



***Nutana Park
Mennonite Church***

Annual Report

2016

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ORGANIZATION

NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

March 26, 2017

The Nutana Park Mennonite Church congregation meets annually to consider the work and mission of this church. It is very important that you attend and share your wisdom and insights on how best this Community of Christians can fulfill the mission we have accepted as a tangible expression of our faith. All members may vote on decisions required. All adherents are welcome to attend and participate as members, but do not vote.

A G E N D A

Nutana Park Mennonite Church
Annual General Meeting
March 26, 2017

1. Opening Meditation
2. Welcome
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Approval of the AGM Minutes of March 20th, 2016
5. Deacon & Committee Reports
 - 5.1 Asbestos Registry
6. Report from the Treasurer – Bert Klassen
 - 6.1 Auditor's report and approval
 - 6.2 Presentation of 2017 budget
 - 6.3 Approval of 2017 budget
 - 6.4 Appointment of Auditor for 2017
6. Nominations Committee – Armin Krahn
 - 6.1 Board of Deacons
 - 6.2 Finance Committee
 - 6.3 Building Committee
7. Chairperson Report – Tammy Forrester
 - 7.1 Board Structure
 - 7.2 Church Schedule
8. New Business from the Floor
9. Closing – Patrick Preheim

Mission Statement

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

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

in the context of the global church.

Statement of Faith

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minutes from the Annual Meeting

Draft Minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting
Nutana Park Mennonite Church
March 20th, 2016 - 1:15 p.m.

A quorum was present – Chair: Trish St. Onge

1. Opening Meditation – Geraldine Balzer

2. Welcome – Trish

3. Approval to Agenda

Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented with changes to 5.1 Welcome of Deacons and Committee Members, 5.2 Conference and Missions reorganization, and 5.3 Presentation of renovations plans. Moved by Alison Jantz, seconded by Tammy Forrester. Carried.

4. Approval of 2015 AGM minutes

Motion to approve the AGM Minutes of March 29, 2015. Moved by Wally Funk, seconded by Jake Ens. Carried.

5. Deacon and Committee Reports

5.1 Welcome of Deacons and Committee Members - Tammy Forrester

Thank you to all those individuals who are involved in the many areas that keep the church running.

5.2 Conference and Missions reorganization - Alison Jantz and Marlene Froese

The two current deacons in these roles would like to combine these two positions into one deacon and 4 coordinators (Missions, Community Life, Conference, Media/Technology/Communication). The name of the deacon position has not yet been decided.

Motion to accept the reorganization of the Conference and Missions deacon position as presented. Move by Alison Jantz, seconded by Valerie Epp. Carried.

5.3 Presentation of Renovation Plans - Joel Driedger

Previous renovations were completed at the level of the church city line connecting with the city sewer line. Further issues were noted during these renovations with regards to the church sewer lines. An estimate has been set at \$16000 with L & M Mechanical and would be completed over the span of a week in summer. This project will go through the education wing and will involve destroying the current carpet. Renovation estimates for 4 separate phases of flooring were presented. **Please see the attached document outlining the proposed phases.**

Discussions took place regarding this project.

Motion to proceed with the first phase of renovations as presented.

Moved by Jake Ens, seconded Tammy Forrester. Carried.

5.4 Motion to accept Deacon reports as presented verbally and printed in the Annual Report.

Moved by Eldon Krahn, seconded by Susan Ens-Funk. Carried.

6. Report from the Treasurer – Bert Klassen

6.1 Motion to approve the 2015 Audited Financial Statement as presented.

Moved by Bert Klassen, seconded by Gordon Peters. Carried.

Bert Klassen thanked the congregation for their donations. The board and staff have also been able to largely keep within the budget as well. Contributions to Mennonite organizations are all up-to-date. Bert also publicly thanked Carmen Epp for her assistance.

6.2 Presentation of 2016 budget

Discussion was had with regards to the altering of forwarding of funds to Mennonite organizations that would benefit from additional support including CMU, RJC and others.

6.3 Motion to approve the Proposed 2016 Budget as presented.
Moved by Brent Guenther, seconded by Geraldine Balzer. Carried.

Motion for the board to develop a finance sub committee to assist in discussing the distribution of forwarding of funds to Mennonite organizations.

Moved by Renata Klassen, seconded by Jake Ens. Carried.

6.4 Motion to appoint Virtus Group as the Auditor for 2016
Moved by Bert Klassen, seconded by Gordon Peters. Carried.

7. Nominations Committee Report – Tammy Forrester, Vice Chair

Thank you to Tammy Forrester, Gordon Peters, Trudy Reece and Joan Sawatzky for serving on the Nominations Committee. Tammy also thanked the outgoing members of the board for their years of service.

Openings:

Chair - Tammy will take over this position

Vice Chair - Armin Krahn will take this position

Missions and Conference - this remains empty. A call from the floor was not met with any nominations

Music - Bonnie Dahl will take this position

Christian Education - Susan Funk will take this position

Motion to accept Armin Krahn as the Vice Chair.

Moved by Tammy Forrester, seconded by Jake Ens. Carried.

Motion to accept Susan Ens-Funk as the Christian Education deacon.

Moved by Tammy Forrester, seconded by Geraldine Balzer. Carried.

Motion to accept Bonnie Dahl as Music deacon.

Moved by Tammy Forrester, seconded by Kathy Olfert. Carried.

Motion that nominations close for the unnamed combined Missions/Community Life Deacon.

Moved by Tammy Forrester, seconded by Jake Ens. Carried.

This will return to the nominations committee for further discussion.

8. Chairperson Report – Trish St. Onge

Trish thanked the board and committee members for their service. She also thanked Patrick and Anita for their service on all of the committees and their ongoing work.

8.1 Pastoral Search Update

There are currently 4 candidates that have put their names forward for consideration.

Further meeting will take place later this week and decisions will be made in the next few months for a potential start in the summer of 2016.

9. New Business from the Floor

9.1 Discussion regarding ongoing options towards reinstatement of Sunday School and/or other options for worship.

9.2 Ernie Epp discussed his thoughts regarding parts of the recent AGM and asked the congregation to show their ongoing support for our pastoral leadership and the challenges they have faced in recent times.

10. Closing and Prayer – Anita Retzlaff

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Mackenzie Fast

~~~~ **CHAIRPERSON** ~~~~

On behalf of the Board of Deacons at Nutana Park Mennonite Church I am pleased to present this report for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. After having sat in the Vice Chair seat for 5 years I suspected it was a natural step for me to take on the Chair role as Trish St.Onge moved on.

Thank you to Bob Sawatzky and Trish St.Onge for leadership over the past many years as I have served alongside both of you and learnt through your leadership. It takes a whole congregation to lead and participate and be led and I truly appreciate all those that have supported one another in creating a healthy, caring and loving congregation.

To our pastoral leadership – thank you Anita for the years of service, care and Christian support to this congregation; to Patrick for filling the gaps throughout the transitions with strength and a desire to support the new leadership of the church. Thank you to Suzanne for joining us and taking a chance on our congregation as a new path in your professional and personal life. To our youth leaders as we had two interim youth leaders through the year sharing and working alongside our youth – Scott and Jenae – thank you for investing your time in the younger generation of our church. And to Helen – thank you for keeping it all together and providing support to all of us.

A year of leadership transitions along with major church renovation work can truly test the strength of the congregation and I continue to be so grateful to all that supported these changes with time, expertise, investments and prayers. After a year of such transitions and change it is imperative that we sometimes press ‘pause’ and reflect on where we have come from, what we have accomplished as we look to the future, anticipating what is to come.

So as we look back to 2016, I extend a heartfelt thanks to our Board of Deacons for their engagement, thoughtful discussion and discernment on congregational issues as together we continue to think about the future health of the congregation. Help us to continue to grow and learn and love together in a community with the commonality of our faithful nurture.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Tammy Forrester, Board Chair

**SPIRITUAL MINISTRY**

~~~~ **NPMC PASTORAL STAFF** ~~~~

“Sing a new song to the One who has said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’”
-“New Earth, Heavens New,” *Hymnal: A Worship Book # 299*

It hasn't yet been a year since I've begun my time as co-pastor here at Nutana Park Mennonite Church, but it seems like a long time since I first entered the dusty, chaotic church building in the throes of the renovation this past August! Since then, I've very much enjoyed settling into my new role and getting to know my new church community.

Our thriving Women's Bible Study gatherings will continue to be one of the highlights of my week. We've been using a women's Bible commentary to explore the stories of female characters and aspects of women's lives in biblical times, in light of our own experiences today. Discussion and participation have been wonderful, and there is also an opportunity to share with and support one another.

Whether Patrick and I are doing a “conversational” sermon, we're all singing together at the end of children's time, or we're celebrating Communion in a new and different way, it's been a real gift to preach and to plan and lead worship in and with this community. I've also greatly valued joining the discussions and hearing your thoughtful questions and insights during Adult Ed. classes and Faith Conversations on Sunday mornings.

Being new means a lot of introductions. I've enjoyed first-time celebrations like banquets at Bethany Manor, Coffee and Conversation gatherings, decorating the Christmas tree with the career-age and young families group, care group lunches and church-wide potlucks. I've appreciated spending time with the youth group, various committees, and those whom I've already had the chance to visit in your homes or over coffee.

I've also had my first experiences doing hospital visitations, and my first experiences leading funerals. Thank-you for allowing me to share in these somber moments in the life of this community as well, when we rely a bit more heavily on God and each other for comfort and peace.

I look forward to getting to know this community even better in the coming year. Thanks especially to Patrick, Helen, and the Board for putting up with me in my "newbie" stage!

Thanks to all of you for welcoming me and my family into the life of this congregation, for the privilege of walking with you in worship and relationship.

