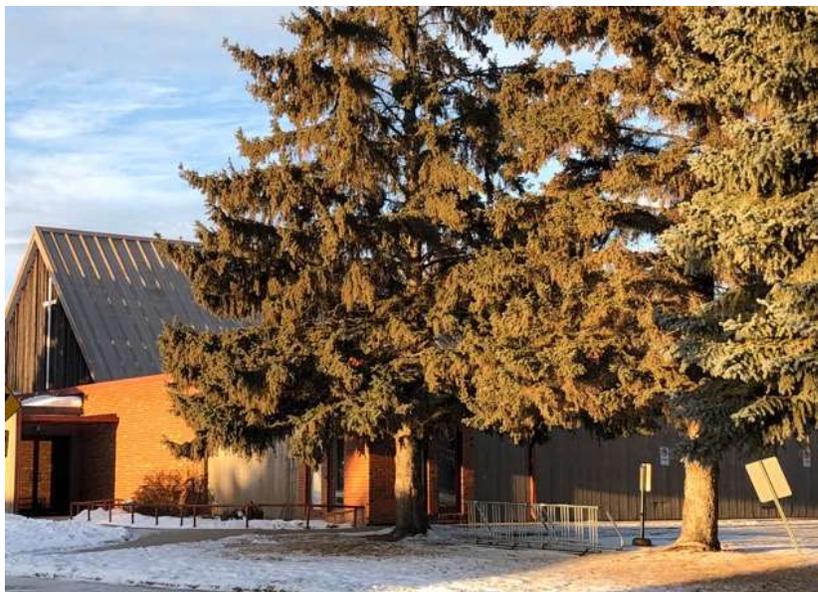


# *Nutana Park Mennonite Church*



1965



2018

## *Annual Report 2018*

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## ORGANIZATION

### **NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**March 24, 2019**

The Nutana Park Mennonite Church congregation meets annually to consider the work of this church. Please plan to attend and share your wisdom and insights on how best we can fulfill the mission of the church. Everyone is welcome to attend regardless of their membership status, but only members vote.

## **A G E N D A**

Nutana Park Mennonite Church  
Annual General Meeting  
March 24, 2019

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Approval of the AGM Minutes of March 18th, 2018
4. Chairperson Report – Tammy Forrester
5. Deacon & Committee Reports
6. Nominations Committee – Bob Neufeldt
  - 6.1 2019 – 2020 Board of Deacons election
7. Report from the Treasurer – Ken Warkentin
  - 7.1 Auditor's Report and Approval
  - 7.2 Presentation of 2019 Budget
  - 7.3 Approval of 2019 Budget
  - 7.4 Appointment of Auditor for 2018
8. New Business
  - 8.1 Rental Policy
9. Closing – Centering Thoughts – Debbie Heinrichs

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of Nutana Park Mennonite Church  
is to be a biblically-based community for

- redemptive nurture
- worship
- invitation to faith
- prayer
- education
- outreach and service

in the context of the global church.

## **Statement of Faith**

*We believe in God  
in the Father, holy and ever-loving,  
in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son and Saviour of the world,  
and in the Holy Spirit, divine power in us for prayer and service.*

*We believe  
that God created the universe and pronounced it good,  
that humanity sins and breaks faith with God  
that God offers salvation from sin  
and a new way of life to all people.*

*We believe  
that the faithful church remains under the authority of the scriptures  
as the new community of disciples, the Body of Christ,  
sent into the world to nurture faith and to proclaim the reign of God,  
that the church is called to become ever more like Christ  
in its worship, witness, mutual love, care, and the ordering of its common life.*

*We believe  
that baptism of believers with water is a sign of new life and forgiveness  
through Jesus Christ  
that the bread and wine of communion are signs of the gift of the new  
covenant which Jesus established by his death and resurrection.*

*We believe that following Jesus involves  
preaching the good news of salvation  
giving full allegiance to Christ  
making peace in every aspect of life  
doing justice and showing compassion  
practising stewardship  
of money and possessions  
of time and talents  
of the earth and its resources  
of a day of holy rest.*

*We believe  
that God acts in all of the universe in wisdom, patience, and justice.*

*We look forward to the coming of a new heaven and a new earth,  
and seek to live according to the model of the future reign of God.*

*This is our hope.  
This is our faith.*

## Minutes from the Annual Meeting

Draft Minutes  
from the Annual Congregational Meeting  
Nutana Park Mennonite Church  
March 18, 2018 - 11:00 a.m.

A quorum was present – Chair: Tammy Forrester

1. Approval to Agenda

**Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented with addition of 7.2 Report on MCSask Annual Delegate Session. Moved by Allan Reese, seconded by Peter Hooge. Carried.**

2. Approval of the Minutes from March 26, 2017. **Motion to approve the AGM Minutes of March 26, 2017. Moved by Mitch Dahl, seconded by Lori Weiler-Thiessen. Carried.**

3. **Chairperson Report - Tammy Forrester**

Tammy provided her report in the Annual Report and made highlights here. These included: an assessment of Church Life and Christian Education; the conversations of the World Cafe regarding community connections, youth/young families, replenishing the capital reserve, the abandonment of the proposed deacon structure and a review of the church mission; and discussion regarding the pastoral reviews from the Fall of 2017.

4. **Report from the Treasurer – Bert Klassen**

4.1 **Motion to approve the 2017 Audited Financial Statement as presented.**

**Moved by Bert Klassen, seconded by Kelly Winder. Carried.**

Bert Klassen thanked Carmen Epp for her continued excellent work with the church bookkeeping. He further thanked the congregation for their contributions and volunteers for another successful year. He thanked the board and committees for continuing to be good stewards of the money donated to the church. He thanked the pastoral staff for their continued good work.

4.2 Presentation of 2018 budget.

Discussion regarding the changes to the budget that included an increase in the Buildings and Grounds budget and a decrease in the salary budget. A request from the floor was made for donations to Bethany Manor.

4.3 **Motion to approve the Proposed 2018 budget as presented. Moved by Bert Klassen, seconded by Susan Ens-Funk. Carried.**

4.4 Appointment of the auditor for 2018.

**Motion to appoint Virtus Group as the Auditor for 2018. Moved by Bert Klassen, seconded by Darryl Epp. Carried.**

Tammy thanked Bert for his service to the church over the past 4 years.

5. **Nominations Committee Report - Bob Neufeldt, Vice Chair**

Thank you to Bob Neufeldt, Joan Sawatsky, Trudy Reese, Armin Krahn and Gord Peters for serving on the Nominations Committee.

The following Deacons were nominated to continue their current portfolios: Tammy Forrester (Chair), Bob Neufeldt (Vice-Chair), Carolene Funk (Fellowship), Bonnie Dahl (Music), Brent Guenther (Worship), and Denelda Fast (Church Life). Debbie Heinrichs (Caring and Visitation) has agreed to a 1 year transitional term.

Openings on the board included:

- Buildings and Grounds (finishing the term until June 2019) - Arnie Neufeld has allowed his name to stand as a co-Deacon.
- Finance (2 year term) - Ken Warkentin has allowed his name to stand

**Motion to accept the slate of nominations for returning board members as presented for a 2 year term. Moved by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Marlene Froese. Carried.**

**Motion to accept Debbie Heinrichs for a 1 year term for Caring and Visitation Deacon. Moved by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Alison Jantz. Carried.**

**Motion to accept Ken Warkentin as Finance Deacon for a 2 year term. Moved by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Allan Reese. Carried.**

Nominations from the floor were opened for the co-Deacon position for Buildings and Grounds. Patrick Fleury was nominated and allowed his name to stand.

