



***Nutana Park  
Mennonite Church***

***Annual Report  
2017***

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## ORGANIZATION

### **NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**March 18, 2018**

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

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

Nutana Park Mennonite Church  
Annual General Meeting  
March 18, 2018  
11:00 am

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Approval of the AGM Minutes of March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017
3. Chairperson Report – Tammy Forrester
4. Report from the Treasurer – Bert Klassen
  - 4.1 Auditor's report and approval
  - 4.2 Presentation of 2018 budget
  - 4.3 Approval of 2018 budget
  - 4.4 Appointment of Auditor for 2018
5. Nominations Committee – Bob Neufeldt
  - 5.1 Board of Deacons
    - 5.1.1 Building and Grounds
    - 5.1.2 Finance
6. Deacon & Committee Reports
7. New Business
  - 7.1 Human Resource Structure – June 2018 – May 2019
8. 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 26th, 2017 - 1:15 p.m.

A quorum was present – Chair: Tammy Forrester

1. Opening Meditation – Betty Epp. Reflections of a Charter Member

2. Welcome – Tammy Forrester

3. Motion to adopt the Agenda with an addition to item 6.1 Update on Financial Committee, removal of Change to Church Schedule, and alteration of Closing to Tammy Forrester. Moved by Mitch Dahl, seconded by Peter Guenther. Carried.

4. Motion to approve the AGM Minutes of March 20, 2016. Moved by Lynn Driedger, seconded by Trish St. Onge. Carried.

5. Deacon and Committee Reports 5.1 Buildings and Grounds Deacon Joel Driedger - Asbestos Registry Update Joel reported that registering with the Provincial Asbestos Registry is voluntary as NPMC is not a government operated building. He thanked Patrick for his work on investigating the process. There will be a significant amount of leg work and updating required for this process. Discussion was had regarding whether this was something that the church wanted to move forward with and Joel requested that an individual volunteer step forward to take this process further, if that was the wish of the congregation.

Motion to not register the church building with the Provincial Asbestos Registry but to keep a detailed record of asbestos content for Nutana Park Mennonite Church's future renovations. Moved by Delmar Rempel, seconded by Armin Krahn. Carried.

Arnie Nickel reported that the refugee sponsorship will be winding down in July, with a single person sponsorship carrying on to September. He also reported that MCC has asked NPMC to co-sponsor an Eritrean family. As well, NPMC has committed \$10000 to St. Philip Neri for sponsorship that has not been collected at this time. Cost has been high for the most recent sponsorship and more money is needed at this time. Discussion was had regarding NPMC's interest in meeting the MCC request and the current appetite for further sponsorship at this time.

Motion to accept the committee report as presented. Moved by Don Froese, seconded by Ross Borne. Carried.

6. Report from the Treasurer – Bert Klassen 6.1 Update on Financial Committee Bert Klassen reported that Carmen Epp, Paul Thiessen, Armin Krahn, Allan Klassen, Darryl Epp and Sarah Alford served on the committee with him. The committee met several times. They met with Ken Warkentin with MCSask. Nutana Park is currently donating more than average to this organization. Changes that were made included forwarding all MCCCanada and MCSask donations directly to MCSask. Decision was made that in the event of a shortfall, those forwarding would be met for the budgeted year and addressed the following year in the budget. The committee recommended staying around 30% of the budget be forwarded to Mennonite Organizations. The committee also recommended adding other Mennonite organizations to the donation roster. A recommendation was made to establish a permanent finance committee and a grounds committee. Finally, as demographics change, it was recommended that the budget and donations be analyzed on a yearly basis.

6.2 Motion to approve the 2016 Audited Financial Statement as presented. Moved by Bert Klassen, seconded by Paul Thiessen. Carried. Bert Klassen thanked the congregation for donations of approximately \$380,000 and he thanked the deacons and congregation for keeping expenses down and coming in under budget. Forwardings to Mennonite organizations are all up to date.

### 6.3 Presentation of 2017 budget

6.4 Motion to approve the Proposed 2017 Budget as presented. Moved by Bert Klassen, seconded by Jac Nickel. Carried.

Discussion regarding the capital reserve fund and the need for potential upcoming renovations to the exterior of the building. There was a suggestion from Paul Thiessen to increase the capital reserve line on the budget to roughly \$15000 or make a concerted effort to further replenish the capital reserve fund with fundraising.

6.5 Motion to appoint Virtus Group as the Auditor for 2017. Moved by Bert Klassen, seconded by Bonnie Dahl. Carried.

7. Nominations Committee Report – Armin Krahn, Vice Chair 7.1 Thank you to Armin Krahn, Darryl Epp, Helen Siemens and Lori Weiler-Thiessen for serving on the Nominations Committee.

Openings: – Vice Chair - vacant – Secretary - Mackenzie Fast – Buildings and Grounds - Kelly Winder – Bookkeeper - Carmen Epp

Motion to accept Kelly Winder as Buildings and Grounds Deacon. Moved by Jake Ens, seconded by John Siemens. Carried.

Motion to accept Mackenzie Fast as secretary. Moved by Marlene Froese, seconded by Darryl Epp. Carried.

Motion to accept Carmen Epp as bookkeeper. Moved by Delmar Rempel, seconded by Kathy Olfert. Carried.

The vice-chair position will remain open to nominations at this time.

7.2 Finance Committee This committee will be filled by the Treasurer

7.3 Buildings and Grounds Committee This committee will be filled by the Buildings and Grounds Deacon

8. Chairperson Report – Tammy Forrester. Tammy thanked Joel and Armin for their service on the board. She thanked Susanne Guenther Loewen for her seamless transition into the congregation. She thanked Patrick for going above and beyond his regular pastoral staff duties during their transitions. She welcomed back Sarah Unrau to her youth leader position and thanked Scott Feick and Jenae Funk for their work in her absence. Finally, she thanked Helen Siemens for her ongoing excellent work in the office.

8.1 Board Structure -- Tammy presented a proposal to alter the structure of the Board of Deacons within our current bylaws for the 2018-2019 year. This includes a transition to a 4 person executive: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. There would be a decrease of 6 Deacon positions to 4: Buildings and Grounds, Community Life, Caring and Visitation and Worship (or variations of these names). These Deacons would likely have many committee members to work with them on the day to day operations of the various church events and groups. This will be put for discussion with the congregation in the coming months.

9. New Business from the Floor - none

10. Closing – Tammy Forrester

Meeting Adjourned at 2:36 p.m. by Jake Ens.

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>, 2017. Through my two years of congregational leadership, I have truly come to develop a genuine appreciation for all those that make the church work. It takes a whole congregation to lead and participate and be led and once again I want to offer my appreciation to all those that have supported one another in creating a healthy, caring and loving congregation.

To our pastoral leadership – Patrick and Susanne - thank you for leading us in ways that challenge our spiritual and academic selves to see the world around us differently than we are comfortable in seeing it and for strengthening our convictions and allowing us to challenge and be challenged. To our youth leader Sarah, we thank you for your investment of time in the younger generation of our church and our families as they grow into our church body. And to Helen – thank you for continuing your work in keeping it all organized and moving in the right direction.

Our 2017 year of 'pause' has come and gone and throughout the year, we had the opportunity to actively reflect on our congregation and some of the things that truly matter, inspire, lead and encourage us within the church. This past year we held congregational and program reviews, pastoral reviews and will in early 2018 embark on youth leader review and implementing a change in our church schedule based on feedback and suggestions from our congregational community and these respective reviews. We are also pleased that through the year we have also been able to fill the existing gaps on our Deacon Board and currently are sitting with a full Deacon Board for the church along with active committees that have taken responsibility to enhance program for our various congregational communities. So as we look to the future and anticipate what is to come, we know that change can sometimes lead to uncertainty and uneasiness, but change for the right reasons can sometimes lead to places we would not have envisioned we could go. As these changes are implemented and lived within our congregation, we look forward to reviewing outcomes at the end of June 2018 to continue as a Deacon Board to work on behalf of the congregation.