Peace, Susanne

~~~~~

This past year we accepted Anita's retirement. The transition of a long term pastor into retirement can be tricky business, and Nutana Park Mennonite is moving through this one well. Anita, the congregation, and Susanne are all healthy enough that a good transition has been possible. Anita provided the congregation ample notice of her intentions to retire so that we could prepare for the emotional adjustment. Board leadership created a space where public thanks could be offered to Anita; a communal ritual to help us on the way. Current pastoral staff has maintained connection with Anita in retirement affirming her pastoral care contributions to persons and families who seek her out. We are, I think, embracing this transition well.

This past year we negotiated our way through Sarah Unrau's maternity leave. Scott Feick and Jenae Funk filled in commendably. Both cared for our youth and offered their best while serving in the youth worker role. Board leadership has been instrumental in massaging these transitions, so know we have great Board leadership.

This past year we welcomed Susanne as co-pastor of the congregation. Susanne is immensely gifted and yet carries herself with much humility and gentleness. I am so appreciative of the congregation in the way hearts and homes have been opened to Susanne. From my desk it seems Susanne is grafting herself (?being grafted?) into the congregation in such a way that good fruit is being produced, and more forth coming.

In the past year Nutana Park Mennonite renovated its church space. Undoubtedly other reports will describe this event. From a spiritual care angle the project has deepened people's connection to the congregation. People believe in this place enough to invest their time, talent, treasure, and prayers. The commitment which has made the building renovation possible portends well for the future.

**Opportunities Before Us:**

- Continuing to invite younger persons into the leadership of worship and community life
- Integrating newer people to the congregation into ministry opportunities
- Collectively taking ownership of our children's education
- Advocating for creation care
- Spiritually grounding ourselves in a frenetic and fragmented society

Thanks to Trish St. Onge, Tammy Forrester and Armin Krahn in their roles of congregational chairs and vice-chairs as they provided listening ears and guidance to the pastoral staff in this past year. Thanks to each person of the Deacon Board for their commitment to their specific areas of responsibility—congregational care is magnified because of you. Thanks to Anita and Susanne for their faith filled ministry and collegial support (and for putting up with me!). Thanks to secretary Helen Siemens whose ministry goes well beyond secretarial duties. Thanks to the many people who volunteer many hours to make the programs and initiatives of the church possible. Thanks to

the people whose hearts are open to God's leading and translate that into participation in our congregational life—church could not happen without the people. May God's ministry continue to us, among us, and through us.

Patrick Preheim,  
Co-pastor Nutana Park Mennonite Church



As of February 16, 2016, Sarah started her maternity leave from the youth program. In the interim, the position hours were reduced (fundraising, broader MCSask, and one on one initiatives were not required as part of the interim position) and Scott Feick took on the role until September 2016. Jenae Funk filled in for the remaining four months of the calendar year. Thank you to both Scott and Jenae for their leadership.

Over the summer, a small group of youth attended the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly in Saskatoon as well as the youth canoe trip to Missinipe. Tuesday night discussion nights and weekend social events ran as usual.

Sarah resumed her position on January 9th, 2017. Coming into the new year, regular youth numbers have decreased. This is due to a number of community kids not returning for the year and the nature of the church demographics. There is an average of 10 youth who are consistently in attendance for youth events - all of which are from the congregation.

Sarah Unrau

Membership Statistics

Membership, January 1, 2016		248
Deaths (*members)	3	

Baptisms	6
Transfer In	<u>15</u>
	21

Membership, December 31, 2016	266
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Marriages (of members, or of members' children)	1
Births	7

Baptizands

Jenae Funk  
Kathleen Regier  
Sara Bartel  
Luke Derksen  
Kenna Forrester  
Eric Epp

Deaths

Dale Enns  
\*Erica UnRuh  
\*Wally Nickel  
\*Evelyn Schellenberg

~~~~ CARING & VISITATION ~~~~

1 Peter 4: 8-10

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.”

As we work together on the Caring and Visitation committee, we continue to gather on a monthly basis to share joys and concerns of the NPMC church community. We have welcomed new members this past year and are grateful for the varied ways in which their presence and support is shared so willingly.

A visitation team demonstrates the personal interest in people that Jesus modeled for us. As His followers, we seek to extend care to others and respond to various needs through sending cards, making phone calls, and visiting people in their homes and in hospitals. We pray that we are able to encourage and bring hope to those who are ill, burdened, and challenged by difficult transitions in life.

Thank you to the past and present members as they volunteer their time and gifts on behalf of the congregation!

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Heinrichs
Caring and Visitation Deacon

