

Nutana Park Mennonite Church



Annual Report 2019

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ORGANIZATION

NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

March 29, 2020

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.

AGENDA

Nutana Park Mennonite Church
Annual General Meeting
March 29, 2020

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Approval of the AGM Minutes of March 24th, 2019
4. Report Summary:
 - Chairperson Report – Tammy Forrester
 - Deacon & Committee Reports
5. Report from the Treasurer – Ken Warkentin
 - 5.1 Auditor's Report and Approval of 2019 Audited Financial Statements
 - 5.2 Presentation and Approval of 2020 Budget
 - 5.3 Appointment of Auditor for 2020
6. Bylaw Change – Recommendation
 - Current Bylaw:**
 - Part IX – Duties of Officers and Deacons
 - 50 2) Deacons shall
 - a. Be members;
 - Recommended Change:**
 - Part IX – Duties of Officers and Deacons
 - 50 2) Deacons shall
 - a. Be Nutana Park Mennonite Church members or active participants.
7. Nominations Committee – Bob Neufeldt
 - 7.1 2020 – 2021 Board of Deacons election
8. New Business
 - 8.1 Pastoral Ordination
9. Closing

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 24, 2019 – 1:00 pm

A quorum was present – Chair: Tammy Forrester

1. Welcome - Tammy

2. Approval of the Agenda. **Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented with change to the year (2019) in 7.4. Moved by John Siemens, seconded by Wally Funk. Carried.**

3. Approval of the Minutes from March 18, 2018. **Motion to approve the AGM Minutes of March 18, 2018. Moved by Jake Ens, seconded by Anita Retzlaff. Carried.**

4. Chairperson Report - Tammy Forrester Tammy provided her report in the Annual Report and made highlights here. These included: Tammy thanked the community and the church staff for their extra work in the past year with the HR changes that were made. Service Group was a new addition to the church and has been warmly received by the congregation. MCSask continues to support and help with visioning of the greater church, and the NPMC board continues to envision our future. Tammy touched on Susanne's welcome return, Patrick's deserved sabbatical, Sarah's impending return, Nora's enthusiastic contributions and Helen's excellent work in the office. Tammy continues to be grateful for the support of the church in many ways.

5. Deacon and Committee Reports An introduction and acknowledgement to the current deacons and committees was highlighted by Tammy.

6. Nominations Committee Report - Bob Neufeldt, Vice Chair.

Bob thanked Debbie and Mackenzie for their contributions to the board. Bob thanked Gordon Peters, Armin Krahn and Joan Sawatzky. The following Deacons were willing to continue their current portfolios: Arnie Neufeld and Patrick Fleury (co-deacons Buildings and Grounds), Carmen Epp (bookkeeper).

Bob indicated that he had missed Val Epp's term expiring last board meeting and wanted to retroactively ensure that there was a motion.

Motion to accept Val Epp (retroactively) as Christian Education Deacon for a 2 year term (ending in 2020). Moved by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Marlene Froese. Carried.

Openings on the board included:

-Caring and Visitation - Kathleen Regier has agreed to this deacon position

-Secretary - Macaila Funk has agreed to this board position

Motion to accept the slate of nominations for returning board members as presented in their various roles as described above, for a 2 year term. Moved by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Jake Ens. Carried.

Motion to accept Kathleen Regier as Caring and Visitation Deacon and Macaila Funk as Secretary. Moved by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Rosemary Slater. Carried.

7. Report from the Treasurer – Ken Warkentin

7.1 Motion to approve the 2018 Audited Financial Statement as presented. Moved by Ken Warkentin, seconded by Gordon Peters. Carried.

Ken thanked Carmen Epp for her continued excellent work with the church bookkeeping and Helen for her help in easing his transition. He further thanked the congregation for their contributions. Ken indicated that the surplus from last year was placed into the Capital Reserve fund.

7.2 Presentation of 2019 budget. Ken highlighted the difference in this year's budget, largely in HR costs and building maintenance. He outlined the plan for this year's budget. No further discussion occurred.

7.3 Motion to approve the proposed 2019 budget as presented. Moved by Ken Warkentin, seconded by Jac Nickel. Carried.

7.4 Appointment of the auditor for 2019. Ken was dissatisfied with the cost of the auditor this past year and will meet with the finance committee to determine the best possible auditor for the coming year. As such, no auditor will be appointed at this time.

Motion for the finance committee to examine the options for a 2019 Auditor and to report back to the board for approval. Moved by Ken Warkentin, seconded by Ernie Epp. Carried.

8. New Business 8.1 Rental Policy - Ken Warkentin

Ken presented the new rental policy and the changes made to the fee structure. A lengthy discussion of the changes occurred with questions around the \$1/person charge. A number of concerns were raised that this would limit the participation of some people in certain groups. Paul Thiessen also wanted to clarify that the finance committee made certain recommendations, but that the board made some changes and approved the final policy. Tammy fielded the majority of the questions. Tammy thanked Ken for his work with the finances of the church.

9. Closing and Centering Thoughts – Debbie Heinrichs

Meeting Adjourned at 1:55 p.m. by John Siemens.

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 31st, 2019. And as I move into my final 6 months of service as Board Chair of NPMC, there is much to reflect upon not only through the year but over my last 9 years on the Deacon Board.

Firstly, I want to extend my gratitude to the Co-Pastoral Leadership team – Susanne and Patrick for all your work this year as Susanne transitioned back from maternity leave and Patrick moved in and out through the months of his Sabbatical. The church remained strong and steady with both of you as our leaders. You kept us focused on faith and brought meaningful worship opportunities to our community.

Thank you to Sarah for returning from your maternity leave ready to serve the youth of our congregation and share your gifts and expertise in other areas of church service as required. It was good to have a full leadership team back together for the majority of 2019.

