Ministries	\$ -
Canadian Mennonite	\$ 19,008.00
Total Partner Ministries	\$ 19,008.00
Total Income	\$ 598,164.00

Expenses	
CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING	
Congregational Resourcing Program Expense	\$ 18,000.00
Council & Committee Travel	\$ 600.00
New Ministry Initiative Expense	\$ 1,200.00
Staff Professional Development	\$ 1,200.00
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$ 54,000.00
Staff Travel	\$ 1,200.00
Youth & Young Adult Program Expense	\$ 6,000.00
Total CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING	\$ 82,200.00
EXECUTIVE	
Council & Committee Travel	\$ 1,680.00
Program Expenses	\$ 12,000.00
Staff Professional Development	\$ 3,600.00
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$ 90,600.00
Staff Travel	\$ 8,700.00
Total EXECUTIVE	\$ 116,580.00
MINISTRIES COMMISSION	
Education, Promotion & Outreach	\$ 9,000.00
Total MINISTRIES COMMISSION	\$ 9,000.00
OCCUPANCY	
Insurance	\$ 2,400.00
Office Rent	\$ 9,384.00
Total OCCUPANCY	\$ 11,784.00
OPERATIONS	
Legal and professional fees	\$ 9,600.00
Office/General Administrative Expenses	\$ 7,800.00
Staff Professional Development	\$ 2,400.00
Staff Salary & Payroll Expenses	\$ 48,000.00
Total OPERATIONS	\$ 67,800.00
PARTNER MINISTRIES EXPENSES	
Camp Elim Support	\$ 2,400.00
Canadian Mennonite Subscription cost	\$ 19,260.00
Canadian Mennonite University	\$ 50,100.00
Mennonite Church Canada	\$ 127,000.00
Restorative Justice Ministries	\$ 38,280.00
Rosthern Junior College	\$ 60,000.00
Shekinah Support	\$ 2,736.00
Youth Farm Support	\$ 6,792.00
Total PARTNER MINISTRIES EXPENSES	\$ 306,568.00
PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COMMISSION	
Council & Committee Travel	\$ 600.00
Education & Training	\$ 4,800.00
Staff Travel	\$ 1,200.00
Total PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COMMISSION	\$ 6,600.00
Total Expenses	\$ 600,532.00

Net Income	\$ (2,368.00)
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Bylaws Committee Report

Summary of Bylaw changes from March 10, 2018 to Dec. 9, 2019

This document will show the bylaw changes from the 2018-03-10 version on the MC Sask website to the new 2020 version. If a section is not listed then there were no changes made in that area.

There are three side documents that will accompany the bylaws. Each contains a former section of the bylaws. These sections have been set apart so that the working portions of MC Sask can be reviewed and amended more easily than receiving approval at an ADS. The changes to these sections, if any, are included in this document.

Part I Definitions

The simplest changes are in the new Nationwide structure wording. Area now changes to regional for both church and ministers.

A definition of the Annual Delegate Session (ADS) was added.

A definition for delegate was added. The qualification for this position is changed to a person actively engaged in a MC Sask congregation from a member of an MC Sask congregation.

Bylaws state that only members of congregations can serve on council so a definition of member was created.

The youth delegate definition was updated to include all congregations, not only those with a youth program.

Normal resolution definition was added and both types of resolutions were better defined to their intent.

Part II Definition and Relationships

Section 2 – d) added to include Statements of Mission, Values, and Purpose which would be developed and updated from time to time.

Section 3 – a) Wording change which removes the definition of MC Sask as a deliberative body with ability to recommend but not enforce. This allows congregations autonomy within MC Sask.

Part III Membership

Section 4 – Eligibility for membership changed from “accepts” to “affirm” MC Sask’s Statement of Faith, covenants, and bylaws. This is now consistent with MC Canada wording.

Section 5 – Previously membership in MC Canada was automatic with membership, the new structure has membership in MC Canada only by the regional churches.

Section 6 – Sending a delegate to the ADS is an added expectation of a member church.

Section 7 – Withdrawal of congregational membership – a process to add a time of engagement between the congregation and MC Sask so all opportunities for resolution before withdrawal are considered.

Part IV Delegate Sessions

Section 9 – a special meeting can now be called at the request of 6 congregations, previously the petition required 50 members from 6 congregations to call for a meeting.

Section 11– Changes were made to b) and c) to clarify decision making by the delegates. Approving the budget was added to reflect current practice.

Section 12 – The qualifications of a delegate previously required membership in a congregation.

Section 13 – The qualifications of a youth delegate previously required a youth program in their church.

Section 15 – The delegate registration procedure was updated to reflect current practice. Attendance at ADS was opened to all persons attending an MC Sask congregation. Voting procedures clarified and made into a new point. Council members are no longer able to vote, but may make and second motions. MC Sask's Resolution policy guides when and how resolutions are brought to, discussed and voted at the ADS.

Leadership Assembly

Section 16 – There are persons attending this event as guests because they are part of related organizations or common interest and this opens the meeting to those invited.

Section 17 – The purpose of the leadership assembly reflects as it is now convened. The approval of the budget was removed from its mandate.

Section 18 – The minimum requirement to meet at least annually changed from semi annually.

Part VI Council

Section 20 – Record keeping and archives now guided by the Records management and archives policy. Council is responsible for only one employee, the Executive minister; all other employees are guided by the HR policy. Specific financial procedures have been moved to Financial policy. Involvement of council members on Personnel committee updated to reflect current practice. The bylaw committee moved to an as needed status. Council has the ability to appoint persons to serve in MC Sask positions and other organization's boards. The duties of the appointees are defined but the specific committees and boards are listed in a separate document. The oversight of the budget, ongoing financial oversight and management were added as a duty of council, as well as appointing a Finance committee member to serve with the Finance chair.

Section 21 –The ability to do business electronically if required was added as well as decision making procedures were clarified to include consensus and voting.

Part VII Executive Committee

Section 25 – The moderator and finance chair are full time additions to personnel committee to reflect current practice.

Part VIII Elections and Terms of Office

Section 26 –The need for ballot voting eliminated so any form of voting can be used.

Section 27 – Employees of related organizations are now allowed to be officers of MC Sask.

Section 28 – All positions on Council, Commissions, and Committees are now 3 year terms.

Part IX General provisions of Committees

Section 30 – All who are actively engaged in a congregation may serve on an MC Sask committee, changed from a membership requirement.

Section 32 – Removed requirement to consult with program committee to determine reporting time on ADS agenda as this function is now done by Council.

Part X Governing bodies of MC Sask

There was significant rework of this section. Each current committee reviewed their mandates and updated them.

Section 35 – A definition of Commissions was added. The Vision and Wholeness Group was removed as it was no longer functioning. An MC Sask staff person added to Ministries commission, the mandate was revised. Added MC Sask staff member to PLC commission, mandate was revised. Camp Commission deleted as no longer functioning. All duties and responsibilities of the commission are now found in the document Governing bodies of MC Sask.

Section 36 – Separate Business Entities defined and basic duties listed. All duties and responsibilities of the camps and Youth farm complex boards are now found in the document Governing bodies of MC Sask.

The four entities are listed as well as procedures for each of them to form boards. Requirement for a board member from a church that is participating in the camp removed, now must only be from an MC Sask church. Board composition better defined so that the majority of board members come from MC Sask churches whether elected at an ADS or appointed by their board. Communication between the four entities and MC Sask was defined. Their mandates stated as well as interactions with Council, and how they will share information with Council.

Section 37 – The purpose of the committees of MC Sask are defined. All duties and responsibilities of the committees are now found in the document Governing bodies of MC Sask. The membership, duties and responsibilities of finance committee revised. Finance policy will guide financial operation of MC Sask. Many items relating to financial procedures were taken out of the bylaws and will be added to financial policy. – The membership, duties and responsibilities of personnel committee revised. The Human Resource Policy becomes the guideline for this committee. Bylaws committee changed to an as needed group. Archives committee disbanded as archives policy and council provide guidance here. No changes to nominating committee. The program committee duties are now part of council's responsibilities. Resolutions committee work is guided by Resolutions policy. If an ad hoc committee is created, then they are also become part of the Leadership Assembly.

Section 38 – creates a reference for MC Sask policies and how they are created, found, and maintained.

Part XI Financial Control

Payments and out of pocket expense moved to Financial policy.

Part XII Employees

Section 41 – HR Policy now guides all aspects of relations to employees. All previous references to hiring, firing, evaluation, now moved to HR Policy.

Part XIII Relation Organizations

Section 42 – The list of organizations updated and moved to a separate policy so that this list can be easily amended by council to reflect current practice.



BYLAWS

Final Draft for 2020 ADS

Dec. 9/2019

History and Legal Identity	27	Limitations on Elected Offices		
The Bylaws	28	Terms of Office		
Part I – Definitions				
1	Definition of Terms			
Part II – Definition and Relationships				
2	Definition of MC Sask	29	Establishment of Committees	
3	Relationship to Member	30	Eligibility for Election	
Congregations				
Part III – Membership				
4	Eligibility for Membership	31	Accountability of Committees	
5	Rights and Privileges of Member	32	General Powers	
Congregations		33	Meetings	
6	Expectations of Member	34	Quorum	
Congregations		Part X – Governing Bodies of MC Sask		
7	Withdrawal of Membership	35	Commissions	
Part IV – Delegate Sessions			36	Separate Business Entities
8	Annual Delegate Sessions	37	Committees of MC Sask	
9	Special Delegate Sessions	38	Policies of MC Sask	
10	Notice to be Given	Part XI – Financial Control		
11	Powers	39	Fiscal Year	
12	Voting Delegates	40	Signing Authority	
13	Youth Delegates	Part XII – Employees		
14	Quorum	41	Employment	
15	Procedures	Part XIII – Related Organizations		
Part V – Leadership Assembly			42	Organization Relationships
16	Composition	43	Mutual Arrangements	
17	Duties and Powers	Part XIV – Affiliations		
18	Meetings	44	Authority to Affiliate	
Part VI – Council			Part XV – Seal	
19	Composition	45	Custody and Execution	
20	Duties and Powers	Part XVI – Amendments		
21	Meetings	46	Bylaws	
Part VII – Executive Committee			47	Amendment Process
22	Composition	Part XVII – MC Sask Office		
23	Duties and Powers of the Executive	48	Head Office	
Comm.		Part XVIII – Winding Up		
24	Meetings	49	Disposal of Assets	
25	Duties and Powers of the Officers			
Part VIII – Elections and Terms of Office				
26	Elections			

MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN

HISTORY OF ITS LEGAL IDENTITY

The Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan held its first meeting in Rosthern in 1959 with Paul Schroeder in the chair. The conference was officially incorporated under The Societies Act as of Dec. 16, 1960. Bylaws were adopted and subsequently amended from time to time.

The Societies Act was repealed and replaced by The Non-profit Corporations Act. In compliance with that Act, the Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan applied for a Certificate of Continuance and was registered accordingly by the Corporations Branch on March 30, 1982.

The Conference's original bylaws as amended to 1982 were also continued and further amendments were made from time to time. When the bylaws were being revised in 1997, the Conference became aware that the bylaws violated the Act in several ways. The major violation was that the Act does not provide for a delegate form of government. The Conference's legal counsel advised that a disgruntled member of one of the member congregations could therefore possibly successfully challenge in a court of law any decision made by the Conference. The bylaws were rewritten in 1997 and adopted at a Special Conference Session held on November 29, 1997 but they included several temporary provisions to comply with the Act. The most important of these was that each member congregation could send only one voting delegate to Conference Sessions rather than the one delegate per 25 members as the bylaws had previously provided.

At that same Special Conference Session, the Executive Committee was authorized to petition the Government of Saskatchewan to make provision for the incorporation of the Conference to be continued under separate legislation. On June 2, 1998, the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enacted The Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan Act. That Act authorizes the Conference to "make... bylaws that it considers advisable for the conduct of its affairs." This allowed the Conference to reinstate its customary parliamentary form of government.

The first bylaws under The Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan Act were adopted at the annual conference session held in Waldheim, SK on Feb. 26 & 27, 1999. They were amended at the Annual Conference Session in Rosthern on Feb. 26, 2000.

At the annual session held Feb. 23 & 24, 2001, the Conference asked that its name be changed to Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, in keeping with the name change by Mennonite Church Canada. The Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, in response to a petition, then enacted The Conference of Mennonites of Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2002 to affect that name change. The bylaws were then amended accordingly at the annual delegate session in Saskatoon on March 1, 2003.

In 2004, MC Sask initiated a Visioning process which prompted the establishment of a Structures Task Force in 2006. The recommendations of that Task Force were endorsed at the annual delegate session of Feb 22 & 23, 2008. Then the bylaws were amended to reflect the

proposed new structures at the annual delegate session held Feb 27 & 28, 2009.

At the annual delegate session held March 8 & 9, 2019, a draft version of bylaw updates was presented for delegate review, with changes made according to Mennonite

Church Canada structural changes, and to better reflect current practice. These bylaws were then approved by delegates at the 2020 annual delegate session held March 13 & 14, 2020.

MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN BYLAWS

Part I – Definitions

1) Definition of Terms

In these Bylaws:

- a) **“act”** means An Act respecting Mennonite Church Saskatchewan and amendments thereto;
- b) **“ADS”** means Annual Delegate Session;
- c) **“MC Canada”** means Mennonite Church Canada;
- d) **“MC Sask”** means Mennonite Church Saskatchewan;
- e) **“regional church”** means MC Sask as a member of MC Canada;
- f) **“regional church minister”** means a person engaged by MC Sask to provide services as listed in Section 41;
- g) **“committee”** means a committee, a commission, a board of a separate business entity, or a group established under these bylaws with specifically designated duties and powers;
- h) **“council”** means the board of directors of MC Sask as provided in the Act;
- i) **“congregation”** means a body of persons who have responded to the call of Christ in repentance and in faith, who symbolize their unity through the practice of baptism and communion and who are visibly grouped for the expressed purpose of implementing their obedience to Christ as head of the church;
- j) **“delegate”** is a person selected by a congregation to represent them at a delegate session;
- k) **“employee”** means any person hired by MC Sask under Section 41;
- l) **“member”** where it is not otherwise qualified, means an individual person whose name is on the role of a member congregation;
- m) **“member congregation”** means a congregation that has been accepted as a member of MC Sask under the provisions in Part III of these bylaws;
- n) **“related organization”** is one as prescribed in Section 42;
- o) **“resolution”** is to be passed by 50% + 1 and is meant to provide direction to MC Sask;
- p) **“special resolution”** means a resolution which must be passed by at least two-thirds of the votes cast at a delegate session of which not less than 60 days’ notice specifying the intent to propose the resolution has been given. Special resolutions are meant to make fundamental changes to the organization; and
- q) **“youth delegate”** means a senior high school student (gr.9-12) who is active in a member congregation and has been chosen by the congregation to be a delegate at a delegate session.

Part II – Definition and Relationships

2) Definition of MC Sask

- a) MC Sask does not exist apart from its member congregations. It defines itself as:
 - i) congregations voluntarily joined together in relationships of love, caring and mutual accountability for the purpose of serving the Kingdom of God in ways described by the confession of faith adopted by MC Canada;
 - ii) congregations joined in relationship and gathered in meeting and ministry;
 - iii) congregations whose will is expressed by its delegate sessions and administered in accordance with the structures detailed in these bylaws; and
 - iv) congregations who have a vision of being Christ centred and sent.
- b) The authority of MC Sask rests in the congregations as expressed by its delegate sessions.
- c) MC Sask is a regional church of MC Canada under the terms of its bylaws and the agreed upon covenant between the regional churches.
- d) MC Sask will be inspired and guided by its Statements of Mission, Values, and Purpose.

3) Relationship to Member Congregations

- a) MC Sask is a deliberative body which believes in the congregational form of government whereby each member congregation retains maximum freedom of self-determination.
- b) Even though MC Sask respects the autonomy of each member congregation, it may give counsel and assistance to a member congregation when necessary or upon request from the congregation.
- c) When a member congregation takes a position at variance with those of MC Sask including the currently held confession of faith and such other statements as may from time to time be adopted by MC Sask and by MC Canada, the council shall follow the process which may be established from time to time by MC Sask.

Part III – Membership

4) Eligibility for Membership

- a) Any congregation is eligible to become a member congregation if it affirms:
 - i) the currently held confession of faith;
 - ii) the current MC Sask Covenant;
 - iii) all position statements which may be adopted from time to time by MC Sask and MC Canada; and
 - iv) these bylaws including the definition of MC Sask in Section 2.
- b) A congregation wishing to become a member congregation shall apply in writing to the MC Sask office at least three months prior to an annual delegate session. Such application shall be evaluated by the council which shall then present a recommendation to the delegate session for consideration.
- c) When a congregation's application for membership has been approved by a delegate session, that congregation shall be admitted as a member congregation in a manner determined by the council.