**Motion to accept Arnie Neufeld and Patrick Fleury as co-Deacons for the Buildings and Grounds Deacon position to finish the current term until June 2019. Moved by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Susan Ens Funk. Carried.**

6. Deacon and Committee Reports

An introduction and acknowledgement to the current deacons and committees was highlighted by Tammy.

7. New Business

7.1 Human Resources Structure - June 2018 to May 2019

Tammy updated the congregation on the job description and human resource plan for the coming months. A brief discussion regarding the contents of the position ensued.

7.2 Report on 2018 MCSask Annual Delegate Session.

Tammy provided an update from the ADS in Swift Current on March 9-11, 2018. This included the Refresh, Refocus, Renew campaign that Betty Pries is leading. MCSask is starting a task force to evaluate 3 themes over the next 3 years. Deepening our Walk with Christ is the theme for the first year. This will include a number of tasks for the congregation, committees, boards and individuals to complete intentionally. Handouts of the tasks are available.

8. Closing and Prayer – Patrick Preheim

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 p.m. by Dave Weiler-Thiessen

Minutes recorded by Mackenzie Fast

## CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of the Board of Deacons at Nutana Park Mennonite Church please accept this as the Chairperson's report for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. As I continue to serve I learn and grow into my role in congregational leadership as the Chair of the Deacon Board, and reflect back on this past year and continue to be amazed of the gifts of our community. With Susanne going on maternity leave at the end of 2017 and Sarah also taking maternity leave this past spring, we have leaned heavily on the gifts and generosity of the community in our church. Although Patrick stepped into the leadership role very capably, he was supported by Deacons and Committees and congregational members that were engaged and interested in participating in church life. Thank you to all that supported Patrick during this past year during Susanne's maternity leave.

Thank you Patrick for leading us in ways that inspire, challenge and give us opportunity for thought and discernment. Thank you Sarah for supporting our youth and being a meaningful part of their lives. Nora, we are grateful that you stepped into your role in support to Patrick and to the congregation in a passionate and relational way to connect quickly to congregational life; understanding the needs of our church community. Thank you Helen for your work in supporting the systems and operations of the church while always being a voice of support to our pastoral team.

This past year we made a change to our Worship schedule on a trial basis to see other ways we might be able to support programs and envision a better way of managing our time together. With feedback well in hand, we listened to our church body and returned to our previous schedule. It was a good effort in seeing what works and what does not and what we want to hold onto as a congregation. In the fall we launched the concept of our Service Group, a new committee spearheaded by Patrick and Nora, joined by enthusiastic leadership from the congregation that began to fill our calling to serve. Our Service Group has many interested individuals engaged in serving our community locally, provincially and globally. Other worship, church retreat and Deacon meeting initiatives this year have been inspired by our direct connection to MC Saskatchewan as we engaged to Refresh, Refocus, Renew our church community. We are grateful to the guidance provided by MC Saskatchewan which continually supports us as community of believers.

During this past year of support and engagement, I want to take a moment to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Board of Deacons. You are all true thought partners in supporting the work we do at Nutana Park Mennonite Church. Thank you for continued rich and meaningful dialogue.

Now as 2019 begins, we are grateful for Susanne's return and for her healthy family, and we are happy for Patrick and his opportunity for a 4 month sabbatical. We know that refreshing one's spirit through parenthood or a designated time of reflection is important for overall good health and we are grateful that we as a congregation can continue to provide this support.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Tammy Forrester  
Board Chair

## SPIRITUAL MINISTRY

### NPMC PASTORAL STAFF

In my monthly report to the Deacon Board I have included the statistics of my activity in worship, visitation, and ministerial opportunities beyond Nutana Park Mennonite. In that respect I will not go into detail. The defining feature of 2018, as I compose this year's end report, has been the congregational response in the reality of diminished staff availability.

In terms of worship, it is humbling to reflect on the many people willing to preach or otherwise fill our pulpit on a Sunday morning. The kind of sharing which has come from lay people has been different than strict biblical or theological reflection. It is my heart and mind and what I hear, though, it has not

been unwelcome. Thank you to the many who have had availability in their schedules and a willingness to reflect publicly.

In terms of congregational care, Debra Heinrichs and the Caring & Visitation staff took great investment in presence with those who have benefitted from a monthly, bi-monthly or yearly connection. In addition to visits requested, and those who drop by the office, I have tried to be present to those of our community moving through transitions or otherwise facing challenges. I am mindful that a fair amount of congregational care also happens in group settings: women's bible study, coffee and conversation, various support groups, a men's breakfast, a men's study, a care givers / spouse group, committee meetings, etc. Beyond these, though, there are numerous other arenas in which congregational care happens: Forever in Motion, coffee clubs, gatherings of musicians, friendship circles and other gatherings. Spiritual care happens in a variety of ways.

Participation with community organizations beyond our walls has also been a part of 2018 for me. I attend most programs planned by Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. I have participated in events sponsored by Congregations for Environmental Action. I have continued to maintain connections with the Islamic Mosque on Copeland Cr and attended functions at the new Mosque just off HWY 16 south of Saskatoon which is a different branch of Islam. A new part of church life in 2018 has been "a service group". I believe Nora describes more of this in her report for 2018.

Finally, I am grateful for the many people of this congregation who share in the responsibility of congregational care, worship and ministry beyond our walls. Sarah Unrau and Nora Pederberg are capable pastors and their presence has been greatly valued by me in 2018. Tammy Forrester and Bob Neufeldt, in their roles of congregational chair and vice-chair, have provided solid vision for the congregation and listening ears to the pastoral staff. Thanks to each person of the Deacon Board for their commitment in their specific areas of responsibility—church events happen because of you. In fact, this very good year transpired on account of the ownership and joy the deacons have brought to the opportunities arising in their area of service. A litany of gratitude goes to administrative assistant Helen Siemens whose ministry goes well beyond secretarial duties. Thanks to people too numerous to be named who make visits on their own, who volunteer many hours to make the programs and initiatives of the church possible, who volunteer in the community, who give in ways unseen. Nutana Park Mennonite Church would not be what it is without you. Submitted in deepest humility and gratitude.

Patrick Preheim, co-pastor,  
Nutana Park Mennonite Church



### **Youth Group -- June 2018 - January 2019**

The group has attended some larger events including volunteering at the MCC sale, serving at Friendship Inn, an afternoon canoe trip at Shekinah, Nutana traditions such as overnighter, and jello night and monthly Mega Menno events. In the summer the group was engaged in bi-weekly hangout nights, which involved board games & ice-cream in the park.

Due to low numbers in youth a decision was made in fall to try out a model for youth group to combine with Wildwood and Mount Royal for three weekdays a month. We continued to have one 'Nutana only' youth discussion night a week. This increased our ability to have more involved discussion nights and activities, however at the request of the youth we have added in a couple more Nutana youth only nights a month. Nutana attendance is between 1-5 youth with an average of 3 youth.

Nora Pederberg

## Service Group -- August 2018 - January 2019

Nutana Park has formed a Service Group. There are currently 45 people who have requested to be on the e-mail list for Service updates. The group meets once a month to touch base on opportunities that have come up and to discuss the involvements that individuals are a part of. It is designed to be a space for renewal, encouragement, and support. The group has formed a leadership committee that looks after different elements of the Service Group as it continues to develop. Gary Koop looks after two larger projects, this included service at Habitat for Humanity and a trip to MDS. Stephanie Epp looked after monitoring the Service e-mail account. Paul Schroeder coordinates with regular volunteer commitments which currently includes Friendship Inn and Pleasant Hill School. Macaila Funk looks after Education/Equipping events, the aim is to have 3-4 of these in the coming year starting with a letter writing & advocacy workshop. James Friesen has coordinated monthly spotlights in the Sunday Service for someone to share a service involvement that is close to their heart. Lorraine Harder has volunteered to facilitate the large group meetings in the new year. The group has also started updating the Service Bulletin Board as a way of keeping the congregation updated on what is happening. Other organizations that the group is connected with include CHEP, Sanctum 1.5, and Village Green.

