

Nutana Park Mennonite Church



Annual Report 2020

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ORGANIZATION

NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MARCH 28, 2021

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 28, 2021

- 1/ Welcome and Opening Prayer
- 2/ Adoption of the Agenda
- 3/ Approval of the AGM Minutes of June 14th, 2020
- 4/ Report Summary
 - Chairperson Report - Brent Guenther
 - Deacon and Committee Reports
- 5/ Report from the Treasurer - Ken Warkentin
 - 5.1/ Auditor's Report and Approval of the 2020 Audited Financial Statements
 - 5.2/ Presentation and Approval of the 2021 Budget
 - 5.3/ Appointment of an Auditor for 2021
- 6/ Motion for changes to bylaws - Bob Neufeldt

It is the recommendation of the Board of Deacons that we be able to select members of the board not only from those individuals who are members of the church but also from those individuals who are deemed to be active participants of the church. As a result, the following motions will be introduced:

 - 6.1/ It is moved that the wording of our Articles of Incorporation be changed to read as follows:
 - 8 (a) All directors of the corporation shall be members and/or active participants of the corporation.
 - 6.2/ It is moved that the wording of our Bylaws be changed to read as follows:
 - 32 (1) Deacons: (a) shall be members and/or active participants
 - 50 (2) In general, the deacons shall: (a) be members and/or active participants;
 - 6.3/ It is further moved that the following definition be added to Part 1 of the Bylaws:

"active participant" means an individual who actively participates in committees and/or functions of the church.
- 7/ Nominations Committee - Bob Neufeldt
 - 7.1/ 2021 - 2023 Board of Deacons elections
- 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

**Nutana Park Mennonite Church
Annual General Meeting via Video Conference
June 14, 2020-1:30 p.m. (Postponed from March 29, 2020)
Draft Minutes**

*A quorum was present
Chair: Tammy Forrester*

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Tammy went over the technical functions of hosting our meeting over the ZOOM platform (muting function, chat functions, polling, etc). Questions will be collected in the chat function.

Tammy welcomed the members in attendance and thanked Arnie and Lorene Nickel for agreeing to facilitate the welcome to the meeting.

Arnie and Lorene Nickel welcomed those in attendance with reflecting on the transitions and changes of this year, giving perspective and time to reflect. They highlighted the fact that we are a vibrant and flexible community. They shared the changes that they have experienced during these transitions such as moving into Bethany Manor. They expressed that we should keep those in mind who have difficulty with the changes. They ended by highlighting the positive impact that can result from change.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented with the addition of 8.2-Re-opening of NPMC. Moved by Alison Jantz, seconded by Bonnie Dahl. Carried.

3. Approval of the AGM Minutes of March 24th, 2019.

Motion to approve the AGM Minutes of March 24, 2019. Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Howard Giles. Carried.

4. Report Summary:

Chairperson Report-Tammy Forrester

Tammy provided her report in the Annual Report and highlighted some information. These included the following:

-Tammy thanked the Pastoral Team (Susanne and Patrick) for their leadership during unprecedented times.

-Tammy thanks the online worship support team (Colin, Jeff, audio support team, worship leaders, song leaders, special music volunteers, Deacons, congregational volunteers).

-Tammy thanked Don Froese for stepping in as janitor and custodian.

-Tammy thanked Zach Dueck and Christie Harris who recently started their jobs at NPMC during tough times without being able to meet the congregation face to face.

-Tammy thanked the past leaders (Bob Sawatzky, Trish St. Onge, Armin Krahn, Bob Neufeldt) who influenced and mentored her into the position of Board Chair.

-Tammy thanked the Deacons and Deacon Board, past and present, for their commitment, leadership and friendship.

-Deacon & Committee Reports

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

5. Report from the Treasurer-Ken Warkentin

5.1 Auditor's Report and Approval of 2019 Audited Financial Statements

-Ken thanked Helen for her service.

-Ken thanked Carmen for her work and ability as the bookkeeper.

-Ken thanked the congregation for their generous giving this past year.

The \$19,000 surplus went into the building reserve for future use.

Motion to approve the 2019 Audited Financial Statement as presented. Moved by Ken Warkentin, seconded by Janet Barnes. Carried.

5.3 Presentation and Approval of 2020 Budget

Ken outlined the 2020 budget as \$387,660. There will be adjustments because of the unknown costs associated with the Covid-19 closing and reopening. No further discussion occurred.

Motion to approve the proposed 2020 budget as presented. Moved by Ken Warkentin, seconded by Nicole Tiessen. Carried.

5.3 Appointment of Auditor for 2020

On October 21, 2019 the Vertis Group LLP was approved by the Board to do the audition for 2019. Ken recommended for Vertis Group LLP to audit the 2020 books as well.

Janitorial Fees are still at \$10,000 per year. With the hiring of our janitor, the budget has not changed.

Motion for the finance committee to appoint Vertis Group LLP as the 2020 Auditor. Moved by Ken Warkentin, seconded by James Funk. Carried.

6. Bylaw Change-Recommendation

Bob Neufeldt outlined the bylaw change that has been recommended by the Board, which allows active participants of the church to be Deacons of the Board.

Current Bylaw:

Par 1X-Duties of Officers and Deacons

50 2) Deacons shall

a. Be members

Recommended Change:

Part 1X-Duties of Officers and Deacons

50 2) Deacons shall

a. Be Nutana Park Mennonite Church members or active participants.

Motion to approve the bylaw change as presented above. Moved by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Alison Jantz. Carried.

7. Nominations Committee-Bob Neufeldt

7.1 2020-2021 Board of Deacons election

Bob thanked all of the members of the Board for their contributions to the church community. Bob thanked Tammy Forrester for her many years of service and for providing effective leadership to our church. He thanked Val Epp for her expertise of Children's Education, Carolene Funk for her care and commitment, Bonnie who has used her gift of music and Brent for his thoughtful and consistent leadership. Bob stated that he is pleased that Brent agreed to be nominated for the Board Chair. The following Deacons were willing to continue their current portfolios: Ken Warkentin (Treasurer), Bob Neufeldt (Vice Chair), Denelda Fast (Church Life Deacon).

Openings on the board included:

-Board Chair- Brent Guenther has agreed to this Deacon position.

-Worship- Don Klassen has agreed to this Deacon position.

-Christian Education- Lori Weiler-Thiessen has agreed to this Deacon position.

-Music- Fern Stockdale-Winder has agreed to this Deacon position.

-Fellowship- Bonnie Ramage has agreed to this Deacon position.

Bob thanked the nominations committee for their efforts to create a very strong Board for the next few years.

Bob thanked Susan Ens Funk for her service as library coordinator and Paul Tiessen for his service to the Finance Committee. He thanks them for their efforts.

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 James Ens Funk. Carried.

Motion to accept the slate of nominations for new board members as presented in their various roles as described above 2 year term. Move by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Nicole Tiessen. Carried

Motion to accept Brent Guenther as Board Chair for a 2 year term.. Moved by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Stan Bartel. Carried.