- d) When a congregation has been admitted as a member congregation by a vote of a delegate session, that congregation shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of membership and shall assume all duties and responsibilities as defined in these bylaws.
- e) If the recommendation is for a period of discernment, then the congregation will be entitled to send persons to attend delegate sessions as guests, and to participate in all other events of MC Sask during that time.

5) Rights and Privileges of Member Congregations

Member Congregations are entitled to:

- a) send delegates to delegate sessions, as prescribed in Section 12, with the right to vote; and
- b) to participate in programs and receive services from MC Sask.

6) Expectations of Member Congregations

Member congregations are expected to:

- a) give faithful attention to the Scriptures;
- b) affirm the currently held confession of faith;
- c) uphold position statements which MC Sask and MC Canada may adopt from time to time;
- d) select pastors whose training and faith positions are such that they meet the credentialing requirements as determined by MC Sask;
- e) send at least one delegate to all delegate sessions as prescribed in Section 12;
- f) respect the resolutions adopted by delegate sessions of MC Sask;
- g) support programs and projects of MC Sask;
- h) make contributions to the budget of MC Sask;
- i) encourage members to accept positions of leadership and service within MC Sask; and
- j) assume all duties and responsibilities as defined in these bylaws.

7) Withdrawal of Membership

- a) A congregation that wishes to withdraw from MC Sask covenants to engage in a minimum of two conversations with the leadership of MC Sask. A third party may be requested to ensure that all differences are clearly articulated and each party is fully heard as well as all opportunities for resolution are considered.
- b) A member congregation that wishes to withdraw its membership in MC Sask may do so by giving to the MC Sask office a written notice to that effect.
- c) When the MC Sask office receives from a member congregation a written notice of withdrawal from membership, that congregation's rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities shall cease immediately.

Part IV – Delegate Sessions

8) Annual Delegate Sessions

MC Sask shall hold an annual meeting to be known as the annual delegate session (ADS) at a time and place to be determined by the council unless it was determined by a previous meeting.

9) Special Delegate Sessions

A special meeting to be known as a special delegate session may be called by the moderator after consultation with the council or may be called on a petition signed by not fewer than six member congregations.

10) Notice to be Given

Notice of each delegate session shall be sent to all member congregations not fewer than 14 days in advance of the meeting.

11) Powers

The delegate sessions shall:

- a) be the setting where final decisions of MC Sask are made;
- b) receive reports from the council and from all committees, as well as from related organizations;
- c) direct council to develop policies and position statements as the delegates deem appropriate;
- d) approve bylaws and by-law amendments recommended by the council;
- e) provide direction to the council and all committees;
- f) elect officers and members of the council and all committees as prescribed in these bylaws;
- g) approve the budget;
- h) select the financial auditor; and
- i) provide a forum for fellowship and worship for member congregations.

12) Voting Delegates

It shall be the responsibility of every member congregation to be represented at delegate sessions. Each member congregation shall be entitled to name one voting delegate for every twenty-five members, or any portion thereof, for each delegate session.

13) Youth Delegates

- a) In addition to the above delegates, each member congregation is entitled to send one youth delegate to each delegate session.
- b) Youth delegates shall have all the rights and privileges of any other delegate or member except to hold elected office.

14) Quorum

Twenty-five voting delegates which represent not less than one-fourth of the member congregations shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at delegate sessions.

15) Procedures

- a) The name(s) of each member congregation's voting delegate(s) shall be submitted to the registration coordinator before or during the delegate session in a form prescribed by the council.
- b) All persons who attend member congregations shall be entitled to attend delegate sessions and to take reasonable part in the discussion, but only the registered voting delegates, the registered youth delegates, and the members of the council are entitled to present and second motions or resolutions.
- c) Only registered delegates (including youth delegates) are entitled to vote. No delegate may cast more than one vote on any question.
- d) The presiding officer will conduct all votes on motions. Voting methods will be at the discretion of the presiding officer and can be by show of hands, use of voting cards, or by secret ballot. Unless otherwise specified, a simple majority will carry the vote.
- e) Motions or resolutions which are deemed by the council to propose major policy or program changes or to require extra-budgetary expenditure are deemed "special resolutions" (see Section 1(p)), and shall be submitted to the MC Sask office at least 60 days prior to a delegate session for advance circulation to member congregations. Such motions or resolutions may, however, be presented to the delegate session if the delegates agree to waive the requirement for advance notice.
- f) All resolutions presented to the delegates will be guided by the *Resolutions Policy*.
- g) Any delegate may challenge a ruling of the presiding officer and when that occurs, the presiding officer's recourse is to call for a vote on whether the ruling of the chair shall stand.
- h) A presiding officer who is uncertain of the correct procedure in any given situation may seek guidance from the delegates or from the parliamentarian.
- i) Decisions about rules of order which are not clarified in the Act or in these bylaws shall be guided by a recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

Part V – Leadership Assembly

16) Composition

The leadership assembly shall consist of:

- a) the council as prescribed in Section 19;
- b) all elected members of all committees provided in these bylaws;
- c) all appointed representatives provided in these bylaws; and
- d) representatives of related organizations as invited by the council

17) Duties and Powers

The leadership assembly shall:

- a) serve as a sounding board to the council;
- b) provide a forum for cooperation and collaboration between all those persons responsible for administering the programs of MC Sask; and
- c) provide advice to the council and committees as it deems appropriate.

18) Meetings

- a) The leadership assembly shall meet at least once each year between annual delegate sessions at the call of the moderator.
- b) Additional meetings may be called by the moderator.

Part VI – Council

19) Composition

The council shall consist of:

- a) the executive committee as provided in Section 22;
- b) four members-at-large elected at a delegate session; and
- c) the regional church ministers ex-officio but non-voting.

20) Duties and Powers

The council shall:

- a) represent MC Sask in all matters and shall exercise its powers between delegate sessions;
- b) consider the advice provided by the leadership assembly and the delegates;
- c) maintain an appropriate record of the most current confession of faith, mission statement, position statements, recommendations from MC Sask committees and task forces, and any policy directions adopted by a delegate session as specified in the *Records Management and Archives Policy*;
- d) ensure the safekeeping of all legal documents and titles of MC Sask as specified in the *Records Management and Archives Policy*;
- e) act as advisors or consultants for all committees of MC Sask, appointing an ex-officio member when deemed appropriate;
- f) hire, oversee and dismiss MC Sask Executive Minister;
- g) assign the signing officers;
- h) at its discretion, fill vacancies in elected positions that occur between annual delegate sessions until the next election;
- i) appoint a member of the council to serve on the personnel committee together with the moderator;
- j) appoint a member to serve on the finance committee together with the finance chair;
- k) appoint the parliamentarian to interpret the Rules of Order as may be required at a delegate session, for terms that it shall determine;

- l) appoint persons various MC Sask positions as needed:
 - i) These persons will also serve as members of the Leadership Assembly, actively participating in meetings and duties as prescribed in these bylaws (Part V).
- m) appoint persons to external of directors as requested:
 - i) These persons represent MC Sask in their role, and are expected to be familiar with the relationship and agreements between MC Sask and their organization, reporting to the council as required.
 - ii) These persons will also serve as members of the Leadership Assembly, actively participating in meetings and duties as prescribed in these bylaws (Part V).
- n) appoint persons to serve as MC Sask delegates at MC Canada annual meetings;
- o) periodically have a visioning and planning session to set direction for MC Sask, including an evaluation of programs;
- p) present a report on its actions, including major decisions and adopted policies, at the annual delegate session and in the report booklet for delegate approval;
- q) consider the budget prepared by the finance committee, preparing it for presentation and approval at the annual delegate session;
- r) develop and document policies of MC Sask, as directed by the delegate body at a delegate session, or as the council deems appropriate; and
- s) serve as members of the Leadership Assembly, actively participating in meetings and duties as prescribed in these bylaws (Part V).
- t) Council shall on behalf of its membership, be empowered to make all financial decisions for the organization, manage its financial assets, and be able to purchase and sell real property.

21) Meetings

- a) The council shall meet at least quarterly each year to carry out the duties prescribed in Section 20.
- b) The council may meet more frequently at the call of the moderator.
- c) The council shall have the option of conducting, at the discretion of the moderator or, on a request from the floor, all or part of its meeting in-camera thereby excluding any person or persons under discussion.
- d) The council may discuss and make decisions by conference call or electronically if issues are time-sensitive and the council cannot meet in person.
- e) Members of council shall receive at minimum seven days notice of a meeting.
- f) Decisions on motions at a council meeting will be conducted by the moderator and shall be reached by consensus. If a vote is required, a show of hands will be used or a secret ballot if requested. A simple majority is required to pass a motion, the moderator will only vote if a tie needs to be broken.

Part VII – Executive Committee

22) Composition

- a) The executive committee shall consist of the officers which shall be the:
 - i) moderator;
 - ii) deputy moderator;
 - iii) secretary; and
 - iv) finance chair.
- b) All officers must be members, as prescribed in Section 1(l), and shall be elected as prescribed in Section 26.

23) Duties and Powers of the Executive Committee

The executive committee shall exercise the powers of the council between meetings of the council.

24) Meetings

The executive committee shall meet at the call of the moderator at such times and places as is deemed necessary to carry out the duties prescribed in Section 23.

25) Duties and Powers of the Officers

- a) The moderator shall:
 - i) preside at all delegate sessions, and meetings of the council and the executive committee;
 - ii) call all meetings of the leadership assembly, the council, and the executive committee;
 - iii) conduct all meetings in accordance with rules of order as prescribed in Section 15(i), and the usual practices of MC Sask;
 - iv) represent the council on the personnel committee;
 - v) conduct correspondence on behalf of MC Sask as appropriate; and
 - vi) be the representative from MC Sask to the Joint Council of MC Canada.
- b) The deputy moderator shall preside when the moderator is absent or unable to act, or at the request of the moderator.
- c) The secretary shall be responsible for:
 - i) recording the minutes of delegate sessions, as well as the meetings of the leadership assembly, the council and the executive committee; and
 - ii) conducting any correspondence assigned by the executive committee or the council.
- d) The finance chair shall direct the finance committee in carrying out its duties, and will represent the finance committee on the personnel committee.

Part VIII – Elections and Terms of Office

26) Elections

- a) The officers prescribed in Section 22 and all committee positions provided in these bylaws shall be elected at an annual delegate session.
- b) A slate of candidates for all the elected positions provided in these bylaws shall be presented by the nominating committee, but delegates are entitled to make further nominations at a delegate session through the nominating committee provided that each candidate has agreed to accept the nomination.
- c) Where two or more candidates have been nominated for the same position, the candidate with the most votes (50%+1) shall be declared elected.

27) Limitations on Elected Offices

- a) No person may hold more than one elected position. A person who already holds an elected position and who is elected to another elected position automatically vacates the previously held elected position.
- b) Employees of MC Sask are not entitled to be delegates at an MC Sask delegate session or elected to any MC Sask committee.

28) Terms of Office

- a) The terms of office shall be:
 - i) for officers and members at large on the council as prescribed in Section 19 and 22:
 - (1) three years; and
 - (2) they may each be re-elected for two additional consecutive terms.
- b) for all other positions elected at the annual delegate session:
 - i) three years; and
 - ii) they may each be re-elected for up to two additional consecutive terms.
- c) All officers and those elected to committees:
 - i) shall take office at the close of the delegate session at which they were elected; and
 - ii) shall remain in office until their successor has been elected.
- d) A member appointed by the council under Section 20(h) to fill a vacancy in an elected position shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the predecessor's term, and is then eligible for election as in subsection (a) hereof.

Part IX – General Provisions for Committees

29) Establishment of Committees

- a) MC Sask may establish committees and commissions as prescribed in Section 1(g).
- b) During the annual delegate session or soon thereafter each elected committee shall select a chairperson and a secretary.

30) Eligibility for Election

All persons elected by a delegate session must be actively engaged in a member congregation.

31) Accountability of Committees

- a) All committees are accountable to the delegates and shall submit reports of their activities to each annual delegate session.
- b) Committees shall submit to the finance committee an annual budget.
- c) In view of the council's responsibility to exercise the powers of MC Sask between delegate sessions, all committees shall also report to the council in the manner it may prescribe.
- d) Copies of minutes of all committee meetings shall be sent to the council through the MC Sask office.
- e) A committee must obtain the approval for any major capital expenditure, significant budget amendments, the disposal of any surplus funds, major policy shifts or major program initiatives from the council and from a delegate session if, in the judgement of the council, the question should be referred to a delegate session for consideration.

32) General Powers

- a) Each committee may appoint subcommittees as deemed appropriate and a member of the committee shall chair such appointed subcommittees. Each subcommittee is accountable to the committee that formed it.
- b) All committees may consult with, and seek the advice of, the council and invite any of the officers to attend their meetings periodically for specific purposes.

33) Meetings

Each committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson at such time and place as is deemed necessary to most effectively carry out its tasks.

34) Quorum

A majority of those comprising the committee shall constitute a quorum.

Part X – Governing Bodies of MC Sask

35) Commissions

Commissions of MC Sask are operational in nature and carry out the work of the church. All commission members shall serve as members of the Leadership Assembly, actively participating in meetings and duties as prescribed in these bylaws (Part V). A list of these commissions, their members, and purpose is available from MC Sask.

36) Separate Business Entities

These boards govern a separate entity of MC Sask. They function independently of the council but are responsible to MC Sask and the council. All entity board members shall serve as members of the Leadership Assembly, actively participating in meetings and duties as prescribed in these bylaws (Part V). A list of these business entities, their board members, and purpose is available from MC Sask.

Each entity board shall:

- a) select a chairperson who shall ensure communication with the council and other bodies of MC Sask is maintained as outlined in these bylaws;
- b) meet with the council annually, either as full bodies or the moderator with the organization board chair, to discuss all aspects of their operations;
- c) develop and from time to time amend bylaws to guide the organization, ensuring the council is notified whenever changes are made;
- d) develop financial, human resource, and other policies that may be required, or adopt those utilized by MC Sask and MC Canada;
- e) show they are fulfilling all obligations of any financial agreement where MC Sask is acting as financial guarantor on an ongoing basis;
- f) manage and maintain the buildings and grounds at its respective facilities; and
- g) coordinate all programs at their respective facilities.

37) Committees of MC Sask

These committees are governance related and are responsible for oversight and direction of MC Sask. All committee members shall serve as members of the Leadership Assembly, actively participating in meetings and duties as prescribed in these bylaws (Part V). A list of these committees, their members, and purpose is available from MC Sask.

38) Policies of MC Sask

All policies can be found on the MC Sask website or by request from the MC Sask office. In the event where MC Sask policies are insufficient to address a specific situation, the policies of Mennonite Church Canada are to be used. Policies can be made/changed by the council; approval of the delegate body is not required. However, in keeping with the Communications Policy, the council is obligated to inform the delegate assembly of any/all changes, and may present them in full at the next delegate sessions for ratification when the council deems appropriate.

Part XI – Financial Control

39) Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of MC Sask shall be the calendar year.

40) Signing Authority

The signing officers shall be designated by the council as prescribed in Section 20(g).

Part XII – Employees

41) Employment

The council may hire, oversee, and release persons as required to provide pastoral, administrative and other services as described in human resources policies.

Part XIII – Related Organizations

42) Organization Relationships

MC Sask seeks to foster mutually supportive arrangements with some organizations, each of which has a unique relationship to MC Sask, in which its member congregations are actively involved and which the member congregations support. A list of these related organizations is available from MC Sask.

43) Mutual Arrangements

Related Organizations:

- a) are entitled to name a representative from its governing body to the leadership assembly; and
- b) are expected to report to delegate sessions in the manner requested by the council.

Part XIV – Affiliations

44) Authority to Affiliate

- a) MC Sask may enter into an affiliation agreement with any other body with similar objectives for the purpose of better meeting their objectives jointly. Joint ventures may be determined from time to time.
- b) MC Sask authorizes its officers to maintain liaison with the officers of those bodies with which it becomes affiliated to deal with any issues relating to their joint activities.

Part XV – Seal

45) Custody and Execution

MC Sask shall have a seal which shall be:

- a) held in the custody of MC Sask as per the *Records Management and Archives Policy*; and
- b) affixed to official documents signed by the signing officers as determined by the council.