And finally, sincere and deep gratitude and thanks to Helen. Your care, consideration and support that you offer each and every day to all of us, in the work you do to keep the church organized and functioning, has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. You will definitely leave a significant emptiness for all of us as you move into retirement and disconnect from your office work at the church. We thank you as a congregation for your many years of service and for sharing your beautiful gifts with us.

This past year we met some financial challenges in the church and through open dialogue and transparency, reached out to the congregation for deeper support. Thank you for responding favorably and supportively to Nutana Parks financial needs.

We also spent much time and effort internally working on our policies and employment structures to continue to be good stewards of our congregational supports ensuring the needs of our congregants

and members are being met through the ministry of our church. Thanks to the Deacons, supporting committees and congregants who have provided input, feedback and support to future decisions.

In closing I want to thank the Board of Deacons for having been partners in supporting the work of the church. Our dialogue has been rich and meaningful. And now as 2020 is upon us, and I look at the last 6 months of my term as Board Chair, I am grateful for the support and guidance I have received along the way from many caring individuals in this community of believers. The work at times has been difficult, but in the end has been rewarding. Our common ground, believing in God's love for all, has been sustaining.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tammy Forrester, Board Chair

SPIRITUAL MINISTRY

NPMC PASTORAL STAFF

"There are many gifts but the same Spirit." – *Hymnal: A Worship Book* #304 (1 Cor. 12:4)

2019 was a full and meaningful year at NPMC! Over the past year, I've been reminded of the rich diversity of gifts and people in this congregation, and the ways that we intentionally extend God's peace and welcome to all and build community in our diversity.

A few highlights from last year: after a warm welcome back from my maternity leave, I was grateful to many of you who offered time, skills, and encouragement to me and Nora Pederberg during Patrick's four-month sabbatical. Last summer, NPMC people of all ages participated in the Saskatoon Pride Parade as a way of living out our welcoming statement, which started a new tradition. Women's Bible Study has shifted to committee leadership so that four of us take turns guiding the group of 20-25 women through the minor prophets, a summer book study, and now the Gospel of Mark, along with a time for sharing and supporting each other through joys and challenges. Worship continues to involve all ages and gifts, including services that welcome new members or new babies, or say goodbye to beloved members who have passed away. Our worship themes on "Naming Our Fears," "Names for God," "The Beatitudes," and our use of the lectionary have been well received, as have our increased use of worship visuals. Adult Education continues to provide much food for thought as we explore various biblical, theological, ethical, and cultural themes, as discerned by our passionate and insightful committee. As always, it has been a privilege to visit with you, whether in your homes or at church gatherings, and to work with you on various committees, teaching, worship services, and special projects.

Last year also provided an opportunity for Patrick, Sarah, and me to look at how our gifts might best serve changing needs within the congregation. I am looking forward to helping develop more programming for our growing group of young children, including a monthly Peace Club for school-aged children, which will focus on Mennonite values and what peace means for our lives. In the interests of using our time effectively, I will also be the primary co-pastor relating to our wider Mennonite Church Saskatchewan church body.

I've so appreciated the encouragement and connection with you as we continue to be a thriving, welcoming, intergenerational faith community. Thanks be to God.

Peace,
Susanne Guenther Loewen
Co-Pastor

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 features of 2019 for my ministry at NPMC have been my sabbatical as well as re-establishing congregational relationships.

I am grateful to the Church Board, staff and the congregation for supporting my four-month Sabbatical. The bulk of this time was spent nurturing relationships with parents, siblings, nephews & nieces, and grand-nieces / nephews in the state of Kansas. Such would not have been possible without an extended leave from my church work. On my time away from Nutana Mennonite I also spent a week serving with Mennonite Disaster Service in Puerto Rico as well as two weeks of a more silent retreat.

The Sabbatical of this past year as well as greater administrative responsibility in 2018 (Susanne's maternity leave) have challenged my ability to remain as closely connected to all the people of the congregation as I would like. I recognize this; I lament it; and I am also coming to own the reality that I am not able to do as much as I want. I have sincerely tried to reconnect and maintain regular presence with those of our community closest to the margins trusting those closer to the core are receiving mutual support. If anyone asks for a lunch visit or a coffee break visit or an evening tea visit, I always make time for such requests.

I have valued the collective community engagement which the service group has brought to congregational life. Nora Pederberg and I initiated this group in the fall of 2018, Nora offered some of her staff time to this group in the spring of 2019, and I have contributed staff time to this in the remainder of 2019. Strong lay leadership, though, is what makes the group work (and thank you to those lay leaders). The group continues to serve regularly at Friendship Inn, Pleasant Hill Community School, and this year we supported the Advent bell ringing campaign of the Salvation Army. In addition to the collective engagement of this group I am mindful of the myriad ways in which individuals are connecting to our civic community. For this service beyond our walls, individual or collective, I give thanks.

Finally, I am grateful for the many people of this congregation who share in the responsibility of congregational care and ministry. Sara Unrau and Nora Pederberg are capable pastors and their presence has been greatly valued by me in 2019. 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. Susanne Guenther-Loewen is a valued colleague. 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

NPMC Staff Snapshot of 2019

49

Sermons Preached

372

Pastoral Visits

54

Youth Events or
Discussion Nights

68

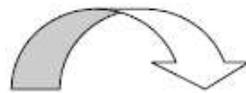
people attending
Women's/Men's
Studies or Groups

25

Kids in Care Group 6

74

MC Sask or Community
Connections



Coming up in 2020

- Peace Club for school-aged children
- Supporting the Youth Group
- Membership & Baptism conversations
- Extending welcome to all and building intergenerational community

Over the course of 2019, the youth have attended 34 discussion nights and 22 events.

Myself, Sarah Unrau, returned from maternity leave at the beginning of May 2019, taking over from Nora Pederberg who filled my absence.

Discussion topics have included: Who God is, social media, angels, sports & competition, mental health, Christmas & consumerism.