8. New Business

8.1 Pastoral Ordination

Tammy outlined the information in regards to Ordination for Susanne Guenther Loewen:

- Ordination is a long-term ministry credential that is granted by an area conference of the Mennonite Church, which grants a minister the privileges and responsibilities of the office of Ministry.
- Ordination follows the 2 to 4 year period of licensing.
- As a Congregation with a pastor being considered for ordination, we will begin to engage in a Congregational discernment process enabling the leadership of the congregation to Determine whether or not to affirm the candidate's call and readiness for ministry.
- This work will begin with the new Deacon Board in September 2020 and Tammy will defer to The new leadership to strategize the way in which the congregation will engage in the Process with Susanne and MC Sask.

8.2 Re-opening of NPMC

Tammy highlighted following information regarding the re-opening of NPMC.

- A small committee has gathered to review all information relevant to re-opening NPMC for in-person worship and small group gathering.
- The committee consists of our two co-pastors, Chair of the Board- Brent Guenther, Vice Chair- Bob Neufeldt, Secretary- Macaila Funk, and Tammy Forrester- outgoing chair in in consultation with Don Froese.
- We will follow government protocols, speak with other churches, and consult with the Congregation to assist our decision-making.
- There will be a survey of interest and intention of the congregation that will be sent to congregants this week.
- Following Board discussions, questions, conversation and discernment, a re-opening plan will be drafted.
- By utilizing the feedback from the survey, and conducting Board discussions, a plan will be communicated as efficiently and effectively as possible to the congregation.

There were no further questions that entered into the chat function of the meeting.

9. Closing- Patrick

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 pm by James Ens Funk.

Minutes recorded by Macaila Funk

CHAIRPERSON

Nutana Park Mennonite Church was a relevant, comforting, and vibrant community in 2020. Despite the challenges before us, our staff, board, and volunteers worked together to ensure that our church was well served. Josh Wallace compared our collective aloneness this past year to Jesus' time in the desert. He explained, "Jesus went without food and human companionship, accompanied only by the devil, wild beasts and angels. In no small part, we shared that experience during 2020, left alone with ourselves, our devils, our God" (Canadian Mennonite, "Refined, pared back, purified," January 18, 2021, page 9). This past year has highlighted inequity and vulnerabilities in different parts of our population, and NPMC was no exception. However, we were able to take this opportunity to better serve all congregants, and some of our new practices may stick around long after the pandemic is over.

In the past year we all missed being able to connect with our church and with one another. At the beginning of the pandemic, we worked swiftly to provide online audio content for the congregation. We did not even miss a Sunday. Within a few weeks, Kathleen Regier and the Caring and Visitation Committee organized the board members so that we could connect with each household in our congregation. As restrictions began to lift in the late spring, the board began discussing how we could reopen safely, and how we could provide a higher quality product for those who are worshipping from home. After a few weeks of planning, in August we were able to reopen our church for in-person worship services and stream those worship services on YouTube. We are averaging about 125 views for our Sunday worship services, so the preparation and support that has been done to make streaming our services possible has been a worthwhile endeavour. I am thankful to the worship committee, music committee members, and the volunteers who make themselves available each week to provide worship for all of us.

In late 2020, the Board of Deacons asked NPMC congregants for feedback regarding how the church could better serve one another. We received a great deal of feedback, and it was very positive. Some feedback suggested further small group gatherings via online platforms, and Susanne and Patrick organized these types of opportunities and they continue to be well attended.

I am thankful for all of our NPMC staff members. Don Froese began work as our church caretaker and has taken a great deal of ownership in ensuring a safe and clean church environment for those who are accessing our physical church. Zach Dueck supported our youth while Sarah Unrau was on maternity leave and we appreciate his enthusiasm and approachability with our youth and their families. Although we were not able to give Helen Siemens a proper farewell, we were able to thank her for all of her years of service to NPMC. We were able to welcome Christie Harris as our office administrator, and I am thankful for the work she has done to organize both in-person and online worship for our congregants. Finally, I want to thank Susanne and Patrick. They continue to lead our congregation through challenging times. They continue to provide meaningful sermons to encourage us, and they have worked tirelessly to make connections with our congregants.

Our NPMC Board of Deacons has had to be attentive to the needs of congregants in ways that were never imaginable. They continue to be flexible, energetic, and supportive. I want to thank Tammy Forrester for her leadership on the board over the last number of years. Her strength, vision, and sense of humour made it possible for our church to work through these challenging times. In the months ahead, I look forward to further discussion about how we can best support our congregants. I am humbled by the support of our congregation. People have continued to pray, give, and serve, and our church is in a strong position for the months and years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Brent Guenther
Chairperson, NPMC Board of Deacon

SPIRITUAL MINISTRY

NPMC PASTORAL STAFF

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
- Psalm 121:1-2 (NRSV)

What a year it has been! At this time last year, we were unaware of what 2020 would bring, and there was a sense of shock as the season of Lent shifted from a symbolic season of grief to a very real one.

There have been losses that we have had to face as a church. I know I miss visiting over a cup of coffee or tea in people's homes, in the hospital, or around a potluck table at the church, instead of over phone or computer screen. I miss singing together in four-part harmony. I miss Care Group 6 gatherings with kids running around together and adult ed. discussions on thought-provoking contemporary topics.

One of my pandemic practices has been to intentionally work at gratitude, a practice that can help reframe and bring perspective even in the upheaval of 2020. What are the good things in my life and in the life of our church family for which I can thank God?

I am profoundly grateful for the ways we have supported each other as a community during this difficult time, helping and encouraging each other, reminding each other, through our acts of care across the distance, of God's constant presence with us.

I'm grateful for the ways we've been able to adapt and be creative – as staff, committees, board, and volunteers – in learning how to use masks and new (or at least new-to-us!) technology to connect and reopen our worship services safely.

I'm grateful for the generosity of this congregation in supporting church and community organizations through donations in our Drive-By Food Drives, Haven Kids' House Advent drive, mask fundraiser for Prairie Harm Reduction, virtual Pride Parade video, and celebration of Mennonite Central Committee's 100th Anniversary.

I'm grateful for the joy of weddings and child dedications, for the alternative ways families have found of sharing updates of their children with the rest of the congregation (whether through pictures, or videos in worship services, or the Nativity play video). I'm grateful for the monthly Peace Club video calls with children eager to learn together about our Anabaptist-Mennonite peace tradition.

I'm grateful for our Women's Bible Study in particular, as we have connected and met four different ways over the course of this year: group emails, parking lot gatherings, small groups indoors, and Zoom calls. Talk about being adaptable!

And I'm grateful for help and hope on the horizon. This new year will bring the next steps in my ordination process, the beginning of the online adult ed. book study, and the continuation of our worship and community life. I'm finding strength in the vaccine being distributed and with it, the hope of returning to gathering in person as a whole church community sometime within the next year or two. 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. On account of this previous reporting I will not go into detail. The defining feature of 2020, as it has been for everyone else, has been adapting congregational life to a pandemic world.

