

STUCK TOGETHER

THE HOPE OF
CHRISTIAN WITNESS
IN A POLARIZED
WORLD



ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday February 24, 2024
Emmanuel Mennonite Church
3471 Clearbrook Road,
Abbotsford BC

Nelson J Kraybill - Plenary Speaker
9:00am - 4:00pm (8:30am sign in)
livestream will be available

ANABAPTIST - MISSIONAL - CONNECTED

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STUCK TOGETHER

LEAD CONFERENCE



**J NELSON
KRAYBILL**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**THE HOPE OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS
IN A POLARIZED WORLD**



**Friday
February 23**



**9am to 3pm
8:30 sign in**



**Emmanuel
Mennonite Church**



**\$50 in person
with lunch**



**\$25 stream
interactive**



**Register online or
via church office**

2024 MCBC AGM AGENDA

THEME "STUCK TOGETHER"

Delegate/guest sign-in & coffee/muffins (8:30am)
Welcome & Acknowledgement of Territory (9:00am)
Introduction of Guests - Call to Worship - Worship

Plenary: "The Big Challenge is to Listen Well" Nelson J Kraybill

Coffee Break (10:00am)

Declare Annual Meeting Open

(Declare Quorum - Announcements - Procedures -
Adoption of Agenda - Resolution #1 & 2 - Approving 2023 Minutes)

Engaging God's World

(Report on MC Canada International Witness - Partners in Reconciliation MCBC - Creation Care -
Palestine Israel Network - Affordable Housing - Highlights & Opportunities)

Cultivating Anabaptist Vision

(Camp Squeah - Mennonite Central Committee - Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
Canadian Mennonite University - Columbia Bible College
Highlights & Opportunities - Memorial Video - Greetings from MC Canada)

Growing Community A

(Young Adult Anabaptist Conference Video - Church Revitalization Videos
Introduction of New Pastors & Youth Director - Introduction of Valley Road Church Pastor
Greetings from MC Canada)

Lunch Break (12:00pm)

Breakout Groups (1:00 - 2:00pm)

Call to Worship - Worship - Memorial Video

Congregational Support

(Camp Squeah Financial Statements -2024 Budget (Resolution #4 & 5)
Finance Report - Financial Statements - 2024 Budget (Resolution #6, 7 & 8)
Peardonville Property Report & Funds Discernment (Revision Resolution #3)

Growing Community B

(Moderator's report / Reflections
Executive Minister Report - Church Engagement Minister / Interim Exec Min report
Church Revitalization Videos - Highlights & Opportunities)

Congregational Support balance

MCEC greetings & AGM Reflections - Nominations (Resolution #9 & 10)
Appreciation for and Commissioning of Workers - Acceptance of Reports (Resolution #11)
Appreciation to Level Ground/Eben-Ezer/Emmanuel Mennonite Church for hosting the AGM (Resolution #12)
BINGO Card Winners Announced

Closing Benediction - Closing Song (4:00pm)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MCBC ANNUAL REPORT BOOK

1. Identity and Vision Statement	5
2. Confession of Faith	6
3. MCBC Covenant	9
4. Covenant Between Pastor and Congregation	11
5. 2023 AGM Minutes	13
6. MCBC By-Laws	27
7. Resolutions	36
8. Moderator's Report	37
9. Executive Minister Report	38
10. Church Engagement Minister Report	41
11. Finance Report	42
12. Financial Statements	44
13. Budget (Income vs Expenses)	59
14. Faith In Today's Church	64
15. Youth Worker's Group	65
16. Women's Ministry	66
17. Engaging God's World	67
18. Creation Care	69
19. Indigenous Relations	70
20. Palestine Israel Network	71
21. Affordable Housing	72
22. Peardonville Sale	73
23. Peardonville Funds Discernment	74
24. Investment Fund Management	76
25. Statistics	77
26. Nominations	78
27. Camp Squeah	84
28. Camp Squeah Financial Statements	88
29. MC Canada	91
30. Canadian Mennonite	95
31. MCC	96
32. Communitas	98
33. Columbia Bible College	100
34. Canadian Mennonite University	102
35. Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary	103

IDENTITY & VISION STATEMENT

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

OUR IDENTITY AND PURPOSE

Mennonite Church BC (MCBC) is a faith community of Christian churches with a passionate allegiance to Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Our purpose is to enable congregations to individually and collectively engage most fully in the mission of Christ.

OUR VISION

We are called by God to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

OUR BELIEFS

The beliefs and practices of Mennonite Church BC Congregations come from the authority of scripture as interpreted in the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.

OUR COMMITMENTS

1. To love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and our neighbours as ourselves.
2. To be effective witnesses through evangelism, peace and justice, and service.
3. To become faithful mature disciples of Christ.
4. To call, train and support leaders to assist congregations in fulfilling the mission of God in a broken world.
5. To keep the unity of the Spirit in our congregations, our conferences and the global Christian Church community.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Article Summary Statement: Adopted at a Special Delegates Session of MCBC on June 3, 2006

- We believe that God exists and is pleased with all who draw near by faith. We worship the One holy and loving God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit eternally. God has created all things visible and invisible, has brought salvation and new life to humanity through Jesus Christ, and continues to sustain the church and all things until the end of the age.
- We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word of God become flesh. He is the Saviour of the world, who has delivered us from the dominion of sin and reconciled us to God by His death on a cross. He was declared to be Son of God by His resurrection from the dead. He is the head of the church, the exalted Lord, the Lamb who was slain, coming again to reign with God in glory.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal Spirit of God, who dwelled in Jesus Christ, who empowers the church, who is the source of our life in Christ, and who is poured out on those who believe as the guarantee of redemption.
- We believe that all Scripture is inspired by God through the Holy Spirit for instruction in salvation and training in righteousness. We accept the Scriptures as the Word of God and as the fully reliable and trustworthy standard for Christian faith and life. Led by the Holy Spirit in the church, we interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ.
- We believe that God has created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, and that God preserves and renews what has been made. All creation has its source outside itself and belongs to the Creator. The world has been created good because God is good and provides all that is needed for life.
- We believe that God has created human beings in the divine image. God formed them from the dust of the earth and gave them a special dignity among all the works of creation. Human beings have been made for relationship with God, to live in peace with each other, and to take care of the rest of creation.
- We confess that, beginning with Adam and Eve, humanity has disobeyed God, given way to the tempter, and chosen to sin. All have fallen short of the Creator's intent, marred the image of God in which they were created, disrupted order in the world, and limited their love for others. Because of sin, humanity has been given over to the enslaving powers of evil and death.
- We believe that, through Jesus Christ, God offers salvation from sin and a new way of life. We receive God's salvation when we repent and accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. In Christ, we are reconciled with God and brought into the reconciling community. We place our faith in God that, by the same power that raised Christ from the dead, we may be saved from sin to follow Christ and to know the fullness of salvation.
- We believe that the church is the assembly of those who have accepted God's offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. It is the new community of disciples sent into the world to proclaim the reign of God and to provide a foretaste of the church's glorious hope. It is the new society established and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Article Summary Statement: Adopted at a Special Delegates Session of MCBC on June 3, 2006

- We believe that the mission of the church is to proclaim and to be a sign of the kingdom of God. Christ has commissioned the church to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to observe all things he has commanded.
- We believe that the baptism of believers with water is a sign of their cleansing from sin. Baptism is also a pledge before the church of their covenant with God to walk in the way of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers are baptized into Christ and His body by the Spirit, water, and blood.
- We believe that the Lord's Supper is a sign by which the church thankfully remembers the new covenant which Jesus established by His death. In this communion meal, the church renews its covenant with God and with each other and participates in the life and death of Jesus Christ, until He comes.
- We believe that in washing the feet of His disciples, Jesus calls us to serve one another in love as He did. Thus we acknowledge our frequent need of cleansing, renew our willingness to let go of pride and worldly power, and offer our lives in humble service and sacrificial love.
- We practice discipline in the church as a sign of God's offer of transforming grace. Discipline is intended to liberate erring brothers and sisters from sin, and to restore them to a right relationship with God and to fellowship in the church. The practice of discipline gives integrity to the church's witness in the world.
- We believe that ministry is a continuation of the work of Christ, who gives gifts through the Holy Spirit to all believers and empowers them for service in the church and in the world. We also believe that God calls particular persons in the church to specific leadership ministries and offices. All who minister are accountable to God and to the community of faith.
- We believe that the church of Jesus Christ is one body with many members, ordered in such a way that, through the one Spirit, believers may be built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.
- We believe that Jesus Christ calls us to discipleship, to take up our cross and follow Him. Through the gift of God's saving grace, we are empowered to be disciples of Jesus, filled with His Spirit, following His teachings and His path through suffering to new life. As we are faithful to His way, we become conformed to Christ and separated from the evil in the world.
- We believe that to be a disciple of Jesus is to know life in the Spirit. As the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ takes shape in us, we grow in the image of Christ and in our relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is active in individual and in communal worship, leading us deeper into the experience of God.
- We believe that God intends human life to begin in families and to be blessed through families. Even more, God desires all people to become part of the church, God's family. As single and married members of the church family give and receive nurture and healing, families can grow toward the wholeness that God intends. We are called to chastity and to loving faithfulness in marriage. We believe that God intends marriage to be a covenant between one man and one woman for life.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Article Summary Statement: Adopted at a Special Delegates Session of MCBC on June 3, 2006

- We commit ourselves to tell the truth, to give a simple yes or no, and to avoid the swearing of oaths.
- We believe that everything belongs to God, who calls the church to live in faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us, and to participate now in the rest and justice which God has promised.
- We believe that peace is the will of God. God created the world in peace, and God's peace is most fully revealed in Jesus Christ, who is our peace and the peace of the whole world. Led by the Holy Spirit, we follow Christ in the way of peace, doing justice, bringing reconciliation, and practicing nonresistance, even in the face of violence and warfare.
- We believe that the church is God's holy nation, called to give full allegiance to Christ its head and to witness to every nation, government, and society about God's saving love.
- We place our hope in the reign of God and its fulfillment in the day when Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. He will gather His church, which is already living under the reign of God. We await God's final victory, the end of this present age of struggle, the resurrection of the dead, and a new heaven and a new earth. There the people of God will reign with Christ in justice, righteousness, and peace for ever and ever.



[Return to Table of Contents](#)



Mennonite Church British Columbia COVENANT

In II Corinthians 5:17-19 Paul writes, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.” (TNIV) As part of the Body of Christ, we the congregations of Mennonite Church British Columbia (MCBC), an area conference of Mennonite Church Canada, will strive to present this Gospel with the desire to lead all people to be reconciled with God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to grow to maturity in Him. Our foundation is Jesus, “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (I Corinthians 3:11). The fully reliable and trustworthy standard for our Christian faith and life is Scripture, the Word of God.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12, the church is described as a body. “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.” The Apostle Paul encourages us to unity in Romans 15:5-6, “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”

Recognizing that there are many parts within the Body of Christ, we, as part of that body, MCBC, desire to be united as one body. To that end we covenant with each other, to strive toward unity of understanding and living out the Word of God. The tenets of our faith, as described in Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, will be our guide; the Scriptures, our final authority. Together, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will move forward in unity and mutual accountability, accepting and giving direction, correction, and discipline, discerning God’s desires for our congregations and MCBC. Our elected and appointed MCBC leadership will also give guidance in this process.

A “covenant relationship” for local congregations within a renewed MCBC entails:

I. Common Commitment to Essential Doctrine & Practice

- a commitment to doctrine and practice reflecting a Biblical, Christian world-view and ethic as stated in our confession of faith and accepted statements.

II. Common Commitment to Meaningful Worship and Fellowship

- a common commitment to meaningful worship and fellowship among congregations that would be Christ-centred, relationally oriented and celebrative in nature.

III. Common Commitment to Shared Ministries

- a common commitment to ministries that cannot be effectively accomplished as individual congregations or that are better done together. The focus will be on mission, leadership training and education.

IV. Common Commitment to Discernment

- a common commitment to a community-based, timely, decision-oriented process of education, debate and discernment that strives toward the goal of oneness in Christ. This discernment will take place at the local congregation level, within the larger context of our mutual discernment and accountability.

Common Commitment to Mutual Accountability

- a common commitment to mutual accountability in a spirit of humility and love. This recognizes the need for ongoing dialogue between and among congregations and MCBC.

Common Commitment to Service

- a common commitment to peace, justice and service in support of MCC, MDS and similar church related service programs.

SOME IMPLICATIONS OF A COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIP IN MCBC

1. support for and agreement with our Confession of Faith and accepted statements, in both word and action.
2. desire to support/identify/commit to the shared vision of MCBC as articulated in our vision and mission statements, and in line with Anabaptist theology and practice.
3. congregations will support and strongly encourage pastors in making every effort to participate in MCBC pastoral gatherings.
4. congregations will participate in delegate sessions and in forums for theological discernment as we continue to grow in our understanding of God's desire for our congregations in British Columbia and as the Faith and Life committee calls us to discernment.
5. congregations will make every effort to support the financial needs of MCBC as a vital part of their church ministry
6. congregations will joyfully encourage, call out and release people to serve on MCBC committees as an extension of local church ministry.
7. congregations will choose to believe the best about one another.
8. in a spirit of humility and love, congregations will commit to speak to other congregations directly about concerns they might have and likewise receive input from other congregations.
9. congregations will welcome MCBC leadership into conversations with them that will facilitate their health and growth.
10. recognition and acceptance of proactive spiritual leadership from MCBC.
11. MCBC will give leadership in dealing with congregational conflicts and distancing situations.
12. When a local congregation distances itself from common commitments, and it becomes clear that restoration of unity is no longer possible, a willingness to withdraw from the greater fellowship is expected.

COVENANT BETWEEN PASTOR AND CONGREGATION

Approved – September 28th, 2009

Part I

Preamble

This is a covenant for member congregations of Mennonite Church British Columbia (MCBC). The Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective is the guideline for the beliefs and practices of MCBC congregations.

The intent of this covenant is to help establish a strong pastor/congregation relationship at the outset of a new pastoral calling. For our congregations to be healthy, they need pastors who appreciate and commit to minister according to the guidance given by our Confession of Faith.

We understand that there may be occasions when pastors may change their theological perspective, and that they may distance themselves from the Confession of Faith. There may also be occasions when pastors realise that the theological perspective that they hold is not in agreement with the Confession of Faith as they originally perceived it to be when they began serving an MCBC congregation. This covenant is to be clear from the outset as to how to handle these situations, should they arise.

1. I, (.....), promise to uphold and promote the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.
2. I promise to preach, teach and practice Biblical values and beliefs according to our Confession of Faith.
3. I promise to faithfully attend denominational assemblies and meetings as much as the congregation is able to support.
4. I promise to faithfully attend the MCBC Pastor/Spouse Retreat as much as the congregation is able to support.
5. I promise to serve the congregation, MCBC and Mennonite Church Canada as my gifts allow and with the permission and encouragement of the congregation that I am serving.
6. Should I, in the course of my tenure choose a view or belief that is different from the Confession of Faith:
 - a) I promise to dialogue with the congregation and MCBC representatives.
 - b) Should I not be able to reconcile my views and beliefs with the congregation and MCBC, I promise to resign in good faith and move on.
 - c) In this transition, I promise that I will not hinder the well-being of the congregation. d) I promise that I will not intentionally influence members in the congregation to follow me into another denomination or a congregation of my making.

PASTORS SIGNATURE _____

COVENANT BETWEEN PASTOR AND CONGREGATION

Approved – September 28th, 2009

PART II

1. We, the congregation (.), promise to arrange for our pastor to attend the assemblies and meetings of MCBC and Mennonite Church Canada as appropriate and as much as we are able. We consider attendance at these assemblies and meetings a priority and will ensure that our congregation is represented by the pastor and/or members of the congregation unless circumstances dictate otherwise. If no representation is possible, we will be in conversation to inform MCBC.
2. We, the congregation (.), promise to arrange for our pastor to attend the MCBC Pastor/Spouse Retreat as much as we are able.
3. We, the congregation (.), promise to establish a Pastor/Congregation Relations Committee (Support Team) to listen, pray, support, and give encouragement.
4. We, the congregation, promise to assist the pastor with the work of the church and to be faithful with our prayers and our encouragement.
5. We, the congregation, desire transparent and mutual sharing so that issues and concerns can be addressed with Christian love and wisdom.

CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE_____



[Return to Table of Contents](#)

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

Mennonite Church British Columbia (MCBC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes February 25, 2023

Location: Peace Mennonite Church

Delegates: 82

Guests: 22

Staff/Kitchen/Tech Support: 7

Total: 116

Moderator: Gerry Grunau (Langley Mennonite Fellowship) (LMF)

Vice-Moderator: Damell Barkman (Yarrow United Mennonite) (YUM)

Parliamentarian: Andre Pekovich (Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship) (PGIMF)

Recording Secretary: Mary Barg (Eden Mennonite) (Eden)

Scrutineers: Henry Krause (LMF); Mark Rempel (Eden); Justin Sun (Peace Mennonite) (PMC); Janette Thiessen (Crossroads Community Church) (CCC)

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Territory- Bridget Findlay

Introduction of Guests

- Mark Baker (guest speaker)
- Jeff Borden (Place of Refuge) (absent)
- David Boshart (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) (AMBS)
- Wayne Bremner (Mennonite Central Committee) (MCC)
- Kevin Downey (Menno Place)
- Bridget Findlay (Mennonite Central Committee) (MCC)
- Jeanette Hanson (Mennonite Church Canada) (MC Canada)
- Karen Heidebrecht-Thiessen (Columbia Bible College) (CBC)
- Ethan Johnston (CBC)
- Doug Klassen (MC Canada)
- Sharon Mkisi (MCC)
- Michael Pahl (Mennonite Church Manitoba) (MCM)
- Cheryl Pauls (Canadian Mennonite University) (CMU)
- Tobi Thiessen (Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service) (CMPS)

Worship

Plenary: Jesus, Be the Centre of our Salvation

- Mark Baker

Declare AGM Open

- Quorum is declared
- Videos containing reports were available prior to meeting.
- Request made that all speakers consider a 2-minute time limit in delegate responses.

Adoption of Agenda

- Order of agenda will be adjusted to allow for Resolutions that require voting to be addressed as priority.

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

Resolution #1

Be it resolved that the content of the Agenda for the 2023 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented and revised.

Moved: Peter Dueckman (Emmanuel Mennonite) (EMC)

Seconded: Gerry Binnema (CCC)

Discussion: none

Approved by show of hands

Nominations Update

- Nominations can be made until noon.
- Add Vic Giesbrecht (Level Ground Mennonite Church) (LGMC) to Investment Fund Management Task Group.
- Voting will be required for the following positions: Vice-Moderator; Executive Committee Secretary, and one Finance Committee Member

Resolution #2

Be it Resolved that the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting be approved as presented.

Moved: Mark Rempel (Eden)

Seconded: Fran Hofenk (EMC)

Discussion: none

Approved by show of hands

By-Law Amendments

- These amendments address the MCBC restructuring and MCBC society membership.
- The restructuring of MCBC was approved at the MCBC 2022 AGM with the understanding that the by-laws would be updated at the subsequent AGM.

Resolution #3

Be it resolved that the proposed amendments to the By-Laws as identified in the Report Book and presented at the 2023 MCBC Annual Meeting be approved.

Note: The said resolution, as noted in Bylaw 29 of the MCBC Bylaws filed/registered March 18, 2021, requires the approval of 75% of participating delegates present at the Annual Meeting to pass.

Moved: Gerald Dyck (Eden)

Seconded: Laura Loewen (EMC)

Discussion:

Rose Bergen (Peace Church on 52nd) (PC52)

- Suggestion to replace the word “moderator” with the word “chairperson” in the By-Laws.
- By-Law #2 Clause #4; By-Law #14 Clause #1. There are 4 instances where the word “moderator” is used instead of “chairperson”.

Motion: That the word “moderator” be replaced with the word “chairperson” in By-Laws #14 and #2.

Moved: Rose Bergen (EMC)

Seconded: Heather Glasgow (Living Hope Christian Fellowship) (LHCF)

Approved by show of hands

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

Gerd Heinrichs (Sherbrooke Mennonite) (SMC)

- Suggestion to remove the extraneous word “the” and “society” [currently states “from the MCBC society” from the By-Law #3 to keep it consistent with the rest of the document.

Motion: To remove the extraneous words “the” and “society” from By-Law #3.

Moved: Gerd Heinrichs (SMC)

Seconded: Shirley Hsu (PMC)

Approved by show of hands

Resolution #3 Amendment

Be it resolved that the proposed amendments to the By-Laws as identified in the Report Book and presented and revised at the 2023 MCBC Annual Meeting be approved.

Note: The said resolution, as noted in Bylaw 29 of the MCBC Bylaws filed/registered March 18, 2021, requires the approval of 75% of participating delegates present at the Annual Meeting to pass.

Moved: Gerald Dyck (Eden)

Seconded: Laura Loewen (EMC)

Vote by ballot

Percentage in favour: 100%

Ratification of new Executive Minister

- The process to hire a new Executive Minister (EM) began in May 2021 as Garry Janzen expressed his intention to retire.
- Executive Minister Search Task Group (EMSTG) consisted of Mary Barg (Eden), Darnell Barkman (YUM), Emmanuel Denguessi (EMC), Carla Hordyk (LHCF), Winston Pratt (Peace)
- EMSTG Report is in the AGM Report Book.
- Gratitude expressed to Gerry for his leadership of the AGM and his work as moderator of MCBC.
- Darnell Barkman (YUM) shared the history of the work of the EMSTG and an overview of why Shel has been chosen as the candidate for the role of Executive Minister.
- Gerry Grunau confirmed that the Leadership Board has affirmed the selection of Shel Boese as candidate for Executive Minister.

Resolution #15

Be it resolved that the ratification of Leadership Board's appointment of Shelby Boese presented in Resolution #16 require the approval of a minimum of 75% of participating delegates to pass.

Moved: Ingrid Schultz (EMC)

Seconded: Cheryl Berto (LHCF)

Discussion: none

Approved by show of hands

Resolution #16

Be it resolved that Leadership Board's appointment of Shelby Boese as Executive Minister of Mennonite Church British Columbia be ratified.

Moved: Brian Mayhew (Peace)

Seconded: Sean Regehr (YUM)

Discussion:

Rose Bergen (PC52)

- Question regarding the term of the appointment.

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

- Response: The term is open-ended and subject to regular evaluations and assessments.

Jon Nofziger (EMC)

- Question regarding Shel's credentials being removed from Mennonite Church USA (MCUSA).
- Response: Shel's removal of credentials with MCUSA was not punitive but was a result of the church he was pastoring leaving the MCUSA Conference.

Vote by ballot

Favour: 84

Opposed: 2

Percentage: 98%

MCBC Ministry: CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

Camp Squeah

- Sharon Zacharias provided a high-level overview of the Financial Statements.

Resolution #6

Be it Resolved that the 2022 Camp Squeah Financial Statements be accepted as presented.

Moved: Armando Fernandez (First United Spanish Mennonite) (FUSMC)

Seconded: Grant Miller (Cedar Valley Mennonite Church) (CVMC)

Discussion: none

Approved by show of hands

Resolution #7

Be it Resolved that the 2023 Camp Squeah Budget be approved as presented.

