



MCEC

Discernment
Documents

Sharing Our Faith



"...that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith."
Romans 1:12

MCEC Annual Church Gathering

April 24 & 25, 2015

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

110 Doon Rd., Kitchener, ON

MCEC, 201-50 Kent Ave., Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1
226-476-2500 / 1-855-476-2500 www.mcec.ca



**Mennonite
Church**
Eastern
Canada



Emergency Contact Number

519-569-1785

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#Sharingfaith

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MCEC in Ministry - Spring 2015

✓ Coming Soon!

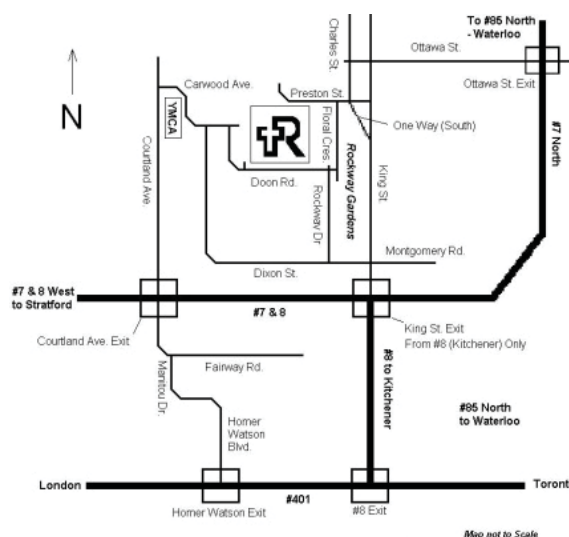
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Rockway Mennonite Collegiate 110 Doon Road, Kitchener, ON



SCHEDULE - ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING 2015

Friday Evening

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Opening Worship

- Sharing Our Faith: David Martin, Catherine Gitzel, Fanosie Legesse
- Milestone Recognition and Celebration

MCEC Business Section

- 2014-2015 Financial Statements
- Approval of Auditors
- Welcome and Recognition of Guests

Saturday Morning

8:30 - 10:20 a.m.

Opening Worship

- Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church Choir

MCEC Business Section

- Minutes of 2014 Annual Church Gathering
- Executive Council Actions
- Introduction of Slate of Volunteers

Leadership Team LED Talks: Sharing Our Faith

- Brian Bauman, Brent Charette, Ester Neufeldt, Henry Paetkau, Jeff Steckley

10:20 a.m.

Break

10:50 - noon

LED Talks: Sharing Our Faith

MCEC Business Section

- Spending Plan

LED Talks: Sharing Our Faith

Welcome Chin Christian Church (Kitchener) into Full Membership

12:00 noon

Lunch

Saturday Afternoon

1:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Worship

- Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Choir

MCEC Business

- Pastoral Transitions
- Legacy Initiatives Fund Update
- Future Directions Task Force and Mennonite Church Canada Update
- Property Update
- Approval of Spending Plan
- Approval of Auditors
- Approval of Slate

LED Talks: Sharing Our Faith

Closing Worship

- Commissioning

Everyone Has A Faith Story



Paul Wideman
MCEC Moderator

The topic of this year's Annual Church Gathering is faith stories. Everyone who has come to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour has a faith story. For it is by faith that we have come to know Him. Over the course of the spring gathering we will hear many different faith stories from a variety of people. Faith stories are as individual as the people who have them. I am thankful that as the church we are able to hear and cherish these stories. It takes courage to share your faith story. The first time I was asked to share my faith story was during a mission trip to Kenya, Africa and we were doing a street evangelism ministry. It was not easy to get up in front of a group of other people and tell your story.

I remember feeling that my faith story was very normal, almost not meaningful enough to share. I have heard other people's faith stories and they often sounded so much more powerful than mine. I have come to recognize that our faith story is more than just how we came from birth to our decision to publicly declare that Jesus is Lord and become baptized. In fact, some of the most powerful chapters of our faith stories can and do occur after our baptism. We have all heard people say that they often have had a crisis of faith or an event in their life that shakes their faith. Some even lose their faith. God often reveals himself during these dark moments of doubt. I am thankful that God has always revealed himself to me during these moments in my life.

Just as we have individual faith stories, the broader church also has a faith story. The church is really just a collection of believers who have come to Christ in different ways and at different stages of spiritual understanding and ability.

"MCEC is a collection of churches also with a range of faith stories."

- Paul Wideman

MCEC is a collection of churches also with a range of faith stories. We have MCEC churches that are in the early stages of their story and we have others whose story is many years in length. We have a variety of ways we express our faith, and yet we have brought all these differences together in an area church that is stronger because of our differences if we keep the scriptures and Jesus at the centre of it all. We have been challenged as an Area Church

to make statements of clarity on a number of very difficult topics and regardless of the decision there will be disagreement. Will we find enough common ground to remain in unity when our faith stories may not be similar enough?

My prayer for my own faith story is the same as my prayer for the broader church and that is this: when it appears that things are in disarray and that God seems absent or quiet, that He will reveal Himself in a most powerful way.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

Faith Stories



Brian Bauman
MCEC Mission Minister
Kitchener, ON



Ester Neufeldt
MCEC Operations Minister
Kitchener, ON



Brent Charette
MCEC Church Engagement Minister
Kitchener, ON



Henry Paetkau
MCEC Area Church Minister
Kitchener, ON



Catherine Gitzel
The Gathering
Kitchener, ON



Bernard Sejour
Catalyzer in Ottawa
Ottawa, ON



Maciel Hernandez
Toronto Mennonite
New Life Church
Toronto, ON



Jeff Steckley
MCEC Congregational Ministries Minister
Kitchener, ON



Fanosie Legesse
Bethel Mennonite Church
Elora, ON



Tim Wagler
Living Water Community
Christian Fellowship
New Hamburg, ON



David Martin
MCEC Executive Minister
Kitchener, ON

MINUTES - 2014 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING

MCEC's 27th Annual Church Gathering (ACG) Minutes

On Holy Ground: Rich Soil for Seeds of Promise

Niagara College, 135 Taylor Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

April 25-26, 2014

Friday, April 25, 2014

Gathering Music – The Commons

1. **Welcome** - David Martin, MCEC Executive Minister, welcomed everyone to MCEC's 27th ACG, hosted by the MCEC Niagara cluster of congregations.
2. **Worship** - Laura Mullet Koop, Quest Christian Community, gathered everyone for a time of worship, based on Exodus 3:1-12. The Commons provided music.
3. **Plenary Speaker** - David Martin introduced Dr. Safwat Marzouk, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, who spoke of Holy Ground as God's Call for Transformation. We need to pause, slow down, and reconsider the essential ideal that an assembled worshipping community is the tangible sign of God's reconciling mission in this world. We will not turn worship into a missional act; we worship because this is our mission. God's presence gives room for humankind to enter a conversation that shapes the future. The church is called to give up perceptions and practice that consciously or unconsciously exclude those who worship differently. It is an encounter with God in diversity. This kind of worship might be the burning bush that we need to explore. It might reveal the extraordinary in the ordinary.
4. **Reflecting on the Message:** Audience interaction with Safwat Marzouk - Each table reflected on the following questions: How do you experience worship in your congregation? Are worship and mission related to one another? Does worship equip and transform you for mission?
 - Nathanael Hope, Windsor Mennonite Fellowship – *What definition of worship are we using?*
Dr. Marzouk understands worship as a divine call to relate to God. It is all God's initiative and leaves us the freedom to respond to that divinity.
 - Cyrille Fopoussi, Avon Mennonite Church – *How would you define mission?*
Dr. Marzouk responded that mission is accomplishing and responding to the call to worship. As you worship, God will give you the specifics. We should just "be" the church. Worship itself is the miracle.
 - Chris Mullet Koop, Quest Community Church - *Sometimes words are loaded. It is healthy and necessary to take time to deconstruct things so we can construct again. Mission and worship are enormous words and incredibly diverse. Change will not happen overnight, and may take a decade or two to rediscover.*
Dr. Marzouk responded that there is room for diversity in these definitions. In Exodus they kept the traditions talking to each other. A worshipping community is a sign that God is at work.

David thanked Dr. Marzouk for stimulating our thinking. Song of Response led by The Commons: *Be Thou My Vision*.

5. **Responding and Celebrating God's Presence in our Holy Spaces** – Leah Martin and Jonathan Moyer spoke about the program, Navigate, at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp. Navigate engages young adults at pivotal times in their lives. They encouraged everyone to spread the word about this program to the young adults in their congregations.
6. **Offering** was collected as a response of gratitude for what God is doing through the church and as a token of our commitment to our common ministry as a community of congregations.
7. **Milestone Recognition** - David Martin highlighted milestones in our congregations and ministry partners.
 - a. **Congregational Anniversaries:**
 - i. Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church - 10th
 - ii. Freedom Gospel Ethiopian Church - 10th
 - iii. Hillcrest Mennonite Church - 50th
 - b. **Agencies**
 - i. Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Response Resource Team (SMARRT) - 20th
 - ii. Maison de l'amitié - 40th

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iii. Mennonite Savings & Credit Union - 50th

iv. Conrad Grebel University College - 50th

Memorial Book – Births, deaths, baptisms from MCEC congregations in the past year are recorded in books found at the MCEC display area.

Staff Changes – Marianne Mellinger, Coordinator of Leadership Formation, will retire from MCEC summer 2014.

Milestone Litany of Celebration – Everyone read a litany of celebration.

Song of Response led by The Commons - *Grace and Peace and Mercy Flow*

8. Sending Worship

- a. **Welcome of Special Guests** - Pieter Niemeyer, Executive Council, introduced ministry partners through a powerpoint presentation:

Denominational Partners: Mennonite Church Canada, Mennonite World Conference

Education and Formation Partners: Fraser Lake Camp, Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp and Retreat Centre, Ontario Mennonite Music Camp, Silver Lake Mennonite Camp, Willowgrove, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Canadian Mennonite University, Conrad Grebel University College, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, UMEI Christian High School

Financial Partners: MAX Canada, Mennonite Foundation of Canada, Mennonite Savings and Credit Union

Resourcing Partners: Associates Resourcing the Church, Mennonite and Brethren Marriage Encounter, Mennonite Spiritual Directors of Eastern Canada, Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Response Resource Team, Shalom Counselling Services Waterloo

Service Ministry Partners: Maison de l'amitié, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario, Mennonite Disaster Service, Mennonite New Life Centre, Ontario Multifaith Council, Ten Thousand Villages, Welcome Inn Community Centre, Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

- b. **Ribbon Flame Ritual** – Everyone was invited to choose a ribbon to represent the flame of God's presence, write a thought or prayer on it, and tie it to one of the tree branches around the room.