So for this past year, I want to extend a truly heartfelt thank you 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 in faith.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Tammy Forrester  
Board Chair

## SPIRITUAL MINISTRY

### NPMC PASTORAL STAFF

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."*

*– Ecclesiastes 3:1, NRSV*

It's hard to believe, but I have now been at NPMC for a year and a half, meaning that I've been through all of the seasons of the church year with this congregation at least once.

It's been a joy to explore various biblical and theological themes together through worship and adult education this year. We've looked at the relationship between contemplation and action, at what it means to live "more-with-less," at different understandings of salvation, and at the beginnings of the Anabaptist tradition in the 1500s, to name just a few. In different ways, all of these themes have helped us discern who God is and how God calls us to live as a community of disciples.

Women's Bible Study has continued to provide an opportunity for 20 or so women to gather to share our experiences and to connect them to the biblical narratives. We've focused on the stories of women in the



Bible, from the familiar to the more obscure, as well as doing a series on the cross during Lent and Easter. I continue to be grateful for the energy and enthusiasm of this group as we study the Bible, with its various beautiful, funny, disturbing, and inspiring stories.

This year has also brought with it different seasons in people's personal and family lives in this congregation. We have said goodbye to some beloved members this year. We've navigated the changes that come with illness, injury, or aging. We've also celebrated new births and babies, a baptism, membership transfers, starting a Sunday School program for our growing group of young children, and other occasions. Thanks for allowing me to share in these seasons of your lives through visits in your homes and gatherings at church. May we remember that God walks with us in both our joys and our sorrows, and never leaves us.

As I turn to a season of concentrating on my family, I am grateful for everyone who has stepped forward to fill in various portions of my responsibilities during my time away – especially Patrick Preheim, Sarah Unrau, Tammy Forrester, Helen Siemens, and the deacons and committees who are taking on my work. Thanks to the church for allowing me to take this leave, and for the continuing privilege of serving as co-pastor here at NPMC.

Peace, Susanne

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In my monthly report to the Deacon Board I have included the statistics of my activity in worship, visitation, and ministerial opportunities beyond Nutana Park Mennonite. I will take a more narrative approach to the annual report. Worship, congregational care, and broader community presence have been my primary areas of focus in this past year. Worship is a very significant part of our congregational life. I find joy in living with a biblical text or theological topic in preparation for Sunday. This joy, I think, comes through on most Sunday mornings. I am grateful for the opportunity of sermon preparation even as I know we benefit from hearing a variety of voices from our congregation.

Congregational Care. Visits with long time members of our congregation and those who are new to this faith community are very meaningful for me. The spiritual struggles we live with as well as our moments of Divine awareness are sacred material. I am grateful the trust people have in relating to me both the highs and lows of our spiritual pilgrimage. I am grateful for the Caring and Visitation Committee which extends the official reach of our congregation in the area of individual visitation. A fair amount of congregational care also happens in group settings. A monthly men's breakfast, a weekly men's study, a Young Adult study group, and committee meetings are all small groups in which I participate where mutual care happens. Beyond this, though, there are numerous other arenas in which group care happens: care giver groups, Forever in Motion, care groups, coffee clubs, gatherings of musicians, friendship circles and still other venues in which mutual support is given and received. As paid staff and volunteers we do our best in tending to the needs our people have for connection.

Participation with community organizations beyond our walls has also been a part of 2017 for me. I attend most events planned by Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. On a temporary basis I have joined the steering committee of Congregations for Environmental Action which plans two "teaching" events a year; with Susanne's maternity leave I am seeking a substitute from the Mennonite world. Since the Mosque shooting in Quebec I have participated in numerous events which are building relationship among the Christian – Muslim peoples of Saskatoon: prayers and conversation with the Imam of the Islamic Centre once a month, public interfaith gatherings affirming tolerance within all our traditions, evening meet and greet events to further interfaith connections at a personal level. Garry Koop has been a steadfast companion on this journey of building interfaith connections--thank you Garry.

Finally, I am grateful for the many people of this congregation who share in the responsibility of congregational care, worship and ministry beyond our walls. Susanne is a capable pastor and her presence will be missed this next year. Tammy Forrester and Armin Krahn, in their roles of congregational chair and vice-chair, have provided solid vision for the congregation and listening ears to the pastoral staff. Thanks to each person of the Deacon Board for their commitment in their specific

areas of responsibility—church happens because of you. Thanks to administrative assistant Helen Siemens whose ministry goes well beyond secretarial duties. Thanks to people too numerous to be named who volunteer many hours to make the programs and initiatives of the church possible.

Patrick Preheim  
Co-pastor, Nutana Park Mennonite

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February-September, 2017

Youth discussion nights were held on Tuesdays with a variety of weekend events. Discussion nights touched on a variety of topics such as creation, heroes, songs & psalms and baptism. Nutana youth hosted a Valentine’s Day Mega Menno event which was well attended by other Sask. Youth groups. Other activities included going to an escape room, Girls/Guys Night, the Jr. High Retreat (well attended by seven youth), helping at the MCC Sale and planting the garden – among a variety of other events. Normal youth attendance ranged from six to eight youth.

In summer, the youth met every other week for a casual hangout. These events were well attended with an average of eight youth. For the camping trip, Osler youth joined NPMC on a trip to Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park. This worked out well and should be revised as an option in future years.

September 2017 – January 2018

Youth group continues to meet on Tuesday nights and for a few weekend events each month. Three to six youth are in attendance on Tuesdays with six being average for weekends. Gr. Six students have been invited to join us for youth since there is no venture club program running and the increase in numbers helps the group dynamic. A family of three youth has moved this away this year which has contributed to the lower turnouts.

The group has engaged in the Theatre of the Beat production at Wildwood Mennonite Church, Mega Menno events at Nutana, Osler, and Mount Royal Mennonite Churches, youth babysitting and a variety of other events. One youth attended the Sr. High Retreat at Shekinah put on by the Saskatchewan Mennonite Youth Organization.

Topics of discussion have included heaven and hell, pilgrimage, Christmas discussions, stress and prayer.

Sarah Unrau

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Membership Statistics

|                             |               |     |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----|
| Membership, January 1, 2017 |               | 266 |
| Deaths (*members)           | 6             |     |
| Inactive                    | $\frac{1}{7}$ |     |

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Baptisms    | 1             |
| Transfer In | $\frac{3}{4}$ |

Membership, December 31, 2017      263

|                                                 |   |
|-------------------------------------------------|---|
| Marriages (of members, or of members’ children) | 7 |
| Births                                          | 6 |

Baptizand  
Colin Ens Funk

Deaths  
\*Fred Wieler  
\*Lena Epp  
Abram Loewen  
\*Janet Patkau Bergen  
\*Jake Rempel

Deaths (continued)  
\*Luana Dueck  
\*Mary Loewen  
Les Senner

## CARING & VISITATION

Philippians 2:4

“Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Nutana Park Mennonite Church is an active and vibrant church community that includes care groups, Coffee and Conversation times, Bible studies, meal deliveries to families with new babies, and many other activities by which we show our faith in action and our interest in our community.

There are so many ways to demonstrate care and support to others. I know that taking the time to pay a visit, make a phone call, take someone out for coffee, bake a batch of muffins or a pot of soup, and a myriad of other supportive gestures are already a part of what we do as a church.

2018 is proving to be one of changes at NPMC and we are all looking for ways to increase our support for Patrick and the work of the board. One simple way is to take an intentional step towards reaching out and extending a helping hand to someone in our midst, particularly those who may be experiencing mobility issues or are in care homes and seniors' facilities.

Upon joining the Caring and Visitation committee, members have a two-year commitment and attend monthly 'Check-in' meetings. The 2017 group includes Marian Driedger, Lori and Dave Weiler-Thiessen, Jaye Warkentin, Kathleen Regier, Jenae Funk, Susanne and Patrick.

I have appreciated the sensitivity and strong teamwork that the members of this group demonstrate. It is a pleasure to work together by volunteering time and gifts on behalf of the congregation!

Please know that our committee members are always open to connecting with you. A note in my mailbox to let us know if you need a visit or if you are available to visit someone would be much appreciated!