Committee Members

Ruth Wiens
Bob and Margaret Neufeldt
Grace and Mat Rouleau
Marian Driedger
Evelyn Roden
Debbie Heinrichs
Lydia & Carl Wiens – until June 30/16
Anita Retzlaff – until June 30/16
Susanne Guenther Loewen
Patrick Preheim

~~~~ MUSIC ~~~~

*Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song.  
Sing his praises in the assembly of the faithful.  
Psalm 149: 1.*

Nutana Park Mennonite Church has a foundation of wonderful music. This music comes in many forms – singing, playing, and leading. Our music, in whatever form, continues to offer praise to God.

Nutana's church life was once again filled with amazing special music, senior choir singing, Friday night jam sessions, singing with the children, congregational singing and song leading. Our congregation is blessed with many musically gifted people and we continue to be grateful for the people who are willing to share their talents. The Music Committee continues to look for ways to add new people to our worship schedule.

I would like to thank the many people who have provided musical leadership to our church; congregational and children's song leaders, accompanists, choir leaders, and those providing special music. I would also like to thank the music committee; Ron, Aleta, and Fern for working hard to fill our church year with music and for working to find new ways to include new people in

these opportunities. Thank you also goes to Peter for his guidance in the transition of Music Deacon and the Board and NPMC staff for their support of the music programs in our church.

Bonnie Dahl  
Music Deacon

## ~~~~ WORSHIP ~~~~

The one thing for me that stands out from this past year of worship is communion. We shared in the Lord's Supper many Sundays over the course of this past year. Sometimes we ate and drank in celebration of a congregant's baptism or membership transfer. Other times, we were challenged in our understanding of what "Do this in remembrance of me" means through pastoral reflections and by engaging in different forms of sharing the Eucharist.

Communion was a theme that was chosen by the worship committee for the fall, and the worship committee plans on continuing on organizing our worship schedule thematically in the future. When song leaders, musicians, worship leaders, and pastors have the ability to know the theme for the upcoming term, we believe our worship services are more meaningful.

Thank you to Lydia Schroeder, for once again, organizing the greeters for the year, and for those who greeted our guests and our regular attenders. I also want to thank those who have ushered over the past year. Whether is it helping kids collect cans of soup during the offering or managing to find open pew spaces, your work never seems to be without excitement. Thank you for your flexibility and kind smiles.

Thanks very much to Arny Kroeger, Dave Wieler-Tiessen, and Don Froese for their quiet commitment in volunteering their time so that people can be heard and presentations can be seen. I also want to thank them for their willingness to provide suggestions, make changes, and purchase equipment when needed.

Our worship leaders work with music leaders, accompanists, and pastors to ensure that worship services are full of praise, challenge, and comfort. Thank you to those who led worship, by working with others, and by communicating thoughts and prayers to our congregation in a cohesive manner.

The worship committee meets regularly to discuss the worship schedule, and make sure that we are serving all members of the congregation. Thanks so much to Bonnie Dahl, who has worked hard in making sure worship and music work hand in hand. Her perspective and her ideas are valued and I appreciate all the effort that she and the music committee put in to making our worship services Spirit-filled. I also want to thank Nicole Tiessen who continues to enhance our worship experience by the visuals that she provides and organizes in and outside of our sanctuary. Thank you to Renata Klassen who comes to the church weekly to straighten pews and to pick up bulletins and papers that have been left behind from the previous Sunday.

One topic that we spend much time discussing at worship committee meetings and board meetings is children's involvement in worship. We know that it is a priority of our congregants, and we continue to work with Susan Ens Funk and others involved in Creative Church and children's programming. We will continue to make changes and adaptations to worship, to ensure that our children are receiving the teaching and experiences that are important in their faith development.

Finally, I would like to thank Anita, Patrick, and Susanne for their leadership in worship. Anita's willingness to try new things and to passionately pursue God's direction for our congregation will surely be missed. Patrick's guidance was steadfast during renovations, despite changes to schedules and being the only pastor in the office. Susanne has been a great addition to our pastoral staff and her questions, poise, and thoughtfulness are appreciated. She is learning to put up with Patrick and I, and sometimes I think she even enjoys our company. We have been

blessed to have pastors, past and present, who have such a deep understanding of the Word of God and a strong dedication to God's people.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brent Guenther,  
Worship Deacon

## EDUCATION MINISTRY

### ~~~~ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~~~~

Children's education and worship is a valued aspect of the life at Nutana Park. In June, when Renata Klassen was stepping out of the role as Christian Education deacon, I volunteered to take on the role. I facilitated a parent session for families to get a sense of their hopes and dreams for the children's programming at Nutana Park and their willingness to lead and support the program. This sharing and planning session gave very important feedback for the fall planning. After a number of Board meetings, I decided I could not continue with all of the work within the role but agreed to continue as the coordinator for the children's worship times.

There are several formats which are used to meet the needs of children and families during worship. These different formats allow for children to participate and learn within the community as well as allowing parents and caregivers a variety of opportunities for their own involvement and worship. Along with the pastoral staff and Deacon Brent, I plan the children's activities for the term and give suggestions for leaders which tie together the worship theme with the children's activities.

Creative Church is a multi-age activity time usually centered around music, drama, and art. Two adults take on the leadership for these sessions. One is designated the teacher and the other an assistant. This staffing arrangement allows us to accommodate the range of attendance which can be from 7 to 20 children and ages which range from baby to approximately 12 years. Often other adults - parents, grandparents and older youth - participate along with the children. This inter-generational feeling is appreciated by families. The Creative Church times begin with the story/theme from the worship session and can include, time in prayer, time for discussion, time for making and time for reflecting. There are usually 2 Creative Church sessions in a month.

Explore sessions are play-based times for the children. These are staffed with a single adult. The adult brings activities to give the children opportunities to engage in play together and stimulate conversation. Parents and caregivers are welcome to stay but are also welcome to spend the Explore Sundays in worship with other adults. The goal of these Explore Sundays is to give the children opportunities to become a community of friends through their time together as well as giving parents an opportunity to stay in worship if they wish. There is usually one Explore Sunday in a month.

Quiet bag Sundays are an opportunity for families to experience worship together. The goal of these Sundays is to give parents and caregivers an opportunity to fully engage the children in the worship hour. It is a learn-by-doing Sunday. There is usually one Quiet bag Sunday in a month.

In-worship activity Sundays are opportunities for children to come to the front of the sanctuary to engage in worship quietly within the sanctuary. These Sundays come up when there are rituals, events or speakers which the pastoral staff and I agree are important to the education and worship lives of children. Often the children are making something at the table near the pulpit on these Sundays. Their contributions are usually a gift or recognition of the event or ritual occurring on the day.

I have been delighted to have many congregation members volunteer to work with the children. The first term and second term have been easily staffed with these volunteers. Thanks so much for your support through your actions and words.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Ens Funk

## ~~~~ ADULT EDUCATION ~~~~

The hour of Adult Education each Sunday continues to be an important part of Nutana Park Mennonite Church. In some ways, the group functions as a think tank for NPMC, exploring topics and issues that matter to us all. In this past year, the winter session was a continuation of “The Ultimate Homework of Life: Holding Hands with our Mortality” that we had begun in the fall of 2015. Part Two of that series first of all focused on the shaping stories of our culture and of our faith to see how those stories determined the ways we lived and our responses to death. Then we looked at particular issues that group members had expressed interest in, from advance care directives to rituals of mourning. After Easter we had a three-week series, led by John Elias, on how we might respond to the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee.

The first fall series was a three-week discussion – “Being Church: What Does It Mean to Belong to NPMC?” The Adult Education Committee felt that it would be helpful, as NPMC and Susanne Guenther Loewen began a new relationship as church and pastor. After Thanksgiving, Edna Froese led a longer series on “Doing Theology Through Poetry.” That was something of a new venture for everyone concerned. The response to the discussion of a wide selection of poetry was generally positive and a suggestion was made that perhaps we should do a bible-centered series with a similar close reading of particular texts.

At the end of June, the membership of the Adult Education Committee changed with the resignation of Anita Retzlaff and the welcoming of Susanne Guenther Loewen. Susanne is currently leading a short series on the interdependence of contemplation and action in Christian discipleship. We wish to express our deep gratitude to Anita for her substantial contributions to adult education in the many years that she was part of the committee. One of those contributions is a detailed record of all the series that have been presented from the fall of 1992 until now. If anyone is interested in reading that record, please contact any one of the Adult Education Committee members: Renata Klassen, Alan Reese, Susanne Guenther Loewen, Patrick Preheim, Rachel Regier, Val Epp, Winona Senner, and Edna Froese.

We welcome all who wish to attend, and we’re happy to receive suggestions for future series.

Edna Froese  
for the Adult Education Committee

## ~~~~ LIBRARY ~~~~

The library committee consists of Susan Ens Funk, Lori Weiler-Thiesen, Alison Jantz and Dennis Breen. Susan and Lori develop the Children, Juvenile and Youth sections, while Alison provides expertise in the Adult fiction and nonfiction. Recommendations for library materials are always welcome.

Much of the collection purchases for the current year were replacement copies for materials which had grown old but are still worthy items for the collection. The new editions are currently available in the library. We purchased 36 non-fiction titles, 2 biographies, 11 picture books, 3 juvenile fiction, and 12 youth fiction.

The ongoing work of keeping track of circulation and encouraging returns as well as shelving and display continue. Lori and Susan undertook to refresh the Children’s materials in advance of the great NPMC renovation of the summer time. Alison and Susan did the same in the Adult sections of the library. A number of avid volunteers assisted in the boxing up and labelling of the materials for storage during the painting and reflooring process. Thanks to all! The shelving and walls were repainted and some items were removed or relocated to facilitate improved use of the shelving and flow of the space. We are awaiting the arrival of a magazine shelf to complete the new storage and display.

Plans are underway for inventory and re-labelling of the children’s materials for the coming year. Evelyn Roden and Barbara Ens have agreed to help with this process.

Lori and Susan are continuing to work on the digital catalog for the library. Lori and Dave donated an older iPad for a catalog search terminal and some of the library funds were used to purchase a locking iPad kiosk stand for the device. Patrons can search the library database by author, title, and subject. This same catalog is available online at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/NPMC/>. The online catalogue can be used to do check out as well but it will take some time to learn how it works and input the information. There are also privacy concerns to be addressed. Susan will be looking into the possibilities and playing with the system but it may be a year or two before it will be in use for everyone.

Church library patrons are welcome to ask for assistance in how to use the iPad catalogue any time. See Susan, Lori or Dennis.

Susan Ens Funk

## ~~~~ ROSTHERN JUNIOR COLLEGE ~~~~

The 2015-2016 school year was a fun-filled and rewarding time of growth, challenge and learning for RJC's students.

**Personnel** A strength of the RJC community is its committed and dedicated team of staff who together share a common calling to Christian education. Working together, the teachers, administrative support, custodians, cooks and residence staff strive to create a warm, supportive and safe school community in which students are challenged to learn, grow and live. RJC said farewell to Dan Richert (Constituent Relations) and Joel Siemens (Men's Dean). Cheryl Schmidt retired from full-time work after many years of faithful service to RJC. RJC welcomed Michaela Pries-Klassen (Women's Dean) as well as Scott Feick and David Epp (Men's Deans). RJC also welcomed Myrna Wiebe to a new role as administrative assistant in the office.

RJC is also fortunate to be served by a group of committed and dedicated Board of Directors and is grateful for the time, effort and energy this group invests in the governance of the school.

**Academics** RJC provides a strong, diverse and supportive academic program for students. Dedicated teachers, student peers and parents partner together to provide all students with an opportunity to acquire a sound education.

RJC continues to provide its students with a well-rounded academic program including all core subjects and a variety of electives including classes in the arts, social sciences and practical and applied arts.

Our graduates demonstrate the integrity of our educational offerings and their preparedness for "life after high school" as they continue on and experience success in the trades, colleges and universities.

**Dorm Life** Living and learning together is a cornerstone of the RJC community. Being accountable to each other, learning together, having fun in formal and informal activities and making life long friendships is an integral part of the RJC student experience. Students develop leadership skills as part of our SRC and Dorm Councils. Events such as Sam and Sadie Hawkins, Christmas Banquet, Junior-Senior and our annual Open House take considerable effort and do so much to foster school spirit and good memories. Other more informal activities such as Girls' and Guys' Night Out, Dirty February, Townie BBQ and many others also play an important role in school life at RJC.

Creating community is an intentional part of the RJC experience, providing students with the opportunity to learn and practice valuable life skills such as servant-leadership, corporate responsibility, concern for the "other", healthy conflict resolution and positive relationshipbuilding. We are grateful especially to our Residence Deans for their mentoring, counsel and role modeling in this important part of RJC life.

## **Nurturing Faith and Service**

**Chapels** Be courageous! Be strong in the Lord! was the chapel theme this year, based on Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Speakers throughout the year focused on leaning on God in times of trouble.

**Retreats** All students attended spiritual class retreats in September. The grade 10s and 11s went to Camps Kadesh and Kinasao, while the Grade 12s traveled to Big River Bible Camp. The themes for each grade included a peace component—the grade 10s focused on Peace with Self, the grade 11s Peace with Creation, and the grade 12s Peace with Others. Conference pastors served as speakers at the retreats.

**Deeper Life Days** The theme for this year’s Deeper Life Days was Living the Dream 2015: Following God in the 21st Century. Students spent the day worshiping with contemporary music, listening to speakers, and engaging in workshops all with the purpose of contemplating what it means to be a person of faith in the world today.

**ALSO** ALSO is in many ways the culmination of much of the learning that happens during an RJC school year. The 5-12 days of intensive service learning are a real opportunity for students to both “see and do”. Much of it involves being a part of a much bigger picture of putting faith into action in many ways, including building, serving, observing and working together. All of this is done along side of community partners who share both their faith and a desire to put that faith into action through acts of discipleship and relationship-building.

MCC hosted our students in Guatemala and El Salvador as well as in Calgary, AB. 30 students helped build homes in Mobile, Alabama with Habitat for Humanity, worked in the food storage warehouse at Feed the Gulf Coast and helped prepare and serve food at the Ransom Cafe, a pay-what-you-can restaurant.

We are so grateful for the relationships we have made over the years at the various locations we travel to and value the partnerships that foster a rich and meaningful time of deep learning for our students.

**Performing Arts** RJC continues to provide a vibrant music program for students. Amazingly, 100% of the students sang in Concert Choir! Chorale had 13 singers, ManChoir involved most of the boys and male staff members, and Women’s Choir performed with 32 singers. Chorale highlights included participation in ChorFest in Regina, the Festival of Choirs with CMU and a tour to Alberta in spring. The Arts Education class presented the show “The Fearsome Pirate Frank” in January, highlighting the work done in class.

The spring musical for 2015-2016 was “Rags”. A cast of over 50 students played to large crowds on grad weekend who enjoyed the thought-provoking story of an immigrant community’s struggles and successes in New York City during the early 1900’s. The musical continues to be a year-end highlight for many.

**Athletics** Sports continue to be an important part of the RJC community. It generates spirit and excitement, provides a forum for personal growth and development and is a lot of fun! Through participation in both team and individual sports activities students are active and involved. Sport fosters healthy attitudes regarding teamwork, discipline and fair play.

RJC is a member of the Central Valley Athletic Conference and competed in the following SHSAA sanctioned sports: Volleyball, Cross Country, Soccer, Football, Basketball, Curling, Badminton, and Track and Field. In addition, both boys and girls played hockey through the Rosthern Minor Hockey Association.

Highlights of the 2015-16 athletic year include hosting the 3A Girl’s Volleyball Provincial tournament, the Provincial gold-medal winning, undefeated season of the Rosthern Longhorns football team (RJC co-op with Rosthern High School), and the gold medal performance of Jade Peters in Senior Women’s High Jump at the SHSAA Provincial Track Meet.

### **Connecting to the Community**

RJC is deeply appreciative of the relationships it enjoys in the community. Administrators work together with other Mennonite schools as a part of the Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools (CAMS). RJC is also a part of the Saskatchewan Historical High Schools Association (SHHSA). RJC continues to benefit from a strong and healthy relationship with Prairie Spirit School Division. This is evidenced by our participation in their Athletic Association, sharing of resources and informal exchanges and discussions amongst teachers and colleagues. Finally, RJC is grateful for the many churches, organizations and people who take an interest in and support RJC through prayers, participation in school events and activities.

## **MISSION AND SERVICE MINISTRY**

### **~~~~ ART IN THE LOUNGE ~~~~**

The artwork in the lounge this past year once again enhanced the lives of all who had the opportunity of viewing it. It included a variety of painting styles and mediums, as well as, quilts and photography. The artists represented people from within our church and the wider Saskatoon community.

Our objectives for displaying art in the lounge are:

- to provide an opportunity for artists to showcase their work
- to give people an opportunity to view these works
- to encourage the artist within each of us
- to honour God and creation through art

We thank the following artists for displaying their artwork during the year of 2016:

|                     |                                                        |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| January - February  | Kathy Olfert - paintings<br>Logan Olfert - photography |
| March - April       | Paintings which have been donated to NPMC              |
| May - June          | Anneliesa Kristiansen - paintings                      |
| July - August       | No Show                                                |
| September - October | Laurel Schenstead-Smith - paintings                    |
| November - December | Janice Beaulé - paintings                              |

Submitted by  
Hedie Borne  
Art in the Lounge Coordinator

### **~~~~ CHURCH LIFE ~~~~**

I want to begin by thanking Marlene for her vision and her tremendous passion. She brought awareness to the need for strengthening community and relationships both within and outside our Nutana Park walls. It has been an honour to spend time with Marlene as she passed her community life portfolio to me and we chatted about different aspects (both philosophical and pragmatic) of this.

A reconfiguration of some deacons and committees created a new deacon called **Church Life** with an umbrella covering Community (including brides and babies shower, garage sale, care groups, Fall Harvest Festival, movie nights, Christmas banquet, etc.), Conference, Bethany Manor and Sherbrooke Worship Services and Media. As with any new venture there is a learning curve and things take time to unfold and evolve.

It has been interesting for me to be on the organizational end of things and I have learned a great deal already about the extension of our church life as we attempt to build community and foster those relationships in various ways.

I also want to thank Alison for her work with conferences over the past few years. I am grateful for our conversation which enlightened me to the process leading up to a conference. I have not been a conference attendee and thus my knowledge of what is needed in this regard is limited. I am looking for someone who might be interested in the position of conference coordinator and ensuring we have adequate delegate representation and is readily available to answer questions regarding conference protocol.

I am grateful for the willingness of people to say "yes" when asked to serve at Bethany Manor and Sherbrooke. These are two very important missions of outreach and our presence is much appreciated. I was able to join those from our congregation at our most recent service at Sherbrooke which gave me a better understanding of not only what is expected but also the impact that our joy in serving has on the residents. Thank you to Marylynn Nurnberger who arranged several Sherbrooke services in 2016. I am now looking for someone who would be willing to become involved in coordinating these services.

Dennis Breen and Sarah Unrau continue to be willing to help with areas related to media and I will continue to learn what is required and what can be improved going forward.

At our board meeting the day after our Christmas banquet it was my turn to bring a short devotional prior to beginning the business portion of the evening. I spoke about how the banquet was a clear message of the power of community at work together. It began immediately following our morning worship service with set up, to the event itself (including all those who attended and participated), to the hour following the banquet which put the church back together as if nothing had happened!

Thank you to everyone for your continued service to the life of the church and your commitment to community both inside our walls and extending outward.

Blessings,  
Denelda Fast