- c. **Reading** from #183 of *Sing the Journey - Lord, it is night*

- d. **Songs** led by The Commons - *Lord Hear my Prayer, The Doxology/Let it be so*

Adjourned - 9:10 pm

Saturday, April 26, 2014

9. **Moderator's Welcome** - Sandy Shantz, MCEC Moderator, welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the day. Building on our goal of Extending the Peace of Jesus Christ, how does God catch our attention? How do we recognize Holy ground?

10. Opening Worship

Laura Mullet Koop led in worship, with Quest Christian Community leading the music.

11. **Welcome of special guests** - Sandy introduced ministry partner representatives and staff.

12. Executive Council Business

- a) **Introduction of Executive Council Members** – Bryce Kraeker, Assistant Moderator, introduced Executive Council members.

- b) **Minutes of 2013 Annual Church Gathering** - Shirley Redekop, Secretary for Executive Council, highlighted the minutes of the 2013 Annual Church Gathering and made the following motion

MOTION – *On behalf of Executive Council, I move and second that we accept the minutes of the 26th annual meeting of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, held April 26 and 27, 2013.*
Motion carried.

- c) **Review and Accept Executive Council Actions** - Shirley Redekop introduced Executive Council actions and moved and seconded the following motion

MOTION – *On behalf of the Executive Council, I move and second that we approve all actions taken by the MCEC Executive Council for the year May 2013 to April 2014.*
Motion carried.

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- d) **Introduction of the Slate** - Lois Konrad, Chair of Gift Discernment Committee, introduced the slate, gave a verbal update of changes that were not printed in the discernment book and asked for further nominations by the afternoon. Changes noted were as follows:
- i. Congregational Ministries Council: Pader Lee, First Hmong Mennonite Church, was added
 - ii. Gift Discernment Committee: Jeff Taylor, Toronto United Mennonite Church, was added
 - iii. Detweiler Meeting House: Robert Shantz, Mannheim Mennonite Church, was removed, creating a vacancy
 - iv. Mennonite Church Canada Delegates: Ryan Jantzi, Kingsfield Clinton, was added
 - v. Ontario Multifaith Council, South West: Susan Nickel, Valleyview Mennonite Church, was added
- e) **2013/14 Financial Statements** - Eugene Reesor, Administrative and Financial Services Council Chair, and Ester Neufeldt, Operations Minister, reviewed the 2013-14 financial statements using an audio visual presentation. Eugene added that the auditors noted excellent record keeping by MCEC. Donations this past year were slightly less than last year, continuing a ten year downward trend. The largest portion of MCEC revenue came from congregations.

Monies from the Schmidt Estate were transferred into a new fund, the Legacy Initiatives Fund. The Student Seminary Fund was replaced by the Theological Leadership Development Fund. The move from 4489 King Street East to 50 Kent Avenue means that rent is now part of our operating costs. The 4489 King St. E. buildings have not yet sold. The loan to Mennonite Central Committee Ontario was held in the property fund from a previous property sale and in the Legacy Initiatives Fund. When 4489 is sold, MCEC will release the Legacy Fund. The year ended with a \$0 balance.

Eugene Reesor, on behalf of Executive Council, moved and seconded the following motion:

MOTION – *On behalf of the Executive Council, I move and second that we accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2014 as printed.*
Motion carried.

13. **Leadership Team LED Talks** – LED Talks were introduced by Bryce Kraeker, as Lead, Equip, Disciple – where is God leading us? The Leadership Team each gave a brief LED Talk sharing reflections and stories from their ministry contexts.
- Jeff Steckley, Congregational Ministries: Go & Grow is money given to congregations to assist them in being present in their communities and neighbourhoods in new ways. Since 2008, money has been given to 18 congregations. Four projects were noted: Toronto United Mennonite Church has created a community garden through which other seeds of faith are also being planted, Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church serves a meal at the *Out of the Cold* program, Wilmot Mennonite Church is creating an accessible labyrinth, and Markham Stouffville area churches are holding Bible study retreats as a way to engage scripture. These are places of holy ground.
- Henry Paetkau, Leadership: Holy ground is in the story of those who are called to ministry.
- Brian Bauman, Mission: Brian has opportunity to worship with people who speak languages other than English and he does not understand what they are saying - that is holy ground.
- Ester Neufeldt, Administrative and Financial Services: The Mission Capital Fund assists congregations with capital costs. Since 1989, 15 congregations were given funds to buy their first building, 16 congregations were given loans, three emerging congregations were given funds for capital leases, and in the past six months, two congregations have received funds for building projects. These are seeds planted on holy ground and God provides the growth. There is still over a million dollars in the fund.
- Brent Charette, Church Engagement: It is important for MCEC to be rooted in congregations that support the mission of the church. This spring and fall MCEC staff and council members are visiting congregations for one hour, asking two questions: What is going well in the congregation? What is challenging in the congregation? This is holy ground.
- David Martin, Executive Council: The journey to and on holy ground is made easier because we do it together. There is no knowing where holy ground will find us. Be alert, holy ground may be under your feet.

Everyone was invited to respond, in table conversations, with the following question: What did you hear about holy ground that might be relevant for how your congregation engages in ministry? Conversations were recorded on paper and picked up at the end of the day.

14. **Spending Plan Introduction** - David Martin and Ester Neufeldt introduced the spending plan for February 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015. David thanked congregations and individuals for their contributions to the mission of the church. One change was noted: Executive Council supported a new full-time position in administrative support and another part-time position to allow for a full-time Church Engagement position. New items this year are live-streaming of this Gathering (16 people watched the live feed last night), and new office space.

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15. **LED Talks** - Based on Exodus 3:1-12, the following people spoke about where they sensed God calling the church and where the church needs to turn to find holy ground.

Jennifer Kellner, The Commons and professional photographer, displayed images and asked everyone to let their hearts, minds, and souls be guided by God to see if there is a reflection, word, or nudge in a certain direction. Art, faith, and life intersect with a heart that is willing and eyes that see.

Jessica Reesor Rempel, Stirling Avenue Mennonite and Master of Theological Studies (MTS) student, finds holy ground at the edges and margins of our churches, especially in MCEC young adults. She gave a slide presentation with young adults answering two questions: What is the best thing about church in MCEC? What would make church more authentic?

Allan Rudy-Froese, Assistant Professor at AMBS, challenged everyone to think of death as an entry point where we could be a witness and help others through their death experiences. We have incredible gifts to give to the church and wider society. God has given us this life. It is precious. Death is precious too.

Everyone responded, in table conversations, with the following question: What did you hear about holy ground that might be relevant for how your congregation engages in ministry? Their comments were recorded on paper and picked up at the end of the day.

Stefan Cherry, The Village International Mennonite Church, reported that a brother from a recent immigrant church uses funerals as an evangelistic opportunity. Someone from a more traditional church talked about entering into grief as a healing opportunity. Stefan serves as chaplain for a local veterans association and provides spiritual involvement at the grave side. Stefan also enjoyed the artistic component of music and photography.

Betti Erb, Rockway Mennonite Church, shared how the pastor at Rockway gave a wonderful funeral service for someone who died by suicide. Creating visual places takes us beyond language to spiritual places.

Miranda Ciarroni, The Commons, said their table appreciated Jennifer's reminder to us to notice the world around us. Death allows for conversation in our churches, especially in a society that denies aging. Regarding youth reflections, bring it back to simple community, love, and connection to the biblical world.

Mark Diller Harder, St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, asked how congregations can have welcoming conversations regarding both death and young adults.

16. **Welcome of Full Member Congregation into MCEC** - In 2009, MCEC welcomed Church Of The Living Word in Ottawa (COTLW) with emerging status. They are now ready to join MCEC in the mission of extending the peace of Jesus Christ as a full member. Executive Council approved their application.

a) **Introduction of new congregations** – Brian Bauman enthusiastically introduced COTLW. They are a congregation that continues to learn to know brothers and sisters in MCEC and the wider Mennonite circle.

b) **Sharing by Church of the Living Word in Ottawa** – Getachew Woldeyes, as representative of COTLW, thanked Brian for his support to the congregation that has helped them reach this point. Nine years ago they started as a house prayer group. The congregation is made up of Eritrean and Ethiopian members, with worship and Bible study in Amharic and youth programs in English. The vision for the church is to worship together and reach out in the community for all to know the love of God.

c) **Litany of reception into membership** – Everyone responded with a litany.

d) **Welcome and presentation of gifts** – Sandy Shantz presented Getachew with a bowl and towel and a blessing for their ministry in Ottawa. As a member of MCEC, they are also a member of the community of Mennonites across Canada. On behalf of Mennonite Church Canada, Willard Metzger, MC Canada Executive Director, presented them with a plaque.

e) **Prayer of Blessing for MCEC** - Getachew shared a prayer of blessing in Amharic.

17. **Offering** – Offering was collected as a response of gratitude for what God is doing through the church and especially for new member congregations. Laura Mullet Koop gave an offertory prayer.