Nora Pederberg

### Membership Statistics

Membership, January 1, 2018	263
Deaths (*members)	8
Inactive	<u>7</u>
	15
Baptisms	1
Transfer In	<u>9</u>
	10
Membership, December 31, 2018	258
Marriages (of members, or of members' children)	1
Births	3

Baptizand  
Jordan Riekman

Deaths  
\*Bill Bergen  
\*John Nickel  
\*Irma Gerbrandt  
\*John Van Kampen  
\*Peter Dyck  
\*Elfriede Harder  
\*Gordon Unrau  
\*Helen Pries

## CARING & VISITATION

‘Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.’ NIV Galatians 6:10

As a Church Board, we have been exploring the topic of what it means to belong to a church, the body of believers.

In the Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 issue of The Canadian Mennonite, Troy Watson asks these questions; ‘Why should I participate in church? What does the church offer that I can’t find elsewhere?’ He writes the following reflection; ‘In the body of Christ we don’t find our unity in our commonalities and affinities with similar kinds of people. Our unity arises through mutual submission and interconnectedness to the same divine Spirit.

It is this miraculous unity in diversity—in Christ—that magnifies God’s presence and makes the genuine body of Christ unique and important for us to participate in.’

The whole church forms the arms of the Caring and Visitation committee and in that spirit of oneness, we are all invited to ‘Encourage one another and build each other up.’

1 Thessalonians 5:11

We join others in the church in this endeavor and I thank the members of our committee and the NPMC church for continuing to share the love of Christ with each other and the broader community.

We are happy to meet with you and appreciate notes in our mailboxes to let us know if you are aware of someone who would like a visit or support.

Our members for 2018:

Kathy Lindsay-Olfert

Jenae Funk

Kathleen Regier

Lori and Dave Weiler-Thiessen

Anita Retzlaff

Carey Kroeger

Patrick Preheim

Debbie Heinrichs

Susanne Guenther Loewen (on maternity leave)

Submitted by Debbie Heinrichs

## MUSIC

*Herr, du bist würdig zu nehmen  
Preis und Ehre und Kraft,  
denn du hast alle Dinge geschaffen,  
und durch deinen Willen haben sie  
Das Wesen und sind geschaffen*

*Lord, Thou art worthy to receive all  
praise, honor, and glory,  
for Thou hast created all things,  
and through Thy will  
they have been and are created*

These words end the sixth movement of Brahms’s A German Requiem. NPMC and Friends Choir, made up of approximately forty singers aged 18 to 89, were fortunate to be among those who performed the Requiem on November 18. Jordan Wiens, our fearless leader, was the brainchild behind this performance. He approached Patrick and then others from the music committee with the idea in late spring. From that moment on, Jordan believed that we would be able to perform the entire Requiem in November. With the help of accomplished pianists, Kathy Peters and Audrey Falk-Janzen, we were able to do just that. Those of us performing and those who were able to listen in the congregation were grateful for this very meaningful opportunity.

NPMC's music program continues to be filled with gifted musicians participating in both large and small groups. The program boasts many talented accompanists, a dedicated Sr. Choir leader, a long list of special music contributors, and a wide variety of music experiences for people to be part of; including a Garage Sale Band, Friday Night Jam Sessions, Sunday School singing, and the Classical Music Afternoon, going into its 14<sup>th</sup> year. This year we were led in worship by the Westgate Mennonite Collegiate Concert Band and Concert Choir as well as by the beautiful Christmas music of the Saskatoon Men's Chorus, under the co-direction of Lynn Driedger and Deborah Buck.

The Music Committee consists of the following members: Jordan Wiens, Jocelyn Fleury, Aleta Martens, Fern Stockdale-Winder, Lynn Driedger, and myself. The music committee continues to look for ways to involve more people in both our Sunday morning worship and in our many groups. This year we bid farewell to two members. Over two years, Tristan worked with the Sr. Choir as one of the conductors. Tristan moved away from Saskatoon and is pursuing further musical instrument training with St. John's music. We also thank Ron Peters for his work with this committee for many years. Ron was instrumental in securing choir leaders and accompanists for the Sr. Choir and for communication to the choir membership. Thank you to the work of this entire group.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Dahl

### WORSHIP

Worship continues to be an important and meaningful aspect of congregational life at Nutana Park Mennonite Church. In the past year we welcomed Nora Pederberg as another voice behind the pulpit. Her fresh perspective and collaborative leadership style have been a great asset in preparing worship services. We look forward to her continued leadership, not only in worship, but in other facets of congregational life.

We also tried a new worship schedule, with the service beginning at 10 a.m., and having other activities follow. The board of deacons asked for feedback after a trial run of this schedule, and the majority of the responses wished that we would revert back to our original schedule. Although I do believe that this was the correct decision, I was a little disappointed that so many of the responses did not include feedback regarding the two points that the switch of schedule was based upon: community building and children's programming. That being said, I do believe the schedule we have now is fulfilling the needs of most congregational members and this can be seen in the socializing of churchgoers prior to the service and the increasing number of children and families that attend both Sunday School and the worship service.

I would like to thank Lydia Schroeder for organizing the greeters this past year, and I want to thank our ushers who always make sure everyone feels welcome. Thank you to Arny Kroeger, Dave Wieler-Tiessen, Don Froese, Colin Funk, and Arnold Wichert for "working the perch" in making sure that people are heard and that visuals can be seen. Nicole Tiessen's work continues to be appreciated as she takes care of the décor inside and outside the sanctuary.

A church is only as strong as its members, and having the opportunity to hear from many of our congregants on Sunday mornings has been a foundational exercise. As Anabaptists, I hope we continue to make time in our services for hearing the stories of faith from the people that make up our church family. I want to thank Patrick, Susanne, Sarah, and Nora for creating the trust and opportunity needed for this exercise of faith. I am thankful for the strong leadership that our pastoral staff provides. They have a strong attention to detail, while also leaving space for the Spirit to lead. Worship leaders continue to pull everything together each Sunday morning. Thank you to all of our worship leaders who work hard to organize all aspects of the service so that it is meaningful to all.

Worship committee meetings continue to be a place of dreaming, listening, and laughing. Many thanks to Bonnie Dahl for the strong leadership she provides to her music committee and the support she provides the worship committee.

It is an honour and privilege to serve the congregation as worship deacon. I am humbled by the care, attention, and time that the members of this congregation give to all aspects of what it means to be church at Nutana Park. Worship continues to be a focal point for many, and I am proud of the work that the worship committee has done and continues to do to meet the needs of our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brent Guenther, Worship Deacon

## EDUCATION MINISTRY

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education has and continues to be a very important part of Nutana Park Mennonite Church. Over the course of the last few years, the number of young children participating in Children's Sunday School has decreased. We seem to be seeing a steady growth happening once again which is observable on many Sundays during the Children's Story. The decision to return to the original format for our Sunday mornings was based on the responses by members from the survey you were asked to complete this past Spring. Coffee and the fellowship of members was highlighted as a significant part of the church morning. As a result, an intentional fellowship time was scheduled to follow adult education and choir. It has become a wonderful time to visit among many ages as well to enjoy the singing time with the children.

