

Nutana Park Mennonite Church



Annual Report 2021

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ORGANIZATION

NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MARCH 20, 2022

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 20, 2022

- 1/ Welcome and Opening Prayer
- 2/ Adoption of the Agenda
- 3/ Approval of the AGM Minutes of March 28, 2021
- 4/ Report Summary
 - Chairperson Report - Brent Guenther
 - Deacon and Committee Reports
 - Pastors' Reports
- 5/ Report from the Treasurer - Ken Warkentin
 - 5.1/ Auditor's Report and Approval of the 2021 Audited Financial Statements
 - 5.2/ Presentation and Approval of the 2022 Budget
 - 5.3/ Appointment of an Auditor for 2022
- 6/ Roof Repair update
- 7/ Refugee sponsorship update
- 8/ Motion for changes to bylaws - Bob Neufeldt
- 9/ Continuation of Patrick's contract with Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite Church
- 10/ Nominations Committee - Bob Neufeldt
 - 8.1/ 2022 - 2024 Board of Deacons elections
- 11/ New Business
- 12/ 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
March 28 2021-1:30 p.m.
Draft Minutes

A quorum was present.
Chair: Brent Guenther

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Brent 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 or participants will put up their hands. To make a motion or second a motion, participants will raise their hands.

Brent read from Psalm 118:19-29. He welcomed the members in attendance.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the Amended Agenda as presented, with the additions of Item 6 - "Roof Repair Report and Recommendations" and 9.2. - "Reduction to Patrick's FTE"; and a change to Item 7 from three motions to two motions. Moved by Lynn Driedger, seconded by Susan Ens Funk. Carried.

3. Approval of the AGM Minutes of June 14, 2020

- Spelling error in section 5 - changed to "Vertus Group LLP".

Motion to approve the AGM Minutes of June 14, 2020. Moved by Jake Enns, seconded by Bob Neufeldt. Carried.

4. Report Summary:

- Chairperson Report - Brent Guenther

Brent provided his report in the Annual Report and highlighted some information. These included the following:

- Brent thanked the Pastoral Team (Susanne and Patrick) for their leadership and commitment to the congregants of the church.
- Brent thanked Zack Dueck for stepping into the youth leader position while Sarah was on maternity leave. He also welcomed back Sarah to her role, wishing her and the youth program well in the months ahead.
- Brent thanked Christie for continuing to provide support to Susanne and Patrick and for keeping the church organized in a virtual world.
- Brent thanked Don Froese for his work in the church this past year as our custodian.
- Brent thanked the Board for being positive and optimistic about the work of our church.
- Brent thanked Kathleen Regier and Arnold Neufeld for their commitment to the work of their church during their terms on the Board.
- Brent thanked the deacons, committee members and volunteers who serve in our church.
- Brent thanked Don Froese and Dave Weiler-Thiessen for being at church every Sunday to ensure the worship services are seen and heard in-person and online.
- Brent thanked Jeff Olfert for his support with technology and software and being available to give second opinions on roofing options.
- Brent noted the difficulty that the pandemic has brought to our church, and how we have remained committed to each other, our church and our God, even though we may disagree at times. He encouraged the church community to speak with him or other members of the Board if there are any questions, concerns or thank you's.

- Brent thanked those in attendance for their support of Nutana Park Mennonite Church over this past year and in the year ahead.

Brent gave an opportunity to address questions:

- Chair Report: no questions submitted
- Deacon Reports: no questions submitted

- Deacon & Committee Reports

No questions brought forward.

5. Report from the Treasurer - Ken Warkentin

5.1 Auditor's Report and Approval of 2020 Audited Financial Statements

- Ken thanked the congregants for their generosity during this past year.
- Expenses were \$8,600 less, which brought us to a net income of \$28,139.
- There were no adjustments for the auditors.
- Ken thanked Carmen for her diligent work as the bookkeeper.

Motion to approve the 2020 Audited Financial Statement as presented. Moved by Ken Warkentin, seconded by Gordon Peters. Carried.

5.3 Presentation and Approval of 2021 Budget

- Ken outlined the 2021 budget as \$400,000 explaining that it was difficult to budget this year because of the pandemic.
- There will be some adjustment with salaries and benefits.
- Expenses remain the same.
- Susan asked about the long term funding of the library. The question was addressed by Ken, saying that the change is temporary.
- There will be an adjustment in salaries for Patrick's change in FTE.
- No further discussion occurred.

Motion to approve the proposed 2021 budget as presented. Moved by Ken Warkentin, seconded by Lori Weiler-Thiessen. Carried.

5.3 Appointment of Auditor for 2021

Ken recommended for Vertus Group LLP to audit the 2021 books.

Motion for the finance committee to appoint Vertus Group LLP as the 2021 Auditor. Moved by Ken Warkentin, seconded by Gordon Peters. Carried.

6. Roof Repair Report and Recommendations - Arnold Neufeld, Buildings and Grounds Deacon

- Arnold reiterated the quotes for the roof.
- We would like to have a consistent roof membrane throughout the entirety of the building.
- A roof committee met to discuss options.
- The total cost is \$312,745. This allows a 20% contingency if there are unforeseen circumstances that arise.
- This cost includes removing all other roofing, adding additional EPDM as a top rubber coating. The quote includes the roof system including gable end replacement.
- The Board recommends the quote from "Flynn's Roofing".
- Ken explored options for loans, and found that Mennonite Trust had the best rate of interest. \$170,000 would be borrowed from Mennonite Trust. The interest rate is currently 3.25%.
- 15 year total manufacturer's warranty. The roof should last 25 years.
- Question about the unused fireplace in the lounge. Brent answered, saying that the fireplace will be taken out.
- Janet Barnes asked if there are infrastructure grants available through the federal or provincial governments. Brent will look into this.

- Susan Ens Funk asked if we should be leak free for a period of time. Arnie answered, saying that the drainage will be increased with the sloping of the styrofoam, levelling out the flat areas as much as possible.
- Jean Wiens asked if there will be a change in the colour or appearance. Brent answered, saying we have decided on one product for consistency sake. The colour will be black, and gable ends have not yet been decided.
- Howard Giles asked if we would be able to use the rooms while the construction is in progress. Brent answered that construction will not interfere with the use of any rooms.
- Wally Funk asked how many people go up onto the roof because of the fear of easily creating holes in the membrane. Arnie answered, saying that the EPDM has been recommended and that there should not be people going up onto the roof. Wally suggested that it would be beneficial to have a record of all contractors/people who go onto the roof.

Motion to approve the roofing repair recommendations as presented. Moved by Arnold Neufeld, seconded by Lori Weiler-Thiessen. Carried.

7. Motion for changes to Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws - Bob Neufeldt

- Bob noted his thankfulness to Don Klassen for his knowledge on Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

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:

7.1 Recommended Change:

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."
- Renata Klassen asked for the definition of an active participant. Bob answered that an active participant is an individual who actively participates in the committees and/or functions of the church.

Motion to approve the change to the Articles of Incorporation as presented above. Moved by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Jake Ens. Carried.

7.2 Recommended Change:

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;"
- A 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.

- Edna Froese asked if this also includes voting privileges. Bob answered, saying that it does not affect voting privileges.
- Susan Ens Funk asked if there is a definition of who is an active participant. Brent states that the verbage speaks to the idea of being a current participant - "actively participates".
- Geraldine Balzer stated that other congregations that have this policy cannot vote on budget and finance, however they can vote on other matters.