Moved: Josh Willms (LGMC)

Seconded: Jon Nofziger (EMC)

Discussion: none

Approved by show of hands

MCBC Budget

- Sharon Zacharias provided a high-level overview of the MCBC Financial Statements.

Resolution #8

Be it Resolved that the 2022 Mennonite Church BC Financial Statements be accepted as presented.

Moved: Michael Turner (CVMC)

Seconded: Gerd Heinrichs (SMC)

Discussion:

Jon Nofziger (EMC)

- Question asked about what constitutes the "miscellaneous revenue" portion.
- Response: This includes items such as rent, program income, and other periodical income.

Approved by show of hands

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

Resolution #9

Be it Resolved that the 2022 Mennonite Church BC Combined Financial Statements be accepted as presented.

Moved: Marijke Olson (EMC)

Seconded: Frank Berto (LHCF)

Discussion: none

Approved by show of hands

Presentation of MCBC 2023 Budget

- Tom Miller (CVMC) provided an overview of the proposed 2023 MCBC Budget.

Discussion:

Peter Dueckman (EMC)

- Clarification requested regarding the Mountainview Fund which Tom provided.
- Response: The travel budget has been reduced.
- Response: Travel Fund line was clarified as not representative of actual travel expenses incurred due to the donation of air travel points.

Fran Hofenk (EMC)

- Concern expressed regarding the deficit and the lack of budget reductions.

Cheryl Berto (LHCF)

- Concern expressed regarding the deficit in the budget and suggested to have a conversation regarding the source of the deficit.
- Clarified that there need to be conversations about different values that are held within MCBC.
- Desire expressed that the restructuring conversation had included asking why people were not engaging with MCBC.
- Suggestion to consider inviting conversation regarding what people are passionate about in order to encourage giving.

Tom Miller (CVMC)

- There was a draft budget that reflected drastic budget cuts but the decision was made to revise it.

Steve Unger (CVMC)

- As a participant in the Finance Committee, encouragement was given to all churches to contribute to MCBC as one third of churches currently do not donate.

Gerd Heinrichs (Sherbrooke)

- Noted that drastically cutting budgets eventually leads to the end of an organization.
- Noted that the budget reflects a commitment to the growth of MCBC.

Alvina Miller (CVMC)

- Noted that while the deficit looks grim, there is much to be positive about in the budget.
- Gratitude expressed for the Mountainview Fund that has sustained us and excitement expressed for the prospect of renewal and growth that would be supported by the hiring of a new Executive Minister.

Ingrid Schultz (EMC)

- Noted that there are not many students from MCBC attending CBC and if consideration should be given to cutting MCBC's financial support of CBC.
- Response: This has been discussed and will remain open for discussion in the future.

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

Clifford Weber (LGMC)

- Suggestion to consider the budget as a way to allow God to multiply what we give rather than simply sustain what is already happening.

David Hsu (PMC)

- Noted that there has been a significant reduction in youth attendance and that a Youth Co-Ordinator would be helpful in growing this ministry.

Jesse Nickel (LGMC)

- Noted that while there are not many students at CBC, many of our pastors have been trained there.

Gerry Grunau (LMF)

- Noted that Leadership Board discussed the possibility of a reduced budget and recommended that we utilize the reserve funds and potential funds from the sale of the Peardonville Property.
- Gratitude expressed to the Finance Committee for their work in this area.

Resolution #10

Be it Resolved that the 2023 Mennonite Church BC Budget be approved as presented.

Moved: Tom Miller (CVMC)

Seconded: Dorothy Friesen (LHCF)

Discussion: see above

Approved by show of hands

MCBC Ministry: GROWING COMMUNITY

- The Funds Discernment Report that was approved at the 2020 AGM determined that potential funds from the sale of the Peardonville Property be allocated prior to their receipt. This included the allocation of 10% going toward Indigenous Relations; 10% toward increasing the position of the MCBC Church Engagement Minister and hiring staff to establish ministry hubs; and 80% was designated for supporting MCBC congregations.
- The potential availability of this money has prompted the Youth Pastors (meeting as part of the Growing Community Ministry Hub), to suggest the hiring a part-time Youth Co-Ordinator if the Peardonville Property monies become available.
- Isaías Rodriguez is the leader of the Growing Community Task Group and notes that the financial piece is challenging in many churches at this time.
- Part of Isaías' role includes connecting the Youth Pastors and it has become apparent that we need to support this area of ministry.
- Josh Willms affirmed the importance of connection as ministers and Youth Pastors and emphasized the importance of this new position that would allow these connections to become more supported and more intentional.

Resolution #4

Be it resolved that MCBC hire a half-time youth coordinator using funds allocated to MCBC which would be a portion of the 10% of the Peardonville property sale proceeds as identified in the Funds Discernment Report approved at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Moved: Rachel Navarro (EMC)

Seconded: Keith St. Jean (LGMC)

Discussion:

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

Rose Bergen (PC52)

- The future of the church lies in the younger generation, and it is hopeful that this position would help churches who are struggling in that area; specifically churches with no Youth Pastor.
- Response: Yes, the intention would be to support churches with no Youth Pastor as well as support those who do.

Dieter Nickel (PMC)

- Whole-hearted support is offered for this position as we must pursue the younger generation.
- Suggestion to make giving a priority rather than withholding money because of disagreements with what is happening.

Steve Unger (CVMC)

- Question regarding to whom the Youth Co-Ordinator would be responsible.
- Response: It is expected that this person would be responsible to the MCBC staff, specifically the Executive Minister.
- Suggestion to consider waiting to hire until the new Executive Minister begins.

Cheryl Berto (LHCF)

- Agrees with above commenters.

Grant Miller (CVMC)

- Expressed passion for the next generation ministry and gratitude for the consideration of this position.
- Suggestion to consider the importance of organic, grass-roots growth and to equip the churches to reach the community they are in.
- Response: Affirmation given that while the position sounds high-level, it's development would include input from local congregations and in concert with current Youth Pastors.

Clifford Weber (LGMC)

- Suggestion to consider that this position be made full-time.

Fran Hofenk (EMC)

- Suggested to ensure that the term "youth" is defined as it can include young children, teenagers, young adults, etc.
- Response: The role will be supportive of current work being done so the definition would depend on what each church needs.

Alvina Miller (CVMC)

- Reminder that no one person can "fix" the lack of youth in individual churches and the suggestion is to use the money for individual churches.
- Suggestion to use the money to fund youth programs happening in churches.
- Response: Voting on this position is the beginning of a process where churches will be engaged to determine how their youth programs can be supported.

Frank Berto (LHCF)

- Affirmation given to consideration of using the money for local church programs/Youth Pastors.

Chan Yang (Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship) (PGIMF)

- Affirmation given to the intention to focus on youth, but suggestion made that the resolution be to approve the position in principle and that what the position looks like would be determined in the future.

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

Gerry Grunau (LMF)

- Clarified that this position would be used to explore how MCBC youth programs could be supported.

Frank Berto (LHCF)

- Suggestion that this money not be used specifically for a half-time Youth Co-Ordinator but rather the use of funds would be discussed as how best to use the money for MCBC youth ministry.
- Response: Approval of this position would begin a process/discussion of how to support our Youth Pastors and discerning how to do this. Essentially, this resolution is requesting that the delegates approve the use of money to support Youth Pastors and Youth Ministry as this use of money was not articulated in the original Funds Discernment Report.

Alvina Miller (CVMC)

- Feels that the Co-Ordinator position does not address the need of the youth pastors and that money should be allocated to churches who want full time Youth Pastors.
- Response: Current Youth Pastors are burned out and that a Co-Ordinator would begin to address this issue. Reminder that the 80% of Peardonville Property sale funds would be available for churches to apply for if they want to fund a Youth Pastor position.
- Response: There is a significant amount of work that goes into planning youth events and a Youth Co-Ordinator would address this. This is the beginning of a process and that addressing the need to have full-time Youth Pastors is an issue that would be addressed by our churches individually.

Jack Meers (Eden)

- Noted that the mission of Youth Pastors is to meet the needs of the youth in their programs and that these Youth Pastors need support.
- No position (Co-Ordinator or Youth Pastors) is going to be a one-time fix and it is not helpful to view the role of Youth Pastors as being to get more young people into church but is rather to care for those who are there.

Fran Hofenk (EMC)

- Suggestion to deal with the motion and vote later if necessary.

Henry Krause (LMF)

- Suggestion to consider that this Resolution has been developed with the input from current Youth Pastors and should be considered as is.
- Noted that churches can request to increase Youth Pastor funding individually.

Resolution #4

Be it resolved that MCBC hire a half-time youth coordinator using funds allocated to MCBC which would be a portion of the 10% of the Peardonville property sale proceeds as identified in the Funds Discernment Report approved at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Question is called

Moved: Rachel Navarro (EMC)

Seconded: Keith St. Jean (LGMC)

Approved by show of hands (opposed 8)

Lunch

Worship

In Memoriam Video

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

Church Engagement and Interim Executive Minister Report

- Kevin Barkowsky's (SMC) report presented via video prior to AGM.

Discussion:

Grant Miller (CVMC)

- Gratitude expressed to Kevin for his work.

Newly Ratified Executive Minister Response

- Shel Boese shared from 1 Corinthians 2 where Paul talks about humble leadership that leads from the truth of Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected; Jesus is the centre of our faith and of our work in MCBC.
- Acknowledgement of the steep learning curve that is to come and of the good work that Garry Janzen has done.
- Shel committed to praying for MCBC in these next months that precede the beginning of his term.
- Shel shared about his heart for the local church and his belief that the local church is where the heart of revitalization begins and is the foundation of the conference.
- Diversity is a key part of Shel's vision for the church.
- Prayer of blessing offered for Shel and Anne.

MCBC Ministry: ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD

Report on Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam Conference

- Kevin Barkowsky provided a video report on the Vietnam trip prior to the AGM.
- Jeanette Hanson reported on the trip to Vietnam where they encouraged the church that they are not alone; the Vietnamese church expressed gratitude for the support from MC Canada as it is important for them to feel supported.

Greeting from MC Canada

- Doug Klassen shared about his extensive post-COVID travelling that has seen him go to many war-torn countries.
- Doug shared about being hopeful for the future of the church and the hope that it offers the world. He is hopeful that we can continue the work of reconciliation with our Indigenous family as we work toward renewal of the church.

Overview of our Ministry Structure

- Gerry Grunau provided an overview of the new structure and shared how it allows MCBC to embrace and live out the message of Jesus.

MCBC Ministry: CULTIVATING ANABAPTIST VISION

- Andrew Haak is the Ministry Leader for this section in the MCBC structure.
- Gratitude expressed to the *Faith in Today's Church Task Group* for inviting Mark Baker to speak at the LEAD Conference and 2023 AGM.
- Noted that the *Intercultural Task Group* will now be closed since the former leader, Joon Park, has moved and there has been no replacement. Gratitude expressed to Joon for his leadership.

Ministry Highlights:

Camp Squeah- Rob Tiessen

- Video report circulated prior to AGM.
- Rob Tiessen (SMC) shared on behalf of Camp Squeah.
- Excitement expressed for the potential new Youth Co-Ordinator position.

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

- Gratitude expressed to those who came before us and acted on the vision for Camp Squeah.
- Post-COVID has been a challenging time for Camp Squeah; staffing continues to be a significant challenge.
- Revenue from 2022 was much stronger than anticipated although revenue continues to be a source of concern.
- It is helpful if churches are willing to help recruitment by asking young adults in their church to serve.
- There is program that will focus on training young adults and biblical literacy; churches are encouraged to consider possible candidates.
- Noted that smaller groups are coming to camp although these are less financially efficient.
- Reminder that those who are older than the typical young adult volunteer are encouraged to consider volunteering.

Discussion:

Steve Unger (CVMC)

- Affirmation given to the important work that Camp Squeah does.
- Encouragement given to people to consider volunteering at camp.

Peter Dueckman (EMC)

- Noted that camp has played an important role in the spiritual development of young people.

Janette Thiessen (CCC)

- Gratitude expressed to Camp Squeah for the extra effort during the Pastor/Spouse Retreat as the power went out.
- Suggested that donors consider extra donations during significant weather events.

Mennonite World Conference Report- Ashley Rempel

- Ashley Rempel attended the Global Youth Summit at the 2022 Mennonite World Conference as MCBC's representative along with other regional church representatives.
- The experience of the global church was encouraging and provided a significant learning opportunity.
- The theme of the Global Youth Summit was "Life in the Spirit: Learn, Serve, Worship".
- The daily and regular Muslim calls to prayer was inspiring and caused much consideration about the delegates own faith practices.

Mennonite World Conference Worship Celebration- Kevin Barkowsky

- March 25, 2023, is a worship night at South Abbotsford Church from 6:30-8:30pm.
- Subsequent meetings will be held at Camp Squeah.
- Kevin Barkowsky has a video available of his time at the Mennonite World Conference.

Mennonite Central Committee- Wayne Bremner

- Wayne Bremner expressed gratitude to MCBC for their support.
- Noted that it has been one year since Russia invaded Ukraine and this has resulted in a significant number of people requiring assistance as they flee and MCC is involved in this.
- Work is being done in Syria to support after the earthquake.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary- David Boshart

- The need to strengthen the Anabaptist identity of churches has been identified as a significant priority across the globe.
- Global partnerships are thriving in many countries.
- There is a new Doctorate Program in Ministry Leadership which is a practical and skill-based program.

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

- There will be a Master's Program offered in Spanish in the fall.

Canadian Mennonite University- Cheryl Pauls

- Approximately 30% of students have an Anabaptist background.
- CMU continues to offer a variety of programs (science, business, theology, etc.).

Columbia Bible College- Karen Heidebrecht-Thiessen

- Enrollment has decreased but the students that have come are committed, and it has been a positive year.
- Prayer is requested for the Quest students who are in Costa Rica, for Bryan Born who is in California with a group of students, and for the significant financial concerns.
- Gerry Binnema (chairperson of CBC Board) shared that it has been a busy season as Bryan Borne announced his resignation as president.
- There is a conversation at this time considering the possibility of a merger between CBC and the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary. Further information will be made available as possible.
- There is sign-up sheet available for those who want to be made aware of the developments at CBC.

MCBC Ministry: GROWING COMMUNITY

- Isaías Rodríguez is the Ministry Leader of this section in the MCBC structure.
- This position has been about creating spaces and opportunities to connect people within MCBC and to connect the Task Groups under this ministry section.
- This has been a year of learning and connecting with the Task Groups and learning about the complexities of MCBC.
- The hope for this year is to find where the Task Groups can grow and to discern how the local congregations can be more included in what is happening.

Ministry Highlights:

Connecting Women- Janette Thiessen

- Janette Thiessen shared about the May 6, 2023, Women's Day at Emmanuel Mennonite Church; childcare will be provided.
- The hope is to reach the younger women and work is being done to address some difficult topics such as breast cancer, domestic abuse, and mental health.
- It is noted that Janette manages the Women's Day event on her own so any help would be welcome.

Youth Pastors' Task Group- Josh Willms

- Impact Retreat was well attended and was a good opportunity for connection.
- The Corn Maze event was a positive event as well.
- Living Hope hosted Hot Pot.

MCBC Ministry: ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD

- Henry Krause is the Ministry Leader for this section of the MCBC structure.
- Video report was made available prior to AGM.
- Task Groups include: Affordable Housing; Creation Care; Indigenous Relations; and the Palestine-Israel Network.

Ministry Highlights:

Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam Conference- Kevin Barkowsky

- Kevin attended this conference with Jeanette Hanson, Nien Pham, and Garry Janzen.
- Link to Kevin's video about this trip can be found in the MCBC Connect.

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

- The Vietnam church has experienced persecution, and the Mennonite church is widely respected for their strong stand during these difficult times.

Partners in Reconciliation with MCC-BC – Indigenous Neighbours Staff Person- Bridget Findlay

- Video report made available prior to 2023 AGM.
- Bridget works with MCBC churches who are interested in learning more about how to work towards reconciliation with Indigenous people.
- Steps toward reconciliation include education and consultation with Indigenous voices.
- Indigenous Voices training program begins in April.
- The annual walk 'In The Spirit of Reconciliation' takes place May 26-28, 2023.

Discussion:

Justin Sun (PMC)

- Gratitude expressed to Bridget for her work toward reconciliation.

Creation Care- Ian Funk

- Video report made available prior to 2023 AGM.
- Congregations are encouraged to discuss how each church can practice creation care in their context.
- The Task Group is willing to support churches as they consider how to implement parts of the Greener Congregation scoresheet.

Introduction of New Pastors Video

- Tzu-Ming (Silas) Wang at White Rock Mennonite Church
- John Williams at Peace Mennonite Church
- Ken Dueck at Kelowna First Mennonite Church
- Michael Turner at Cedar Valley Mennonite Church
- Peter Hieu at Vietnamese Mennonite Church

Farwell to Congregations

- Prayer of blessing and healing offered for the congregations that have folded or left MCBC.

Resolution #5

Be it Resolved that we acknowledge the closure of North Shore Japanese Church, Vietnamese Christian Church and Bethel Mennonite Church as well as the withdrawal of Vietnamese Grace Mennonite Church as a congregation of Mennonite Church British Columbia.

Moved: Lee Dyck (Eden)

Seconded: Cheryl Berto (LHCF)

Discussion: none

Accepted by show of hands

Nominations- Rita Ewert

- Gratitude expressed to all the Ministry Leaders and Task Group participants who serve.
- Added names to the Nomination Chart includes Vic Giesbrecht (Investment Fund Management Task Group).
- Resolution #11 refers to the positions that must be voted on.

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

Resolution #11

Be it Resolved that the Nominees, as set out in and added to the Nomination Chart, be elected.

Vice-Moderator: Darnell Barkman (YUM)

Secretary: Fran Hofenk (EMC)

Finance Committee: Chan Yang (PGIMF)

Moved: Jack Meers (Eden)

Seconded: Jesse Nickel (LGMC)

Discussion: none

Approved by show of hands

Resolution #12

Be it Resolved that the Participants, as set out in and added to the Nomination Chart, be affirmed.

Moved: Amy Waddell (EMC)

Seconded: Richard Hordyk (LHCF)

Discussion: none

Approved by show of hands

MC Manitoba (MCM) Greetings- Michael Pahl

- The Executive Ministers within MC Canada support their regional counterparts.
- MCM is facing many of the same concerns as MCBC.
- Blessing extended to MCBC in the work that they do.

Appreciation for and Commissioning of Workers

- Many people are involved in the work of MCBC, and we are grateful for this service.
- Prayer offered for those beginning and/or continuing in the work of MCBC.

Moderator's Report

- Video report made available prior to 2023 AGM.
- Noted that Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship is now only affiliated with MCBC.
- Gerry is available for questions.

Peardonville Property Report- Tom Miller

- Report is in AGM book.
- An offer to buy the property has been made by a church group and this sale should close soon.
- Noted that a Task Group has been created to manage the funds that arise from the sale of the Peardonville Property.

Resolution #13

Be it Resolved that the reports as printed in the Annual Report Book and presented by video and audibly be accepted.

Moved: Chan Wang (PGIMF)

Seconded: Veronica Dyck (PGIMF)

Discussion: none

Accepted by a show of hands

Appreciation to Peace Mennonite Church for hosting the AGM

Resolution #14

Be it Resolved that we express appreciation to Peace Mennonite Church for hosting the LEAD Conference and Annual Meeting.

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

Moved: Alvina Miller (CVMC)

Seconded: Carla Hordyk (LMCF)

Discussion: none

Accepted by a show of hands

Closing Song

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm

MCBC BY-LAWS

Society Incorporation Number: S0002632

PART I – INTERPRETATION

By-Law No. 1 Definitions

In these By-Laws, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Leadership Board" is the Board of Directors of the Society.
2. "Executive Committee" is the Executive Officers of the Board of Directors.
3. "Society" is Mennonite Church British Columbia (hereinafter referred to as MCBC).
4. The Societies Act (British Columbia) shall apply to these By-Laws.
5. "Registered address" of a Recognized Congregation, means the address as recorded in the register of Recognized Congregations.
6. "Special resolution" means a resolution passed by 75% of the votes of persons authorized to vote and who are present at an MCBC meeting.
7. A "congregation" is a body of persons which:
 - a) has responded to the call of Christ and to the church in repentance and faith;
 - b) symbolizes its unity through the practice of baptism and communion;
 - c) is visibly grouped for the expressed purpose of living out its obedience to Christ as head of the church; and
 - d) meets regularly for worship.
8. A Recognized Congregation means a congregation, whether incorporated or unincorporated, that was considered to be and in the records of the Society as a member of the Society under the By-Laws prior to March 2023, or that has subsequently been recognized and accepted by the Society under the By-Laws, and has not ceased to be recognized and accepted by the Society under the By-Laws.

PART II – BELIEFS

Our statement of faith is documented fully in the "Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective" © 1995 Herald Press, Waterloo, Ontario. Hereinafter, this document may simply be referred to as the "Confession of Faith".

PART III - MEMBERSHIP

By-Law No. 2 Members and Recognized Congregations

Any congregation, which agrees with and adheres to the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, accepts the resolutions of MCBC and covenants to participate in and support its common undertakings may apply to be a Recognized Congregation in MCBC.

1. At no time shall any rules be made or resolutions adopted by a Recognized Congregation which contradict MCBC's Constitution and these By-Laws in any way.
2. Congregations admitted as Recognized Congregations shall assume all privileges and duties as defined in the By-Laws.
3. Procedure for Admission as a Recognized Congregation:
 - a) A congregation desiring to be a Recognized Congregation shall make application to the

MCBC BY-LAWS cont.

- Leadership Board at least three months prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b) Upon receipt of the application the Leadership Board shall consult with the applicant congregation on the subject of doctrine, spiritual qualifications, organization, and other matters to assure adequate understanding on the principles of faith and Society obligations.
 - c) All congregations shall affirm the MCBC Covenant by resolution of its members as part of the admission process and provide evidence thereof acceptable to the Leadership Board. 2
 - d) Upon recommendation of the Leadership Board, MCBC shall decide on the congregation's application to be a Recognized Congregation as a special resolution at its next annual meeting.
4. Membership of the Society shall consist of:
- a) the lead Pastor of each Recognized Congregation or a suitable individual appointed by the congregation;
 - b) the chairperson appointed by each Recognized Congregation;
 - c) those other individuals that are delegates or are appointed by a Recognized Congregation as delegates to an Annual Meeting, a Special Meeting or other general meeting of the Society by Recognized Congregations in accordance with By-Law 12. Such individuals will cease to be Members of the Society at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, Special Meeting or other general meeting for which they were appointed by a Recognized Congregation.

By-Law No. 3 Termination of Membership

1. Voluntary Withdrawal

A Recognized Congregation may withdraw from MCBC by the following process.