Children's Education now begins at 10:15 and lasts until 10:45. Programming continues to be coordinated by Marlie Leis. It is a huge commitment to plan and coordinate all the needed individuals to make the Children's Sunday School program be a success. We continue to utilize materials created by Osler Mennonite Church and make these resources work for our young children. Thank you to all who have been willing to take various Sundays to teach. Singing continues to be provided by a variety of individuals. You have the opportunity to provide additional support to our young Sunday School families by signing up to provide a snack on any given Sunday or to supervise in the Toddler room (as needed). A big shout out and Thank you to Tammy Forrester and Bonnie Dahl for making the Christmas Children's program a success once again. WOW! It was a tremendous task to take on but absolutely enjoyable! (You can read a detailed report for Children's Christian Education provided by Marlie.)

Adult Education continues to be a vibrant community of regular attendees. The committee spends time determining various topics for further learning as they relate to our world, our immediate church, and the larger church. The lounge offers plenty of room for more to join and participate in the conversations that develop in response to the topics. This year we responded to the call from MCSask to focus on "deepening people's belonging to God and how we are addressing the world's deep longing for meaning, purpose, and belonging." We started the Sunday school year (September 2018) with a focus on different prayer styles. We did this in conjunction with the congregational retreat planned by the church board. We continue to keep the focus of deepening our belonging to God as a directive when thinking of new topics. (You can read a more detailed Adult Education report by Edna.) Thank you to the members who have served in the past and continue to serve on this committee.

I welcome your comments and suggestions as we move forward into 2019. New ideas are always appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Epp

## ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education is an important part of Nutana Park Mennonite Church. In some ways, the group functions as a think tank for NPMC, exploring topics and issues that matter to us all. In 2018, the winter session was a continuation of the exploration of Anabaptism that we had begun in the fall of 2017; having heard the history of the beginnings of Anabaptism, we looked at Anabaptist theology and practice and asked ourselves what might be still relevant for us. That series opened up many questions for us all. It seemed appropriate to spend April and May addressing some of those questions. Both the winter and the spring series were led by members of the Adult Education committee.

Our fall series was inspired by the church retreat focus on prayer and the theme of MC Sask – “Deepening our walk with God.” We looked at various prayer practices that could enrich our relationship with God.

Our final series for 2018 was an unusual five-week Advent series (Epiphany Sunday was included) on “Experiencing Advent Through Art.” Looking at various paintings of Christmas scenes, done by artists from early medieval times to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, gave us new insight into the Christmas narrative and the contribution to worship that artists offer.

As of September, the church schedule changed back to our former order of having adult education before the worship service, but the starting time is 9:30 a.m. That has called for some adjustment, perhaps more for some than for others. However, the extended coffee time before the beginning of the worship service has made it easier for Adult Education attenders to continue informal discussion about what they have just heard.

The Adult Education Committee faced some challenges in 2018 and will face different challenges in 2019. We are happy to welcome back Susanne Guenther-Loewen, after her maternity leave. However, we will miss Patrick during the months of his sabbatical. We continue to be grateful to Alan Reese for his continued service, such as he can give; he has been an inspiration to us as well as a provider of all kinds of information. Once again, we would welcome one or two new committee members. If you have been involved in adult education or would like to be, please make your interest known to one of the committee members: Edna Froese, Val Epp, Renata Klassen, Susanne Guenther-Loewen, Patrick Preheim, Alan Reese, Rachel Regier, Paul Schroeder.

We welcome all who wish to attend, and we're happy to receive suggestions for future series. Our winter series will focus on local initiatives for change in our community, and will feature several guest speakers.

Edna Froese,  
for the Adult Education Committee

## LIBRARY

The library committee consists of Susan Ens Funk, and Lori Weiler-Thiesen. Susan and Lori develop the collection through the addition of new titles with the support of avid readers in the congregation. Recommendations for library materials are always welcome; in particular, film recommendations would be helpful.

This year we acquired 2 biographies, 4 adult non-fiction, 1 adult fiction, 8 picture books, 5 Youth fiction. The magazine shelving was installed and is a much improved way of showcasing these materials.

The roof leak has had an impact on the library facility and the repairs are on-going. It has given us an opportunity to re-think the space and makes some adjustments to improve the way it can be used for quiet reading, small group meetings as well as being a place for housing resources. Keep an eye on the room for the improvements coming our way.

Inventory and re-labeling of the collection has stalled for the time-being. We are part-way through the process in the Juvenile and Youth sections. The process of tracking loans and encouraging returns is ongoing. Members are encouraged to think of a month as a typical loan period so items do not get lost over time.

Lori and Susan continue to add new works to the digital catalog for the library. Patrons can search the library database by author, title, and subject. This same catalog is available online at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/NPMC/>. Church library patrons are welcome to ask for assistance in how to use the iPad catalogue any time. See Susan or Lori for assistance.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Library Committee

## **ROSTHERN JUNIOR COLLEGE**

2017-18 was an exciting school year full of memories, learning opportunities and transitions for our school community.

### **Personnel**

RJC continues to benefit from a dedicated and committed staff. In 2017-18 we welcomed three new deans: Carissa Brockman, Kenna Forrester, and Jamieson Fitzgerald. In the Development & Admissions office we welcomed Karl Martens and Crystal Lau.

It was also a year of good-byes. Jamieson Fitzgerald left at the end of the school year along with Heather Grismer, RJC's art teacher. We also said good-bye to two long-time staff members: Bev Epp & Jim Epp. Bev retired after 37 years of service, and Jim after 32, which included five years as principal. When staff leave, they leave a hole, and we wish all the best to all our staff as they begin new journeys.

### **IMAGINE, THRIVE, EXPLORE & BELONG**

We continue to develop our grade-based educational programs: IMAGINE (Gr. 10), THRIVE (Gr. 11), and EXPLORE (Gr. 12). These collaborative, cross-curricular, academic programs provide opportunities for teachers to pursue educational and community goals in creative, innovative ways. RJC is continually seeking to improve and promote educational excellence and meet curricular objectives while staying connected to the mission of the school. Our BELONG program invites students to find their place at RJC.

### **Faith and Life**

The theme for chapels this year was 'Trust'. Students chose Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God" as their theme verse. Students explored the theme "Building Bridges and Mending Fences" during Deeper Life Days. Students also found time to raise money for the Good Neighbours Food Centre in Rosthern and ALSO related projects during the annual Faith and Life Fundraiser. Class retreats continue to formative faith events as well. RJC appreciates partners like Camp Kadesh, Shekinah, and Big River Bible Camp for offering spaces in which this learning could occur. Moreover, the presence of MC Sask pastors as speakers at the retreats affirms RJC's ongoing connection with the church.

### **Alternative Learning and Service Opportunities**

Alternative Learning and Service Opportunities (ALSO) has become a defining piece of RJC programming and instruction. In many ways, ALSO is the culmination of the learning that happens throughout the school year and exemplifies the school's mandate to foster leaders of faith, service, and peacemaking.

Over 5-14 days of intensive service learning, students in Rosthern, Saskatoon, Calgary, British Columbia, the Gulf Coast, and Guatemala were encouraged to put faith into action and respond to issues of poverty, food security, racial inequality, injustice, and systematic violence. All of this was done alongside committed community partners who modeled Christ-like love through their generosity, discipleship and openness to relationship building.

### **Performing Arts**

Students at RJC are given opportunities in performing arts through choirs, drama, and spring musical. Our choirs are often one of the ways we maintain contact with our church communities. Thank you to all churches that hosted us this year.

### **Athletics**

Athletics at RJC generates spirit and excitement, and provides opportunities for growth in terms of physical, social, and leadership dynamics. It also provides one of many focal points for community building, which extends beyond the athletes on the team to the fans, volunteers and minor officials.