Lunch

18. **Pastoral Transitions and Pastoral Resourcing**

a) Henry introduced ministers new to MCEC – in 2013, there were 20 transitions. One fifth of our congregations see pastoral change each year. Two additions were made to the milestones: Fred Redekop and Don Penner celebrated a 25 year ordination milestone. Gerry Vandeworp, who celebrated 50 years as an ordained minister, passed away a few weeks ago.

b) Marianne presented an update on continuing education activity in MCEC. She talked about how we need to adjust our way of

MINUTES - 2014 ANNUAL CHURCH GATHERING

- b) **Marianne Mellinger**, Coordinator of Leadership Formation, presented an update on continuing education activity in MCEC. She talked about how we need to adjust our way of doing things to accommodate change in ministry. There are more part-time and bi-vocational ministers. We may need to offer education opportunities on evenings and Saturdays and do more live-streaming. Conrad Grebel University College and MCEC are thinking about new training models.
 - c) **Recognition of Marianne's Retirement from MCEC** – Sandy Shantz thanked Marianne for the significant role she played in MCEC and presented Marianne with a gift from the Executive Council. Marianne shared words of reflection.
19. **Strategic Plan Update** - Sandy began this session with a prayer. David and Sandy gave a background report on the reasons for updating the current strategic plan and an overview of the current process.
- a) **What We Have Heard from Churches through Surveys and Visits** - People are concerned about keeping the church strong and healthy. There is a need to adapt to the changing social context.
 - b) **Next Steps in Refining the MCEC Strategic Plan** - Additional work is planned with a consultant, outlining directions and specific responses. David and Sandy asked that congregations keep MCEC in their prayers and continue to pass on their comments and ideas.
20. **Bequest Update – Legacy Initiatives Fund** - David introduced the Legacy Initiatives Fund (LIF) by referencing the Schmidt Bequest and 2013 Bequest Strategy.
- a) **Celebrating Bequest Capacity for the Schools**
 - i. **Conrad Grebel University College (CGUC)** - MCEC presented a cheque for \$250,000 to CGUC for the Lebold Endowment Fund, in support of pastoral leadership training, helping the fund reach its goal of \$1,000,000,000. Susan Shultz-Huxman, CGUC President, responded with thanks.
 - ii. **UMEI Christian Highschool** – Dave Epp, Board Chair, gave an update from the school and expressed his appreciation for the MCEC grant of \$150,000.
 - iii. **Rockway Mennonite Collegiate** – Ann Schultz, Principal, responded to the MCEC gift of \$150,000.
 - b) **LIF 2013-2014 plan** – Pages 23-25 in the workbook informed delegates of the financial statement and project descriptions. Carrie Martens, Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church, and Kevin Peters Unrau, Hillcrest Mennonite Church, described the exchange, one of the projects funded by LIF.
 - c) **Next steps** for the Legacy Initiatives Fund are to continue implementing projects already approved.
21. **Delegate Interaction** - Sandy facilitated table discussion: The Strategic Plan and Legacy Initiatives Fund are intended to equip our congregations in their ministry and adapting to new challenges the Church is facing. What do you affirm? What wisdom would you like to share? Comments were recorded on sheets of paper that were picked up at the end of the day. Feedback was received from three tables.
- Darlene Wideman, Community Mennonite Fellowship, Drayton - facing the challenges is better than fearing them, feels there is a disconnect with the wider body
- Randell Neudorf, The Commons - liked the investment in youth and education, greater emphasis on camps as another way to engage youth
- Ryan Jantzi, Kingsfield, Clinton - affirmation of the Lebold Endowment Fund, lay people and young adults, question: how to offer programming in various ways and times
22. **Mennonite Church Canada Update** – Willard Metzger, MC Canada Executive Director, highlighted their resource centre with the largest collection of Anabaptist resources in the world. He introduced Jason Martin, Partnership Development Facilitator, and encouraged congregations to invite him to their churches. He also extended a heartfelt thank you to MCEC for their gift from the Legacy Initiatives Fund.
- a) **Future Directions Task Force (FDTF)** - Willard introduced the FDTF mandate. Via table conversations, Aldred Neufeldt invited everyone to respond to the questions: In what way is our local congregation engaged in witness "across the street and around the world?" What roles do the area and national churches have in this witness? How do we think about mission and service projects that individuals sometimes take up independently of their local congregation or other church organizations? To what extent do we understand these as part of the church's mission?
23. **Sexual Misconduct & Abuse Response Resource Team (SMARRT)** - Leonard Chester gave an overview of SMARRT, specifically *Circles of Grace*. *Circles of Grace* curriculum gives children and youth a language to talk about sexual assault with others.

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24. Executive Council Business

a. Property Update

- i. **MCEC's "Holy Ground"** - David expressed gratitude, on behalf of the MCEC staff, for the space at 50 Kent. Wendy Adema, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario, shared how the building project came about. The changes are clearly rooted in the church and provide an opportunity for service and ministry together. There have been many great opportunities to work together and to cross paths in daily work. David invited congregations to come for a tour of the building.
- ii. **74 FirValley/Warden Woods Update** – Bryce Kraeker advised that Warden Woods Community Centre initiated legal action against MCEC in February 2012, claiming that Warden Woods owns the property and MCEC is holding it on their behalf. MCEC believes they have ownership of the property. MCEC hopes for a mediated settlement.

- b. **Approval of Spending Plan** – Eugene Reesor, Chair of Administrative and Financial Services Council, moved and seconded the following motion

MOTION – *On behalf of the Executive Council, I move and second that we accept the 2014/2015 spending plan as printed on pages 22 - 28 in the Discernment Documents.*

Motion Carried.

- c. **Approval of Auditors** - Eugene Reesor, Chair of Administrative and Financial Services Council, moved and seconded the following motion

MOTION – *On behalf of the Administrative & Financial Services Council, I move and second that we appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditors for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2015.*

Motion Carried.

25. **Approval of Slate** - Lois Konrad, Chair of Gift Discernment Committee, moved and seconded the following motion

MOTION – *On behalf of the Gift Discernment Committee, I move and second that we accept the 2014 Slate as presented. Motion Carried.*

Sue Steiner, Rockway Mennonite Church, expressed appreciation for the work of the Gift Discernment Committee, and observed that few women filled the vacancies on the slate, especially on the Mission Council. Lois responded that it can be difficult to get a gender balance, but they do try to look for that among other gifts and qualities that people bring.

26. **LED Talks** - Based on Exodus 3:1-12, the following people spoke about where they sensed God calling the church and where the church needs to turn to find holy ground.

Brian Moyer Suderman, Community Mennonite Church and SmallTall Music, presented via video. This is a missional calling. Following the book of Exodus, the reference to holy ground does not occur again until the book of Joshua. We are a sent people and called to be a people of reconciled enemies. We are called to care for our creation.

Hedy Sawadsky, First Mennonite Church and formerly with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), shared a pivotal experience while in CPT, where people who encountered the CPT group were shown a different face of Christ than what they were used to. Clearly from the beginning God has been calling a host of unlikely people and getting their attention in unlikely ways.

Kendra Whitfield Ellis, Associate Pastor at Floradale Mennonite Church, spoke of the entrepreneurial spirit found in the church. Entrepreneurs are the face of the church to the community. They wrestle with how to live out their faith in their work. They have special skills and gifts to give. How can we make use of these entrepreneurial skills within the church?

Everyone was invited to respond, in table conversations, with the following question: What did you hear about holy ground that might be relevant for how your congregation engages in ministry? Comments were recorded on sheets and gathered at the end the day.

Paul Wideman, Community Mennonite Fellowship, reported from his table conversation that a number of congregations identified there can be tension between entrepreneurs and church. Holy ground is finding ways to work within that. Entrepreneurs are not just business people, but can be entrepreneurs in many different areas – such as poets, etc. There seems to be a desire around the globe of people seeking out true peace churches. Mennonites should not be ashamed of who we are but rather we should celebrate our beliefs.

Andy Martin, Elmira Mennonite Church – Their table struggled with “holy ground.” Holy ground can be quite messy. As Mennonites, we are prone to wanting clear directions and a plan which makes it difficult to just “be” in an encounter with God.

Lori Guenther Reesor, Hamilton Mennonite Church, reported that entrepreneurs attract likeminded folk. Holy ground can be in so many different places; move beyond like-mindedness. The disciples were a mixed bag of people and they made up the early church.

Tom Yoder Neufeld, First Mennonite Church, wondered how entrepreneurial we can be in extending the peace of Jesus Christ. Do entrepreneurs in our congregations bring gifts in which the church's mission is deeply impoverished?

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27. **Closing** - Sandy gave closing comments and encouraged people to send their feedback on the Annual Church Gathering to MCEC. She thanked everyone who made the weekend possible: MCEC staff and the Niagara Cluster for their hosting and hospitality. She announced the 2015 Annual Church Gathering in Kitchener-Waterloo with more information to come later.

Closing Worship

- a) Song led by Quest Christian Community - *Let's choose to love, love, love* (Quest original)
- b) Sending - As the band played, people were asked to untie a ribbon flame from the tree to take home as a reminder of the holy ground they have experienced this weekend and an invitation to be open to the surprising presence of God in our midst.

Adjourned – 4:40 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by MCEC Staff - Margaret Oakey, Joan Schooley, Liz Weber

MCEC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS

MAY 1, 2014 - APRIL 30, 2015



Sandy Shantz
Former MCEC Moderator

St. Jacobs
Mennonite Church



Paul Wideman
Current MCEC Moderator

Community Mennonite
Fellowship



Bryce Kraeker
Assistant Moderator

Rockway Mennonite Church



Eugene Reesor
Chair of AFSC

Community Mennonite Church



Shirley Redekop
Secretary

Floradale Mennonite Church



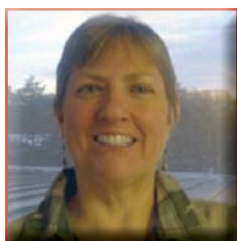
Pieter Niemeyer

Rouge Valley Mennonite Church



Terry Keller

Nith Valley Mennonite Church



Sharon Lamont

First Mennonite Church



Brian Quan

Toronto Chinese
Mennonite Church



David Martin

MCEC Executive Minister
ex-officio

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS

MAY 1, 2014 - MARCH 24, 2015

May 22, 2014

- Formally admitted the Church of the Living Word in Ottawa into full membership in MCEC.
- Appointed Laverne Martin, St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, to represent MCEC on the Detweiler Meeting House Board for a three year term.

June 17, 2014

- Approved the 2015 Strategic Work Plan, including allocations from the Legacy Initiatives Fund.