- a) A congregation submits its request in writing to the Leadership Board stating reasons for its desire to withdraw.
 - b) The Leadership Board reviews the request and follows two options:
 - i) concurs with the reasons given by the congregation and recommends withdrawal from MCBC, or
2. wishes to have further dialogue regarding the reasons for withdrawal. The Congregation will enter into such dialogue with MCBC in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-17. If, after such dialogue, no reconciliation can be achieved and the congregation by a minimum vote of 75% of its members at a properly constituted meeting expresses its wish to withdraw - MCBC shall honour the request. The congregation may, however, upon application be received again as a Recognized Congregation in MCBC in the regular manner. If the 75% vote is not achieved the congregation shall remain a Recognized Congregation in MCBC. Suspension or Dismissal

When a Recognized Congregation no longer adheres to the Confession of Faith or declines to accept and carry out the resolutions of MCBC or causes ill report on account of its actions or conduct, MCBC may suspend or dismiss that congregation's status as a Recognized Congregation. Before suspension or dismissal, the procedures outlined in MCBC's "Policy on Congregational Distancing" shall be followed.

PART IV – MCBC CONGREGATIONAL POLICY

MCBC BY-LAWS cont.

By-Law No. 4 The local congregation

The local congregation shall be recognized as the basic organizational unit of MCBC.

By-Law No. 5 Association with Other Congregations

Each local congregation shall be expected to relate to other congregations in larger bodies by the unifying Spirit of Christ. In coming together congregations recognize their interdependence and their need for mutual exhortation and admonition and their strength to align with God's mission in the world.

By-Law No. 6 MCBC

MCBC seeks to be and is an expression of the Church of Christ and it shall administer the program assigned to it by the congregations through their representatives. The congregations have every responsibility to support MCBC. However, in fulfilling its mission, MCBC seeks to serve and strengthen the local congregations and not control them. MCBC will operate without purpose of financial gain for its members, and any profit or other assets of MCBC will be used solely to promote its purposes.

PART V - RELATIONSHIPS OF MCBC

By-Law No. 7 Mennonite Church Canada (MC Canada)

MCBC partners with the regional churches identified as MC Alberta [MCA], MC Saskatchewan [MCSask], MC Manitoba [MCM] and MC Eastern Canada [MCEC] to form MC Canada. MCBC makes collaborative decisions about MC Canada's activities within the parameters and consistent with MCBC's governing documents, and coordinates activities with other regional churches through the Joint Council of MC Canada and the Executive Staff Group convened by MC Canada staff.

By-Law No. 8 Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)

MCBC acknowledges MCC as the inter-Mennonite body to which its member congregations relate for doing relief and development work locally, nationally and internationally and shall cooperate with MCC as stipulated in their Constitution and By-Laws.

By-Law No. 9 Columbia Bible College Society (CBC)

MCBC is a partner with the British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches in the society known as CBC as stipulated in its' Constitution, By-Laws and Procedures.

By-Law No. 10 Other Agencies

MCBC may cooperate with other agencies, institutions and organizations where there is a joint interest in advancing the Kingdom of God.

PART VI - MCBC SESSIONS

By-Law No. 11 Annual Meetings

Regular meetings of MCBC shall be held annually in accordance with the Societies Act (British Columbia). Members shall receive reports and be notified of the date of meeting not less than three weeks

MCBC BY-LAWS cont.

in advance. The business of the Annual Meeting shall include:

1. receipt of reports from ministry leaders and committees; 4
2. receipt of financial statements and approval of the budget;
3. nominations and election of officers, ministry leaders and committees;
4. affirmation of task group participants; and
5. such other business as may properly be brought before the Annual Meeting.

By-Law No. 12 Special Sessions

The Leadership Board may call special meetings if and when considered advisable. Special meetings may also be called by 10 percent or more of the members submitting such request in writing to the Leadership Board. Members shall be notified in writing of the day of meeting not less than 3 weeks in advance.

By-Law No. 13 Reports

All elected officers, ministry leaders and committees shall give a full report of their work and activities at each Annual Meeting of MCBC. These reports shall be in writing and shall include financial information if applicable.

By-Law No. 14 Representation

1. A Recognized Congregation may be represented at meetings by its Lead Pastor and its chairperson plus additional delegates appointed by the congregation. Such delegates, other than the Lead Pastor and the chairperson, are the Members of the Society until the end of the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting for which they were appointed. If unable to attend, a Lead Pastor or chairperson may be replaced by another delegate chosen by the congregation.
2. Each Recognized Congregation shall be entitled to one delegate for every fifteen of its members or any fractional part thereof. Recognized Congregations having less than 45 members shall be entitled to 3 delegates.
3. Each delegate may cast only one vote.
4. No proxies shall be permitted for any meeting of the Society.
5. Each delegate must be a member in good standing in a Recognized Congregation.
6. Credentials: MCBC Office Administrator shall receive and record the credentials of delegates prior to any MCBC Session.
7. Floor Privileges: Any member of a Recognized Congregation shall be entitled to participate in MCBC deliberations but shall not vote unless he/she is a delegate. Floor privileges may also be extended to others at the discretion of the chair.

By-Law No. 15 Quorum

A quorum for any meeting of members of the Society shall be 50 members.

PART VII – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, LEADERSHIP BOARD AND COMMITTEES

By-Law No. 16 Leadership Board and Responsibilities

The Leadership Board shall:

1. consist of the Executive Officers, Ministry Leaders from the Cultivating Anabaptist Vision,

MCBC BY-LAWS cont.

Engaging God's World and Growing Community ministries, the Nominations Coordinator and the Camp Squeah Committee Chair. The Executive Minister, Office Administrator and Camp Squeah Executive Director shall attend in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity;

2. The Leadership Board shall be responsible for providing leadership in the planning and directing of all MCBC business. Specifically it shall:
 - a) assist in coordinating the ministries of all committees;
 - b) be responsible for the appointment, direction and evaluation of the Executive Minister (this appointment shall be subject to the ratification by MCBC);
 - c) supervise the selection of the appointment of other MCBC personnel and approve all salaries and benefits;
 - d) process applications from congregations and make recommendation for Recognized Congregation status in MCBC;
 - e) acquire and take by purchase, donation, devise or otherwise all kinds of real and personal property and to sell, exchange, mortgage, lease, let, improve, and develop the same and to erect buildings;
 - f) make, execute, endorse, discount, accept and issue negotiable and financial instruments;
 - g) consider matters that do not come under the responsibility of any one of the ministry leaders or committees; and
 - h) in order to carry out the purpose of MCBC the Leadership Board may, on behalf of and in the name of MCBC, raise or secure the payment or repayment of money in such manner as it decides. The delegates may restrict the borrowing powers of the Leadership Board by special resolution, which may be amended from time to time as defined in the Societies Act (British Columbia).
3. A quorum shall consist of the majority of its members.

By-Law No. 17 Executive Officers

The Executive officers namely the MCBC Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, and the Finance Committee Chair, shall perform the following functions:

1. The Moderator shall:
 - a) preside at all sessions of MCBC;
 - b) preside at Executive Committee and Leadership Board meetings; and
 - c) attend meetings of other committees, upon their specific request and act in an ex-officio capacity.
2. The Vice-Moderator shall exercise all rights and duties of the Moderator in the absence, or during the incapacity of the Moderator, and assist him/her in whatever way he/she can.
3. The secretary shall:
 - a) record, transcribe and distribute the minutes of MCBC sessions, Leadership Board and Executive Committee meetings;
 - b) ensure the safekeeping of all minutes, records and papers documents belonging to MCBC and located at the MCBC office; and
 - c) assist the Moderator and Vice-Moderator as needed.
4. The Finance Committee Chair shall assume responsibility for managing the treasury including:
 - a) prepare and review the financial statements of the Society;
 - b) recommend financial policies and procedures as needed;
 - c) recommend investment policies and procedures as needed;
 - d) ensure that MCBC has implemented appropriate systems to identify, monitor, and mitigate

MCBC BY-LAWS cont.

- significant business risks;
- e) monitor the review of expense claims; and
- f) review proposed budgets submitted and prepare the budget for the coming year.

By-Law No. 18 Executive Committee and Responsibilities

The Executive Committee shall:

1. consist of the Executive Officers. The Executive Minister and Office Administrator shall attend in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity.
2. be responsible for planning the Leadership Board agenda and making decisions on urgent matters between Leadership Board meetings that cannot wait until the next meeting. These decisions will be brought to the Leadership Board for ratification;
3. be authorized to execute any and all legal documents for MCBC; and
4. be responsible for the ongoing operations of MCBC on a day to day basis and report to the leadership board.

By-Law No. 19 Committees, Ministries and Task Groups

MCBC shall have the following standing committees responsible for the following areas:

1. Finance (up to five elected participants)
2. Camp Squeah (up to eight affirmed participants)

Task groups will be formed upon the consent of the Leadership Board. MCBC activities conducted by task groups shall be grouped into the following ministries under the leadership of a respective ministry leader:

1. Cultivating Anabaptist Vision
2. Engaging God's World
3. Growing Community

On an annual basis, task groups and committees, including the Leadership Board, will review their vision, mission and objectives.

By-Law No. 20 Special Committee/Ad hoc Committees

MCBC Leadership Board and the Executive Committee may appoint temporary task groups for special assignments. The respective body appointing them shall define the rights and duties of such task groups.

By-Law No. 21 Election, Organization of Committees and Common Duties

1. Elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting to designate Executive Officers, Ministry Leaders, Nominations Coordinator and Finance Committee members. Elections shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order. The Nominations Coordinator, with further nominations to be received from the floor, shall present nominations for each vacant office in the Leadership Board and the Finance Committee. Any member of a Recognized Congregation shall be eligible for election.
2. Organization: Finance Committee and Camp Squeah Committee shall elect its chairpersons from among its participants. The responsibility to convene the meeting to elect a new chairperson shall be vested in the out-going chair. Task groups shall select a chairperson/coordinator/contact person from their respective participants and shall be connected to Leadership Board through

MCBC BY-LAWS cont.

communication with their respective Ministry Leader.

3. Common Duties:
 - a) All committees shall keep a record of all meetings and make records available to the Leadership Board.
 - b) Ministry Leaders will prudently monitor budgets entrusted to Task Groups in their ministry team and shall present budget proposals to the Leadership Board for the ensuing year.
 - c) Task Groups will coordinate with their respective Ministry Leader to meet with the Leadership Board as the need arises.
 - d) Each committee is responsible for preparing a report for the Annual Meeting and submitting it to the MCBC office by December 31 or as otherwise determined.
 - e) Committees may appoint, subject to Leadership Board approval, task groups for specific areas of work and are charged with oversight of those task groups.

By-Law No. 22 Tenure and Limitations

1. All elected positions shall be for a three-year term unless filling a vacancy or allowing for the occasional adjustment to keep terms staggered.
2. The limit for consecutive service in elected positions on Leadership Board and Finance Committee is three terms.
3. No MCBC employee shall serve on Leadership Board or Finance Committee except in an ex-officio capacity.
4. Any officer or committee member who fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings without valid reasons or whose behaviour is detrimental to MCBC may, in conversation with the chair of the committee, forfeit his/her position. If the forfeiture takes place, the Leadership Board shall be informed of this action and appoint a new member to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting.
5. There is no time limitation for participating on the Camp Squeah committee or any task group.

By-Law No. 23 Vacancies

Where a vacancy occurs during the term of office and such vacancy does not substantially affect the work of MCBC, the position shall remain vacant until MCBC fills the vacancy at the next Annual Meeting. If a vacancy substantially affects the work of MCBC, the Leadership Board shall instruct the Nominations Coordinator to identify a suitable replacement. The Leadership Board shall then make the appointment so that the term of office shall end at the next Annual Meeting.

By-Law No. 24 Examination of Financial Statements

The Leadership Board shall annually appoint two persons apart from the Finance Committee to review all financial statements of MCBC and present their findings to the Annual Meeting.

By-Law No. 25 Corporate Seal

The Corporate Seal shall have inscribed thereon "Mennonite Church British Columbia". The seal of the MCBC shall be retained at the registered address of MCBC and shall be used by such of the officers as shall be decided by the Leadership Board.

By-Law No. 26 Property of MCBC

1. Property held in the name of MCBC shall be either:
 - a) administered directly by MCBC; or
 - b) held in trust for Recognized Congregations [except for such other arrangements made by

MCBC BY-LAWS cont.

- Leadership Board and ratified by MCBC].
2. Property at local church sites registered in the name of MCBC at the appropriate Land Title office shall be held in trust in accordance with the following:
 - a) the day-to-day management of assets at local church sites shall be conducted by that congregation including the financing and management of maintenance, operations and capital programs.
 - b) All legal and property transactions requiring MCBC approval not related to the sale of properties held in trust for Recognized Congregations shall be carried out according to the mutual decisions of that congregation as expressed by a decision of a duly constituted membership meeting of the congregation and of the Leadership Board.
 - c) All transactions related to the sale of properties held in trust for Recognized Congregations shall be carried out according to the mutual decisions of that congregation as expressed by a decision of a duly constituted membership meeting of the congregation and of MCBC.
 3. Recognized Congregations whose property at local church sites is registered in the name of MCBC at the Land Title Office can have the title to such property transferred to and registered in the name of the Recognized Congregation subject to them incorporating as a society under the BC Societies Act and obtaining the approval of the Leadership Board. A letter application must be submitted to MCBC with congregation meeting minutes showing congregation approval by a documented congregation voting process where the advantages and disadvantages of a property transfer are clearly identified and formally accepted.
 4. Property of Recognized Congregations at local church sites can be registered in the name of MCBC at the appropriate Land Title Office subject to the approval of Leadership Board. A letter application must be submitted to MCBC with congregation meeting minutes showing congregation approval by a documented congregation voting process where advantages and disadvantages of transferring property title to MCBC are clearly identified and formally accepted.
 5. In the event that a Recognized Congregation wishes to withdraw from MCBC (see By-Law No. 3) or dissolve, merge or divide as a congregation, it is the responsibility of MCBC to ensure the interests of all congregational members are taken into account and to mediate and facilitate agreement among the congregation with respect to property matters.

By-Law No. 27 Liabilities of MCBC

1. Subject to such exception as is hereinafter set out, each local congregation shall be entirely responsible for its financial obligations.
2. Where a local congregation proposes to incur indebtedness not exceeding the value of the local church site, and where MCBC is not required to produce security to the lender other than the duplicate certificate of title relating to the local church site, and where the lender acknowledges limitation of liability to the assets of the local church site, MCBC, through its Leadership Board shall forthwith upon request by the local congregation execute all proper documents with respect to the real property.
3. If acknowledgement of limitation of liability is not obtainable from the lender, or if a local congregation proposes to incur indebtedness for an amount greater than the market value of the local church site, or requires the unrestricted signature of MCBC, such local congregation may only do so with written consent of MCBC through its Leadership Board. In such instances, the local congregation shall submit an application to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall examine the merits of the application and make recommendations to the Leadership Board for acceptance or rejection of the application, together with such terms, as the Finance Committee may consider appropriate.

MCBC BY-LAWS cont.

By-Law No. 28 Fiscal year

The Fiscal Year of MCBC shall be from January 1 to December 31st in each year.

By Law No. 29 Amendments

1. The Constitution shall not be altered or added to except by special resolution of MCBC as defined by the Societies Act (British Columbia) and every such resolution must be passed by a 75% majority vote and shall be filed in duplicate with the British Columbia Registrar of Companies.
2. The By-Laws may be amended by at least a 75% majority vote of those present at an Annual Meeting, but shall not at any time be altered in any manner inconsistent with the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective. Proposed amendments shall be circulated to Recognized Congregations at least two months prior to the regular Annual Meeting.

By-Law No. 30 Maintenance of Minutes and other Records

The Executive Officers shall see that the Minutes of MCBC Annual Meetings, Executive Committee, Leadership Board and committee meetings and all necessary books and records of MCBC required by the By-Laws of MCBC or required by the Societies Act (British Columbia) are regularly and properly kept.

By-Law No. 31 Inspection of Books and Records

The books and records of MCBC may be inspected by representatives designated by member congregations on any business day at such place as the Leadership Board may from time to time specify.

By-Law No. 32 Dissolution, Winding Up

If upon dissolution or winding up of the Society there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, that property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members but shall be given or transferred to some other Canadian charitable organization or organization having cognate or similar objects, provided that such organization is a charitable organization within the meaning of the Income Tax Act for the time being in force. Such organization or organizations shall be determined by a majority of members attending the first meeting called by the liquidator on the dissolution or winding up of the Society. (This article was previously unalterable)

RESOLUTIONS

MCBC 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Resolution #1

Be it Resolved that the Agenda for the 2024 Annual Meeting be approved as presented.

Resolution #2

Be it Resolved that the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting be approved as presented.

Resolution #3

Be it resolved that the amendments to the use of the proceeds from the sale of the Peardonville property by the MCBC Fund Discernment Task Group as highlighted in the Funds Discernment Report – Updated Nov. 25, 2023 be approved.

Resolution #4

Be it Resolved that the 2023 Camp Squeah Financial Statements be accepted as presented.

Resolution #5

Be it Resolved that the 2023 Camp Squeah Budget be approved as presented.

Resolution #6

Be it Resolved that the 2023 Mennonite Church BC Financial Statements be accepted as presented.

Resolution #7

Be it Resolved that the 2023 Mennonite Church BC Combined Financial Statements be accepted as presented.

Resolution #8

Be it Resolved that the 2024 Mennonite Church BC Budget be approved as presented.

Resolution #9

Be it Resolved that the Nominees, as set out in and added to the Nomination Chart, be elected.

Resolution #10

Be it Resolved that the Participants, as set out in and added to the Nomination Chart, be affirmed.

Resolution #11

Be it Resolved that the reports as printed in the Annual Report Book and presented by video and audibly be accepted.

Resolution #12

Be it Resolved that we express appreciation to Emmanuel Mennonite Church along with Level Ground Mennonite Church and Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church for hosting the LEAD Conference and Annual Meeting.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

MODERATOR'S REPORT

EVENTS OF NOTE

- Shel Boese was hired to be our next Executive Minister. Shel started on August 1, 2023 and has already visited many MCBC congregations. Have you checked with Shel to book a visit?
- Josh Willms was hired to be our Youth Director working in a half-time position. Josh started on January 22, 2024.
- Keith St. Jean was hired to be our communications coordinator and to assist with MCBC administration. Keith started on September 13, 2023.
- Columbia Bible College Board with MCBC representatives hired a new CBC president, Dr. Steve Brown from Arrow Leadership in Abbotsford who will start on Feb. 1, 2024.
- Valley Road Church in Kelowna, an MCBC church plant had their first service on January 7, 2024 under the leadership of Jordan Pilgrim. Approximately forty persons were in attendance.
- The Peardonville property sale closed on January 15, 2024. Funds were received and deposited. The Investment Fund Management Task Group is providing recommendations for investing the proceeds until the funds are required. Revitalization projects are now utilizing Peardonville property sale proceeds.
- A Young Adult Anabaptist Conference Planning Task Group was formed to organize a Young Adult Anabaptist Conference for an Active Future scheduled for June, 2024 at Camp Squeah.
- The Funds Discernment Report to utilize Peardonville sale funds was updated.
- The Faith in Today's Church Task Group presented a forum on polarization.
- A coffee shop evening and an art auction were organized by the Finance Committee with assistance from the Indigenous Relations Task Group to raise funds to support the Indigenous Relations program.

God has provided us with many blessings and many opportunities. How has MCBC used what God has provided to support and encourage flourishing congregations in 2023?

All the normal events sustain us – pastor's meetings, insurance policies, pastor/family retreat, MCBC Connect, Annual Meetings, Camp Squeah visits, etc.

Jennifer Regehr and myself attend MC Canada Joint Council meetings. Discussions focus on supporting congregations, our covenant relationship and mutual support with the other Regional Churches, our international witness program, renewing agreements with the Canadian Mennonite magazine, developing new documents for pastoral leadership and participation in church organizations such as Mennonite World Conference and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada [EFC].

What will Leadership Board talk about in 2024? We will talk about supporting Valley Road Church in Kelowna. We will talk about helping MCBC congregations and supporting pastors. We will talk about task groups and their relationships to congregations. We will talk about youth ministry and children's programs. We will talk about church plant possibilities. We will talk about responding to congregations that are interested in exploring a relationship with MCBC because of our Anabaptist focus.

We want to recognize the contributions and commitment of MCBC staff. They spend copious amounts of time and energy to organize, communicate, and provide dedicated services to MCBC congregation. Thanks to Shel Boese (Executive Minister), Kevin Barkowsky (Church Engagement Minister), Josh Willms (Youth Director), Janette Thiessen (Office Administrator) and Keith St. Jean (Communications Coordinator). Thanks to Ken Dueck for serving as our Communications Coordinator until Keith started. And we want to acknowledge the willingness of Kevin to serve us as an Interim Executive Minister from January 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023 until Shel started in August, 2023. We also thank Bridget Findlay for her work in the Partners for Reconciliation joint program with Mennonite Central Committee.

We praise God for directing and guiding our collaborative efforts as we strive to follow the direction that Jesus leads us. We give thanks to all those who have devoted time, energy and inspiration to embrace the vision of MCBC.

MCBC Leadership Board graciously thanks congregations, donors, and volunteers for your participation, donations, and prayers.

May God's blessings, assurance, and hope be with your congregations in 2024.

Gerry Grunau
Moderator, MCBC

Greetings MCBC family!

This is not exactly an “annual” report, more like a five month learning reflection as your new Executive Minister (still struggling with that way too businessy title). Since August 1st I have made it a priority, with the blessing of the powers/Executive Committee, to simply get to know our churches. I have met with most of our pastors and been in most of our congregations. It’s been a joy to preach, participate in pastoral installations, consult on searches, work with the Credentials and Calling Task Group catching up on the credentialing needs of our churches, and being part of the Funds Discernment for Revitalization and New Congregations. In addition to this and ongoing executive tasks, I shared some teaching and conversations around being Jesus Centre-Set at the Fall Pastor/Spouse Retreat, started to participate in the three Mennonite Church Canada roles this position requires (EMG: Executive Ministers Group, CLM: Church Leadership Ministries, JC: Joint Council), and continue to dream with our leadership board about the next seasons in MCBC.

Based on what I am seeing and hearing I believe my priorities for the next 2-3 years should be shaped around 4 main areas:

NEW CONGREGATIONS AND REVITALIZATION

New Congregations

A wonderful opportunity for a new congregation presented itself through my connections with Jesus Collective in Jordan and Elizabeth Pilgrim. They had been sensing a call to start a church that would centre more on Jesus and be less bounded in its view of living out the faith. We had multiple conversations and some shared prayers in discerning if MCBC might be a good fit. The beautiful work of the Holy Spirit seemed quite apparent, from a building they had used pre-covid for a site of worship opening up again, to MCBC having some resources from the closure of another church. We had 23 churches when I started, now its 23+1 baby.

We have also had four congregations/groups contact us about aligning with MCBC mostly because of MC Canada’s willingness to let there be tension and debate around inclusion. Discerning a better way to approach these conversations amongst ourselves, and our cultural differences and tensions, is an important task ahead while affirming our Confession of Faith as a centring document.