### **Connecting With Community**

RJC is deeply appreciative of the relationships it enjoys in the community. Administrators work together with other Mennonite schools as a part of the Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools (CAMS). RJC is also a part of the Saskatchewan Historical High Schools Association (SHHSA). RJC is grateful for the many churches, organizations and people who take an interest in and support RJC through prayers, participation in school events, and activities.

May God bless us as we continue to prepare leaders in faith, service and peacemaking. Thank You!

2017-2018 School Numbers (as of September 30, 2017)

Total Students 70

Boys – 33

Grade 10 – 18

Day Students – 32

Girls – 37

Grade 11 – 32

Residence Students – 38

Grade 12 – 20

Ryan Wood,  
Principal, RJC

## **MISSION AND SERVICE MINISTRY**

### **ART IN THE LOUNGE**

It has been a privilege to showcase the artwork of a variety of Saskatchewan artists in our church lounge during the year 2018. The goal of the artists is to communicate ideas, evoke emotions, leave the viewer with a sense of awe and beauty, and to honour God through their creative works.

The artists who showcased their work this past year are as follows:

January - February: Wendy Waters - paintings

March - April: Big Sky Artists - paintings

May - June: Alma Elias and Anne McPherson - quilts

July August: No show during these months

September - October: Carol Trumbley - paintings

November - December: Norma Rempel and Hedio Borne - paintings

Thank you to each artist who showcased their work during 2018.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Hedio Borne  
Coordinator for Art in the Lounge

## CHURCH LIFE

CHURCH LIFE can mean different things to different people. My portfolio does not encompass all aspects of church life but it does focus on building community both inside and outside our walls.

Church life deacon is an umbrella for community life (including events like the wedding and baby shower, the garage sale, movie nights, Christmas banquet), Care Groups, Bethany Manor and Sherbrooke worship services, Shekinah Sunday and media. None of these events take place without many hands and minds coming together to display the power of community.

“To Garage Sale or Not to Garage Sale” ... that was the question this year! However, following much discernment and a number of people stepping forward in the absence of some regular volunteers, the garage sale was once again a success! A few of us managed to purge the majority of the church basement which added a few items to the garage sale tables. Thank you to Garry and Glenis for their leadership with this wonderful event in support of the work MCC does.

The wedding and baby shower in June with the theme of “Love Songs and Lullabies” celebrated five new couples and welcomed four new babies into our community. A big thank you to Lynn and Ron for providing us with a wonderful repertoire of love songs and lullabies as people gathered for the afternoon as well as for a fun version of “name that tune” during the program. I also want to thank Marlene, Vi, El, and Elisabeth for preparing several flavours of tarts to delight our taste buds.

In 2018, our congregation brought four worship services to Sherbrooke on a scheduled Sunday afternoon and it has been my pleasure to work alongside Patrick and Nora and a plethora of others who have given of their time to share their stories and talents with the residents there. I have continued to bring our worship theme from the morning forward to Sherbrooke in the afternoon to have our worship with them be an extension of our community. Of course there are adjustments made to accommodate the time frame and intimate space in their chapel, but generally this has worked well. The relationships that develop over time are heart-warming and rewarding. We also brought three services to Bethany Manor in 2018 with our choir singing two selections from the Brahms Requiem in late October which was very much appreciated by the Bethany residents in attendance. Sherbrooke and Bethany are profound displays of one community serving another.

Care Groups and movie nights are well oiled machines and with some shared leadership these groups offer support and space for relationships to grow.

Our church retreat at Shekinah was a collaboration of several committees working together to experience community as we engaged in conversation surrounding prayer. I was grateful for Alma and Renata who provided soup for our communion meal.

I continue to update the monitor in the foyer on a weekly basis and appreciate those who provide me with photos for everyone to enjoy.

Finally, the Christmas Banquet is a humbling experience ... so many willing hands! An amazing display of community.

Blessings,  
Denelda Fast

## FELLOWSHIP

It has been a wonderful year of monthly potlucks as we shared a meal together and had an opportunity to visit around the table. In April many from our congregation as well as other churches provided billeting for the students of the Westgate Choir and Band from Winnipeg, as they toured across western Canada. The Westgate Choir and Band provided an uplifting service on Sunday morning followed by a congregational potluck that was enjoyed by all. September started off with a farmer sausage BBQ potluck, it is a great way to reconnect after the summer months.

Thank you to Lois Tiessen for coordinating funeral lunches and the many volunteers that help prepare, serve and clean up, it is a special gift during a difficult time.

It is always a pleasure to work in the kitchen with the Fellowship Committee, thank you for your part in making these events special. Potlucks are enjoyed by all through congregational help with set up, clean up and sharing your delicious food.

Fellowship Committee:

Brenda Baergen  
Jenae Funk  
Edith and Armin Krahn  
Rhonda and Eldon Krahn  
Bonnie Ramage  
Kathleen Regier  
Elisabeth and Henry Reimer  
Lori and Dave Weiler-Thiessen

Funerals:

Lois Tiessen

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolene Funk

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

In January 2018, Sunday school occurred after the church service (usually between 11:00 and 11:35). The kids would leave the sanctuary after the children's story and go directly to snack and singing time. Singing usually started by 10:45 and concluded around 11, and from there, the kids would go into the classroom for their lesson. This format changed in September 2018, as our service went back to an 11am start time. We decided to have children in the sanctuary for the whole worship service to expose them to our hymns, prayers and church format, in addition to working on attention span. If bored, children are free to quietly colour or read; we feel it is particularly valuable to have children learn to entertain themselves without an electronic device. Furthermore, we hope that learning to sit in the sanctuary with all generations will instill a sense of church community in our children.

Since September 2018, Sunday School occurs at 10:15 weekly, and continues to serve children from preschool through grade six. For now, to accommodate variable attendance, all the kids are grouped together for each session. If everyone were to attend, which has not yet happened since September, that would include approximately 20 students. On average, about 6 children attend each week. Overall, the large age range of involved children has worked well. Parents have seemed generally satisfied with the format, and I have not received any constructive feedback so far. If attendance increases and the volunteer pool is sufficient, we could think about dividing the group into tighter age categories in the future.

The content of Sunday School is still based on a curriculum borrowed from Osler Mennonite Church. The general themes covered include Books of the Old and New Testament, Life in Bible times, the seven days of creation, and more. Thank you to Bonnie and Tammy again for putting together such a wonderful Christmas program which exposed our kids to the story of the birth of Jesus and provided great entertainment for the congregation. Special thanks also to Lisa Doepker who has continued to stock the "quiet bags" which contain quiet activities for the kids to use during the church service.

We continue to have our weekly singing coordinated by Brent Guenther and Mackenzie Fast. The kids are learning many different songs, and parents are really enjoying singing along. Others have put their names forth to support the weekly singing initiative which I appreciate.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to teach Sunday School and to the children for their participation. Your ongoing commitment makes children education at our church possible. I look forward to any other suggestions the congregation may have to improve the Sunday School experience at NPMC.

Marlie Leis

## REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

During 2018 NPMC was active in the support of the al-Obaidi family from Syria. The family had been in Turkey for a number of years and arrived in Saskatoon in November of 2018 - parents, Saad and Wafaa al-Obaidi and children Shahad, Hayder, Zainab, and Murtadha.

A number of years earlier, NPMC had made a commitment to provide \$10,000 in support of this family. These funds have now been dispersed. Direct, day to day support of the family has been thru St. Philip Neri along with Maclure United Church and People of Praise. Patrick Preheim and I attended a welcome potluck for the family at the end of November hosted by St Philip Neri. The support committee (lead by St Philip Neri members) reports that the al-Obaidi family has adjusted well to life in Canada and is fortunate to also be supported by their cousins – the al-Ameri family who have been in Saskatoon for a few years and eagerly welcomed their relatives.