Youth events have included: a ski strip, mini golf, SMYO retreat to Elim, garden planting & harvesting, babysitting, halloween events, an escape room, Christmas party, overnigher and a variety of events at RJC, with Super Group (combined events with Mount Royal and Wildwood churches) and Mega Menno (events with all MCSask churches).

5 youth attended the *Shake! Rattled by the Radical* youth conference at Shekinah this summer.

Over the year, 6 youth have been connected to the program with an average of 3-4 youth attending weekly events. Numbers are low due to demographics in the congregation, however, the youth that do come are engaged and excited to participate in the program. In addition to these events, I continue to meet monthly with a youth ministry group headed by MCSask to discuss and plan for youth events within Saskatoon and throughout the province.

Sarah Unrau
Youth Leader

Membership Statistics

Membership, January 1, 2019	258
Deaths (*members)	2
Inactive	<u>3</u>
	5
Baptisms	1
Transfer In	<u>3</u>
	4
Membership, December 31, 2019	257
Marriages (of members, or of members' children)	2
Births	7
<u>Baptizand</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Diana Decaire	*Inez Kinzel
	*Alan Reese

CARING & VISITATION

2019 has been a year of transition for the Caring and Visitation committee. We said goodbye to several committee members, including the Caring and Visitation Deacon of seven years, Debbie Heinrichs, and prepared to welcome new faces onto our team. We are so grateful for the care shown by Debbie, Lori, Dave, and Carey to our congregants during their years of service on the committee. We look forward to learning and serving together as a new committee in partnership with past committee members, the congregation, and the broader Church, to bring Christ's spirit of welcome, love, solidarity and hope to all those who enter into community at Nutana Park Mennonite Church.

The Caring and Visitation committee continues to meet together on a monthly basis to share the joys and concerns of the NPMC church community. As a committee, we strive to foster a sense of belonging for all members of the NPMC community and extend a hand of support to individuals who

are in transition or have obstacles to fully engaging in church. We recognize that this is best accomplished with a collective congregational effort and look forward to discovering new ways of caring together as a church community. Our members currently extend care to others by sending cards, making phone calls, visiting people in their homes and hospitals, and hosting a fasma for Bethany Manor residents twice a year. If you know of individuals in our congregation who are in need of support or have ideas of how you could be involved in congregational efforts to support one another, please do not hesitate to be in contact with myself or any member of the committee (as listed below). When we extend care as a community, we open new doors for God to shape us and the world we live in.

“My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.” Exodus 33:14

Just as God has promised his presence among us, let us be with one another in times of joy and sorrow as we strive to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Committee Members

Jenae Funk
Susanne Guenther-Loewen
Edith Krahn
Kathy Olfert
Patrick Preheim
Rod and Bonnie Ramage
Kathleen Regier
Anita Retzlaff

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Regier
Caring and Visitation Deacon

MUSIC

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.
1 Peter 4:10

The board has spent time this past fall revisiting the Visionary Intentions of Nutana Park Mennonite Church. This document has been in existence since 2013 and continues to speak to the ways that we at NPMC see ourselves doing the work of God. Thinking about how we share our gifts within our congregation has been our focus for the past couple of months: gifts of talent, time, and finance.

The music committee continues to feel grateful to the many talented and generous people for their contributions to music at Nutana. We continue to have a dedicated group of accompanists for Sunday mornings and a wide group of musicians to add special music to our worship services. Our children continue to be led in their Sunday School singing by a couple of talented and energetic dads and their guitars. We have opportunities to add our gifts in the Senior Choir, led by Jordan Wiens and others and accompanied by various gifted accompanists. Our gifts are shared in The Garage Sale Band, the Classical Music Afternoon, and by groups and individuals such as Musica Tribus, Saskatoon Singers and others.

The committee has spent some time this past fall and will be using time this spring to focus on hymnal rejuvenation and repair. We have ordered 40 new hymnbooks and a variety of resource materials from the new publication, Voices Together. Once it is in print form we hope to have the choir and small groups use this resource in worship to determine the needs for the congregation. We will also be taking time to repair many pew copies of The Hymnal Worship Book.

The music committee consists of the following members: Jordan Wiens, Aleta Martens, Fern Stockdale Winder, Lynn Driedger, Zach Janzen, and myself. The committee continues to search for people who are willing to share their gifts in worship and in our many small groups. This year we bid farewell to Jocelyn Fluery. Jocelyn spent a couple of years on the committee and is now taking time to

spend her time outside of work with Patrick and Keith. We thank Jocelyn for her work with this committee over the years.

Respectfully Submitted by
Bonnie Dahl, Music Deacon

WORSHIP

There are many priorities for Nutana Park Mennonite Church. One only needs to glance at the inside of a bulletin to see the opportunities for NPMC and its congregants. Worship continues to be the foundation of our church, and it is a time and place when and where so many other initiatives are given voice and attention. I am thankful for the opportunity that the worship committee is given to lead in new directions, and respond to the needs of the congregation.

Susanne and Patrick continue to lead our worship committee and our congregation in a bold and attentive manner. I am thankful for their care and thoughtfulness in matters of worship and how that becomes the foundation for how we prepare and organize worship together.

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. Although ensuring that speakers and musicians is nothing new to our AV volunteers, we have definitely added more projected visuals and text to our worship services. I want to thank Arny Kroeger, Dave Wieler-Tiessen, and Don Froese for “working the perch” and continuing to take on more responsibility in making worship more accessible to everyone. Nicole Tiessen’s leadership and hard work continues to be appreciated as she takes care of the décor inside and outside the sanctuary.

The attention and planning of our worship leaders continue to ensure that worship is accessible to all. Worship leaders strike a balance between bringing their own perspective and giving continuity to our worship services, and I am thankful for the time and attention that is needed to do this successfully.