September 23, 2014

- Upon the recommendation of Mission Council, approved a grant of \$150,000 to the Chin Christian Church from the Mission Capital Fund for the purchase of their first church building.

October 28, 2014

- Affirmed the theological direction of the MC Canada Future Directions Task Force paper entitled, *God, Mission and a People*.

November 25, 2014

- Upon recommendation from the Administrative and Financial Services Council, approved a new asking price for the sale of the former offices at 4489 King St. East, Kitchener.

January 19, 2015

- Appointed Ralph Cressman, Lee Sauer, and Bob Bergey as trustees for the Blenheim Cemetery.
- Approved a sign-back on an offer for the former offices at 4489 King St. East, Kitchener.
- Approved a Legacy Initiatives Fund grant to Mennonite World Conference to assist new Canadian leaders to attend the 2015 Assembly.

February 24, 2015

- Appointed a task group to support the healing process in relation to a misconduct allegation.
- Approved the funding of the Leadership for Under Resourced Urban Neighbourhoods (LuRN) project from the Legacy Initiatives Fund.

March 24, 2015

- Upon recommendation of *ad hoc* Mission Capital Fund Disbursement Committee, approved a grant of \$150,000 to Hagerman Mennonite Church and a no interest loan of \$50,000 through the Mission Capital Fund for renovations to their meeting space which is shared with the Markham Chinese Mennonite Church and the Markham Christian Worship Centre.
- Upon recommendation of Mission Council, received Chin Christian Church and Toronto Mennonite New Life Church as full status congregations in MCEC.
- Approved funding from the Legacy Initiatives Fund for the Anabaptist Learning Workshop: A Church and Ministry Certificate Program of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada and Conrad Grebel University College.
- Adopted the audited Financial Statements for FYE January 31, 2015 for delegate approval at the 2015 Annual Church Gathering.
- Adopted the 2016 Spending Plan FYE January 31, 2016 for delegate approval at the 2015 Annual Church Gathering.

SLATE OF VOLUNTEERS 2015-2016

- 16, 17, 18 – year term is complete 0, 1, 2 – term person is serving (0 indicates a mid-term replacement)
- Individuals in bold have agreed to serve an initial or subsequent term

MCEC COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Executive Council

16-1	Sharon Lamont		First
16-2	Sandy Shantz		St. Jacobs
16-2	Shirley Redekop	Secretary	Floradale
16-2	Paul Wideman	Moderator	Community (Drayton)
17-2	Pieter Niemeyer		Rouge Valley
17-2	Terry Keller		Nith Valley
18-1	Brian Quan	Assistant Moderator	Toronto Chinese
18-1			
18-1		AFSC Chair	
	<i>David Martin, ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister</i>		

Administrative and Financial Services Council

16-1	Linda Van Bergen		Bethany
16-0	Jodie Zehr		East Zorra
16-2	Jim Brown	Pastor Representative	Riverdale
17-2	Lloyd Redekopp	Vice-Chair	Niagara
18-1	Shari Nash		Shantz
18-1	Joyce Collard		Erb Street
18-1		Chair	
	<i>Ester Neufeldt, ex-officio, MCEC Operations Minister</i>		
	<i>David Martin, ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister</i>		

Congregational Ministries Council

16-0	Chris Brnjas		The Gathering
16-1	Jeanette Seiling		Bethel
17-1	Juanita Laverty		Hanover
17-2	Kevin Derksen	Chair	St. Jacobs
17-2	Ray Martin		East Zorra
18-1	Sam Assad		Waterloo North
18-1	Pader Lee		First Hmong
	<i>Jeff Steckley, ex-officio, MCEC Congregational Ministries Minister</i>		

Leadership Council

16-1	Greg Yantzi		Cassel
16-2	Ray Brubacher		Waterloo North
16-2	Trakoon "Yoel" Masyawong		Grace Lao
17-1	Jessica Reesor Rempel		Stirling Avenue
17-2	Steve Cox		Niagara
18-2	Myrna Miller Dyck	Chair	Steinmann
18-2	Claire Osinkosky		Preston
	<i>Henry Paetkau, ex-officio, MCEC Area Church Minister</i>		

SLATE OF VOLUNTEERS 2015-2016

- 16, 17, 18 – year term is complete 0, 1, 2 – term person is serving (0 indicates a mid-term replacement)
- Individuals in bold have agreed to serve an initial or subsequent term

MCEC COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Mission Council

16-1	Norm Dyck	Chair	Listowel
16-2	Cathrin van Sintern-Dick		North Leamington
17-1	Chung Vang		First Hmong
17-1	Tim Wagler		Living Water
18-2	Craig Frere		Living Water
18-2	Jim Jantzi		Avon
18-2	Fanosie Legesse		Bethel
	<i>Brian Bauman, ex-officio, MCEC Mission Minister</i>		

Gift Discernment Committee

Appointed by Executive Council, Accountable to Executive Council

16-0	Jeff Taylor		Toronto
16-2	Darrell Jantzi		Floradale
17-2	Lois Konrad	Chair	Leamington
17-2	Mary Anne Neufeld		The First
18-2	Alyssa Bender		Living Water
	<i>David Martin, ex-officio, MCEC Executive Minister</i>		

Financial Aid Committee

Accountable to Administrative and Financial Services Council

16-0	Rob Konrad		Leamington
16-1	Earl Smith		Hagerman
17-1	Victor Krueger		Elmira
18-2	Karen Martin Schiedel		Waterloo North
	<i>Henry Paetkau, ex-officio, MCEC Area Church Minister</i>		
	<i>Ester Neufeldt, ex-officio, MCEC Operations Minister</i>		

MCEC REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Board of Directors of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

Term begins in November

16-0	Mark Diller Harder	St. Jacobs
17-2	David Carr-Pries	Waterloo North
18-1	Dennis Gingrich	Breslau

Canadian Mennonite University Council

17-3	Don Neufeld	Bethany
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SLATE OF VOLUNTEERS 2015-2016

- 16, 17, 18 – year term is complete 0, 1, 2 – term person is serving (0 indicates a mid-term replacement)
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MCEC REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Conrad Grebel University College Board

16-1	Shelley Abdulla	Waterloo North
16-1	Steve Manske	Stirling Avenue
16-2	James Barber	Hagerman
17-1	Carol Ringer	Danforth
17-2	Clare Schlegel	East Zorra
17-2	Ted Giesbrecht	Breslau
18-1	_____	
18-1	_____	
18-2	Victor Winter	Leamington

Detweiler Meeting House Board of Directors

* approved by the Executive Council

16-1	Doug Roeder	Calvary Ayr
17-0	*Laverne Martin	St. Jacobs

Mennonite Central Committee Ontario

16-2	Margaret Amanatides	Danforth
17-2	Tim Wichert	The First
18-1	Lynn Rempel	Waterloo North

Mennonite Church Canada Assembly Delegates

Next assembly will be in 2016.

Mennonite Church Canada General Board

MCEC Executive Council Member Appointee

Paul Wideman	Moderator	Community (Drayton)
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Mennonite Church Canada Nominating Committee Appointee

17-1	Marilyn Zehr	Toronto
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Mennonite Publishing Service Board

16-2	Tim Reimer	Danforth
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Ontario Mennonite Music Camp

16-0	Brandon Leis	Stirling Avenue
17-1	Carolyn Strathdee	Breslau
18-1	_____	

SLATE OF VOLUNTEERS 2015-2016

- 16, 17, 18 – year term is complete 0, 1, 2 – term person is serving (0 indicates a mid-term replacement)
- Individuals in bold have agreed to serve an initial or subsequent term

MCEC REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Ontario Multi-Faith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care

17-1 Susan Kennel Harrison

Hagerman

Silver Lake Mennonite Camp Board

16-1 Karen Martin Schiedel

Waterloo North

United Mennonite Educational Institute Board

Term begins in November

16-1 Jennifer Driedger

Leamington

MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2016 with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2015		Proposed Budget FYE Jan. 31, 2016 \$	Budget FYE Jan. 31, 2015 \$
Total Contributions to Area/National Church Covenant		2,210,000	2,320,500
MCEC Operations			
Revenue			
Contributions based on 60.16% of Giving to Covenant		1,329,536	1,396,013
Corporate and Individual Donations		68,500	68,500
Support from Women of MCEC		8,000	8,000
Interest		90,375	90,375
Total revenue		1,496,411	1,562,888
Expenditures			
Executive Council	(Schedule 1)	119,655	125,125
Leadership Council	(Schedule 2)	94,045	92,149
Regional Ministry	(Schedule 3)	230,965	224,476
Mission Council	(Schedule 4)	384,055	382,401
Congregational Ministries Council	(Schedule 5)	103,220	100,616
Partner Ministries	(Schedule 6)	375,246	374,346
Programme Resourcing	(Schedule 7)	377,045	367,180
Occupancy Costs	(Schedule 8)	114,950	115,172
Total expenditures		1,799,181	1,781,465
Net revenue (expenditures)		(302,770)	(218,577)
Transfers to (from) Operating Fund	(Schedule 9)	302,770	218,577
Operating Surplus (Deficit) for the Year		-	-

MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2016 with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2015	Proposed Budget FYE Jan. 31, 2016 \$	Budget FYE Jan. 31, 2015 \$
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National and Binational Partners

Revenue

Mennonite Church Canada Based on 39.84% of Total Contributions to Covenant	880,464	924,487
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Total Revenue	880,464	924,487
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Expenditures - Based on Actual Share of Giving to Covenant

Mennonite Church Canada	814,164	854,872
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	66,300	69,615

Total Expenditures to National and Binational Partners	880,464	924,487
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National and Binational Partners' Surplus	0	0
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Executive Council (Schedule 1)

Staff - salaries and expenses	93,655	90,925
Professional development pool	9,750	9,750
Council travel and expenses	5,200	5,200
-Recovery	(3,700)	(3,700)
Council seminars and retreats	1,250	1,250
Other travel and expenses	3,500	4,300
-Recovery	(2,000)	(2,000)
Miscellaneous expenses	8,000	5,000
Assembly delegate travel and expenses	4,000	14,400
-Recovery	-	-
Special Projects - Historical	665	665
-Recovery	(665)	(665)
	119,655	125,125

MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Proposed	Budget
Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2016	Budget	Budget
with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended	FYE	FYE
January 31, 2015	Jan. 31, 2016	Jan. 31, 2015
	\$	\$

Leadership Council (Schedule 2)

Staff - salaries and expenses	86,695	84,899
Council travel and expenses	1,600	1,600
-Recovery	(400)	(400)
Task group travel and expenses	750	750
-Recovery	(200)	(200)
Council seminars and retreats	250	250
Program and policy development expenses	1,500	1,500
Resource library	100	100
Database cost sharing	950	850
Transitioning into ministry (TiM) - leadership formation	23,000	23,000
-Recovery	(27,500)	(27,500)
Transitioning into ministry (TiM) - youth ministry	5,250	5,250
-Recovery	(7,750)	(7,750)
Congregation/pastor concerns	800	800
Professional services for pastoral leaders	5,000	5,000
Sexual Misconduct and Abuse Response Team	1,500	1,500
Ministry Inquiry Program	1,500	1,500
Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre	1,000	1,000
Continuing education and development	13,500	13,500
-Tuition received	(13,500)	(13,500)
	<u>94,045</u>	<u>92,149</u>

Regional Ministry (Schedule 3)

Staff - salaries and expenses	230,965	243,479
-Recovery	-	(19,003)
	<u>230,965</u>	<u>224,476</u>

MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Proposed	Budget
Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2016	Budget	Budget
with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended	FYE	FYE
January 31, 2015	Jan. 31, 2016	Jan. 31, 2015
	\$	\$

Mission Council (Schedule 4)

Staff - salaries and expenses	87,055	85,400
Council travel and expenses	1,900	1,900
-Recovery	(250)	(250)
Promotion and publicity	4,000	10,000
Special support needs	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous program and expenses	1,000	2,000

Church Development and Urban Ministry

Jane Finch Faith Community	45,700	54,351
Toronto Mennonite New Life Church	-	5,000
Missional initiatives	4,000	6,000
Transfer to Leadership Enrichment Fund	1,000	1,000

Church Planting

Mission Associates	65,000	60,000
Missional leadership development	10,000	10,000
Church plant support:	146,650	119,000

Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical, Kitchener
 Chin Christian, Ottawa
 Church without Walls, Toronto
 Freedom Gospel Ethiopian, Toronto
 Lao Canadian Evangelical, Toronto
 Medahnialem Ethiopian, Toronto
 Refugio de paix, Sherbrooke
 The Commons, Hamilton
 The Village International, Ottawa
 Warden Underground, Scarborough
 New Churches

Education, promotion and outreach	10,000	20,000
	<u>384,055</u>	<u>382,401</u>

MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Proposed	Budget
Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2016	Budget	Budget
with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended	FYE	FYE
January 31, 2015	Jan. 31, 2016	Jan. 31, 2015
	\$	\$

Congregational Ministries Council (Schedule 5)

Staff - salaries and expenses	85,520	83,016
Council travel and expenses	500	500
-Recovery	(250)	(250)
Council seminars and retreats	-	-
Congregational resources	12,850	13,200
-Recovery	(5,300)	(5,300)
Youth and young adult ministry events	39,600	29,200
-Recovery	(38,000)	(27,000)
Youth and young adult learning tours	1,300	500
New ministry initiatives	6,500	6,000
-Recovery	(1,500)	(500)
Promotion, education and communication	1,500	750
Contingency	500	500
	<u>103,220</u>	<u>100,616</u>

Partner Ministries (Schedule 6)

Canadian Mennonite	75,500	74,600
Conrad Grebel University College	154,171	154,171
Mennonite World Conference	6,962	6,962
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate	73,911	73,911
United Mennonite Educational Institute	27,905	27,905
Camps	36,797	36,797
Ontario Mennonite Music Camp		
Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp		
Silver Lake Mennonite Camp		
	<u>375,246</u>	<u>374,346</u>

MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Proposed	Budget
Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2016	Budget	Budget
with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended	FYE	FYE
January 31, 2015	Jan. 31, 2016	Jan. 31, 2015
	\$	\$

Programme Resourcing (Schedule 7)

Staff - salaries and expenses	324,570	313,680
-Recovery	(1,000)	(1,000)
Council travel and expenses	750	750
-Recovery	(250)	(250)
Office supplies and other expenses	5,475	6,000
Equipment and computer maintenance	14,000	14,000
Postage	5,500	6,200
Internet access and website development	4,500	3,500
Telephone	1,250	2,000
Advertising and Promotion	7,000	7,000
Area Church Gathering	20,000	12,000
-Recovery	(26,000)	(18,000)
Legal and audit	21,000	21,000
Interest and bank charges	250	300
	<u>377,045</u>	<u>367,180</u>

Occupancy Costs (Schedule 8)

Rent	78,200	78,072
Common Area Maintenance	20,675	20,725
Custodial supplies, maintenance, utilities	200	-
Insurance	5,500	6,000
Equipment and furniture (expensed)	10,375	10,375
	<u>114,950</u>	<u>115,172</u>

MCEC SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada	Proposed	
Budget for Year Ended January 31, 2016	Budget	Budget
with Comparison to Budget for Year Ended	FYE	FYE
January 31, 2015	Jan. 31, 2016	Jan. 31, 2015
	\$	\$

Transfers to (from) Operating Fund (Schedule 9)

Transfers to Operating

from Faithful Steward Fund	166,270	150,000
from Legacy Initiatives Fund	10,000	-
from Missions Bequests and Donations Fund	150,000	86,077
from Third Century Outreach Fund	-	6,000

Transfers from Operating

to Leadership Enrichment Fund	(13,750)	(13,750)
to Theological Leadership Development Fund	(9,750)	(9,750)

302,770

218,577

We Celebrate Chin Christian Church, Kitchener Moving into Full Church Status

Meeting in Kitchener, ON since 2004

- Pastor: Joseph Raltong, Jehu Lian
- Country of Origin - Chinland, Burma/Myanmar
- Worship Language: Chin
- Number of Worshipers: 130 people

*Full Church Status
granted by action of the
Executive Council upon
recommendation of the
Mission Council with public
welcome at the MCEC
Annual Church Gathering.*



**Pastor Jehu & Dan Yang, former pastor
of First Hmong Mennonite Church**

The Chin people were once an independent nation living in an area that is now part of Burma and India. They experience discrimination and persecution under the Burmese rulers. Many fled the country and a group arrived in Kitchener in July 2003. They initially met as a faith community in homes, but soon began looking for a larger and more permanent place for worship.

First Hmong Mennonite Church offered the use of their building to the Chin Church, and a relationship developed between the two congregations which resulted in the Chin Christian Church expressing a desire to join MCEC.

Chin Christian Church was welcomed into MCEC at the 2009 Annual Church Gathering as an emerging congregation. Over the past six years, Chin Christian Church has grown to know many of the MCEC congregations and significant friendships have developed.



**Chin Choir at Waterloo North
Mennonite Church**

Pastor Jehu Lian has shared the Anabaptist perspective with many Chin congregations around the world.

Amidst much celebration in November 2014, Chin Christian Church acquired their own building in Kitchener. They reclaimed the historic church building that had been used as a restaurant for the last decade.

Chin Christian Church desires to continue as a Full Member of MCEC and we welcome them at this Annual Church Gathering!



In Worship



**Pastor Jehu and
member of CCC
address financial
questions with Ester
Neufeldt, MCEC
Operations Minister**



**Ma (Pastor Jehu's wife) with
Sarah and Brent Kipfer
(Maple View Mennonite)**



**Pastors Joseph, Jehu, and David Martin
celebrating a new worship facility**

PASTORAL MINISTRY TRANSITIONS - FEBRUARY 1, 2014 - JANUARY 31, 2015

Ordained

Sean East ♦	West Hills Mennonite Church	Minister
Charleen Jongejan Harder	Valleyview Mennonite Church	Minister
Kendall Jongejan Harder	Valleyview Mennonite Church	Minister
Roberson Mbayamvula * ♦	Hagerman Mennonite Church	Minister
Susan Nickel	Valleyview Mennonite Church	Chaplain
Patricia Wagler	Tavistock Mennonite Church	Minister

* Ordination credentials received

Licensed Toward Ordination

Jonathan Brubacher ♦	Elmira Mennonite Church	Associate Pastor
Joseph Raltong ♦	Chin Christian Church, Kitchener	Christian Formation Minister

Licensed For Specific Ministry

John Docherty	Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal	Interim Minister
Mike Williamson	Leamington United Mennonite Church	Associate Minister

Placements

Gordan Allaby	Waterloo North Mennonite Church	Minister
Susan Allison-Jones	Calvary Church Ayr & Parkwood Mennonite Home	Interim Supply during Sabbaticals
Doug Amstutz	Rainham Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Rudy Baergen	Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church	Intentional Interim Minister
Rachel Brnjas	The Gathering Church	Community Children's Pastor
Carmen Brubacher	Ottawa Mennonite Church	Supply Minister
David Brubacher	Grace Mennonite Church	Minister
Steve Brnjas	Zion Mennonite Fellowship	Intentional Interim Minister
Dawne Driedger	Milverton Mennonite Fellowship	Intentional Interim Minister
Eleanor Epp-Stobbe	Breslau Mennonite Church	Interim Supply Minister
Sara Erb	First Mennonite Church	Interim Worship and Music Minister
Sarah Freeman	Elmira Mennonite Church	Associate Minister of Outreach and Faith Formation
Ken Gazley	Brussels Mennonite Church	Minister
Gloria Hurtarte	Toronto Mennonite New Life Church	Lay Minister
Philip Klassen	Bethany Mennonite Church	Youth Worker
Gary Knarr	Erb Street Mennonite Church	Intentional Interim Minister
Josh Martin	Community Mennonite Fellowship	Youth Worker
Colin McCartney	Leadership for Under Resourced Neighbours	Pastor/Trainer
Judith McCartney	Church Without Walls	Church Planter
Laura Mullet Koop	Quest Christian Community	Interim Minister
Herb Sawatzky	Bethany Mennonite Church	Minister
Bernard Sejour	Ottawa	Mission Catalyst
Sean Sero ♦	Poole Mennonite Church	Youth Minister
Karen Sheil	Harrow Mennonite Church	Minister
Tim Snyder	Living Water Community Christian Fellowship	Youth Minister
Craig Stephens	The Gathering Church	Youth Pastor
Dave Tiessen	Bethel Mennonite Church	Minister
Troy Watson	Avon Mennonite Church	Minister
Louise Wideman	Vineland United Mennonite Church	Minister