Part XVI – Amendments

46) Bylaws

- a) These bylaws may be amended only by special resolution.
- b) Amendments to the bylaws come into effect immediately following their adoption by a delegate session.

47) Amendment Process

- a) Any member congregation or any member may submit proposals for the amendment of these bylaws to the office of MC Sask.
- b) Such proposals for amendment shall be reviewed by the bylaws committee which shall then forward its recommendation to the council.
- c) The council shall:
 - i) review the recommendations of the bylaws committee; and
 - ii) submit the proposed amendment to a delegate session.

Part XVII – MC Sask Office

48) Head Office

The head office of MC Sask shall be at such a place within Saskatchewan as the council may determine in keeping with policy established by MC Sask.

Part XVIII – Winding Up

49) Disposal of Assets

After payment of all liabilities, the property of MC Sask shall be distributed as provided in the Act.

Governing bodies of MC Sask

Commissions

Commissions of MC Sask are operational in nature and carry out the work of the church. All commission members shall serve as members of the Leadership Assembly, actively participating in meetings and duties as prescribed in these bylaws (Part V).

1) Ministries Commission

- a) The ministries commission shall consist of:
 - i) six persons elected at a delegate session; and
 - ii) appointed MC Sask staff personnel ex-officio but not-voting as deemed appropriate.
- b) The ministries commission shall work in partnership with MC Canada and MCC Saskatchewan in the initiation, promotion, support, and coordination of mission, outreach, and service programs in Saskatchewan and beyond. This work will include but is not limited to:
 - i) reconciliation with Indigenous neighbours;
 - ii) spiritual growth within our body(ies);
 - iii) connection with and support of international witness work, through MC Canada personnel, to local host communities around the world; and
 - iv) supporting local churches and clusters as they identify and create projects which serve the needs within their communities.

2) Pastoral Leadership Commission

- a) The pastoral leadership commission shall consist of:
 - i) six persons elected at a delegate session of which:
 - (1) three shall be lay persons;
 - (2) three shall be pastors; and
 - (3) appointed MC Sask staff personnel ex-officio but not-voting as deemed appropriate.
- b) The pastoral leadership commission shall:
 - i) be responsible for matters dealing with pastoral leadership in MC Sask such as licensing, ordination, and credentialing, and other matters relating to ministerial accreditation;
 - ii) offer guidance and support to member congregations and/or pastors in matters relating to pastoral leadership and relationships;
 - iii) arrange workshops, conferences and professional development courses as it deems appropriate;
 - iv) provide guidance and support to the MC Sask employees; and
 - v) appoint two members of the commission as representatives to the personnel committee.

Separate Business Entities

These boards govern a separate entity of MC Sask. They function independently of the council

but are responsible to MC Sask and the council. All entity board members shall serve as members of the Leadership Assembly, actively participating in meetings and duties as prescribed in these bylaws (Part V).

3) Entity Boards

a) Youth Farm Complex Board

- i) The Youth Farm Complex Board shall consist of nine persons elected at a delegate session.
- ii) The Youth Farm complex board shall be responsible for governing the activities of the Youth Farm complex which consists of:
 - (1) Mennonite Nursing Home Inc.;
 - (2) Heritage Village
 - (3) the Mennonite Youth Farm farmland; and
 - (4) manage and maintain the buildings and grounds of the Mennonite Youth Farm Campus jointly with the board of the Youth Farm Bible Camp.

Each of the camps of MC Sask, namely Camp Elim, Shekinah Retreat Centre and the Youth Farm Bible Camp (YFBC), shall be governed by a board as selected below:

- b) The board of the Shekinah Retreat Centre shall consist of six to nine persons including:
 - i) four persons elected at a delegate session
 - ii) two to five persons appointed by the Shekinah board; and
 - iii) at least 50 percent of the board members shall be from MC Sask member congregations.
- c) The board of Camp Elim shall consist of five to eight persons including:
 - i) three persons elected at a delegate session
 - ii) two to five persons appointed by the Elim board; and
 - iii) at least 50 percent of the board members shall be from MC Sask member congregations
- d) The board of the Youth Farm Bible Camp shall consist of five to eight persons including:
 - i) three persons elected at a delegate session
 - ii) two to five persons appointed by the YFBC board; and
 - iii) at least 50 percent of the board members shall be from MC Sask member congregations.

Each entity board shall:

- e) select a chairperson who shall ensure communication with the council and other bodies of MC Sask is maintained as outlined in these bylaws;
- f) meet with the council annually, either as full bodies or the moderator with the organization board chair, to discuss all aspects of their operations;
- g) develop and from time to time amend bylaws to guide the organization, ensuring the council is notified whenever changes are made;
- h) develop financial, human resource, and other policies that may be required, or adopt those utilized by MC Sask and MC Canada;

- i) show they are fulfilling all obligations of any financial agreement where MC Sask is acting as financial guarantor on an ongoing basis;
- j) manage and maintain the buildings and grounds at its respective facilities; and
- k) coordinate all programs at their respective facilities.

Committees of MC Sask

These committees are governance related and are responsible for oversight and direction of MC Sask. All committee members shall serve as members of the Leadership Assembly, actively participating in meetings and duties as prescribed in these bylaws (Part V).

4) Finance Committee

- a. The finance committee shall consist of:
 - i. the finance chair elected at a delegate session; and
 - ii. one other member of the council who is not the moderator.
- b. The finance committee shall:
 - i. prepare an annual budget for consideration by the council and for approval by the annual delegate session;
 - ii. on behalf of the council present an audited financial statement of MC Sask to the annual delegate meeting;
 - iii. make a recommendation to the delegate session respecting the appointment of the financial auditors;
 - iv. at all times have full access to all the financial records of MC Sask including all receipts, vouchers and all other supporting or evidentiary documents relating thereto, and shall check all expenditures and outgoings of funds from time to time to ascertain that they are being properly made;
 - v. ensure all financial controls are in place and functioning correctly;
 - vi. meet independently with the auditor to determine all financial tests have been performed and there are no issues relating to the audit;
 - vii. establish the rates at which those acting on behalf of MC Sask will be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses;
 - viii. from time to time establish a level above which cheques must be co-signed; and
 - ix. ensure the finance policies of MC Sask are kept up to date regarding payments, out-of-pocket expenses, payroll, and other financial matters as needed.

5) Personnel Committee

- a) The personnel committee shall consist of:
 - i) two representatives from the council, one of whom shall be the moderator;
 - ii) two representatives from the pastoral leadership commission; and
 - iii) the committee shall self-appoint a chairperson from one of these representatives.
- b) The personnel committee shall:
 - i) develop and keep under review the human resource policies of MC Sask;
 - ii) conduct searches for employees and make recommendations to the council;

- iii) conduct annual performance evaluations of the employees of MC Sask; and
- iv) keep under review the terms of reference and job descriptions for MC Sask employees, and recommend any desired changes to the council.

6) Bylaws Committee

- a) The bylaws committee shall be formed as needed, and will consist of at least two persons appointed by the council.
- b) The bylaws committee shall:
 - i) keep the bylaws under review and recommend amendments as deemed necessary;
 - ii) consider suggestions for bylaw amendments coming from within MC Sask; and
 - iii) present its deliberations and recommendations to the council.

7) Nominating Committee

- a) The nominating committee shall consist of three persons appointed by the council.
- b) The nominating committee shall:
 - i) consult appropriately to determine the expertise desired to fill the office open for election;
 - ii) prepare and present to the delegate session a slate of candidates with at least one name for each office to be filled; and
 - iii) obtain the acceptance of all candidates whose names appear on the slate.

8) Resolutions Committee

- a) The resolutions committee shall consist of three persons appointed by the council for each delegate session.
- b) The resolutions committee shall:
 - i) initiate motions or resolutions of its own volition as it deems appropriate;
 - ii) review the written motions or resolutions submitted in advance of, or during, the delegate session and edit each motion or resolution in consultation with the mover to ensure that its intent is clear and ensure the process defined in the *Resolutions Policy* is followed;
 - iii) ensure that the mover and a seconder of each motion or resolution before it are identified; and
 - iv) advise the presiding officer when it has a motion or resolution pertaining to the issue under debate.

9) Ad Hoc Committees

- a) The council may appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of the number of persons it deems appropriate to accomplish the direction set out by the council.
- b) Each ad hoc committee shall report to the council and is automatically disbanded when its task has been accomplished.
- c) Members of ad hoc committees will serve as members of the Leadership Assembly (Part V) as deemed appropriate by the council.

MC Sask External Appointments

MC Sask Council will appoint persons to the following groups and positions as needed:

- i) Equipping Day Chairperson(s);
- ii) Music Librarian
- iii) Women's Ministry Representative;
- iv) the Resolutions Committee for each delegate session; and
- v) provincial, national (MC Canada), or international bodies as requested and deemed appropriate.
- vi) These persons will also serve as members of the Leadership Assembly, actively participating in meetings and duties as prescribed in the bylaws (Part V).

MC Sask Council will appoint persons to the following boards of directors as requested:

- vii) Canadian Mennonite University;
- viii) Rosthern Junior College;
- ix) MCC Saskatchewan;
- x) Mennonite Trust Ltd.; and
- xi) *Canadian Mennonite Magazine*.
- xii) These persons represent MC Sask in their role, and are expected to be familiar with the relationship and agreements between MC Sask and their organization, reporting to the council as required.
- xiii) These persons will also serve as members of the Leadership Assembly, actively participating in meetings and duties as prescribed in the bylaws (Part V).

MC Sask Related Organizations

MC Sask seeks to foster mutually supportive arrangements with some organizations, each of which has a unique relationship to MC Sask, in which its member congregations are actively involved and which the member congregations support.

- a) Rosthern Junior College;
 - b) Canadian Mennonite University;
 - c) Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary;
 - d) Parkland Restorative Justice;
 - e) The Micah Mission;
 - f) Circles of Support and Accountability, South Saskatchewan;
 - g) Mennonite Central Committee, Saskatchewan,
 - h) Mennonite Trust, Ltd.; and
- Canadian Mennonite Magazine*

PLC REPORT TO ADS

‘Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.’ [2 Corinthians 4.1]

The Pastoral Leadership Commissions mandate, in part, is to strengthen the ministries of pastors and of congregations, so that we might by God’s grace be windows to the world of the healing and hope that is the gospel.

MC Sask is blessed to have a cohort of pastors that range from millennials to ‘aging’ boomers. To engage in conversation with these folks is one of the most exciting parts of our work at PLC. This year we conducted exit interviews with Craig Neufeld and Daniel Janzen. They have left us for new congregations in Alberta and Ontario and we wish them well.

PASTORS

We were also excited to conduct five entrance interviews for pastors beginning new assignments. These included: Eileen Klaassen (Wildwood MC), Curtis Wiens (Aberdeen MC), Emily Summach (Langham MF), Kevin Koop (Carrot River MC), and Rachel Wallace (Eigenheim MC). We also credentialed Elaine Presnell (Pleasant Point MC) for special ministry, and were pleased to see Zach Stefaniuk serving as a pastoral intern at Warman MC under the supervision of Josh Wallace. Claire Ewert Fisher began as interim pastor at Rosthern MC January 1, 2019.

CONGREGATIONS

PLC also works to assist congregations through educational opportunities, pastoral transitions, and conflict situations. Some of the ways we did this included supporting Ryan Siemens in taking Conflict Management & Congregational Leadership Studies at Conrad Grebel University College; offering a Continuing Ed class with Tom Yoder-Neufeld; and developing a worship series built around the book Seven Practices for the Church in Mission by David Fitch. Josh Wallace and Anita Jantz also led a ‘Philosophy of Ministry’ class geared toward those new to ministry. The members of that class have responded very positively to these sessions; we may revisit the idea as the need arises.

I am pleased to work with gifted people, named below, on the PLC. This year marks the end of Florence Driedger’s tenure and we want to thank her for contribution to the work of the larger church.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. [2 Corinthians 4.7]

Garth Ewert Fisher (chair), Carrol Epp, Ric Driediger, Florence Driedger, Lisa Martens Bartel, Curtis Wiens, and Ryan Siemens.

Mennonite Volunteer Chaplain Report for 2019 by Patty Friesen

Previous to the Sask Health cuts in Spiritual Care in 2017, Mennonite identified patients (churched and non-churched) in Saskatchewan hospitals had access to hospital chaplains in a crisis, especially if they were from out of town and their own ministers were not available. Occasionally Mennonite ministers in Saskatoon or Esther Paetkau from Bethany Manor would be called in from the Spiritual Care office at City, St. Paul's or RUH for visits.

With the Sask Health cuts to Spiritual Care in 2017, there were no longer Spiritual Care secretaries or chaplains to call Mennonite ministers and while we had a list of willing volunteers posted at the switchboards, we were never called. Dave Feick, who works with reinstating Spiritual Care to hospitals, came up with the idea of a Mennonite Volunteer Chaplain cell phone (306-259-7362) paid for by MC SK. The phone is passed between Garth Ewert-Fischer (Mt. Royal), Lois Siemens (Bethany Manor), Patrick Preheim (Nutana Park), Patty Friesen (Osler) and Dion Martens (Wildwood). The Mennonite Chaplain On-Call cell number is posted at all three hospitals and while we maybe only get one call a month - it is usually from people with a historical connection to Mennonites, reaching out for some religious help to attend a death of a family member.

We believe this is important community outreach for MC SK and we're thankful for the cell. We'd like to encourage all our ministers, especially our lovely new young ones to take a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Paul's hospital with Chaplain Julie Bergen. CPE is a powerful hands-on tool of increasing skill and comfort in pastoral care crises.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Ministries Commission Report 2019

**Claire Ewert Fisher, Eric Olfert, Jeanette Hanson, Val Wiebe, Nancy Epp,
Kirsten Hamm-Epp, Joel Kroeker, Sharon Schultz**

We consider it a privilege to participate with the larger Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) churches in bearing witness to what God is doing in our world. We seek to vision together with, and facilitate Christ's activities within and through MC Sask as we attempt faithfulness to Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19,20). We do this by focusing on life taking shape through:

1. Spiritual growth within our church bodies.
2. Reconciliation with Indigenous neighbours.
3. Support local churches and clusters of churches as they identify and create projects which serve the needs within their communities.
4. Connection with and support of international witness work, through MC Canada personnel, to local host communities around the world.

Spirituality Resource Team

- **Church visits.** The team conducted a weekend workshop in one church during 2019, and also sponsored a Lenten silent retreat at Shekinah. Over half of the churches in MCSask received a visit or series of visits from the team during its tenure.
- **Silent Lenten Retreat** at Shekinah Retreat Centre was well attended. Another Lenten Retreat is being planned for this year, February 29, 2020 at Ancient Spirals Retreat Centre. (see posture or MCSask post for details)

Walking the Path

- **Reconciliation Podcast Funding.** The commission approved a \$1000 contribution to budget for microphone, gifts for guests and development of a Study Guide.
- **Reconciliation Saskatoon** is a community of 98 organizations, non-profits, businesses, faith-communities and partners who have come together to initiate a citywide conversation about reconciliation and provide opportunities for everyone to engage in Calls to Action. There are now similar groups forming in 16+ communities across Saskatchewan.
- **Shake: Prairie Youth Gathering 2019** at Shekinah July 28-Aug. 1 - Day 2 focussed on Indigenous-Settler relationships and included a visit to Stony Knoll, viewing *Reserve 107* video and planting a tree.
- **Spruce River Folkfest celebrated its 10th Annual folkfest** on August 10, 2019. Having more indigenous singers seems to have brought more indigenous spectators.
- **Walking with Sisters**, Batoche August 15 – 18: A display of over 2000 moccasin vamps representing murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls was powerful. The event was beautiful, holy, sacred, spiritual, moving and hard. Intended to bring closure and completion to the missing women's stories and to those who mourn them.
- **Bill C262:** Initiated and sponsored an information event at Frances Morrison Library . Promoted Video: **This Fight Continues: 262 and the Declaration.** A bill similar to C-262 will come in the new parliament and will be passed!
- **Equipping Day:** The Treaty People talk by Mary Cuthbertson, Treaty Commissioner communicated well the concerns of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.
- **Coming together in a good way** -Nov. 8 & 9 in Regina, The focus was on reconciling aspects of Aboriginal Spirituality with Evangelical Christian theology. Steve Heinrichs Presented several workshops.
- **RJC** is working at becoming more inviting to First Nations students and more involved in reconciliation with our First Nations neighbors. There is a need for more youth-appropriate study resources in this area.