Respectfully submitted:  
Debbie Heinrichs  
Caring and Visitation Deacon

## MUSIC

*Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. (Psalm 96:1-2)*

*Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! (Psalm 47:6)*

There are 658 songs in the Hymnal Worship Book, another 118 in Sing the Journey and 124 in Sing the Story. Have I sung half of them or more? Which ones can I still conjure up from my memory – at least a verse or two? Which are my favourites and why? How are we passing along our rich tradition of music to our children? These are questions, which come to mind as I think about music at Nutana Park Mennonite Church.

There are many people involved in the music programming at NPMC. We have an inter-generational Senior choir, led and accompanied by members of our church, several small groups and individuals, accompanists and song leaders, who all contribute to and lead the music in our worship services. These individuals also add to the worship at Sherbrooke Community Center as well as at Bethany Manor. We have many people leading the children in singing before Sunday School. Many choirs, including Sonrisa, Bunch of Guys, and RJC Chorale, add music to our worship throughout the year. The Classical Music afternoon, Friday night jam sessions, and The Garage Band add other venues for participating in and appreciating music in our community. Our NPMC community is rich with music.

Organizing these groups and looking for other ways to incorporate music into our worship takes time and thought. Thanks to the music committee for their work in planning, scheduling, and organizing the music for our worship time and beyond. The music committee consists of the following people: Jocelyn Fleury,

Tristan Brenneman, Jordan Wiens, Aleta Martens, Fern Stockdale-Winder, and Ron Peters. As a committee we continually look for ways to enhance the music in our community. Any suggestions for how to make the music at NPMC more vibrant are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Dahl

## **WORSHIP**

Thank you to all those people who submitted feedback about worship at Nutana Park Mennonite Church last spring. It has been encouraging and helpful to hear the aspects of worship that people appreciate and the areas where people think we need to change things to make worship more meaningful. I continue to welcome and appreciate ongoing feedback from anyone regarding worship services at NPMC.

There have been many people who have dedicated time and energy to ensure that NPMC is a welcoming and warm place for people to worship. Thanks to all of the greeters over the past year who have leant a warm hand and smile to those preparing for worship and thanks to Lydia Schroeder for organizing greeters during this past year. Thank you to the ushers who also make people feel welcome and commit to a number of Sundays in a row.

Many of the worship services in the sanctuary continue to be creative as well, and this means leaning on our audio-visual technicians to be responsible for a number of different things. Thanks very much to Arny Kroeger, Dave Wieler-Tiessen, Don Froese, Colin Funk, and Arnold Wichert for not only their hard work in making sure people can be seen and heard, but for the ownership and pride they show in doing their work. 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.

Our worship leaders work with music leaders, accompanists, and pastors to ensure that worship services are uplifting, challenging, and comforting. They work hard at balancing tradition and trying new things to make sure that worship is relevant to all. Thank you to the members of this congregation who have led worship in the past, continue to do so on a regular basis, and those who have been asked recently. Susanne and Patrick continue to be instrumental in working with worship leaders by facilitating, teaching, and listening so that Sunday worship is cohesive and meaningful.

The worship committee works hard to make sure that we are serving all members of the congregation. I appreciate our committee's attention to detail – especially with hymns and scripture. I know that Bible Quizzing is popular in many circles, but if Hymnal Quizzing ever becomes popular, I would think that Bonnie, Patrick, and Susanne would be a difficult team to beat. Thanks so much to Bonnie Dahl, who is thoughtful, dedicated, and organized, and extended thanks to the music committee who continue to ensure that our services have a strong emphasis on music so that we can truly feel the Holy Spirit while worshipping together. Finally, I would like to thank Patrick and Susanne for their leadership in our church. I appreciate how both of them have an eagerness to learn from those around them, and their unwavering commitment to listen to how God is speaking through different people in and outside of this congregation.

We will miss Susanne while she is on leave, but we wish her all the best in the year ahead. Many different people will be behind the pulpit in the next year, but we look forward to hearing from different members of our congregation and those outside of our congregation. We also know that some shared leadership will be necessary in making the year ahead a success. I pray that we will continue to listen for God's voice in our worship services at NPMC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brent Guenther, Worship Deacon

## EDUCATION MINISTRY

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education has and continues to be a very important part of Nutana Park Mennonite Church. Over the last few years, our congregation has had to determine how to best serve our children by providing Christian Education and instruction that is both valuable and manageable as we had fewer children involved. Creative Church, a multi-generational learning time took place during the worship hour which encouraged many ages to join the children and participate in the lessons. As an alternative activity, children often participated in the worship service on Sundays when there were special events such as child dedication. After the children's story they remained at the front to create cards for the families or other meaningful items that help them connect to the focus of the service. Thank you to parents and helpers who often assisted the children to help make it a meaningful time for them. Quiet bags continue to be used most Sundays allowing the children to stay in the service. Thank you to Lisa Doepker for keeping these bags creatively filled.

Children's Education is coordinated by Marlie Leis with the assistance of other parents. We are grateful to Osler Mennonite Church for willingly sharing their materials and for providing the initial guidance prior to implementing the curriculum at NPMC. Thank you to the individuals who took a turn teaching for a month at a time. Thank you to Mackenzie Fast and Brent Guenther for coordinating the singing time for the children. Members are encouraged to sign up for extra support of our young families for toddler supervision or to provide a snack for the Sunday school time (at this time there have been no food allergies listed). The Christmas program was a delight. Thank you to Tammy Forrester and Bonnie Dahl for making this happen. And a thank you also to Marlene Froese and Edith Krahn for cleaning and pressing all the costumes earlier in the year.

Adult Education continues to be a vibrant community of regular attendees who come for some indepth learning on various topics. The committee spends time finding topics for further learning as they relate to current hot topics in the world, in our immediate church, and the larger church. The lounge offers plenty of room for more to join and participate in the conversations that develop in response to the topics. There is a document that exists from the earlier days of Adult Education that provides an extensive list of all the topics that have been covered over the years. Some we have revisited with a new focus but most often the topics we go with are in connection to the current trends or needs of our immediate NPMC community. Thank you to the members who have served in the past and continue to serve on this committee.

I am excited to be in this leadership role which I took on in late August. I welcome your comments and suggestions as we move forward into 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Epp

### ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education is an important part of Nutana Park Mennonite Church. In some ways, the group functions as a think tank for NPMC, exploring topics and issues that matter to us all. In this past year, the first winter session was a short series on the interdependence of contemplation and action in Christian discipleship, led by Susanne Guenther-Loewen. That was followed by "Living More with Less," in which we used the five principles articulated in MCC's 1980 publication to look at possible ways to respond to the environmental and social challenges of our time. After Easter, we spent the remaining four weeks before the summer break to make our "Living More with Less" discussion as practical as possible. We wanted to "envision new ways in which we might cooperate with the grand divine project of creation" (introductory leaflet).

Our fall series was a four-week discussion on "Listening, Living Together, and Loving One Another even When We Disagree." Given recent trends in politics and religion, both south of the border and closer to

home, we wanted to talk how we might keep our conversations gracious and our relationships healthy within our extended families.

In a longer series thereafter, we chose to look at our Anabaptist heritage and explore the historical, political, and social contexts that shaped the first Anabaptist congregations. Under the leadership of Ron Peters, Susanne Guenther-Loewen, and Edna Froese, we learned a lot of history and discovered things about our forebears we hadn't known before. Beginning in January, we will return to the Anabaptist theme, this time looking at "Anabaptist Theology and Practice: What Is Still Relevant for Us?" Please join us for this series, which will be led by some guest speakers as well as members of our committee and others from NPMC.

Our final series for 2017 was the four-week Advent focus on "The Audacity of Hope" in which we considered the connections between birth narratives and hope, in our Christian faith and in other religions. We concluded our series with the now-traditional peppernuts and tea, and a meditation, on December 24.

The Adult Education Committee faces some challenges in 2018. Our church schedule has changed, and we will need to adjust to a shorter time length for our discussions. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, Susanne will be on maternity leave, and Rachel already has a little one to help spark her creativity and imagination. We're delighted that Paul Schroeder joined our committee in May, but one more committee member would be very welcome, so please consider that if you have been involved in Adult Ed or would like to be. Current committee members are Val Epp, Edna Froese, Renata Klassen, Patrick Preheim, Alan Reese, Rachel Regier, and Paul Schroeder.