♦ Participants in the Transitioning into Ministry (TiM) Program

Concluding Assignments

Rudy Baergen	Waterloo North Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
David Brubacher	Bethany Mennonite Church	Transformational Interim Minister
Paul Dueck	Windsor Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
Eleanor Epp-Stobbe	Erb Street Mennonite Church	Minister
Ken Gazley	Kingsfield Zurich Mennonite Church	Intentional Interim Minister
Max Kennel	Crosshill Mennonite Church	Youth Minister
Nancy Mann	Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church	Minister
Maurice Martin	Bethel Mennonite Church	Supply Minister
George O'Reilly	Ottawa Mennonite Church	Intentional Interim Minister
Vicky Roeder Martin	Breslau Mennonite Church	Associate Minister
Karen Sheil	Rainham Mennonite Church	Minister
Jameson Sung	Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church	Minister
Susanne Thiessen	Faith Mennonite Church	Youth Minister
Dave Tiessen	Community Mennonite Fellowship	Minister
Darrel Toews	Breslau Mennonite Church	Minister
Michael Turman	Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church	Associate Minister
Jim Whitehead	Brussels Mennonite Church	Interim Minister
Mike Wiebe	Milverton Mennonite Church	Minister
Kyle Wijnands	Riverdale Mennonite Church	Youth Minister
Celeste Wright ♦	Waters Mennonite Church	Minister

Pastoral Retirements

Waldo Pauls	Grace Mennonite Church	June, 2014
Cornelius Klassen	Vineland United Mennonite Church	January, 2015

Deaths

Gordon Martin	Retired MCEC Minister	May 9, 2014
Gerry Vandeworp	Retired MCEC Minister	April 16, 2014

Ordination Milestones

60 years

James Reusser

50 years

Ray Martin
Waldemar Regier
Milton Schwartzentruber

40 years

Dalton Jantzi

25 years in 2014 (missed in last year's report)

Philip Bender
Eleanor Epp-Stobbe
Noé Gonzálía
Gordon Martin
Don Penner
Fred Redekop

10 years

Rudy Baergen
Hendrike Isert Bender
Matthew Isert Bender
David Friesen Waldner
Catherine Hunsberger
Jason Martin
Troy Watson

MCEC wishes to acknowledge and celebrate the generosity of all those who supported the mission of the Church through their generous provision of estate gifts. We are grateful for these faithful acts of generosity that are a testimony to an individual's faith and a reflection of their strong commitment to Christ and God's mission in the world. These gifts are invaluable to the health and vitality of the Church and provide the opportunity to pursue projects that are beyond the normal scope of ministry. These gifts also play a special role in mobilizing expansion and innovation in the mission to which God has called the Church.

Proceeds from a very generous bequest gift from the Estate of Enid Schmidt have been realized over the past few years, and more assets will be sold in the coming years. Enid and her husband Harold were life-long supporters of the mission of the Church, and donated the entirety of their life savings to advance that mission. This large bequest inspired the Executive Council to develop a new strategy for the use of these funds which have come to be referred to as the Legacy Initiative Fund (LiF).

The Executive believes that God wants to do some amazing new things through the congregations of MCEC and to grow the Church in ways that we never dreamt possible. God blessed MCEC with an amazing gift to kick-start a whole new stage of ministry for the next quarter century.

The primary goals for the use of bequest funds is to:

- Equip congregations to engage in local mission and disciple-making;
- Collaborate with our Partners in Ministry;
- Strengthen and expand the ministry initiatives of MCEC for making disciples, growing congregations, and forming leaders.

The Executive Council has worked throughout the past year to implement this strategy. As of January 31, 2015, this gift exceeds 4.8 million dollars with some assets not yet liquidated. Tithing to the wider church (Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference) is a foundational part of the bequest strategy and the Executive Council has authorized gifts to the wider Church that have surpassed \$480,000 to date. The Executive Council has also authorized over \$800,000 from the Legacy Initiatives Fund to be allocated to a variety of special initiatives.

The Executive Council, however, notes that these dollars were given as "above-budget" gifts to the Church and cannot be a substitute for the ongoing generosity and commitment of congregations, individuals, and ministry partners to the ongoing vision and mission of MCEC. Instead, bequests are an opportunity for the Church to celebrate, nurture, and expand generosity. We simply cannot do core MCEC ministry without the normal pattern of generosity that we have come to expect from congregations and individuals. Congregational and individual giving is critical to the MCEC mission. We thank everyone for the many ways that you contribute to the MCEC community of congregations.

As individuals and congregations, we are called to join God in that mission. God is actively at work in our world extending the peace of Jesus Christ! Let us celebrate the resources with which God has blessed us and use them wisely and diligently to empower the mission of the Church.

David Martin, Executive Minister
Paul Wideman, Moderator

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada welcomes the opportunity presented by the Future Directions Task Force to ensure that church structures support congregations effectively. We will take time at the Annual Church Gathering to consider what is working well, and what might be done differently. We encourage everyone to reflect on the programs, staff members, resources, and events that bring life to your congregation's ministry. Link to the complete (17 page) Future Directions Task Force document at www.mcec.ca.

A DRAFT FOR CONVERSATION AND TESTING Future Directions Task Force – 02 February 2015

God, Mission and a People An Overview

PART I – A Vision for Mission

God created the world, and loves it. God created humans in God's own image, with the freedom to choose whether to trust God or themselves. Invariably humans choose to trust their own wisdom, in the process thoroughly messing up God's wonderful creation. God is pained by this, yet continues to love us and all creation.

Scripture is the story of God's love made real—the mission of God is to reconcile and restore the world into relationship with God and God's good purposes. God chooses the people of Israel to be an instrument for bringing life and blessing to all the peoples on the earth (Gen. 12:1-3). Jesus is the word made flesh (John 1:14), embodying God's love for the world in an unprecedented and dramatic way in this story. Through his birth, ministry, death and resurrection Jesus announces and inaugurates the Kingdom of God (Luke 4:43), and then sends the church into the world, with the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8), to be witnesses to and participants in God's mission of reconciliation.

God intends the church to be a community formed by and for the Kingdom. As part of the Kingdom community, we experience healing and are infused with hope for ourselves and for the world. God intends that the church become a sign, instrument, promise, and foretaste of the kingdom of God.

In doing this the church is guided by three convictions, which become three inseparable, intertwined priorities:

1. We are called to be **followers of Jesus Christ – Christian Formation**
2. We are called to **live in Christian community – Christian Community**
3. We are called to **offer healing and hope – Christian Witness**

This vision and mission is enormous, and potentially overwhelming. Yet God has promised the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us in this endeavour. We thus can move forward with joy, hope and confidence.

PART II – The Church Incarnate

Human participation in the mission of God unites divine love and mission with human action and arrangement. The way this divine love and mission "become flesh" continuously evolves as the people of God interact with and witness to a changing world. The current human arrangement, at least in North America, of congregations and denominations, of institutions and programs is under severe stress. Dramatic changes in the society around it (e.g., growing reliance on technology; the politicization of ethical discussion; growing diversity through multiculturalism and multifaith realities; increased individualism and secularization) deeply impact the church. This stress is reflected in significant decline in congregational membership, decreased financial and human resources for programs, loss of denominational loyalty, diversity and conflict over worship patterns, etc. The institutional church of today, at both congregational and denominational levels, must change in order to effectively incarnate God's love and mission in the world of today. This is true in most denominations, and it definitely applies to our reality.

But there also is hope. It is God's church and God's mission. We thus can have confidence that God's church will prevail. More particularly, there is hope for our distinctive family within the larger people of

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God. Suspicion of authority, widespread loneliness, and a weariness of war are elements of the context today to which historic Anabaptist emphases on mutual discernment, community and peace are relevant. A recommitment to formation, community and witness can lead to a new era of growth, vitality and mission, impacting the very culture within which the congregations are situated.

The Task Force affirms the following as elements of moving forward:

1. The congregation is the foundational unit and expression of God's work in the world.

The congregation is the primary place where people experience the church (through baptism into Christ as members of a congregation, worship, fellowship, teaching, mutual support, etc.), and it is the primary instrument of mission (as it reaches out into its community in diverse ways). The 21st century, however, will require a much greater diversity of congregational models so as to more effectively serve as cells for God's mission.

2. Each individual congregation is an incomplete sign of the body of Christ, and so it must unite with others, pointing to and reflecting the unity of the body of Christ.

The local congregation may be the foundational unit, but by itself it is limited in what it can do. It is limited geographically, it is limited in its perspectives (e.g., through racial or social homogeneity), and it inadequately reflects the world wide body of Christ. Even our larger body of congregations is only one small part of the family of God. But it becomes a window into, an example and reflection of that larger body.

3. The role of the larger grouping of congregations is

a) to resource congregations, inspiring, provoking and assisting them to more effectively direct their focus to formation, community and witness so as to become cells for mission

Since the congregation is the foundational unit, the primary role of the larger grouping is assisting and resourcing congregations in their priorities of formation, community and witness. This may include developing some uniquely Anabaptist resources, but more significant will be human resources with the wisdom and experience to encourage, inspire and provoke congregations as they (re)imagine themselves for mission. It also includes providing models and ways in which congregations can resource each other.

b) to offer some programs local congregations cannot,

Two primary examples of this are international witness and leadership development, but they could also have a role in schools and camps.

c) to represent one distinctive family in relationship to the larger body of Christ, Anabaptist and beyond.