University breakfast program

- For several years, Kirsten has been working with an interfaith group to provide breakfasts and conversation with University students on site. The commission approved a donation for three breakfasts.

Church Planting opportunity

- Josh and Cindy Wallace began their next great adventure as they left pastoral leadership at Warman MC. They have heard God's call on their lives and express it like this. 'We seek to grow a worshipping community of folks committed to holistic discipleship after Jesus, one located close to the University of Saskatchewan, rooted in the Anabaptist tradition, and particularly

welcoming to those on the edges of Christian faith, especially students. A welcoming table will be at its center, both in gathered worship and at regular meals.'

- The Commission approved financial support for some learning opportunities for Josh in the amount of \$1000.00.

International Witness efforts

- Jeanette Hanson, MC Canada International Witness worker has spent many months interacting with local church staff, guiding learning tours, recording the work of the church via video, and building relationships between international and national church people particularly in Asia.
- Garth and Claire Ewert Fisher are involved in conversations that will hopefully lead to short term teaching assignments in Viet Nam.

The Mission Consultation Report and International Witness workshops at Equipping Day also went well.

MC Sask Women's Ministry Report 2019

Another year has to come to an end. As I sit back and reflect on where God has been through it all it brings me moments of great joy and sadness. The joy comes as I think about our Women's Retreat, which was hosted at Shekinah on March 22-23. It was a time for us to delve deeper into what Worship means for us and to look at the ways we worship. Emily Summach and Claire Ewert Fisher led us through some great discussions that kept us in the moment and challenged us. Sue Schellenberg led us through song and found music that managed to connect with what we were feeling. It was a time of realization, refocusing and a time of reconnecting. Our retreat this year is on April 17 & 18. I am currently looking for a speaker and others to help but trust that God is watching and guiding me on my search.

In July women from all over Canada met at the Gathering in Abbotsford, BC for what would be our last Mennonite Women Canada meeting. It was a time of sadness as the ladies voted on disbanding as funding kept becoming lower and volunteers became harder to find. In the end it was found that as we're concentrating more on our local needs more than nationally it was time for our season together to end. With the closing of Mennonite Women Canada also meant that funds would be dispersed among the provinces. This was decided that it would be split according to the number of members in the province. Saskatchewan received 9% of the funds with a total of \$9,195.21 being donated to our Women's Ministry. As of now some funding has been designated to purchase some of the new hymnals. Other decisions on what we do with the money will be decided upon at our next retreat.

As we go into this new year I pray that God continues to bless us with the relationships we have built, strength to face any battles we're facing and courage to show our love to all of those around us.

Mel Harms

MC Sask Women's Ministry Rep



Camp Elim

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

www.campelim.ca campelim1@sasktel.net

2019 saw Camp Elim prospering! Yet again, we were graced with spectacular numbers, bordering on capacity for several camps. We were also fortunate to be blessed with an exceptionally talented staff to help keep everything running smoothly. Our theme this summer was "Taking Care of God's Creatures". The days and nights were filled with a wide complement of varied activities, friendship, and fellowship which all helped set the stage for another successful summer at Lac Pelletier.

We reached 162 campers this year, which was an overall 8% increase in numbers over last year. We are continuing to experience steady growth in the number of campers who choose to come to Elim, as the demand for high-quality children's programming remains strong in the southwest SK region. Our children's camps continue to be popular, and significant gains have been made in increasing our reach to a teen audience as well.

Zach Dueck was our director this year at Camp Elim, with Joel Siemens serving as an assistant director during the summer. We also had a full roster of well-qualified staff, cabin-leaders, and CITs this summer, who worked tirelessly to bring camp's mission and vision to fruition! Staffing development is a strength and accolade at Elim, as we are building leaders of the future for Mennonite camps, churches, and organizations. Camp Elim is working towards continuity and consistency in leadership, vision, and delivery of service. We are currently in transition of camp directors, as we prepare for the future 2020 camping season.

We continue to promote our water program as a large part of what sets Camp Elim apart from other area camps in the south-west. We offer a wide range of activities, including: bible time and worship, water sports, canoeing, kayaking, paddle-boarding, paddle-boating, windsurfing, sailing, swimming, archery, nature and survival, crafts, wide games, beach volleyball, Frisbee golf and trampoline, mini zip-line, slackline, hiking, orienteering, campfires, and the always anticipated "overnighter".

Camp Elim continues to provide opportunities to form positive mentoring relationships among campers and staff. These relationships provide the building blocks for youth to step out of their comfort zone, take risks and try something new, ask important questions, and gain experiences that they might not encounter anywhere else. Often, life-long friendships are created in only one week, and our repeat campers and staff look forward to coming back year after year because of the great fun and fond memories they have made at Camp Elim! We can't wait to see what 2020 has in store!

In 2019, Camp Elim finished a new wheel chair accessible washroom/shower house in our RV park that we hope will serve the needs of our patrons, both during summer camp and during rentals. A generous grant from the Government of Canada, along with private donations, has helped to bring this project to fruition. This year, we also rejuvenated our lakefront beach/swimming area with the addition of new sand. A new floating dock with waterslide and activities are currently being developed for summer use as well.

Future Plans for Camp Elim

2020 marks Camp Elim's 75th anniversary! We are in the preliminary stages of planning for this important milestone. Look forward to receiving more information regarding our celebratory events that we plan to hold in June 2020!

We continue to explore new activity offerings for our camping program, and we are continuing with our long-range plan of the steady renewal of aging camp equipment. We are envisioning updates to the main tabernacle and washrooms in the near future. We will be encouraging rentals in the off-season and promoting the use of our RV park as additional sources of revenue to support our program.

Camper Statistics and Staffing for 2019:

Staff:

Camp Pastors:

Lois Bukar
Susanne Guenther Loewen
Ryan Siemens (MC Sask)

Directors:

Zach Dueck
Joel Siemens

Lifeguard:

Madeline Ellard

Cabin Leaders:

Josée Aitken
Joshua Igberase
Griffin Lehnert
Mackenzie Mair
Kennedy Martens
Kirk Mendoza
Vanessa Stefaniuk
Cole Whiteford
Johanna Wiebe

CITs:

Shane Friesen
Trina Friesen
Keana MacLachlan
Ethan Massie

Cook:

Alexandra Siemens

Cook's Helpers:

Kim Fast, Keith Johnson, Ryan Siemens

Volunteers:

Erin & Trevor Weiss

Camper Statistics:

Children's 1 – 46
Children's 3 - 3

Day Camp - 61

Teen - 17
Total: 162



Some members of Camp Elim Staff, 2019

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 2020 (Tentative):

75th Anniversary Celebration - June (TBA)

Staff Orientation - To be determined

Children's 1 (ages 9-12) - July 5th - July 10th

Day Camp (ages 5-10) - July 13th - July 17th

Children's 2 (ages 7-11) - July 19th - July 24th

Children's 3 (ages 6-10) - July 26th - July 29th

Teen Camp (ages 13-18) - August 9th - August 14th

Campers and staff can apply online!

Visit our website at www.campelim.ca

Follow us on Facebook!

Or, call: (306) 627-3339

Submitted by Gilbert Braun, Doug Dueck, Laura Grassing, Carla Phoenix, Lorna Wiens (Board Chair), John Woelk, Brayden Zacharias, and Colin Zacharias.



Note: Elim Budget will be available at the ADS



Shekinah Retreat Centre

A highlight this year was our 40th anniversary! There was a good turnout for our celebration with worship, food, activities and wonderful story telling. Shekinah has always been and remains a faith venture. We are continually inspired by people experiencing the Glory and Presence of God on this beautiful part of creation.

2019 was a very good year financially for Shekinah. With a lot of hard work from all, but especially our Co-Executive Directors, bookings increased from 2018 and instead of a deficit as in 2018, we had slightly more income than expenses. This allowed us to pay down some debt.

Challenges: As Shekinah became busier we experienced growing pains. Staff were spread thin. We overcame this challenge with the addition of a new policies and procedures manual and adding new staff.

Highlights:

Staff: Ron and Sue Schellenberg entered their second year as Co-Executive Directors. Craig Friesen is the Program Director, Clay Redekopp is the Maintenance Manager and, fortunately for all of us, Sherrylynn Loewen continues as our Cook! New to the team this year is Pat Doell, our office manager/bookkeeper. We are very grateful for her addition to the team as she keeps us organized as Shekinah becomes an increasingly busy place.

Donations: We saw strong support for Shekinah in the past year. With more revenue coming in from bookings the focus of donations moved from general funds to other important projects. The Shekinah board hosted a fundraising event at Bethany Manor where funds were raised for the cabin building project. The rebooted Bike-a-Thon fundraiser also had its second year! In addition to donating, booking our facilities and prayer support are essential for meeting our Mission for all to experience the Glory of God.

Cabins: we were able to complete 2 more cabins to 3 season condition this year. Fortunately we had enough operating funds to complete this as our donations for cabin building were insufficient to pay for both cabins. We now have a total of 4 cabins built. It was a great addition to our camps this summer. Although, some children (perhaps not parents) missed the shanties. We are hopeful we can now encourage schools to stay overnight so that we can offer additional programming and increase our revenue from school bookings. Our initial plan was to build a total of 6 cabins. We will need additional funds to accomplish this. Also, the initial plan was to install fireplaces which would allow winter usage and solar panels which would provide electricity for the cabins. At this point, we have not received enough money to put solar panels on or fireplaces in any of the cabins.

Volunteerism: The volunteer hours donated to Shekinah allowed us to run summer camp, events, and projects. There were over 100 volunteers this past year helping make food, build cabins, wash dishes, weed flower beds, mow grass, clear trails, teach bible to campers, and offer guidance. The staff at Shekinah are very grateful for the support. Volunteers report that their experiences are fun and inspiring! We can always use more volunteers. Contact the office to let us know how you would like to help.

Summer Camp: We had 153 campers this summer, which is a small decline in numbers from 2018. We are not discouraged by this drop. The biggest drop in numbers was from our Senior Teens camp where we lost a large group of kids that graduated. Some senior teens also had to choose between camp and the Mennonite Youth Assembly, which was hosted at Shekinah. Where we have seen an upward trend over the past few years is with our children's camps. We were 4 campers away from filling up our children's camps. This past summer we started creating our own bible curriculum. The curriculum's focus was on creation care and spiritual development.

Relationships: Over the past year we have seen relationships with Shekinah strengthened and our community is growing! Awareness of Shekinah is spreading giving new opportunities for partnerships.

Shekinah is a faith based venture, while staff, board, supporters are doing what we/they can, in the end this work is up to God. Our faith has been uplifted at the many great stories happening at Shekinah.

DRAFT SHEKINAH 2020 OPERATING BUDGET

(NOT YET BOARD APPROVED)

Category	2019 actual	2020 budget
Revenue		
Campership donations	\$ 17,849	\$10,000
Fundraisers	\$ 25,157	\$28,000
Canada Summer Jobs subsidy	\$ 12,387	
Operating Donations	\$ 71,063	\$75,000
Cabin Rentals	\$ 5,065	\$7,000
WiFi	\$ 641	\$700
Chalet Rentals	\$ 11,561	\$13,00
School group rentals	\$ 39,060	\$41,00
Timberlodge Rentals	\$ 188,334	\$192,000
Food Service Income	\$ 168,421	\$173,000
Activities fee	\$ 1,687	\$1700
Summer Camp	\$ 35,826	\$39,000
Other	\$ 1,193	\$1500
Housing Rent	\$ 12,000	\$12,000
Total Revenue	\$ 590,244	\$593,900
Expenses		
Administration	\$ 8,763	\$14,100
Accounting Fees	\$ 15,516	\$16,000
Auto Expenses	\$ 13,389	\$15,000
Repair/Maintenance and Equipment under \$500	\$ 17,521	\$30,000
Fundraising expenses	\$ 7,566	\$8,400
Groceries: summer camp	\$ 8,724	\$10,000
Groceries: Year Round	\$ 52,751	\$50,000
Supplies and equipment, including water system	\$ 6,907	\$7,200
Salaries and benefits	\$ 325,513	\$324,873
Property Tax	\$ 15,128	\$16,00
Insurance	\$ 31,125	\$33,000
Summer Camp	\$ 6,708	\$7000
Utilities	\$ 31,658	\$32,449
Bank Charges	\$ 3,521	\$3500
Mortgage Payment	\$ 20,000	\$20,000
House renovations	\$ 7,000	\$1,800
Line of Credit payments	\$ 2,400	\$2,400
Total Expenses	\$ 567,283	\$591,722
Surplus	\$ 22,961	\$2,178
\$10,000 from the 2019 surplus was used to pay down debt		

Youth Farm Bible Camp Report

www.yfbc.com



**"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."
Colossians 3:12**

At this time of year, we are looking forward to our next ministry season more than we are looking back on our previous year. We are looking forward to a summer with campers of all ages coming to the Youth Farm Bible Camp. The theme that we are looking at is **CHOSEN**. We are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved. We are wonderfully made, created to do good works, rescued, a new creation. We are righteous and holy, a member of Christ's body, a citizen of heaven and an alien to this world. We are wanting our campers to recognize that God has **CHOSEN!** each one of them

We have a group going to Mexico during Easter break to build houses and we will talk about the stories in the Bible of God choosing Leah, Mary, the Disciples, Paul, the Church and many others. We have been chosen, will we seek follow? God is pursuing us. The gospel story is one of love, inclusion and grace – something that our world around us always needs to hear. God wants to be in our lives, will we let him be in our lives?

This summer at chapels and campfires we will ponder the stories of God choosing humanity – starting with making us in His image. We will understand how God chose people who were broken and desperate to join the Biblical storyline. We will see how God is choosing each one of us, with all our wounds, hurts and fears, to be part of his family – we only need to respond.

In fall, we will continue to explore this theme during the Corn Maze season at YFBC. We are hoping to have another year like we did in 2019. There were 17,000 people that came through the Corn Maze in the fall. We had over 40 staff and volunteers participate in hosting the families on our site. It was a wonderful experience for all. If you are able to volunteer for a day or a weekend, please connect with us – we would love to have you out at the Youth Farm Bible Camp.

In summer, we had 550 campers participate in our programming. This is the highest number of campers that we have ever had. We started a couple of new weeks of camp, ones that were only three days/two nights. We found out that these options were well received by parents who were sending their child to camp for the first time. It has always been our goal to introduce children to an overnight camping program where they can learn to thrive in a temporary community. We are very excited for what 2020 will bring!

There have also been many great stories coming out of our horse riding program. We offer both lessons for all ages and equine assisted learning. It has been great to see how the connection with horses can make a difference in the life of a child. We have been told by teachers that there has been a marked improvement in behavior and attention span for the children that have attended. We see this program as a way churches can bless our schools and communities!

**We have a 20 page color 2019 Report Book that is available from the
Camp Office or online at www.yfbc.com/report**

**Youth Farm Bible Camp
2020 Budget**

Income

Donations	173,000
Grants	45,500
Program	376,000
Rentals	67,500
Retail sales	<u>84,500</u>
Total Revenue	746,500

Expenses

Animal Program	17,000
Campership Credit	20,000
General Maintenance	52,800
Mexico Trip	25,000
Office	32,000
Payroll	350,000
Program	72,000
Utilities	80,700
Vehicles	<u>26,800</u>
Total Expenses	676,300

Net Income	70,200
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RJC Report and School Update**MC Sask ADS 2020**

Our 2019/20 school year began last fall with some difficult financial challenges, mostly due to lower than expected enrolment numbers. In an effort to address this downward trend in student numbers, and to face our operational shortfall, we developed a *Turnaround Strategy for Renewal and Growth*.

Simply put, **we need to turn the enrolment trend from downward to upward, and we need a well-conceived strategy, and the financing, to do it.**

Our *Turnaround Strategy for Renewal and Growth* has 3 main goals:

- 1) Increase enrolment (10 students a year for 3 years)
- 2) Raise funds for current operational deficits
- 3) Access financing to finish capital projects and/or service accumulated debt

Our research shows these goals are realistic and achievable. RJC alumni children and MC Sask & MCA churches are historically our two biggest feeder groups in terms of student recruitment; and, our enrolment decline is mostly due to a drop in numbers from these demographics. We are committed to both alumni and MC Sask & MCA churches, but we need to reach beyond these groups if we want to grow and return to sustainability.