No doubt this will be a recurring theme throughout reports from the Deacons, Committees, and para-church organizations who submit something for our report booklet. In this respect it is very important to recognize that the Nutana Park Church has made it thus far on account of amazing volunteerism, intentional communication and on-going financial support. It has been humbling and encouraging to participate with various Deacons, the tech people, the re-opening committee, other church staff, other congregations, our denomination, and God's spirit as we have all sought to be Church in these challenging times. In this regard COVID-19 has not been the primary story line of 2020 but rather the creativity and resilience and tenacity of this congregation to innovate in response to COVID-19—that is the real headline for me.

Naturally there have losses this past year as a result of the pandemic circumstances. I have missed walking the halls of Bethany Manor, other care facilities, and our hospitals. I missed people when the church building was closed for worship and I wish these days that more people could be safely in worship. The Service Group had wonderful plans for 2020. I have this dream that our congregation can have multiple Mennonite Voluntary Service groups serving locally; that we could have local Christian Peacemaker Team units ready for rapid deployment within our community as need arises; that we could build bridges with other people of good will in our community. This kind of in person engagement has ground to a halt, and this has made me sad. Perhaps in this new year our intent for collective community engagement can again be realized.

The last topic upon which I will reflect is the possibility that some of my pastoral time will be shared with Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite Church in this next year. The resignation of their interim pastors became effective at the end of 2020. In discernment with our Church leadership an 80 / 20 job share may come to pass with me spending one day a week and one Sunday a month with TRMC, and the balance of my pastoral time at NPMC. TRMC is still discerning their next steps, so I do not have more information at this time. I am willing to share the evolution of this possibility with anyone who has further interest.

Submitted in deepest humility and gratitude,
Patrick Preheim, co-pastor Nutana Park Mennonite Church

NPMC Staff Snapshot of 2020

54

Sermons Preached,
22 Live-Streamed

642

Pastoral Visits or
Calls

45

Youth Events;
4 Peace Club Zoom
Calls

44

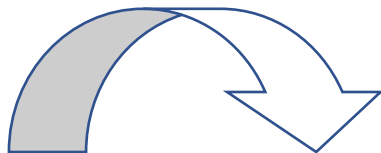
Women's/Men's
Gatherings

23

Kids in the virtual
Nativity Play

40

Boxes of Donations
to Community
Organizations



Coming up in 2021

- Youth leader Sarah Unrau returning
- Next steps in Susanne's ordination
- Continuing to adapt and be creative as we connect, support each other, and worship together as a faith family

YOUTH GROUP

Early Days of Pandemic: Youth want to keep meeting to simulate some sense of normalcy. (NPMC/MRMC still meeting separately at this time) March 100% Attendance April 90%

New normal setting in: Online fatigue is becoming an issue and attendance fell as a result. There was an uptick in June which I'd attribute to school wrapping up and not having all their online energy being taken up before youth as a consequence. During this time the two groups also started meeting together to lessen the blow of low attendance nights which also helped deal with online fatigue a bit as there was less anxiety about being the only person showing up to youth on any given night.

30% May

75% June

Covid numbers are down and it is Summer so it let's us meet in person again! With the lower numbers and lower risk of the summer season we began meeting in person at first only for outdoor outings like Bike club, and later also moving our online games club back into the real world. Youth are excited for in person gatherings and attendance increased dramatically.

June 100%

August 90%

Had one last in person gathering before moving back to online with the start of school to ensure school openings were going smoothly before risking more in person events. There was a sharp dip in attendance when we went back to online gatherings. I think this was mostly a result of youth having been given a taste of in person gatherings and not wanting to return to online gatherings.

September 40%

It once again felt safe enough for in person socially distanced gatherings. Movie nights were the most popular of these events followed by discussion nights and then games nights.

October 60%

Return to Online: There were only a few events over these two months that had youth attendance. And youth connection took the form of text check-ups in this time. The two notable ones were the last in person gathering of November which was a games night and this had decent attendance, the second event with attendance was our white elephant gift exchange over Christmas. While this dip in attendance can likely partially be chalked up to online fatigue, The youth also expressed that the new 5+ semesters per year schedule is making for more intense homework schedules that they're apparently having trouble keeping up with, which might also explain why the Xmas event was well attended even while still being online as school was no longer demanding the youth's afterschool time.

November 25%

December 25%

But I think the big takeaway from the past few months is that Youth are craving in person meetings, but the new more intensive school structure is making scheduling difficult. When meeting in person they will make more of an effort to reschedule things like homework to fit in time for that personal connection, but after having spent a good portion of their week meeting online for various things, they need a bit of a break from their computer screens making the online gatherings a lot more challenging now. I'm hoping once in person gatherings can happen again and as there are lull's between semesters that attendance will return again as it has every other time that this has been the case throughout the current year so far.

Zach Dueck
Maternity Leave Youth Worker

Membership Statistics

Membership, January 1, 2020	249
Deaths (*members)	4
Baptisms	0
Transfer In	<u>0</u>
Marriages (of members, or of members' children)	2
Births	6

Deaths

William Krueger
Al Epp
Jacob Pries
Alf Driedger

CARING & VISITATION

To say it has been a year would be an understatement. Throughout 2020, we have all endured a series of changes, challenges, and losses. This has meant endless adaptation resulting in both frustration and discovery. The NPMC Caring and Visitation Committee has experienced this roller coaster of emotion and circumstance alongside the rest of the congregation and the world. As a Committee, we strive to provide support and care to those who face barriers to participating in church. Prior to COVID, we would visit people in their homes, in the hospital, or at a local coffee shop. Through a simple smile, listening ear, or warm hug, we would let people know they were seen – by us as individuals, by the congregation, and by God.

This demonstration of care has never been more important. Although we are no longer able to visit congregants in person, the Caring and Visitation Committee continues to extend care to those most isolated through phone calls, cards, care packages, and distanced visits. At the beginning of the pandemic, we reached out to each congregant with the help of Board members to see how everyone was coping. Subsequent cards, calls and surveys have provided a general overview on how we're doing. As a congregation, we are tired, lonely, and acknowledging that this season is really hard. We are also eager to support one another and quick to do so. In the early stages of the pandemic, my organizational mind was looking for ways to ensure each congregant received the support they needed. What I found, was that many people were already supporting one another – without being asked. We are a caring and loving community and I have been so encouraged by the love shared in this season.

Our committee has evolved over the last year. Our current members include:

- Carolene Funk (2022)
- Jenae Funk (2021)
- Edith Krahn (2022)
- Kathy Lindsay (2022)
- Kathleen Regier, Deacon (2021)
- Susanne Guenther-Loewen, Co-Pastor
- Patrick Preheim, Co-Pastor

Thank you to Bonnie and Rod Ramage and Zachary Janzen who were vital members of our committee throughout 2020. Thank you, also, to various members of the congregation who have agreed to make calls, write cards, and check in on fellow congregants. We are a small committee this year and your support is so valued! If you are interested in supporting the Caring and Visitation Committee by becoming a member, making phone calls, or writing cards, please contact me via phone or email. We always appreciate the help.