In February, Susan Ens Funk represented NPMC and the RAP at a meeting of Local Immigration Partnership Saskatoon (LIPS). The meeting was a gathering of religious organizations working in support of refugees and immigrants and was an opportunity to learn from other organizations and for LIPS to gain a sense of the level of support faith organizations are providing.

There are numerous opportunities to sponsor additional refugees and MCC Saskatchewan has inquired about our interest. This potential will be considered and discussed with both council and the congregation during 2019.

The balance in the RAP fund is currently \$5665.

Gord Enns  
Refugee Assistance Program

## CANADIAN MENNONITE

The church was changing. It was a period of flux, with the old trying to maintain the status quo and the new looking for change to meet the needs of the time... To speak to the young people, to speak prophetically to the issues of the day, was urgent.

-- founder Ted Friesen, reflecting on the start of The Canadian Mennonite, 65 years ago

Today, our community's needs continue to change. We still need to connect with multiple generations and to speak prophetically. In addition to the 10,500 households that subscribe to the biweekly magazine today, we have seen a 50 percent increase in the electronic readership of the magazine, and an 87 percent increase in traffic on our website, over the past two years. Just as Mennonites gather together on a Sunday morning to worship, our community also gathers online and through print to share, discuss, debate, and to build connections.

Saskatchewan is a welcome part of the Canadian Mennonite community, representing 10 percent of the print readership and seven percent of website visitors.

Regional correspondent Donna Schulz brings your stories to the rest of the country, including articles about MC Saskatchewan churches, camps, RJC, seniors' ministries and more. In 2018, she published 44 articles and photos, such as her article "Still the same inside" about a nursing home resident helping others. Ryan Siemens, Sharon Schultz and Claire Ewert Fischer wrote for the From Our Leaders column. In October, we welcomed Ed Olfert as a new columnist. Numerous individuals sent in letters to the editor or contributed other articles and photos.

MC Saskatchewan churches and organizations are welcome to promote their events in the Canadian Mennonite Calendar, which appears in the print magazine and on our website. To submit an event, go to [www.canadianmennonite.org](http://www.canadianmennonite.org) and click on Events. As well, Canadian Mennonite welcomes notices from church administrators about births, adoptions, baptisms, marriages and deaths, for publishing in the Milestones section. Our sense of being a nationwide community grows when we share with one another the important events that take place in our congregations.

Saskatchewan readers often say that Canadian Mennonite helps them feel connected to the church across the country. We pray that will continue for many years. Thanks for your support!

#### Ways to Connect

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

#### Financial Overview

- Annual budget: \$750,000
- Revenue: Subscriptions (church and individual) generate 1/3 of revenue. The remainder comes from advertising, donations, and a federal grant that supports Canadian content in magazines.
- Expenses: Content creation (writing, editing, layout) accounts for 46% of costs. Printing and postage account for 31%. Administration, including website management, accounts for 23% of expenses.

Lisa Jacky  
Canadian Mennonite

### **MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SASKATCHEWAN**

*The mystery of ministry is that we have been chosen to make our own limited and very conditional love the gateway for the unlimited and unconditional love of God.*

– Henri J. M. Nouwen

MCC is a hope-filled ministry because of you! MCC is a hope-filled ministry because it is made up of many networks of individuals, congregations and communities that offer their time, skills, money, prayers and love into this mutual ministry.

MCC's local work in Saskatchewan includes: a network of thrift shops committed to supporting local and international relief, development and peace projects; resettlement of refugees made possible by church and community sponsorship groups; work to build bridges of understanding between Indigenous and settler groups; community-based programming for newcomer and Indigenous youth; supports for restorative justice, trauma healing and peacebuilding initiatives; and partnership with churches and community groups to make blankets and pack material aid kits.

Two highlights in Saskatchewan this year, the Buckets of Thanks relief kit campaign and the Bridging Borders documentary-style television series on refugee sponsorship, demonstrate how interconnected our world is and how we are able to offer our gifts of hospitality and generosity in meaningful ways. The Bridging Borders documentary, aired on City TV, highlights Saskatchewan people responding to the needs of refugees around the world through refugee sponsorship. Through Buckets of Thanks, we were able to ship 67% more relief kits than last year. Thank you to all who contributed to this immense effort! As we offer our resources, we also receive stories and teachings from women and men and children who are faithfully and resiliently responding to daily challenges in the places they find themselves.

716 projects in 57 countries around the world are made possible by the commitment and skills of 508 MCC church and community partners, and by your prayers and financial support.

We are grateful to share this journey with you from Saskatchewan to Syria and Jordan, to Bangladesh and Nepal, to Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, to Haiti and Honduras. May our combined efforts, in the name of Christ, bring comfort and strength and hope here and around the world.

Thanks be to God!

Eileen Klassen Hamm  
Executive Director

## MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

*"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid;  
that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11*

Mennonite Church Canada continues to adjust to its new structure of being a regionally centered, covenanted partnership between the five Regional Churches. These have covenanted to form MC Canada to implement the nationwide and international priorities that they have collectively determined will foster the health and mission of the Regional Churches and their congregations.

The covenant, renewed on October 21, 2018, reaffirms our shared statement of Vision: Healing and Hope: God calls us to be followers of the 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.

### International Witness

A significant transition that took place this past year was the completion of faithful ministry by four of our Witness worker families: the Barkman family in Manila, Philippines, after 6 years; the Nicolson family in Tin, Burkina Faso, after 20 years; the Otto/Rabus family in Mannheim and Ludwigshafen, Germany, after 6 years, and the Tshimanga family in Bloemfontein, South Africa, after 2 years.

MC Canada currently has 6 Witness worker units serving in 5 countries: • Bock Ki Kim & Sook Kyoung Park (South Korea) • Jeanette Hanson (Canada & China) • Mike & Cheryl Nimz (United Kingdom) • Dann & Joji Pantoja (Philippines) • Tom & Christine Poovong (Thailand) • George & Tobia Veith (China).

### Indigenous-Settler Relations

ISR took significant steps forward in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action: • Unsettling the Word (May, 2018). We published an anthology advocating respect for Indigenous spiritualities through a re-reading and decolonization of classic Biblical texts (Call #60). • Bill C-262, The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. Through ecumenical letter writing, a postcard campaign, public teach-ins and faith-based organizing, we helped get Bill C-262 passed in the House of Commons (Call #43 and #44). We continue to pray and mobilize so that it will receive royal assent by June 2019. • Please see Steve Heinrich's full report on the MC Canada website for more on ISR's work in 2018.

### Communication

In 2018, MC Canada conducted a communications survey to assist in developing a communication strategy for the Regional and Nationwide Churches. Katie Doke Sawatzky was hired as part-time MC Canada Communications Officer, primarily to assist with communication for Gathering 2019 in Abbotsford, B.C. The theme of the Gathering (June 28 to July 1) is "Igniting the Imagination of the Church." MC Canada continues to give biweekly updates, which reach congregants through Regional Church emails, and through posts on Facebook.

### CommonWord

We are grateful to report strong numbers in 2018 that reflect our growing ministry: • This year we served over 10,000 retail customers (up 9.8%), over 500 borrowers (par), over 1,000 online and phone/email customers (up 69%), and over 92,000 website users (up 24%). • Sales revenue, for the first 10 months of our current fiscal year, is up 8.1%. Online sales revenue has doubled. This includes significant sales of Mennonite Church Canada Indigenous-Settler Relations titles (2,850 items). • In 2018, 49% of items borrowed by congregations circulated outside Manitoba, including increases in MCBC, MC Sask, and MCEC. • 95 borrowers in 2018 were from outside Mennonite Church Canada and CMU, the highest number ever.