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, and Dennis Breen. Susan and Lori develop the collection through the addition of new titles with the support of avid readers in the congregation. Dennis supports bulletin board display and shelving on an ad hoc basis. Recommendations for library materials are always welcome in particular film recommendations would be helpful.

This year we acquired four biographies and adult fiction books, twenty-five picture books, four junior/youth books, thirty-five nonfiction books and one DVD.

The magazine shelving has arrived and is awaiting installation and painting. The painting will be done in the spring.

Inventory and re-labeling of the collection continues with the support of Evelyn Roden and Barbara Ens. We have completed this process for the picture books and juvenile fiction and are continuing with the fiction and biography sections of the library. We are looking to add visual aids to the shelving to help patrons to find materials more efficiently. Susan is contemplating changing the cataloguing and shelving of the adult sections of the library to reflect patron use and eliminate the use of the Dewey Decimal system. The books would be shelved by a more intuitive subject-based system similar to that which you find in a book store. If you have any questions about this potential change, please feel free to have a chat with her. The change is still probably a year or so in the future.

The process of tracking loans and encouraging returns is ongoing. Members are encouraged to think of a month as a typical loan period so items do not get lost over time.

Lori and Susan continue to add new works to the digital catalog for the library. Patrons can search the library database by author, title, and subject. This same catalog is available online at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/NPMC/> .

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

Respectfully submitted,  
The Library Committee

## **ROSTHERN JUNIOR COLLEGE**

### ***Message from the Board Chair Tammy Forrester***

As we continue to work towards the realization of our DO MORE BE MORE strategy we are pleased to present significant work and milestones that have been accomplished this past year as we continue to be guided by our 3 major priorities.

#### **1. Grow Student Enrollment**

As a Board and supporting Recruitment Committee, we continue to work diligently and supportively with school administration, and efforts in 2016-17 paid off. There was growth in our 2016-17 student body and we met our 80+ student goal for the year. This past year we invested time and money into a database software program and the work of inputting of data into that system that fully tracks alumni and potential students.

#### **2. Develop and Enhance the Facility to continue to meet student needs**

Having reached 1/3 of our goal of donations and pledged donations in our Capital Development plan of raising \$1.5 million, we began and completed construction on Phase 1 of our Capital Development plan. All of the projects under the first Phase, including enhancement to the music program, equipment for the athletic program, and the Senior Science Labs, are complete and were on budget. The Board focus will be realizing the goal of the remainder of the capital funds to support Phase 2 and 3, which includes a school and dorm rejuvenation.

#### **3. Enrich Student Programming**

The 2016-17 grade 10 IMAGINE initiative was met with success and worked well in the framework of the school and scheduling. Focus groups came together to share ideas on the development of the Grade 11 and 12 initiative that would follow in the footsteps of the IMAGINE initiative. Groundwork has been laid and the school administration is set to launch the THRIVE (grade 11), EXPLORE (grade 12) and BELONG (community based, community living) initiatives in the 2017 – 18 school year.

We continue to have a presence and opportunity to share RJC at the MC Saskatchewan and MC Alberta Conferences and are encouraged with open dialogue among our supporting conferences.

As we remain focused on our strategies we know that there will be bumps in the road and changes along the way that we must address, we are encouraged by the support of the constituency. We ask for your continued support and prayers throughout the coming year.

### ***Principal's Report Jim Epp***

The 2016-2017 school year was a fun-filled and rewarding time of growth, challenge and learning for RJC's students.

#### **Personnel**

RJC continues to benefit from a committed and dedicated team of staff who together share a common calling to Christian education. Collectively, the teachers, administrative support, custodians, cooks and residence staff work hard to create a warm, supportive and safe school community in which students are challenged to learn, grow and live.

The RJC community celebrated 30 years of dedicated service to the school by Lloyd Schmidt who retired in June 2016. We are grateful for the contributions of both Lloyd and his wife Cheryl as long time staff members at RJC.

The RJC staff was joined by a number of new members. Andrea Enns-Gooding, Hugo Malan and Scott Feick joined the residence staff as deans. Jill Wiens, Allison Schmidt and David Epp joined the teaching staff. All brought new ideas, passion and enthusiasm to the classroom and residence. It is worth noting that five of the six new staff members are also alumni of RJC.

### **Academics**

RJC provides a strong 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. New additions to our course offerings included Music 10 and Spanish 10/20.

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, universities and in the work force.

This fall marked the first year of RJC’s grade 10 IMAGINE initiative. With an emphasis on hands-on learning, collaboration, and community building, grade 10s engaged with fundamental questions about *IMAGINing a better world* and *IMAGINing what you can do*.

Some highlights about the IMAGINE initiative include course offerings, community educational partnerships, and out of province trips. For the first time, grade 10 students had the opportunity to study Spanish.

Outside of the class experiences with community educational partnerships was also a central part of IMAGINE. In total, students learned alongside 30 different organizations or individuals with insight into class material or fundamental IMAGINE questions. Most notably, MCC Saskatchewan facilitated monthly workshops on various topics, including indigenous rights, refugee experiences, and restorative justice.

The grade 10 class also travelled out of province twice. In the first semester students visited Winnipeg, where they explored the idea of inclusion and exclusion throughout the city. The National Museum for Human Rights was the central piece of this trip. During ALSO the grade 10s went to Oliver, B.C., where they partnered with the Okanagan Gleaners to respond to the issue of global hunger by packaging 921,000 servings of dehydrated soup.

### **Dorm Life**

Living and learning together is a cornerstone of the RJC community. The creation of the RJC “learning community” is very intentional and involves both residence and day/commuter student involvement. 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.

### **Chapels**

This year the Faith and Life committee led the student body in chapels using Deuteronomy 4:29 as a guiding passage. Speakers were invited to reflect on ways in which they have found God in new and exciting places. Many of the most meaningful chapels were delivered by grade 12 students, while other highlights included an Advent series, guest speakers from the local community, and staff contributions.

### **Retreats**

All students attended spiritual class retreats in September. The grade 10s and 11s went to Camp Kadesh and Kinasao, while the grade 12s traveled to Big River Bible Camp. Each grade retreat focused on a peace-oriented theme; the grade 10s studied ‘Peace with Self,’ the grade 11s ‘Peace with Creation,’ and the grade 12s ‘Peace with Others.’ MC Sask conference pastors served as speakers at the retreats.



### **Deeper Life Days**

On April 10 and 11, 2017, students at RJC participated in Deeper Life Days. This event, planned with support from the Faith and Life committee, focused on community building, fostering relationships and recognizing the gifts in one another. A particular emphasis of Deeper Life Days was exploring these themes in the context of work and relationships with adults with disabilities.

The first event of Deeper Life Days featured Wyndham Thiessen and Andrea Schmidt, both from L'Arche Saskatoon. This presentation was supplemented with the musical talents of Christopher, a core member of a L'Arche home in Saskatoon.

During the following morning RJC students took these themes and ideas and put them into practice. Four organizations that support adults with disabilities, L'Arche, Farm in the Dell, Sunshine Housing and Valley Action, were invited to bring clients and core members to enjoy a morning of activities with students. The goal was to build relationships and highlight the gifts in one another.

### **Faith and Life Fundraiser**

Under the leadership of the Faith and Life committee the RJC student body embarked on an ambitious fundraising effort in 2017. Students developed an approach known as 'Lentopoly,' in which groups of students raised money while competing on a unique, chapel-sized game board. In total, students collected approximately \$8,000 which was donated to the Rosthern Food Bank and to other charitable groups that students visited on their ALSO trips.

### **ALSO**

Celebrating its 20th year in 2017, Alternative Learning and Service Opportunities (ALSO) has become a cornerstone of RJC programming and instruction. In many ways, ALSO is the culmination of the learning that happens throughout the school year and exemplifies the school's mandate to foster leaders of faith, service, and peacemaking.

Over the 5-12 days of intensive service learning in Saskatoon, Calgary, British Columbia, the Gulf Coast and Guatemala, students were encouraged to put faith into action and respond to issues of poverty, unemployment, racial inequality, injustice and systematic violence. All of this was done alongside committed community partners who modelled Christ-like love through their generosity, discipleship and openness to relationship building.