In response, we are investing in shoring up support from alumni and MC Sask & MCA churches, while simultaneously reaching out beyond our traditional markets to invite others into our school community. We are transitioning from being a Mennonite school for primarily Mennonites, to becoming a Mennonite school for the world. This includes Mennonites along with others from different backgrounds who choose join us on our educational, Anabaptist journey. We are excited about the opportunities that this presents for our school, and, more broadly, for MC Sask & MCA churches and church-related organizations.

We are thankful for the support, financial and otherwise, that we receive from MC Sask, and do not take it for granted. Thank you. Please keep praying for us, and partnering with us in mission, as we seek to help young people navigate the world before them. At RJC we teach our classes, and deliver our program, from an Anabaptist faith perspective with Jesus at the centre; and, it is our desire to serve the church, our students, and the world we address the challenges ahead.

Please contact the school if you would like more information about the school, our direction, or our *Turnaround Strategy for Renewal and Growth*.

Submitted by RJC Principal, Ryan Wood

January 31, 2020

2019-2020 Fall Enrolment

763 students Shaftesbury campus
(646 FTE)

650 Undergraduate

77 Graduate

36 Outtatown

75% Manitoba; **25%** other provinces
and international

37% Mennonite (MC, MB, EMC...)

46% Ecumenically Diverse (Baptist and
Pentecostal to Catholic and Orthodox)

17% Disclose no church connection
Includes **109** International students
from **31** countries

271 FTE Menno Simons College
(CMU programming at U Winnipeg)

A Faith-Nurturing University Community

• **Outtatown** 20 years of helping students
learn to *Know God, Know themselves, and
Know the world.*

• **Chapels** 3 times weekly, centred on Isaiah
6:3 *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.*

• **Biblical and Theological Studies**
(BTS) are part of the learning of all students.
18 credit hour minimum of BTS in all
undergraduate degrees, along with BA
Majors in Biblical and Theological Studies
and Christian Ministry.

• **Graduate School of Theology
and Ministry (GSTM)**

- Anabaptist-ecumenical seminary
in a Canadian context
- Partnership with MB Seminary
- Includes livestreamed and intensive
(one week) course delivery

• **MA Christian Ministry, MA
Theological Studies, Master of
Divinity** with commitments to:

- Learning and formation
- Calling and vocation
- Reflection and praxis
- Discernment for specific ministry

• **57** students presently enrolled
(26 MA Theological Studies; 23 MA Christian
Ministry; 6 MDiv; 2 Certificate)

- **17** Mennonite Church; **17** Mennonite
Brethren; **3** EMC; **20** other denominations

Livestreaming: Access various courses,
lectures, Face2Face conversations, Athletics
...wherever you are!

Greetings from Canadian Mennonite University



CMU Mission

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

Highlights below of how this mission is expressed through the Four CMU Commitments.

Modeling Invitational Community: Integrating faith and life

- In the words of **Mackenzie Nicolle, BA Social Sciences, Rosthern, Saskatchewan**
"Universities like CMU are important. CMU invites students to think about the
big picture, to develop critical and constructive thinking, to understand ideas
from the context of many disciplines working together, and to learn
collaboration with others. CMU also invites commitments to faith and to the
church—commitments infused into all parts of the university. Multiple times each
week we gather in conversation, prayer and worship. Our professors invite students
into the intersection of faith and science, the links between psychology and belief
systems, and the connections between films, stories and the Bible. All this creates a
diverse learning community where care for one another and inspiration to act in
love in the broader world, are paramount."

Educating for Peace-Justice: Seeking the Flourishing of All

- Through a **holistic university experience**, students engage a future with hope,
and seek a bold imagination in relation to deep concerns of today: ecological health,
mental health, vocational health, economic health, political health.
- The learning continues off campus through 41 **Portable CMU** topics, which
strengthen ministry-witness in congregations across Canada.

Learning through Thinking and Doing: Educating for Vocation

- Through interdisciplinary learning and a longstanding service and work-integrated
practicum program, every degree student deepens **vocational discernment** towards
careers in ministry, medicine, farming, law, business, education, social services ... and
more. This applies to all programs in all 19 BA majors, as well as the BBA, BSc, BMus
and BMusTherapy.

Practising Generous Hospitality and Dialogue: Reconciliation

- This year CMU welcomed over **40 Indigenous students**
- The **GSTM** and the **Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre** (a ministry training
centre dedicated to Aboriginal theological education) are working together
in ministry training.
- Senator Mary Jane McCallum will be recognized in April with the **CMU PAX Award**
for her decades of commitment to social justice with, and for, indigenous peoples.
- **face2face** conversations (in-person and livestreamed) focus on issues of faith and life
- this winter on *'Us and Them: How have we become so polarized?*



Resources for faith formation and leadership development

Academic programs

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

- **Study at a distance**
 - **Master of Divinity Connect** (online and hybrid courses)
 - **Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism** (fully online)
 - **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies** (fully or partially online; customizable)
- **Study on campus**
 - **Master of Divinity Campus**
 - **Master of Arts in Christian Formation**
 - **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies**
 - **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies**
ambs.ca/academics
- **Financial aid:** AMBS offers generous need-based financial aid, grants and scholarships to help make your education affordable. ambs.ca/financialaid
- **A collaborative arrangement** between AMBS and Conrad Grebel University College allows Canadian students to complete a Master of Theological Studies at Grebel/University of Waterloo and apply eligible course credits toward a Master of Divinity at AMBS. ambs.ca/grebel
- **Canadian students pay tuition at par** and can exchange up to \$1,200 CAD at par with U.S. dollars each semester to use for living expenses. Students in a graduate program at Canadian Mennonite University or Conrad Grebel University College receive a **50-percent tuition discount** for all online classes. ambs.ca/admissions/canadians
- **Want to explore seminary study?** Take an online, campus or hybrid class, even if you're not yet admitted to AMBS, and your first class is 50 percent off! Check out our upcoming offerings: ambs.ca/onecourse
- **Experience AMBS:** Visit our campus to learn more about all that AMBS has to offer. ambs.ca/visit
- **!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth:** Students can explore ministry and develop their leadership gifts in this annual summer program. ambs.ca/explore

Regional church connections

AMBS Board member from MC Saskatchewan:
Terry Stefaniuk (Osler)

AMBS statistics

- In 2019–20, AMBS's graduate student body included 58 U.S. students, eight Canadian students and 22 international students.
- The 2019 graduating class comprised 13 men and seven women from nine countries on five continents. Nine of the graduates completed at least part of their seminary studies at a distance.
- In 2019–20, 24 students are enrolled in Journey in Canada, Southeast Asia, Tanzania and the U.S.

We thank God for your support and ask for your prayers as we prepare leaders for the church!

Lifelong learning

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

- **Online short courses:** Join the forum discussions in these six-week courses. No grades, no papers!
 - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
 - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
 - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture
 - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communicationambs.ca/shortcourses
- **Pastors and Leaders 2021** (March 1–4)
- **Leadership Clinics** (March 1, 2021)
ambs.ca/pastorsandleaders
- **Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program:** This nondegree program offers mentor-mentee partnerships, distance-learning opportunities and community support. Open to all who are exploring ministry! ambs.ca/journey
- **Spiritual Direction Seminars:** Cultivate your ministry of spiritual direction through this supervised program. ambs.ca/seminars

AMBS: Rooted in the Word, Growing in Christ | March 2020
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facebook.com/followAMBS
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soundcloud.com/followAMBS

CoSA South Saskatchewan

Report to Mennonite Church Saskatchewan for Calendar Year 2019

The theme Micah Mission of Saskatoon uses from Micah is also very appropriate for CoSA South Saskatchewan - "Do Justice, Love Mercy and Walk humbly with your God".

Two thousand and nineteen was again an important journey for both CoSA SS, including the Board, volunteers and core members as well as for the persons in the FCRP (Faith Community Reintegration program). Niki Shuma who took full time responsibility for CoSA SS for the latter part of 2018, has been the coordinator in 2019. Future communication with CoSA SS should go to Niki and requests for annual reports should go to her. In discussions with Doug Mortin, Chair of the Board and Niki, it was agreed that I would write this report, which I have had Niki review before submitting to you. She will provide the financial report, and any other points she may wish to make.

The number of core members we have has continued to be consistent at between 18 and 22. One of the continuing challenges is to recruit enough volunteers for circles. Congregations, students at the University especially in human justice are major resources. We have also had a practicum student from the human justice degree program providing service under Niki's supervision. This has been a very good collaboration and enhancement of our services.

The five year financial contract with the Federal Department of Public Safety is completing its third year March 31, 2020. CoSA Canada is actively pursuing ongoing funding support. The requirements for information by the sites to CoSA Canada to meet the evaluation requirements of the Federal Government have meant a lot of work for Niki.

The small contract we have with the chaplaincy division of Correctional Service of Canada for the FCRP (Faith/Community Reintegration Project) is being extended until March 31 2022. It is being evaluated, it is not clear whether it will continue after that date. Charles Kooger is taking leadership in this project.

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

Otto Driedger, Board member of CoSA SS



What do a fishing trip – without fishing, a trip to Ottawa, teaching Restorative Justice and Indigenous Life Skills have in common? These are all activities of The Micah Mission in Saskatoon.

Our clients are still talking about the fishing trip we took in August. It was a cool, windy day as we set out but we had high hopes of having a good day out on the lake. Though the outfitter called in the morning to warn us, we weren't prepared to learn upon our arrival at the lake two hours later, that they were not allowing the boats on the lake because of the wind whipping up the waves.

The most committed of fishermen sought to catch something off the dock or the shore, but we were all denied. It was our first trip in five years that we didn't have any fish to eat. Thankfully, there were plenty of burgers and lots of other good food to go with it. So, what is it that participants are still talking about? Just how good it was to get out of the city, to have a day to spend at the lake, and enjoy one another's company. The fish can wait till next year. I'm sure they'll be much bigger by then.

As the CoSA National Capacity Project moves into it's second half, we find ourselves asking what happens when it comes to an end? Will there be funding beyond the project? As we wonder about that, the Micah board wants to do it's part in ensuring there will be something in place. Thus, we booked meetings with local MPs to make sure they are aware of the program and the needed funding. One of the MPs suggested we should go to Ottawa to meet with the Saskatchewan Conservative Caucus. This we did in June. Otto Driedger joined me to meet with 7 of the MPs there. We tried to schedule meetings with the other parties as well but were unsuccessful. Instead, conversations with MCC Ottawa staff and CoSA Canada staff kept us on the go. We plan to continue these meetings locally with the new MPs in Saskatoon and area as well as others that we had missed earlier. We would encourage you to also talk to your MP. If you need information about CoSA Canada to share, please give us a call.

Forward Step is a program that we took to the Saskatoon Correctional Center and initiated in Prince Albert at the Medium institution chapel. It's a program meant to help incarcerated people as well as those recently incarcerated to prepare for life back in the community. Institutional changes made it difficult to continue with the programming as it was, so together with Heather Peters at MCC and several volunteers, we revamped the program to become a 6-week Restorative Justice class. We've taught it several times in the units at the prison and continue to re-work it and have new volunteers involved in the teaching of it. It's been well received and we've all learned something through the presentations.

As part of our Indigenous Awareness program, Stacey Swampy, the coordinator/facilitator of that program has created his own class that he has been invited to teach at the Saskatoon Correctional Center. It has become quite popular and he's continually asked to come back and teach in other units. Indigenous inmates are learning about their culture and traditions in ways they'd never heard it before. Non-Indigenous inmates also find the teachings of interest and appreciate Stacey's insight, experience and challenges. We are grateful for the funding that allows him that privilege.

There are many more highlights of the past year but why not talk to a CoSA or P2P volunteer to learn about their experience. If you're intrigued, please join us. We are always looking for volunteers to participate in CoSA and P2P as well as Forward Step. Please give us a call or send us an email. We'll be happy to get you involved in being "Tough on crime, one friendship at a time." We'd also love to come and share in your congregations about the work being done and to explore Restorative Justice with you.

Dave Feick, Executive Director

ANNUAL REPORT

PARKLAND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, Prince Albert

2019



Board of Directors:

Chair: Jacquelyn Janzen
Secretary/Treasurer: Brad Taylor
Crystal Halliday
Doris Wiens

Staff:

Executive Director: Heather Driedger
CoSA Coordinator: Seth Michael
Dad HERO Facilitator: Scott Manly
Bookkeeper: Llyod Schmidt

Prison Visitation



Our prison visitation program, Person to Person, offered 95 inmates at the Sask Pen a visit from a volunteer this year - with 60 volunteers visiting on a monthly basis.

This program receives many requests throughout the year from inmates wanting to participate. Some of the reasons the inmates give for wanting to get involved are:

- Needing someone to talk to;
- Working on socialization skills;
- Looking for community support upon reintegration;
- Feeling isolated and lonely;
- Wanting a friend

"Without the volunteers all of us who are involved on the inside would lose our only chance to build on how we interact in a social setting."

- Prisoner

Offender Reintegration



Our CoSA program for sex offenders reintegrating into the community ran circles for 4 individuals this year. We had 13 volunteers who sat on a circle throughout the year.

All of these individuals have done well in the community this year, notably none of them have committed any further offences. Volunteers supported these individuals to live crime free by meeting with them regularly - lessening the individual's feelings of isolation, and helping them find supports in the community for employment, housing, and other basic needs. Volunteers also helped keep the individual accountable to their offending behaviour by discussing triggers & situations that may arise leading to another offence.

Community Engagement



In June we finished our 1 year Dad HERO grant from Canadian Families and Corrections Network. The grant allowed us to offer parenting courses to fathers serving time at the Sask Pen, and in the community on parole or probation.

These courses helped provide resources for these men on how they could better connect to their children while in prison and upon release.

We also hosted an event for families at the library to provide them with resources if they have a loved one in prison. A feature story is listed on the next page....



Mennonite Nursing Home and Mennonite Youth Farm Complex (Rosthern)

It has been an exciting year at the Mennonite Nursing Home and Complex! On November 17, Sunrise Place and the Henry W. Friesen Chapel were officially opened! We celebrated this occasion in the company of residents, friends and supporters. Terry Stefaniuk, Moderator of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan had words of congratulations, Ryan Siemens, Executive Minister, spoke the dedication prayer. Willi and Harry Friesen cut the ribbon to open the Chapel and Armin Krahn and Joan Lemauiel cut the ribbon to officially open Sunrise Place. Thanks be to God for the support we received as this building project was completed.

As I write this report, 9 of the 20 rooms in Sunrise Place are presently occupied. As management and staff familiarize themselves with the duties required, the remainder will be filled.

The Board of Directors had one change this past year. Eldrid Roth had completed 9 years of dedicated service and Ruth Heppner was nominated to the board at the last annual meeting. The others board members are Ernie Epp, Diane Hooze, Ted Janzen, Elaine Janzen, Doris Wiens, Charlotte Neufeldt and Agnes Epp. We continue to meet 9 or 10 times in the year to carry out our responsibilities of overseeing the Mennonite Nursing Home, Country Gardens, Pineview Manor and Sunrise Place.

The ongoing transition to the Saskatchewan Health Authority as a single health provider in the province has its many challenges both provincially and within our Home. The Mennonite Nursing Home is now part of the Continuing Care North East (CCNE) area rather than the Saskatoon area which we have become very familiar with. Although, with that being said, we continue to receive support from both areas which enables us to operate our Home in an efficient manner.

Under the administration of Joan Lemauiel, CEO and Karen Chaskavich, DOC and the rest of the Leadership Team, the Mennonite Nursing Home continues to thrive. We are also thankful for the many front-line staff that serve our residents each and every day. It is their compassion that will long be remembered by loved ones and children of our residents! Thanks to all of you!

Submitted on behalf of the Mennonite Nursing Home and the Mennonite Youth Farm Complex Board.

Armin Krahn-Board Chairperson



Year in Review 2019

Executive Minister Doug Klassen has seen God's presence at work over the past six months:

- in each one of the nine congregations I preached in this past fall (Springstein, Vineland United Mennonite, Langham, Carman, Altona, Springridge, Lethbridge and Orodara and Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso). I experienced a genuine invitation to faith in Jesus Christ and the offer of joining the community as it lives into what God is calling it to be;
- at the Continuing Education Event and Equipping Day hosted by Mennonite Church Saskatchewan in mid-October. It was an excellent time of learning;
- at the Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission partnership council meetings in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. I brought forward several new joint-project ideas thanks to generous donors who wish to see our ministry continue;
- in Joint Council and Executive Staff Group meetings, where we are excited to see the vision emerging of who we are becoming as a nationwide church. Comprised of faithful local congregations, gathered into regional church bodies, we come together as Mennonite Church Canada to form a people of God through relationship-building, partnership and resourcing.

CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

Overall, we are grateful to report strong numbers in the first three quarters of our current fiscal year which reflect our growing ministry:

- Our sales revenue has grown by 8.2 per cent, including a significant 24 per cent increase in general book sales.
- We expect to again serve over 10,000 retail customers this year (up one per cent from last year's third quarter).
- The number of borrowers has remained the same. The quantity of items borrowed has increased by seven per cent.
- Of items borrowed by Mennonite Church Canada congregations, a record 56 per cent circulated outside Manitoba (up from 49 per cent last year), including increases in MCBC, MCA and MC Sask.

International Witness

International ministry continues in Thailand, South Korea, China and the Philippines through the work of our nine Witness workers and our ministry partners. Please remember in your prayers:

- Dann and Joji Pantoja (Philippines)
- George and Tobia Veith; Jeanette Hanson (China)
- Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park (South Korea)
- Tom and Christine Poovong (Thailand)

International Witness updates from 2019:

- Jason Martin stepped down as director at the end of July 2019. We are thankful for his faithful service during difficult years of transition. Jeanette Hanson is currently interim director.
- Using feedback gained through the formation of the Witness Support Team (WST) model, International Witness is currently transforming WSTs into Networks of sustainable support for our Witness programs. Instead of relying on individual members, these networks will be congregationally based. More information on the Networks is forthcoming in 2020.
- Mennonite Church Canada is exploring new ministry partnerships in Bolivia, Palestine-Israel and Myanmar.

Indigenous-Settler Relations (ISR)

Highlights:

- The Treaty Walk (May 31 to June 14), co-created by the Health Sciences Association of Alberta, ISR, and Dr. Pat Makokis, was a two-week-long walk from Edmonton to Calgary to raise awareness of Treaty relationships. Folks on the walk facilitated conversation circles in a dozen churches and community centres by bringing together Indigenous people, union workers and members of faith communities in intercultural and international friendship.
- Three new video resources were created in partnership with ISR: Treaty Walk, This Fight Continues: 262 & The Declaration, and Demand 1: Adopt the Declaration.
- ISR facilitated a delegation of 15 Mennonites from across the country to participate in NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community's Symposium on "Land and Place" at Tyndale University College in Toronto, Ont. on June 6-8.
- In support of the Global Climate Strike on Sept. 27, ISR coordinated two interfaith prayer gatherings and helped mobilize Christian communities for participation.
- ISR issued another print run of *Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization*. Paperback editions are now available through CommonWord.

For our full report go to <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/66/21909>. Blessings to your congregation this New Year!

Sincerely,

Doug Klassen
Executive Minister



**Mennonite
Church
Manitoba**

Our vision is to be a community of congregations unified in Jesus Christ, living a biblical Anabaptist faith, together presenting Jesus Christ to the world

MCM Congregations

40 Churches
20-765 Membership Range
7200 Members Total

Congregational Ministry

Worship

- Worship happens regularly at 40 sites in Manitoba, each with it's own uniqueness and beauty.
- Music

Nurture

- Children's Ministry

Mission

- Partnership Circles
- Refugee resettlement
- DVBS

Housing

- Lindenwood Group, Bethel Place, Kingsford House, Bethany Group

Schools

- Westgate Mennonite Collegiate
- Mennonite Collegiate Institute

*There is a beautiful concept in our Nation Wide covenant that suggests:
When we focus on the ministry we do together we abandon the thinking that requires each congregation to be totally sufficient on it's own.
We share each others ministry and can bless each other's strengths, and shore up each others weaknesses. This is the Body of Christ!*

Our Shared Ministries

Who is sharing?

- In our new structure, the congregations make up Mennonite Church Manitoba (a Regional Church), and the Regional Churches make up Mennonite Church Canada (our Nationwide Church)

Leadership

- Ministerial Leadership Committee
- 90 Pastors
- Education
 - Workshops to provide opportunities for pastors, congregational leaders, young people to grow in their skills, create good and healthy boundaries, and share their ideas

- Safe Church - workshops for pastors and leaders; response to trespasses
- Youth and Young Adult

Mission (Regional and Nationwide)

- International Witness
 - connecting support to global ministry
- Indigenous Settler Relationships
- Camping (Camps with Meaning)
 - plans for a major camp development at Camp Assiniboia

Communications and website development

- new MC Canada, MC Manitoba sites soon
- 4 pilot churches and Camps with Meaning in the new year

CommonWord (Bookstore and Resource Centre)

Canadian Mennonite University

- partnership with Prairie Regional Churches

Budget

- beginning 2020, the Camp budget will be viewed separately from the MCM budget.

A word of encouragement

This is my last report to you as I have resigned from this role as of summer 2020. In the past 9+ years we have restructured our camping ministry, we have restructured the Nation Wide Church, we have prepared for a redevelopment of Camp Assiniboia, and we have had important and sometimes difficult conversations. In the future I want to encourage you to continue to bless each other in the ministry of your local settings. Your local ministry through worship, nurture, mission, and fellowship is vital to your community but your reach is so much greater than that. Through your fellowship in Christ you share the good news of Jesus all over our province, our country, and in many other countries. My prayers will always be with you.



Peace, Ken Warkentin



2019 Annual Report



Bridge to Valaqua chapel. Photo by Chad Miller

Executive Council

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens	Moderator
Paul Neufeldt	Vice-Moderator
Wayne Janz	Finance
Elizabeth Wall	Secretary
Tim Wiebe-Neufeld	Executive Minister

CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

MCA now has a special web page dedicated to resources for **Year 1: Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in life.**

www.commonword.ca/go/1879

Web Launch

With the new website launching on February 11, MCA will also be changing domain names—something simpler—**mcab.ca**.

To ease transition, overlap of addresses will occur.

In our northern climate, the changing of the seasons is a natural part of life. The season of waiting for “God with us” is followed by an exploration of Jesus’ manifestation and purpose, drawing us to a deeper sense of our own calling. The nudges and urges that arise in this season of new beginnings invite us to live out our call together with others, in community. “Community” is what MCA is about!

In community, our twelve congregations build a foundation for their identity and find a place of belonging. We draw on each other’s strengths and gifts to explore faith, pray, celebrate and mourn, become enlivened, practice generosity, and share resources. Community is a place to receive and to give. It’s a place to ask the question, “And who is my neighbour?” and then explore the nature and breadth of our neighbourhoods. The richness and fellowship that



Brenda Tiessen-Wiens
MCA Moderator

we experience as members of a regional, nationwide, and global church is a taste of the Kingdom of God.

Staff & Ministries



No where are seasons more evident than at **Camp Valaqua!** **Jon Olfert (Director)** and **Jeff Schellenberg (Manager)** provide year-round leadership to Camp, which invited over 2000 people for exploration, renewal,

peace, and inspiration in 2019. Camp provides service and leadership opportunities for a wide range of people. Children of all ages plug into God’s creation and develop life-long connections with one another.

Through her work with **North Edmonton Ministries (NEM)**, **Donna Entz** (Mission Worker) provides opportunities to engage with people from a variety of faith backgrounds.



NEM is about building: building relationships, building community, and building bridges of understanding. Dialogues, English classes, book clubs, gardening and countless cups of tea provide places of centring, belonging and exploration. We celebrated with Donna this year as she was honoured with Canadian Mennonite University’s Distinguished Alumni Award!

Much of our administrative team’s work is behind the scenes to support congregations and to bridge our local, nationwide and global ministries. In 2019, **Tim**



Wiebe-Neufeld (Executive Minister)

worked with congregations in support of church leadership, including the credentialing of ministry leaders, walking alongside during times of pastoral transition, and providing resources and guidance during challenges that come with living in community. Tim also liaises with the many ministry arms of the Mennonite Church and works together with the Executive Staff Group (ESG) to shape the work and vision of MC Canada.

MCA congregations have expressed a desire to connect more deeply with one another. We do this when we share about God’s presence and leading. You can find MCA, nationwide and international stories by subscribing to **The MCA Communiqué** (www.mennonitechurch.ab.ca). **June Miller (Communications)** works at these connections and is involved in the roll-out of new websites for MC Canada, Regional Churches and participating congregations, rolling out February 11, 2020



The third member of our administrative team is **Tany**



Warkentin (Treasurer). While Tany’s tasks largely centre around keeping track of numerical details, her broad perspective provides a bridge between MCA staff, committees and programs, and also keeps us connected in our relationships and commitments with the nationwide church.

We are moving from mennonitechurch.ab.ca to mcab.ca

MCA committees* are made up of a dedicated group of 24 volunteers who work with staff to add hands, feet and vision to our ministries. The best place to meet everyone at the same time and discover more about each committee's scope is at our delegate sessions in Edmonton, March 20-21, 2020. Delegate or guest, everyone is invited!

*Committees include: Congregational Leadership, Program & Festival, Community Building, Camp Valaqua, Mission & Service, Nominating, Personnel, Finance, & Executive.

Interested in being a part of the bigger vision? Contact Ruth Friesen for more information.
(ruthdavisfriesen@gmail.com)

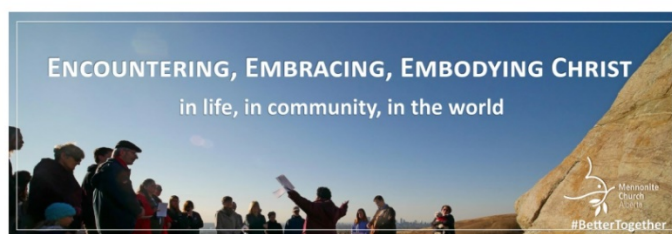


Pictured: Top to Bottom: Congregational Leadership, Community Building, Mission & Service, Executive



In 2018 and 2019, the Vision 20/20 process led us through a deeper understanding of our time and place in the cycles of the Church. Vision

Gatherings were both reflective and stimulating. We're excited about Vision outcomes and possibilities that the next three years will offer as we explore, "Encountering, Embracing, Embodying Christ in life, in community, in the world." Watch for reflections and opportunities to delve into "Deepening our faith; engaging in prayer and spiritual practices" throughout 2020. Resources are available on our website.



Our nationwide church

Through **MC Canada**, we work with other **Regional Churches** to do programs such as **International Witness** and **Indigenous Settler Relations**. In addition to nine **Witness Workers** in four countries, we work with mission partners to support ministries in seven additional locations. We partner with **Canadian Mennonite University** to offer an array of resources through **CommonWord**, we support education and leadership development at our **Anabaptist/Mennonite educational institutions**, we are a resource to pastors and church leaders, and we participate in ecumenical gatherings. We relish the relationships that help us to grow in our global community!

Thank You!

Invariably, when I meet the people of MCA at meetings, at faith studies, congregational celebrations, Trivia Nights or equipping sessions, I see eyes spark, I hear creative ideas, and I become fired with a shared energy and passion. Whether we're talking about personal spiritual journeys, congregational outreach, or relationship boundaries, people are striving to learn from each other and to grow together. Our seasons and our journeys are not ours to walk alone. Through the church we bind ourselves to one another. Thank you for being church together!

B. Friesen

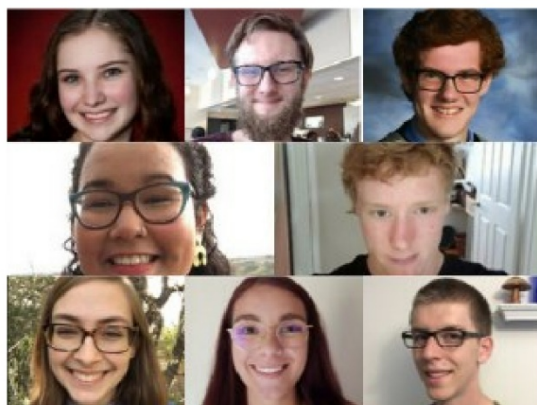
Trivia Night Feb 8
A Camp Valaqua Fundraiser
Calgary and Edmonton

**MCA Women's
Retreat June 5-7**
Sunnyside Retreat Centre
Sylvan Lake, AB

**Annual Delegate
Sessions March 20-21**
First Mennonite Church
Edmonton, AB

Visit
mcab.ca
for more details

2019 Bursary Recipients



Each year Mennonite Church Alberta offers bursaries to post-secondary students attending an Anabaptist institution. The application deadline each year is July 31. Watch the website for 2020-2021 school year application.

The recipients for 2019-2020 school year are as follows:

Top row: Anne Retzlaff—CBC; Jaden Krahn—CMU; Bradley Wiebe—CMU; **Middle row:** Claire Dueck—CBC; Bryant Neufeldt—CMU; **Bottom row:** Olivia Neufeldt—CMU; Cassidy Brown—CMU; Darian Weibe-Neufeld—CMU

The MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA (MCBC) Story for 2019

Submitted by Garry Janzen

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12

The primary role of MCBC is to partner with and provide resources for our local MCBC congregations in order that they may thrive. Mennonite Church British Columbia exists to help congregations be *Anabaptist, Missional, and Connected*.

As an initiative to develop our capacity in being a missional Anabaptist church, eight representatives from MCBC participated in a Nationwide Mennonite Church Mission Consultation in Calgary at the end of March. A piece that we took home to remember and work on in MCBC is that *we are a people who are the dearly loved of God*. Betty Pries, a speaker at the consultation, said that we are in a season of reknitting our relationship with God. A sobering reflection shared by Jared Siebert, another one of the resource people, is that while we are planting and watering, God is not giving the growth - God is not giving an increase to our efforts. It is not because we are unfaithful that we are not seeing the growth in our churches that we would hope for. In fact, this could be a time when we are most ready to see God working.

A 2019 highlight for MCBC was to host the first Mennonite Church Canada Nationwide Gathering since restructuring in 2017. This was held on the July long weekend in Abbotsford. Fire starters were a great feature of the Gathering. These were brief stories of how God is igniting the imagination of the church in different ways and in many places across the country – as pointers to the local congregation as the place where the real life of the church happens.

In our International Witness connection, we are growing a relationship with Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam and Mennonite Cambodia Church. In late March, I spent five days in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, teaching the Mennonite Cambodia Church congregation what it means to be an Anabaptist Christian. I spent five more days doing the same teaching in Ho Chi Minh City with 45 pastors, representing 40 congregations of the Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam. Five of these pastors from Vietnam attended the closing service of the Nationwide Gathering in Abbotsford. We now have one MCBC congregation exploring a relationship with the Vietnam church.

The proposal is to sell the property of the former Clearbrook Mennonite Church. Our delegates called for MCBC to put forward a plan as to how the resulting funds would be used before voting positively on the proposal to sell. The Funds Discernment Task Group has been testing ideas with the MCBC constituency; they will be bringing a plan for the funds to the MCBC Annual Gathering in February of 2020.

Five years ago, MCBC went through a reimagining process that came up with three key themes that represent our values: Anabaptist Identity, Missional Community and Building Connections. A task group has been working at restructuring MCBC's ministries to reflect these themes. There is also an emphasis to be more efficient with our call for volunteers and to make each position more meaningful. Our aim is to have a more functional structure.

We said goodbye to Church of the Way in Granisle, as they have joined another denomination. We are also bringing forward an application from a new Vietnamese congregation seeking to join MCBC.

We are in the midst of many pastoral transitions in our congregations, and we are walking with them in discerning new leadership. With this comes much valuable time spent in prayer, interviews and installation services. We are also working with our congregations towards having all our pastors credentialed. We have two credentials: Ordination and Licencing for Specific Ministry.

We had a wonderful time with Meghan Larissa Good, author of The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today as our resource person at our annual Pastor/Spouse Retreat.

Our key theme of building connections with and among our congregations happened through: our Symphony of Hymns fundraising concerts with Calvin Dyck, gatherings with our congregational chairs, a Peace Sunday Service that brought together five Vancouver area congregations, and building relationships with our Indigenous neighbours through the work of Bridget Findlay in our partnership with Mennonite Central Committee British Columbia (MCC BC). We are also seeking to be meaningfully present where there have been strained relationships.

It makes sense that there would be an Anabaptist presence in every community in BC. We are not quite there yet. In our exploration of a potential church plant in Powell River, we learned that they aren't looking to have a Mennonite congregation, but there is an Anabaptist presence through those who are involved with the MCC BC Thrift Shop.

I just want to close with a word of appreciation for Ken Ha. He is the chair of our Church Health Committee. He has been working hard at recruiting new committee members. He is always available for a new pastor or credentialing interview. He has travelled with me to many church visits around BC; he has gone to worship with congregations on his own, and he is always willing to help out where he can. Thanks Ken.