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.

I am thankful to those who say “yes” when asked to serve in all matters of worship. I appreciate fellowship and feedback I receive in the play room, in the foyer, or washing dishes following communion. Worship continues to be an active part of NPMC, 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

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 2019, the winter session was loosely based on the book *The 8 Laws of Change: How to Be an Agent of Personal and Social Transformation*, and featured guest speakers from various local agencies that met social needs in Saskatoon. Because of the many agencies that we wanted to hear from, our Lenten series became a shortened 4-week look at various Lenten practices. The final spring series was an introduction to Islam.

For the fall of 2019, we did a two-part series on politics and religion, a very timely topic, given the October federal election. Our special guest speakers were especially helpful in helping us understand politics in a more positive framework, and left us several suggestions about how we can do our part to foster a just society.

We concluded 2019 with a four-week Advent series titled “Blue Christmas.” We wanted to acknowledge that for many people the Christmas season can be difficult, and to offer some comfort and healing. The Adult Education group continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The earlier time means that we have more time afterward to chat about what we’ve just heard or to circulate in the lounge and the foyer to meet those who are arriving for the church service.

I would like to thank the members of the Adult Education Committee—Val Epp, Susanne Guenther Loewen, Patrick Preheim, Rachel Regier, and Paul Schroeder. A special thank you is due to Renata Klassen who has resigned from the committee, for her many years of service to Adult Education, especially through her many connections in the larger Mennonite community; she provided valuable continuity, significant familiarity with MC Canada and local organizations, and a necessary practical mindset. I also want to honor Alan Reese for his 14 years as part of the committee; we miss his detailed historical knowledge, his spiritual wisdom, his eclectic reading habits, and his sense of humor.

Once again I end with a call for new committee members, and with a warm invitation to all who are interested in continued learning and lively discussion of matters that relate to our church and to our world.

Edna Froese,
for the Adult Education Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education continues to be a very important part of Nutana Park Mennonite Church. We seem to be seeing a steady growth happening once again in our younger set and we are grateful for that. Coffee and the fellowship of members following the Sunday School hour continues to be a significant part of the church morning and has become a relaxing bridge between Sunday School and choir to the morning worship time. This intentional fellowship has become a wonderful time to visit among many ages.

Children’s Education 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. We also have started to use materials from the Shine curriculum put out by Menno Media. We are grateful to Grace Mennonite from Regina for giving their old material to us. It has allowed us the opportunity to give it a try and see how it works with our children and how the leaders feel about it. Thank you to all who have been willing to take various Sundays to teach. As our children increase in age, we are at a point where we must find ways to meet their spiritual learning needs. Once a month a separate lesson will be provided for the older children (ages 7+). This is the focus for planning for the remainder of the church year and in preparation for new programming in September. A big shout out and Thank you to Tammy Forrester and Bonnie Dahl who, once again, guided our youngsters in making the Christmas Children’s program a success. With great delight from the attendees at the banquet, our children were able to show their acting and speaking talents.

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. It is often difficult to plan for topics that everyone is interested in. We do our best but usually go on feedback from the Adult Ed attendees. We started back in September with a focus on politics and religion. We responded to the overwhelming suggestions for focusing on such a topic. Please continue to provide ideas as we move into this new year. A list of past themes is kept along with suggestions for future topics. Please see Edna’s report for more details. We do encourage you to consider joining the adult committee if you feel you are being called in that direction.

We have gone down in members this past year. The more creative minds working together makes the planning a little easier.

I welcome your comments and suggestions as we move forward into 2020. New ideas are always appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Epp

LIBRARY

The library committee consists of Susan Ens Funk, and Lori Weiler-Thiesen. Library material recommendations are always welcome. This year library work was stalled as we had an ongoing disruption in the facilities caused by the roof leak of 2018.

NPMC has an online catalog which is available on the iPad in the library or from any internet connected device. Patrons can search the library database by author, title, and subject. This catalog is available online at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/NPMC/>. Church library patrons are welcome to ask for assistance from Susan and Lori on how to use the iPad catalog any time.

Respectfully submitted,
The Library Committee

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We had another very successful year with regard to Children's programming.

As previous, Sunday School occurred at 10:15 weekly, and continued to serve children from preschool through grade six. At this point, to accommodate variable attendance, all the kids are grouped together for each session. If all attend (which does not usually happen outside the first few Sundays of September), there are approximately 20 students! On average, about 6 children attend each week. Although combining the classes has worked so far, there are some requests to split the children into age-appropriate groups. For example, some of the older children are not finding the sessions challenging enough given that they need to be applicable to the younger children as well. If attendance increased and the volunteer pool was sufficient, we could think about dividing the group into two to accommodate this request.

The content of Sunday School is still based on a curriculum borrowed from Osler Mennonite Church. We also have access to some used Shine material that was given to us by Grace Mennonite Church. There are a wide variety of themes, including Faith (David and Goliath, Abraham and Sarah), Church Family (Moses and Israelites) and encouraging good self-esteem through praise and sharing, and more.

Thank you to Bonnie and Tammy for putting together such a wonderful Christmas program (again!) which our kids and the congregation thoroughly enjoyed. Special thanks also to Lisa Doepker and Michelle Roth who continue to stock the "quiet bags" which contain 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. Jared Regier and Ben Leis have volunteered to support the weekly singing initiative as needed. This is much appreciated.