Motion to approve the bylaw changes as presented above. Moved by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Ken Warkentin. Carried.

8. Nominations Committee - Bob Neufeldt

8.1 2021 - 2023 Board of Deacons elections

- Bob thanked the members of the nominating committee that have worked to secure a slate of nominees for Board of Deacon positions that are ending this year.
- The Nominating committee includes: Trudy Reese, Deb Heinrichs, Jake Ens, Gordon Peters and Bob Neufeldt.
- Bob thanked all the many coordinators who provide an array of support services to our church community.
- Two of these individuals that are now stepping down are:
 1. The Art in the Lounge Coordinator: Hedio Borne has fulfilled this role for the past 9 years and is now stepping down. Bob thanked Hedio for her many years of commitment to this role. Hedio has agreed to accept nomination for the role of caring and visitation deacon. We do not yet have a replacement for Hedio.
 2. NPMC representative on the board of Mennonite Care Services Inc. (Bethany Manor): Geraldine Balzer is completing her three year term as our representative on this board at the end of June. Bob stated his appreciation of Geraldine's work on the board of this organization. Geraldine is currently the Vice Moderator of Mennonite Church Canada and wishes to focus her efforts on this role as well as her many other responsibilities. Anita Retzlaff has agreed to replace Geraldine in this role effective July 1st. Bob thanked Anita and wished her well.

- Bob thanked all the members of the Board of Deacons for their contribution to the overall administration of the church and the many church programs that keep our church vibrant.
- The following Deacon terms are expiring at the end of June this year:
 1. Secretary: Macaila Funk is completing a two year term and has agreed to be named as a nominee for another two year term.
 2. Bookkeeper: Carmen Epp is completing a two year term (and has served for many years before this) and has agreed to be named as a nominee for another two year term.
 3. Buildings and Grounds: Arnold Neufeld is completing a two year term and will be stepping down at the end of June. Arnold has been very committed to this role and has worked hard on our roofing challenges and the many other facets of our facilities. Bob thanked Arnold for all he has done. Zach Janzen has agreed to let his name stand as a nominee in this role.
 4. Caring and Visitation: Kathleen Regier is completing a two year term and will be stepping down at the end of June. Kathleen has also been very committed to this role which has been provided a crucial service in the midst of a pandemic. Bob thanked Kathleen for all she has done. Hedio Borne has agreed to let her name stand as a nominee in this role.

- Bob asked if there were any nominations from the floor for any of these four deacon positions? There were no nominations.

Motion to accept the slate of nominations as presented in their various roles as described above, for a 2 year term commencing July 1, 2021. Moved by Bob Neufeldt, seconded by Audrey Kampen. Carried.

9. New Business

9.1 Pastoral Ordination

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

- On January 18, 2021, the Board approved a motion to recommend Susanne for ordination.
- On January 19, 2021, Nutana Park Mennonite Church sent MC Sask a letter of recommendation for the ordination of Susanne Guenther Loewen. At this point, Susanne is updating her Ministerial Leadership Information Form for the purpose of credentialing. Once she has updated that form, she will meet with the Pastoral Leadership Commission of MC Sask.
- Marlene thanked Susanne and the Board for their work with Susanne's Ordination.
- Susanne thanked the congregation for their affirmation of her ministry.

9.2 Reduction to Patrick's FTE

Brent highlighted following information regarding the reduction to Patrick's position:

- On March 23, 2021, the Board approved a motion to reduce Patrick's position to 0.8 FTE in response to him accepting a 0.2 FTE pastoral role at Tiefengrund-Rosenort Mennonite Church.
- The only commitments made thus far are one day per week and one Sunday per month at TRMC.
- Bob and Brent will meet with Patrick, Susanne and leadership from TRMC to discuss further details.
- Brent mentioned that they will work with Patrick and Susanne to discuss the reallocation of roles and responsibilities.
- Brent added that this is a temporary reduction which will be reviewed in April 2022.

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

10. Closing - Susanne

- Susanne closed in prayer.
- Brent thanked the attendants for their participation in the meeting and the church community.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. by Dave Weiler-Thiessen.

Minutes recorded by Macaila Funk

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

While attending Guenther extended family gatherings as a child, I always expected half of my cousins to leave after lunch because they needed to go "milk." I often remember thinking, *it's Christmas – how can you just leave?* But cows don't celebrate Christmas or Uncle Alan's birthday and they need to be milked. My dairy farming relatives taught me what it means to be consistent and committed. And another farmer, The Great Shepherd, continues to stand by the flock, even during challenging circumstances. I know that many of us have at times felt alone, disconnected, and maybe even lost over the last year, but perhaps in that loneliness we have heard the call or felt the touch of a persistent and loving God.

During changes to public health guidelines, our church adapted, but also remained consistent in our willingness to serve one another. Our NPMC Reopening Committee continued to meet throughout the year to provide recommendations to our NPMC Board of Deacons. Thank you to our Reopening Committee members, Tammy Forrester, Macaila Funk, Susanne Guenther-Loewen, Bob Neufeldt, and Patrick Preheim. Our NPMC Board of Deacons continued to listen to congregants and their needs and discern what was best for our congregation going forward. Thank you to our deacons, their committees, and their volunteers for supporting our congregants. Paska fasma, worship services, Advent activity bags, clean parking lots, and words of support wouldn't be possible without our many volunteers. Thank you.

One of the highlights of the past year was the congregation approving an extensive church roof repair, which began in the summer. Thank you to the congregation for their support of this project and their commitment to paying for it in the months ahead.

I am thankful for the steadfastness of our NPMC staff members. We continue to rely on their leadership, friendship, and hard work in our church. Thank you to Christie Harris for her work as our office administrator in the first half of 2021 and Gwen Laughlin who began working in this role last summer. And once again, thank you to Helen Siemens for coming out of retirement to support us during a time of transition. Don Froese continues to take great pride and ownership of our church space and this continues to be of huge benefit to our congregation. Zach Dueck has bookended 2021 in supporting our youth and I want to thank him for his flexibility. Thank you to Sarah Unrau who has served in our church as youth leader for more than ten years. Her commitment to making individual connections with our youth and adapting her activities and discussion topics to meet their needs has been a blessing to our youth and our congregation. Finally, thank you to our co-pastors, Susanne Guenther-Loewen and Patrick Preheim, for their abilities in making connections with our congregants in creative and meaningful ways. I also thank them for making our worship services a place of joy, comfort, and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Guenther
Chairperson, NPMC Board of Deacons

SPIRITUAL MINISTRY

NPMC PASTORAL STAFF

In my monthly report to the Deacon Board, I have included the statistics of my activity in worship, visitation, small group presence, church endorsed fellowship times, and ministerial opportunities beyond Nutana Park Mennonite. In that respect I will not go into detail. The defining features of 2021 for my ministry at NPMC have been responding to the on-going challenges and opportunities of COVID as well as nurturing congregational relationships

I am grateful to the Church Board, congregational volunteers, my fellow staff members, and others of our community who make the Nutana Park Mennonite ministry operational. Some offer their time, some their talent, some their treasure, some a blending of all of these—it is a community effort and journey. A pastoral role is vibrant only in so far as there are people interested and committed to the cause. Sarah Unrau needs a particular note of thanks as she concluded her service at NPMC this past fall after many years ministering with the youth. Zach Dueck has ably continued youth ministry at NPMC in Sarah's absence. Both Gwen and Don are important and valued parts of the NPMC staff who conscientiously do their tasks. Susanne Guenther-Loewen brings integrity, intelligence, and congregational compassion in her role as co-pastor of NPMC. It is a fine staff and I am truly privileged to worship and serve in this congregation.