4. In a time of change leadership teams reflecting a diversity of gifts will be increasingly significant.

Affirmation of leadership is not in tension with a "priesthood of all believers," but rather has the potential to inspire and empower that "priesthood" in becoming cells for mission. In changing times, leadership is essential, and the church of tomorrow needs leaders that are biblically and theologically grounded, and responsive to the congregation's unique context for mission—not to do it all or direct it all, but to serve as example and catalyst, to mobilize and provide leadership.

A way of imagining leadership is needed which appreciates and recognizes the diverse gifts that young and old, male and female have to offer, without forcing them into set molds or types, a leadership which fuses together into dynamic partnership committed, dedicated people called from within the congregation, together with salaried staff commonly called from the outside. We

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need to move beyond the strong, sometimes autocratic, leadership of the first half of the 20th century, and beyond the solo (or even multi-staff) professionally trained and salaried pastors of the last of the 20th century. The partnerships we envision would form leadership teams in congregations, guiding and inspiring each congregation with vision, teaching, preaching, shepherding as the congregation serves as salt and light in its unique community.

PART III – Organizing for Mission

The Task Force has consistently heard that our changing context requires significant change, not simply rearranging current programs and organizations. A fully integrated model is needed so as to increase our effectiveness in mission. This will also generate necessary cost savings and contribute to increased sustainability. Below are two possible arrangements.

Further, with both models the Task Force recommends the following:

1. A unified identity or “brand,” reflected in name, logo, web sites (of structures & congregations);
2. A common resource network and resource centre strategy;
3. A unified flow of information (e.g., periodical, mailings) between the larger church and the local congregation;
4. A unified flow of finances between the larger church and the local congregation, i.e., a congregation sends funds to only one place;
5. An executive minister (bishop? overseer?) with responsibility for providing spiritual oversight and vision for mission for the whole body;
6. A “Congregation of Ministerial Leadership” – an association of all those who are members of congregational ministerial leadership teams (i.e., both salaried and non-salaried) which meets biennially for fellowship, mutual support and counsel, and study of ethical and theological issues.

The Task Force also recommends that the formation of an arms-length Support Services Agency be investigated (cf. Everence and others). Such an agency might provide consultation and support services to congregations and staff on matters like: human resources, governance, legal matters, finances (e.g., pension plans).

Whichever governance model is adopted, it is recognized that some tasks are better done in a unified manner across the country, and some are better done regionally, closer to the congregation. Tasks better done in a unified manner across Canada would include large picture visioning around identity and mission, international mission, developing standards and processes for leadership, and representing the congregations ecumenically and internationally, etc. Tasks to be done regionally would include resourcing and supporting the local congregation; regional programs like camps, schools, social justice ministries; etc.

Governance and staffing for the above could be organized in one of the following two manners:

Model A – An integrated national conference/church with dispersed staff and centres of energy

- each congregation is a member of the national conference/church;
- representatives of the congregations meet biennially for times of worship, setting vision and direction, and elections to a national Board;
- the Board (a combination of those elected at the national assembly plus additional representatives from other groups, e.g., schools, Congregation of Ministerial Leadership) is responsible for national agenda (i.e., #1 above), allocation of financial resources (with some

FUTURE DIRECTIONS TASK FORCE

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effort at equalization) and setting guidelines for how regional staff lead in regional programming (whether by the region as a whole, e.g., congregational resourcing, or by congregational partnerships, e.g., camps, schools);

- regional centres of energy take responsibility for programming in their area as determined, with regional gatherings as needed for worship and direction setting;
- the majority of staff are located in the dispersed centres of energy, with Congregational Resource Ministers (1 per 15 – 20 congregations) dispersed through these centres.

Model B – As regional conferences/churches working as one on national agenda

- each congregation is a member of one of three regional conferences/churches (Eastern Canada, Prairies and British Columbia);
- representatives of congregations meet annually in their regions for times of worship, setting regional vision and direction, and elections to a regional Board – national assemblies may be planned as needed;
- the regional Boards (a combination of those elected at regional assemblies plus additional representatives from other groups, e.g., schools, Congregation of Ministerial Leadership) are responsible for programming (e.g. congregational resourcing) in their regions;
- the regions work together in large picture visioning around identity and mission and on national agenda (how they work together needs to be determined), with some staff dedicated to the national mission and agenda (e.g., the national executive minister), albeit accountable to the regions together, and on the formula for allocating financial resources;
- national assemblies for worship and study may be called as determined.

Every organizational model has both strengths to build on and weaknesses to guard against.

- In Model A the main strength is its suitability for pursuing a common vision and expression of faith across the whole of our body. This model lends itself to more easily seeing and reducing unnecessary duplication and, perhaps paradoxically, may be more able to support congregations distant from other clusters of congregations. If this Model is selected, safeguard needs to be included to protect the ability of the regions to work at local agenda since the overall governance is centralized.
- In Model B the main strength is its sensitivity to regional differences and nuances in how programming and mission may be carried out. It may also be easier to imagine and transition to this model from the current structures. If adopted, those in elected positions may feel closer to and be known by congregations. If this Model is selected, safeguard needs to be included to protect the ability of the church to work at national and international agenda in that the natural momentum is toward regional interests. In the absence of some binding covenant, the unity of the whole body is at risk of coming apart over time.

Conclusion

Holy Spirit, inspire us with wisdom, clarity, creativity, and courage. Work in us, in our congregations and wider church that we might more effectively follow Jesus, extend that call to others, and grow as communities of grace, joy and peace. May we be open to the challenges and new opportunities before us, as we seek to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. We offer you our continued prayers in the name of Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who is God with us. Amen.

(See the full document, “God, Mission and a People” at the Mennonite Church Canada website)



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2014 Update to Congregations and Area Churches Forming a People of God • Growing Leaders for the Church • Becoming a global church

For a brief video overview of the Mennonite Church Canada ministry we do together, visit
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2471.

*For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. – Romans 8:24-25*

It's been an exciting, whirlwind year across our national church family!

In 2014 NHL hockey players Nick Spaling and Mike Fisher were guests at a Faith and Hockey youth event in B.C and at Camp Valaqua in Alberta. Many excited youth were there to get autographs. Also in Alberta, many Mennonites participated in the final Truth and Reconciliation event in Edmonton. It was a moving event for many. It's now up to the citizens of Canada to carry on the work of reconciliation with First Peoples. In Saskatchewan, your church was represented at the Citizens' Hearing on Climate Change. Coffee for Peace – part of our Philippines peace building ministry – was introduced at the Juno Awards in Manitoba as the charity of choice for Warner music. In Ontario, we collaborated with partners on a Faith and Sports event with Cindy Klassen, six time Olympic medalist, as the keynote speaker. Across Canada *you* formed teams of recreational bike riders to help raise money for ministry in Botswana. And it's been a joy for staff to participate in the annual general meetings of each of the five Area Churches that comprise Mennonite Church Canada.

The general assembly, which for the first time was live streamed on the web, had 521 on-site attendees and 80 volunteers from across Canada. Others joined in online and followed the event on Facebook and Twitter. We are grateful for the gifted contributions so many attendees made to the discernment and worship times we spent together. Evaluation forms showed a significant positive response to the Assembly. "The overall worship experience at Assembly was wonderful. The visuals, singing and meditations were amazing," wrote an attendee.

The responses to Native Assembly – the first one to ever be held in an urban setting – were overwhelmingly positive. About 240 people attended, and most were able to stay for the entire four days. Thirteen First Nations communities were represented, with guests coming from eight states, five provinces and seven denominations. Eighty volunteers helped with a variety of tasks to make this event flow smoothly. The 21 picture slide show at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2413 will give you a taste of the event.

CommonWord (www.commonword.ca) is the new home that combines Mennonite Church Canada's popular Resource Centre with its catalogue of 11,000 unique Anabaptist resources, and Canadian Mennonite University's Book Store in the university's new Marpeck Commons building. Now, walk-in clientele will have better physical access to resources and services that distant, online and phone users have come to enjoy over the years.

Our two task forces – the Being a Faithful Church Task Force and the Future Directions Task Force – continue to seek answers to questions about being faithful in a contemporary context as

Forming a People of God, Becoming a global church, Growing leaders for the church

March 16, 2015

Page 2

we try to discern God's will for the future of our church. They have a challenging task and they appreciate your prayers and words of encouragement.

We are becoming an increasingly global church in Canada and beyond. Here at home, the largest growth in our church family is in congregations of new Canadians. It's exciting to see that 40 of our 225 congregations worship in 20 different languages! This is both a joyful opportunity and a challenge as we work to support these congregations with resources that are suitable for such a diverse linguistic and cultural context.

Globally in 2014, your Witness program saw 15 worker units (couples, families, and singles) engaged in Long Term Ministry in 13 countries. Ten of these worker units have served more than one three-year term. Our longest serving workers, George and Tobia Veith and Todd and Jeanette Hanson have served the church internationally for 23 years (since 1991), primarily in Asia. In 2014 you also helped 14 worker units (couples and singles) complete 15 ministry assignments in eight different countries. These assignments ranged from Bible teaching, church planting, and peace building to community and entrepreneurship development to help churches become self-sustaining.

With the help of your finances and prayers, you also support partner programs in 13 additional countries where we do not have workers on the ground.

Over the years and on your behalf, we have also sent advocacy letters to places in the world where the Christians and the church are persecuted. Vietnam is one country that continues to endure hardship and lacks freedom to worship. It is a situation we continue to monitor.

This year Mennonite Church Canada staff and itinerating Witness international workers visited over 120 congregations, pastors, and leaders to preach, teach, and bring updates on the work we do together. These visits have been delightful, and we look forward to doing more. If you would like someone to visit your congregation, download the Speaker's Bureau listing from www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1899. If you would like to book an itinerating Witness worker, contact Monica Krahn at 1-866-888-6785 or email mkrahn@mennonitechurch.ca.

Financial Update

Fiscal Year End Donation Budget:	\$3,376,061
*Donation Income (congregational and individual donors):	<u>\$2,244,065</u>
*Donation income still needed by fiscal year-end (Jan. 31, 2015):	\$1,131,996
 *Total Expenses (core budget):	 \$3,194,371
* As of Nov. 30, 2014. Fiscal year is Feb 1, 2014 – Jan. 31, 2015.	