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

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY



CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

2019-2020 Fall Enrolment

763 students Shaftesbury campus
(646 FTE)

650 Undergraduate

77 Graduate

36 Outtatown

75% Manitoba; 25% other provinces
and international

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

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

17% Disclose no church connection

Includes 109 International students
from 31 countries

271 FTE Menno Simons College

(CMU programming at U Winnipeg)

A Faith-Nurturing

University Community

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 57 students presently enrolled

(26 MA Theological Studies; 23 MA Christian Ministry; 6 MDiv; 2 Certificate)

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

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

Greetings from Canadian Mennonite University



CMU Mission

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

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

Modeling Invitational Community: Integrating faith and life

- In the words of **Mackenzie Nicolle, BA Social Sciences, Rosthern, Saskatchewan**

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

Educating for Peace-Justice: Seeking the Flourishing of All

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

Learning through Thinking and Doing: Educating for Vocation

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

Practising Generous Hospitality and Dialogue: Reconciliation

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

cmu.ca

ROSTHERN JUNIOR COLLEGE

Thank you to all MC SK and AB churches for your support of RJC's mission to prepare young people for lives of faith, service and peacemaking. We strive to fulfill this mission by working closely with home and church to give our students the full support they need. Thank you for your part in this work.

The 2018-2019 school year was a rewarding year. RJC continues to offer excellent academic program with plenty of opportunities for students to participate in athletics and the arts. These opportunities along with our focus on faith and community life continue to provide a full educational experience for our students.

Along with our regular academic, athletic, performing arts, faith and community programs, some highlights from the 2018/19 school year include:

- Hosting our 1st Annual Treaty Six Soccer Tournament in an effort to build relationships with our treaty partners
- Launching and re-branding *RJC Singers* as our new traveling, extra-curricular choir
- Adding a new *International Student Program* in efforts to recruit more international students, and serve them more purposefully
- Exploring the theme 'Modern Concepts of Peace' during our annual Deeper Life Days
- Hosting our annual Homecoming & Fundraising Dinner which featured an Olympic theme
- Partnering with MCC SK for a 'Global Songs and Sweets' event in February
- Hosting alumni events in Winnipeg and Calgary
- Continuing to develop our cross-curricular, grade-based programs focused on peace (Grade 10 IMAGINE), relationships (Grade 11 THRIVE), and leadership (Grade 12 EXPLORE)
- Partnering with the Rosthern Ministerial to host a community Ash Wednesday service at RJC
- Working with MC SK to initiate a 'Pastor in Residence' program where Kirsten Hamm-Epp visited our campus each Wednesday
- Traveling with students to Saskatoon, Calgary, Oliver, Toronto and Guatemala for our annual Alternative Service and Learning Opportunities week (ALSO Week)
- Helping students with their fundraising efforts during LENTOPOLY where all the money raised went to support our ALSO partners
- Performing *Joseph and Technicolor Dreamcoat* as our yearend musical

These events listed above only serve as highlights from the past year. RJC is a dynamic school community full of energy and life. It is a privilege to work with so many ambitious and gifted students along with dedicated staff members and supporters who keep all of our programs, events, and classes running. Thank you!

Submitted by Ryan Wood, Principal

MISSION AND SERVICE MINISTRY

ART IN THE LOUNGE

During the year 2019 it has once again been my privilege to facilitate the displays of a variety of artists within our church community, our sister congregations, and the wider community of Saskatchewan. Our goal is to encourage the artist within each of us and to honour God and creation through art. The following displayers presented a beautiful variety of art works:

January - February:	Macaila Funk	Multi-Media
March - April:	Leila Olfert	Fabric Art
May - June:	Denise Epp	Paintings
July - August:	No Shows	
September - October	Anne Waugh	Paintings
November - December:	NPMC	Knitting & Crocheting

Thank you to each person who participated in these shows.

Respectfully Submitted by
Hedie Borne
Coordinator for Art in the Lounge

CHURCH LIFE

It's been almost four years since the inception of the new portfolio titled Church Life Deacon. The concept was birthed from the desire to enhance community within the NPMC walls in addition to growing our involvement in the wider community.

Our worship services with the residents at Sherbrooke and Bethany Manor are obvious extensions of NPMC connecting with community outside these walls. We share four worship services with Sherbrooke during the year, bringing forward a paired down version of our NPMC morning worship to the intimate chapel and the residents and their families in the afternoon. Bethany Manor schedules us for two or three morning services. I appreciate the willingness of many of you who say yes to offering your time, energy and gifts when worshipping with those in our community.

The garage sale is another significant effort that connects us with the wider community. Spearheaded by Glenis and Garry, with the help of a multitude of volunteers, the garage sale was once again a huge success and well received by throngs of treasure seekers. Thank you to all of you who brought items, sorted and priced items, entertained us, barbecued and served hungry customers and worked the parking lot on another sunny Saturday. Proceeds given to MCC are always welcomed and raised with a purpose!

"Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Pink and Blue" was the theme that Marlene and I worked with this year for the Wedding & Babe Shower ... It was a delight! Brides willingly agreed to have their wedding gowns on display along with a photo of how they looked on their big day from years gone by! There was curiosity and fascination as people inspected each gown. There were also baby clothes from "the olden days" on display on tables. Thank you to those that helped with the lunch and entertainment. We celebrated four couples and seven babes connected to our congregation.

Thank you to everyone who shares photos with me during the year for me to share on the slideshow on the foyer monitor. I enjoy putting this together every week!

An update of the website has mostly been complete as we attempt to have a public and a private side for everyone in our congregation to access. The website has continued to be usable during this transition and improvements and additions will be ongoing. Thank you to Sarah, Charlene and Jamie for their work on this project.

Care Groups and Movie Nights continue to serve a need for those who choose to attend. The coordination comes from within and thus these groups run like well-oiled machines. Our annual church retreat at Shekinah was a one day event this fall, which despite the cooler temperatures was thoroughly enjoyed by goers. This event requires yearly reflection as to its purpose and need.

As mentioned in the "Thank You" in your mailboxes, Marlene and I were very pleased with the spirit and enthusiasm surrounding our NPMC Christmas Dinner. "The Angelic View" guided us through the evening, angelic voices entertained us and smaller angels presented us with the Christmas Story from the animal's perspective. The transformation of the sanctuary into a banquet hall and then back again is a community effort that is an honour to be a part of.