A significant change for me in 2021 was my acceptance of a part time pastoral role at Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite Church. This was not an easy decision. I care for the people I have grown to know and love, and the sundry lot up Tiefengrund way are a part of that circle. To this point I feel as if I have been able to balance my pastoral time commitments for both congregations. In many respects I am grateful for the urban and rural partnership that has evolved.

A challenge in 2021 has been reengagement of the Service Group of NPMC in another COVID year. In discernment of the Service Group leadership a decision was made to not resume serving at Friendship Inn at this time. Individuals of the congregation continue to be active there and in a variety of service capacities; we are just not doing the coordinating of such group service as a church body at this time. At Christmas time cold weather items were collected for distribution at Friendship Inn; items were collected for EGADZ (Susanne Guenther Loewen and Lori Wieler-Thiessen coordinated this); food bank offerings were made; and members of NPMC rang bells for Salvation Army. It would be nice to volunteer together as a church group in the community, but 2021 did not seem like the right time.

What more can or should be said? I will engage with any questions or concerns in person or at the AGM.

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

2021 Annual Report

*“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.”
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- Psalm 46:10-11*

It has been another year of adapting to unforeseen circumstances. I thought of the verses above from Psalm 46 because so much of our life as a church in 2021 has been about safety and belonging. Together we have navigated the changes to pandemic health guidelines in order to be able to gather safely to worship, learn, and connect with one another. And we have undertaken the

major project of replacing the roof of our building to maintain the safety and sanctuary of our church building. Safety, refuge, and belonging have been on our hearts and minds throughout this year.

I have so appreciated being able to resume activities that bring us together and give us joy. We resumed Adult Education on Zoom and have valued thinking and learning together about topics relevant to our church and society. Our children's programs resumed meeting in person, which has been a gift. We celebrated the new hymnal, *Voices Together*, and only a few months later, we resumed congregational singing after more than a year without it. I will never forget singing "Come, let us all unite to sing, God is Love!" (VT #7; HWB #12) with great gusto behind our masks! I for one had tears in my eyes as I heard our voices come together in beautiful harmony, something that had been so missed in our worship services.

In spite of the pandemic, we have been able to mark significant moments in our faith community, just in adapted ways. We have said goodbye to a number of our beloved church members with funerals and memorials that still allowed for a service and for fellowship, just without a meal. We have welcomed and dedicated new babies and celebrated marriages. Thanks to the Community Life, Caring & Visitation, and Fellowship Committees, so many of us received Paska Easter bread deliveries for that special day! As church staff, we welcomed Gwen to the office, thanked Sarah for her 10 years of service as youth leader, welcomed Zach back as interim youth pastor, learned to share Patrick with another congregation, and celebrated my ordination as a Mennonite pastor.

I have also continued to find joy in the gatherings of Women's Bible Study (even on Zoom) and in our children's programming that continues to serve the youngest among us with Sunday school, Peace Club, Nativity and Palm Sunday videos, and Advent/Lent Activity Bags that are delivered to families.

I am still adjusting, as I'm sure many of you are, to safe visiting being bound to the seasons these days. Summer brought with it a welcome opportunity to visit safely outside, but winter has been much more limited because of the pandemic. Still, I am so grateful for the creativity of our church committees in keeping us connected, and the many ways we as a congregation have been able to encourage and support one another through a very long two years of living through a pandemic.

As difficult as it's been, our sense of community remains strong (yes, even without potluck meals!). Even across the distance, we remain part of one another and rooted in God's love, and this will carry us through. May we continue to know and live into our sense that NPMC is a place of safety, sanctuary, and belonging.

Peace,
Susanne Guenther Loewen, co-pastor

YOUTH GROUP

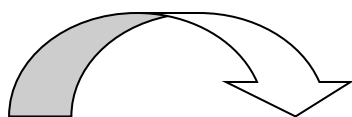
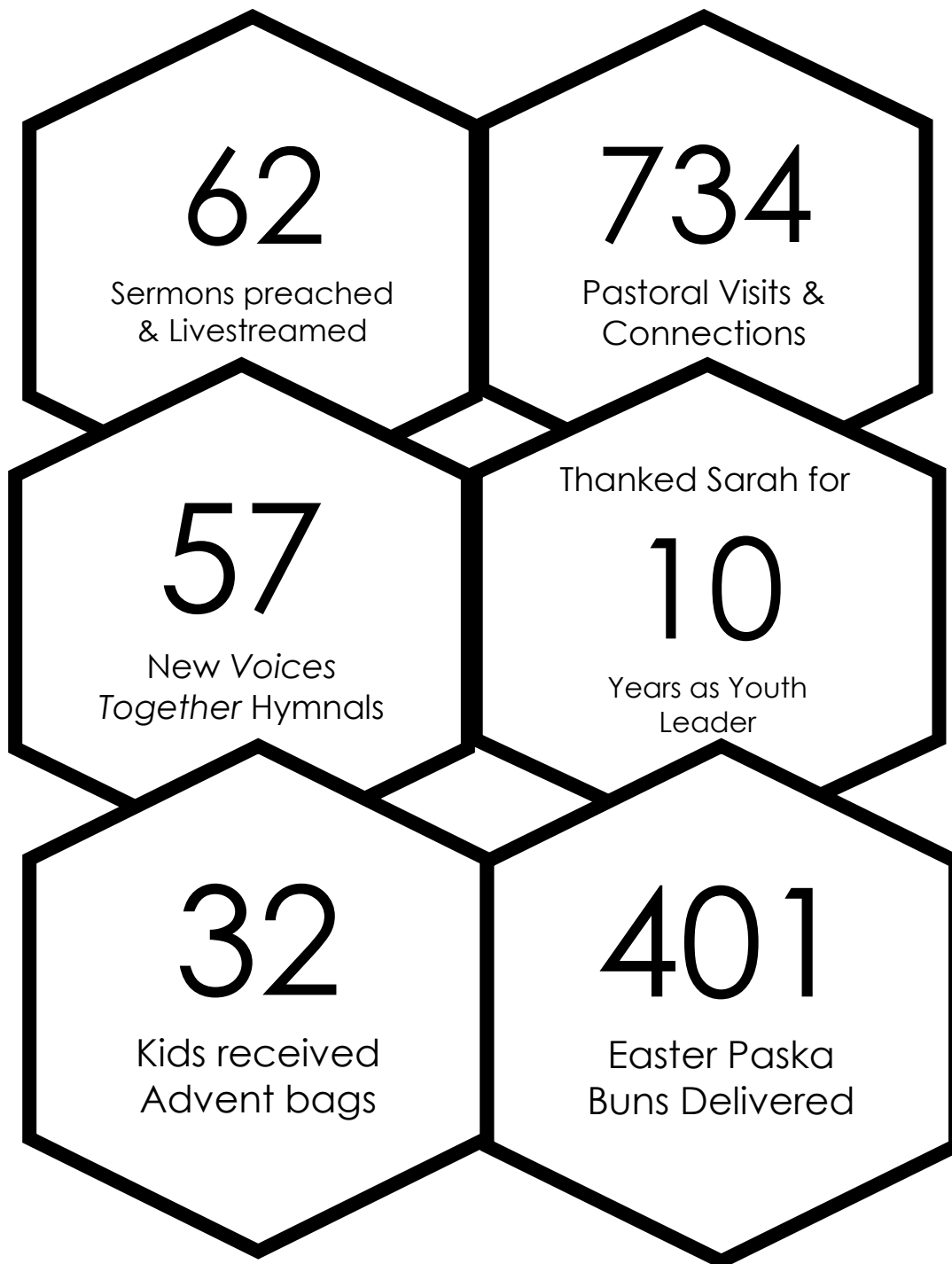
With the unpredictability of COVID-19, the 2021 youth program met the circumstances with new adaptations. Starting in March, weekly discussions nights were pared down to biweekly events, a hybrid of both in-person and online, with a social night once a month. These events were met with patchy attendance mostly due to the intensity of homework from the new block system high schools have implemented because of COVID-19.