Revitalization

I have been in conversation with a group called Cyclical Full Circle <https://cyclicalfullcircle.com/> . They have a three step approach to walking with churches that desire to make deep change and renew. One of our churches is exploring this partnership as a possible option. My background is in church planting and transition/revitalization, a life-long passion.

Revitalization includes leadership development helping churches have a concerted focus on evangelization and next generations that fits the congregational DNA.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER REPORT

**PASTORAL LEADERSHIP
AND SUPPORT TRAINING**

Our pastors and lay leaders look to the Regional Church (in addition to other networks) for support, challenge, and care. Our Faith in Today's World Task Group and Pastoral Care Task Group (PCTG) attend to these while working in tandem with the Executive Minister. I would like to see the PCTG be re-invigorated and take the lead to establish more supports for pastors and churches.

We also have a great potential partner in the Jesus Collective. It has learning collectives and other gatherings that complement our Anabaptist theology. It might be worth the effort to explore network affiliation for additional resourcing and childrens/youth curriculum options.

**FIXING OUR STRUCTURAL DEFICIT THROUGH
THE CREATION OF A THIRD INCOME STREAM**

This is a major issue we need to address. The problem is spending more than our sustainable income streams produce (average donations from individual and average budgeted local church support) - this is a structural (built into the budget commitments) deficit. Healthy organizations do not run these long term. This is different from cyclical deficits which, for example, a church experiences during the summer months.

Organizations finding themselves in a structural deficit adjust spending, cut staff, cut programming, etc. And they try to increase SUSTAINABLE income streams.

Enter the sale of Peardonville. Using this property sale to start an endowment to fund the things we have agreed to do together instead of simply spending it all and being in a worse situation in 3-5 years from now is something to look at soon for wisdom's sake.

We depend on local church budget support and also individual donors (Thank YOU! For faithful support and giving!), until we revitalize as a whole Regional Church those resources are shrinking. So what is a way out? Not budgeting by spending all the principle, but building an endowment and mostly spending interest earnings, instead of principle. Aligning our budget inline with the three income streams.

This is a stewardship mindset and shift that we must explore. It will require creativity and courageous choices.

**CENTRE SET APPROACH
TO UNITY: JESUS**

I saved the best for last. What is the commonality we have that can unify us sufficiently for shared mission/sharing Jesus, care for next generations, peace and justice empowered by the Holy Spirit? Well it comes down to one word: Jesus. This is not new to our Anabaptist movement, yet vision "leaks" overtime and other voices clamour for our attention. We are lowercase "o" orthodox

Christians, we affirm the scandal of outrageous love we can know through Jesus. We must work to keep the centre clear from other pet doctrines and opinions (which will vary in emphasis from church to church), that while important in manifesting God's Kingdom, the Lord of the Kingdom (some prefer Kindom or Reign) must be Jesus.

CENTRE SET APPROACH
CONTINUED

Our causes will pass away, our secondary doctrines, etc cannot be put in the centre. We are more united when focusing on who we are trying to be like and trajectory towards Christ than what we disagree on.

This requires a re-baptism of our imaginations and our approaches to how we see the human condition. It requires holding tension on many other things, but it is worth the effort to be a different kind of church for the sake of the word of the Lord of Life and Love in British Columbia.

Dear ones,

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, we must get rid of every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and run with endurance the race set out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set out for him he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12.1-2

NOW having said all that, I am new, learning, and will indeed make some glorious mistakes as I lean into this role. Thank you for your grace and wise words in advance. Your prayers are appreciated. A big "Thank You" to our staff team and leadership board new and old for their service to our Regional Church. We exist because of you.

In Christ who holds it all together,

Rev. Dr. Boese
MCBC Executive Minister



2024 MCBC Annual General Meeting

CHURCH ENGAGEMENT & INTERIM

EXECUTIVE MINISTER REPORT

It was an honour to be Interim Executive Minister and help bridge MCBC between two great leaders, Garry Janzen and Shel Boese. My prayer was to serve in a way that facilitated a healthy transition from Garry to Shel and provide as much stability as possible. Thanks to MCBC board & staff for their help.

<https://canadianmennonite.org/mc-bc-appoints-interim-executive-minister>

MCBC Summer 2023 Sermon Videos: Four MCBC leaders preached four "Sermons in the Psalms". <https://youtu.be/s4Y1htCudGQ?feature=shared>
In 2024, we will provide four new MCBC Psalm sermon videos for MCBC churches' summer use.

Travelled to Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam Conference (Saigon) and connected with churches all around South Vietnam. Feb 2-15, 2023. <https://canadianmennonite.org/stories/what-mennonite> Travelled with Garry Janzen, Nhien Pham and Jeanette Hanson, taught and made connections at our churches. <https://youtu.be/Kn4jPpTtr3s>. Travelling to Vietnam helped connect in new ways with the Vietnamese Church at Sherbrooke.

Mennonite Church South Korea. Oct 5-23, 2023. Travelled with Ken and Sharon Lee, Jeanette Hanson, <https://youtu.be/b1S7OWKgzS4>. Celebrated 10 years of International Witness for Bock Ki and Sook Kyoung. <https://youtu.be/l7Zr97nJVA>. Explored the "Sprouts of Anabaptism." Travelling to Korea helped connect with our Korean Group at Sherbrooke and opened up the doors to connect with Korean Anabaptist networks in BC.

Please join our International Witness zoom meetings throughout the year and celebrate International Witness Sunday with your church. Together with Jeanette Hanson I continued to strengthen connections with our non-English churches and pastors around the globe and in MCBC.

Sherbrooke International Mennonite Church updates: Mennonites Speaking in Tongues. If the Pentecostals can put up with each other speaking in tongues, we Anabaptists can have brothers and sisters at our church speak and sing in their own language-tongues and see it as an essential expression of our worship. This is the new wave of the Holy Spirit that God is doing at Sherbrooke. As Lead Pastor at Sherbrooke (1/2 time), it is an honour to be a part of this.

<https://canadianmennonite.org/stories/cross-culture-three-languages-on-e-church>

It was an honour to be chosen as one of the top Canadian Mennonite 2023 Headline Highlights by Executive Editor Will Braun.

<https://canadianmennonite.org/stories/highlights-2023>

CHURCH REVITALIZATION

Funds Distribution Task Group: Chan Yang, Jorge Hoajaca and Emanuel Denquessi.

For 2024, eight MCBC churches and one Young Adults group will be funded.

Level Ground Mennonite Church
15,000

White Rock Mennonite Church (Mandarin)
12,000

Yarrow United Mennonite Church
12,000

Sherbrooke Mennonite Church
8,000

First United Spanish Mennonite Church
15,000

Peace Richmond Mennonite Church
15,000

Black Creek United Mennonite Church
15,000

Young Adults Group Squeah Conference
4000

Langley Mennonite Fellowship
7,500

Total Disbursements 2024
103,500

* Max per congregation is \$70,000 over 10 years.

Donor Relations, Funds Distribution Task Group, engaging with pastors, leaders and churches, organizing Valley/Vancouver Pastor Meetings, Squeah Retreats, IT lead and worship for MCBC events, MC Canada Executive Minister Meetings, concentration on Non-English churches.
Kevin Barkowsky
MCBC Church Engagement Minister

Return to Table of Contents

2024 MCBC Annual General Meeting

FINANCE REPORT

Thanks to congregations and individuals who graciously sent donations to support Mennonite Church BC and Nationwide Ministry (NWM) operations. Final giving amounts for 2023 were:

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual
Congregational Donations: MCBC Budget	\$134,000	\$130,470
Congregational Donations: NWM Budget	\$57,000	\$46,073
Individual Donations MCBC Budget	\$103,000	\$54,992

In addition to the above, the following amounts were sent for our Nationwide Ministries:

Congregational Donations - Witness Workers/Special Projects	\$ 4,750
Individual Donations - NWM Budget Program Funding	\$ 5,400
Individual Donations - NWM Partner Project Related Organizations	\$23,625
Individual Donations - NWM Relational Funding	\$ 4,900

Congregational donations for MCBC Budget in 2023 were \$3,530 short of our budget. The amount donated this year is especially appreciated, as most of our member churches have been struggling to meet their donation commitments due to reduction in attendance and revenue. Our budget for the year is based on these commitments.

Individual donations were below the budgeted amount. For the donors who were able to contribute we are also extremely thankful. Two live fundraising events were held in 2023. These included a coffee-house at Cedar Valley Church on February 18 and an Art Festival in Vancouver in May. Total funds raised by the two events was approximately \$15,000. The funds raised by these events have been applied to our Indigenous Relations budget.

The 2023 MCBC Income and Expense Report shows a year end gross deficit of \$170,143. This deficit was covered by the remaining Mountainview fund (\$17,970), funds from the MCBC portion of the Peardonville Fund (non-refundable deposit received in 2023) and the balance with a withdrawal from our Operating Reserve fund, reducing it to below \$200,000 for 2024.

The proposed Budget for 2024 reflects similar funding priorities to those in 2023 plus some new programs. These include funding for a new Youth Director position and funding for a church plant in Kelowna. Both initiatives are approved for funding by the new Peardonville fund.

Revenue projections:

Church donations are based on an indication from each member church of their intended donation for 2024. Individual donations are anticipated to be close to the 2023 actual levels.

Expenses for 2024:

Spending on operations and most ministries as listed will be close to the 2023 amounts. Funding for the following major programs has been included in the 2024 budget:

- A general budget of \$100,000 for church revitalization projects is included for 2024 and is covered by the new Peardonville fund.
- Kelowna Church Plant \$163,159 includes pastors' salary, facility rental and miscellaneous expenses. Donations received from Church Plant congregants will offset the expenses.
- a \$60,000 subsidy to CBC. This subsidy has been reduced to reflect the reduction in our congregational membership, donations and MCBC student attendance to CBC over the past few years. We hope to increase the subsidy amount when these parameters improve.

2024 MCBC Annual General Meeting

FINANCE REPORT cont.

The proposed 2024 budget will continue funding a half-time MCBC Church Engagement Minister position. The source of funding for this position is MCBC's 10% portion of the Peardonville Fund. MCBC will continue to provide financial support for the cost-sharing partnership with Mennonite Central Committee to employ an Indigenous Relations Coordinator in 2024. All funding related to the Indigenous Relations Coordinator is funded from the 10% Indigenous Relations portion of the Peardonville Fund. Any fundraising done by the Indigenous Relations Task Group will offset the amount IRC expenses included Bridget's cost-sharing arrangement. The proposed 2024 budget also includes salary cost for full-time Office Administrator, full-time Executive Minister, part-time Communications Co-ordinator, and the new half-time Youth Director. The Kelowna Church plant pastor is paid as an employee of MCBC with his cost and church plant expenses being covered by 80% of the Peardonville funds.

The total payroll cost budgeted for 2024 at \$335,568 is significantly higher than the 2023 total. Part of the increase is for a 3-year catchup increase in the cost-of-living allowance applied to all staff salaries. The salary for the new Youth Director and the increase in cost of the EM for a full year in 2024 vs. five months in the 2023 budget also contributed to the payroll increase.

The proposed 2024 budget includes interest earnings from the \$5.8 million Peardonville Fund, estimated at \$278,400, With expenses eligible for the Peardonville fund (total \$402,515) covered, the resulting net deficit is \$121,417. This amount will have to be withdrawn from Unrestricted Reserves.

To achieve the current objectives of the Leadership Team, the increased staff cost and programs included in the 2024 budget are deemed necessary for the next two years. The resulting deficits will be covered by funding from the Peardonville fund and the operating reserve fund.

Operating with such large, budgeted deficits cannot be sustained year after year. It is anticipated that if after the next two years our income levels do not improve and the budget deficits persist, MCBC will need to relook at staffing and program costs.

Deficit budgets for the past three years have depleted the unrestricted reserve fund to a level that is below the amount recommended for a non-profit organization (50% of annual expenses). Revenue will have to increase or expenses will have to decrease enough to balance the budget for future years.

In addition to budget and income/expense deliberations, the Finance Committee spent time discussing donor relations, investment policies, church ownership, and managing the Peardonville property. The committee also organized a donor appreciation event in December where individual donors were phoned and thanked for their donations.

Many thanks to committee members Richard Hordyk, Chan Yang, Steve Unger, Kevin Barkowsky (Jan-Jul) and Shel Boese (Aug-Dec) and Janette Thiessen for their attention to financial details and their commitment to organize fundraising events. Sharon Zacharias is recognized for her significant expertise in preparing our financial statements and keeping our finances in order. May your continued support bless the work of the church as it follows the inspiration of Jesus.

Tom Miller
On behalf of the Finance Committee

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



Financial Statements of **Mennonite Church British Columbia**

Year ended December 31, 2023
(prepared by executive)

2024 MCBC Annual General Meeting

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2023, with comparatives for 2022
(Prepared by executive)

	Operating Fund	Mountainview Fund	NWM Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
Assets					
Current assets:					
Cash	\$ 67,483	-	48,300	\$ 115,783	\$ 3,850
Cash - restricted	23,878	-	-	23,878	29,212
Investments	2,110,762	-	4,394	2,115,156	383,013
Accounts receivable	39,724	-	-	39,724	27,725
Prepaid expenses	963	-	-	963	-
	<u>2,242,810</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,694</u>	<u>2,295,504</u>	<u>443,800</u>
Restricted funds - endowment	42,112	-	-	42,112	40,000
Property and equipment	525,090	-	-	525,090	525,090
	<u>\$ 2,810,012</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,694</u>	<u>\$ 2,862,706</u>	<u>\$ 1,008,890</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balances					
Current liabilities:					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 10,364	-	48,300	\$ 58,664	\$ 34,704
Deposits on sale of property	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000	-
	<u>2,010,364</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,300</u>	<u>2,058,664</u>	<u>34,704</u>
Fund balances:					
Property and equipment fund	525,090	-	-	525,090	525,090
Internally restricted funds	11,040	-	-	11,040	32,899
Externally restricted funds	23,878	-	4,394	28,272	29,212
Endowment funds	42,112	-	-	42,112	40,000
Operating fund	197,528	-	-	197,528	346,985
	<u>799,648</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,394</u>	<u>804,042</u>	<u>974,186</u>
	<u>\$ 2,810,012</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,694</u>	<u>\$ 2,862,706</u>	<u>\$ 1,008,890</u>

On behalf of the Leadership Board:

Director

Director

2024 MCBC Annual General Meeting

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparatives for 2022
(Prepared by executive)

	Total 2023 (Schedule 1)	Total 2022
Revenue:		
Donations - church	\$ 181,294	\$ 186,125
Donations - individuals and other	104,909	122,514
Donations - endowment	-	40,000
Miscellaneous	75,735	59,978
Interest	23,666	9,109
	<u>385,604</u>	<u>417,726</u>
Expenses:		
Annual session	3,225	394
Bank charges and interest	2,021	1,643
CBC subsidy	100,000	100,000
Committee	2,373	-
Communications	2,105	2,034
Counselling	500	1,176
Insurance	4,282	4,505
Leadership and pastoral care	14,463	9,213
MCC subsidy - Indigenous Relations	35,000	35,000
Miscellaenous and other	14,344	17,967
Nation Wide Ministry	73,325	50,970
Periodical	8,177	8,770
Professional fees	4,363	3,322
Rent	9,525	9,525
Salaries and benefits	196,518	236,903
Subsidies	44,399	64,954
Supplies and postage	9,949	7,494
Telephone	1,378	1,611
Travel and meetings	10,145	30,629
Women's and Youth & Young Adult ministries	19,656	21,889
	<u>555,748</u>	<u>607,999</u>
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (170,144)	\$ (190,273)

MCBC 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparatives for 2022
(Prepared by executive)

	Property and Equipment Fund	Internally Restricted Funds	Externally Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Operating Fund	2023 Total	2022 Total
Fund balances, beginning of year	\$ 525,090	32,899	29,212	40,000	346,985	\$ 974,186	\$ 1,164,459
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	(69,345)	10,484	2,112	(113,395)	(170,144)	(190,273)
Interfund transfers	-	47,486	(11,424)	-	(36,062)	-	-
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 525,090	11,040	28,272	42,112	197,528	\$ 804,042	\$ 974,186

For MCBC Statement of Changes in Fund Balances see Schedule 6

MCBC 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Statement of Operations - MCBC Summary
Schedule 1

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparatives for 2022
(Prepared by executive)

		Operating Fund	Mountainview Fund	NWM Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
Revenue:						
Congregation Support (Schedule 2)	\$	257,262	-	84,749	\$ 342,011	\$ 395,061
Growing Community (Schedule 3)		27,277	-	-	27,277	15,265
Engaging God's Word (Schedule 4)		-	16,316	-	16,316	7,400
Cultivating Anabaptist Vision (Schedule 5)		-	-	-	-	-
		284,539	16,316	84,749	385,604	417,726
Expenses:						
Congregation Support (Schedule 2)		265,478	-	74,087	339,565	372,010
Growing Community (Schedule 3)		34,221	-	-	34,221	35,578
Engaging God's Word (Schedule 4)		-	81,772	-	81,772	99,954
Cultivating Anabaptist Vision (Schedule 5)		100,190	-	-	100,190	100,457
		399,889	81,772	74,087	555,748	607,999
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$	(115,350)	(65,456)	10,662	\$ (170,144)	\$ (190,273)

2024 MCBC Annual General Meeting

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Statement of Operations - Congregational Support
Schedule 2

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparatives for 2022
(Prepared by executive)

	Operating Fund	NWM Fund	2023 Total	2022 Total
Revenue:				
Annual session	\$ 3,225	-	\$ 3,225	\$ 394
Church donations	130,470	50,824	181,294	186,125
Individual donations	54,743	33,925	88,668	114,314
Endowment donation	-	-	-	40,000
Interest and miscellaneous	23,666	-	23,666	9,096
Periodical	8,178	-	8,178	8,653
Rental	36,980	-	36,980	36,479
MCBC travel/NWM	-	-	-	-
	257,262	84,749	342,011	395,061
Expenses:				
Operating:				
Annual session	3,225	-	3,225	394
CBC Camp Match Program	-	-	-	500
Clearbrook Mennonite Church (property)	12,333	-	12,333	8,365
Counseling	500	-	500	1,176
Executive committee/NWM travel	-	762	762	11,285
Executive/Church Engagement Ministers travel/exp	9,383	-	9,383	19,344
Executive minister professional growth	-	-	-	627
Executive Minister Search Task	1,144	-	1,144	2,398
Miscellaneous:				
Public performance video license	452	-	452	458
Miscellaneous	123	-	123	5,313
Nationwide Ministry:				
Relational/PPRO	-	28,525	28,525	2,250
MCBC contributions	-	44,800	44,800	48,720
Office:				
Bank charges	2,021	-	2,021	1,643
Supplies and postage	9,949	-	9,949	7,494
Insurance	4,282	-	4,282	4,505
Professional fees	4,363	-	4,363	3,322
Rent	9,525	-	9,525	9,525
Telephone	1,378	-	1,378	1,611
Periodical	8,177	-	8,177	8,770
Communications:				
News 'n Notes/promotion	214	-	214	292
Website development	1,205	-	1,205	1,337
Other	686	-	686	405
Salaries and benefits	196,518	-	196,518	232,276
	265,478	74,087	339,565	372,010
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ (8,216)	10,662	\$ 2,446	\$ 23,051

MCBC 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Statement of Operations - Growing Community
Schedule 3

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparatives for 2022
(Prepared by executive)

		Operating Fund	Mountainview Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
Revenue:					
Womens' Ministry	\$	11,163	-	\$ 11,163	\$ 8,390
Leadership events		14,404	-	14,404	6,075
Individual donations		-	-	-	800
Other		1,710	-	1,710	-
		<u>27,277</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,277</u>	<u>15,265</u>
Expenses:					
Plant support:					
Medical premiums		-	-	-	4,000
Other:					
Pastors bursaries		-	-	-	1,000
Resource materials		765	-	765	250
Womens' Ministry		12,333	-	12,333	13,307
Leadership		13,698	-	13,698	7,963
Youth		7,323	-	7,323	8,582
Other		102	-	102	476
		<u>34,221</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,221</u>	<u>31,578</u>
Total expenses		34,221	-	34,221	35,578
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$	(6,944)	-	\$ (6,944)	(20,313)

2024 MCBC Annual General Meeting

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Statement of Operations - Engaging God's World
Schedule 4

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparatives for 2022
(Prepared by executive)

	Mountainview Fund 2023	Mountainview Fund 2022
Revenue:		
Indigenous Relations Coordinator	\$ 16,241	\$ 7,400
Other	75	-
	<u>16,316</u>	<u>7,400</u>
Expenses:		
MCC Subsidy Indigenous Relations	35,000	35,000
Indigenous relations other	2,373	-
Subsidies:		
Chinatown Peace Church	3,600	7,200
Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church	-	12,500
First United Spanish Mennonite Church	15,000	15,000
Living Hope Christian Fellowship	10,000	10,000
Peace Mennonite Church	15,000	12,188
Coaching	799	6,179
Other	-	1,125
Resourcing/Training	-	762
	<u>81,772</u>	<u>99,954</u>
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (65,456)	\$ (92,554)

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Statement of Operations - Cultivating Anabaptist Vision
Schedule 5

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparatives for 2022
(Prepared by executive)

	Operating Fund 2023	Operating Fund 2022
Expenses:		
CBC Subsidy	100,000	100,000
Intercultural Church Task Group	190	457
	<u>100,190</u>	<u>100,457</u>
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (100,190)	\$ (100,457)

MCBC 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances - MCBC
Schedule 6

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparatives for 2022
(Prepared by executive)

	Property and Equipment Fund	Internally Restricted - Replacement Reserve Fund	Internally Restricted - Mountainview Sale Fund	Internally Restricted - Women's Ministry	Externally Restricted - NWM Travel Fund	Externally Restricted - NWM Fund	Externally Restricted - Counselling Fund	Endowment Memorial Fund	Operating Fund	2023 Total	2022 Total
Fund balances, beginning of year	\$ 525,080	2,719	17,970	12,210	5,156	-	24,056	40,000	346,985	\$ 974,186	\$ 1,164,459
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	(2,719)	(65,456)	(1,170)	(762)	11,424	(178)	2,112	(113,366)	(170,144)	(190,273)
Interfund transfers	-	-	47,486	-	-	(11,424)	-	-	(36,062)	-	-
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 525,080	-	-	11,040	4,394	-	23,878	42,112	197,528	\$ 804,042	\$ 974,186

Property and Equipment Fund
Internally Restricted - Replacement Reserve Fund
Internally Restricted - Mountainview Sale Fund
Externally Restricted - Women's Ministry
Externally Restricted - NWM Travel Fund
Externally Restricted - NWM Fund
Externally Restricted - Counselling Fund
Endowment Memorial Fund
Operating Fund

Equity invested in property and equipment
Reserve for equipment replacements
Internally restricted funds for use in projects specified by MCBC
Accumulated excess of revenue over expenses (restricted for Women's Ministry)
Externally restricted funds for future travel for NWM
Externally restricted funds for future NWM expenses
Externally restricted funds for counselling purposes
Endowment funds held for the purpose of providing awards from endowment income to students training for pastoral or missions ministries
Accumulated excess of revenue over expenses (unrestricted)



COMPILED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF MENNONITE CHURCH BC

Year ended 31 / 12 / 2023

COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



**KINDER SIDHU
& ASSOCIATES INC.**
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Suite 203, 3550 Mt. Lehman Road
Abbotsford, BC V4X 2M9
Tel: 604-870-1141
Fax: 604-870-1152
Website: www.ksa.ca

COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To Management of Mennonite Church British Columbia

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the statement of financial position of Mennonite Church British Columbia as at December 31, 2023 and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances for the year then ended and Note 1, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information ("financial information").