If you are someone who would like to receive more interaction from the Caring and Visitation Committee, please reach out to myself or one of our co-pastors. We do our best to connect with those we know would like support, but not every need is easily seen. Please reach out if you would value more connection - we want to make sure you feel supported as part of this church community.

As a reminder to us all of God's everlasting love, even in times of trouble, I leave you with the words of Paul:

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

Let our care for one another be a demonstration of God's love for each of us.

Kathleen Regier
Caring and Visitation Deacon

MUSIC

When the call came in March for my workplace to shut down our office and work from home, I had already been home sick for a week. With my husband's help I went in and gathered everything I thought I might need to work from home for the foreseeable future. I set up my home office and started doing teletherapy from home virtually on the turn of a dime. I know many of you reading this can relate.

A short time later I heard that our church services were being shut down. It made complete sense, but it was another loss of stability in a time of uncertainty. When I learned that Susanne and Patrick were working to put together audio files for our worship services. I volunteered to record some music. Although my voice was still scratchy from being sick, and my keyboard was not in the greatest of shape, I played and sang the Sunday's hymns, thankful for music and for its sustenance in a scary time.

That was the start of many changes for our worship services. Sometime in June I realized the role of Deacon of Music in 2020 was going to be a lot different than I had anticipated! Some of the conversations that I had, I never once considered when I said "yes" to being music deacon. For example, on the topic of streaming our services: Do we have permission to stream our music? Wait, what is streaming? Is it different than copyright? What do you mean we have to report EVERY song we use?

There were more questions on public health regulations. Should our song leaders be masked or behind plexiglass? Could we have a wind instrument? (No, sigh.)

And AV/tech questions: How many microphones do we have? (A key question when worship participants can't share them.) How do I record a song over a track? How do I get large sound files from our musicians to our AV people?

These were not things I had any idea about, but we all quickly learned together.

And there were so many things to be thankful for:

- Our music committee: Bonnie Dahl, Lynn Driedger, Zach Janzen, Aleta Schellenberg. Without their guidance and support, it would have been impossible to progress our music the way we did! I also appreciated their concrete help: phone calls and emails to congregants, visits to the church to "water" the piano, volunteering to lead music, and extra sound support. We greatly appreciated Patrick Preheim joining our music committee as the pastoral representative partway through the year.

- Our worship committee: Delightful to be part of this group, thoughtfully exploring together how to worship in new ways. Other special contributions and joys:
 - o Musicians in the church who said yes to our requests – song leaders, accompanists, soloists and groups, both pre-recorded and live that so enriched our worship and our lives this year.
 - o Virtual church choir for Christmas Eve’s “Silent Night” led by Lynn Driedger
 - o Extra compilation of music “tracks” by Lynn Driedger and Colin Ens Funk
 - o Amazing AV support (see the Worship report)
 - o New worship resource, Voices Together, that we were recently able to start exploring. Thank you to the Ruth Hamm Endowment Fund for contributing to the purchase of several Voices Together resources for our church.

I am thankful for the sustenance of music in worship through this challenging year, and I look forward to being able to sing and make music together again in the same space!

Fern Stockdale Winder
Deacon of Music

WORSHIP

This is my first report to the church since assuming the role of Worship Deacon. To help to spread things out we did some restructuring of the worship deacon responsibilities, with those related to scheduling of ushers and audio/visual people moved to a Worship Coordinator filled by Eric Neufeld. This structure seems to be working well, and I have really appreciated working with Eric and the rest of the Worship Committee – Patrick, Susanne and Fern Stockdale-Winder.

I suspect that most or all of the deacon reports for this year will be variations on the theme of having to adapt to the circumstances of the pandemic. Worship was certainly faced with this challenge. With the church building being closed in March the transition was made to audio services, with recorded audio files prepared by the various participants stitched together into a cohesive whole. When the church was able to re-open in August we shifted to the combination of limited in-person services also broadcasted on livestream to congregants at home (or their cabin, vehicle, backyard, etc.). None of this could have been possible without the skills and dedication of those who assisted with setting things up and/or worked on the technical side: Dave Weiler-Thiessen, Jeff Olfert, Colin Ens-Funk, Don Froese, Kelly Winder Brent Guenther and Arny Kroeger. We are very grateful for all your time and efforts. Many thanks also to the singers and accompanists who have adapted to the changing circumstances of copyright issues, recording pieces in their homes, and singing through masks to ensure our services still have the essential element of music. I also very much appreciate those who have served as worship leaders, again adjusting to different ways of doing things and the increased preparation involved. Last but not least, special mention must be made of the pastoral leadership of Patrick and Susanne. Besides having to be involved in all of the issues around the things just mentioned, they provided meaningful sermons week after week that responded to help us make sense of the issues around the pandemic and racial injustice that dominated our minds in 2020.

In November Brent distributed a survey to the congregation seeking feedback. The results were largely very affirming of what we attempted to do in 2020. It is evident that gathering as a church community – even if that has to be in ways we are not used to – is meaningful for the people of NPMC. We ask for God’s guidance and blessing on this endeavour, and that we may once again all gather together to worship and sing in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Klaassen, Worship Deacon

EDUCATION MINISTRY

ADULT EDUCATION

Like several other church programs, Adult Education has been on hold since the middle of March. We had begun the year with a seven-week series called "Gardens and Cities." It included a great many photos to accompany our exploration of biblical use of gardens as symbolic, the benefits of gardens, and ethical considerations of gardening. Thereafter we had only two weeks in which to discuss the sermon from the previous Sunday before COVID-19 changed everything.

At this point, the committee is regrouping and hoping to begin an online book discussion, "Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism" by Drew Hart, on Zoom. Please consider joining the community of Adult Education.

Submitted by Edna Froese

Many thanks to Edna for her leadership of the Adult Education Committee. We look forward to her return.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Weiler-Thiessen

LIBRARY

Due to the pandemic and no clear plan for how to safely circulate the library resources, the library has been closed since March. Individuals who are interested in thinking through best practice for current and future library use would be welcome. Please contact Lori W-T.

Submitted by Susan Ens Funk

Many thanks to Susan Ens Funk for her many years of expert management of the NPMC Library collection. Lori W-T

Respectfully submitted,
The Library Committee

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Marlie Leis is coordinating this and has done a wonderful job organizing Sunday School and guiding our adaptations to the pandemic. In person Sunday School ended in March and took a break through September. NPNP families took turns providing video and audio stories, lessons, and songs during the Spring of 2020 for the NPMC Kids page. Sunday school video recordings were posted on our YouTube channel each Sunday in October and November. Many thanks to all who helped produce those.