~~~~ **ECUMENICAL** ~~~~

*Christians from many denominations helping each other in faith, evangelism and service: One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Parent of us all, Ephesians 4:4-5
Mission Statement, Nutana Park Ecumenical Committee*

The Ecumenical Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, called by the Canadian Council of Churches, marked an ambitious program in Saskatoon, planned by the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism (PCE) and the local Christian ecumenical community. The theme for the services for 2016 was "Called to proclaim the mighty acts of God" First Peter 2:9. Based on this theme, we began our Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Saskatoon on January 17 with an opening worship service at Zion Lutheran Church. During the eight days there were thirteen scheduled services and events, including Monday to Friday morning services at 7 a.m. as well as various daytime and evening events. The closing service on January 24 was at Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church with a special guest speaker, Bishop Kenneth Kearon, an Anglican priest who was recently consecrated Anglican Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe in Ireland. Bishop Kearon was also the

keynote speaker at the fourth annual De Margerie Lecture Series, held at St. Thomas More College on the Thursday evening. His lecture was entitled "On Building an Ecumenical Barn".

Of special interest and very well attended was a new event for the Week of Prayer, an ecumenical ceillidh, a Celtic Celebration of Unity hosted on Friday evening at the Cathedral of the Holy Family. It was a family friendly event for all ages, an opportunity to celebrate unity together at an evening of Scottish or Irish dance, a lively party for all ages with Celtic fiddles and group dancing. It was a very enjoyable festival of religious and cultural diversity.

Saskatoon is very unique in how the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated. It has been stated that people from around the country are amazed at the amount of interest that is generated here. This is because we have had over 30 years of building up the ecumenical community that comes out and supports these kinds of activities.

In the Nutana Park area, the annual joint Ecumenical Lenten Prayer Services have been a tradition since 1994, continuing to be attended by approximately 70 to 85 people from seven or more congregations. In 2016 these services were hosted at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Wednesday mornings at 8:15 beginning on February 17 through the season of Lent to March 23. Another well established activity is the Ecumenical Bible Study series led by Vern Ratzlaff at NPMC ongoing since the 1990's on Monday afternoons in the fall and winter/spring seasons, attended by a dedicated group of 15 people from several congregations.

In 2016, our congregation at NPMC had two ecumenical occasions to join with our "twin congregation" from St. Martin's United Church. On January 24 we had a pulpit and choir exchange as we welcomed Keith Hall and the St. Martin's choir to our church and Anita Ratzlaff, Rhonda Krahn and Sharon Klassen provided the worship service at St. Martin's. A second pulpit exchange occurred on October 2, World Communion Sunday, when we were served communion by Michael Webster from St. Martin's United Church. On the same Sunday, Patrick Preheim provided the communion service to the congregation at St. Martin's United.

The Prairie Centre for Ecumenism offered the third year of the program in Ecumenical Studies and Formation from June 21 to 24. The program is dedicated to informing Christians in the theology, history and practice of ecumenism with the churches of Canada and abroad. It involves participants coming to Saskatoon for one week in June for each of the three years. This year marked the graduation of the first class of students in the program. The graduation event was held at a gala banquet, "Eat, Drink and Be Ecumenical" on June 23 at the German Cultural Centre.

In conjunction with the program in Ecumenical Studies and Formation, a public lecture was organized and presented by the PCE on June 21 at St. Stephen's Anglican Church with speaker the Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, former General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. He has lectured on ecumenism across the U.S. and overseas, particularly India and the Middle East. The following evening a panel discussion entitled Ecumenism of the Future Resources? Challenges? was organized by the PCE and hosted at Mayfair United Church. Panel members were Catholic Bishop Donald Bolen of Saskatoon, the Rev. Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan, President of the Canadian Council of Churches, a national ecumenical body of 25 member churches and the Rt. Rev. Jordan Cantwell, elected moderator of the United Church of Canada in August 2015.

Several other events/activities were organized and sponsored by the PCE throughout the year in 2016. More information about these and other events is available from the PCE website.

The Prairie Centre for Ecumenism is in the process of developing a new vision. Although the vision document is currently still "a work in progress", the following is an excerpt from the Future Vision Document-December 2016: Building on three decades of ecumenical work in Saskatoon, the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism has worked toward a vision of Christian reconciliation to foster ecumenical dialogue, witness, and common mission among the churches of Saskatoon and surrounding regions. Over these thirty years the world to which we have been called as Christ's one body has changed. The Centre was born early in the decade following the energetic days of ecumenism in the 1960's and 1970's, when Christianity was the default religion among a largely European population. Now, however, we pray for and seek Christian unity within cosmopolitan communities where our neighbours are as likely to be Muslim, Hindu, or Jewish as Christian.

Furthermore, in light of this experienced reality, we are beginning to learn something about our own faith: it is no longer the 'only option' and, as a result, we are called to understand our own faith in relation to the faith traditions of our neighbours, colleagues, and friends. In other words, our Christian awareness of and openness to our multireligious spiritual context is not only a given necessity but also a call to the very heart of our faith: the neighbour to whom we are called in love and service may be, herself, the representative of a different but equally ancient and rich faith tradition. As people of faith we live- and are called ever more deeply to live our faith amidst difference and diversity.

Recognizing this change in our context and its implications for our lives of faith does not require that we cease to be a Centre committed to Christian reconciliation. Instead, what is required is that we recognize that it is within this multireligious context that the wounded body of Christ continues to seek unity. Ecumenical work has always taken place in reference to the particularities of its context. Whether it was the international concern for the mission field in the early 1900's; groups of Christians working together for peace, a just economy, or the end of human trafficking; or even the most advanced theological dialogues among representatives of the World Council of Churches; ecumenism has always had a double aim: on the one hand, it looks out toward the world where Christ bids us to meet Him and, on the other hand, it looks in where we meet each other and learn to find Christ in each other. Thus, when we recognize that our context has changed and when we recognize this change as significant for our lives of faith, we also begin to see that the nature of our ecumenical work must change as well. As we acknowledge the multi-religious context in which we live and in which we are called to be faithful in a new way, we also understand that we will seek Christian unity in the midst of our interreligious engagements and dialogue.

Respectfully submitted,
Kurt Sawatzky

~~~~ FELLOWSHIP ~~~~

The congregation has had the opportunity to partake in many potluck lunches, enjoying fellowship and delicious food together. We have had several celebrations on potluck days this year. The June potluck was a special time as we celebrated with Anita's retirement. Our farmer sausage on a bun potluck in September was the start of a new school year as well as a time to welcome Susanne into membership and her installation. We tried something new with the October potluck having communion and sharing soup and bread together.

Thank you to the committee for their willingness and hard work in the kitchen. It all comes together as the congregation participates by bringing food as well as helping with set-up and clean-up.

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

Fellowship Committee:

Brenda Baergen  
Glenis and Garry Koop  
Edith and Armin Krahn  
Rhonda and Eldon Krahn  
Bonnie Ramage  
Elisabeth and Henry Reimer  
Lori and Dave Weiler-Thiessen

Funerals:

Lois Tiessen

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolene Funk

~~~~ **MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SASKATCHEWAN** ~~~~

Gratitude for Strong Support

We are stewards of a strong legacy of cooperation among and beyond evangelical Anabaptist churches, and we are so very grateful for the support we have received over this year from churches, communities, families and individuals. Your volunteer hours and generous donations supporting MCC programs, Thrift Shops, the Material Resource Centre, and the Relief Sale are tremendous gifts, and they breathe life into the ministry of MCC here in Saskatchewan and around the world, all in the name of Christ. Together we are part of MCC's work in 54 countries, supporting 528 partners with 761 projects in the areas of disaster relief, health, food and livelihoods, education, migration & resettlement, peacebuilding and restorative justice.

Highlights from the past year:

Reserve 107: Peacebuilding on the Prairies

The ongoing story of Mennonites, Lutherans and Young Chippewayan working together to understand and resolve a century old land claim at Stoney Knoll is now available as a documentary produced by Brad and Adrienne Leitch. This 33 minute film is available for viewing at www.reserve107thefilm.com. Audiences have included the Vancouver Film Festival, Conrad Grebel University College's "Global Peacebuilding Conference," Waldheim Missions Conference, Wicahitowin Conference in Saskatoon, Canadian Mennonite University, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic. This story is travelling into hearts and minds around the world and inviting us all to action toward reconciliation.

Thrift Shops

We especially want to highlight the sacrificial work of steadfast managers and volunteers in our Thrift Shops. For the first time in our history, the Saskatchewan Thrift Shops forwarded more than \$1 million to MCC. So many hands and hearts are behind this story! And so many stories of peace, food, education, and health will ripple from it. Thanks be to God.

Migration and Resettlement

Peacebuilding on the prairies this year is demonstrated by communities welcoming refugee families from Syria, Myanmar, Iraq, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Congo. Refugee sponsorship continues to be our largest program commitment in Saskatchewan. We are presently working with 21 churches and 14 community groups who are organizing to sponsor 41 families. 17 of those families, comprised of 94 people, have already arrived and will be supported by their sponsorship group for one year as they adjust to life in Saskatchewan.