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services ("CSRS") 4200, *Compilation Engagements*, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

We did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

The comparative figures were compiled by management.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kinder Sidhu & Associates Inc.', is written over a faint, light-colored watermark of the same text.

Kinder Sidhu & Associates Inc.
Chartered Professional Accountants

Abbotsford, British Columbia
February 6, 2024

COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Compiled Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2023, with comparative figures for 2022

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 806,474	\$ 574,727
Cash - restricted	173,113	142,094
Accounts receivable	51,573	43,782
Inventory	28,857	15,627
Prepaid expenses	963	-
Investments	2,115,156	383,013
	<u>3,176,136</u>	<u>1,159,243</u>
Restricted funds - endowment	42,112	40,000
Capital assets	4,545,717	4,538,988
	<u>\$ 7,763,965</u>	<u>\$ 5,738,231</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 111,474	\$ 92,963
Deposits	2,054,658	41,438
	<u>2,166,132</u>	<u>134,401</u>
Fund balances:		
Invested in capital assets (Note 2)	4,545,717	4,538,988
Internally restricted funds (Note 2)	216,691	205,646
Externally restricted funds	173,113	142,094
Endowment funds	42,112	40,000
Operating fund - unrestricted (Note 2)	620,200	677,102
	<u>5,597,833</u>	<u>5,603,830</u>
	<u>\$ 7,763,965</u>	<u>\$ 5,738,231</u>

See accompanying notes to compiled financial information.

COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Compiled Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparative figures for 2022

	Operating Fund	Endowment Fund	Externally Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Revenue:					
Camp ministry, program and related revenue	\$ 1,430,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,430,750	\$ 964,387
Donations - church and individuals	368,341	-	-	368,341	335,605
Rent	80,436	-	-	80,436	79,088
Interest and miscellaneous income	78,676	2,112	322	81,110	49,224
MCBC ministry and program	55,198	-	-	55,198	76,411
Restricted donations and other income	-	-	177,687	177,687	136,603
	2,013,401	2,112	178,009	2,193,522	1,641,318
Expenses:					
Advertising and promotion	21,919	-	-	21,919	5,175
Camp ministry and program expenses	31,106	-	-	31,106	28,264
Food and hospitality	267,529	-	-	267,529	177,511
Insurance	69,142	-	-	69,142	61,756
Interest and bank charges	2,358	-	-	2,358	7,039
MCBC ministry and program	40,681	-	-	40,681	34,776
NWM, bursaries and other	-	-	135,566	135,566	112,690
Office and miscellaneous	27,413	-	-	27,413	32,625
Professional development and training	5,739	-	-	5,739	3,816
Professional fees	4,363	-	-	4,363	-
Rent	9,525	-	-	9,525	9,525
Repairs and maintenance	103,545	-	-	103,545	55,111
Subscriptions and memberships	17,927	-	-	17,927	13,635
Subsidies and related expenses	181,771	-	-	181,771	203,954
Travel	7,919	-	-	7,919	19,214
Utilities	109,703	-	-	109,703	99,528
Wages and benefits	1,144,842	-	-	1,144,842	975,156
	2,045,482	-	135,566	2,181,048	1,839,775
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(32,081)	2,112	42,443	12,474	(198,457)
Loss on disposal of capital assets	(18,471)	-	-	(18,471)	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (50,552)	\$ 2,112	\$ 42,443	\$ (5,997)	\$ (198,457)

See accompanying notes to compiled financial information.

COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Compiled Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparative figures for 2022

	Operating Fund	Endowment Fund	Externally Restricted Fund	2023 Total	2022 Total
	(Note 2)				
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 5,421,736	\$ 40,000	\$ 142,094	\$ 5,603,830	\$ 5,802,287
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(50,552)	2,112	42,443	(5,997)	(198,457)
Interfund transfers	11,424	-	(11,424)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 5,382,608	\$ 42,112	\$ 173,113	\$ 5,597,833	\$ 5,603,830

See accompanying notes to compiled financial information.

COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MENNONITE CHURCH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Notes to the Compiled Financial Information

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparative figures for 2022

1. Basis of accounting:

The basis of accounting to be applied in the preparation of the financial information is on the historical cost basis, reflecting cash transactions with the addition of:

- accounts receivable
- inventory accounted for at cost on first in, first out basis
- investments recorded at cost
- capital assets recorded at historical cost
- accounts payable and accrued liabilities
- revenue recorded on the restricted fund method

2. Operating fund:

	Operating - unrestricted	Internally restricted	Invested in capital assets	2023 Total	2022 Total
Fund balance, beginning of year	\$ 677,102	\$ 205,646	\$ 4,538,988	\$ 5,421,736	\$ 5,621,407
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	37,264	(69,345)	(18,471)	(50,552)	(262,583)
Purchase of capital assets, net	(25,200)	-	25,200	-	-
Interfund transfers	(68,966)	80,390	-	11,424	62,912
	\$ 620,200	\$ 216,691	\$ 4,545,717	\$ 5,382,608	\$ 5,421,736

3. Payments to employees and contractors:

The Societies Act (British Columbia) requires the disclosure of remuneration paid by Mennonite Church British Columbia (the "Society") to employees and contractors whose remuneration was at least \$75,000, and any amounts of remuneration paid by the Society to directors.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, the Society paid total remuneration of \$157,713 to two employees for service, who received total annual remuneration of \$75,000 or greater. Included in remuneration is the cost of salaries and premiums for Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, workers compensation and benefits.

No remuneration of \$75,000 or greater was paid to contractors for services and no remuneration was paid to any members of the Board.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



Mennonite Church British Columbia Budget Income vs Expenses

2024 MCBC Annual General Meeting

BUDGET INCOME vs EXPENSES

3:04 PM
12/11/23
Accrual Basis

Mennonite Church British Columbia Income & Expense (Budget vs. Actual) January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23	23 Budget	\$ Over Budget	24 Budget	
Income					
CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT					
Annual Session Income	3,224.73	1,500.00	1,724.73	\$ 3,000.00	
Bank/Investment Interest	20,449.52	0.00	0.00	\$ 278,400.00	(100% of Prdnvl Fund@4.8%)
Church Don-MC Can Relational	4,750.00			\$ -	
Church Donations	130,489.87	134,000.00	(3,530.33)	\$ 134,000.00	
Church Donations - NWM	48,073.50	57,000.00	(10,928.50)	\$ 46,000.00	
Individual Donations	54,992.55	103,000.00	(48,007.45)	\$ 60,000.00	
Individual Donations - NWM BPF	5,400.00	9,000.00	(3,800.00)	\$ -	
Individual Donations - NWM PPRO	23,825.00			\$ -	
Individual Donations - NWM Rel	4,900.00			\$ -	
Miscellaneous Income				\$ -	
Public Performance Video Lic.	452.38	475.00	(22.64)	\$ 435.00	
Total Miscellaneous Income	452.38	475.00	(22.64)	\$ 435.00	
MTNVIEW Dev Fund Grant	2,764.71	2,800.00	164.71	\$ -	
Periodical Income	8,177.80	8,200.00	(22.20)	\$ 5,080.00	
Rental Income					
Clearbrook Menn Church Bldg	38,980.05	37,000.00	(19.95)	\$ 3,000.00	
Total Rental Income	38,980.05	37,000.00	(19.95)	\$ 3,000.00	
Total CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT	342,259.89	352,775.00	(10,515.11)	\$ 529,915.00	
ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD					
Indigenous Relations Group	15,991.00	15,000.00	991.00	\$ 15,000.00	
ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD - Other	75.00				
Total ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD	16,066.00	15,000.00	1,066.00	\$ 15,000.00	
GROWING COMMUNITY (I)					
Connecting Women					
Retreat - Bursary (Auction)	721.00	400.00	321.00	\$ 400.00	
Retreat - Commissions/Sales	97.00			\$ -	
Retreat - Registration	8,735.00	6,500.00	2,235.00	\$ 6,500.00	
Women's Day	1,810.00	1,000.00	810.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Total Connecting Women	11,163.00	7,900.00	3,263.00	\$ 7,900.00	
Pastoral Care					

2024 MCBC Annual General Meeting

BUDGET INCOME vs EXPENSES

3:04 PM
12/11/23
Accrual Basis

Mennonite Church British Columbia Income & Expense (Budget vs. Actual) January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23	23 Budget	\$ Over Budget	24 Budget
ChPlant Benefit Premiums	6,097.17	4,500.00	1,597.17	\$ 4,500.00
Leadership (P/S, LEAD)	13,403.64	7,000.00	6,403.64	\$ 7,000.00
Leadership Workshops (RWI, etc)	1,000.00	1,500.00	(500.00)	\$ 1,000.00
Pastoral Care - Other	48.00			\$ 1,500.00
Total Pastoral Care	20,548.81	13,000.00	7,548.81	\$ 14,000.00
GROWING COMMUNITY (I) - Other	1,862.00			
Total GROWING COMMUNITY (I)	33,373.81	20,900.00	12,473.81	\$ 21,900.00
Total Income	391,699.70	388,675.00	3,024.70	\$ 566,815.00
Gross Income	391,699.70	388,675.00	3,024.70	\$ 566,815.00
Expense				
CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT exp				
MCBC Annual Session	3,224.73	1,500.00	1,724.73	\$ 3,000.00
MCBC CBC Camp Match Program	0.00	500.00	(500.00)	\$ 500.00
MCBC Ch Engagement Min Exp/Trvl	3,047.45			\$ 3,000.00
MCBC Clearbrook Menn Ch bldg	12,332.67	6,600.00	5,732.67	\$ 6,600.00
MCBC Communications				
News n Notes/Promo	214.31	350.00	(135.69)	\$ 350.00
Website Development	1,205.40	1,100.00	105.40	\$ 1,100.00
MCBC Communications - Other	686.38	400.00	286.38	\$ 400.00
Total MCBC Communications	2,106.09	1,850.00	256.09	\$ 1,850.00
MCBC Counseling Fund (2nd stage	500.00			
MCBC Don-Indiv NWM	41,700.00	9,000.00	32,700.00	\$ -
MCBC Don-Nationwide Ministry	31,624.51	29,357.00	2,267.51	\$ 29,153.00
MCBC Exec Com/MC Can Travel	782.48	6,000.00	(5,237.52)	\$ 6,000.00
MCBC Exec Minister Exp/Travel	6,335.97	4,000.00	2,335.97	\$ 10,000.00
MCBC Exec Minister Prof Growth	0.00	500.00	(500.00)	\$ 500.00
MCBC Exec Minister Search Task	1,144.26			
MCBC Miscellaneous	123.31	500.00	(376.69)	\$ 500.00
MCBC Office Expenses				
Office Bank Charges	1,694.33	1,500.00	194.33	\$ 1,500.00
Office Equip/Suppl/Postage	9,949.33	5,000.00	4,949.33	\$ 6,000.00
Office Insurance	4,282.00	4,700.00	(418.00)	\$ 4,700.00

2024 MCBC Annual General Meeting

BUDGET INCOME vs EXPENSES

3:04 PM
12/11/23
Accrual Basis

Mennonite Church British Columbia Income & Expense (Budget vs. Actual) January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23	23 Budget	\$ Over Budget	24 Budget	
Office Professional Fees	4,362.58	2,500.00	1,862.58	\$ 2,500.00	
Office Rent	9,525.00	9,600.00	(75.00)	\$ 9,882.21	
Office Telephone	1,377.61	3,250.00	(1,872.39)	\$ 3,250.00	
Total MCBC Office Expenses	31,190.85	26,550.00	4,640.85	\$ 27,832.21	
MCBC Paypal/Stripe Fee	326.53	75.00	251.53	\$ 150.00	
MCBC Periodical Subscriptions	8,176.64	8,200.00	(23.36)	\$ 8,200.00	
MCBC Publ Performance Video Lic	452.36	475.00	(22.64)	\$ 435.00	
SALARIES / BENEFITS EXPENSES	196,518.39	200,000.00	(3,481.61)	\$ 335,568.45	incl. KB & Yth Dir
Total CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT exp	339,566.24	295,107.00	44,459.24	\$ 433,288.66	\$104,376 from 10% MCBC fund principle
CULTIVATING ANABAPTIST VISION					
Columbia Bible College Subsidy	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	\$ 60,000.00	
Intercultural Church Task Group	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	\$ 1,500.00	
CULTIVATING ANABAPTIST VISION - Other	189.62				
Total CULTIVATING ANABAPTIST VISION	100,189.62	101,500.00	(1,310.38)	\$ 61,500.00	
ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD exp					
Indig Relations Subsidy to MCC	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00	\$ 35,000.00	from 10% IR fund principle
New Congr & Revitalization Fund				\$ 100,000.00	
Camp Squeah					
Chinatown Peace Church	3,600.00	7,200.00	(3,600.00)		
Coaching	798.50	12,500.00	(11,701.50)		
First United Spanish Menn Ch	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00		
Living Hope Chr Fellowship	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00		
Peace Mennonite Church	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00		
Church Plant Kelowna	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$ 163,169.47	incl. JP salary minus cong. giving
Total New Congr & Revitalization Fund	44,398.50	59,700.00	(15,301.50)	\$ 263,169.47	cov'd by Peardonville general fund
ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD exp - Other	2,372.98	1,500.00	872.98	\$ 1,500.00	
Total ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD exp	81,771.46	96,200.00	(14,428.54)	\$ 299,669.47	
GROWING COMMUNITY					
Calling&Credentialing Task Grp					
Pastors Bursaries	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	\$ 1,500.00	
Resource materials	564.88	250.00	314.88	\$ 250.00	
Transition into Ministry - NWM	200.00	200.00	0.00	\$ 200.00	

BUDGET INCOME vs EXPENSES

3:04 PM
12/11/23
Accrual Basis

Mennonite Church British Columbia Income & Expense (Budget vs. Actual) January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23	23 Budget	\$ Over Budget	24 Budget
Total Calling&Credentialing Task Grp	764.88	1,950.00	(1,185.12)	\$ 1,950.00
Connecting Women				
Retreat - Bursary (Auction)	350.00	400.00	(50.00)	\$ 400.00
Retreat - Exp/Costs	801.98			
Retreat - Registration	9,497.50	6,500.00	2,997.50	\$ 6,500.00
Subsidy - Speaker, etc.	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	\$ 1,000.00
Women's Day	682.99	1,000.00	(317.01)	\$ 1,000.00
Total Connecting Women	12,332.45	8,900.00	3,432.45	\$ 8,900.00
Pastoral Care				
ChPlant Benefit Premiums	6,097.17	4,500.00	1,597.17	\$ 4,500.00
Leadership - P/S Retreat Grant	0.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)	\$ 2,500.00
Leadership (P/S, LEAD)	12,796.37	7,000.00	5,796.37	\$ 7,000.00
Leadership Workshops (RWI, etc)	901.50	1,500.00	(598.50)	\$ 1,500.00
Youth Pastors				
Youth Ministries	7,322.52	6,500.00	822.52	\$ 6,500.00
Total Youth Pastors	7,322.52	6,500.00	822.52	\$ 6,500.00
Pastoral Care - Other	99.84			
Total Pastoral Care	27,217.40	22,000.00	5,217.40	\$ 22,000.00
GROWING COMMUNITY - Other	1.58	300.00	(298.44)	\$ 300.00
Total GROWING COMMUNITY	40,316.29	33,150.00	7,166.29	\$ 33,150.00
Total Expense	561,843.61	525,957.00	35,886.61	\$ 827,608.13
Net Income	(170,143.91)	(137,282.00)	(32,861.91)	\$ (260,793.13)
				\$ (139,376.20)
				<u>\$(121,416.93)</u>

FAITH IN TODAY'S CHURCH

The Faith in Today's Church (FiTC) task group consists of Gerry Binnema (Crossroads), Andrew Haak (Level Ground), Jesse Nickel (Level Ground), and Winston Pratt (Peace). The work of the task group in 2023 focused primarily on planning three events: the LEAD conferences for 2023 and 2024, and a forum on "Polarization and Disagreement in the Church" that took place on September 21 st.

The task group heard from many across our conference that a significant challenge for churches was maintaining unity amidst diversity - namely, how to be centered on Jesus without becoming too judgmental or fuzzy. Dr. Mark Baker, Professor of Mission and Theology at Fresno Pacific University, was invited as our guest speaker for LEAD 2023 to present the 'Centered-Set Church' from his book of the same name. This approach charts a practical and biblically informed path to grow in authentic freedom and movement toward our true center, Jesus himself. It also enables churches to affirm their beliefs and live out their values without the bitter fruit as gracelessness and division. The conference was hosted in-person and online and was well attended - 70 in person and 26 attending virtually, including a group from the US. Dr. Baker's insights and teaching were well received, and feedback was very favourable.

In the late spring, the task group began to envision and organize an event that would provide an opportunity for MCBC to think and discuss together a topic of increasing importance in the contemporary western world and of unique significance in the church: polarization. We decided on a forum which would feature short presentations offering a variety of perspectives on the topic, followed by ample time for discussion. Our presenters were Darnell Barkman, who spoke from a pastoral perspective built on his experience of peacemaking in the Philippines; Lydia Fawcett, who spoke about the impact of power dynamics in relationships, drawing on her work in MCC's End Abuse program; and Jesse Nickel, who spoke about a biblical perspective on unity. The event was well-attended and generated fruitful discussion.



There was a felt desire among the members of the task group to build on the interest and insight into this topic generated by the forum. As a result, when we turned our attention to planning for LEAD 2024, we decided to invite J. Nelson Kraybill to be our featured speaker. Dr. Kraybill's most recent book is titled *Stuck Together: The Hope of Christian Witness in a Polarized World*, and offers significant insight and wisdom rooted in his years of experience as a pastor, teacher, and leader in the Mennonite church. We were excited when he accepted our invitation and have enjoyed working together with him to plan this year's conference.

The FiTC task group exists to facilitate opportunities for MCBC to learn and grow together in our knowledge and understanding of our shared faith and life. We look forward to another year of doing so.

YOUTH WORKERS GROUP

The MCBC Youth Workers Group exists to strengthen the connections between our MCBC Youth Pastors as well as our Youth Groups. We meet monthly as pastors to share, encourage, and pray for one another and our ministries. For this report we wanted to highlight two Pastors in particular: Grant Miller (Cedar Valley) and Bless Len (Living Hope), who are both doing excellent work in their churches. They have these encouraging stories to share with you the regional church.

Grant Miller (Cedar Valley)

"One of the thriving ministries at Cedar Valley Church over the past few years has come from opening up our campus and encouraging partnerships with organizations that impact and bless our city through our facilities. This past year we brought in Jesters Theatre, a Youth Unlimited (Youth For Christ) ministry that reaches students and develops social, leadership, and faith experience through musical theatre.

The heart of Jesters is to be a safe place for all youth to come, grow in community, learn about the love of Christ, and find positive expression through the performing arts. Having this (Cedar Valley Church) space so central in the community we serve has been hugely advantageous, even in the short time we've been here so far, and we continue to see tremendous transformation in the youth we serve partly because of our safe proximity to them." (Ryan Scramstad, YU / Jesters Theatre Director)

We've been blessed by their presence on site and their heart for the church as we collaborate to create pathways for students to connect with our youth group and church. The best challenge that came with this new connection has been introducing the bible for the first time to high school students! This is often met with a good mix of skeptical intrigue and willing curiosity, but overwhelmingly the fresh exposure to Jesus' words and teachings had me run out of bibles to give away for students to (hopefully) continue reading at home. That's a worthy budget expense increase for this year, along with a few more dodgeballs :)"

Bless Len (Living Hope)

The merging of our two former Youth groups that met on Thursday and Saturday became as one, which is encouraging to see as there are age dynamics and diversity in culture as well.

When you have super introverted and extroverted people in one room, everyone's comfort level is different, but despite the differences, God has been actively bringing people together in fellowship.

There are two encouraging things I would like to share with you:

The Collaboration with other Churches:

Living Hope enjoys Camp Squeah twice a year (Youth Impact & Church Family Camp) and this is where they get to know other Youth groups whom they keep in touch with on social media

Aside of our regular Youth nights, Living Hope Youth regularly attends a monthly United Faith chapel; similar to 604NetWork, where everyone comes from different cultural and denominational backgrounds worship and do bible studies together.

It has been very encouraging to experience the collaboration between Living Hope Youth and Living Hope Parents where they provide transportations and attend Youth related events. I am looking forward to this Summer when they will be more involved in being "present" at our summer activities, which is a good opportunity for the parents and Youth to get to know each other more.

Youth Boys Night: Every Friday @4:30-6pm

This group has been meeting for a few months now and it's an exciting time where we do devotionals, hang out, and more importantly the boys get to talk about "Guys Stuff" on various topics as opposed to doing it in a larger group discussion. We also do Podcasts every other week; a platform where they can share about teen topics, Youth culture, and biblical themes in the Bible.

Josh Willms (Youth Director)

Thank you Grant and Bless! As many of you know, the Pastors that make up the MCBC Youth Pastors Task Group plan and facilitate the Impact Youth Retreat at Camp Squeah. This years retreat will be April 19-21, 2024. As of this writing we have 9 churches that will be attending the retreat and we are looking forward to another amazing weekend together. Please pray for us as leaders, for our volunteers, and for the youth in our groups that will be a part of the weekend. Pray for our youth to grow in their faith and understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. If you have questions about the Impact Youth retreat or next generation ministries at an MCBC level, I'd love to hear from you. My email is Josh@mcbc.ca. If you know of youth in your churches that are interested in attending Impact, but don't necessarily have a youth group, please contact me and we'll make sure they can be a part of the weekend. Thank you all for your prayers and support for this vital MCBC ministry.



2024 Annual Meeting Report

In 2023 we once again held an in-person Women's Day on the morning of May 4th hosted by Emmanuel Mennonite Church.

Our theme was Triumph over Trials with Christina Barkman MC'g the morning. We had two guest speakers – Cyndi Nickerson shared her journey with and surviving breast cancer, encouraging us to share our “God Stories”, what has the Lord, your God, done for you? We were reminded to rely on God and the people He has surrounded us with, our support circles being important when facing trials. Marie Haak shared her journey through the loss of her son encouraging us that if we open the wounds and share them, then they soon start to heal. She shared how counseling, reading and being vulnerable in her Christian community has contributed to her healing. The day included a progressive brunch interspersed three times throughout the morning. We were blessed with the Women's Ministry Worship Team (Cheryl Heinrichs, Carla Hordyk, Elly Federau and Dorothy Friesen) leading us in worship songs throughout the morning. An offering of \$887.55 was taken and shared equally between Camp Squeah, Sardis Doorway and MC Canada Emergency Support for Myanmar. To encourage young moms to attend childcare was provided by CBC staff person, Tina Richardson and her children – Brooke, Reggie and Victoria who also provided assistance in the kitchen.