In December a Family Activity Advent Calendar was provided to our families, along with materials. These calendars were used for Advent and Sunday school activities for the month. The Sunday school kids also did a wonderful Nativity play that was included in the Christmas Celebration video. Thanks to Bonnie, Tammy, kids and parents, and Dave W-T for sharing your talents.

Based on feedback from our Sunday school families, we will not be posting regular Sunday school videos in the new year. Plans include: recorded activities and stories, crafts with materials provided, Lent activities and perhaps an in person Sunday school class, outside, in May.

NPMC has 25 children, from 13 families, in our Sunday school program.

PEACE CLUB

Susanne wrote the curriculum for the 10 session Peace Club program. Our thanks to Susanne for her vision and leadership of this program.

Themes include aspects of peace in ourselves, with others, with creation, and with food. Sessions include reciting the Peace Pledge, discussion, a craft or activity, memory verse and a closing song or prayer.

This club meets once a month on Zoom on Friday evenings. There are up to 8 children attending.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Weiler-Thiessen
Education Deacon

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

Greetings from Canadian Mennonite University

The challenges of a global pandemic have highlighted the quality of education offered by CMU. Visit media.cmu.ca/cmu-faculty-reflections to watch videos of faculty reflecting on courses described below.

Sundar John Boopalan, Assistant Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies, Reading the Bible as a Witness to Liberation: In exploring the Biblical witness, we discovered how God's liberation encompasses all of who we are, including our personal, spiritual selves and our social-structural lives.

Rachel Krause, Assistant Professor of Biology, Introduction to Global Health: Studying global health, immunity, ethics, human rights and vaccines became highly relevant for students in the midst of our global pandemic.

Anna Nekola, Assistant Professor of Music, History of Gospel: While encountering the struggle and faith embodied in gospel music, several students composed new gospel hymns expressing their longing to connect with God's deliverance.

David Balzer, Assistant Professor of Communications and Media, Introduction to Communications and Media: Expanding an audio interview to include family members about 'why studying communications is so important to their job?' led to fascinating insights.

Jobb Arnold, Assistant Professor Conflict Resolution Studies, MSC Introduction to Conflict Resolution Studies: Exploring personal and community trauma and conflict related to the use of methamphetamines and opioids impacted students deeply. CMU's spiritual commitments were among the values and practices that resourced our study.

James Magnus-Johnston, Director, Centre for Resilience, Lecturer in Business, Social Innovation Lab: Integrating theory, research, and practice, students partnered and proposed solutions for particular problems being encountered by different community organizations and businesses.

Irma Fast Dueck, Associate Professor of Practical Theology, Introduction to Christianity: Understanding Christian faith 'from the bottom up' involved students listening to people from diverse backgrounds share how experiences of 'interruption' shaped their faith.

The words of Jaden Krahn (Environmental Studies Major, Outtatown graduate), 4th year, Calgary, AB: I continue to attend a Mennonite university because of the broader church and community that it connects me to. CMU is an academic community, a social community, and a community of faith—all commitments that are dearly important to me during these formative years of my life. CMU is a university where I have the chance to be who I am in a place of academic rigour, where weekly chapels, forums, fellowship groups, and professors help me to understand more of myself and who God is.

2020-21 Enrolment

902 Full-time equivalent

690 Shaftesbury campus (628 FTE)

611 Undergraduate

79 Graduate

**76% Manitoba; 24% other provinces
and international**

83 International students, 28 countries

274 FTE Menno Simons College

**(CMU programming in Conflict Resolution and
International Development at UW)**

Church-Rooted University

Undergraduate degree programs in Arts, Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, Biblical and Theological Studies (BA majors in BTS and Christian Ministry), Music, Business, Communications & Media.

Graduate degrees feature MBA, Peacebuilding and Development, and Seminary programs.

Biblical and Theological Studies (BTS) Eighteen credit hours of BTS in all undergraduate degrees.

Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM) Anabaptist-Ecumenical Seminary learning in a Canadian university context.

Three degree streams:

MA Christian Ministry

MA Theological Studies

Master of Divinity

Chapels centred on Hebrews 11:1-3 "By Faith we Understand"

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

The year of 2020 started out as usual, with artwork being showcased in the lounge at NPMC. However, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, only a few people had the opportunity to display their artwork. We thank the following for sharing their art creations with us:

January - February: Agnes Peters and Betty Brown
Needlepoint

March - April: Vi Atwell
Wooden crafts

All others, who were scheduled to display their artwork during the remaining months of 2020, were cancelled due to the provincial regulations regarding group gatherings. When these regulations change and the pandemic has loosened its grip on us, we will once again look into the possibility of inviting artists in our community to showcase their work. We look forward to seeing their art creations on display in our lounge at NPMC.

Respectively Submitted by,
Hedie Borne
Coordinator of Art in the Lounge

CHURCH LIFE

2020 began like any other year with an NPMC crew bringing worship to Sherbrooke. Sharing in meaningful worship and conversation with the residents at Sherbrooke and Bethany is always a delight and I am grateful for those who are willing to do so. Of course, this all came to a grinding halt in March.

Plans for Helen's retirement celebration needed to be rejigged and creativity was required in this instance like so many others. Val and I asked the congregation to offer video well wishes for Helen, which were later posted on the private side of our website. The sentiments of gratitude for Helen's many years of service, her cheerful and caring nature and amazing work ethic were overwhelming themes. Val and I presented Helen with her gift at her home which was also videotaped and posted so everyone could enjoy her thankfulness! THANK YOU HELEN!

Marlene and I brainstormed about the possibilities for a revamped Wedding & Babe Shower and came up with an idea which involved meeting new parents and engaged couples on their doorsteps. Patrick and Susanne joined in the conversations with the three soon to be married couples and five of the six new babes with parents, as we presented them with a gift card from a local shop called JOYNE. Photos were posted on the private side of the website along with questions the couples had answered. This was such a delightful experience! Out of necessity a new way of doing things brought joy to those of us involved in the process and to everyone who took the time to become acquainted or reacquainted with our honoured guests via the website.

In order to stay connected to our Care Group #6 friends, I requested photos of Halloween festivities and again posted them on the website on the CHURCH LIFE page. Care Group gatherings and Movie Nights of course have been suspended. A time will come again when the church calendar will be full of activities.

The Christmas Worship and Celebration Event was another way to keep in touch and wish those we miss seeing on Sunday mornings a "Merry Christmas". Marlene and I developed a plan and it came to life over the course of four showings in December. We were pleased to share our vision of community with so many people. We were grateful for everyone who participated by sending a video or photo for the slide show, for those who registered for the event, for Patrick, Susanne, Bob, Anita, Don F., Dave W-T, Jeff, Hedie H., Marlie, Tammy, Bonnie, Jake, Barb, Joanne and Evelyn for their willingness to help in a variety of ways and mostly to the Sunday School who stole the show at the end of the evening, bringing NPMC Christmas warmth to all our hearts!