Programming continued throughout summer with biweekly cycling events combined Mount Royal Mennonite and were well attended. A Mega Menno event was held at Shekinah which was a positive experience that allowed youth from across the province to re-connect. Fall events carried on with the same schedule but with more regular attendance.

Beyond NPMC youth events, I assisted in planning for events with MCSask at attended monthly youth ministry meetings.

Submitted by Sarah Unrau

NPMC Staff Snapshot of 2021



- Supporting Peace Club, Youth, & Young Adult groups
- Roof fundraising events
- A/V system upgrade
- Continuing to worship, connect, learn, and serve as a faith family

Membership Statistics

Membership, January 1, 2021 253
Deaths (*members) 10

Baptisms 0
Transfer In 3

Marriages (of members, or of members' children) 4

Births 1

Deaths

*Edith Riekman
*Allan Klassen
*Peter Penner
*Jim Archer
*Helen Unrau
*Frank Gerbrandt
*Norma Rempel
*Carol Friesen
*Justina Peters
*Margaret Buckner

CARING & VISITATION

The year 2021 has been a year of learning, challenges and reevaluations. As we adapt to the limitations placed upon us due to the Covid-19 virus, we continue to reach out to our church community to celebrate the joys and offer support for the concerns. Our goal is to extend care to others and respond to the various needs through sending cards, making phone calls and in-person visits when the situation allows it. We want people to know that they are loved and cared for by our church community.

As well as making individual connections, the committee planned several larger group activities. In the first half of the year, while Kathleen Regier was the Caring and Visitation deacon, Lenten packages were delivered to designated congregants. At that time the committee also assisted volunteers and members of the Fellowship and Community Life committees to pull off "Paska Fasma" deliveries to all NPMC congregants.

I began my term as the Caring and Visitation deacon in August 2021. Our committee facilitated the following group activities:

- Women's Bible Study group met to visit in the courtyard at Bethany Manor August, 2021
- people living at Bethany Manor, who are/were affiliated with NPMC, met in the courtyard to visit September, 2021
- a Christmas card including an advent reading plus 2 bags of tea was sent to designated congregants November 2021
- an Easter card including a Lenten devotional and a bookmark was sent to designated congregants February, 2022

Our present committee members include:

- Hedio Borne (Deacon)
- Darryl Epp
- Val Epp
- Joanne Ewert
- Ted Ewert
- Carolene Funk
- Susanne Guenther Loewen (Co-Pastor)
- Kathy Lindsay
- Patrick Preheim (Co-Pastor)
- Trudy Reese

Thank you to all who planned and/or participated in the Caring and Visitation activities during this last year. Jesus reminded us in John 13, vs 34, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another". This is our guide and our goal.

Hedio Borne
Caring and Visitation Deacon

MUSIC

Music remained a vital part of worship at Nutana Park Mennonite Church in 2021. Many congregants and music leaders have commented on music being an important part of what sustained them through this pandemic year. From our music leaders I heard: "I love playing – it gives me a chance to give to others at a time when so many other volunteer avenues are closed," and "The words of the hymns are especially meaningful at this time. Singing them over many times as I practice helps their meaning to sink in." From our congregants I heard: "It's wonderful to sing together again," and "Even though I can't attend the services, when I sing along with the hymns on the livestream, I feel part of the community."

I am very thankful for the Music Committee members who continued to provide sage advice and practical assistance through this past year. While many other committees have seen their work slow, our committee continued to be busy with scheduling, planning creatively for how to have music in worship during the varying gathering restrictions, and continuing discernment on various questions of masking, distancing, etc., especially when the guidance from external agencies was less clear. I thank the Committee members for their faithful work: Bonnie Dahl, Lynn Driedger, Aleta Schellenberg, and our pastoral liaison Patrick Preheim. I also thank Zach Janzen for his work on the committee during the first half of 2021, before moving into his new role as Deacon of Building and Grounds.

Music events of the year included:

- On February 7th we explored and celebrated the new Voices Together hymnals. We heard from congregational members about the particular meaning a hymn from VT had for them. As a congregation we participated in a litany of dedication led by Co-Pastor Susanne Guenther-Loewen and listened to a brief history of our hymnals from Co-Pastor Patrick Preheim.
- Singing Sunday was on May 16 and we sang a variety of hymns from all our hymnal resources and beyond. Congregants picked their favourite hymns and shared about the background of the song and/or its meaning to them.
- Back to School Service on August 29 was not music-focused only, but it was led by one of our committee members, Bonnie Dahl, and incorporated music from some of the children of our congregation, which was delightful.
- On December 26 we listened to recordings of hymns from our Brass Ensemble, led by Lynn Driedger. Glorious to have the sound of brass at Christmas time.

There were many other highlights of music during the year, and I thank each of the musicians and songleaders for sharing their gifts with us. The music provided was a mixture of pre-recorded and live. We have now added a songleader as a regular part of the Sunday morning service so that people listening to the livestream can hear the hymns sung.

More practical aspects of the music committee's work this year also included doing a count of Voices Together hymnals needed, and providing that budget estimate to the Board. We will be ordering those hymnals at the start of 2022. We also had both pianos tuned, and the organ repaired.

Thank you to all the congregants of Nutana Park Mennonite who have been so supportive of the music of this church in so many ways. Blessings as we journey in to 2022.

Fern Stockdale Winder
Deacon of Music

WORSHIP

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them ...

These words from Romans chapter 12 come to mind when I reflect on all of those who make contributions in various ways towards worship services at Nutana Park Mennonite Church. The gifts within our community are diverse, but all are important when we come together as a congregation to worship. Many thanks are necessary, I hesitate to make a list for fear I will forget someone (please forgive me if I have) but the following people should be mentioned:

- the many worship leaders who faithfully volunteer and thoughtfully plan and guide the services
- song leaders, accompanists, and other musicians who bring the gift of song and music
- the technical crew that look after the audio and video components and enable us to broadcast services to those unable to attend
- those who serve as ushers and welcome everyone
- Nicole Tiessen for updating the church décor in line with the seasons of the church calendar

Many of the volunteers in those groups continue to answer the call repeatedly. All who serve are greatly appreciated.

Special mention needs to be made of Patrick and Susanne, who find themselves involved in all of the above areas and many others. Their leadership, wisdom and spiritual insights are integral to providing meaningful and challenging worship experiences. Thanks also to Worship Committee members Fern Stockdale and Eric Neufeld for their commitment and thoughtful approach to all areas.