The leadership, staff, and volunteers together make it a joy to serve Mennonite Church Canada. Please know that we frequently pray for you. As you prepare for and meet at annual meetings, our wish and prayer for your congregation is that wise discernment be found and that overwhelming joy in following Jesus may be yours.

Thank you, and God bless.

Willard Metzger, Executive Director

Forming a People of God, Becoming a global church, Growing leaders for the church

Thank you for sharing your gifts, insights, and time with MCEC as together we Extend the Peace of Jesus Christ.

Amanatides, Margaret
Annual Church Gathering
Volunteers

Assad, Sam
Barber, James
Batten, Alicia
Bauman, Hayley
Bauman, Matthew
Bauman, Rebecca
Bender, Alissa
Bender, Alyssa
Bender, Gladys
Bergen, Dave
Bergen, Ilene
Best, George
Boehm, Ruth
Brnjac, Chris
Brown, Jim
Brubacher, Anne
Brubacher, David
Brubacher, Glenn
Brubacher, Jonathan
Brubacher, Ray
Brubaker, Nancy
Brubaker-Zehr, Scott
Bults, Darcy
Burkard, Barb
Carney, Glenn
Carr-Pries, Dave
Carr-Pries, Lisa
Clement, Crystal
Cox, Stephen
Cressman, John
Derksen, Kevin
Diller Harder, Mark
Domzella, Tony
Draper, Barb
Driedger, Jennifer
Dyck, Norm
East, Sean
Ellison-White, Julie
Epp, Aaron
Epp-Stobbe, Eleanor
Erb, Katie
Erb, Sara
Fehr, Mary
Filliman, Danielle
Frere, Craig
Frey, Ardith
Gerber, Jamie
Gerber, Kaitlyn
Giesbrecht, Ted

Gingerich Hiebert, Tara
Grace Lao Youth Band
Grosz, Sherri
Harder, Gary
Hines, Jon
Isert Bender, Matthew
Jantzi, Darrell
Jantzi, Jim
Jantzi, Ryan
Janzen, Peter
Janzen, Wendy
Johnson, Polly
Jongejan Harder, Charleen
Kaufman-Frey, Cameron
Keller, Terry
Kennel Harrison, Susan
Kerr, Katrina
Killam, Heather
Knarr, Gary
Konrad, Lois
Konrad, Rob
Kraeker, Bryce
Krueger, Victor
Kuepfer, Elsie
Lamont, Sharon
Lavery, Juanita
Lee, Pader
Legesse, Fanosie
Lennox, Megan
Lichti, John
Lichti, Nathan
Loepp Thiessen, Jim
Manske, Steve
Martens, Carrie
Martin, Earl
Martin, Laverne
Martin, Maurice
Martin, Nathan
Martin, Phil
Martin, Ray
Martin, Shelley
Martin-Carman, Sherri
Martin Schiedel, Karen
Masyawong, Yoel
Matthews, Kris
Mennonite Coalition of
Refugee Support
Miller Dyck, Myrna
Mullet Koop, Laura
Mustard, Amanda
Neudorf, Randell
Neufeld, Don

Neufeld, Mary Anne
Nickel, Susan
Nicol, Dave
Niemeyer, Pieter
Oakey, Lloyd
Osinkosky, Claire
Quan, Brian
Pauls, Waldo
Penner, Kristen
Penner, Sarah
Raimbault, Bev
Raimbault, Jeremie
Raimbault, Justin
Raimbault, Pierre-francois
Ratzlaff, Seth
Redekop, Fred
Redekop, Shirley
Redekopp, Lloyd
Reesor, Angelina
Reesor, Eugene
Reesor, Joel
Reesor-McDowell, Allen
Reesor Rempel, Jessica
Regehr, Alison
Reimer, Tim
Rempel, Kim
Rempel, Lynn
Ringer, Carol
Roeder, Dianne
Roeder, Doug
Roeder Martin, Vicky
Roes, Marion
Rogalsky, Dave
Sararus, Dave
Sauder, Renee
Schlegel, Clare
Seiling, Jeanette
Seiling, Rebecca
Shantz, Sandy
Siebert, Ally
Smith, Earl
Steckley, Jan
Steiner, Glenn
Steiner, Sue
Strathdee, Carolyn
Suderman, Derek
Taylor, Jeff
Thao, Mee
Thiessen, Mike
Tiessen, Dave
Turman, Michael
Van Bergen, Linda

van Sintern-Dick, Cathrin
Vandermeer, Staci
Vang, Chung
Vang, Kristie
Wagler, Joy
Wagler, Patricia
Wagler, Tim
Watson, Troy
Weber, Travis
Weber, Vernelda
Wichert, Tim
Wideman, Dave
Wideman, Paul
Wiebe, Bruce
Wiens, Erwin
Wilkinson, Aubrey
Winter, Victor
Yang, Nancy
Yantzi, Greg
Yantzi, Laurie
Yantzi, Lynn
Zehr, Jodie
Zehr, Marilyn

MCEC COMMUNITY OF CONGREGATIONS

The following list includes all faith communities - congregations and church plants (*).

1. Agape Fellowship
2. Avon Mennonite Church
3. Bethany Mennonite Church
4. Bethel Ethiopian Evangelical Church
5. Bethel Mennonite Church
6. Blenheim Ecumenical House Church
7. Bloomingdale Mennonite Church
8. Breslau Mennonite Church
9. Brussels Mennonite Fellowship
10. Calvary Church Ayr (Mennonite)
11. Calvary Mennonite Church
12. Cassel Mennonite Church
13. Chin Christian Church, Kitchener
14. Chin Christian Church, Ottawa
15. Church of the Living Word in Ottawa
16. Community Mennonite Church
17. Community Mennonite Fellowship
18. Crosshill Mennonite Church
19. Danforth Mennoite Church
20. East Zorra Mennonite Church
21. Église Évangélique Mennonite de Joliette
22. Elmira Mennonite Church
23. Erb Street Mennonite Church
24. Erie View United Mennonite Church
25. Faith Mennonite Church
26. First Hmong Mennonite Church
27. First Mennonite Church
28. Floradale Mennonite Church
29. Freedom Gospel Ethiopian Church
30. Grace Lao Mennonite Church
31. Grace Mennonite Church
32. Grace New Life Mennonite Church
33. Hagerman Mennonite Church
34. Hamilton Mennonite Church
35. Hanover Mennonite Church
36. Harrow Mennonite Church
37. Hawkesville Mennonite Church
38. Hillcrest Mennonite Church
39. Hunta Mennonite Church
40. Ichthus (*)
41. Jane Finch Faith Community
42. Kingsfield - Clinton (*)
43. Kingsfield - Zurich Mennonite Church
44. KW House Church
45. Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church
46. Lao Christian Fellowship
47. Leamington United Mennonite Church
48. L'Essential (*)
49. Listowel Mennonite Church
50. Living Water Community Christian Fellowship
51. Mannheim Mennonite Church
52. Maple View Mennonite Church
53. Markham Chinese Mennonite Church
54. Markham Christian Worship Centre
55. McArthurs Mills Christian Fellowship
56. Medahnnaleem Ethiopian Evangelical Church
57. Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal
58. Milverton Mennonite Fellowship
59. Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship
60. Nairn Mennonite Church
61. Niagara United Mennonite Church
62. Nith Valley Mennonite Church
63. North Leamington United Mennonite Church
64. Open Table (*)
65. Oromo Evangelical Church of Ottawa (*)
66. Ottawa Mennonite Church
67. Petitcodiac Mennonite Church
68. Pioneer Park Christian Fellowship
69. Poole Mennonite Church
70. Preston Mennonite Church
71. Quest Christian Community (*)
72. Rainham Mennonite Church
73. Refuge de paix
74. Rehoboth Evangelical Church
75. River of Life Fellowship
76. Riverdale Mennonite Church
77. Rockway Mennonite Church
78. Rouge Valley Mennonite Church
79. Shalom (*)
80. Shantz Mennonite Church
81. St. Agatha Mennonite Church
82. St. Catharines United Mennonite Church
83. St. Jacobs Mennonite Church
84. Steinmann Mennonite Church
85. Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church
86. Tavistock Mennonite Church
87. The Commons
88. The First Mennonite Church
89. The Gathering Church
90. The Network Church (*)
91. The Village International Mennonite Church (*)
92. Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church
93. Toronto Mennonite New Life Church
94. Toronto United Mennonite Church
95. Tree of Life/Arbre de Vie
96. Valleyview Mennonite Church
97. Vineland United Mennonite Church
98. Wanner Mennonite Church
99. Warden Underground (*)
100. Waterloo North Mennonite Church
101. Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church
102. Waters Mennonite Church
103. Wellesley Mennonite Church
104. West Hills Mennonite Fellowship
105. Wideman Mennonite Church
106. Wilmot Mennonite Church
107. Windsor Mennonite Fellowship
108. Zion Mennonite Fellowship

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Place</i>
April 11	Youth Bible Quizzing	Rouge Valley Mennonite Church
April 16	Day of Quiet Prayer	Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp
April 18	Women of MCEC Spring Enrichment Day	Listowel Mennonite Church
April 24	Learning Together, Listening to God	First Mennonite Church, Kitchener
May	Yella - Young Adult Learning Trip	Israel/Palestine
May 5 - 6	Courageous Conversations Speaking the Truth in Love	Conrad Grebel University College
May 22 - 24	Jr. Youth Retreat	Silver Lake Mennonite Camp
June 3	Administrators' Day	50 Kent Ave., Kitchener
June 3	Retired Pastors' Retreat	Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp
June 14	Ministry Celebration 27 Years of Ministry Ester Neufeldt	50 Kent Ave., Kitchener
July 21 - 26	Mennonite World Conferenece	Pennsylvania 2015



Celebration of 27 Years of Ministry Ester Neufeldt

Sunday, June 14, 2015

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Community Room

50 Kent Avenue, Kitchener, ON

In honour of Ester's 27 years of ministry, all are invited to celebrate with her as she concludes her time with MCEC. Informal program at 3:00 p.m.



**Mennonite
Church**
Eastern
Canada

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