The importance of CHURCH LIFE was most recently evident on a FRIGID Sunday morning when those that registered for church purposefully took their place in the pews. The community inside the walls of NPMC remains strong and the connections and relationships we build outside our walls as an extension of this strength is important to us as a congregation. Although church looked very different in 2020, CHURCH LIFE in different forms has stayed strong ... Thanks to all of you!

Respectfully submitted,
Denelda Fast

FELLOWSHIP

I began my first term as Fellowship Deacon in June 2020. Thank you to Carolene Funk, outgoing Deacon, for so capably filling this position these last years. I appreciate that Carolene continues on the Committee and is assisting as I learn the role.

2020 began as usual, and monthly potlucks occurred in January and February. Our congregation hosted the Lenten Ecumenical Breakfasts beginning on Ash Wednesday, but these ended abruptly after the third week because of Covid-19. No sharing of food or beverages took place in the church during the remainder of 2020, a sad requirement of this pandemic. A Zoom Christmas Potluck was held on December 6, and participants shared stories about favourite Christmas memories or traditions around food, while enjoying a meal in their own homes.

I am grateful that the Board has created a Re-Opening Committee to ensure government regulations and guidelines are followed for the health and safety of our congregation. The eventual resumption of food services in the church will require thought and planning. In preparation for this, I completed an online Food Safety course in November, as well as "Covid-19 Awareness for Foodservice".

Thank you to committee members for their cheerful dedication in providing opportunities for fellowship:

- On-going members Brenda Baergen, Carolene Funk, Jenae Funk, Edith & Armin Krahn, Rhonda & Eldon Krahn, and Lori & Dave Weiler-Thiessen.
- Lois Tiessen continues in the important role of coordinating funeral lunches.
- Out-going committee members Kathleen Regier, Wally Funk, and Elisabeth & Henry Reimer.

Thank you also to the many church members who answer the call to help in the kitchen. Be it a regular potluck or a special occasion, volunteers are needed to make things happen. I look forward to the day we can fellowship together again as a church community.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Ramage

CANADIAN MENNONITE

Throughout the pandemic, Canadian Mennonite heeded God's call to help build the church community. When congregations can't worship in-person and neighbours can't visit over coffee, CM helps people connect with the church and strengthens a sense of common purpose. By sharing news, columns, letters, and photos, we get to know one another better. Reading together with our church family across the country helps us care for one another and work together.

Saskatchewan writers play an important role as CM works to build up the church community. In 2020, Josh Wallace's feature, "Love in the time of COVID-19" began CM's coverage of the pandemic. Ryan Siemens, Andrea Enns-Gooding and Lisa Martens Bartel contributed to the From Our Leaders column. Columnist Ed Olfert wrote once a month on people he encounters who represent the image of God in his life. Correspondent Donna Schulz published 48 articles and photos, such as a tribute to Bill Krueger, recognition of Leonard Doell and congregational stories such as "Superb helped me continue to have faith" and the peace club at Nutana Park. Numerous individuals sent in letters to the editor or contributed other articles and photos.

Through the Every Home Plan, people from Mennonite Church Canada congregations may subscribe to the magazine at half the cost of a regular subscription. Fees are paid collectively through the church. Talk to your administrator for details.

Whether you read the magazine on paper or on your mobile device; whether you visit our website or follow us on social media; whether you write letters, post comments, or discuss the articles at church; we at Canadian Mennonite are grateful that you connect with our national church family through the magazine.

In 2020 Canadian Mennonite had:

- 26 issues
- 84 stories and photos from Saskatchewan
- 963 other articles about the church in Canada and beyond
- 5,000 followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- 9,500 subscribers
- 200,000 website visitors

Print and digital delivery

For most CM issues, subscribers receive a mailed print copy and/or an emailed PDF of the print magazine. Each year, four issues are digital-only, with links the articles right in the email message.

Each subscriber can have a print issue mailed and a digital copy emailed to up to two email addresses in the same household.

To add digital delivery to your subscription, email Lisa Jacky at office@canadianmennonite.org.

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SASKATCHEWAN

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ...” 2 Corinthians 5:18 (NIV)

As Mennonite Central Committee enters its second century of ministry in the name of Christ, we see you, the beautiful congregations of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, seeking to faithfully minister to the pain and divisions in our communities and in our world. In the 1920s, Anabaptist churches in North America extended a generous embrace to families and communities in south Russia (now Ukraine) experiencing famine and conflict. One hundred years later, we’ve been given our own big basket of uncertainties – a global health pandemic with accompanying economic pressures and community tensions. And again, we see families and church communities choosing to keep our circles of care as large and generous as possible, choosing a generous and reconciling embrace, locally and globally.

As MCC enters its second century of ministry, we seek to renew our identity and mission and deepen MCC’s spiritual grounding by carrying out our work as a public witness to God’s love for all people. In the next five years, our priorities will be:

- Increase the capacity of the church and other partners as they support and equip vulnerable people, especially people who have been uprooted and displaced.
- Increase responsive engagement across the full range of Anabaptist churches and beyond, with an increased focus on audience-based communications, fundraising and recruitment efforts with a new generation.

- Increase peacebuilding as a key component in all of our relief and development work and expand our efforts for justice and peace.
- Design and assess MCC's program and operations in light of our commitment to care for God's creation and accompany marginalized communities harmed by climate change.

In these days, may God continue to lead us, strengthen us, and give us courage and creativity to faithfully respond to human need in the name of Christ.

MCC seeks to grow closer to all our constituent churches in meaningful ways. MCC staff (mccsk.ca/speakers-bureau) are available to visit your church for education, presentations, sermons, and conversation in a range of topics that matter to you.

Our full annual report is available here: <https://mcccanada.ca/learn/about/annual-reports/annualimpact-report-20192020>

Eileen Klassen Hamm, Executive Director (eileenklassenhamm@mccsk.ca)
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MCC Saskatchewan, 600-45th St W, Saskatoon, SK S7L 5W9 306-665-2555 mccsk.ca

Eileen Klassen Hamm,
Executive Director

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

"I will build my church." (Matt. 16:18); I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20)

With the recent release of the Voices Together hymnal, my familiarity with Hymnal: A Worship Book will soon fade. Like many of you, I have turned to that book weekly for worship planning. As a result, lyrics and tunes often come to mind during the blessings and challenges of my day. One hymn that has remained close since the middle of March is hymn #570 "We walk by faith." Centered around Jesus's post-resurrection encounter with his disciples in John 20:19ff, the hymn speaks of abounding hope. Though we cannot "touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod, yet in his promise we rejoice, and cry, 'My Lord and God!'"

Since mid-March I have been repeatedly asked if I worry what COVID-19 will do to the Church. I respond that I'm not worried about the future of the capital "C" church because it is sustained by the promises of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus says he will build the church and that he is always with us.