In 2020, we are looking forward to learning about Mental Health at our LEAD Conference on February 28th. We are also looking forward to providing a taste of the global Anabaptist-Mennonite church in Abbotsford on March 28–29, 2020. This is part of a series of annual events around the world in preparation for the Mennonite World Conference Renewal 2027 gathering. Hopefully many of you can join in these opportunities.



Thank you for reading *Canadian Mennonite*! Whether you read the magazine on paper or on your mobile device; whether you visit our website, follow us on social media or not; whether you write letters, post comments, discuss the articles at church or not; we are grateful that you connect with our national church family through *Canadian Mennonite*. There are approximately 10,000 households across Canada who are reading it with you.

The mission of *Canadian Mennonite* is to educate, inspire, inform and foster dialogue on issues facing Mennonites in Canada. To do this, we carry stories of congregations and the people in our communities. We see how members of our church family are carrying out their lives as disciples of Christ. These are stories of love in action, of doing good, of witnessing for peace and justice.

Canadian Mennonite published 26 issues in 2019, including four that were emailed out as digital-only issues. Each subscriber is welcome to receive digital delivery and keep the print magazine coming by mail. To add digital issues to your subscription, email Lisa Jacky at office@canadianmennonite.org.



**Donna
Schulz**

Saskatchewan was well-represented in *Canadian Mennonite* in 2019. Correspondent Donna Schulz published 45 articles and photos, such as her article "Planting trees, nurturing a dream," about a couple who has spent decades preserving 80 acres of nature in Saskatchewan. Every month, columnist Ed Olfert offers inspirational stories of God's presence. Ryan Siemens, Andrea Enns-Gooding, Garth Ewert Fischer and Kirsten Hamm-Epp contributed to the From Our Leaders column. Claire Ewert Fisher wrote the feature article "The gifts of grey hair" for the Focus on Seniors issue. Numerous individuals sent in letters to the editor or contributed other articles and photos.

The content of *Canadian Mennonite* is focused on our church body, but the internet has made us aware that *Canadian Mennonite* also has a role in representing the church to the general public. Online, more than 4,000 people visit the CM website each week. The vast majority of visitors are not connected to a Mennonite Church but are searching for news and information about Mennonite thought and practice. We are grateful that the magazine offers a witness about our faith beyond the Mennonite church family and we thank you for your support.

Ways to connect

- **Subscribe** to the print or digital edition, or both. If you attend an MC Saskatchewan congregation, subscription fees are paid collectively through the church. Contact your church office for details.
- **Sign up** for "CM Now"—a free, biweekly email with links to recent stories.
- **Write** letters or web comments in response to articles.
- **Follow** CM on Facebook and Twitter.

Financial overview

Annual budget: \$815,000

Revenue: Subscriptions (church and individual) generate 1/3 of revenue. The remainder comes from advertising, donations, and a federal grant that supports Canadian content in magazines.

Expenses: Content creation (writing, editing, layout) accounts for 61% of costs. Printing and postage account for 27%. Administration, including website management, accounts for 12% of expenses.



“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

As Mennonite Church Saskatchewan continues the journey of “Deepening our Walk,” Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan (MCC) is honoured to partner with you.

What happens when children from Saskatchewan churches pack relief kits destined for Syrian families with children who have been displaced by war? Together we remember we belong to each other. We want to share God’s love and compassion for everyone in the name of Christ, and so we reach out and walk with Jesus into places around the world where families are struggling with chaos and displacement. Relief kits may seem like a very small response to things like war, and in some ways they are, but these kits can become a symbol of the big story of God at work in the world. When we reach beyond ourselves, we never know how far this gesture will travel.

What happens when church folks in Saskatchewan invite Indigenous neighbours to share stories and teachings? Together we learn and shape more generous and thoughtful communities on our way to reconciliation. Throughout this past year, children, youth and adults have participated in conversations and events that are shaping our commitments to live well as Treaty people here in Treaty 4 and 6 Territories. The peacebuilding muscles we are flexing are the same muscles that friends in other parts of the world are using in their own families and communities, seeking to break down walls that divide us.

As we enter 2020, our centennial year (mcccanada.ca/centennial), we invite you to imagine ways of celebrating MCC’s 100 years of relief, development and peace alongside your congregation’s commitment to deepening your walk with your neighbours, locally and globally. MCC has staff available to speak (mccsk.ca/speakers-bureau) in your church or be present at an event, should you choose to celebrate in this way.

646 projects in 53 countries around the world are made possible by the commitment and skills of 453 MCC church and community partners and by your prayers, volunteer hours, and financial & material support. We are grateful to share this journey of faith with you from Saskatchewan to Colombia and Bolivia, to Vietnam and Cambodia, to Zimbabwe and South Africa, to Lebanon and Iran. May our combined efforts, in the name of Christ, bring comfort and strength and hope here and around the world. Thanks be to God!

Our full annual report is available here: mccsk.ca/2019-annual-report

Eileen Klassen Hamm, Executive Director (eileenklassenhamm@mccsk.ca)

Rick Guenther, Communications & Donor Relations (rickguenther@mccsk.ca)

Amanda Dodge, Program Director (amandadodge@mccsk.ca)

MCC Saskatchewan, 600-45th St W, Saskatoon, SK S7L 5W9 306-665-2555 mccsk.ca



MENNONITE TRUST

SINCE 1917

Personal. Professional. Purposeful.

2019 was a year of growth for MTL. A growing number of clients trusted us to help them achieve some measure of financial peace through the services we offer. A growing balance sheet as we're able to help more people with their investments and loans. And, a growing physical presence as a long-planned addition to our Waldheim Head office was built. With a growing amount of work, our staff force has grown to the point where more space was necessary.

Before:



Addition:



It is our honor to use this expanded facility to work to bring financial peace to a growing number of clients.

OUR VISION:
Financial peace for everyone
in Saskatchewan

OUR MISSION:
Help people save wisely,
borrow sensibly,
give readily, and
make and execute sound estate plans.



As we look to 2020 and beyond, we desire to bring that financial peace to as many people as we can possibly reach. Over 100 years of careful company stewardship has us in a strong, stable financial position, but the goal is to try and help more people.

Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan (MHSS)

2019 Report

Jake Buhler and Victor Wiebe

Our Purpose: The Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan (MHSS) goals are to conserve, educate and celebrate Mennonite history, culture and religion in Saskatchewan, Canada and around the world. To make those stories come alive, MHSS endeavors to tell those stories to a wider audience. Archived stories and records are available to the public. MHSS has a periodical, *The Saskatchewan Mennonite Historian*, that is published three times a year. A quality website is another way in which we communicate with members and inquirers. The Mennonite peoples of Saskatchewan are a hard-to-describe mix of faith, language, and culture. From their 16th Century non-creedal and martyrial beginnings, with little outside world contact, their liturgies and theologies have changed.

MHSS Board Members: Our board representation comes from 2 conferences: Mennonite Brethren and Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. The members are John Reddekopp (chair), Susan Braun (treasurer), Jake Buhler (secretary), Leonard Doell (vice chair), Elizabeth Guenther, Harold Loewen and Kathy Boldt (archives committee, chairperson. The board met 8 times this year.

Annual General Meeting: In March Ted Regehr presented a key address on Commemorating Anniversaries. He argued that true anniversaries look both backwards and forwards. Victor Wiebe presented a major paper on the Braun Friesen Trials of 1925 to 1929. Harris Ford spoke about his research/interview project.

Website: The MHSS website 'http://mhss.sk.ca' is one of four fundamental avenues of communicating and assisting members and other interested seekers. The other three avenues are the archives themselves, our publication *Saskatchewan Mennonite Historian* and the email bulletin *E-Updates*. The MHSS website is currently receiving over 300 visitors daily with Ruth Friesen managing our website.

The website is being used to mount a large amount of basic Saskatchewan Mennonite information for those doing historical and genealogical research. This includes archival finding aids, photos of Saskatchewan church buildings, some full text documents, books for sale including used books, press releases, cemeteries, back issues of our *Saskatchewan Mennonite Historian*. Most materials are in English but some materials are in German. The server we are currently using is very near maximum of its storage capacity and the Board is investigating moving to a larger capacity dedicated server.

The *E-Updates* bulletin is widely distributed even to non-members and gives notice of upcoming events, programs and activities, along with other information useful to everyone interested in Saskatchewan Mennonite history, culture or religion.

Archives: Our Archives located at Bethany Manor in Saskatoon continues to be the heart of MHSS. It is the meeting place, the library, the work and research space and of course the location of our precious document collection. Volunteers provide access in person two afternoons and one evening each week. On average one guest visits each time we are open and between four to five emails and phone calls are answered weekly. Most of the enquiries and research are for family and genealogical histories but other topics like sports and native issues have also occupied the volunteers.

Our collection keeps growing with a number of donations of large personal collections and several congregational ones as well. This year we received a very large collection of newspaper related files when the weekly newspaper *Saskatchewan Valley News* ended its 114 year run. Though not a Mennonite publication it was owned for about 80 years by Mennonites and it chronicled the goings-on of the many Mennonites communities in the Saskatchewan River Valley. For much of its lifetime *Der Bote* and this weekly newspaper shared ownership, office space, staff and printing facilities. We have contributed about 2,700 photographs to MAID, and have also begun some document digitization activities.

In January 2019 we in Saskatoon suffered a loss when the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan closed its Saskatoon office and moved its entire collection to Regina. The Provincial Archives has in addition to holding government records has always actively collected private records that are important for the history and culture of Saskatchewan. A number of these related to Mennonites. We hope that in future digitization and website mounting of their archival holdings will overcome this loss of convenient access. In the meantime researchers will have to expend more on travel time.

Induction of Honorary Member: Jack Driedger became an Honorary member of the MHSS in a short ceremony in November.

Collaboratorium: The MHSS in 2018 entered into a new venture termed a *Collaboratorium* with the Department of History, University of Saskatchewan. This venture was originally under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Keith Carlson of the History Department and Dick Braun of MHSS with an upper level History student, Harris Ford, doing the research. In 2018 the University and MHSS each contributed \$2500. In 2019 the project continued but MHSS was the sole funder putting in \$5000.

Harris Ford worked in two areas. One was to digitize several of our important documents, for example the oldest issues of our publication *Saskatchewan Mennonite Historian*, and help preserve them as digital copies and also to mount them on databases and thus make them very widely accessible. The second work area was in oral history. Over two years he interviewed 25 Mennonites whose recollections and observations are important in establishing a historic record. These audio and visual documents are also preserved in databases in a variety of formats.

For the History Department this Collaboratorium gave a student valuable practical experience in the discipline of history. The Department also is constructing its own databases at the University involving both University and Provincial Archives and now Mennonite resources. Cooperation between the two organizations and perhaps others should enable better databases to be constructed, tested and accessed for preservation and historical research.

Archives Committee: It consists of five persons who are Helen Fast, Elizabeth Guenther, Hilda Voth, and Kathy Boldt. Much communication is done by phone and email but mostly by working together at the archives. MHSS acquired the entire *Valley News* collection more than three years ago. Processing this is underway. Hours of service are Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30-4:00 p.m. and on Wednesday evening from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Volunteers: Some work areas include *The Historian* and day to day work at the archives. Tasks include receiving and processing donated collections, clipping obituaries, checking the Grandma genealogy program at home and putting book titles online. There are a dozen volunteers.

Peace Event: On November 11, Mae Popoff, elder of the Saskatoon Doukhobor, presented the story of her people, focussing especially on the Burning of the Guns, in Russia in the 19th Century. Mae also described the Doukhobor tradition of singing.

Walking the Path: MHSS cooperates with MCC and Mennonite Church Sask to participate in on-going dialogue between Mennonites and First Nations. This group met 7 times in 2018 and organized several activities. Jake Buhler is the MHSS representative to the committee.

Year-end Appreciation Dinner for Board and Volunteers: In November archive volunteers and their partners were invited to the annual appreciation dinner. Forty-three people attended including board members and their partners. Organized by Susan Braun, it was an evening of singing, Mennonite quizzing and speeches.

Mennonite Studies Conference at University of Winnipeg: Jake Buhler and Nettie Wiebe presented a paper on “Mennonite Farmers and their struggle with Eldorado Nuclear from 1975-1980 at Warman”.

The Saskatchewan Mennonite Historian: Ruth Friesen is the editor and has finished six years in her position. Three fine issues were published this year. All 240 members of MHSS receive the publication. Susan Braun is responsible for distribution of the *Historian*.

Cemeteries: Please visit our Cemeteries Project website at: mhss.sk.ca/cemeteries/. The database has been successfully put up on our website. It has several indexes, one of which is alphabetical. Helen Fast is a resource person and can be contacted as well for information and assistance.

Mennonite Disaster Service Canada REPORT

For many Canadians today, the church is “unnoticed and unimportant.” That’s the view of Gabe and Rachel Warriner, co-pastors of River Valley Community Church in Grand Forks, B.C.

“The church is invisible,” says Gabe. “Nobody knows who we are as Christians. We’re irrelevant to people who drive past our buildings every day.”

But then a natural disaster comes along and—if Christians are paying attention to God’s leading—all that can change.

That’s what happened in Grand Forks following unprecedented flooding in spring 2018 that damaged over 400 homes in the community of 4,200 people. River Valley, a Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada congregation of about 100, responded by helping with sandbagging. But after the water receded, what could they do to help people rebuild their homes and lives?

Then Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) showed up. Working with the church and local officials, we brought in about 200 volunteers to rebuild and repair 15 homes.

The result was a new sense of appreciation for the church in the community, says Rachel.

“People were surprised when they saw the church was stepping up to help. It wasn’t what they expected. They didn’t think that’s what Christians did.” Adds Gabe: “There was a growing awareness of what the church is for. It’s a real plus for the Christian faith in Grand Forks for people to know what it means to be Christian.”

Grand Forks is just one place in Canada where MDS sought to be the hands and feet of Jesus on your behalf in 2019. Other places where we served included Ontario, where we helped people recover from flooding; Manitoba, where we built a house for a widow who lost



People were surprised when they saw the church was stepping up to help ... They didn’t think that’s what Christians did.

GABE WARRINER, CO-PASTOR,
RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH, GRAND FORKS

her home in a fire; and also in Newfoundland, where we built a house for a family who lost their home in a fire. At the same time, volunteers served in locations in the U.S. in places like Texas, Florida, North and South Carolina, and California.

At the end of the project in Grand Forks, MDS project co-director Peter Thiessen handed Gabe a “baton”—an old hammer used by volunteers. “We recognize we are only in a community for a season,” Peter said as he gave Gabe the hammer.

“It’s like a relay. We are glad to do what we can to help people rebuild their homes and restore their lives. But we can only take it so far before we leave. Then we hand off the baton to the local church to follow up with the people we served.”

For Gabe and Rachel, it was an important moment. “We’re not going anywhere,” he says. “We plan to stay

engaged with MDS’s clients and our community. We intend to let people know the church is always here, always ready to help them.”

Your continued support for MDS, either as a volunteer or by donations, is greatly appreciated! With your help we can continue to work with local churches to be a witness of God’s generous love for those who have been impacted by natural disasters, and to the communities where we serve.

—Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations



Peter Thiessen of MDS passes the “baton” to River Valley Church pastor Gabe Warriner.



**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**

mds.mennonite.net

MDS Canada Office
200-600 Shaftesbury Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB Canada R3P 2J1
204-261-1274
toll-free 866-261-1274
mdscanada@mds.mennonite.net

MDS Saskatchewan
Ida Buhler
306-220-5727
lbuhlermds@gmail.com



2020 Annual Report to Regional Churches

Mennonite Men is the men's organization of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. Our mission: *Engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus*. Our two programs, *JoinHands* and *JoinMen*, served this mission in several ways in the last year.

JoinHands: Grants for New Churches

Thanks to generous contributions from individuals and congregations, Mennonite Men has granted over 2 million dollars through its JoinHands program to assist new congregations in acquiring their first church building.

In 2019 we extended grants to three Mennonite churches:

\$30,000 to Eden Life International Church in Kansas City, Missouri. This congregation in South Central Mennonite Conference serves four language communities: Amharic (Ethiopia), Anouk (Sudan, Ethiopia), English (second generation immigrants), and Swahili/French (Congo).



\$40,000 to Unity Church of God in Homestead, Florida (pictured to the left). This Haitian Mennonite congregation in Southeast

Conference is active serving their community.