Eileen Klassen Hamm, Executive Director

~~~~ **MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA** ~~~~

*"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength..." Isaiah 40:31*

As we embrace 2017, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to each congregation and individual donor that has supported and continues to unwaveringly support the ministries of MC Canada and our five area churches this past year. As our wider church family plan a transition to a new structure that will see congregations as the foundational unit of ministry, we do not take your support for granted. In the meantime, our staff is tasked with maintaining existing ministry commitments with partner ministries in Canada and around the world, while also planning and preparing for change.

Looking back on 2016, we can celebrate success stories and inform you of challenges that continue to need your ongoing support.

**Visiting You:** Itinerating international Witness workers from 10 countries paid 60 visits to congregations in 2016, sharing stories of God's work in the world with you. In addition, staff visited 43 congregations on Sunday mornings, plus numerous contacts and meetings with churches and individuals on week days. Thank you for your generous hospitality!

**Ride for Refuge** - On Oct. 1, eight teams comprising 59 cyclists from Ontario to Saskatchewan rode their bikes in support of the Witness international ministry of their choosing. Together we raised almost \$16,000. We hope to grow the Ride event in 2017.

**Long Term Witness Workers:** Together with you, we support 27 long term workers in 11 countries. We also financially support ministry with partners in 6 countries where we have no workers. Check out one or more of the many blogs maintained by Witness workers at <http://news.mennonitechurch.ca/blogs>.

**Short Term Witness Workers:** In 2016, we sent 8 Short Term Ministry workers (including 3 couples) to serve on 5 different assignments in 4 countries. Three of these workers supported the ministries of long-term Witness workers and 4 served in Palestine and Israel, where we are currently unable to send long-term workers.

**Peacebuilding:** At Assembly 2016, delegates almost unanimously passed a resolution supporting peace in Palestine and Israel. A working group of passionate volunteers with knowledge of this longstanding conflict has been formed to help congregations engage the Resolution on Palestine and Israel.

**Indigenous Relations:** Following the remarkable sales success of *Wrongs to Rights* – a special publication following the conclusion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) – a second special edition called *Yours, Mine, Ours* was published to address the TRC's call to action to churches that participated in the Indian Residential School (IRS) system (Mennonites were involved in day schools). More than 3,300 copies of both publications have been distributed. Thanks to sales and donations, the cost of production for these resources has been recovered.

**Christian Formation:** CommonWord – a collaboration of Mennonite Church Canada's Resource Centre for churches and Canadian Mennonite University's bookstore, offers 12,000 loan, sale or download items – and links to hundreds of websites. 57,000 individuals have used CommonWord this year. Over 1,000 items were sold online. More than 1,700 items were downloaded over 40,000 times. This is a ministry that serves well beyond the 134 congregations that accessed items this year. A Baptist leader wrote, "Your website's a gold mine! I've surveyed resources across Canada and you have the best stuff out there."

**Church History:** The Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives responds to 120 research assistance requests/month, hosts 10,806 historical images online, has continuously published the Mennonite Historian magazine for 41 years running, and produced an award winning film on conscientious objectors called *The Last Objectors*, which has aired nationally and CBC TV. A huge thank you to the 11 regular plus additional casual volunteers that help make all this happen. This year, the Archives also received significant collections of historical documents from the Evangelical Mennonite Church and the Christian Mennonite Conference.

**Art and Faith:** The Mennonite Heritage Centre Art Gallery continues to cross the bridges of different faith traditions using the visual arts. Eight exhibits were hosted in 2016. A significant milestone saw the completion of gallery curator and artist Ray Dirks' *Along the Road the Freedom* series of paintings, documenting the faithful and courageous Mennonite women who led their families to freedom in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution. A celebration at the Manitoba legislature was attended by Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, the Honourable Janice C. Filmon, media, and about 500 guests. The Gallery is primarily self-funded by donations and grants.

**Finances:** As of Nov. 30, donation income was \$240,000 behind our \$4.4 million donation budget and significantly behind last year's levels for the same time period. Your prayer and financial support continues to be critical to the ministries we do together.

**Task Forces:** The Being a Faithful Church and Future Directions Task Forces presented their final reports at Assembly 2016. Delegates approved the recommendations of both task forces. The transition to a re-imagined a national and area church system that is closer to its congregational base is now well under way.

**Assembly 2016:** A special delegate gathering to approve new structures (see above) is scheduled for Oct. 13-15, 2017, in Wpg. More information will be coming your way over the spring and summer.

In closing, I ask that you pray and financially support as we “wait upon the Lord” so that the many ministries of MC Canada and our 5 Area Churches so that we can transition to a new future in good health. Thank you.

Willard Metzger,  
Executive Director

~~~~ **MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN** ~~~~



“Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good. The Lord’s faithful love endures forever” Psalm 118

2016 was a year filled with many reasons to be grateful, from small things like thank you cards, to big things like year-end financial contributions, there were many days throughout the year that left us feeling incredibly grateful for the support and dedication of our MC Sask family.

The first part of the year focused around the 2016 Mennonite Church Canada Assembly. We want to thank each and every one of you who participated, our volunteers numbered over 120, and a special thank you to our committee chairs and Terry Stefaniuk and Marianne Siemens, who oversaw the entire process and made sure everything ran smoothly. Thank you!

We had a number of pastoral and congregational changes throughout the year. In spring, we received word that Hope Mennonite Fellowship decided to leave Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. While we lament this separation, we pray God’s blessing to be with Hope Mennonite as we part ways. In spring we also received news that Horse Lake Mennonite Church was going to close their doors at the end of June. A service of reflection and celebration was held on June 26 as we gave thanks to God for these many years of faithfulness.

On the pastoral front, we wished Walter Jantzen, Anita Retzlaff and Herman Wiebe a happy retirement, and welcomed Lois Bukar (Zion), Susanne Guenther Loewen (Nutana Park), Dan Graber (North Star), Terri Lynn Friesen (Osler), Zach Dueck (Mount Royal), and Celeste Wright (Hoffnungsfelder) into their roles of ministry in Saskatchewan. Two interim pastors were also called; Claire Ewert Fisher at Grace Mennonite Church, PA and Ric Driediger at Zoar Mennonite Church, Langham.

Internally, we experienced some changes as well. Ryan Siemens began working full time in May, and Kirsten Hamm-Epp added 0.2 FTE of Communications to her work, namely, our new and much more user-friendly website.

Throughout the year, we gathered as an area church family for a variety of events, such as the annual Leadership Assembly gatherings, Equipping Day, and the Spruce River Folk Fest.

The 2017 Annual Delegate Sessions will be on March 10-11 at Nutana Park Mennonite Church in Saskatoon, and are co-hosted by Nutana Park and Pleasant Point Mennonite Church. Our theme for this year is ***Extending the Table: Enough for All*** and will feature the play ***The Gospel According to Food*** and keynote addresses by ***Susanne Guenther Loewen***.

As we move into 2017, let us continue to be Christ Centred and Sent as we seek to be communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God’s healing and hope flow through us to the world!

Ryan, Kirsten, and Marianne

~~~~ **MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE** ~~~~



*"The desert and the parched land will be glad. The wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus it will burst into bloom. It will greatly shout for joy!"*  
Isaiah 35.1-2

This verse from Isaiah was the theme for Mennonite Disaster Service 2016 annual gathering. This picture is a real life experience of a blossom in a wilderness. The peony plant in this picture is in the front garden bed of what was a Fort McMurray house. It is blooming a month after the city was ravaged by fire in early May of this year.

This last year's #1 Canadian disaster was the Fort McMurray fire. Called "The Beast", the fire began on May 1, after the driest and second warmest winter since records were kept in Fort Mac (72 years). On May 3 it raged through the city prompting a complete evacuation of its 80,000+ residence. Over 2400 structures were destroyed.

The MDS constituency has been generous in giving for Fort McMurray. We are particularly thankful for an **\$80,000 MAX Mutual Aid grant** that will help restore hope in Fort McMurray. We expect to begin our construction work early this spring, helping those who were uninsured and underinsured rebuild their homes and their hope. Please watch for our call out to volunteers to help us this coming year.

Other highlights from MDS Canada 2015 year include:

- The BC Unit partnered with Habitat for Humanity to rebuild a house destroyed in the Rock Creek fire.
- The Alberta Unit took on a project in Carmacks, Yukon – rebuilding a house destroyed there.
- Ontario responded to an invitation from MCC Ontario to run a temporary warehouse in Elmira, ON to distribute used furniture to Syrian Refugees. They also did some work in response to flooding in Windsor.
- Manitoba, Ontario and BC hosted Family and Youth projects

This year we will

- Have a summer Family Project in New Brunswick (our first in Atlantic Canada)
- Have summer Youth Project in Ontario.
- Launch a multi-home build project for Fort McMurray.

We continue to keep our center as a grass roots movement of people like you; people who make up the Mennonite and Anabaptist communities who want to live out their faith in practical ways. Thank you for the chance to work with you to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God!

Prepared by Ross Penner  
Director of Canadian Operations

~~~~ **REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** ~~~~

Subsequent to our application for a Syrian family reunification sponsorship in late 2015, the family of Doha Kharsa arrived in Saskatoon from Beirut Lebanon on 27/05/16. This group consisted of a single mom, Nashwa Kharsa, age 29 with three children Wafic Balawi, Mohammed Balawi and Bothayna Kharsa and brother Bilal Kharsa. The ages of the three children range from 9 to 4 and the single brother is age 22. This arrival however did not include the brother who was detained in Lebanon for completion of his application documents. He eventually did arrive on 08/09/16.

Housing for this family had been arranged, but a few days after arrival it became apparent it was not satisfactory due to smoke contamination and other issues. Fortunately another three bedroom house was located very near to sister Doha's, was quite satisfactory and a year's lease was arranged. Because of the change in location, however, the finance committee was liable for a month of rent and damage deposit at the original location.

The sponsorship of the Kharsa family has had numerous challenges, some of which required lengthy discussions within the committee, MCC and with the family. Things however improved after school started in the fall and everybody settled in to their routines. Doha, the sister of Nashwa and Bilal was able to find placements in the Link (ESL) program for them and child care for Bothayna. Fortunate also that members of the committee were able to secure school bus transportation for the school age children. The arrival of cold and winter of course was shocking to the newcomers, but now that the worst is over they have adjusted well.

The whole family is doing well in school. The children now have a good functional knowledge of English and are very happy in their school environment. They're heading into the French immersion program next year. Both Nashwa and Bilal are also progressing well in their English comprehension at levels 2 and 3 Link. Nashwa is interested in clothing retail and hopefully will find suitable employment in this. Bilal has skills in cooking so perhaps he will also find a job to suit him. Nashwa is well advanced in driver education, thanks to one of our committee members. Social adjustments to a new country are always difficult, but the family is doing well now.

The next big issue that is coming in the near future is continuing financial support for this family. In last years report I estimated the budget to be \$30 - 35000 .The cost of the previous sponsorship of a family of four (Qadoora) was \$35500. For this family of five we are projecting a cost of \$49600. The average monthly budget is \$3200 plus start-up costs of \$8000. The high start-up cost reflect the extra rent paid initially as well as increased costs in dental, clothing, food, computer TV and phone with their contracts. Also, consideration has to be given to the late arrival of Bilal (September) which lengthens our sponsorship obligation for at least one person for 4 months. This amount has yet to be decided. In summary we have a financial need of additional \$6200 plus the extended commitment of 4 months to support Bilal.

Reference was made in last years report of financial support of \$10,000 for a Syrian refugee family sponsored by St Philip Neri. There has been no word yet on their arrival, but our commitment for this has to be kept in mind for the future.