I am concerned, however, about denominational ecclesiology, leadership structures and the expressions of the church in our localities (church with a small "c"). Indeed our larger, nationwide church has sensed shifts for some time and even acted in response to some of them, with the Future Directions Task Force. COVID-19 is accelerating further change at a pace we didn't predict or plan for. Many of you are experiencing this in your local church setting. You know that, when the pandemic is over, we won't return to church as normal. In these uncertain times, "we walk by faith, and not by sight," just as Jesus's disciples did.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to the hundreds of people serving in our nationwide church with your time, talents and abilities. For some it has been a very difficult summer and fall, yet we press on in faith and hope. May we all continue to draw strength from each other and from the one who we believe is near.

I'm excited to share with you the formation of three new groups giving leadership to our denomination in the coming year. While given a nationwide focus, these groups will also have expressions at regional church and congregational levels:

Community of Spiritual Leaders (COSL)

Recommended by the Future Directions Task Force, the development of a COSL is now underway. The group will assist our denomination in nurturing a strong Anabaptist identity, discern issues facing the church, provide encouragement and support for spiritual leaders, help develop leadership and support credentialing and mutual accountability. The first COSL meeting is in December 2020.

Sustainability Leadership Group (SLG)

This group will consider ways in which our denomination can improve its environmental, social and economic sustainability, in the present and in the long-term.

Intercultural Church Steering Committee (ICSC)

This steering committee will work as a group of “ecclesial cartographers” – church map-makers, charting a path for Mennonite Church Canada to become an intercultural church that embraces cultural diversity and learns from our BIPOC brothers and sisters. Initial work may include exploring and arranging training sessions on intercultural awareness and hosting a symposium where BIPOC participants meet to make recommendations for our nationwide church.

Submitted by
Doug Klassen
Executive Minister

MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan 2020 Annual Report Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a community of 25 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centred & Sent. We support each other in ministry, do things together which we cannot do alone, are church together throughout the province, and connect to the larger Mennonite Church body through Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite World Conference.

As we were preparing to Deepen Our Walk with Each Other & The World at the 2020 MC Sask Delegate Sessions in March, everything came to a halt. “COVID”, “pivot”, and “Zoom” filled our everyday language as the year we were anticipating did not come to fruition. And yet, as a resilient people, the work and life of MC Sask adapted and continued as we found new ways to walk with each other and the world.

Congregational Transitions

Throughout the year, transitions continued to take place in creative, ‘COVID-safe’ ways, with virtual or outdoor attendance making many of the following events possible.

On May 31, the life of Superb Mennonite Church (MC) was celebrated as the congregation held their final worship service and brought their ministry to a close. On August 23, the MC Sask community gathered at Zoar MC to celebrate the ordination of their pastor, Andrea Enns-Gooding. In October, Zoar MC also celebrated their 110th Anniversary. This event was bittersweet as Zoar MC has decided to close their doors in the spring of 2021. Josh Wallace completed his term as pastor of Warman MC in January to enter into church planting with his wife, Cindy. Grace MC, Regina, celebrated the ministry of Rose Graber as she retired at the end of June and welcomed Rodney Hennessay as their new pastor on October 1. Claire Ewert Fisher concluded her interim ministry at Rosthern MC and became co-pastor at Mount Royal MC. Ed Olfert concluded his ministry at Grace MC, Prince Albert, at the end of December.

The Work of the Church: Regionally, Nationwide, Internationally

As 2020 began, Scott Feick and Sarah Unrau served in interim roles in youth ministry, but when COVID restrictions arrived, all MC Sask youth programming ceased. Our camps (Elim, Shekinah, Youth Farm) were significantly impacted by the lack of programming and rentals, however, building upgrades and outdoor activities (like a Fall Pastor's Gathering, Corn Maze) were able to take place when guidelines allowed. We had the unique opportunity to gather with sisters and brothers across MC Canada on a weekly basis over the spring and summer by participating in online worship services, which several of our congregations and pastors, and Rosthern Junior College, provided as well. MC Sask has a long history of supporting the work of MC Canada and International Witness, and this year we have seen the support and engagement of this work increase in exciting ways. The work of the church opens us up to mutually transformative relationships that allow us to deepen our walk with our neighbours across the street and around the world.

While 2020 was not the year we expected, and we certainly mourn the losses we have experienced, we are grateful for the ongoing support, prayer and work we do together as we seek to be Christ Centred & Sent!

Sincerely,
Your staff,
Ryan, Kirsten, Josh & Marianne

MC Sask Financial snapshot of 2020

Through all the tumult and changes in 2020, the individuals and congregations of MC Sask were faithful in their financial support of the work we do. With the help of government payroll subsidies, we were able to show a small surplus, which will be moved to our General Reserve Fund. Thank you!

As you can see, a majority of our funds do not stay with us, but are shared with our Partner Ministries: schools, camps, MC Canada, International Witness, Restorative Justice Ministries, Canadian Mennonite Magazine, and Menno Media. Please note, these are unaudited figures as of December 31, 2020.

MC Sask Income 2020

Congregations	\$401,214.97
Individuals	\$53,414.14
Interest Income	\$2,361.21
Coffee sales	\$1,660.42
Government Subsidies	\$31,608.92
Restricted Funds Draws	\$1,000.00
Fees/Canadian Mennonite/Pass Through	\$32,083.25
Youth Farm Rental Income	\$29,500.00
MC Canada Witness Relational	\$52,237.00
Gross Profit \$	605,079.91

MC Sask Expenses 2020

Congregational Resourcing	\$38,326.97
Executive	\$97,225.50
Ministries Commission	\$2,475.90
Pastoral Leadership Commission	\$2,546.02
Operations	\$68,206.88
Partner Ministries	\$361,531.71
Occupancy	\$10,081.36
Total Expenses	\$580,394.34
Surplus	\$24,685.57

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE

A great encouragement to our congregation “ and a catalyst for ministry...”

That’s what Rob Patterson, pastor of the Scott St. Mennonite Brethren Church in St. Catharines, Ont. said about what a grant from the Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Canada Spirit of MDS Fund meant to his church during the pandemic.

The church used the funds to provide about 500 meals for nearby families experiencing food insecurity because of COVID-19. “The grant allowed us to get the program up and running, helping with food purchasing and promotion,” says Patterson. He added it “made us feel that we are part of the larger Mennonite cause, both in St Catharines and around the world. This kind offer of support from MDS has been a real blessing, and in turn, allowed us to be a blessing to the larger community.”

Scott St. was one of 80 congregations or other ministries in Canada that received \$1,000 grants or more from the Fund this year to respond to pandemic needs in their communities. Due to the pandemic, MDS was unable to do its regular programs of repairing and rebuilding homes for people impacted by natural disasters in the U.S. and Canada. Through the Fund we could support churches on the frontlines of responding to this huge pandemic disaster—supporting their efforts to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their communities.