Upon returning to RJC, students commented on how their experience of serving others was a perspective-altering trip. Some observed that the church is a vital force for good in the world, and noted a renewed appreciation for the kingdom building goals of groups like MCC and Habitat for Humanity. Others felt empowered after recognizing how small actions, like those undertaken by their group, can contribute to lasting change. Finally, many students commented on the lasting impact partners in places like the Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church, the Mustard Seed, ANADESA, the Gleaners and the Ransom Cafe had on their understanding of what it means to live a life of faith.

Finally, we must give thanks for the relationships that RJC has made over the years at each of our ALSO locations. These partnerships are the foundation of our learning and provide some of the best teachers for our students.

### **Performing Arts**

Performing Arts at RJC continues to be a vibrant and active program, centred on vocal arts in choir and theatre. Chorale tour in spring was highlighted by their participation in a Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools Choral Festival in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Chorale joined choirs from Steinbach Christian High School, Mennonite Collegiate Institute, Westgate Mennonite Collegiate and Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute for a great weekend of music making.

The Theatre Arts class presented the short comedy "After Hours" at the end of Semester One. The spring musical for 2016-2017 was "Sister Act". A large cast and crew enjoyed performing for a full house on grad weekend. The musical continues to be a year-end highlight for many. In addition to the choirs, the performing arts continue to be a popular curricular and extra-curricular pursuit for students.

## **Athletics**

Sport continues 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. We are thankful for all the coaches who commit countless hours to our teams and dedicated parents and fans that support our students as they compete!

RJC is a member of the Central Valley Athletic Conference and competed in the following SHSAA sanctioned sports:

- Boys and Girls Volleyball
- Cross Country
- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Football
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Curling
- Badminton
- Track and Field

## **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. 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.

## **2016-2017 School Numbers (as of September 30, 2016)**

|                |    |               |                             |
|----------------|----|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Total Students | 85 |               |                             |
| Boys – 44      |    | Grade 10 – 26 | Day Students – 26           |
| Girls – 41     |    | Grade 11 – 17 | Residence Students – 59     |
|                |    | Grade 12 – 42 | Mennonite Affiliation – 35% |
|                |    |               | Students of Alumni – 25%    |

## **MISSION AND SERVICE MINISTRY**

### **ART IN THE LOUNGE**

It is my privilege, on behalf of Nutana Park Mennonite Church, to facilitate Saskatchewan artists in showing their work.

Our objectives for doing this are as follows:

- 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

Nutana Park Mennonite Church and the artist enter into an agreement with the following conditions:

- Nutana Park Mennonite Church (NPMC) reserves the right to postpone the display of art works at any time prior to the commencement of the actual display. In the event of postponement NPMC will make arrangements to rebook the artist
- NPMC reserves the right to reject or remove any or all submitted art works at any time during the display period
- NPMC shall not request monetary remuneration for the rights of the artist acquired under this contract, nor shall NPMC be entitled to any sales commission on any work of art sold while on display
- agreement for sales of art works shall be made directly between the artist and the buyer, and not through the NPMC office
- NPMC shall not be liable for any damage, theft, or other loss in relation to any work of art on display

The artists who showed their artwork at NPMC in 2017 were as follows:

- January - February: Members of Big Sky Artists
- March - April: Members of Big Sky Artists

May - June: Val Epp and Julia Epp  
July - August: No Show  
September - October: Jeanne Marcotte  
November - December: Celeste Delahey  
Thank you to each artist who shared their art with us.

Submitted by  
Hedie Borne

## CHURCH LIFE

Church IS community ... much of what we do, we do in cooperation with each other. This report serves as a reminder of the strength that comes from that.

My portfolio umbrella covers community life (including events like the wedding and baby shower, the garage sale, fall harvest festival, movie nights, Christmas banquet, etc.), Care Groups, Bethany Manor and Sherbrooke worship services, Shekinah Sunday, conference and media. I am extremely grateful for everyone who is involved in helping organize events and saying "yes", when I tap them on the shoulder to volunteer. Marlene is always willing to lend an ear if I feel the need to run something by her and I value her opinion.

In 2017, our congregation brought six worship services to Sherbrooke on a scheduled Sunday afternoon and it has been my delight to work alongside Patrick and Susanne and the plethora of others who have given of their time to share their stories and talents with the residents there. I have been attempting to bring our worship theme from the morning forward to Sherbrooke in the afternoon to have our worship with them feel like an extension of our community. Of course there are adjustments made to accommodate the time frame and intimate space in their chapel, but generally this has worked well. We also brought two services to Bethany Manor in 2017. With these services happening simultaneously to ours at Nutana it brings a different set of challenges. As of this year we will be scheduled to bring four services to Sherbrooke and two (or possible three) to Bethany. I look forward to people continuing to saying "yes" when I tap you on the shoulder as our community serves another community in this way.

Our annual garage sale at the end of May was an overwhelming success on all fronts ... items donated, volunteers, treasure seekers and in terms of a donation to MCC from the proceeds.

The "Belles & Beaus", "little fingers and toes" shower recognized seven couples and welcomed nine babies into our community. It's a meaningful time for those who attend the event to hear what our guests have to share as they enter new chapters in their lives.

Conferences at a variety of levels continue to be a strong foundation of who we are. Our congregation is always looking for delegates to attend a conference and then report on the discussion that took place. Please let me know if you are interested in a conference on the horizon and I will add you to the list of delegates.

Just before summer, I was finally able to determine what system would work best for the use of the monitor in the foyer and have enjoyed updating it on a weekly basis with photos from community events and worship services. If you happen to miss an event or a worship service, you can catch up by checking it out. I appreciate Howard's diligence in having his camera ready and thank you to Sarah and a few others who have also supplied me with photos.

Finally our Christmas banquet was a testament to the power of community as many of you who attended could attest to. Working together rather than as silos is something we have discussed at the board level and that model certainly seems to be alive and well at Nutana Park as we continue to strengthen community and relationships inside and outside our walls.

Blessings,  
Denelda

## **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 program for the Ecumenical Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Saskatoon was planned by the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism for January 2017. The theme for the services was "Reconciliation-The Love of Christ Compels Us " 2 Corinthians 5: 14-20. We began our Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Saskatoon on January 22 with an opening worship service at Redeemer Lutheran Church. During the eight days there were twelve 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 29 was at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church with guest speaker, Rev.Dr. Dirk Lange. Rev. Lange was also the keynote speaker at the fifth annual De Margerie Lecture Series, held at St.Thomas More College on the Thursday evening.His lecture was entitled "Reformation Today: From Conflict to Communion, Together in Hope".

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 thirty years of building 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 65 to 95 people from seven or more congregations. In 2017 these services were hosted at St. Martin's United Church on Wednesday mornings at 8:15 beginning on Ash Wednesday March 1 through the Lent season to April 12.

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 approximately 20 people from several congregations. Beginning in the fall season in September 2017 the leadership for these sessions was taken by Jac Nickel. Vern has retired from his leadership role for this group. Our appreciation and thanks go to Vern Ratzlaff who has facilitated the weekly Ecumenical Bible Study for twenty-four plus years at NPMC.

It is to be noted that Mennonite Church Saskatchewan has discontinued funding for the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism. As such, there is no longer Mennonite representation on the Board of the PCE. However, we are encouraged to support the work as well as the programs, events and activities of the PCE through our congregations and as individuals. Information and updates regarding the work and the ongoing programs and events of the PCE are available at their website [www.pceecumenism.ca](http://www.pceecumenism.ca) as well as on Facebook and Twitter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kurt Sawatzky

## **FELLOWSHIP**

It has been a year filled with many delicious potlucks. Our time together in sharing a meal and conversation nourishes the body and the soul. With the congregations help in setting up tables in the morning, sharing in the potluck and cleaning up, we are able to enjoy time together.

The support and hard work of the Fellowship committee creates opportunities for community. Nutana Park along with Pleasant Point Church hosted the MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions in March, 2017. With all the volunteers that helped serving meals and coffee breaks many were fed and nourished that weekend.