Respectfully submitted,
Denelda Fast

FELLOWSHIP

It has been a wonderful year of potlucks. The body and soul were nourished by the food and fellowship at the tables. It is a group effort as tables are set up and cleaned up by those who attend and the Fellowship committee helps with organizing, serving and clean up.

The support and hard work of the Fellowship committee creates opportunities for community. We kicked off the school year with a BBQ potluck. This event brings people together to reconnect after summer holidays. Nutana Park hosted the CMU Singers in April. Supper was provided followed by a full house and an amazing concert. Along with other local churches Nutana Park opened their homes to provide places for the students and staff to stay the night. The MC Sask Leadership Meetings were held at Nutana Park in November. We prepared and served coffee breaks and lunch. For all of these events people from the Fellowship committee and many other volunteers continue to say yes to providing food, helping in the kitchen and opening their homes to host overnight guests, we are thankful.

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.

Fellowship Committee:

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

Funerals:

Respectfully submitted,
Carolene Funk

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Refugee Assistance Program (RAP) was relatively quiet during 2019. Over the previous number of years Nutana Park has been active in sponsoring refugees and there was a need to step back from actively engaging with new sponsorship opportunities.

Towards the end of 2019 MCC communicated celebration of 40 years of Canada's private refugee sponsorship program saying "MCC led the campaign to get this program off the ground 40 years ago...and in the last 5 years MCC offices have sent in applications for over 4000 persons. Each of those people has a story of suffering, turned into a story of opportunity. The United Nations High Commission on Refugees estimates that there are about 25.9 million refugees worldwide of whom about 1.44 million require resettlement in a third country."

In June of 2019, MCC outlined an opportunity for sponsorship of a Congolese family that has endured years of violence and suffering. The family fled the Democratic Republic of Congo in the late 1990's and since then has lived in a series of east Africa refugee camps. The family currently consists of 5 people – a young woman whose name is Speciose and 4 children. Speciose's husband is missing and presumed dead. Speciose's sister (Jeanine) and her husband (Jean) currently live in Saskatoon after coming to Canada as refugees a number of years ago.

The board of deacons agreed that the RAP begin discussions with MCC towards sponsoring Speciose and the 4 children. In October a meeting was held with MCC and with Jean and in December Nutana Park agreed to complete forms as the sponsoring agency under the Private

Sponsorship of Refugees program. This sponsorship involves a significant financial commitment (~\$25,000) and also the requirement for volunteers from the congregation to assist with resettlement.

The RAP looks forward to communicating this opportunity to the congregation more completely over the next few months.

The balance in the refugee fund at the end of 2019 was \$6,065.

Gord Enns
RAP Coordinator

SERVICE GROUP

Pleasant Hill School Lunch Program

James Friesen

For the past year, members of Nutana Park Mennonite Church have been volunteering at the Pleasant Hill School lunch program one day a week during the school year. Activities include assisting the head cook with preparing and serving the meal to approximately 80 students and cleaning up afterwards. For many of the students, this is the only consistent meal they receive during the day so this program is vital to the wellbeing of these children. The cook, staff, and students are most appreciative of our assistance.

Saskatoon Pride Parade

Susanne Guenther-Loewen

Our first year of participating in the Saskatoon Pride Parade was a wonderful experience, which we shared with members of Wildwood Mennonite Church and Osler Mennonite Church. About a week before the parade, we held a "Prep for Pride" event where we decorated T-shirts, made buttons, and shared rainbow-coloured snacks. The next weekend, about 45 of us of all ages braved the rain and walked in the parade, singing in four-part harmony and celebrating our diversity as a community - that we are "in this together," as our buttons and banner said. It was a great way of living out our inclusion statement and building community with other LGBTQ2S-affirming churches and groups. You can read more about it and see pictures in the Canadian Mennonite.

Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign

Merv Sorensen

The Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign was another program the Service Group supported this year. We committed to ringing the bells at the 8th St. Co-op and Market Mall for a total of 15 hours. Our volunteers found it a great experience and enjoyed connecting with the community.

Friendship Inn

Jen Schroeder

In the fall of 2019, the service group from Osler Mennonite approached Nutana Park church with the idea of sharing a service opportunity at Friendship Inn. Since October 2019, we have had a group of six to eight volunteers going the one Saturday, every second month to serve the noon meal to the guests there. There have been very positive interactions with the staff and with an Islamic service group that was there together with us for a few of those days.

Mennonite Disaster Service

Garry Koop

My report is divided, positive and negative. Firstly- MDS has 6 projects ongoing through the United States, Puerto Rico. I spent a week in a community near Corpus Christi, Texas, helping rebuild from hurricane Harvey. Habitat for Humanity and MDS are working together. Humanity would frame/shingle the houses and MDS would side them. Private contractors would do all the inside work. We then helped with building the front steps, the deck and wheelchair ramp. It was a very large project with 27 volunteers and of these, 20 were Amish. We had three 15-year-old Amish girls working at one of the sites with us. They had the hair coverings, ankle length dresses with long sleeves, work boots and gloves. They whistled and hummed, chuckled and giggled as they worked. Most enjoyable. During

suppers, all the Amish talked and laughed loudly and after supper while playing cards and games they talked and laughed even louder. What a pleasure.

While we were there, one of the Amish couple's father was killed in an accident back in Indiana. A young man smashed his car into the back of a horse and buggy. This couple talked of three things: 1) Now their mother and father would be reunited in Heaven and how happy they were for that. 2) They talked about how terribly much they were going to miss their father and all the things he was. 3) They talked at length about forgiveness, forgiving that young man. They wanted to get back home and meet him and his family to help rebuild all those lives that could be destroyed by this terrible accident. They talked of God's love and help. I learned a lot.