For MC Canada's full annual report, go to [www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca). May you experience the love, peace, joy and hope that we celebrated at Christmas and seek all year long. Blessings to your congregation this new year!

Henry Paetkau, Interim Executive

## MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN

*He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. Mark 4:39*

For many people here and around the world, 2018 was a tumultuous year. The winds of economic uncertainty, the rising waves of political populism, and the deepening chaos of climate change are battering the boat and, like the disciples, causing us to ask, "Are we perishing?"

From within this stormy sea, Betty Pries, our presenter at the 2018 Annual Delegate Sessions in Swift Current (thank you Zion and Emmaus for hosting us!), invited us to Deepen our Walk, so that we can live into the changes and challenges from a place of being centered on Christ, instead of from a place of fear and anxiety. To help us Deepen Our Walk, the Ministries Commission "Spirituality Resource Team" has been leading workshops on prayer and spiritual disciplines, Kirsten Hamm-Epp and Craig Neufeld developed a 4-part worship resource on this topic, and Rachel Miller Jacobs, Associate Professor at AMBS, facilitated our Continuing Education Days and led the opening workshop at Equipping Day (thank you Warman for hosting us!). Many of our congregations also took the suggestions presented in Betty's final report, or developed their own, and used them within their worship to help deepen our walk and trust in Christ in these days of change.

And yes, these are days of change and transition. Congregationally, on September 9, Zoar Mennonite Church closed the doors of their old building and opened their new building as Langham Mennonite Fellowship. On October 27th, people gathered from across MC Sask to join Emmaus Mennonite Church as they worshiped together and concluded their time together as a community of faith.

On the pastoral front, we wished Ben Pauls (Zoar Mennonite), Ray & Sylvia Friesen (Emmaus Mennonite) and Vern Ratzlaff (Aberdeen Mennonite) a happy retirement and offered Craig Neufeld (Rosthern Mennonite) words of encouragement and blessing as he becomes pastor at First Mennonite Church, Edmonton, AB in late winter/spring. Pauline Steinmann concluded her time as interim pastor at Eigenheim Mennonite and we welcomed Andrea Enns Gooding as pastor of Zoar Mennonite and Nora Pederberg as interim associate/youth pastor at Nutana Park Mennonite. In April, Lois Siemens was commissioned as Spiritual Care Coordinator of Bethany Manor and at the office we were grateful to receive Kirsten back as we celebrated with Shekinah in the hiring of Ron & Sue Schellenberg.

Beginning January 1, 2019, Claire Ewert Fisher will serve as intentional interim at Rosthern Mennonite and Eileen Klaassen as interim pastor at Wildwood Mennonite.

We continue to live into the changes brought forth by the Future Directions Task Force and integrating the work of MC Sask and MC Canada. Some of these changes include Marianne working with a nationwide Communications Team, Kirsten working with a nationwide Church Engagement Team and closer with the Ministries Commission here at home, and Ryan working with the nationwide Executive Ministers. This Executive Staff Group looks forward to working with Doug Klassen, the new permanent MC Canada Executive Minister, beginning in June and who will be installed at the MC Canada Gathering Igniting the Imagination of the Church, June 28 – July 1, 2019, in Abbotsford, BC.

Looking to 2019, we invite you to Zoar Mennonite Church, Waldheim, March 8 & 9, for our 2019 Annual Delegate Sessions. David Fitch, author of Faithful Presence: Seven Disciplines that Shape the Church for Mission will be our guest presenter and will lead us into next year's theme, Deepening our Walk with Each Other, which will explore what it means to be church (locally, regionally, nationally, internationally) today. Look forward to regional worship services, Tom Yoder Neufeld leading Continuing Education days and Equipping Day in October, and other events that bring us together!

Lastly, thank you for your continued support of the work that we do together as a community of congregations. In the 2018 fiscal year, your generosity allowed us to fulfil all of our commitments and record a small surplus. Thank you for your trust, it is deeply appreciated!

As we continue journeying together, may the Peace of Christ, the Peace that calms the storm, be with you.

Sincerely, Your staff,  
Ryan, Kirsten, & Marianne

## **MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE**

*"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your **partnership** in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil 1:4-6, NIV)*



The picture on the left is one of the weekly crews who worked in Williams Lake, BC and stayed at our camp at the Cariboo Bethel Church (Mennonite Brethren). In 2017 wildfires destroyed many homes in the Cariboo Regional District of BC. Our summer of rebuilding homes in the Williams Lake was an amazing partnership experience.

Cariboo Bethel provided space in the basement where MDS volunteers ate, slept, and relaxed. The parking lot hosted mobile homes and a shower trailer that was gifted to MDS by Samaritan's Purse. Some members of the church provided the new home warranty through their construction company,

Sprucelee Construction Ltd, while the local Home Hardware donated generously to the material costs. Salvation Army and World Renew gave us significant grants towards material costs. Through these partnerships, MDS was able to build 4 new homes in the Williams Lake area.

Cariboo Bethel Pastor Jeremy Vogt says, "Wherever I can, I share the MDS story. When I tell people here about MDS and what it is doing, their eyes get big. They can hardly believe it. It touches their hearts. It gives them hope to know that people all over North America care." MDS he says, "is a message of hope in our community."

In addition to our Williams Lake project, MDS Canada was active in building two new homes in Constance Bay, Ontario, cleanup after the Ottawa tornadoes, host a Summer Family Project at Shekinah Retreat Centre, SK and a Summer Youth Project in Williams Lake. Atlantic Canada Unit built an extension to a horse barn for a ministry that serves youth with disabilities in Newfoundland. In addition to numerous other projects throughout Canada, we also send hundreds of volunteers to recovery efforts in the US each year.



We continue to keep our centre as a grassroots movement of people like you; people who make up the Mennonite and Anabaptist communities who want to live out their faith in practical ways. If you are interested in volunteering or finding out more about MDS please check our website ([mds.mennonite.net](http://mds.mennonite.net)) or give us a call.

Thank you for the joy of partnering with you as "*he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus*".

Prepared by Ross Penner  
Director of Canadian Operations

## **SASKATOON MENNONITE CARE SERVICES INC. (SMCS)**

Our primary facility - known as Bethany Manor to most people reading this - has now had a year of relative stability. I use that word as we have come through several years of many changes – services, staff, fees. Those years caused some challenges for the board and staff in having our valued residents adjust to some new realities. It was difficult for the board as well to make decisions that it knew would have significant impacts on some residents.

The primary driver for higher fees had been to improve our overall financial position and prepare for what would inevitably be higher costs as our facility ages. Another factor in costs is the refurbishing that is done whenever a suite is vacated so the new resident starts with a new looking home. The frequency of moves from suites is increasing as the full complement of the different phases of buildings have now been in existence for at least 10 years. We want to maintain a reputation of having a clean new-like place for each new resident.

The secondary reason for needing higher fees was to slowly bring us into a position where we may be able to consider additional capital projects. We are not there yet, but have begun the lengthy process of determining what we may even want to do. The board recently engaged a consultant to assist us in determining what we want the future of SMCSI to look like. We plan to survey our current and waiting list residents on what they may be looking for us to do and we will be taking stock of what seniors resident services are in short supply in the greater Saskatoon area. If you have any thoughts you wish to express to us, please contact myself or the Executive Director.

The one facilities change that is - somewhat regrettably - still in process this year is the walkway project. The unfortunate delays in 2017 continued through much of the summer of 2018, but progress has been significant since then, and official opening of this heated shortcut to get from the south half of the complex to the dining room is expected January 31, 2019. Fundraising is still ongoing with \$641,000 of the target \$900,000 received.