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  
Lois Tiessen

Funerals:

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolene Funk

### **MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SASKATCHEWAN**

MCC's work is a gathering of many people and our humble gifts for something larger than ourselves to be shared beyond ourselves. 40 years ago, Mennonite farmers, here in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, took inspiration from the biblical story of Joseph who stored up grain for use during years of famine so there would be enough for all. In the fall of 1976, farmers here began collecting grain for what was then called the MCC Food Bank. Others were negotiating with the Canadian government to create a sturdy partnership that has continued to this day with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, leveraging millions of federal government dollars for food aid. We are grateful for the agricultural community, together with urban supporters, which has fed this vision and for four decades has made people more food secure around the world. We are humbled every day by this organic thing that is MCC, by the hundreds and thousands of souls that make it breathe with each gift, each action, each relationship. You make MCC breathe here in Saskatchewan and also in Syria and South Sudan, in Haiti and Cuba, in Peru and Indonesia, in so many beautiful and broken places on this earth. Cash is not just cash, Thrift Shops are not just Thrift Shops, blankets are not just blankets, and relief kits and school kits are not just kits, they are tangible tools to share God's love and compassion for all, in the name of Christ. They are tangible tools for God to work among people, to build communities of peace even amidst the devastation of war or natural disaster. We are so grateful to each one of you for being part of this ministry of compassion and of reconciliation. Your gifts of time and skills and money make all our work possible. May our efforts bring comfort and strength and hope here and around the world, in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God!

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

Together we are part of MCC's work in 56 countries, supporting 515 partners with 767 projects in the areas of disaster relief, health, food and livelihoods, education, migration & resettlement, peacebuilding and restorative justice.

Eileen Klassen Hamm  
Executive Director, MCC Sask

## **MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA**

***“God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace, so that God’s healing and hope flow through us to the world”***

This has been a year of transition. Yet in the midst of significant staff reduction and restructuring, we have continued to position ourselves so that God’s healing and hope can flow through us to the world. Some of the program highlights of this past year:

### **Indigenous-Settler Relations**

- **Formal Name Change**
  - We are excited to announce that Indigenous Relations has been formally re-named Indigenous-Settler Relations (approved by Joint Council, December 2017). The change seeks to communicate to constituency and the broader public that our nationwide work is an effort to renew and repair mutual relationships between both Indigenous *and Settler* peoples.
  
- **UNDRIP and Bill C-262**
  - In June 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called all Canadian churches to engage the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) within our respective constituencies and the broader Canadian public (Call to Action #48). According to the TRC Final Report, the Declaration is so important that it should be understood as the “framework for reconciliation” in Canada. In response, Mennonite Church Canada’s Indigenous-Settler Relations program has sought to mobilize the church in support of the Declaration through teach-ins, two book resources (*Wrongs to Rights* and *Lifting Hearts off the Ground*), the Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights, the Fast for Indigenous Rights, and a postcard campaign of over 35,000 cards.

A significant part of our education and advocacy efforts have been directed towards Bill C-262—*An Act to Ensure that the Laws of Canada are in Harmony with the UNDRIP*. A private members bill crafted by Romeo Saganash—Cree Member of Parliament (NDP) and residential school survivor— Bill C-262 would affirm that the Declarations’ minimum standards for the survival of Indigenous peoples have legal application in Canada.

When Bill C-262 was initially introduced, many said that it would never get the support of the Government. Yet through the tireless work of grassroots advocacy—including Christian Peacemaker Teams and Mennonite Church Canada—the Government of Canada announced on November 20, 2017 that it is going to support the Bill. It is amazing news! We still have a ways to go before it receives ‘royal assent’ and thus becomes law. Yet if passed, Bill C-262 will be a tremendous step towards the liberating justice that Jesus proclaimed for the oppressed (Luke 4:18-19).

### **International Witness**

Our International Witness work has continued to remain strong with 19 workers through this past year. Some highlights this year include;

- Peacebuilders Community Inc, PBCI, responded to violence in Marawi City, Mindanao with 288 Peace & Reconciliation (PAR) monitors in the affected region.
- The newly formed Mennonite Church South Korea, MCSK, hosted its second annual “Assembly” in September.
- Witness worker Bock Ki Kim is leading an effort to plant a new Anabaptist/Mennonite church in Seoul.
- Mike & Cheryl Nimz are helping to start a new Anabaptist group in Birmingham, England.
- Nathan and Taryn Dirks (after 5 years) completed their ministry in Botswana, leaving a great impact in the whole country for having built the first Futsal/sports park in Botswana.

Mushroom cultivation was taught to women of the Grace Community of Churches (GCC) in South Africa. A brick making machine has also been purchased in collaboration with AIMM, MCC and MMN to help construct church buildings.

- Other workers include: Darnell & Christina Barkman (Philippines); Jeanette Hanson (Canada/China); Lillian & Norm Nicolson (Burkina Faso); Jennifer Otto & Greg Rabus (Germany); Tom & Christine Poovong (Thailand); Hippolyto & Miriam Tshimanga (South Africa); George & Tobia Veith (China).

Although we are not able to include highlights from all our workers, please check out further worker descriptions in the following link: [https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/projects/by\\_worker](https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/projects/by_worker)

### **CommonWord Report**

CommonWord is a unique and growing hybrid ministry embracing the resourcing needs of

- church, university and neighbourhood,
- local and national communities,
- Mennonite and ecumenical conversations

by providing a fusion of services:

- curated resources to buy, borrow, or download
- availability of staff for resource consultation

We are grateful to report strong numbers in 2017 that reflect a growing ministry:

- Sales revenue, for the first 10 months of our current fiscal year, is up 27.6%. Online sales revenue is up 41%, including competitively priced MennoMedia titles and Mennonite Church Canada products.
- In 2017, 48% of items borrowed by congregations circulated outside Manitoba, including increases in MCBC, MCA and MCEC.
- 17.2% of all items borrowed in 2017 circulated outside Mennonite Church Canada, the highest percentage ever.
- Download totals increased 18% in 2017, including “Community Developed” titles contributed by congregations and others.

Help bring CommonWord to your congregation:

- Connect leaders and readers to the 12,000 items at [www.commonword.ca](http://www.commonword.ca). Friend us on Facebook and sign up to receive our electronic *Curator*. Certainly visit us if you’re ever in Winnipeg.
- Request a display on a particular theme to match a worship or educational event. We’ll help with the selection and send up to 20 loan books for free.
- Submit a Cheaper by the Dozen order. We’ll send you 12 different book titles on loan for an extended period – again at no cost. A great way to supplement your church library, discuss a committee issue, or encourage reading! Set up a standing order and we’ll do this on a regular 6-week cycle.
- Make your purchases through CommonWord. We special order most titles. And regularly discount most items. One congregation recently combined their families’ “gift-giving” for Christmas with a single purchase through CommonWord. One congregation supports their pastor’s continuing education fund by having an account at CommonWord. One family gifted their loved one with a standing monthly order of “book and coffee” from CommonWord. We’d be glad to talk about possibilities!

### **Closing**

Thank you for continued financial support of the Regional Churches, which makes the work of the nationwide priorities possible.

Willard Metzger



## MENNONITE CHURCH SASKATCHEWAN



Over the last year, I have had the privilege of visiting most of our congregations either on a Sunday morning for worship or during one of our many regional meetings and I am continually grateful to your ongoing commitment to be church together. This is not always easy. We are spread out from Wymark in the Southwest to Carrot River in the Northeast. We are a mix of urban, rural, and somewhere in between. Politically, we vote Green, NDP, Sask Party, Conservative, and Liberal. We are Builders, Boomers, X'ers, and Millennials with different experiences of God's grace and call in our lives, and yet together we are a community of 28 Mennonite Congregations who have covenanted to be Christ Centered and Sent as we seek to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace. In a world that is deeply polarized, being as diverse as we are yet centred on Christ is gift to each other and a witness to Jesus in the world. Thank you for being that gift!

If I only had one word to describe 2017, it would be dynamic. Much is changing in society and across the Canadian expression of the Church. In late October, I had the opportunity to attend the Church Planting Canada Congress in Montreal and there too, many confirmed what we already know. Life in Canadian society and in our congregations is changing and while these changes bring loss and lament, they also provide opportunities to re-examine who we are and to try new ways of being.