Now the negative: How can I go into a country to help, when they have committed an open act of war. Glenis and I had wanted to attend the conference in Goshen, Indiana. The time and money that I will spend might be spent better in some other part of the world. I have been in contact with MDS Winnipeg. If they are going back to Grand Forks BC, in 2020, I will try to organize a group from Nutana Park to go rebuild there this spring or summer.

EGADZ

Charlene Sorensen

The Service Group partnered with the Women's Coffee & Conversation group to gather donations for the EGADZ youth centre for Christmas. The children assisted with the collection of toiletries, winter wear, and baby items during the offering for the first three Sundays of Advent. With the monetary donations from the congregation and items from two Sunday collections we made 9 baby bags, the Women's Coffee & Conversation group made one baby bag, and we collected 13 bags of toiletries and winter wear for young people in our community.

CANADIAN MENNONITE

Canadian Mennonite Report to Mennonite Church Saskatchewan:

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

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

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

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

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

Ways to connect:

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

Tobi Thiessen
Publisher, Canadian Mennonite

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SASKATCHEWAN

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

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eileen Klassen Hamm,
Executive Director

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

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

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

CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre:

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

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

International Witness:

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

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

International Witness updates from 2019:

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

Indigenous-Settler Relations (ISR) Highlights:

- The Treaty Walk (May 31 to June 14), co-created by the Health Sciences Association of Alberta, ISR, and Dr. Pat Makokis, was a two-week-long walk from Edmonton to Calgary to raise awareness of Treaty relationships. Folks on the walk facilitated conversation circles in a dozen churches and community centres by bringing together Indigenous people, union workers and members of faith communities in intercultural and international friendship.
- Three new video resources were created in partnership with ISR: Treaty Walk, This Fight Continues: 262 & The Declaration, and Demand 1: Adopt the Declaration.
- ISR facilitated a delegation of 15 Mennonites from across the country to participate in NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community's Symposium on "Land and Place" at Tyndale University College in Toronto, Ont. on June 6-8.

- In support of the Global Climate Strike on Sept. 27, ISR coordinated two interfaith prayer gatherings and helped mobilize Christian communities for participation.
- ISR issued another print run of *Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization*. Paperback editions are now available through CommonWord.

For our full report go to <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/66/21909>.

Blessings to your congregation this New Year!

Sincerely,
Doug Klassen
Executive Minister

MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN

We are a community of 27 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred and Sent. We support each other in ministry, do things together which we cannot do alone, be church together throughout the province and connect to the larger Mennonite Church body through Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference. We are a mixture of small and large congregations living in urban and rural communities; about 40 per cent of our congregations average 40 worshipers or less. We are served by 29 active pastors and two chaplains. Of this group, 16 are female, 15 are male and 30 per cent are under the age of 40. MC Sask is blessed with this current mix of pastoral leadership. We want to encourage congregations to continue nurturing the call to pastoral ministry in men and women, and young and old alike as the need for new pastors continues to grow.

Throughout 2019, we continued on our three-year Deepening journey as we Deepened our Walk with Each Other . We walked with each other in a variety of ways: at our Annual Delegate Session with David Fitch in March (Thank you Zoar and Eigenheim Mennonite Churches for hosting us!); a worship series based on Fitch's Faithful Presence material, developed by several MC Sask pastors; Regional Worship Services and a workshop with the Voices Together hymnal committee in June; a Continuing Education Event with Tom Yoder Neufeld. and at Equipping Day, in which we engaged our deepening theme. Outside of these "formal" MC Sask gatherings, we continue to walk with each other when congregations join together for worship services, when pastors gather monthly for Pastor Peer meetings, and when we serve together on Committees and Commissions both within MC Sask and beyond. The MCC Relief Sale, Restorative Justice boards, camps boards are more examples –I could go on. God has given us this gift of community, of walking, working, and being together. I am grateful to God for this gift.

Other highlights of 2019 include Mennonite Church Canada's Gathering 2019 in Abbotsford. B.C. MC Sask was well represented at the Gathering and people left energized and inspired. At Gathering 2019, Doug Klassen was installed as Executive Minister of Mennonite Church Canada. Doug brings fresh energy to his role and enjoyed a week visiting MC Sask in October. In the summer, Jeanette Hanson (Rosthern Mennonite Church, Rosthern) took over as Interim Director of International Witness.

In Fall 2019, MC Sask partnered with Canadian Mennonite University and Susanne Guenther Loewen (CoPastor at Nutana Park Mennonite Church) to provide a graduate level course called Peace, Violence & The Atonement. We are looking forward to continuing this partnership with CMU to provide another graduate level course starting January 9, 2020, called Mission in Perspective , led by Josh Wallace. (To register for credit or to audit, go to <https://mcsask.ca/registrations/>).

Looking ahead to 2020, MC Sask is excited to welcome Arli Klassen, Coordinator of Regional Representatives for Mennonite World Conference and Moderator of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, as our guest speaker at the MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions, March 13 and 14, 2020, at First Mennonite, co-hosted with Wildwood Mennonite Church. The 2020 ADS theme ***Deepening our Walk with Each Other & The World*** will conclude this year's focus and move us into ***Deepening our Walk with our Neighbours***. This will be a weekend of singing, fellowship and reflection, reminding us

we are connected to a worldwide body of faith through Mennonite World Conference. But even more than that, “World” has double meaning in this theme. To quote from the MC Sask **Refresh, Refocus, Renew** final report:

Deepening our Walk with our Neighbours: We are being called to turn our faces toward the world, working for wholeness (shalom), joy and reconciliation. (year 3). While our whole journey is missional in nature, we want to take time to focus our energies on how we are being called “to love our neighbours as ourselves.” What does this look like practically? To what new (or old) thing is God calling us?

As 27 congregations located in 27 local neighbourhoods throughout Saskatchewan, we are well placed to bear witness to the grace and peace of Christ in our time.