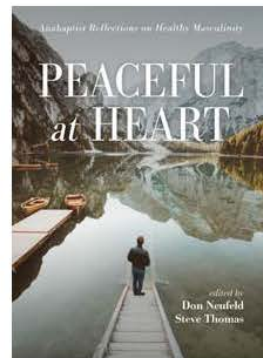
\$40,000 to Centro de Alabanza in Philadelphia, PA (below). This Mennonite congregation in Franconia Conference has a rich diversity of members from Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, the United States and Venezuela. The church is active with Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (Anabaptist Biblical Institute) and engaged in several ministries in their neighborhood.



These racial-ethnic congregations represent a significant growth edge in our Mennonite church. We are grateful to share our resources with these churches and receive their witness of dynamic engagement in mission.

JoinMen: Resources and Retreats for Men

What does Anabaptism have to teach us about healthy masculinity? Our new book, *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity*, seeks to answer this question. Working with the Institute of Mennonite Studies, this project of Mennonite Men is by and for men, promoting an Anabaptist Christian perspective on masculinity.



Mennonite Men had the opportunity to lead retreats with



men in Shirati, Tanzania (pictured to the left) and Cradock, South Africa (below).

These were rich interchanges, addressing traditional expressions of masculinity and their impacts and what it means to be men following Jesus and serving God's peace.



Join Us: Individual and Congregational Support

Mennonite Men invites contributions to support our projects and grants for church buildings. Please consider how you and your congregations can partner with us.

To learn more, support our work, download resources, or schedule a retreat, visit MennoniteMen.org.

Together in Christ,

Don Neufeld, Canadian Coordinator

**Minutes of the
Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Annual Delegate Sessions
March 8-9, 2019
Co-hosted by
Zoar Mennonite Church and Eigenheim Mennonite Church**

Friday March 8

1:00 - 4:00 pm	Pastors Gathering with David Fitch
3:00 - 5:00 pm	Tours at Marvin's Gardens Greenhouse, Waldheim Museum, and Wood n' Needle
5:00 pm	Registration Opens
5:00 - 6:30 pm	Supper

6:30 pm Gathering & Singing

7:00 pm Business Session

Welcome & Opening

- Terry Stefaniuk (Moderator) welcomed everyone
- Joel Ens and Andrea Enns Gooding welcomed everyone on behalf of Eigenheim Mennonite and Zoar Mennonite respectively
- Terry declared this year's sessions open and introduced the parliamentary and resolutions committee
 - o Parliamentary: Heather Driedger
 - o Resolutions Committee: Armin Krahn, Bruce Jantzen, Christy Martens-Funk

Adoption of Minutes & Agenda

MOTION 20190308-01: to adopt the minutes of the 2018 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions. Celeste Wright/Victoria Neufeldt. Carried.

MOTION 20190308-02: to adopt the agenda for the 2019 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions. Peter Peters/Berny Wiens. Carried.

Moderator's Report

- Terry Stefaniuk (report on page 9)
 - o Council is working on bylaws as part of the restructuring process all across Canada
 - o Page 8 actions of council in the past year

MOTION 20190308-03: to accept the Moderator's report as written and presented. Jake Buhler/Dolores Logan. Carried.

Nominating Committee Update

- Terry presented the slate of nominations from page 6 of the report book

First Call for Nominations

- None at this time

Regional and Nationwide Minister's Reports

- Kirsten Hamm-Epp (report on page 12)
 - o Ride for Refuge, hosted in September 2018; was a challenge, but we pulled through and the event went very well. Over ½ of the funds raised in that event were raised in Saskatchewan
 - o Transitions in youth ministry circles – Nora Pederberg has been covering a youth worker maternity leave as well as pastoral sabbaticals at Nutana Park Mennonite, Hailey Funk started as youth worker at Wildwood Mennonite, Terri Lynn Friesen will be taking maternity leave from Osler Mennonite beginning in April
 - o Scholarships – available to students at RJC, CMU, CBC, Conrad Grebel, & AMBS. Last year gave two, \$500 scholarships, had 14 applicants; have received a pledge to increase the fund to \$3000; hope to increase that amount during offerings tonight and tomorrow in order to increase the amount of scholarships we will be able to give
 - o Youth Event (Shake – Rattled by the Radical) to gather prairie youth together – information in church packages; will be at Shekinah this summer
- Ryan Siemens (report on page 10)
 - o Expressed a deep appreciation for the leadership within MC Sask; people willing to take on pastoral leadership, congregations willing to take risks on people
 - o Much of the past year spent on “deepening our walk with Christ” (take note of report book pages 52-53 re: ReFresh, ReFocus, ReNew). Year 1 focused on the individual, year 2 moves into communal walk. To that end, there will be regional worship services in four locations throughout the province from June 14-16. The Voices Together group (Voices Together is the new hymnal being produced) has been asked to join the services
 - o CommonWord has resources for the theme of “deepening our walk with each other” on page 53 of the report book

MOTION 20190308-04: to accept the Regional Ministers' reports as written and presented. Harry Froese/Tammy Forrester. Carried

Update from National Minister – Henry Paetkau

- Henry introduced some of the MC Canada staff who are attending this weekend
- Who is Mennonite Church Canada now? Helpful image: the body and it's many parts, like the overlays that you used to find in encyclopedias – one layer showed skeletal structure, the next organs, then muscles, veins & arteries, etc. MC Canada is like the body in the pages of the encyclopedia. 5 regional bodies, not separate entities, not side by side, but overlays; over 200 congregations, over 25,000 members
- Grateful for support MC Canada is receiving from the regional churches, financial and otherwise
- Will be a balanced budget for this fiscal budget
- The nationwide gathering in Abbotsford in June will see Doug Klassen installed as Executive Minister for Mennonite Church Canada

Update from Garry Janzen, MCBC Executive Minister

- Garry has been executive minister for MCBC for just over 11 years
- They also worked with Betty Pries a number of years ago on the themes of being Anabaptist/our identity, building healthy connections, and reconciliation
- MC Sask and MCBC are on the same page with where we want to be
- Garry will be going to Cambodia & Viet Nam to be doing some Anabaptist training with Mennonite congregations in Viet Nam

- Extended a welcome and invitation to Abbotsford in 2019 for the nationwide meeting (The Gathering)
- Ryan Siemens prayed for MCBC

Business Session Closed

Worship: Offering, Communion, Commemoration

- RJC Ensemble joined us to help lead worship
- Speaker: David Fitch (guest from Chicago)
 - o A faithful re-imagination of the church

Saturday March 9

Gathering Singing & Morning Prayer

Business Session

Terry opened the morning business sessions

Introduction of Guests

- We are fortunate to have many guests joining us for the weekend

Henry Paetkau	MC Canada
Katie Doke Sawatzky	MC Canada
Garry Janzen	MCBC
Jeanette Hanson	Mennonite Partners in China
AnaSara Rojas	CommonWord
Dori Zerbe Cornelsen	CMU
Ken Hawkley	AMBS
Ginny Hostetler	<i>Canadian Mennonite Magazine</i>
Donna Schulz	<i>Canadian Mennonite Magazine</i>
Erica Baerwald	MCC Sask
Mark Bigland-Pritchard	MCC Sask
Cory Regier	Mennonite Trust Ltd.
Ryan Wood	Rosthern Junior College
Zach Dueck	Camp Elim
Ron Schellenberg	Shekinah Retreat Centre
Sue Schellenberg	Shekinah Retreat Centre
Mark Wurtz	Youth Farm Bible Camp
Heather Driedger	Parkland Restorative Justice
Otto & Florence Driedger	CoSA South Saskatchewan
Dave Feick	Micah Mission

Finance Report & Proposed Budget

Gordon Peters (Finance Chair) presented

- Audit not completed yet due to time constraints, so reports still have “draft” on them
 - o Question about changing our ADS date in the future to assist getting an audit done in time to be able to approve budgets; possibly to early May
 - o Will ask to approve draft financials later this afternoon
- Budget Presentation
 - o There will be more formal discussion and voting in the afternoon

Second call for Nominations

- None at this time

Bylaws Presentation

Bylaws: Working Draft for 2019 ADS, Feb 11/2019 (pages 16-17 in report book)

- Tim Wiens & Kirsten Hamm-Epp presented as the Bylaws Committee
- Congregants and congregations will be given a year to look at these changes and vote at next years' ADS
- The committee began by asking the question of what do the bylaws say – and do they work with what we are doing currently? If not, then do we need to change the bylaw or do we need to change what we are doing?
 - o Proposed changes range from small things like reformatting the document so that the numbering system is uniform, to grammatical edits, to changes in requirements of various boards, etc.
- This is 1st draft presented today, looking for comments and suggestions, hope to have a final draft to send out in fall so that they can be looked at and voted on at the 2020 ADS

Plenary Session with David Fitch

- The church is not a set of programs “in here” nor is it a set of projects “out there” – there is no “in here” and “out there”, it is a whole way of life
- What we do “in here” shapes us to do the things “out there”
- How do we put the church back together again:
 - o Presence
 - o Places
 - o Practices

Coffee Break

Report and Discussion on Schools: RJC, CMU, AMBS

- RJC – Ryan Wood, Principal (pages 31-32 in report book)
 - o Alex Tiessen has been hired as admissions director to start April 1, 2019
 - o Hillary Fast has been hired to fill a maternity leave
 - o Kirsten Hamm-Epp is working 1 day a week out of RJC
- CMU – Dori Zerbe Cornelsen (page 33 in report book)
 - o 32 SK students at CMU right now, 16 of whom identify as being from MC Sask churches
 - o Launching a Master of Divinity program in fall 2019
 - o Thank you for your interest, your prayers, your financial generosity
 - o Choir coming at end of April to Regina and Saskatoon
- AMBS – Ken Hawkley (page 34 in report book)
 - o AMBS serves the church as a learning community; God's reconciling mission
 - o Began in the 1950s and have had a complete faculty turnover in the past 9 years due to retirements
 - o Currently 42 AMBS grads serving in Saskatchewan

Report and Discussion on Camps: Elim, Shekinah, Youth Farm

- Camp Elim – Zach Dueck (pages 22-23 in report book)
 - o Improvements to the beachfront and installing hand-capable washrooms
 - o Herman & Esther Wiebe have joined the staff
 - o Campership numbers have increased; adding 2 weeks to schedule
 - o Primary demographic is outside of the Mennonite denomination – most with no denomination at all
 - o Will feel the loss of the Emmaus Mennonite Church, as they were a big support through board members, volunteers, fundraisers, etc.

- Shekinah Retreat Centre – Ron Schellenberg, Craig Friesen (page 24 in report book)
 - o Much like farming – the things you do last year informs what this year will look like; you rely on the rains coming at the right time, at their not being a drought, on the things you cannot control
 - o 2019 is Shekinah's 40th birthday; a celebration will occur in August
 - o Planning 2 more cabin builds during the Easter week – looking for volunteers
 - o How can people engage? – always looking for volunteers: camp cooks, bible leaders, volunteer maintenance for a week
 - o Looking for ways to better compensate and support counselors – some of that is monetary – looking to reinstate wage increases for returning staff
 - o New: a Music Camp debuting this summer – info is up on website under the camp area
- Youth Farm Bible Camp – Mark Wurtz (page 25 in report book)
 - o Relationship between YFBC & MC Sask is a 78 year marriage
 - o Have had some times of tension, but are working toward a better relationship again over the past number of years
 - o YFBC is a temporary community created in a camp setting – can practice new behaviours for 5 days, then can possibly take those home and practice them at home
 - o Outdoor experiences – we are less outside than we used to be; camps can offer outdoor experiences
 - o Leaders – creating leaders, learning to make choices and leadership decisions
 - o How to be a part – always looking for volunteers: volunteer for a week in the kitchen, help out at the corn maze, be a grandparent at camp, and many other ways to jump in

Lunch

Lunch Meetings:

AMBS Alumni & Friends
MCC Saskatchewan
Canadian Mennonite

Gathering & Singing

Report and Discussion MC Sask Programs:

Ministries Commission – Claire Ewert Fisher (pages 19-20 in the report book)

- Hearty agreement with David Fitch's comments that the "in here" and the "out there" are part of the same thing
- Had a challenge to come up with a Purpose Statement (page 20): How do we feel? Is that who we think the Ministries Commission is/should be doing?
 - o Feedback on vision & purpose statement
 - Some mentioned that a Vision statement should be short and memorable; does this provide the needed clarity? What is the vision?
 - Some see the "sap" as the Holy Spirit that flows through MC Sask
 - o How can all of us connect with and support with the churches in the 2/3 world
 - o Ideas on what would be good things for us to be working together at

International Witness – Henry Paetkau (pages 35-37 in report book)

- Sask congregations and individuals can also speak with Kirsten Hamm-Epp re: Witness Workers and supporting them

Singing with Christian Horizons Residents (Offering)

Business Session

Bylaws Discussion & Feedback

- Peter Peters (Grace Mennonite, Regina): re: membership and who can sit on committees; appreciate the door that is being opened to invite those who are participants but not formerly members of MC Sask to participate
- Ike Epp (Fields of Hope, Glenbush) If MC Sask is a corporation – who owns it? Present bylaws state that owners are the members of congregations. Council is not authorized to act as the church, it is the delegate body who needs to ratify/validate decisions
- Personnel committee – finance chair – given how busy they are should that be looked at?
- Asking for people to look these over at home with their congregations

Third Call for Nominations

- none at this time

MOTION 20190309-01: for nominations to cease. Peter Peters/Bruce Jantzen. Carried.

Approval of Nominations

MOTION 20190309-02: to approve the slate of nominees. Christy Krahn/Berny Wiens. Carried.

Approval of Budget & Auditors

- Finance Report Discussion:

MOTION 20190309-03: to accept in principal, the draft financial statements of MC Sask and the 3 camps as of December 31, 2018. The audited statements to be approved by the appropriate council/boards upon receipt. Gordon Peters/Denise Martens. Carried.

- Budget Discussion: Gordon took questions from the delegate body

MOTION 20190309-04: to approve the 2019 budget as presented. Gordon Peters/Eva Klaassen. Carried.

MOTION 20190309-05: to appoint McKenzie & Co. to continue as auditors for the 2019 fiscal year. Gordon Peters/Tim Wiens. Carried.

Resolutions

- **RESOLUTION:** Whereas we were ushered into these sessions through exhilarating spirit-filled singing, whereas we were challenged by Dr. David Fitch to be open to God's presence and work here in Saskatchewan, whereas the communities of Zoar Mennonite and Eigenheim Mennonite provided nurture, nourishment and energy to provide hospitality to us all, whereas the leadership of MC Sask council and staff was approachable and thoughtful in their planning, now therefore be it resolved that we say thanks for all those that contributed to the positive spirit of these sessions and God's work here among us.
~ Presented by the Resolutions Committee
Carried.

MOTION 20190309-06: to accept all reports as presented. Larry Epp/Geraldine Balzer. Carried.

Commissioning & Official Closing of ADS

- Ryan and Kirsten led us in commissioning all those who will be serving MC Saskatchewan over the coming year
- An invitation was put out for a church or churches who would host the Annual Delegate Sessions in 2020
- Terry declared the 2019 ADS closed

Statistics:

Delegates – 71

Guests – 19

Non Delegates – 43

Children – 8

Volunteers – 43

Friday Evening – 147

Saturday Sessions – 108

Total registered 166 representing 27/27 churches

Attended Friday's Pastor's Gathering - 39

Index

2020 Draft Budget	16
Agenda	4
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	54
Bylaws Committee Report	17
Camp Elim	45
Canadian Mennonite Publication	64
Canadian Mennonite University	53
CoSA South Saskatchewan	55
Current Members of Council, PLC & Ministries	7
Draft 2020 Bylaws	20
Executive Minister's Report	11
Governing Bodies of MC Sask	36
Interim Youth Worker's Report	15
MC Sask Council 2019-2020 Actions & Major Decisions	9
MC Sask External Appointments	40
MC Sask Related Organizations	40
MCC Saskatchewan	65
Mennonite Church Alberta	61
Mennonite Church British Columbia	63
Mennonite Church Canada	59
Mennonite Church Manitoba	60
Mennonite Disaster Service	71
Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan	67
Mennonite Men	72
Mennonite Nursing Home and Youth Farm Complex	58
Mennonite Trust Ltd.	66
Micah Mission	56
Ministries Commission	42
Minutes from 2019 Annual Delegate Sessions	73
Moderator's Report	10
Nominations Bios	7
Parkland Restorative Justice	57
Pastoral Leadership Commission & Chaplains	41
Refresh, Refocus, Renew - Year 3	13
Rosthern Junior College	52
Shekinah Retreat Centre	47
Slate of Nominations	6
Women's Ministry	44
Youth Farm Bible Camp	50