The Women's Retreat Committee worked hard again in 2023 planning for another Women's Retreat at Camp Squeah on the weekend of October 20-22. This was one weekend later than we normally meet but we still had 50+ ladies attending. Guest speaker, Bonnie Esau from Chilliwack, spoke throughout the weekend on the theme – Planted, Rooted, Growing: Planted where God has put us, Rooted in God's Word and Growing in His Will. With the theme including being planted we had Muriel Victor share, from a First Nations perspective, the benefits of many natural plants in our area. On Sunday, prior to the speaking session, to provide a visual for the ladies they went to the outdoor picnic area and were able to re“plant” their own small plant to take home and nurture it and watch it grow. Saturday afternoon included two activities where the women chose two of the four workshop options (stencil picture painting, archery, hike and card making). The women's ministry worship team (listed above) blessed us during our worship times. As in the past we continued with the Silent Auction to support the retreat bursary funds. We also held basket draws which were created by each of the Retreat Committee members. Once again through a financial gift given to MCBC Women's Ministry, upon the closure of Mennonite Women Canada many years ago, we subsidized this year's retreat costs for all attendees.

As Women's Ministry Interim Coordinator, I've continued creating a weekly inspirational post for the MCBC's Women's facebook post. I am grateful God continues to amaze me with ideas to post each week.

As I write this report, I'm contemplating what May 4th, 2024 Women's Day will look like. Sheri King from Crossroads has offered to help plan that event. The Retreat Committee will begin meeting in March to start work-ing on the 2024 Ladies Retreat. We are always open to suggestions for speakers and activities/workshops.

The MCBC Women's Education Fund invested with Abundance Canada presently sits at \$4,044.45. Once the eligibility requirements and an application form are prepared these funds will be available to students in our Mennonite Colleges.

If you, alone or together with several others are interested in coordinating this valuable ministry contact Janette at the MCBC Office – 604-850-6658 or e-mail her at admin@mcbc.ca

*In His service
MCBC Women's Ministry
Janette Thiessen, Interim Coordinator*

BC Women's Ministry - 2023

	Wmn's Day	Book Swap	Bursary (Auc)	Misc Inc.	Retreat	MW Canada	Ed Fund FT	Totals
Income*	\$ 1,810.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 721.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 8,735.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,163.00
Expense*	\$ (882.29)	\$ -	\$ (350.00)	\$ -	\$ (10,299.46)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (11,331.75)
2023 Total:	\$ 927.71	\$ 95.00	\$ 371.00	\$ 2.00	\$ (1,564.46)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (168.75)
Fwd: '22	\$ (102.39)	\$ 1,321.80	\$ 2,767.07	\$ 1,359.78	\$ (8,400.54)	\$ 11,238.58	\$ -	\$ 8,184.30
Total:								
Carry Fwd	\$ 825.32	\$ 1,416.80	\$ 3,138.07	\$ 1,361.78	\$ (9,965.00)	\$ 11,238.58	\$ -	\$ 8,015.55

ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD



Because Jesus is the center of our faith we affirm, among other things, that reconciliation is the center of our work. Reconciliation with God, with our community and friends, with our neighbours, with those with whom disagree, with our enemies and with all of God's good creation. Reconciliation is this central work we are invited to participate as beloved children of God, fellow sisters and brothers in the work that Jesus began for us and with us. Reconciliation is at the very heart of the gospel.

Within the MCBC structure, the 'Engaging God's World' task groups are where some of this work of reconciliation is taking place. These task groups include the 'Funds Discernment Task Group for New congregations and Revitalization' which you will find reported in other parts of this delegate package. There is also the work we do in partnership with Mennonite Church Canada International Witness and through Mennonite Central Committee BC that falls under this Engaging God's World Ministry. You will find reports on this work in the report book as well.

The task groups that you will find reported on are ones that are more directly connected to reconciliation related to justice and peace issues that have grown out of the passion of individuals and congregations. These task groups give an opportunity for more people to be engaged in work they care deeply about and also provides opportunities for congregations to be more engaged as well.

There is a story about rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a friend of Martin Luther King who told the story that when God the Holy One gets up in the morning, God gathers the angels of heaven around and asks this single question, "Where does my creation need mending today?" And then Rabbi Heschel would say to his hearers, "Theology consists of worrying about what God worries about when God gets up in the morning." The four Task groups highlighted below are attempts at taking seriously the call to reconciliation as followers of Jesus in our Anabaptist/Mennonite theological understandings, to try to bring some kind of mending to those places in our world where reconciliation and healing is needed.

As a part of this affiliation, the CCTG will invite MCBC churches to participate in the Season of Creation (September), a season of worship which focuses on our love and stewardship of God's Creation.

The CCTG is actively supporting, collaborating and in conversation with MCC and its Climate Action for Peace campaign. The focus of this campaign is to invite young Mennonites to engage with climate action and walk with leaders in the church as they initiate Creation care conversations in the church.

ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD

a) Indigenous Relations Task Group

The Mennonite Church BC Indigenous Relations Task Group is committed to creating redemptive relationships between settler Mennonites and their Indigenous neighbours.

Reconciliation as a core value is the work that God is doing in Christ and that we are called to do both individually and collectively as Jesus-followers. The call prompts us to embrace the practice of redemptive listening, learning, and advocacy in the interests of reconciliation between settler and Indigenous peoples. Reconciliation as the core value guides our actions and holds us accountable.

By listening with respect, appreciation and an open mind we let the Word and Indigenous experience guide our actions towards a fuller understanding of Indigenous dignity, cultural and spiritual experience.

By learning we embrace justice through an acceptance of Mennonite complicity in the Canadian colonial

project, the legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery and the challenge to the churches of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations and the implementation of United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People.

By engaging in advocacy, we embrace the hope of reconciliation as we repudiate settler privilege to free us to be creative, focused and dependable as allies in the Indigenous struggle for rights, justice and dignity.

With the help of Bridget Findlay, Indigenous Neighbours staff person, we are 'Partners in Reconciliation' with Mennonite Central Committee BC (MCC BC). With her help the Task Group continues to look for ways we can live more fully into the 'Calls to Action' that came out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We want to thank Bridget for her good work in helping us in our journey of reconciliation.

b) Creation Care Task Group

Mennonite Church BC Creation Care Task Group exists to find ways for us to gather and resource and embolden one another to be a people of creation. The impetus for this work in part comes out of a statement adopted at the MCBC Annual Meeting in 2014:

"As Mennonite Church BC, we believe that God longs for the well-being and health of the whole world. All of creation is bound together and belongs to God, who has created and who preserves all things. As followers of Jesus Christ, our calling is to the ministry of reconciliation through faithful discipleship, which will lead us to care for creation. We believe that God is calling us to commit ourselves to discern the paths of faithfulness to be good stewards of the earth."

c) Palestine-Israel Network Task Group

The Mennonite Church BC Palestine and Israel Network (PIN) is a network of individuals who seek to promote a just peace in the Holy Land. The mandate is aligned with the resolution on Palestine and Israel that was passed at the Mennonite Church Canada 2016 Assembly, in response to the call of Palestinian Christians.

In keeping with the activities of the resolution, the PIN seeks to: stimulate prayer, education, and advocacy action in our congregations, collaborate with Canadian Jews, Palestinians, and church-related bodies advocating for justice and dignity for all in Palestine and Israel, promote support for international law and human rights in Israel and Palestine by engaging our government representatives, and discourage economic practices and policies that help perpetuate the oppression of Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

d) Affordable Housing

This group has come together to find ways to try to address the ongoing housing crisis that we face by learning about how our MCBC congregations may be able to use the land and buildings they currently own as resources for the larger community good in providing housing for individuals and families in their communities. The task group's goal is to provide education, resources and encouragement to congregations on this journey.

CREATION CARE

The Creation Care Task Group (CCTG) is a fantastic group of dedicated volunteers who imaginatively engage in the mission of Creation Care despite their busy schedules. Thank you Josh Kuepfer, Nelson Lee, Henry Krause, Joel Brandt, Bridget Findlay and Ian Funk for your continued engagement with Creation Care and MCBC.

We continue to discuss, discern and work towards good ways that MCBC and its churches can integrate Creation Care into our lives individually and communally as people of Creator God.

Two congregations, Langley Mennonite Fellowship and Peace Mennonite, have begun conversations about how to be faithful stewards of Creation in how we worship, live and form community. The CCTG offers to support congregations with these conversations and with any plans or initiatives that arise out of these conversations.

2023 was characterised by collaboration and partnership with a variety of faith organisations.

As a part of Mennonite Church Canada and with our input on MC Canada's Sustainability Leadership Group, Emission Reductions Grants were offered and awarded. Sherbrooke was given a grant to help pay for an energy-efficient lighting project.

Also as a part of Mennonite Church Canada, we promoted a nationwide book study (In Deep Waters by Talitha Amadea Aho). The main takeaway from this study was that the church will need to respond to the concerns, needs and anxieties of our young people regarding climate change.

The CCTG actively endorsed that our nationwide church be a part of the ecumenical group, For the Love of Creation, a faith-based initiative for climate justice. MC Canada is now a part of For the Love of Creation, so MCBC Creation Care now has a voice in its Spirituality and Theology Working Group.

As a part of this affiliation, the CCTG will invite MCBC churches to participate in the Season of Creation (September), a season of worship which focuses on our love and stewardship of God's Creation.

The CCTG is actively supporting, collaborating and in conversation with MCC and its Climate Action for Peace campaign. The focus of this campaign is to invite young Mennonites to engage with climate action and walk with leaders in the church as they initiate Creation care conversations in the church.



INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

Through the MCBC and MCC BC **Partners in Reconciliation** agreement, the Indigenous Neighbours program connected with eight MC churches in 2023, either directly or with some of their members. I spoke on Sunday morning at three of those churches and received a warm welcome by all. I also facilitated the KAIROS Blanket Exercises at two MC churches.

I offered the Listening to Indigenous Voices course that uses a dialogue guide to address specific Indigenous issues. We hosted local Indigenous people to share and speak about these issues that Indigenous people have faced and continue to face today. The course had 52 registrants, with many MC constituents representing seven different MC churches. I facilitated the Five Little Indians book study leading discussions about the trauma experienced by five Indian Residential School survivors.

2023 was an event filled year and invitations were extended to churches in the area to participate or attend the following events:

- The Walk in the Spirit of Reconciliation in May, a partnership event which had 300 participants from a variety of churches and Fraser Valley communities.
- Honouring the Gift Sto:lo ceremony in June, 90 people attended, of which 80 were Mennonites.
- The Sto:lo Bus Tour in July, a partnership event which had 40 Mennonite participants.
- The Longhouse Gathering with the Semath peoples at Sumas First Nation, 200 people attended of which 175 were Mennonites. This was the last event of the Mennonite Historical Society's Russlaender 100 Tour.

-
The 2024 annual Walk takes place on May 24, 25 and 26th. Registration will open in April. We hope you will join us as we walk in solidarity to learn about the TRC Calls to Action and remember Indigenous peoples history in Canada.

I look forward to 2024 and continuing this work of connecting MC churches to more educational and relationship building events with the Indigenous peoples in our communities. Blessings!



PALESTINE ISRAEL NETWORK

As per the mandate of the PIN, this past year we continued to stimulate prayer, education, and advocacy action in our congregations; collaborate with Canadian Jews, Palestinians, and church-related bodies advocating for justice and dignity for all in Palestine and Israel; and promote support for international law and human rights in Israel and Palestine by engaging our government representatives.

PIN has maintained a presence on the MCBC website, regularly updating its page with prayer requests, educational resources and calls for advocacy.

<https://mcbc.ca/what-we-do/PIN>

A PIN member participated in a webinar on 'Fighting Antisemitism', which was facilitated by Independent Jewish Voices. Through alignment with the national MC Canada PIN, the area PIN endorsed numerous activities and calls from wider groups calling for a just peace.

In August, MCBC staff and PIN members hosted David Da Silva, Canada's Representative to the Palestinian Authority, for a conversation on how to best advocate to the Canadian government. Da Silva spoke of the "moral weight" that the church brings into advocacy. A number of individuals were in communication with their MPs.

The last quarter of the year was especially difficult due to the increased armed conflict between Hamas and Israel. The Christmas Season was solemn as PIN related stories of from Bethlehem Bible College, our MC Canada partner. The 'Christ in the Rubble' reporting was a call for solidarity with the church in Palestine.

It was (continues to be) discouraging to see both parties in the conflict breaching international standards and engaging in acts leaning into war crimes...namely attacking of civilian populations. PIN petitioned (and continues to call) MCBC congregations/individuals to advocate for a ceasefire. The reality calls on our church to deeply reflect and act into its understanding of non-violence.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

A lot has happened in Canada over the last year on the Affordable Housing front. A number of factors have contributed to quickly rising rental rates (the highest in the country here in BC), and a lack of options for people seeking an affordable place to live. This has brought about a lot of activity, policy changes, zoning realignment, and financing options from all levels of government - federal, provincial and municipal.

AS a result, MCBC has been asking the question what the response of the church is to the current affordability crisis. How would our faith commitments have us respond to one of the biggest local challenges of our time.

The MCBC Affordable Housing Task Group has begun to respond to these questions. The task group is connecting with various congregations that are in the process of wrestling with these issues, to see what lessons are being learned, and if by learning from other congregations we can advance our own projects.

On Nov 18 of 2023 the Task Group held a symposium both virtually and in person, to learn more from industry and church groups who are actively engaged in this space. Numerous churches participated, and a lot of great information was shared.

The task group hopes to increase cooperation and the sharing of information, so that all can make the best decisions about how their congregation may want to address some of the opportunities that are increasingly available.

A theme that continues to emerge is the concerns of young/first time buyers asking how they can find home. And how can they do this while creating greater community with their neighbors. We look forward to hearing more from you in 2024 on this and related topics.

Blessings as you travel in to 2024.

Phil Davis



PEARDONVILLE SALE



The Peardonville Sale Task Group (PSTG) includes Tom Miller (MCBC Finance Chair), Janette Thiessen (Office Administrator), Gerry Grunau (MCBC Moderator), Clayton Loewen (lawyer-Langley MF) and Mike Redekop (president Quadra Homes, Emmanuel)

On Dec. 3, 2022 CDW & Associates ReMax were hired to list and sell the property. The listing went public Jan.3, 2023 and two offers to purchase were received within the first week. The first offer was from a Christian church organization which was looking for a suitable new location. The initial offer amount was \$6.2 million. The PSTG met on Jan.9, 2023 to discuss details of this offer. The group settled on a counter offer of \$6.4 million which the proponent accepted subject to obtaining financing. In late February the proponent dropped their offer as they were unable to obtain financing.

A second offer was presented by CDW on March 2, 2023 from Cornerstone Projects, a local developer, for \$6.5 million. This offer was not subject to financing, thus had much higher likelihood of success. A third offer was presented by CDW on March 11 for \$6.05 million from a numbered company. The PTSG discussed the offers and asked CDW to proceed with the Cornerstone proposal.

During Cornerstone's subsequent negotiations with the City, an issue came up related to an increase in set-back from a sewer main on the property that was recently imposed by the City. The change reduced the maximum size of the building allowed resulting in a significant reduction in potential revenue. An addendum to the purchase contract was issued May 10, 2023 reducing the purchase price to \$6.0 million from \$6.5. The PTSG discussed the validity of this reduction and decided to accept the addendum as presented.

Deposits totalling \$2 million were received Sept. 8, Sept. 11 and Nov. 23 with the final balance of \$4 million (less costs) was received Jan. 16, 2024.

On Sept.7, 2023 Cornerstone proceeded with their development application to the City of Abbotsford. The sale has now been completed and thus the PSTG is no longer required.

Many thanks to the task group participants Clayton Loewen, Mike Redekop, Gerry Grunau and Janette Thiessen for their interest, commitment and contributions to this process.

Respectfully submitted by Tom miller on behalf of the Peardonville Sale Task Group

PEARDONVILLE FUNDS DISCERNMENT REPORT

A. Motion

Be It Resolved that MCBC will sell the former Clearbrook Mennonite Church property at 32027 Peardonville Rd. in Abbotsford.

Be it Resolved that MCBC will use the resulting funds to benefit the mission of MCBC and its congregations in accordance with the following allocations:

- 1) Putting 10% of the sale price into a fund for the Indigenous Relations Task Group
- 2) Putting 10 % of the sale price into a fund for MCBC Leadership
- 3) Putting the remaining 80% into a fund to support starting new congregations, revitalization, service peace and justice initiatives and leadership training in individual congregations. For the purposes of this fund, Camp Squeah is included alongside our congregations.
- 4) If requested, within the next five years, a loan of up to \$250,000 to Shel Boese to help him purchase housing for his personal use. Details to be negotiated and confirmed by the Leadership Board.

The money from the sale will be invested by the MCBC Investment Fund Management Task Group and interest will be attributed each year to the respective funds.

B. How did we arrive at this motion?

Following the 2019 MCBC AGM, the Fund's Discernment group was formed to discern the specifics of how funds resulting from the sale of the Peardonville property be disbursed. After various meetings, we decided to submit three options for disbursement to the wider MCBC body by putting out a survey. The survey was sent out in mid-October, and we received responses from a wide range of pastors and congregational leaders. The second option was found to have the most support from our member congregations, and a report detailing this result was sent out to MCBC Congregations on December 2nd, 2019. Taking into consideration the comments received on the survey (both affirmational and critical), the committee refined the second option into the motion you see above. Further information about the specifics of each part of this motion can be found below.

The property went on the market in the fall of 2022 and an offer was accepted in spring 2023 for substantially more money than the property was valued at in 2019. Given the realities of Covid and its impact on churches and MCBC in regard to financial resources and congregational membership, and given the higher interest rates available at this time it was discerned that we find a balance between spending a significant amount of the principal each year (which the 2020 fund discernment recommended) and investing all the money from the sale and only using the interest generated.

Be it Resolved that MCBC will examine, evaluate, and, if needed, adjust the terms of disbursement in three years (2026) with the report being presented at the 2027 MCBC AGM. Significant changes to this document will require delegate approval.

PEARDONVILLE FUNDS DISCERNMENT REPORT

C. Distribution of Funds

We see these funds as a gift from God that can enhance the missional capacity and imagination of our congregations and denomination in many different ways.

1. How will the Indigenous Relations Task Group use their 10%?

With the sale of the Peardonville property, located on unceded Sto-lo territory, the [Indigenous Relations Task Group \(IRTG\)](#) recognises an opportunity to engage in the work of reconciliation. For decades, the Mennonite church, as well as all other Christian denominations have lived and flourished on this land without giving serious consideration to the peoples who lived here before we arrived, and to the ways those people had been disenfranchised geographically, economically, and educationally.

Since 2011, MCBC has been on an intentional journey to learn what it means to live in good relationship with our Indigenous neighbours, and we want to take seriously the TRC's 94 Calls to Action (<https://www.commonword.ca/Browse/1737>), which call us to a new way of relating to our First Nations neighbours. We cannot reverse history or give back the land, but we can give educational opportunities, which is especially important in light of the damage done by the residential school system.

Money from the fund will continue to support the 'Partners in Reconciliation' work being done in conjunction with Mennonite Central Committee BC. Total cost is \$35,000.00 annually of which \$15,000.00 will be raised each year by the IRTG through above budget fundraising. Money now coming from the Peardonville Fund was previously coming from the Mountainview Fund.

In addition, the Indigenous Relations Task Group Fund will be available for distribution as the task group discerns each year and moneys will available from the principal as well as interest on their 10% fund as needed. As with all MCBC task Groups, this task group is accountable to the Leadership Board.

Below are some broad ideas for reconciliation, but before moving ahead with any of these, the IRTG would seek guidance and input from the Nation on whose land the church resided.

1. Invest in an education package for Indigenous studies that could include items such as:
 - A. A scholarship or initiative fund for:
 - a. Leadership development
 - b. Teacher training
 - c. Training in Health Care, Counselling, and other caring professions.
 - B. A capital fund for classroom upgrades in schools with a large percentage of Indigenous students.
 - C. A fund that supports the preservation and enhancement of Indigenous languages.
 - D. A fund to support learning related to providing a fuller "story" of the First Nations - intentionally engaging indigenous story tellers /artists / authors to chronicle their stories.

INVESTMENT FUND MANAGEMENT

The Investment Fund Management Task Group (IFMTG) includes Tom Miller (MCBC Finance Chair), Brian Mayhew (Peace Mennonite), Allan Peters and Vic Giesbrecht with Shel Boese (Executive Minister) and Janette Thiessen (Office Administrator as ex-officio members. The group has met twice since it's inception, first on Dec.19, 2023 then on Jan.26, 2024.

In simple terms, the task assigned to this group is to provide MCBC with guidance for investing the funds received from the sale of the Peardonville property. To date, the Task Group has prepared a preliminary Funds Investment Policy Statement. The policy is still under development by the TG and will be issued to MCBC Leadership upon completion. Basic elements include;

Mission statement - MCBC Investment Funds are dedicated to support the work of MCBC over the long term.

Investment Objectives - preserve capital, generate income and provide long-term growth.

The total funds amount to just over \$5.8 million (\$6 million less legal adjustments) and are currently invested in variable rate cashable GICs earning 5.2 % annual interest.

The IFMTG is expected to follow the recommendations set out in the Peardonville Funds Distribution Report as they assess various investment options for the funds. The Report stipulates the funds are to be divided into three dedicated fund portions as follows:

The 10% portion for MCBC (Ch. Engagement Minister, Youth Director) will require short term access and widely variable significant withdrawals, thus the consensus is to put it in short term GICs (currently earning over 5% return) The 10% portion for Indigenous Relations; consensus is to initially put these funds in short term GICs as well for now. More input from the Indigenous Relations Task Group is required to make further recommendations. The 80% portion earmarked for funding Growth Projects (church plants, major revitalization projects) will total \$4.64 million.

The consensus of the Group is to put a small portion in cashable GICs (\$300-\$400,000) and the remainder in a long term growth and income generating fund. Options under consideration include hiring a fund manager or investing it with an established endowment fund provider like Vancouver Foundation. Our intent is to have a suitable choice before June of 2024.

Many thanks to the task group participants and Janette Thiessen for their interest, commitment and contributions to this process.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Miller
on behalf of the Investment Fund Management Task Group.