The financial cost of sponsorship is staggering and it appears that it will only escalate in the future. The RAP committee has been blessed by the financial support of the congregation and the congregation has in its turn been blessed by the excellent work done by the RAP committee in this sponsorship. Thank you to both.

Arnie Nickel
on behalf of the RAP committee.

~~~~ SASKATOON MENNONITE CARE SERVICES INC. (SMCS) ~~~~

For the last time, as I complete my term as Chairperson, I am pleased to report to our supporting churches who share in Bethany Manor challenges and successes, and we did have a challenging and successful year. Thank you for your support and prayers.

In hindsight, we might declare our theme for 2016 to have been "determination", as there were some important objectives we were determined to reach. Some objectives went back to the beginning of Bethany Manor when the need for affordable, seniors' housing in Saskatoon was responded to by twelve Mennonite Churches. The determination of these churches was cause for a wonderful 30th Anniversary celebration in August. Thanks to everyone who attended and to the many volunteers who contributed to this event. Many friendships began or were renewed and I think we needn't wait for the 40th Anniversary to come together again!

Our heritage, faith, and approach to work reflect the important connection we have to our supporting churches. Our spirit is nourished by caring friends and family, worship and Bible study, and by the dedication of visiting Pastors and volunteers. Spiritual care is a consideration in all we do. Esther

Patkau continues her visits, special services, Bible study, counseling, and walking with those who are struggling or have lost loved ones. Our faithful Worship Committee sustains Sunday worship and other celebrations, supported by much appreciated church volunteers. The Board is aware that spiritual care needs are changing and plans to work with the churches, Esther and other volunteers, and residents to clarify changing needs and explore how we all can best contribute to this work.

The business of Saskatoon Mennonite Care Services Inc. is well on track. Our Audit & Finance Committee, chaired by Doyle Wiebe, continues its oversight of budget and finances. Our new auditor and business advisor, Ms. Bev Johnson, of KPMG, gave us “perfect marks” for the 2015 audit and continues to assist planning for long term financial management. Charitable fund development remains essential to our success. In November, Bill Siemens, our first Executive Director and now Honorary Campaign Chairperson, announced the Personal Care Capital Campaign to fund essential renovations and improvements. By the end of 2016 we raised \$260,000.00, a good start to meeting our goal of \$900,000.00 by the end of 2017. Financing affordable housing will always be a challenge and costs are not going down. As we look to the future, we are fortunate to have donors who contribute generously to several Bethany funds.

We are determined to keep Bethany residents as safe as we can. We upgraded our camera security system and continue to improve security facilities and awareness. Ken Epp, with help from Willard Wolfe, and Milton Boldt, continue to make nightly security rounds that see Bethany Manor safely closed up for the night. We also undertook a major review of our emergency response plans and will implement new and better safety measures in 2017.

Changes to our corporate bylaws officially commit the board to “encourage residents to actively participate in the social and cultural life of Bethany Manor.” A communication strategy was adopted that expands how we reach out to residents and community with the intent that all residents have an equal voice. An administrative, “Respectful Communication” policy was adopted. We have begun regular meetings with the established Floor Representatives. These representatives are active on their floors at all times, and meet occasionally on a recently formed Community Life Committee, funded and focusing on the social and cultural life and wellbeing of their Bethany Manor community.

Our staff, volunteers, and service providers, support many programs. Of particular note are the staff and volunteers who serve meals day in and day out. We offer many quality of life programs and special events. Residents and guests enjoy “The Nook” convenience store and “The Bistro” soup and sandwich service. We provide housing support services, ongoing cleaning, round-the-clock maintenance, and both assisted living and personal care programs in The Villa and The Place. I am pleased that Dr. Zane Tymchak leased our clinic and his services are available to residents wishing to transfer to his practice. Other on-site services include: Mennonite Trust, Dr. Roy Papish, Chiropractor, Mr. Cliff McTavish and Ms. Nola Schofield, Registered Massage Therapists, Medicine Shoppe staff providing medication help, blood pressure monitoring, and foot care clinics, *We Care* foot care, Connie Norrington’s salon and barber visits, Home Care, Flu clinics, and so on. I apologize to those I have overlooked on the long list of contributors.

The church representatives you have appointed to our Board of Directors have, once again, worked very hard and with good measures of love and common sense. Of note is the enthusiastic support and time commitment of Martha Schmidt in youth programming and representing us on the board of West Ridge Village, our affordable family housing project co-owned with Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and managed by Saskatoon Housing Authority. We have a great Board and I am pleased to have chaired this devoted group of people. As I have in the past, I ask you to find them and give them a hand shake or hug of appreciation and support. Keep them and Bethany Manor in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to be “the best place anyone could live”.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Guenther – Chair

~~~~ VILLAGE GREEN STORES ~~~~

Both shops, Village Green Furniture & Appliances/Village Green Thrift are typically a flurry of activity each day and we are delighted to share some of our accomplishments and projects this past year.

Firstly, our furniture shop was nominated and awarded "Best Furniture Store in Saskatoon" and "Best Kept Secret in Riversdale" by PLANET magazine. We were very humbled by this designation and very happy to have our manager, Derek Johnson, staff and volunteers recognized for their hard work. We continue to be blessed with generous donors who donate a wide variety of quality furniture and household goods. We also receive many "unique" items that are snapped up quickly by our customers. We are always engaged in re-finishing antique pieces and up-cycling others, which has substantially increased our sales. We are most grateful to our private and corporate donors that continue to support our store and ultimately, the work of Mennonite Central Committee. Sales continue to exceed our expectations. We are busy marketing and promoting our store on Facebook. Each day, new inventory is posted and there has been a substantive spike in on-line selling. We have done some renovating to make for more sales floor space. We are firmly entrenched in the Riversdale landscape and enjoy serving a wide variety of customers.

The clothing shop hired a full time manager in June of 2016 after the position was vacant for many months. Currently we employ a full time manager, two full time shop assistants and a part time shop assistant. Donation volumes have increased substantially and staff and volunteers are extremely busy processing, pricing and stocking donations. It has become increasingly obvious that we needed more space to handle the donations, so an expansion of the receiving area was undertaken. A custom built, modular building will be in place by the end of February to accommodate donation processing. Over the summer, the outside receiving area got a much needed fresh coat of paint, we purchased large pots and planted flowers. Another project that is nearing completion is the opening of a small satellite shop at Bethany Manor. By mid February the shop should be fully operational. We will be selling quality men's and women's clothing geared for seniors, footwear, handbags, jewelry and other items. From all reports, the Bethany Manor residents are very happy to have an on-site shop and we anticipate good support of this venture.

Our management team wanted to be more involved in the local community as well, reaching out to those in need. We wanted to engage in a meaningful and practical outreach program and an idea was presented that we would wrap parkas, mitts, toques and scarves around the street poles in front of our shop with a note that the clothing was free for those in need. We received over-whelming response to this initiative! - (just keeping people warm and safe on the cold winter nights). We also held our annual bake sale and tree raffle and the proceeds from these two events were converted into gift cards from Tim Horton's and handed out to the homeless and people in need over the Christmas season. Furthermore, we continue to provide financial contributions to other charities, ministries and organizations such as Denny Carr's Secret Santa, The Bridge, Food Bank, The Lighthouse, Ronald McDonald House, etc. to name a few.

Village Green Thrift Shops are governed by an energetic and motivated management team who have so many more plans and dreams to keep building and growing our shops. We are also mindful and appreciative of the commitment of some 100 volunteers, the generosity of our donors and our growing customer base.

We very much view the work of Village Green Thrift Shops as a ministry and not just a business. You could say we are in the "business" of helping others, locally and abroad, and that is humbling and satisfying in so many ways. We graciously request that you keep us in your prayers and/or consider becoming involved as a volunteer.

Blessings from everyone at Village Green Thrift Shops,

Respectfully submitted by  
Tara Hiebert, Chair

## **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

### **~~~~ BUILDING AND GROUNDS ~~~~**

It was a big year for everything buildings and grounds at Nutana Park Mennonite Church! We undertook a number of major projects as a congregation and despite some significant setbacks were able to accomplish a great deal due to the hard working, talented, and dedicated group of volunteers that kept showing up whenever they were needed.

The modernization of our sanctuary began in April with Darryl Epp taking on the “Light of the World” project. He led a crew in replacing the lights above the choir loft and throughout the sanctuary with bright, energy efficient, LED bulbs. This had an immediate impact on the warmth of our worship space and should remove the need to switch out the bulbs for a number of years.

At our congregational meeting last spring we voted to undertake major sewer work in our education wing in order to permanently fix the long-standing issues of a broken main line that was no longer on an appropriate slope. Armin Krahn headed up this project alongside our contractor, L and M Mechanical, and was able to complete this massive job in July with the investment of hundreds of volunteer hours. In doing so, the congregation was able to save a significant sum on labour.

At that same congregational meeting, we also decided to install new flooring in our education wing as it was being torn out to do the sewer work and was nearing the end of its usefulness. Upon closer examination of the various spaces in our church and though significant reflection, it was discerned that an upgrading of the flooring throughout our church was necessary. Further, it was concluded that doing it all once would be more efficient in both cost and organizational efforts. With the help of Nicole Tiessen, we collected bids and were able to hire Western Flooring to do the work at a cost significantly below our original estimate. In addition, we determined that all of the floor removal, painting, and baseboard work would be undertaken by congregational volunteers in order to keep costs low.

The demolition began in earnest in July as we filled the Lorras bin with old, worn-out and stained carpet. Furniture was moved from room to room to allow for the work to advance. Every day a new wave of volunteers miraculously walked through the doors ready and willing to get their hands dirty. Things were progressing well, until a sample of the sanctuary tile came back positive for asbestos. Work in the sanctuary had to be temporarily halted until a solution was found. After exploring our options, speaking to experts, seeking quotes on remediation, having significant dialogue at a board level, and collecting feedback from congregational members, we determined that sealing the old flooring and laying down new linoleum over top was the best path forward. Finally, at the end of October, the renovation was completed with the installation of new flooring in the sanctuary. With new paint on the walls and new flooring throughout, our building looks great and should be a safe space to worship for years to come.

Other projects that were completed in 2016 include the moving and renovation of the shed to the front of the church lot to deter those hoping to break in, grading of the slope on east side of the church to ensure proper run off, the subsequent replanting of the church garden in planter boxes and the planting of fruit trees, the repairing of window surrounds on the west side of the building, the reconfiguration of the library, and the installation of a new projection screen in the adult education wing.