In 2021 we were thankful for the easing of restrictions that allowed for the gradual increase of in-person attendance and the return of much-missed singing and instruments to our services. Services included series on the themes of Being the Church, Spiritual Guides, and Just Living and the Post-pandemic Church (we might have jumped the gun on the post-pandemic part). We had meaningful services celebrating Susanne's ordination and Sarah Unruh's service to the congregation as Youth Pastor.

We ask for God's guidance and blessing on all of these endeavors, and that we may continue to gather together to worship, pray and sing in 2022.

- Respectfully submitted,
Don Klaassen, Worship Deacon

EDUCATION MINISTRY

ADULT EDUCATION

It has been a challenging year for us as committee. After several months of not offering any Adult Education sessions at all, we were able to begin a Zoom version of Adult Education held on a weekday evening. Beginning in February and ending in early June, we met bi-weekly to discuss Drew Hart's *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Sees Racism*.

In the fall, we offered a six-week series on our new hymnal *Voices Together*. For this series, we were joined by the Osler Mennonite Church. It was a delightful opportunity to learn more about our hymnal: how it had been put together, what some of the goals had been for the compilers, how theological questions had affected choices, and what resources the hymnal offered to congregations. For our final session, we had as guest Sarah Johnson from Ontario who had been part of the VT committee. There are advantages to meeting online.

For the Advent season, still as a Zoom group, we gathered for three consecutive weeks to share stories about "The Pandemic Christmas That Was," asking ourselves how our experiences would affect the Christmas to come.

We plan to continue our Adult Education as a Zoom group, and for our upcoming series in February on the Saskatchewan Income Support program, we will once again invite the Osler Mennonite Church to join us.

I would like to thank the members of the Adult Education Committee—Susanne Guenther-Loewen, Rachel Regier, Paul Schroeder, and Lori Weiler-Thiessen.

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

LIBRARY

The Church Library Committee grew by 100% in 2021, with the addition of Marian Driedger! Many thanks to Marian.

We were able to unpack all the books that had been stored due to the roof leak. All materials are now accessible and we added shelf talkers to denote different areas of interest.

Please contact Marian or Lori with suggestions, requests or ideas.

Lori Weiler-Thiessen & Marian Driedger

SUNDAY SCHOOL

From January to March Sunday School happened in many creative ways!

- Andrew, Brielle and Macy Neufeldt made a video that was posted on the church website,
- several Children's Times from church were posted,
- Lent/Easter Activity bags were delivered to our SS families
- Jared and Jane Regier made a video showing how to plant the Easter grass from the Lenten Activity bag,
- A Palm Sunday video, that included all the Sunday School kids, was created and showed during church
- The kids gathered outside to plant the church garden
- There were some outside summer gatherings of the SS kids

From September to December we resumed in-person, in-door SS on the first Sunday of the month with an additional activity that coincided with Care Group 6. In person SS began with 15 minutes of singing, then 30 minutes of instruction.

Some highlights were:

- harvested the garden in September
- A Halloween SS with costumes that carried into the church service
- Advent bags delivered to our SS families, with interesting crafts and family activities.
- Nativity video made and presented at the NPMC Coffee House. Thanks to all the SS families, Bonnie, Tammy, and Dave for their work on the project.

Many thanks to Marlie Leis who has given wonderful leadership to this program as Sunday School Coordinator. She will be stepping down in June.

Thanks to Rachel Reiger who has agreed to take on the Sunday School Coordinator position in September.

Lori Weiler- Thiessen & Susanne Guenther Loewen

PEACE CLUB

Peace Club was held virtually from January to June, and included a participant from Wildwood. It moved to in person from September to December. There are currently about 12 participants in Peace Club and all are affiliated with NPMC.

Susanne Guenther Loewen, with Sarah Unrau, wrote the second year curriculum. Some of the themes included: Fair Education, Gratitude, Peace/Remembrance, and Generosity.

Susanne, Sarah, Marlie/Ben Leis, and Lori W-T took turns leading.

Many thanks to Sarah for her involvement in, and support of, Peace Club.

Lori Weiler- Thiessen and Susanne Guenther Loewen

ROSTHERN JUNIOR COLLEGE

Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be a challenge for schools throughout 2021. In spite of this we were able to continue with much of our regular programming, including our annual service week (ALSO Week) in May. We were excited that cases dropped and gathering sizes expanded in late June as it meant we were able to celebrate the successful completion of our 2020/2021 school year with an in-person graduation. This was a refreshing change as graduation in 2020 was online.

In September we launched the 2021/2022 school year and got off to a great start. We began the year with 89 students and a positive spirit. I am thankful for all the work that was done in previous months, and over the summer, by so many people to put us in this favorable position as we began the school year with another increase in enrollment. We hope to continue this trend moving forward.

In late October we hosted our annual corporation meeting via Zoom and were happy to report a balanced budget from the previous year and propose another balanced budget for the current year. Thank you to all our supporters who continue to donate and pray for us as we pursue our mission as a church school.

Currently the omicron variant is causing some concern, but we have been able to begin our 2021/2022 school year with four months of relative normalcy in terms of athletics, arts and academic program. Our students have been able to meet in the chapel, tour with the choir, and gather in the dorm for games and activities. These are the types of activities that help students grow and thrive, and we are thankful that they have resumed again.

We feel blessed and ask for your continued prayers and support as we seek to keep our students and staff safe while we fulfill our mission.

Ryan Wood Principal, RJC High School December 2021

MISSION AND SERVICE MINISTRY

CHURCH LIFE

2021 was again a year that did not resemble the past norms but did however look a lot like its closest predecessor! Some tasks under my umbrella were still suspended, new ideas emerged and others that were reimaged in 2020, and found to work well, were repeated.

I have so much appreciated brainstorming ideas with Marlene that keep connections with our NPMC congregants alive. This year PASKA FASPA was a vision that came to fruition on Easter weekend. Not only did it come to fruition but it was more meaningful for all involved than we had envisioned. It was a joy to work together with both Bonnie Ramage (Fellowship) and Kathleen Regier (Caring and Visitation) to bring the Paska to all of you. The event could not have happened without amazing volunteers and they are worth mentioning here ... Marlene Froese and Hedio Harder for lovingly baking all the paska buns, the caring and visitation committee for writing cards, Carolene Funk for planting the grass gifts, Lori W-T and Brenda Baergen for helping assemble the boxes, Ruth Wiens, Lydia Schroder and Elisabeth Reimer for icing and decorating the buns and finally our drivers for delivering our precious items ... Edith & Armin Krahn, Dave W-T, Marg & Wally Krause, Susanne G-L, Jeff Olfert, Rhonda & Eldon Krahn, Patrick Preheim, Bonnie Dahl, Evelyn & Peter Epp and Carolene Funk. I remember getting goosebumps as I was out about with the precious cargo as I thought of all the paska buns being delivered simultaneously to all of you. The doorstep conversations were delightful and connections re-established. The Paska Faspa on Easter Sunday was a special time to talk about Easter traditions and share in "breaking of the bread" that had magically appeared on doorsteps the previous day.

The WEDDING & BABE SHOWER had been reimaged in 2020 with meaningful conversations on the doorsteps of engaged or newly married couples and parents who had recently welcomed a little one into their family. It had worked well in making connections with these important people of our congregation and we enjoyed repeating the format again in 2021. Patrick and Susanne joined Marlene and I on the doorsteps of seven couples embarking on a married life together and five bleary-eyed parents and their babes. 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 in order to help us get to know them a little better. 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.

The CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE 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 two sittings on a Sunday in December. We were pleased to share our vision of community with so many people. We were very grateful for all the performers who put time and effort into sharing their talents with all of those in attendance. The music was uplifting, the ambiance celebratory, the peppernuts a gift for the senses and the Sunday School nativity wonderfully entertaining ... the evening brought warmth to all our hearts.

Although church life and church has continued to change and evolve and still looks different than "normal", 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. CHURCH LIFE in different forms has stayed strong ... Thanks to all of you!

Respectfully submitted,
Denelda Fast

FELLOWSHIP

In many ways, 2021 did not play out as we all had hoped. Certainly the Fellowship Committee could not host potlucks or other gatherings serving food. Our efforts to promote fellowship were as follows:

- ✧ Sunday afternoon coffee hour on Zoom began in January and continued until summer when there was opportunity to visit outside after the church service.
- ✧ Paska Faspa was a collaboration between Denelda Fast (Community Life), the Caring & Visitation Committee and the Fellowship Committee. A huge thanks to Marlene Froese and Hedio Harder for baking 400 Paska buns and to the volunteers who iced, packaged and delivered the buns.
- ✧ We hosted two Parking Lot Picnics in summer (the third one was rained out). Participants brought their own picnic lunches and we ate on the parking lot after the Sunday service.
- ✧ Plans for a Farmer Sausage BBQ in September were cancelled because of high infection rates.
- ✧ An evening of Christmas Carol Singing happened on December 10, thanks to Ron Peters and his guitar. We sang the first few songs outside and then moved into the sanctuary. Participants were given pre-packaged cookies at the end of the evening, to enjoy at home. Several people asked that a carol singing event be planned annually.

The number of in-person participants was small (about 20 for the parking lot picnics and 17 for the carol singing) and yet those present expressed appreciation for the opportunity to gather.

Thank you to Fellowship Committee members for their commitment to responsibly navigate through another year of pandemic:

- On-going members Carolene Funk, Jenae Funk, Rhonda & Eldon Krahn, Lori & Dave Weiler-Thiessen. New members are Deb Heinrichs & Stan Bartel, Ruth Wiens and Janet & Norm Barnes.
- Out-going committee members Brenda Baergen and Edith & Armin Krahn -- thanks for your years on the committee!
- Lois Tiessen remains the funeral lunch coordinator. (No funeral lunches were organized by the church in 2021, in compliance with Re-Opening Committee Guidelines.)

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Ramage

CANADIAN MENNONITE

Canadian Mennonite tells the stories of our church family. With 26 issues per year, our website and social media, Canadian Mennonite also offers a place to talk about current faith issues. We are inspired by Paul's letter to the Hebrews, exhorting the church to spur one another on to love and good deeds. Sharing diverse perspectives in an atmosphere of respect helps us all grow as caring congregations and a nationwide community that makes a difference in the world.

Stories and contributions from Saskatchewan add to the richness of CM content. In 2021, correspondent Donna Schulz published 36 print and web exclusive stories, including a feature on June 21. Emily Summach, Brenda Epp and Anita Retzlaff also contributed feature articles. Photos by Lois Siemens were showcased on February 15. Josh Wallace, Kevin Koop and Ryan Siemens contributed to the From Our Leaders column. Ed Olfert's monthly column is appreciated by readers in print and on social media. Numerous individuals sent in letters to the editor or wrote other articles or blogs. At year end, we thanked Donna for 8 years of service and welcomed Emily Summach as the new Saskatchewan correspondent.

Through the Every Home Plan, people from Mennonite Church Canada congregations 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. If you already have a print subscription and would like to add digital delivery, email Graham Aberdein at office@canadianmennonite.org.

Whether you read the magazine, visit our website or follow us on social media, Canadian Mennonite is grateful that you connect with our national church family through the magazine.

In 2021 Canadian Mennonite had:

- 26 issues
- 87 stories and photos from Saskatchewan
- 1,005 articles about the church in Canada and beyond
- 5,500 followers on social media
- 9,500 subscribers
- 200,000 website visitors

Ways to connect

- Subscribe to get the magazine by mail, email or both. 26 issues per year (22 print plus 4 digital-only).
- Sign up for CM Now, a free, bi-weekly email with links to recent stories.
- Write letters or web comments in response to articles.
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Like to take photos?

Individuals are welcome to submit photos and captions from church events, for possible publication.

Submissions General: submissions@canadianmennonite.org

Readers Write: letters@canadianmennonite.org

Obituaries: obituaries@canadianmennonite.org

Events: calendar@canadianmennonite.org

Church administrators send milestone announcements (births, baptisms, marriages and deaths) to share with the wider church family. Send to: milestones@canadianmennonite.org

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SASKATCHEWAN

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” – Psalm 46:1 (NRSV)

We’ve entered the second century of MCC’s ministry during a global pandemic. While we have faced many challenges, we are grateful for the many people who have helped us endure.

This year dedicated frontline workers navigated changing public health orders. MCC Thrift Shop volunteers and staff continued to serve their communities and the larger mission of MCC with grace and care. Our material resources volunteers found careful ways to continue to make comforters and pack kits in support of global relief efforts.

Constituent churches, supporters, MCC staff and partners creatively and patiently learned new ways of connecting, communicating, and learning together through a variety of technological platforms. Our steadfast and generous donors have carried us through countless difficult days in the face of many unknowns, allowing us to continue to respond locally and globally to human need, in the name of Christ.

This has been an incredible year of generosity and anxiety, of beauty and loss, of creativity and commitment. I invite you to explore and be encouraged by these stories of adaptation, resilience, generosity, and hope. Thank you for your part in sharing God’s love and compassion for all.

Our full interactive annual impact report is available here.

MCC Saskatchewan seeks to grow closer to all our constituent churches in meaningful ways. MCC staff are available to visit your church for education, presentations, sermons, and conversation on a range of topics that matter to you. Check out our Speakers Bureau here. Email saskoffice@mccsk.ca to invite MCC into your important ministries.

Eileen Klassen Hamm, Executive Director (eileenklassenhamm@mccsk.ca)
Rick Guenther, Communications & Donor Relations (rickguenther@mccsk.ca)
Amanda Dodge, Program Director (amandadodge@mccsk.ca)

MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

It has been a difficult year.

In 2021, on the world stage, tension and trouble abounded. As Canadians, our hearts sank when we learned of the unmarked graves of hundreds of Indigenous children in Kamloops, and then at Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan. More discoveries followed. We experienced another summer of drought and forest fires, followed by disastrous floods clearly attributed to our changing climate. This, with along with global political uprisings, supply chain disruptions, market uncertainties...we have almost grown numb to the struggles that we hear in the daily news.

Discouragement has also been felt in many of our congregations as well. As of mid-January, many congregations across the nationwide church have returned, yet again, to worship via recorded video and livestreaming. Hopes for in-person Sunday School, kids' clubs, adult bible studies, pastoral visits and potlucks have once again been postponed.

We had envisioned that, by now, congregations and regions would be sharing together the new ways they have found to be the church, as we emerged from the pandemic. However, we continue to tune into what public health officials recommend so we can limit risk to the most vulnerable among us.

I am reminded of the Apostle Paul whose plans to visit the Christians in Rome (Romans 15:22ff) were repeatedly delayed. Then, in due time, he was able to travel and minister again. Like Paul, the delay doesn't mean that we have stopped hoping and dreaming! I'm so thankful to those who have volunteered to be part of the Community of Spiritual Leadership and the Intercultural Church Steering Committee, new groups that will provide leadership and discernment for our nationwide community of faith in the coming years.