In response to these dynamic times, both Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church Saskatchewan have made changes to adjust for the future. In October, MC Canada Delegates passed new bylaws that created a new Mennonite Church Canada where our Nationwide Community of Faith is an integration of our Regional Churches. MC Sask, together with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, Mennonite Church Manitoba, Mennonite Church Alberta, and Mennonite Church British Columbia, will work together on our nationwide priorities, such as Leadership Development, Indigenous-Settler Relations, International Witness, and CommonWord Resource Centre and Bookstore.

This past year, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan invited Betty Pries to guide us through **Refresh, Refocus, Renew**; an intentional year long process to re-examine who we are as MC Sask and to prayerfully open ourselves to God's call in this time and place. Over 60 folks from across the province attended the first retreat with Betty in April and over 70 attended the second retreat in September. This time of listening to God's call continues as the Visioning Reference Group meets with Betty and prepares to present in March.

This, of course, is only a small portion of what we do together. Most of our work happens away from the MC Sask office and throughout the province. Here is only a small snapshot of 2017:

- In January & May, SMYO held its Senior High and Junior High Retreats.
- In February, 10 pastors traveled to Canadian Mennonite University for *ReNew: Resourcing Pastors for Ministry*. This annual pastors event is co-sponsored by MC Sask.
- In June, many of our folks planned and provided booths for the annual MCC Relief Sale.
- Also in June, the Mennonite Nursing Home in Rosthern broke ground for twenty new rooms and a chapel.
- Throughout the summer, our three camps (Camp Elim, Youth Farm Bible Camp, Shekinah Retreat Centre) all saw an increase in campership and programming.
- In the summer, we were invited to Muskeg Lake Cree Nation twice; first for their annual Canada Day Powwow and in August for the joint Muskeg Lake/MC Sask Event, Shared Land/Shared Song, Music under the Arbor.
- In August, MC Sask moved from Pawka Place to the MCC Building (which felt like moving home)
- In August, MC Sask Sponsored the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Spruce River Folk Festival north of PA
- In September, Kirsten left us to become the Interim Executive Director at Shekinah for six months and Katie Wiebe stepped in to lead our Youth Programming.
- In October, just under 60 people attended workshops at Equipping Day at Zoar Mennonite Church, Waldheim, including a very powerful workshop by Steve & Abby Heinrichs and their journey together as a Settler Father and Indigenous Daughter. (Steve is Director of Indigenous/Settler Relations with MC Canada)



- In November, roughly 60 people gathered for the MC Sask Fall Leadership Assembly to hear about changes to MC Canada & MC Sask as well as reports from all our programs. This was the first Fall Leadership with Congregational Representation, which was well received...look to send representatives in November of 2018.
- On December 9, at the A Buncha Guys & Sonrisa Christmas Concert in Saskatoon, Russ and Val Regier were presented with a Lifetime Community Service Award on behalf of MCC Saskatchewan, Shekinah Retreat Centre and Mennonite Church Saskatchewan.

Again, this is just a sampling of what we do as Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. As we move into 2018, may we do so together; deepening our walk with God, with each other, and the world.

In Christ,  
 Ryan Siemens, Executive Minister  
 Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

### **MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE**

#### Three Houses, Two Sites, One Goal

In May of 2016 a wildfire nicknamed “The Beast” wiped out over 2500 structures in Fort McMurray. As MDS planned our response we identified three clients who lost their homes and didn’t have the means to rebuild.

Anticipating a building boom in Fort McMurray and wondering how we would be able to get timely access to materials and necessary skilled trades, a creative solution was considered. What if we could build the houses at a different location, while preparing the foundations in Fort Mac?

Our Saskatchewan Unit took the lead in coordinating the building of 3 Ready-To-Move (RTM) homes in Hague, Saskatchewan. Zak’s Building Group partnered with us in providing materials and expertise to get the houses built and moved. Meanwhile, at the Fort McMurray worksite, foundations and basements were prepared.

Three houses, two sites and one goal. The goal is to show the love of Christ. At MDS we frequently talk about seeking to be the hands and feet of Jesus. The miracle our volunteers most frequently talk about witnessing is clients rediscover the hope. They discover it through the loving manner in which volunteers rebuild. As one of the retired widows in Fort McMurray said, “I didn’t know there were people like you left in the world.” We trust that the real person she and others see, was Jesus – using our small gifts to reveal the immeasurable love of God.

In addition to our Fort McMurray/Hague project, MDS Canada was active in helping a BC family rebuild and a Manitoba family muck out and replace basement infrastructure. In Ontario, several houses were mucked out from flooding in different areas of the province. In the Ottawa River Valley, 2 new houses are currently being built. We did our first family project in Atlantic Canada at Camp Wildwood and also had a successful youth project in Hepburn, Saskatchewan.

In this coming year we will anticipate planning a response to the BC fires of last summer. The preparation phase is underway as we seek to identify those in need. We have been blessed by healthy giving in 2017 that allows us to make plans for the coming year.

We continue to keep our centre as a grassroots movement of people like you; people who make up the Mennonite and Anabaptist communities who want to live out their faith in practical ways. Thank you for the chance to work with you towards the one goal – sharing the love of Christ.

Prepared by Ross Penner  
 Director of Canadian Operations

## **REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

*Refugee Assistance Program (January to September 30, 2017)*

*As an update of the Refugee Assistance Program, we have reached the end of our sponsorship commitment to the Kharsa family. This family is doing well and have adjusted to life in Canada with the adults continuing their ESL studies and the children doing well in school.*

*We have at the present time one active sponsorship on file and one pending application. The first is a Syrian family of 2 adults and 4 children sponsored by St Philip Neri where we together with several other churches have promised support. Our commitment is in the form of \$10,000 to St Philip Neri. This family is at present in Turkey and have recently been called for interviews. Their arrival is anticipated in the next year or two. The second, which has not yet been formalized with MCC, is of a single pregnant woman, who was raped, from Iran, and who is hiding in Turkey at the present time from family persecution. Her mother is presently living in Saskatoon and is a friend of Rhonda Krahn. The RAP committee request that Church Council allow us to make a formal application through MCC for this woman. It would be in the form of a co-sponsorship as her mother will be the primary support person for her when she comes. After the application is completed anticipated arrival will be approximately 2 years.*

*Our balance in the RAP account at present is \$1154.75. A financial statement of our latest sponsorship, the Kharsa family, will be submitted to the treasurer.*

*Arnold Nickel, RAP Co-ordinator.*

Many thanks to Arnie Nickel for years of leadership as coordinator of the Refugee Assistance Program. Arnie's commitment combined with his professional experience and advocacy on behalf of refugees resulted in our church being able to effectively support numerous families in their transition to Canada. This past year there have also been many individuals from NPMC who have supported newcomers. Financial contributions and support including completing documentation, arranging transportation and coordinating school needs, finances, household and health requirements are examples of how people have assisted. And in every instance there are individuals from NPMC who make a special effort to encourage and befriend newcomers. Thanks to all who have contributed during the last year.

There were no new applications for sponsorship in the last 3 months of 2017. The financial support provided through sponsoring the Kharsa family was significant including extensive dental care to a level that was above what was initially budgeted. Members of the congregation gave generously to cover these costs. As indicated in Arnie's summary there are 2 files that will be ongoing in 2018.

The balance in the refugee assistance fund at the end of December, 2017 is \$3695.

Gord Enns, RAP Co-ordinator

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

The past year, 2017, is being remembered as one of change and transition. To begin the year we had our most significant change in formal services provided as we began offering licensed "Personal Care" for up to 18 residents. The requests for this enhanced level of service package within "The Villa" were soon greater than what we could accommodate and we became the only personal care service provider in Saskatoon with a waiting list.

Our first change in leadership happened in April at the corporation's annual meeting as Joe Guenther had served his maximum term as board chair and I stepped into that role. Within a few weeks we welcomed Jerry Letkeman in the Executive Director position as Glen Grismer retired. Jerry was somewhat familiar with the local community already as he has lived in Hepburn for a number of years and most recently worked at MCC Sask office after years of being a pastor and college administrator.