Much was accomplished this year to improve our physical church space and it happened because of the massive collective contribution of talent and time by those in our church community. Although there were probably 100 different people that volunteered at one time or another on our major renovations this year, I would be remiss if I didn't mention a few specific names. Thanks to Armin Krahn who did an incredible amount of work on all aspects of this project. Thanks to Nicole Tiessen whose design sense and in depth knowledge of organizing large projects of this nature were invaluable. Thanks to Peter Guenther and Paul Tiessen for installing all the subfloor in the education wing and to Peter Guenther for the beautiful woodwork in the sanctuary. Thanks to Arnie Koop for taking care of the shed project. Thanks to Jared Regier for taking the lead on transforming our community garden space. Thanks to Tammy Forrester who took over volunteer coordination duties

while I was away this summer. Finally, thanks to every single person who worked on our major church improvements this year! Literally thousands of volunteer hours went into our physical church structure to make it a safe and beautiful place to worship. However, I know the community building that happened and the relationships that were formed throughout this process were just as significant and will continue to transform the life of our congregation in much more profound ways than some carpet and paint.

Joel Driedger  
Buildings and Grounds Deacon

Nutana Park Mennonite Church  
Draft Budget 2017

|                          | Draft Budget             |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                          | 2017                     |
| Donations                |                          |
| General                  | 398,600.00               |
| Total Donations          | <u>398,600.00</u>        |
| Other Income             |                          |
| Interest Income          | 600.00                   |
| Rental Income            | 5,000.00                 |
| Total Other Income       | <u>5,600.00</u>          |
| Total Revenue            | <u><u>404,200.00</u></u> |
| Operating Expense        |                          |
| Advertising              | 100.00                   |
| Audit Fees               | 6,000.00                 |
| Bank Charges             | 300.00                   |
| Car Allowance            | 2,000.00                 |
| Book Allowance           | 400.00                   |
| Caring and Visitation    | 400.00                   |
| Christian Education      | 1,200.00                 |
| Speakers & Workshops     | 500.00                   |
| Subscriptions            | 400.00                   |
| Equipment                | 2,500.00                 |
| Fellowship               | 2,300.00                 |
| Hospitality              | 1,000.00                 |
| Church Retreat           | 1,000.00                 |
| Professional Development | 1,500.00                 |
| Insurance                | 4,400.00                 |
| Community Life Program   | 1,000.00                 |
| Music                    | 2,500.00                 |
| Office Expense           | 3,000.00                 |
| Photocopier Costs        | 4,250.00                 |
| Library                  | 1,000.00                 |
| Repairs & Maintenance    | 12,000.00                |
| Janitor Expenses         | 10,000.00                |

|                                               |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Salaries & Benefits                           | 203,000.00        |
| Workers Compensation                          | 750.00            |
| Telephone                                     | 1,600.00          |
| Conference Attendance                         | 3,000.00          |
| Utilities                                     | 10,000.00         |
| Worship                                       | 1,200.00          |
| Canadian Mennonite Subscription               | 2,700.00          |
| Youth                                         | 3,000.00          |
| Miscellaneous                                 |                   |
| Total Operation Expenses                      | <u>283,000.00</u> |
| Contributions to Mennonite Organization       |                   |
| AMBS                                          | 2,000.00          |
| Canadian Mennonite University                 | 2,000.00          |
| MEDA                                          | 2,000.00          |
| Mennonite Church Canada                       | 0.00              |
| Mennonite Church Saskatchewan                 | 91,200.00         |
| Mennonite Central Committee Sask              | 12,000.00         |
| Mennonite Disaster Service                    | 2,000.00          |
| Rosthern Junior College                       | 2,000.00          |
| Shekinah Retreat Centre                       | 2,000.00          |
| Total Contributions to Mennonite Organization | <u>115,200.00</u> |
| Extraordinary Expenditures                    |                   |
| Leadership (Strategic Planning)               | 1,000.00          |
| Total Extraordinary Expenditures              | <u>1,000.00</u>   |
| Other Contributions                           |                   |
| Contributions to Capital Reserve Fund         | 5,000.00          |
| Total Other Contributions                     | <u>5,000.00</u>   |
| Total Expenses                                | <u>404,200.00</u> |
| NET INCOME (LOSS)                             | <u>0.00</u>       |

**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**



## MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements of **Nutana Park Mennonite Church** have been prepared by the Church's management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and necessarily include some amounts based on informed judgement and management estimates.

To assist management in fulfilling its responsibilities, a system of internal controls has been established to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are accurate and reliable and that assets are safeguarded.

The board of directors reviewed and approved these financial statements.

These financial statements have been examined by the independent auditors, **Virtus Group LLP**, and their report is presented separately.



**Bert Klassen**

**Director**



**Carmen Epp**

**Representing Management**

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT



**VIRTUS  
GROUP**  
Chartered Professional Accountants  
& Business Advisors LLP

To the Members

### Nutana Park Mennonite Church

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Nutana Park Mennonite Church** which comprise the statement of financial position as at **December 31, 2016** and the statements of operations, fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Church's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Church's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

#### *Basis for Qualified Opinion*

In common with many non-profit organizations, the Church derives revenues from donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of revenue was limited to accounting for amounts recorded in the records of the Church. As a result, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary in respect of revenue and expenses for the year, assets, liabilities or fund balances.

#### *Opinion*

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of revenues as referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Church as at December 31, 2016 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

February 17, 2017

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

*Virtus Group LLP*

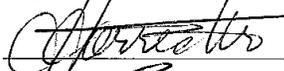
Chartered Professional Accountants

**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
(with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2015)

|                                                       | <b>ASSETS</b> |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                                                       | <u>2016</u>   | <u>2015</u>  |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                 |               |              |
| Cash (Note 3)                                         | \$ 83,956     | \$ 119,471   |
| Investments (Note 4)                                  | 35,625        | 56,926       |
| GST receivable                                        | 3,148         | 1,374        |
|                                                       | 122,728       | 177,771      |
| <b>Tangible capital assets (Note 5)</b>               | 1,137,418     | 1,137,418    |
|                                                       | \$ 1,260,146  | \$ 1,315,189 |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>                  |               |              |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                            |               |              |
| Accounts payable                                      | \$ 6,487      | \$ 6,120     |
| <b>Fund balances</b>                                  |               |              |
| Unrestricted - general operating                      | 63,616        | 72,006       |
| Internally restricted - special projects (Schedule 1) | 16,448        | 30,133       |
| Internally restricted - capital reserve               | 19,913        | 53,445       |
| Externally restricted - endowment (Schedule 1)        | 16,265        | 16,067       |
| Invested in tangible capital assets                   | 1,137,418     | 1,137,418    |
|                                                       | 1,253,660     | 1,309,069    |
|                                                       | \$ 1,260,146  | \$ 1,315,189 |

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**Approved by the Board:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
(with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2015)

|                                   | General<br>Operating Fund | Special Projects | Capital Reserve<br>Fund | Endowment<br>fund | Invested in<br>tangible capital<br>assets | 2016<br>Total       | 2015<br>Total       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Fund balances, beginning of year  | \$ 72,006                 | \$ 30,133        | \$ 53,445               | \$ 16,067         | \$ 1,137,418                              | \$ 1,309,069        | 1,322,170           |
| Add: Receipts                     | 397,053                   | 34,608           | 24,914                  | 198               | -                                         | 456,773             | 441,839             |
| Less: Disbursements               | (463,889)                 | (48,293)         | -                       | -                 | -                                         | (512,182)           | (454,940)           |
| Interfund transfers:              |                           |                  |                         |                   |                                           |                     |                     |
| - Building repairs                | 58,446                    | -                | (58,446)                | -                 | -                                         | -                   | -                   |
| <b>Fund balances, end of year</b> | <b>\$ 63,616</b>          | <b>\$ 16,448</b> | <b>\$ 19,913</b>        | <b>\$ 16,265</b>  | <b>\$ 1,137,418</b>                       | <b>\$ 1,253,660</b> | <b>\$ 1,309,069</b> |

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.



**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
(with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2015)

|                        | <b>Budget<br/>(Unaudited)<br/>2016</b> | <b>2016</b>       | <b>2015</b>       |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>        |                                        |                   |                   |
| Donations - General    |                                        |                   |                   |
| General                | \$ 402,250                             | \$ 370,011        | \$ 377,452        |
| Property Improvements  |                                        | 11,670            |                   |
|                        | <u>402,250</u>                         | <u>381,681</u>    | <u>377,452</u>    |
| Other Income           |                                        |                   |                   |
| Church Retreat Fees    | -                                      | -                 | 363               |
| Interest Income        | 1,000                                  | 704               | 906               |
| Rental Income          | 4,000                                  | 4,776             | 3,739             |
| Other Income           | -                                      | 2,071             | 755               |
|                        | <u>5,000</u>                           | <u>7,552</u>      | <u>5,763</u>      |
| Designated Income      |                                        |                   |                   |
| MCC Saskatchewan       | -                                      | 7,050             | 10,116            |
| Misc Designated Income | -                                      | 770               | 2,260             |
|                        | <u>-</u>                               | <u>7,820</u>      | <u>12,376</u>     |
|                        | <u>\$ 407,250</u>                      | <u>\$ 397,053</u> | <u>\$ 395,591</u> |

(continued)

**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
(with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2015)

(continued)

|                                 | Budget<br>(Unaudited) |                |                |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                 | 2016                  | 2016           | 2015           |
| <b>Disbursements</b>            |                       |                |                |
| Operating Expenses              |                       |                |                |
| Advertising                     | \$ 100                | \$ 70          | \$ 70          |
| Audit Fees                      | 5,600                 | 5,644          | 5,536          |
| Bank Charges                    | 350                   | 267            | 311            |
| Book Allowance                  | 2,000                 | 291            | 234            |
| Canadian Mennonite Subscription | 400                   | 2,678          | 2,449          |
| Car Allowance                   | 300                   | 2,015          | 1,730          |
| Caring and Visitation           | 1,700                 | 429            | 220            |
| Christian Education             | 500                   | 753            | 1,163          |
| Church Retreat                  | 400                   | 536            | 912            |
| Community Life Program          | 2,500                 | 918            | 645            |
| Conference Attendance           | 2,300                 | 2,293          | 3,331          |
| Equipment                       | 2,000                 | 986            | -              |
| Fellowship                      | 1,000                 | 2,484          | 1,546          |
| Hospitality                     | 1,500                 | 3,301          | 1,813          |
| In Service Training             | 4,400                 | 215            | 455            |
| Insurance                       | 1,000                 | 4,214          | 4,206          |
| Janitor Expenses                |                       | 9,366          | 9,744          |
| Library                         | 3,000                 | 1,062          | 510            |
| Miscellaneous                   | 3,000                 | 625            | 84             |
| Music                           | 4,250                 | 1,560          | 3,754          |
| Office Expense                  | 1,000                 | 2,972          | 2,774          |
| Photocopier Costs               | 10,000                | 3,353          | 3,444          |
| Repairs & Maintenance           | 10,000                | 8,132          | 14,581         |
| Salaries & Benefits             | 200,000               | 181,458        | 195,369        |
| Speakers & Workshops            | 750                   | 250            | 300            |
| Subscriptions                   | 1,600                 | 375            | 330            |
| Telephone                       | 4,200                 | 1,557          | 1,531          |
| Utilities                       | 10,000                | 9,529          | 10,451         |
| Workers Compensation            | 1,600                 | 652            | 682            |
| Worship                         | 2,400                 | 438            | 883            |
| Youth                           | 3,000                 | 1,254          | 2,987          |
|                                 | <u>280,850</u>        | <u>249,674</u> | <u>272,045</u> |