Our Sustainability Leadership Group (SLG) worked with students from The King's University in Edmonton who produced a resource to help our congregations take steps to become more sustainable communities.

One of the blessings of pandemic restrictions has been that Mennonite Church Canada executive has had time to clarify nationwide church governance structure and ministry priorities. We have engaged with MC USA to update our ministerial misconduct policy and we are currently expanding the mandate of the SLG to anchor a nationwide climate action response.

As you will read in the following reports, our program directors have also adapted their activities to continue to resource congregations across the nationwide church and to grow our engagement with our international partners and Indigenous neighbours.

Sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you for your generous support of the nationwide church. We are so blessed to be the recipients of your financial contributions and your gifts of time, talents and abilities.

We trust that God will grow strong ministries and witness in 2022.

Submitted by Doug Klassen

MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (MC Sask) is a community of 23 congregations who have covenanted together to be Christ Centered & 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.

At the 2021 Annual Delegate Sessions, held via Zoom on March 13, we focused on being '**Called to Hear**,' particularly from one another. We were richly blessed to hear from **Hanley, Superb,** and **Zoar** Mennonite Churches about their closures. The legacy and ministry of these communities has widely blessed the Mennonite Church over the years, and hearing their testimonies was a powerful reminder of the importance of our living into our calling as the Church to both 'hear' and 'here' (our ADS 2022 theme).

Congregational Transitions

This calling to hear/here was lived into further through a variety of transitions during the year. **Barb and Wilmer Froese** completed their term as Interim Pastors at Tiefengrund Rosenort MC on Dec. 31, 2020. **Patrick Preheim** began serving part-time at TRMC in April. On April 4, **Gary Peters** retired as pastor of Hanley MC, and this Sunday also marked the final worship service at Hanley MC. **Harry Harder** retired from Pleasant Point MC on May 15, and Pleasant Point and Warman MC's welcomed **Len Rempel** in June, with a joint installation service held on Oct. 24. On May 31 **Andrea Enns-Gooding** completed her term as pastor at Zoar MC, which was also the final worship service for Zoar MC. Andrea began her time as pastor for Rosthern MC on July 1 and was installed on Sept. 12. On Sept. 30 **Sarah Unrau** resigned as Youth Leader of Nutana Park MC. We were also blessed to have two pastors respond to their calling to serve the wider church through ordination services: **Susanne Guenther Loewen** (Nutana Park MC, June 27), and Emily **Summach** (Langham MF, Nov. 21)

The Work of the Church

Throughout 2021, we continued to find ways to navigate in-person and online events, and search for ways to meaningfully – and safely – bring our community together and engage in the work of the Church. Online **Mega Menno** game nights became a regular way for youth to connect, and the fun continued when outdoor events at Shekinah and the Youth Farm became possible. Spending time listening to, and resourcing, pastors and congregations was an important part of this year, with pastor's gatherings and shared online services providing meaningful moments of connection. A new workshop, **Reimagine**, is now available to help congregations think about new ways to respond to the call to be the Church. In 2022 we look forward to gathering in Alberta for MC Canada gatherings '**We Declare**' and '**Amplify!**' (youth) to connect with our brothers and sisters once again from across MC Canada in fellowship and worship.

As we look to the year ahead, we invite your prayers as we prepare for **Kirsten Hamm-Epp** to be away on maternity leave (beginning Jan. 31, 2022), and to say farewell to **Ryan Siemens**, who is resigning his role as Executive Minister as of Jan. 31, 2022, to take on the role of Executive Director with Mennonite Central Committee Alberta. Ryan has contributed significantly to the MC Sask community, and his vision, heart for the Church, and laugh will be greatly missed. We are pleased to announcement the hiring of **Josh Wallace** as Interim Executive Minister. Josh has served MC Sask as Church Engagement Minister since 2020, and we are deeply grateful for his willingness to increase his role during this time of transition. Please pray for all MC Sask staff and leadership as we navigate and prepare for these transitions.

Wishing you Christ's peace and hope,
Ryan Siemens, Kirsten Hamm-Epp,
Josh Wallace, & Marianne Siemens (MC Sask Staff)

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE

“It was nothing short of a miracle. It never would have happened without MDS. It’s just so unreal. I don’t know how to thank MDS. It’s amazing how people we don’t know came to help us. It’s God sent, that’s all I know.”

That’s what Diane Rice of Triton, Newfoundland said after MDS Canatimeda, together with local volunteers in that community, rebuilt her home that was destroyed by fire.

Her comment reminds me of why MDS Canada exists- volunteers who are sent by God to be the hands and feet of Jesus when people are hurting and need help.

Although 2021 was a hard year for us- the pandemic curtailed most of our responses in this country and prevented Canadians from going to the U.S. to volunteer- it couldn’t stop us from doing what we could to help people impacted by disasters. Despite the pandemic, and the restrictions it imposed, we still responded to people in need.

In Ontario, we worked with MCC to promote reconciliation with Indigenous people by providing volunteers to renovate the MCC Indigenous Neighbours office in Timmins. We also worked with MennoHomes, an organization that provides affordable housing in Kitchener, to renovate a derelict house into a home for a Syrian refugee family. In Barry’s Bay we were able to renovate a house to accommodate a family with a disabled child, creating a safe, sterile, and temperature controlled space.

In B.C., we learned you can be off grid but not out of God’s plan when it comes to rebuilding a house. That’s what happened after a fire destroyed the home of Cliff and Lydia Trudeau at Cuisson Lake. Rebuilding their house was challenging, since they live in a remote part of the province. With some creative thinking on the part of volunteers, along with energetic ingenuity and lots of prayer, the house was completed in August.

Also in B.C., volunteers responded to needs in Princeton, where about 300 families had their homes damaged or destroyed by flooding.

In Saskatchewan, we renovated the office and home of the director at the Westbank Bible Camp. Said the director about the volunteers: “They showed up with a servant attitude and posture, always asking what they could do for us, how they could serve us,” he said, “It was phenomenal. They had such servant hearts.”

Also in Saskatchewan, weather was the big story this year. Drought affected farmers in the province, hitting livestock farmers the hardest. Many don’t have enough hay for their animals in winter. Together with MDS Ontario Unit, we created MDS Hay West, a way for farmers in Ontario- who enjoyed good growing weather- to send donated hay to Saskatchewan. Best of all, it was a way for farmers in Ontario to say thanks. It was nine years ago that farmers in Saskatchewan sent Hay East to them when drought was bad in that province.

In Newfoundland, MDS Canada supplied the funds and local people in Triton provided the volunteers to build a new house for Diane and Reginald Rice after fire destroyed their home.

Across Canada, we responded through the Spirit of MDS Fund. Through the fund, we provided 81 grants worth \$206,900 to churches involved in frontline service to people impacted by the pandemic.

At MDS in Canada our goal is to use our core values of faith in action and caring relationships to be a witness to God’s love for the world. We invite you to consider volunteering with us and joining us in praying for God’s continued blessing on our work.