In Christ, Ryan Siemens
Executive Minister,
Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grand Forks is just one place in Canada where MDS sought to be the hands and feet of Jesus on your behalf in 2019. Other places where we served included Ontario, where we helped people recover from flooding; Manitoba, where we built a house for a widow who lost her home in a fire; and also in Newfoundland, where we built a house for a family who lost their home in a fire. At the same time, volunteers served in locations in the U.S. in places like Texas, Florida, North and South Carolina, and California.

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

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

For Gabe and Rachel, it was an important moment. "We're not going anywhere," he says. "We plan to stay engaged with MDS's clients and our community. We intend to let people know the church is always here, always ready to help them."

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

Ross Penner,
Director of Canadian Operations

SASKATOON MENNONITE CARE SERVICES INC. (SMCS)

On behalf of the board of directors that oversee Bethany Manor, I bring you warm greetings. We are gratified with the high level of harmony among staff & residents that shows itself whenever I visit. I cannot help but thank all those that were in leadership positions in the past for creating the culture in Bethany that has currently some 700 people on waiting lists to move there.

We currently have a full slate of 12 directors - one from each of the active churches that formed this organization over 35 years ago. These directors devote considerable time and energy as decisions are made at the 5 regularly scheduled board meetings throughout the year, as well as committee and some special meetings on short notice that can occur from time to time.

This past year's most significant public event at Bethany was the official opening of the walkway connecting the dining room with the Tower. This walkway has had a larger impact on the lives of residents than originally planned for, as it is now seen as the completion of a semi-circular indoor walking path. Everyone can now more enjoy a bit of exercise - whatever the weather - a circuit with stops along the way to rest, visit, read a book, or enjoy the outdoors under the new pergola. (A pergola is an age old European style structure that does not keep out the rain, but does keep out most of the direct sun).

The walkway was part of the building modifications required for the Personal Care License. All of the costs of these changes were planned to be funded by donations. Under the leadership of our Fund Development Coordinator James Perkins, we have almost reached our final goal. James has brought great skills and knowledge to his part time role and we greatly appreciate the relationship building he has accomplished with donors. Once the walkway is fully paid for, he will focus his efforts on rebuilding some of the financial assistance funds we have established for those residents who are in need. If your church is considering a contribution to one of these funds, please contact James at our office.

This year has been exceptionally busy for our housing and maintenance staff as a record number of new & existing residents have moved into new units. Refurbishing a suite can take from a few days to several weeks as some have not been touched for 10 - 20 years. Also, some people have put their name on a waiting list long before they intend to move as they have heard of long waits. So what may look like a long list may actually be a short wait time for those who are ready to move when the opportunity comes up. Needless to say, a lot of staff time is required to find the first person on the list who actually is ready and willing to move into a particular unit with a particular floor plan.

In conclusion I would like to encourage you to consider having Jerry Letkeman - our Executive Director - and myself as board chair to meet with your church leadership to discuss any concerns or thoughts you have about Bethany Manor.

Doyle Wiebe,
Board Chair

SHEKINAH RETREAT CENTRE

No Report

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

This year has seen several changes on the building and grounds front. Timers and upgrading were done to the underground sprinkler system. A variety of general repairs took place. The roof repairs have extended the life of the roof for a few years, enabling us to save some additional funds for a major re-roofing project.

Our cleaning contract came to an end and Don Froese was hired to look after the job. Grateful thanks go out to all that contribute on an ongoing basis to tend to the flowers, garden, shovel snow, mow the grass... the list goes on.

Without the generous help of congregants we not would have the facility that we do. Thanks!

Arnie Neufeld
Patrick Fleury

FINANCE

First of all, a big thank you for your financial contributions to NPMC.

Total donations were about \$3,500 above the budgeted amount of \$415,000. Total revenue was about \$16,000 above the budgeted amount of \$420,000, this included designated funds, rental income and other income. After adjusting for all over and below spending of various expenses, the final net income was about \$18,000. These are all our figures before the audit was done. However, with Carmen's excellent bookkeeping I did not expect many adjustments by the auditors.

Considering the high needs of building and grounds repairs, the Board has decided to put the \$18,000 surplus into the capital reserve fund. This brings this reserve to \$85,000. We are also suggesting a 2020 budget for capital reserve of \$15,000. If we meet our budget it would mean a fund would be \$100,000. This would be a good start to do maintenance.

Meeting our budget for 2019 has meant we could meet our commitments to our congregation and to related organization including MC SK and MC Canada.

As we deal with reduced church attendance, changes in how we do church and the demographic shifts, we will have to adjust future budgets and plans.

The last two years have been great working as a team with the NPMC Board. It has also been great working with Helen in the church office. Her dedication, competence and warm smile have made life good for me.

Ken Warkentin
for the finance committee,
Paul Tiessen, Darryl Epp, Carman Epp

NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH

Pastoral Staff: Susanne Guenther Loewen
Patrick Preheim

Youth Leader: Sarah Unrau

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Vice-Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
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Christian Education
Church Life
Fellowship
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Bob Neufeldt
Macaila Funk
Ken Warkentin
Carmen Epp
Arnie Neufeld
Patrick Fleury
Kathleen Regier
Valerie Epp
Denelda Fast
Carolene Funk
Bonnie Dahl
Brent Guenther

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Auditor
Billeting
Custodian
Decorations
Greeters
Historian-Archives
Library

Saskatoon Mennonite
Care Services
Refugee Assistance
Service Group

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
Brenda Baergen
Charlene Sorensen
James Friesen
Paul Schroeder
Marlie Leis
Brent Guenther

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Anita Retzlaff
Kathy Lindsay-Olfert
Jenae Funk
Bonnie & Rod Ramage
Edith Krahn
Marylynn Nürnbürger
Susanne Guenther Loewen
Patrick Preheim

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

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