(continued)

**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
(with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2015)

(continued)

|                                              | <b>Budget<br/>(Unaudited)</b> |                           |                           |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                              | <b>2016</b>                   | <b>2016</b>               | <b>2015</b>               |
| Contributions to Mennonite Organizations     |                               |                           |                           |
| Mennonite Church Canada                      | 54,000                        | 51,900                    | 54,000                    |
| AMBS                                         | 2,000                         | 2,000                     | 2,000                     |
| Mennonite Church Saskatchewan                | 37,200                        | 39,300                    | 37,200                    |
| Mennonite Central Committee Sask             | 21,200                        | 21,200                    | 21,200                    |
| Mennonite Disaster Service                   | 1,000                         | 1,000                     | 1,000                     |
|                                              | <u>115,400</u>                | <u>115,400</u>            | <u>115,400</u>            |
| Extraordinary Expenditures                   |                               |                           |                           |
| MCC Sask Designated Forwarding               | -                             | 7,050                     | 10,116                    |
| Misc Designated Forwarding                   | -                             | 770                       | 2,260                     |
| Leadership (Strategic Planning)              | 1,000                         | -                         | -                         |
| Pastorial Search                             | 5,000                         | 2,280                     | -                         |
| Property Improvement Expenses                | -                             | 83,716                    | -                         |
| 50th Anniversary 2015                        | -                             | -                         | 2,767                     |
| Website Design                               | -                             | -                         | 405                       |
|                                              | <u>6,000</u>                  | <u>93,816</u>             | <u>15,548</u>             |
| Other Contributions                          |                               |                           |                           |
| Contributions to Capital Reserve Fund        | 5,000                         | 5,000                     | 5,000                     |
|                                              | <u>5,000</u>                  | <u>5,000</u>              | <u>5,000</u>              |
| <b>Total disbursements</b>                   | <b>\$ <u>407,250</u></b>      | <b>\$ <u>463,889</u></b>  | <b>\$ <u>407,993</u></b>  |
| <b>Excess of receipts over disbursements</b> | <b>\$ <u>-</u></b>            | <b>\$ <u>(66,836)</u></b> | <b>\$ <u>(12,402)</u></b> |

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.



**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
(with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2015)

|                                                         | <u>2016</u>      | <u>2015</u>       |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Cash provided by (used in) operating activities:</b> |                  |                   |
| Net loss                                                | \$ (66,837)      | \$ (12,402)       |
| - Interfund transfer                                    | 58,446           | (8,288)           |
| Non-cash operating working capital (Note 7)             | <u>(27,124)</u>  | <u>6,478</u>      |
|                                                         | <u>(35,515)</u>  | <u>(14,212)</u>   |
| <b>Decrease in cash</b>                                 | (35,515)         | (14,212)          |
| <b>Cash position - beginning of year</b>                | <u>119,471</u>   | <u>133,683</u>    |
| <b>Cash position - end of year</b>                      | <u>\$ 83,956</u> | <u>\$ 119,471</u> |

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
**(with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2015)**

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**1. Purpose of the Church**

Nutana Park Mennonite Church is a registered charity whose main purpose is to provide a place of worship for the members of its congregation.

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations which required management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. These estimates are reviewed periodically, and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. The financial statements reflect the following policies:

**Financial instruments**

Financial assets and liabilities are recorded on the statement of financial position when the Church becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. All financial instruments are required to be recognized at fair value upon initial recognition, except for certain related party transactions. Measurement in subsequent periods of equity instruments is at fair value. All other financial assets and financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost adjusted by transactions costs, which are amortized over the expected life of instrument. Fair value is the amount at which a financial instrument could be exchanged at arm's length between willing, unrelated parties in an open market. Changes in fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities measured at fair value are recognized in net income. When there is an indication of impairment the carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortized cost may be reduced. Such impairments can be subsequently reversed if the value improves.

The Church's recognized financial instruments consist of cash, investments, GST receivable, and accounts payable and government remittances payable. The fair values of these items approximate their carrying values given the short-term nature of the amounts. The Church is not exposed to significant credit or interest risks arising from these financial instruments.

**Tangible capital assets**

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations allow for amortization to not be recorded as long as certain guidelines have been met. The Church has met these guidelines in both the current and previous year.

**Revenue recognition**

General donations are recorded as revenue in the year they are received. Rental revenue, interest and other revenues are recognized on the accrual basis.

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**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
(with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2015)

2. **Summary of significant accounting policies** (continued)

**Fund accounting**

In order to ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available to the Church, the accounts are maintained on a fund basis. Accordingly, resources are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds. These funds are held in accordance with the objectives specified by the contributors or in accordance with directives issued by the Board of Directors.

The Church maintains the following funds:

**General operating fund**

The General operating fund maintains day to day receipts and expenditures of the Church.

**Special projects fund**

The Special project fund consists of a variety of smaller funds raised by different groups within the Church for certain special projects.

**Capital reserve fund**

The capital reserve fund represents money that is put aside for capital investments or improvements.

**Endowment fund**

The Ruth Hamm endowment fund was provided to the Church to generate investment income to be distributed as a bursary.

3. **Cash and cash equivalents**

|                          | <b><u>2016</u></b> | <b><u>2015</u></b> |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| TCU - General Operating  | \$ 60,069          | \$ 58,825          |
| TCU - Investment Savings | 23,882             | 60,640             |
| Share Purchase           | 5                  | 5                  |
|                          | <b>\$ 83,956</b>   | <b>\$ 119,470</b>  |

4. **Investments**

|                                      | <b><u>2016</u></b> | <b><u>2015</u></b> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| TCU - Ruth Hamm GIC (Endowment fund) | \$ 15,133          | \$ 15,101          |
| TCU - GIC - 31 Month                 | -                  | 21,481             |
| TCU - GIC - 1 Year                   | 20,492             | 20,344             |
|                                      | <b>\$ 35,625</b>   | <b>\$ 56,926</b>   |

**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
**(with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2015)**

**5. Tangible capital assets**

|           | <u>2016</u>         | <u>2015</u>         |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Land      | 50,000              | 50,000              |
| Buildings | \$ 807,718          | \$ 807,718          |
| Equipment | 279,700             | 279,700             |
|           | <u>\$ 1,137,418</u> | <u>\$ 1,137,418</u> |

**6. Fund transfers**

The Board of Directors of the Church approved the transfer of \$58,446 from the Capital reserve fund to the General Fund. As well, the annual budgeted allocation of \$5,000 was transferred into the Capital Reserve Fund from the General Operating Fund.

**7. Non-cash operating working capital**

Details of net change in each element of working capital relating to operations excluding cash are as follows:

|                                                    | <u>2016</u>        | <u>2015</u>     |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>(Increase) decrease in current assets:</b>      |                    |                 |
| Investments                                        | \$ 21,301          | \$ (527)        |
| Accounts receivable                                | (1,774)            | (26)            |
| Prepaid expenses                                   | -                  | 260             |
|                                                    | <u>19,527</u>      | <u>(293)</u>    |
| <b>Increase (decrease) in current liabilities:</b> |                    |                 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities           | 367                | (818)           |
| Restricted fund balances                           | (47,018)           | 7,589           |
|                                                    | <u>(46,651)</u>    | <u>6,771</u>    |
|                                                    | <u>\$ (27,124)</u> | <u>\$ 6,478</u> |

**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS - SPECIAL PROJECTS AND ENDOWMENT FUND**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
(with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2015)

**SCHEDULE 1**

|                                 | Fund balance -<br>beginning of<br>year | Receipts      | Disbursements | Fund balance -<br>end of year | 2015             |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Bursary                         | \$ 12                                  | -             | -             | 12                            | \$ 12            |
| WMS Student Bursary             | 90                                     | -             | -             | 90                            | 90               |
| Bergen Bursary                  | 902                                    | 1,934         | 2,800         | 36                            | 902              |
| Church Aid                      | 1,830                                  | -             | 1,300         | 530                           | 1,830            |
| Ray & Helen Fast Bursary        | 93                                     | 638           | 700           | 31                            | 93               |
| Stella Dyck Bursary             | 600                                    | 1,100         | 600           | 1,100                         | 600              |
| RAP (Refugee Assistant Program) | 15,163                                 | 30,032        | 40,704        | 4,491                         | 15,163           |
| Youth                           | 7,068                                  | 905           | 2,000         | 5,973                         | 7,068            |
| Property Improvement Project    | 2,711                                  | -             | -             | 2,711                         | 2,711            |
| Venture Club                    | 1,664                                  | -             | 189           | 1,475                         | 1,664            |
| <b>Total special projects</b>   | <b>\$ 30,133</b>                       | <b>34,608</b> | <b>48,293</b> | <b>16,448</b>                 | <b>\$ 30,133</b> |

|                        |                  |            |          |               |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|------------|----------|---------------|------------------|
| Endowment - R. Hamm    | \$ 16,067        | 198        | -        | 16,265        | \$ 16,067        |
| <b>Total endowment</b> | <b>\$ 16,067</b> | <b>198</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>16,265</b> | <b>\$ 16,067</b> |





**NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**

Pastoral Staff: Susanne Guenther Loewen  
Patrick Preheim

Youth Leaders: Sarah Unrau (Jan-Feb)  
Scott Feick (March-Aug)  
Jenae Funk (Sept-Dec)

**BOARD OF DEACONS**

Chairperson  
Vice-Chair  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Bookkeeper  
Building & Grounds  
Caring & Visitation  
Christian Education  
Church Life  
Fellowship  
Music  
Worship

Tammy Forrester  
Armin Krahn  
Mackenzie Fast  
Bert Klassen  
Carmen Epp  
Joel Driedger  
Debra Heinrichs  
  
Denelda Fast  
Carolene Funk  
Bonnie Dahl  
Brent Guenther

**CO-ORDINATORS**

Adult Education  
Art in the Lounge  
Auditor  
Billeting  
Custodian  
Decorations  
Greeters  
Historian-Archives  
Library

Edna Froese  
Hedie Borne  
Virtus Group  
Carolene Funk  
Senayit Woldemichael  
Nicole Tiessen  
Lydia Schroeder  
Merna Ediger  
Susan Ens Funk  
Dennis Breen  
Alison Jantz  
Lori Weiler-Thiessen

Saskatoon Mennonite  
Care Services  
Refugees  
Ushers  
Village Green Stores  
Youth

Wally Funk  
Arnie Nickel  
Brent Guenther  
  
Jared Regier

**CARING & VISITATION COMMITTEE**

Debra Heinrichs  
Marian Driedger  
Margaret & Bob Neufeldt  
Evelyn Roden  
Ruth Wiens  
Mat & Grace Rouleau  
Susanne Guenther Loewen  
Patrick Preheim

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

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