Return to Table of Contents

Mennonite Church British Columbia, Dec 31, 2023 Statistics																				
		average Worship service ATTENDANCE 2022	average Worship service ATTENDANCE 2023	active members Dec 31, 2022	active members Dec 31, 2023	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP (active, inactive) December, 2022	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP (active, inactive) December, 2023	NET GAIN / LOSS (use total membership #'s)	BAPTISMS: youth (added to membership)	BAPTISMS: Adults (added to membership)	TRANSFERS IN: from other denominations	TRANSFERS IN: from other MC congregations	TRANSFERS OUT: to MC congregations	TRANSFERS OUT: to other denominations	OTHER LOSS: withdrawals, cancellations	DEATHS	BIRTHS/ADOPTIONS	CELLS / SMALL GROUPS	average SSCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 2022 (all ages)	average SSCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 2023 (all ages)
1	Cedar Valley Mennonite	110	124	83	87	97	101	4	0	0	0	8	0	0	4	0	4	12	20	38
2	Chinatown Peace Church	85	85	78	78	89	89	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30
3	Crossroads Community	65	78	94	108	94	108	14	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	11	11
4	Eben-Ezer Mennonite	69	66	124	149	192	149	-43	0	1	1	0	0	0	33	12	0	0	0	0
5	Eden Mennonite	130	130	118	115	206	203	-3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	50	50
6	Emmanuel Mennonite	100	90	125	117	236	223	-13	1	0	1	2	0	4	8	5	0	7	8	8
7	First Mennonite, Kelowna	16	16	20	20	41	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	First United Spanish	42	50	27	35	27	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	28
9	Langley Mennonite	60	70	40	40	152	151	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	14	17
10	Lao Christian Church	15	15	15	15	42	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
11	Level Ground Mennonite	55	55	72	72	153	153	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
12	Living Hope Chr. Fellowship	64	85	167	125	170	159	-11	1	3	1	0	0	11	5	0	4	8	15	15
13	Menn Japanese Chr. Fell.	12	12	14	14	21	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
14	Peace Church on 52nd	35	39	50	47	171	168	-3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	2	1	0	0
15	Peace Mennonite	74	78	110	80	129	117	-12	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	8	0	4	7	7
16	Point Grey I-M Fellowship	44	44	47	43	63	61	-2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
17	Richmond Peace Chinese	85	80	65	64	65	64	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	40	42
18	Sherbrooke Mennonite	51	58	110	78	116	102	-14	0	0	1	0	0	2	11	2	0	0	3	5
19	United Menn., Black Creek	56	56	49	49	71	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
20	Vietnamese Mennonite Ch.	27	27	27	27	44	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
21	Western Hmong Mennonite	30	30	35	35	35	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
22	White Rock Mennonite	45	45	49	49	55	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30
23	Yarrow United Mennonite	44	44	61	61	61	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20
	Total	1314	1377	1580	1508	2330	2245	-85	2	4	27	4	2	24	58	38	12	43	320	335

STATISTICS

MCBC 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

NOMINATIONS REPORT

MCBC 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

CULTIVATING ANABAPTIST VISION

Participants to be affirmed at our Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Position	Participant and Church Affiliation	First Started	Date Completion	ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS
Faith in Today's Church Task Group Community of Spiritual Leadership (COSL) nationwide representative	Jesse Nickel (LGMC (COSL Rep)) Gerry Binnema (CCC) Winston Pratt (PMC) Andrew Haak (LGMC)	2022 2022 2022 2022		
Columbia Bible College Nominations Committee-1 elected MCBC Board Member CBC Board Member from MCBC MCBC member-at-large	Rita Ewert (LGMC) Dieter Nickel (PMC) (appt'd) Marion Braun (EEMC) elected	2022 2020 2016	2024 2026 2025	3 Year Terms _____
Columbia Bible College Board (CBC) (4) elected at the CBC Annual Meeting – terms begin in October) Presented for information purposes only.	Gerry Binnema (CCC) Dieter Nickel (PMC) Christina Barkman (YUM) Robert (Bob) Boehr (LHCF)	2021 2017 2021 2021	2026 2026 2024 2024	3 Year Terms Christina Barkman Jack Meers
Camp Squeah Committee	Heidi Epp (YUM) Chris Epp (YUM) Chair Nick Brauer (LGMC) Orlando Unruh (LGMC) Josh Kuepfer (PMC) Sharon Zacharias (EMC) Rob Schroeder (NCP**) Rob Tiessen (SMC – Staff)	2012 2012 2016 2016 2020 2008 2020 n/a		

Cultivating Anabaptist Vision seeks to highlight and provide opportunity for the development of Anabaptist understandings and practices among our MCBC congregations. Existing as both a reminder and a catalyst of our Anabaptist faith perspective includes drawing on the resources and opportunities that are found in our regional and national partnerships (Camp Squeah, Columbia Bible College, and Mennonite Church Canada).

NOMINATIONS REPORT cont.

ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD

New participants to be affirmed at our Annual General Meeting

Position	Participant and Church Affiliation	First Started	Date Completion	ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS
Funds Discernment Task Group - Church Revitalization - Service Peace and Justice initiatives - Leadership Training in Individual congregations - Church Plants - Camp Squeah	Emmanuel Denguessi (EMC)	2021		
	Jorge Hoajaca (FUSMC)	2021		
	Chan Yang (PGIMF)	2023		
	Kevin Barkowsky (SMC - Staff)			
	Shel Boese (EM)			
KELOWNA CHURCH OVERSIGHT BOARD	Shel Boese (EM) Janette Thiessen (CCC- Ex Officio)			Steve Unger
Indigenous Relations Task Group	Lorne Brandt (PMC)	2021		
	Johann Funk (LMF)	2021		
	Henry Krause (LMF)	2021		
	Liz Sawatzky (PC52)	2021	2023	
	Justin Sun (PMC)	2021	2023	
	Ellery Peters (NCP**)	2021		
	Garry Janzen (SMC)	2023		
	Bridget Findlay (MCC BC - Staff)			
	Shel Boese (EM)			
	Jonathan Neufeld (MC Canada Staff)			
Palestine-Israel Network Task Group	Jon Nofziger (EMC)	2021		
	Marlene Friesen (EMC)	2021		
	Al Friesen (EMC)	2021		
	Johann Funk (LMF)	2021		
	Lois Klassen (NCP**)	2022		
	Henry Krause (LMF)	2021	2023	
Creation Care Task Group	Nelson Lee (CPC)	2021		
	Ian Funk (LMF)	2021		
	Joshua Kuepfer (PMC)	2021		
	Joel Brandt (EMC)	2022		
	Bridget Findlay (MCC BC - Staff)	2021		
		2022		
		2021		

NOMINATIONS REPORT cont.

Position	Participant and Church Affiliation	First Started	Date Completion	Additional Participants
Affordable Housing Task Group	Nak Sun Kim (SMC) Bodo Goetzke (NCP**) Dave Loewen (LGMC) Linda Hoock (NCP**) Phil Davis (EMC) - facilitator Peter Andres (EMC) Tim Kuepfer (CPC) Jane Njogu – (MCC BC staff person)	2021 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022 2022	2023 2023 2023	
<u>Nationwide Ministry</u> MC Canada Joint Council	Jennifer Regehr (YUM) Gerry Grunau (LMF- MCBC Moderator) Allen Harder (EMC)	2023 2020 2022	2026 2025 2025	
Nationwide Nominations**				
Mennonite Central Committee British Columbia (MCC BC) 5 elected members (MCC BC terms commence in October)	Gerry Grunau (LMF) Kevin Baarda (CCC) Sharon Zacharias (EMC) Randy Redekop (EMC) Vacancy	2016 2023 2019 2021	2025 2026 2026 2024	3 Year Term Randy Redekop
<p>Engaging God's World ministry MCBC ministry is grounded in the understanding that Jesus is the centre of our faith, our lives, and our work. Our commitment to 'Engaging God's World' comes out of our understanding that 'reconciliation is the center of our work'. This work of reconciliation takes many forms in our church and culture today. Some of the areas where MCBC is working at reconciliation locally include Indigenous Relations, Affordable Housing and Creation Care; it includes supporting new congregations and revitalization of existing congregations and internationally through the Palestine-Israel Network Task Group and Mennonite Church Canada Witness.'</p>				
<p>**Nationwide Nominations Group Meets about every three weeks via zoom, especially during the months preceding the national assembly. Other than that, the group only meets when there is a task to be done. The person on the committee is responsible to assist with seeking candidates from the provincial conference they represent.</p>				

NOMINATIONS REPORT cont.

GROWING COMMUNITY

Participants to be affirmed at our Annual General Meeting

Position	Participant and Church Affiliation	First Started	Date Completion	ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS
Calling & Credentialing Task Group	Cheryl Berto (LHCF) Laura Loewen (EMC) Susan Nickel (YUM) Shel Boese (EM)	2021 2021 2022		
Pastoral Care Task Group	Robert (Bob) Boehr (LHCF) Bernie Martens (EMC) Shel Boese (EM) Kevin Barkowsky (SMC - Staff)	2022 2022	2023 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care of Pastoral families Pastoral care Pastor/Spouse Retreat Counselling Funds 				
Women's Ministry – Women's Day Task Group	Janette Thiessen (CCC- Staff)			
Women's Ministry – Fall Retreat Task Group	Laurie Johnson (SMC) Lisa Dyck (LHCF) Susan Barbour (CCC) Sheri King (CCC) Janette Thiessen (CCC - Staff)	2021 2021 2021 2021		
Young Adult Anabaptist Conference Task Group	Ashley Rempel (EM) Beck Talon (LMF) Ben Heinrichs (LMF) Chan Yang (PGMIF) Matthew Kuepfer (CPC) Zachary Shields (LMF)			
<p>Growing Community focuses on the opportunities to connect people within MCBC together. There are many potential opportunities to accomplish this moving forward. Our main focus continues to be in connecting our pastors together, in partnership with our MCBC Executive Minister (EM). MCBC pastors' meetings are coordinated by the MCBC EM and youth pastors' meetings are coordinated by our MCBC Youth Director, (with the EM attending to connect them to the MCBC Leadership Board).</p>				
<p>The Calling and Credentialing task group works as a resource to congregations in the hiring and credentialing of new pastoral staff.</p>				
<p>The Pastoral Care task group is responsible for planning the Pastor and Family retreat and other opportunities to connect and care for our pastors. Future vision for this ministry includes finding creative ways to connect congregations together (seniors, young adults, women, men, etc.).</p>				

NOMINATIONS REPORT cont.

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

**The people listed in these two groups need to be voted on at the Annual General Meeting

Position	Name and Church Affiliation	First Started	Date Completion	NAME OF NOMINEE
Leadership Board **				3 Year Terms
Moderator*	Gerry Grunau (LMF)	2020	2025	Andrew Haak (one year term)
Vice-Moderator*	Darnell Barkman (YUM)	2020	2026	Henry Krause
Secretary*	Fran Hofenk (EMC)	2023	2026	_____ (one year term)
Nominations Coordinator	Rita Ewert (LGMC)	2021	2024	
Min Ldr -Cultivating Anabaptist Vision	Andrew Haak (LGMC)	2021	2024	
Min Ldr -Engaging God's World	Henry Krause (LMF)	2021	2024	
Min Ldr -Growing Community	Isaias Rodriguez (LGMC)	2022	2025	
Finance Chair*	Tom Miller (LHCF)	2020	2025	
Camp Squeah Chair	Chris Epp (YUM)	2014		
Executive Minister*	Shel Boese (EM)			
Church Engagement Minister*	Kevin Barkowsky (SMC - Staff)			
Office Administrator*	Janette Thiessen (CCC – Staff)			
Camp Squeah Executive Director	Rob Tiessen (SMC – Staff)			
Finance Committee **				*Executive Committee
Up to 5 elected				3 Year Terms
	Richard Hordyk (LHCF)	2016	2025	
	Tom Miller (LHCF) Chair	2019	2025	
	Chan Yang (PGIMF)	2020	2026	
	Steve Unger (CVC)	2021	2024	Steve Unger
	Shel Boese (EM)			
	Janette Thiessen (CCC - Staff)			
Communications	Keith St. Jean (LGMC - Staff)			
Youth Director	Josh Willms (LGMC – Staff)			
Peardonville Sale Task Group				
The formation of the task group was a result of the motion at the 2020 AGM to sell the property.	Gerry Grunau (LMF - Moderator)	2021	2024	
	Tom Miller (LHCF – Finance Chair)	2021	2024	
	Clayton Loewen (LMF)	2021	2024	
	Mike Redekop (EMC)	2022	2024	
	Janette Thiessen (CCC – Staff)			
	Shel Boese (EM)			
Investment Fund Management Task Group				
	Brian Mayhew (PMC)	2023		
	Alan Peters (LGMC)	2023		
	Vic Giesbrecht (LGMC)	2023		
	Tom Miller (LHCF)	2023		

NOMINATIONS REPORT cont.

RELATED ORGANIZATIONS Canadian Mennonite Publishing Services Canadian Mennonite University Anabaptist Mennonite Bible Seminary Board Representative	Eun Young Kwon (SMC)** Veronica Dyck (PGIMF)* Gerda Krause (PGIMF)	2021 2023 2020	2024 2024 2024	Mary Barg (EDEN) Veronica Dyck (PGIMF) <i>Term ends in October</i>	3 Year Term 3 Year Term 3 Year Term

Church Names and Acronyms

1. CVC = Cedar Valley Church
2. CPC = Chinatown Peace Church
3. CCC = Crossroads Community Church
4. EEMC = Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church
5. EDEN = Eden Mennonite Church
6. EMC = Emmanuel Mennonite Church
7. KFMC = First Mennonite Church, Kelowna
8. FUSMC = First United Spanish Mennonite Church
9. LMF = Langley Mennonite Fellowship
10. LAO = Lao Christian Church
11. LGMC = Level Ground Mennonite Church
12. LHCF = Living Hope Christian Fellowship
13. MJCF = Mennonite Japanese Christian Fellowship
14. PC52 = Peace Church on 52nd
15. PMC = Peace Mennonite Church
16. PGIMF = Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship
17. RPCM = Richmond Peace Chinese Mennonite Church
18. SMC = Sherbrooke Mennonite Church

19. UMCBC = United Mennonite Church, Black Creek
20. VMC = Vietnamese Mennonite Church
21. WHMC = Western Hmong Mennonite Church
22. WRMC = White Rock Mennonite Church
23. YUM = Yarrow United Mennonite Church

Additional Acronyms

- MC Canada = Mennonite Church Canada
 MCBC = Mennonite Church British Columbia
 **NCP = Non-Congregational Participant
 CP = Church Plant
 Min Ldr = Ministry Leader
 AGM = Annual General Meeting
 EM = Executive Minister
 REP = Representative
 ED = Executive Director
 appt'd = Appointed



Since 1962, Camp Squeah has, in response to God, who loves us and calls us, been a ministry agent of hospitality, serving, nurturing, and loving people. Squeah has served as a Place of Refuge for many, a safe place, set apart, in this broken world. Our ongoing hope is that fellow sojourners, regardless of where they are on their faith journey, can meet our Creator God, in a unique way when they spend some time at Camp.

2023, although not void of its challenges was a very good year, on several fronts, giving us much reason to give thanks and look forward with optimism toward 2024.

The main challenges facing us were carbon copies of those realized in 2022, essentially the rebuilding of a depleted staffing network and the rapidly increasing costs of operating. Rising food costs, fuel costs, and labor costs were a continual challenge in 2023.

Once again staffing shortages challenged our ability to plan our summer program with confidence. By mid spring we made the decision to restrict our registration capacities for certain weeks to 75% place, resulting in a number of wait-listed campers. Throughout the summer, as in 2022, we found ourselves regularly praying that we wouldn't lose any staff due to health (or other) reasons while constantly reaching out for more last-minute weekly volunteers. Once again, we are thankful for the Lord's provision, in that, ultimately, weekly volunteers stepped in to fill gaps and we managed to successfully welcome and care for all the campers who were registered.

We are so grateful for each individual who committed their summer, or a portion thereof, to contribute as a part of our 2023 team. People were stretched, in some cases, uncomfortably. Our prayer is that, at the same time, each one felt supported and cared for and will look back on their experience and see both God's provision and guidance throughout.

• SUMMER CAMP 2023



In 2023, Camp Squeah staff invited campers along on a "Quest for the Grail," pointing to Christ as the greatest treasure that we seek. We were grateful for many overnight campers that shared the journey with us. Our summer offerings included four traditional 5-night youth camps, two mini-camps for younger campers, one family camp, and our leadership development programs, Servant Leadership Training and Ministry Under Discipleship.

In addition, we added a spring break discipleship camp, named PLANTED, for teens looking to dig deeper in their relationship with Jesus. This 5-night camp included opportunities to learn and practice spiritual disciplines while providing tools for students to continue seeking spiritual growth in their daily lives. Each participant met daily with one of our

leaders and was encouraged to look for an ongoing mentoring relationship. We look forward to

In 2023 we continued with lower staff numbers than required for full camps. As a result, most of our camps were again limited to approximately 75% capacity. Unfortunately, some campers sat on the waitlist, while cabins without leaders sat empty. With this continuing trend in mind, we are directing more efforts and resources to paid summer positions. We anticipate this will allow more of our summer staff team to return for consecutive seasons, building on their experience to provide more quality camper opportunities.

Planning is well under way for summer 2024. Registrations are open for campers, and applications have begun for summer staff, SLT, and MUD. We are eager to bring them all together this summer. Pray for direction as we continue to plan for the upcoming summer, and for an excited summer team ready to serve the campers God brings to Squeah.

2023 Summer #'s

- Family Campers: 108
- Youth Campers (9-15) 404
- Mini Campers (6-9): 90
- SLT & MUD (15-17): 30
- PLANTED (Spring Break) 10
- **Total Campers: 642**
- Summer Staff: 97

– Dustin Siemens, Summer Program Director

OUTDOOR EDUCATION 2023:



Our Outdoor Education programming is a wonderful and integral part of our ministry at camp Squeah. We disciple young people and teach them a variety of valuable leadership skills while fostering a close knit Christ-centered community. We seek to serve each school group openly and with a loving hospitality that makes Squeah feel like home for them. We provide outdoor opportunities for many children who would otherwise not be free to play outside and be challenged with healthy relationships and play time.

Children served in Outdoor Education in 2023: **69** different school group bookings and **3078** students (324 more than in 2022).

If 2022 was a 'rebound from Covid' year, then 2023 forged new territory. We surpassed 2019 bookings and revenue records while welcoming 21 new schools.

Our Outdoor Education service and ministry is one that continues to be highly valued. The desire of teachers to give their students experiences and activities outside their school settings and just play 'outside', has doubled (going by number of new bookings).

Total Number of Schools 2023: **69**

- **45** -spring groups (a record for Squeah)
- **22** -Fall groups (September/October)
- **2** -Winter groups

Seasonal Staff #'s

- Spring Staff : 26
- Fall Staff: 25

school

Our love and service to students and teachers impacts those kids and families such that some consider Squeah's summer ministry as a follow up place to send their kids, or to come as a family.

At the same time we continue to mentor and disciple young adults on staff, helping them to grow and mature in work and faith through this time.

The greatest challenge related to Outdoor Education in 2023 was keeping up with our growing staffing needs. Bottom line is our staffing margins were too thin.

International staff, for whom we are very grateful, made up just over 40% of our seasonal staff team, serving as our most consistent and reliable front-line workers. Our remaining seasonal team consisted of a few local plus a handful of dedicated and "on call/ part time" instructors who helped fill in gaps. This included a number of Tiessen and Larson kids. We were thankful for each staff member and volunteer who answered the call to come serve with us, particularly during some very demanding weeks. Our hope and prayer is to build on our seasonal staff team network in 2024 to help spread the burden of care.

Thanks be to God who makes anything we are able to do, to serve and love others, possible through His grace and love.

– Tim Larson, Program Director

SQUEAH OPERATIONS:

In 2023, thanks to revenues from our healthiest retreat bookings calendar to date, we were able to accomplish some necessary deferred maintenance, replacing our swimming pool boiler, with associated plumbing upgrades, as well as replacing some designated high ropes, low ropes, and bouldering room components. We purchased the necessary replacement parts for our storage Quonset, which collapsed in Dec 2021, and hope to resurrect it by the end of spring.

Some projects on tap include replacing the floor in Edelweiss Hall, as well as the much larger job of replacing all of our single pane windows in the main lodge with energy efficient new glass. In addition to the obvious aesthetic upgrade this will serve to reduce our exorbitant heating costs, as well as provide some sound insulation, helping us with neighbourly relations.

In addition to the necessary deferred maintenance projects, we've been dreaming about adding a few strategically placed gazebo-like sheltered areas around the grounds. These will serve to create both outdoor community and relational building space as well as allow us to provide more welcoming spaces in inclement weather.

DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Each year, in partnership with our many faithful and beloved donors, Camp is able to set aside funds toward two special accounts: Our ***Campership fund*** provides opportunity for campers whose family financial situation would prohibit them from experiencing an enriching and life impacting camp experience. In 2023 we were able to draw approximately \$18,412.50 from the fund, assisting 71 campers in the process. Since 1999, the Campership fund has assisted 1,932 campers in attending camp to the tune of \$49,172.79. Praise God!



Equally as important, our **Bursary fund** allows us to recruit excellent summer staff while assisting them in their scholastic endeavors. Thanks to the help of Canada Summer Jobs funding, which allowed us to pay 10 summer staff, who traditionally would be applying for bursary funding, the draw on our bursary fund was limited to \$26,000.00 supporting 8 students. In 2023, 22 paddlers dipped our collective paddles into the Harrison River, once again, and raised \$54,195 for next summer's staff. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for details regarding Paddle-a-thon 2024! Our current plan is to do it again September 21, 2024.

MILESTONES & CELEBRATIONS!

In June we gathered to celebrate the retirement of Pam White, our beloved bookkeeper of 20+ years. With great joy and a touch of sadness we bid her farewell. During our celebration we acknowledged Pam's value to our team and to Squeah. She regularly exercised her keen attention to detail, ensuring that no penny went unaccounted for. Her meticulousness was truly remarkable, making sure that all bills were paid on time and our financial records impeccably maintained. Pam's dedication and commitment proved instrumental in keeping Camp Squeah's operations financially sound, thereby allowing us to continue our mission.

While we will undoubtedly miss Pam in the office, we are equally grateful for the opportunity we had for Pam to train and prepare Courtney Giesbrecht to step into the bookkeeper's role. Courtney, having served as a summer staff member the past few years, is a devoted supporter of Squeah's mission and we look forward to working alongside her as she exercises her gifts and develops in the capacity of her new role.

In the midst of saying goodbye to one and welcoming another, we also paused to reflect on and give thanks for God's goodness and faithfulness as we celebrated another major milestone: 35 devoted years of exemplary service as Camp Squeah's Site Manager, Dan, the Maintenance Man, Friesen. Crazy to think that 15 years prior we raised his toolbelt to the rafters in a symbolic gesture recognizing his 'all-star' status as Camp Squeah's longest tenured employee. Far from a sign of retirement, fast forward to today and he's well into his 36th year of caring for and upgrading our property and facilities. Wow!

I've said it before and I'll say it again... We are truly blessed to have such talented, dedicated and devoted teammates contributing toward camp's mission.

On behalf of the MCBC Camp Committee, and the entire Squeah staff team, together with our families, it continues to be our privilege to serve here at Camp Squeah.