Jerry has become well engaged in the community of Bethany Manor and has commented about how much he enjoys this role in his life. As the year draws to a close we are also saying goodbye to the longest serving staff member the organization has known. Bonnie Ramage celebrated 30 years of service this past summer, and now wishes to retire.

As part of the personal care licensing process, we committed to several projects. Some minor kitchen renovations were completed earlier and this year we repurposed an area for residents' activities. Some old recipes have been dusted off as some have enjoyed doing some of their own baking again after many years. Other residents have just enjoyed the results of these efforts.

The other main project – the Walkway from Bethany Tower to the dining room did receive a bright green light from the board in what was supposed to be enough time for all contracts to be completed this year, but some new issues have delayed this to 2018. Authorization came when we received 50% - \$450,000 – of the total \$900,000 goal. We will continue to pursue donations for this cause until it reaches the goal.

As our facilities age, maintenance and repairs become more costly. Some things can be more easily planned for than others. Unplanned replacement of items in our mechanical systems are significant, but given the fee structure changes over the past 3 years, we were able to handle the over \$100,000 cost this summer when a group of 3 boilers needed replacement. We also are continuing to catch up on other non-essential but desired upgrades of flooring and appliances.

Our staff and service providers continue to go above and beyond that which would normally be expected. The sense of community that the board feels whenever we are there is very gratifying and humbling as we know we did not start it. When a staff person – who at the time did not know I was a director – mentions to me this is the first job she has had where she looks forward to going to work, I know we have something very good here that does Glorify our God.

And now we look to the future. We all know nothing remains the same for long. Needs of our current and future residents will change. How we approach this will be discussed in depth by the board in the coming year. If you have any thoughts on changes/improvements/projects we should consider, let your designated director know or contact me directly.

Doyle Wiebe  
Board Chair

## **SHEKINAH RETREAT CENTRE**



Shekinah strives to be a place “where all who come have the opportunity to experience the presence and glory of God” (from the Shekinah mission statement). This statement is at the heart of what we do, whether it’s singing with campers around the fire, leading school groups down a trail, or welcoming a group to the Timber Lodge for a weekend of rest and relaxation; our goal is for everyone who visits to have a true ‘shekinah’ experience.

Both our summer camp and school group programs saw growth in 2017, which was great! There is always room to grow, however, and part of that growth in 2018 will include the building of three new **Timber Frame Cabins!** This plan was launched in 2017, and we are now ready to make these unique, incredible buildings a reality. The design offers a building that can handle life on a flood plain, and will provide a significant upgrade to our summer camp, school group, and rental programs. We hope to build the first cabin in Spring, with a good ‘ol fashioned ‘timber raising’ on the first day. Volunteers will be needed, either just for a day, or for the week, so stay tuned! More information, and maybe a tour, will be available at the **Spring Fundraising Banquet on April 7<sup>th</sup>**. The next two cabins will be built in summer, with another three to be built in 2018. Please visit the website or contact the office for more information. These cabins mark a significant step in maintaining and growing the vision for Shekinah which began back in 1979, and we would love to have you involved!



### **From the Board:**

The fall of 2017 has been a season of change for Shekinah. Change can mean many things; heartache, uncertainty, excitement, hope... Among countless other emotions, these have been deeply felt this year.

It is with a great amount of gratitude that the Shekinah board would like to thank our constituents and community for the outpouring of support this fall. We have been met with the gifts of volunteer time, words of encouragement, prayers and generous financial donations. These contributions continue to improve the mission and vision of Shekinah and help create a space for all those who experience Shekinah to come a little closer to God. Entering the new year, there is much to look forward to. We have wonderful staff, both new and old, who make the day to day workings of Shekinah possible, the cabin project continues to be an exciting venture which will greatly enhance the camp and school programs, and the board will be exploring strategies that will improve the sustainability of Shekinah. Opportunities for new staff are on the horizon and we look forward to the possibilities and fresh ideas that come with a new Executive Director.

A heartfelt thank you to the community for your ongoing support of Shekinah Retreat Centre, its staff and its programs.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

In January 2017, Sunday school consisted of "Creative Church" which occurred during the church service (usually between 1120-1200). This format changed in September 2017 to accommodate a weekly singing component and a more structured curriculum.

The Sunday School program, still occurring at around 1115 weekly, now serves children from preschool through grade six. For now, to accommodate variable attendance, all the kids are grouped together for each session. If everyone were to attend, which has not yet happened since September, that would include approximately 20 students. On average, around 5 or 6 children attend each week. Overall, the large age range of involved children has worked well. Parents have seemed generally satisfied with the format, and I have not received any constructive feedback so far. If attendance increases and the volunteer pool is sufficient, we could think about dividing the group into tighter age categories in the future.

The content of Sunday School is based on a curriculum borrowed from Osler Mennonite Church. The general themes covered include a detailed review of the life of Moses, a review of the 10 commandments, the good Samaritan, and more. Thank you to Bonnie and Tammy for putting together such a wonderful Christmas program which exposed our kids to the story of the birth of Jesus and provided great entertainment for the congregation. Special thanks also to Lisa Doepker who has stocked the "quiet bags" which contain quiet activities for the kids to use during the church service.

The other significant change since September is weekly singing coordinated by Brent Guenther and Mackenzie Fast. We are so excited to have resurrected this old tradition which Jake and Barb Ens (and others) had so diligently carried on in the past. The kids are learning many different songs, and parents are really enjoying singing along. Others have put their names forth to support the weekly singing initiative which I appreciate.

Starting in January 2018, Sunday School will occur at the same time, with singing starting around 1115. Please note, given the change in time of the Sunday worship service (10am start), Sunday School will in effect take place **after** church.

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

Marlie Leis

# BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

This year's Buildings and Grounds annual report is going to be short. After having gone through a rather large project for our church building last year with the sewer pipe replacement and facelift I am sure than none of you will be disappointed. Thank you again to all who contributed to this project with capable leadership, skilled labour and significant financial support.

We have an aging building that requires renewal. Our project last year was one of the results of this fact, and we did make some significant improvements last year to prolong the life of our building. Yet, as some of you will no doubt have noticed, a water stain has appeared in the ceiling of the foyer and a ceiling tile is missing in the kitchen, both indications that a roof repair may be in the not-to-distant future. We will have an assessment done once the weather warms and let you know the results.

Thank you also to all who work to keep our facility operating. There are tasks that happen almost like magic – the lawn is watered and mowed, the sidewalks are shovelled, the toilets get fixed, and many other maintenance items that none of us see.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Winder

## **NUTANA PARK MENNONITE CHURCH**

Pastoral Staff: Susanne Guenther Loewen  
Patrick Preheim

Youth Leader: Sarah Unrau

### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Chairperson         | Tammy Forrester |
| Vice-Chair          |                 |
| Secretary           | Mackenzie Fast  |
| Treasurer           | Bert Klassen    |
| Bookkeeper          | Carmen Epp      |
| Building & Grounds  | Kelly Winder    |
| Caring & Visitation | Debra Heinrichs |
| Christian Education | Valerie Epp     |
| Church Life         | Denelda Fast    |
| Fellowship          | Carolene Funk   |
| Music               | Bonnie Dahl     |
| Worship             | Brent Guenther  |

### **CO-ORDINATORS**

|                                      |                      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Adult Education                      | Edna Froese          |
| Art in the Lounge                    | Hedie Borne          |
| Auditor                              | Virtus Group         |
| Billeting                            | Carolene Funk        |
| Custodian                            | Senayit Woldemicheal |
| Decorations                          | Nicole Tiessen       |
| Greeters                             | Lydia Schroeder      |
| Historian-Archives                   | Merna Ediger         |
| Library                              | Susan Ens Funk       |
|                                      | Dennis Breen         |
|                                      | Lori Weiler-Thiessen |
| Saskatoon Mennonite<br>Care Services | Geraldine Balzer     |
| Refugee Assistance                   | Gordon Enns          |
| Sunday School                        | Marlie Leis          |
| Ushers                               | Brent Guenther       |

### **CARING & VISITATION COMMITTEE**

Debra Heinrichs  
Marian Driedger  
Janae Funk  
Jaye Warkentin  
Kathleen Regier  
Lori & Dave Weiler-Thiessen  
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