Although the pandemic curtailed our regular programs in Canada, and prevented Canadians from going to the U.S. to volunteer, we were able to help flood victims in Fort Vermillion, Alta. clean out their houses, and rebuild one house in 70 Mile House, B.C.—all done following strict health and safety protocols to keep volunteers and members of the community safe. The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13:13: “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love.” During this challenging year we experienced God’s faithfulness as we brought hope to people struggling because of disaster, showing them the love of Christ that is in our hearts.

The MDS budget year runs from August 1 to July 31. In 2019-20. 6,048 volunteers from across Canada and the U.S. gave their time, skills and compassion to build 79 new homes, complete 280 repairs, and finish 91 cleanups for households who experienced a disaster. That volunteer labour was valued at \$13.6 million. In Canada, we finished up a project rebuilding or repairing 15 houses in Grand Forks, B.C.; built or repaired 5 houses in Renfrew, Ont.; and built two new homes following fires in Marquette, Man. and Newfoundland.

Ross Penner,
Director of Canadian Operations

SASKATOON MENNONITE CARE SERVICES INC. (SMCS)

As I write this report in late November, our city, province, and country are seeing the predicted second wave of infections of the COVID-19 virus. This second wave is resulting in much more widespread infections and hospitalizations than at the onset last winter. As I am sure you are all aware, senior citizens are the most vulnerable to severe illness from this disease, which has caused even more disruptions to life at Bethany than many of you have had to experience.

The Board and Staff at Bethany take the safety of both residents and staff very seriously. When the pandemic hit, measures were taken to both comply with Provincial Health guidelines - which include strict access control measures for our Personal Care residents similar to long term care homes - as well as measures to minimize staff exposure. As we all can appreciate, we did not have a “pandemic handbook” on all the things we needed to do in case this happened.

Our senior staff needed to make decisions quickly and put in place the protocols that were necessary. Every similar facility in our province would have had somewhat similar decision-making processes, but with each there are differences in resources and logistics that would have resulted in different protocols being put into place to minimize the risks.

A notable vacancy rate - for the first time - has been a somewhat unexpected impact of the pandemic. At first, with the real estate market mostly inactive, potential new residents were reluctant to even try to sell their home and move. For several months since then, it has become obvious that the so called "waiting" list is more of an "interested" list for many. The fact that we have for many years had hundreds of people on over 30 "lists" had been reassuring for our financial planning. However, it was a bit misleading as the longer lists included many who mainly wanted to get "into the queue" as they thought it would be quite some time before they would be called. There always were some short lists, and those have become virtually non-existent. In short, one-bedroom units are in less demand and renting is becoming more popular than in the past. If you know of anyone wishing to consider these units, please have them contact the office.

Decisions made several years ago to improve our financial footing is proving to be a big benefit now. The vacancy rate does affect our revenue. However, a number of changes to planned improvements, staffing levels, making some life lease units available for rent, and advertising what we have available are keeping us from having to consider raising fees any more than we normally need to do. We are already seeing some resurgence of new residents filling some vacancies, and - as we all are anticipating at this time - a vaccine that will reduce the risks of severe illness appears near at hand.

On another positive note, the Walkway I reported on last year was fully paid for with donations as of last winter. As had been mentioned, this project had in part been motivated by our Personal Care license so that in case of a disease outbreak, the Personal Care area - the Villa - could be easily locked off with easy access to others to the dining room. As much as the dining room was closed for much of the past 8 months, it has been reopened even as the Villa is again locked off. We are so thankful for that addition.

We know that mental health is a real issue for some when isolation is required for physical health. There are many ways to still communicate to the residents - phone, email, texting or even old-fashioned letters - to who you know living at Bethany. This would be greatly appreciated by the residents.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to encourage you to recognize the immense job that our staff have done to keep themselves and the residents safe and healthy during this time. Whether or not you know any of them personally - let them know.

Doyle Wiebe
Board Chair

SHEKINAH RETREAT CENTRE

No Report

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The Buildings and Grounds have had reduced usage for most of the year, but it remains a place where people feel at home. There have been adaptations made to address Covid related issues to ensure the facility is a safe place for all. Regular maintenance issues have been dealt with and projected repairs are being considered. In late spring and fall some minor in-house patching was done to preserve the roof membranes. Quotes from several roofing contractors are being prepared with plans to have all flat roof surfaces replaced in 2021. The exterior on the gable ends of the sanctuary will also be replaced to ensure proper connections with the new roofing. Don Froese continues in his custodial role, and we are grateful for all that he does. We are blessed to have so many volunteers to look after the building and grounds throughout the seasons.

Submitted by,
Arnie Neufeld

FINANCE

As it has been said by many and in many ways 2020 was an uncertain, frustrating, and difficult year. On the other hand, we have been surprised and amazed at how our NPMC family has continued to be supportive and creative in meeting our challenges.

As I write this report, we do not have the audited financial statements. However, judging from the work Carmen has done in the past, I expect very few if any adjustments by the auditors.

Donations were about \$21,000 over budget.

Expenses were about \$8,600 under budget.

Unexpected Government Subsidy was \$3,900

Leaving us with a positive balance of about \$28,000

Thus we have been able to meet our operating expenses and have been able to meet our commitments to other Mennonite organizations including:

CMU	MC SK.
MEDA	RJC
MCC	SHEKINAH
MDS	

Budgeting for 2021 has been a little more difficult with some possible changes in staffing cost.

We are also waiting for projected costs for roof repairs.

We hope to have more exact projections by the ADS.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Warkentin
On behalf of Carmen Epp & Darryl Epp

NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH

Pastoral Staff: Susanne Guenther Loewen
Patrick Preheim

Youth Leader: Sarah Unrau

BOARD OF DEACONS

Chairperson	Brent Guenther
Vice-Chair	Bob Neufeldt
Secretary	Macaila Funk
Treasurer	Ken Warkentin
Bookkeeper	Carmen Epp
Building & Grounds	Arnie Neufeld Patrick Fleury
Caring & Visitation	Kathleen Regier
Christian Education	Lori Weiler- Thiessen
Church Life	Denelda Fast
Fellowship	Bonnie Ramage
Music	Fern Stockdale- Winder
Worship	Don Klaassen

CO-ORDINATORS

Adult Education	Edna Froese
Art in the Lounge	Hedie Borne
Auditor	Virtus Group
Billeting	Carolene Funk
Custodian	Don Froese
Decorations	Nicole Tiessen
Greeters	Lydia Schroeder
Historian-Archives	Merna Ediger
Library	Lori Weiler-Thiessen
Saskatoon Mennonite Care Services	Geraldine Balzer
Refugee Assistance	Gordon Enns
Service Group	Brenda Baergen Charlene Sorensen James Friesen Paul Schroeder
Sunday School Ushers	Marlie Leis Eric Neufeld

CARING & VISITATION COMMITTEE

Kathleen Regier
Kathy Lindsay-Olfert
Jenae Funk
Carolent Funk
Edith Krahn
Zach Janzen
Susanne Guenther-Loewen
Patrick Preheim

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