Respectfully submitted,



Rob Tiessen,
Executive Director

In response to God who loves and calls us, Camp Squeah provides a place of refuge in a natural setting where people of all ages can build relationships, grow and be nurtured.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CAMP SQUEAH

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2023, with comparatives for 2022
(Prepared by executive)

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 695,085	\$ 570,877
Cash - externally restricted	144,841	112,882
Accounts receivable	9,834	16,057
Inventory	28,857	15,627
	<u>878,617</u>	<u>715,443</u>
Capital assets	4,020,627	4,013,898
	<u>\$ 4,899,244</u>	<u>\$ 4,729,341</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 50,798	\$ 58,259
Deferred revenue - deposits	54,658	41,438
	<u>105,456</u>	<u>99,697</u>
Fund balances:		
Invested in capital assets	4,020,627	4,013,898
Operating	422,669	330,117
Internally restricted	205,651	172,747
Externally restricted	144,841	112,882
	<u>4,793,788</u>	<u>4,629,644</u>
	<u>\$ 4,899,244</u>	<u>\$ 4,729,341</u>

On behalf of the Leadership Board:



Director



Director

CAMP SQUEAH 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CAMP SQUEAH

Statement of Operations - Camp Squeah

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparatives for 2022
(Prepared by executive)

		2023 Actual -		2023 Total	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2022 Actual
		Operating	Externally Restricted				
Operations							
Revenue:							
							\$
Outdoor education revenue		550,190	-	550,190			385,004
Non-conference revenue		504,338	-	504,338			279,687
Summer camp		237,414	-	237,414			178,485
Conference revenue		126,829	-	126,829			111,052
Donations - unrestricted		117,071	-	117,071			84,832
Rental and miscellaneous		50,191	-	50,191			46,702
Sales - canteen and clothing		11,697	-	11,697			9,329
		1,597,730	-	1,597,730	1,515,000	1,725,000	1,095,091
Expenses:							
Wages and benefits		895,619	-	895,619	965,000	1,112,000	698,131
Food, kitchen and hospitality supplies		267,529	-	267,529	253,000	277,000	177,511
Utilities and insurance		155,923	-	155,923	152,000	165,000	143,715
Maintenance and repairs		103,545	-	103,545	65,000	85,000	55,111
General and administrative		59,160	-	59,160	55,000	62,000	35,246
Program operating		31,106	-	31,106	50,000	50,000	28,264
		1,512,882	-	1,512,882	1,540,000	1,751,000	1,137,978
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for operations		84,848	-	84,848	(25,000)	(26,000)	(42,887)
Other revenue (expense):							
Donations and miscellaneous income		47,337	41,879	89,216	25,000	-	62,665
Donations - restricted		-	51,059	51,059	-	-	23,453
Maintenance and repairs		-	-	-	-	-	-
Bursaries, camperships and miscellaneous		-	(60,979)	(60,979)	-	-	(51,415)
		47,337	31,959	79,296	25,000	-	34,703
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses		\$ 132,185	31,959	164,144	-	(26,000)	\$ (8,184)

CAMP SQUEAH 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CAMP SQUEAH

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances - Camp Squeah

Year ended December 31, 2023
(Prepared by executive)

	Invested in Capital Assets	Internally Restricted	Operating Fund	Externally Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
Fund balances, beginning of year	\$ 4,013,898	172,747	330,117	112,882	\$ 4,629,644	4,637,828
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(18,471)	-	150,656	31,959	164,144	(8,184)
Purchase of capital assets, net	25,200	-	(25,200)	-	-	-
Interfund transfers	-	32,904	(32,904)	-	-	-
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 4,020,627	205,651	422,669	144,841	\$ 4,793,788	4,629,644

CAMP SQUEAH

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances - Externally Restricted

Year ended December 31, 2023
(Prepared by executive)

	Camperships	Summer Staff	Kitchen Equipment	Heritage Development	Program Development	Trail Enhancement	Memorial Equipment	Program Equipment	Transportation	Capital	2023 Total	2022 Total
Fund balances, beginning of year	\$ 23,047	70,950	1,800	1,584	1,204	2,066	3,300	895	7,118	-	\$ 112,882	94,767
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(8,837)	34,745	2,147	(1,584)	(1,204)	(2,066)	-	(865)	(1,326)	8,979	31,959	11,595
Interfund transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,520
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 17,110	105,704	3,956	-	-	-	3,300	-	5,782	8,979	\$ 144,841	112,882



2023 Year in Review

(comprehensive)

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

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

The priorities read as follows:

To be a People of God who

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jeanette Hanson shares

about her work in

connecting North America

resources and teachers with

church leaders in China in

a time of tightening

connections have and are Doug Klassen engages with faculty and students of the Meseret being made with church Kristos Church in Ethiopia. leaders in numerous other

countries to exchange gifts of learning with one another.

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

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

Doug Klassen

Executive Minister

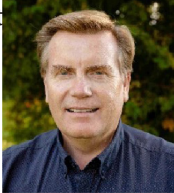
dklassen@mennonitechurch.ca



Leadership Development

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

Al Rempel
Associate Executive Minister
arempel@mennonitechurch.ca



Indigenous Relations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Jonathan Neufeld
Indigenous Relations Coordinator
jneufeld@mennonitechurch.ca



Climate Action

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



International Witness

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

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

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

Connecting and Sharing

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

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

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

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

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



An outdoor Bible training class in Vietnam.

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

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

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

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

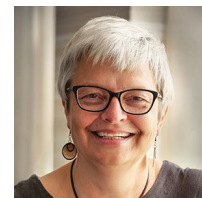
In the Philippines, Witness workers Dann and Joji Pan-toja work with their team at Peacebuilders Community to prepare for the Pantoja’s retirement and a future of sustainable ministry. The team expects to complete the construction of a permanent facility for the school of peacebuilding in March 2024.

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

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

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

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



CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

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

Over 50 years of service

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

Our Pandemic story

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

New for You

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

Staying Current

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

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

in mission and in partnership with the wider work of the church <www.commonword.ca/go/2283>.

» Formal regional church conversations on:

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

Here for you

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

Thank you

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

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

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



Staff (L to R):
Arlyn Friesen Epp
Anita Neufeld
Josh Paetkau
AnaSara Rojas



CANADIAN Mennonite

2023

Report to Mennonite Church British Columbia

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

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

✉ Have a story idea? Email Amy Rinner Waddell at bc@canadianmennonite.org.

At the end of 2023, Mennonite Church Canada and the regional churches signed a three-year covenant with *CM* to continue offering *Canadian Mennonite* magazine through the Every Home subscription plan. Anyone who attends a Mennonite Church Canada congregation can subscribe at a cost paid collectively through the church. In 2024, *CM* will launch new initiatives to further engage Mennonites across Canada. We want to connect with, and give voice to, as broad a cross-section of the church as possible. Go to canadianmennonite.org to read more. With your help, we are strengthening the faith community. We are making space for people with wide-ranging views to speak and to listen. Online, *CM* articles form a witness to the world about our faith. We do this in the spirit of Hebrews 10:24, spurring one another on to love and good deeds, to build up the Kingdom of God.

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



MCC

BC 2023 Report to the MC BC Conference



Over the past year, we have seen conflict and drought around the world contribute to a global refugee crisis displacing over 100 million and a global food crisis impacting over 800 million.

Amidst this crisis, MCC is providing relief, development and peace in 45 countries, assisting thousands of people facing conflict and poverty.

And as you may know, MCC is distributing emergency items in places like Ukraine, South Sudan, and Gaza. We are focusing on addressing immediate needs like food, supporting trauma-affected children, and advocating for peace and humanitarian aid.

Here at home, we continue to care for those who live homeless, support those

who experience domestic violence, work toward reconciliation with indigenous people and assist refugees from around the world.

We recently welcomed Victoria Ninaber, our new Director of Development and Advancement, and Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen, who joins us in the vital role of Church and Community Engagement. Their expertise and passion strengthens MCC's commitment to providing relief, development, and peace in the face of global challenges.

The support of churches and individuals like you made 2023 a life-changing year for thousands of people. Thank you for joining us in being the hands and feet of Christ.

Peace be with you,



Wayne Bremner
Executive Director
MCC British Columbia



Vulnerable & Fierce FUNDRAISING DINNERS

Women transforming communities

RICHMOND | CHILLIWACK | ABBOTSFORD

February 29

March 1

March 2

LANGLEY | KELOWNA

March 7

March 8

**Join us for
an evening
of stories**



Tickets \$30 per person
**Early bird tickets \$25 until
Feb. 8. Tickets include a buffet
dinner.*

Purchase tickets online at
mcc.org/dinner, by phone
at **604-850-6639** or at
participating Thrift Shops,
select church offices and the
MCC BC Office.



MCC BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



WALKING ALONGSIDE REFUGEES

For over 100 years, MCC has been involved in helping people displaced by conflict around the world. Through relief, advocacy, legal services, sponsorship, peacebuilding and more, we walk alongside refugees through multiple phases of their journey. This year, 325 individuals seeking refuge were assisted by MCC British Columbia. Many of the refugees we serve are sponsored by local churches and other groups located in Canada. Our team trains and equips sponsorship groups as they prepare to welcome refugees.



SENDING SUPPLIES INTERNATIONALLY

Again this year, churches and individuals across British Columbia stepped up to send thousands of essential supplies to vulnerable communities around the world. Each year, these supplies are received with overwhelming gratitude. Countless individuals around the world are facing disasters and conflicts. Many are displaced from their homes. The practical gift of a hand-packed bucket or a hand-stitched blanket shows that someone still cares.



ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

The Homelessness Prevention and Outreach Program hosts six community meals every month in Abbotsford, BC. Offering hot meals, warm showers, clean washrooms and clothing, these meals are attended by over 70 people every week. For those facing isolation and judgment, our meals are a safe place for people to connect and belong. In addition to the meals, our Rent Bank offers one-time loans to help those at risk of homelessness stay housed. We also began a new initiative in 2022 called Circle of Friends, empowering volunteers to walk with vulnerable people towards stable and sustainable lives.



CHANGING LIVES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

For 50 years, MCC Thrift Shops have been changing lives both locally and globally. This year, Thrift in BC raised \$2.8 million in net income to support projects serving vulnerable individuals around the world and in British Columbia. MCC Thrift Shops also seek to show God's love to each individual who enters the door — even when it is hard. We are grateful for each of the remarkable volunteers, staff and donors across British Columbia who support MCC's impactful work.



840 people at risk of homelessness assisted with housing



1,663 volunteers gave their time to MCC BC



1,200 meals served at our weekly outreach BBQs



325 refugees and their sponsoring groups assisted by MCC BC



1,237 people engaged in learning about Indigenous peoples' history, culture and current issues



364 participants through End Abuse Programs



CHOOSING HOPE: 2023

Submitted by Karyn Santiago
Chief Executive Officer

Join me as we explore three overriding themes that have shaped Communitas over the last year.

Theme #1: Choosing Hope. This was our theme for 2023 and it helped us define our storytelling and social media engagement for the year.

Theme #2: Communitas50: Our Story. Our Community. Our Future. As we enter 2024, we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary and we reflect on all that God has accomplished over these many years. We are ever-grateful to be doing the work we do in our communities.

Theme #3: Inspired by Jesus Christ, Communitas will be a place of belonging, growth and contribution. For fifty years, the Communitas mission has stood the test of time. From our humble beginnings as the Samaritan Society for Comfort and Cheer to who we are today, we are privileged to serve in many geographic areas, and in a variety of ways, with services designed for and with people.

These themes capture the heart of Communitas & are also a reflection of our current strategic direction.

As an example, consider our first strategic goal: People and Culture.

Over the past year, Communitas has made significant investments in our most important resource: our people. We improved the overall compensation package for all employees through long-fought-for wage increases and the implementation of a 100% employer-paid benefit package. In late fall, our vacation accrual process was automated, enabling employees to earn increased additional days off every year. Each improvement speaks to our ongoing commitment to staff members. By investing in staff today, we are also investing in our future.

Consider our second goal: Ensuring Quality Services through relevant, cutting-edge, best practices.

In 2023, Communitas bid on and won the community contract to provide housing subsidies and support for adults living with a variety of challenges. This contract will assist people to find and maintain suitable market housing and maintain positive relationships with landlords. We will liaise with other community stakeholders and advocate for fair housing opportunities. We are grateful that we can offer people 'hope' in the challenging housing environment that we face as communities.

Finally, our third strategic goal focuses on Infrastructure Resourcing.

The Evergreen Project is an exciting, new project that will expand our housing options in Abbotsford. We ended 2022 with one empty group home on Evergreen Street, in Abbotsford. This was the first time it had been unoccupied in 24 years. Over the years, this particular home served a variety of people, but it was clearly aging and it was challenging to use as an accessible group home.

In 2023, Communitas began planning for the next life cycle of this property. Together with StattonRock Construction, the City of Abbotsford, and Community Living BC these two lots will become two homes, one on each lot, each completely accessible, inclusive and rooted in the ongoing Communitas mission. Each purpose-built house will become home to four people, with all the features that ensure accessibility and comfort.

Many of the Douglas Firs, first planted in the 60s, have come down to make way for these new homes. We have loved these trees and were saddened to see them go, but they also gave us the opportunity to lean into another strategic goal - that of reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours. These trees will have another life with the Matsqui First Nation as they will be incorporated into a planned intergenerational healing centre.

We anticipate that these homes will be ready in Fall 2024, fifty years after we opened The Cedars as our very first group home. The Cedars provided hope to families asking “Who will look after our children?” By earmarking one of the two new homes for four young adults who will be transitioning from Matthew’s House, the Evergreen Project provides an answer for families who continue to ask this question today. As with the families in 1974, they are excited for the opportunities for their loved ones!

Inspired by Jesus Christ.

Whether it be the strategic planning or the day-to-day activities of delivering quality services, we celebrate the hope that we find in Jesus Christ. With gratitude, we continue to look ahead, demonstrating His compassion, and creating ongoing *abundant life for people of all abilities*. I am deeply grateful for the contributions of each person on this journey - board members, community stakeholders, persons-served, leaders and staff members - who choose to serve with Communitas. It is an honour to serve alongside of you.

Peace,
Karyn Santiago
Chief Executive Officer



Karyn Santiago
Chief Executive Officer of Communitas

To learn more about Communitas Supportive Care Society, visit

www.CommunitasCare.com

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

DR. STEVE A. BROWN PRESIDENT

My heart is full. I am in my early weeks as the new President of Columbia Bible College. Every day I meet students who are leaning wholeheartedly into Jesus.

Day in and day out, in the learning environment of our classrooms, in the rich community of our campus, and in service opportunities with churches and in the community, our students are seeking and learning to live and serve with Jesus at the centre.

As we navigate increasingly chaotic, complex and changing times, please know you play a key part in helping Columbia make an incredibly strategic and important contribution in shaping and developing the next generation of leaders and everyday disciples.

Your faithful prayers are pointing students to Jesus. Your generous support is shaping the next generation to serve Jesus in the church and community for a lifetime. Your partnership is having a ripple effect over decades through thousands of alumni.

It is a joy to partner with MCBC! God is at work! May He do more than we can ask or imagine!

2023-24 Enrollment Stats

143 Residents

123 Commuters

16 Offsite

Current Students: 282

Bonus: 25 Interns active in our community!!



NEWSWORTHY

PROGRAM NAME CHANGE PSYCHOLOGY

We are delighted to announce that beginning September 2024, our major in Counselling will be changed to a major in Psychology. This is a name change only, as the program itself has not changed. We believe this name change more accurately describes our program and has more currency with other schools that have similar programs, which will increase student recruitment success and provide better employment pathways after graduation. Our students have responded unanimously positive to this change!

THANK YOU MCBC!

We are so grateful for MCBC's faithful and generous investment in Columbia Bible College and for the dedicated service of MCBC representatives on our Board of Directors: Bob Boehr, Christina Barkman, Dieter Nickel, and Gerry Binnema. We are deeply appreciative of the \$100,000 gift that MCBC donated to CBC in 2023. Your generosity empowered us to continue to fulfill the mission of Columbia.

STUDENT STORY

RYKIA GUENTHER 4TH YEAR, INTERCULTURAL STUDIES



I came to Columbia to gain a foundation for my faith, but what I unexpectedly found was a calling in life and a deep conviction to share the love of Christ with others. Originally, I had wanted to only complete one year at CBC and then move on to university, but I ended up staying for five years! My time here has challenged me to become responsible for strengthening my relationship to Jesus. Most prominently I found this to be true in my 10-month cross-cultural internship in Nairobi, Kenya during my third year at Columbia.



As I practically put to use the intercultural studies skills I had learned in class, I was challenged to learn a new way to practice my faith. I could no longer operate as if I could make my own joy, but I had to come to terms with the

fact that I needed God to provide for me my joy and strength. The opportunity Columbia gave me through my internship was an important step in my growth, providing foundations in my walk with God, and equipped with the truth of the gospel.



I came to Columbia with little direction, but now as a graduating student I am confidently leaving feeling equipped and called toward full-time ministry.

Columbia has been an amazing experience that has given me a joy and a hope for what else is to come.

BE KNOWN. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

JEFF PETERS FACULTY & DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS



Rykia's story is special, but not unique. Through the many conversations that I have with students on our campus, a common thread is the space and time that Columbia affords our students, your children, to learn and experience God's love for them and for the world. There is something beautiful about not only witnessing, but participating with young adults as they wrestle with meaningful questions and learn to trust God through the process.

My name is Jeff Peters and I have the privilege of teaching in the area of Bible and theology, overseeing the Columbia Internship program, and also serving in church relations. It would be a pleasure to get to know you personally and to understand your love and passion for your school. I want to be a constant reminder to you, in your churches and in your homes, that Columbia Bible College is a space where God changes the lives of young people, and some of us older people as well. Please continue to pray that our students will be known by God, and through this experience be equipped to make a difference in our world!

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Greetings to Mennonite Church British Columbia

CMU Mission

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

Denominational Enrolment Snapshot

Mennonite Church Canada: 35 congregations

Mennonite Brethren: 21 congregations

Mennonite (Other): 10 congregations

Hutterite: 7 colonies

Other Denominations: 118 congregations

Small university Big opportunities



Arts | Science | Business
Music | Social Work

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

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



Here's a glimpse into CMU classrooms this year

The Art of Preaching | Dr. Andrew Dyck

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

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

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

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

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

Exploring Social Work Practice | Dr. Alex Sawatsky

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

Ways of Knowing | Professors of various disciplines

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

Resourcing the church

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

renew | Pastor and church leader conference, happens February 5-6, 2024. Visit cmu.ca/renew.

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

CMU 2030: Four Strategic Directions

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



Relationships



Program Renewal



Lives



Reckoning... with life out of balance

Report to Mennonite Church British Columbia

AMBS serves the church as a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world.

Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice. Join us — in person or at a distance, full time or part time — and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

Degrees and programs (* = distance-friendly program)

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

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

Leadership and enrichment

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

Short-term options

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

Yearlong offerings

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

ambs.ca/leadership-and-enrichment



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

Regional church connections

- **Master of Divinity (MDiv) student:** Lisa Heinrichs (Langley)
- **2023 MDiv graduate:** Ian Funk (Langley)
- **Board member:** Gerda Krause (Point Grey)

AMBS statistics

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

Want to try out seminary?

- Sign up for an Online Short Course:
- Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
- Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
- Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture
- Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
- Biblical Interpretation Across the Two Testaments
ambs.ca/online-short-courses
- Take a graduate-level course — online or on campus. Nonadmitted students get 50% off tuition for their first three credit hours!
ambs.ca/upcoming-courses
- Schedule a virtual or in-person visit and learn what AMBS has to offer! ambs.ca/visit
- Stay connected: facebook.com/followAMBS • instagram.com/ambs_seminary • youtube.com/ambsedu • ambs.ca/subscribe

Informe a la Iglesia Menonita British Columbia

AMBS sirve a la iglesia como una comunidad de aprendizaje con una visión anabautista, educando a l@s seguidores/as de Jesucristo para ser líderes en la misión de Dios de la reconciliación en el mundo.

Nuestros programas integran lo académico, la formación espiritual y la práctica. Estudie con nosotros —en persona o a distancia, tiempo completo o medio— y profundice su comprensión de las Escrituras, la teología anabautista y la fe.

Programas académicos (*disponible a distancia)

- Maestro de Divinidad*
- Maestro de Artes en Formación Cristiana
- Maestro de Artes: Teología y Anabautismo Global*
- Maestro de Artes: Teología y Estudios de Paz
- Doctorado en Ministerio en Liderazgo*
- Certificado de Posgrado en Dirección Espiritual*
- Certificado de Posgrado en Estudios de Teología*
- Certificado de Posgrado en Teología AMBS de Ministerios Hispánicos de MEA* (en español)
- Journey: Un Programa de Desarrollo del Liderazgo Misional* (sin título)

Ofrecemos ayudas financieras generosas basadas en la necesidad, subvenciones y becas para ayudar a que su educación de posgrado sea económica. ¡Vea también ventajas para alumn@s canadienses!

amsb.ca/canadian-students

Liderazgo y enriquecimiento (*disponible a distancia)

Desarrolle sus habilidades ministeriales y obtenga enfoques anabautistas para los desafíos de liderazgo de hoy a través de nuestras ofertas sin título.

Opciones a corto plazo

- ¡Nuevo! Módulos de Capacitación en Liderazgo Práctico*
- Cursos Cortos en Línea*: cuatro a seis semanas, basados en la discusión, sin crédito
- Invite a AMBS*: solicite un/a orador/a
- Conferencia de Pastores/as y Líderes*: 17–20 de febrero del 2025

Ofertas de un año

- Seminarios de Dirección Espiritual*
- La Transición al Liderazgo: un programa para nuev@s pastores/as
- Círculos de Integridad*: reflexione teológicamente sobre el liderazgo dentro de un grupo

amsb.ca/leadership-and-enrichment



(Arriba) En el abril del 2023, 8 mujeres y 12 hombres de 5 países —Canadá, Colombia, los Estados Unidos, Etiopía y Zimbabue— se graduaron de AMBS. Diez completaron parte o la totalidad de sus estudios a distancia.

Conexiones a la iglesia regional

- Alumna (Maestro de Divinidad): Lisa Heinrichs (Langley)
- Graduado del 2023 (Maestro de Divinidad): Ian Funk (Langley)
- Miembra de la Junta: Gerda Krause (Point Grey)

Las estadísticas de AMBS

- En 2023–24, 149 alumn@s de posgrado están estudiando en AMBS: 65 de los EE. UU., 11 de Canadá y 73 de otros países. El programa Journey (sin título) tiene 40 participantes en Canadá, los EE. UU., las Filipinas, el Sudeste Asiático y Uganda.

¿Quiere explorar el estudio del seminario?

- Realice un Curso Corto en Línea (sin crédito):
 - Explorar la Paz y la Justicia en la Biblia
 - Explorar la Historia y la Teología Anabautista
 - Comprender los Enfoques Anabautistas de las Escrituras
 - Transformar el Conflicto y la Comunicación Congregacional
 - Interpretación Bíblica a través de los dos Testamentos
- amsb.ca/online-short-courses
- Realice un curso de posgrado en línea o en el campus. ¡L@s alumn@s no admitid@s obtienen un 50% de descuento en sus primeras tres horas de crédito! amsb.ca/upcoming-courses
 - Programe una visita virtual o en persona. ¡Aprenda lo que AMBS tiene para ofrecer! amsb.ca/visit
 - Conéctese con nosotros: facebook.com/followAMBS instagram.com/amsb_seminary youtube.com/amsbsedu • amsb.ca/subscribe