Ross Penner
Director of Canadian Operations

SASKATOON MENNONITE CARE SERVICES INC. (SMCS)

Thinking back on year 2021 at Bethany Manor does not necessarily bring a lot of smiles and laughter. Social events were few and far between, the winter was long and harsh (though rooms were cuddly warm), being with one another became very hard to do through the 3rd and 4th waves of COVID-19 and the “Delta” variant. Our residents are part of Bethany largely because they can interact, socialize, worship, and attend various entertainment group performances, while also having the freedom to do the things they enjoy.

As a Board, Executive Director (ED), and Management staff, it has been hard to follow a ‘lay down the law’ type of governance. We thank our ED and Management staff for the sound, but very hard, decisions that have been made for the sake of safety of our residents.

We continue to manage our vacancy levels as the pandemic carries on. Some applicants on our waiting lists continue to demonstrate some hesitancy in getting onboard during this time. We also acknowledge the natural direction of some residents needing to leave us for higher levels of care elsewhere. We look forward to the intensity of the pandemic passing us by and a return to more normal vacancy levels. Without a doubt the best guard against this pandemic is to have everyone be vaccinated. We look forward to soon having Saskatchewan Health Authority provide us the opportunity to receive the booster shot without leaving the building.

We thank our donors! You have made an enormous difference to making Bethany Manor a better place. I still think of how the walkway has allowed residents the freedom of moving around without going outside - a great gift to our Bethany family. Ideas that could enhance the lives of Bethany residents are always under consideration by the Board in consultation with Management and our Fund Development Coordinator.

All has not been “doom and gloom”. November 19th was a celebration day, when health officials told us we could once again open many of our social gathering rooms. Many smiles have returned and for this we thank God.

As a Board we are extremely grateful for our staff! They are the front and centre of everyday needs and wishes of the community at Bethany. The pandemic has been with us for over two years, creating more than normal stress on everyone. We thank you, each and every person on our staff for the work you are and have been doing. You make a difference that is felt throughout the complex, God bless you!

We have wonderful residents that have tried their best to make life better for everyone. Helping wipe down door handles and assisting sick people where it was possible to do so, leaving notes of encouragement. Thank you for being the caring people God intended us to be!

Ben Buhler – Board Chair

SHEKINAH RETREAT CENTRE

The challenge of Covid-19 continues to shape our decisions. Our main source of income derives from serving large groups of people, so the pandemic has put significant strains on our finances and viability. In addition, Shekinah operates under some of the strictest Covid restrictions (serving large groups and serving food), hampering our efforts further.

This affected our ability to run summer camp in 2021. While provincial restrictions changed to allow overnight camps, the shortened time frame – combined with running Shekinah on a skeleton staff – didn't allow us to offer summer camp. This was a difficult decision to make, as it meant we wouldn't have run summer camp for two years in a row.

While we were able to – safely – host some events at Shekinah in 2021, we met reluctance from groups to venture out. In addition, the groups who did come were much smaller than we are set up for. While it was emotionally rewarding to have people on site (finally!), it was financially disheartening.

So we looked to other areas where we could provide much needed relief to smaller groups to get out of their self-imposed exiles and into nature. We renovated the Cabins-By-The-Pond, updating all appliances and making the interiors more comfortable. This includes indoor toilets, which were a big hit. We were able to recoup our expenses for the renovations very quickly, and the cabins continue to be rented, even in -30 weather.

We were fortunate to get a number of Canada Summer Jobs placements, which allowed us to get six workers here for the summer. In addition to their help with the work that had been piling up, having a larger team onsite was a great boost to our spirits, and it was great to hear laughter echoing through our valley. In addition, it was hard to find a weed anywhere.

One of the many projects we wanted to accomplish was a permanent bridge across the creek on Ravine Trail. RJC High School was able to come out to Shekinah for two days during their ALSO week. While their ability to do some of the heavy lifting and physical work that is difficult for us, their energy and spirit was just as important. Thanks, Thrive crew! Your presence was more of a gift than you know. The bridge is complete and usable, by the way.

We continued to make use of federal and provincial programs to help us survive, although these are coming to an end. Our coffers, and hearts, got a real boost from your donations. Many of you continued your graceful support of Shekinah. In addition, we were the grateful recipients of legacy giving by Superb Mennonite and Zoar Mennonite Waldheim. We are blessed that they continued to invest in Shekinah's future, even as they were closing their own doors.

As we look forward to 2022, our plan is to run school groups and summer camp. The chance to see young people again fills us with hope. We don't know how Covid will affect us, but we are investing in these programs as-if we will be able to carry them out. Our Timber Lodge is already booked solid in our summer months and continues to fill up for the fall.

This will be a difficult year, as we look at our business model, hire new staff, and re-imagine ways to allow Shekinah to be a place where all who come feel the glory and love of God. We ask for your prayers and wise counsel.

Ron & Sue Schellenberg,
Co-Executive Directors

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The Buildings and Grounds have gratefully been put back to better use as of this year. We are grateful to those who have been continually diligent in helping keep our place of worship an area that we can feel safe in through these times. We thank Don Froese specifically for continued cleaning and scheduling maintenance over the past year. This last year we saw the repair and replacement of the roof, and we thank Arnie Neufeld for seeing the issue through, even after passing on his role as deacon this past summer. At this time, all repairs to the roof and gables have been finished, however there is still some work on the eavestroughs that need to be touched on. We also thank all the volunteers who have helped look after the building and grounds, even when in disuse. It is with all of your help that we were able to make a smooth transition into reopening for the congregation.

Submitted by Zachary Janzen

FINANCE REPORT

We have had another interesting and varied year at NPMC. Considering all the issues we dealt with we also had a successful year.

The audit has not been completed at the times of this writing, however indications are that we ended up with about \$72,000 of income over expenses. This included a \$25,000 bequest which was not expected and about \$10,000 of donations we already received for the roof. It is great that we could pay all our expenses and also donate to:

CMU MC SK
MEDA RJC
MCC SHEKINAH
MDS

The roof costs are not all in, but it looks like the total cost of the roof and gable ends will end up to be about \$250,000. This will be paid for using reserves, 2021 surplus and a \$100,000 line of credit from Mennonite Trust (now AMITY TRUST). With all this we hope to have a drier church, a warmer church and cheaper heating costs.

The bequest money is planned for upgrades to our audio visual equipment.

We will provide further updates and approvals at the annual meeting.

We would like to thank everyone for your generosity and look forward to working together in 2022.

Carmen has again shown great efficiency and hard accurate work. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted
Ken Warkentin (chair)
Darryl Epp
Helen Siemens
Carmen Epp (accountant)

NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH

Pastoral Staff: Susanne Guenther Loewen
Patrick Preheim

Youth Leader: Sarah Unrau (Jan – Sept)
Zach Dueck (Oct- Dec)

BOARD OF DEACONS

Chairperson	Brent Guenther
Vice-Chair	Bob Neufeldt
Secretary	Macaila Funk
Treasurer	Ken Warkentin
Bookkeeper	Carmen Epp
Building & Grounds	Zach Janzen
Caring & Visitation	Hedie Borne
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
Auditor	Virtus Group
Billeting	Bonnie Ramage
Custodian	Don Froese
Decorations	Nicole Tiessen
Greeters	Lydia Schroeder
Historian-Archives	Merna Ediger
Library	Lori Weiler-Thiessen
Refugee Assistance	Marian Driedger
Saskatoon Mennonite	Gordon Enns
Care Services	Anita Retzlaff
Service Group	Brenda Baergen
Sunday School	Charlene Sorensen
Ushers	James Friesen
	Paul Schroeder
	Marlie Leis
	Eric Neufeld