Along with fundraising to completely fund the walk-way project, we know that some residents have found it difficult to meet all their basic needs as fees have risen faster than their income. We continue to raise funds to support residents who struggle with their housing fees, their personal care and assisted living fees and costs related to health and wellness expenditures.

We were also very happy to welcome Lois Siemens to our staff as Spiritual Care Coordinator. She was originally hired as part time, but plans are to make this a full time position as residents have responded positively to Lois and wishing she was there more often.

Our secondary facility that has been on our books since 1990 is West Ridge Village - in the Confederation Park community of Saskatoon. West Ridge provides 75 affordable rental housing units primarily for transitional families. SMCSI owns 53 of those 75 units (the remaining 22 are owned by Saskatchewan Housing Corporation). Besides owning the applicable housing units we also provide governance support. Three of the five board members of West Ridge Village are from SMCSI, reflecting the percentage of our ownership. We also have a member of our staff and board coordinating children and youth programming at the complex. Saskatoon Housing Authority manages the project under contract. Our agreement comes to an end in 2027.

The whole board of directors appreciate all the support we receive from you. We work hard as a team, dedicated to the cause of ensuring we achieve our mission to the Glory of our God.

Doyle Wiebe – Board Chair



## **SHEKINAH RETREAT CENTRE**

This has been a year of great change for Shekinah. Despite difficulties, we have had a lot of positive things happen in 2018 and see more positive things for 2019.

Challenges: bookings were very low this year which made balancing the books impossible, we increased our mortgage to manage. In addition to that our water system and cooling systems required expensive repairs. Due to our financial situation we have operated on a skeleton staff which has created heavy loads for staff.

### Highlights:

Staff: Ron and Sue Schellenberg began as Co-Executive Directors in mid March. Craig Friesen is the Program Director, Clay Redekopp is the Maintenance Manager and fortunately for all of us, Sherrylynn Loewen continues as our Cook! All have brought important skills and knowledge to their job. The board is very pleased with the quality of staff working at Shekinah.

Donations: Overall donations were very good which was a huge benefit in this year of low bookings. Our bookings for 2019 are very good so far and we expect to break even this year. In addition to donating, booking our facilities and prayer support are essential for meeting our Mission for all to experience the Glory of God. We have several amazing stories that are too long for this report that illustrate how well Shekinah continues to achieve that mission.

Cabins: Two timber frame cabins were built this spring and through the summer and fall. We have been very fortunate that several people contributed to the first cabin and a couple who wishes to remain anonymous donated to allow the building of the second cabin. Another couple has also donated enough money to build the better part of a 3<sup>rd</sup> cabin and we are close to having enough for a 4<sup>th</sup> cabin. We are planning to build 2 additional cabins during Easter break 2019. That means we will no longer need to use the shanties for summer camp. We are so grateful to those who felt led to donate to our cabin building. We do not yet have exactly what we need to build the 4<sup>th</sup> cabin so additional donations are very welcome. We had hoped cabins would cost approximately \$30,000 but it appears it is closer to \$35,000 actual cost.

Summer Camp: We had 171 campers this summer which is the most we have had in 10 years and 50 of them were first time campers! One of them was a younger child who came to day camp, had so much fun she plans to stay over night next year and was one of the top fundraisers for the bike a thon held in September.

Special events: Winter Fun Day was a success as usual. Volunteers organized a bike-a-thon which had enthusiastic riders. We had a very successful new event: A Very Shekinah Christmas. Additional new special events are planned for 2019, including a Wine and Cheese Fundraiser.

Alcohol policy: We have implemented an alcohol use policy for persons/groups renting the Timber Lodge. Our policy is based on one used by another church camp.

**Relationships: We feel all the successes we have had this year have been due to relationships that our staff are creating or rebuilding. There is a very positive vibe about Shekinah these days.**

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

Phyllis Goertz  
Shekinah Board Chair

# BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

As newly appointed buildings and grounds co-deacon's we soon learned how to divert rainwater and operate a wet vacuum. After consulting with a variety of roofing contractors, and getting quotes, we hired a company to patch the roof membranes. The repairs have bought us some time to plan for a substantial roof repair/replacement. Rain gutters were added on the east side of the building. Repairs continue in the library, lounge, and front foyer to repair water damages. In the year ahead we will be putting together a proposal and cost estimates for a long term repair to the building roof system.

As the seasons change there are many tasks that just seem to get done. The snow gets shoveled, the grass is cut and watered, the garden grows, the flowerbeds bloom, and a multitude of chores are completed. We are grateful for all of the generous help from those that volunteer to maintain Nutana Park Mennonite Church.

Buildings and Grounds Co-Deacon's,  
Patrick Fleury & Arnold Neufeld

## FINANCE

My first 6 months as treasurer have been both inspiring and a learning curve.

A big thank you to Helen for her help in the office and for Carmen doing a great job with book keeping and financial management.

Another big thank you for the generous financial giving by all.

- total revenues fell about \$19,000 short of the 2018 budget we had set.

- total expenses were also down by about \$40,000

- the operating surplus was about \$21,000 (may be put to capital reserves)

- when we asked for a special giving for the refugee fund of \$5,000 we got about \$9,000

Your giving provided many services.

NPMC –pastoral services

- office support

- care and visitation

- fellowship

- refugee assistance

- Christian education

- music and worship

- our church facilities for many community services

- utilities

- building maintenance

- janitorial service

- insurance

- utilities

- etc.

Mennonite Church Sask.

- conference pastoral staff

- nursing home

- pastoral relations

- three camps

- SMYO

- RJC

Mennonite Church Canada

- Common Word

- International witness

- Education (AMBS and CMU)

- Indigenous settler relations

- COSA

Ken Warkentin,  
for the Finance Committee:  
Darryl Epp, Paul Tiessen

## **NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**

Pastoral Staff: Patrick Preheim  
Nora Pederberg (from May, 2018)

Youth Leader: Sarah Unrau (until May, 2018)

### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

Chairperson  
Vice-Chair  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Bookkeeper  
Building & Grounds

Caring & Visitation  
Christian Education  
Church Life  
Fellowship  
Music  
Worship

Tammy Forrester  
Bob Neufeldt  
Mackenzie Fast  
Ken Warkentin  
Carmen Epp  
Arnie Neufeld  
Patrick Fleury  
Debra Heinrichs  
Valerie Epp  
Denelda Fast  
Carolene Funk  
Bonnie Dahl  
Brent Guenther

### **CO-ORDINATORS**

Adult Education  
Art in the Lounge  
Auditor  
Billeting  
Custodian  
Decorations  
Greeters  
Historian-Archives  
Library  
  
Saskatoon Mennonite  
Care Services  
Refugee Assistance  
Sunday School  
Ushers

Edna Froese  
Hedie Borne  
Virtus Group  
Carolene Funk  
Senayit Woldemichael  
Nicole Tiessen  
Lydia Schroeder  
Merna Ediger  
Susan Ens Funk  
Lori Weiler-Thiessen  
  
Geraldine Balzer  
Gordon Enns  
Marlie Leis  
Brent Guenther

### **CARING & VISITATION COMMITTEE**

Debra Heinrichs  
Anita Retzlaff  
Carey Kroeger  
Kathy Lindsay-Olfert  
Jenae Funk  
Kathleen Regier  
Lori & Dave Weiler-Thiessen  
Patrick Preheim  
Susanne Guenther Loewen (on leave)

### **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

Carolene & Wally Funk  
Lois Tiessen - Funerals  
Rhonda & Eldon Krahn  
Edith & Armin Krahn  
Kathleen Regier  
Jenae Funk  
Elisabeth & Henry Reimer  
Bonnie Ramage  
Brenda Baergen  
Lori & Dave Weiler-Thiessen