

GENERAL

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MC BC Staff

Henry Kliewer

Conference
Minister

Chris Arney

Evangelism and
Church
Development
Director

Ellie Loewen

Administrative
Secretary (until
June 8, 2002)

Camp Squeah Staff:

Rudy Kehler

Executive Director

Rob Tiessen

Program Director

Dan Friesen

Property Manager

Eileen Neufeld

Food Services
Manager

La Vern Klassen

Admin Assistant



Photos: Chris Arney

Menonite Church British Columbia

Activity:

A provincial area conference that desires to express unity by a passionate allegiance and commitment to Jesus Christ; reflecting and including in our thirty-nine congregations the diversity of languages, ethnic and social backgrounds present in BC.

Year-round, Camp Squeah provides a place of refuge in a natural setting where people of all ages can build relationships, grow and be nurtured. In partnership with the Mennonite Brethren Church we support Columbia Bible College as it prepares students for a life of discipleship, service and ministry in the contemporary world.

Ministry goals and objectives:

We are resolved to sow, grow and reproduce healthy churches and believers within British Columbia.

Average Annual Budget:

\$642,500 (without Camp Squeah)

\$1,236,300 (with Squeah)

Reporting to:

We are affiliated with Mennonite Church Canada, accountable to our churches and delegates who represent the churches at our Annual Sessions.

Chief Officers:

Gerd Bartel, moderator; Doug Epp, vice-moderator; Lorin Bergen, secretary; Jane Andres, treasurer

Being Sent...

It was a difficult meeting. Turned down by Immigration, they'd given him his departure date—which had come and gone some days earlier. He said he wanted help (and Churches are supposed to be compassionate). What he wanted was cash. What he needed was a changed life.

The congregation would have been glad to walk with him as he straightened out his affairs. They wanted to help him face the consequences of his

choices. But it was clear that what he wanted, and what the church thought he needed, were not the same thing. He didn't want anyone to walk with him. He didn't want to alter his lifestyle, or face consequences. He said they weren't Christian, or they would have helped him (given him the money). They said they were trying to help, but he wasn't willing to receive it. He left angry and empty handed. They left sad.

BC's fellowships meet people every day with a multitude of needs. In the context of Christian communities offering healing and hope, they can often find the help they need. Sometimes they don't. And then again, often, they do...

A woman left her homeland because everything she had was already lost. She came to Vancouver to start over. Once she'd been a "professional", but in Canada they didn't recognize her training or her skills. Once she'd been Catholic, but now, in making new beginnings she'd shucked that garment too. It hadn't fit her well. But with no job, no home, no friends, she eventually found herself living on the street.

Some months ago, she met someone from a one of our congregations. Further talk followed along with coffee, hot meals, and some clothes from the thrift store. Conversation and visits grew. She came to worship, and stayed for the coffee and conversation in her mother tongue. People in the church found her a place to stay. They found useful things for her to do. She'd really only planned to visit long enough to get the things she wanted. But for some reason she found herself remaining, and receiving the things she really needed. She met Jesus through that church, and found meaning in that community.



She came very much seeking things for the immediate present, but they also helped her find a whole new future.

These are just two stories of how MCBC is engaged in God's mission. There are many more that can be told and will yet be told.—submitted by MCBC staff

Mennonite Church Alberta

Activity:

Mennonite Church Alberta seeks to be a community of Anabaptist-Mennonite congregations growing as communities of grace, joy and peace, and together presenting Jesus Christ to the world.

This past year has been a significant one for our congregations and our conference. More than a year and a half ago, following times of disruption and fractured relationships, we committed ourselves to a Covenant of Renewal: a renewal of our individual and corporate faith, of commitment to faithful living, of reaffirming and rebuilding relationships between and among individuals and congregations, of renewing our passion for evangelism and service. Through much prayer and much dedicated effort on the part of our Conference General Council, our pastors, our congregational leaders, and our congregations, we are again becoming a united Conference.

For over a year, a Restructuring Committee worked closely in consultation with our congregations to develop a new constitution which would give clearer expression to our faith and convictions, and which would provide a structure and process to help us accomplish our goals. This Committee was chaired by Menno Epp, Saskatoon, [former Moderator of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada], and was composed of Ernie Toews (Foothills - Calgary), Rob Baerg (Rosemary), Linden Willms (Springridge), Kurt Janz (First - Calgary), Ruth Neufeldt (Foothills - Calgary). This group received assistance from a Review and Editing Committee composed of former Moderators of our Conference: Henry Goerzen (Didsbury), Ted Rempel (First - Edmonton), and Dan Klassen (Coaldale). Legal advice and review was provided by Colin Neufeldt (First - Edmonton).

All of these groups worked so effectively in consultation with our congregations that at our Annual Assembly in Didsbury in early March, the delegates approved the document by an overwhelming margin – in excess of 98%! We are now Mennonite Church Alberta. God be praised!

Looking to the Future

1. This will be an exciting year of implementing our new Constitution – some new committees, new processes, and new directions. Working to improve communication and relationships between and among our congregations will be high on our agenda.

2. One of the significant provisions of our new constitution invites our pastors to work together more actively to provide spiritual direction and counsel for our congregations and our Conference.

3. Camping Ministry Youth Ministry: We look for dynamic leadership from our new Camp Valaqua directors – Don and Tanya Dyck-Steinman of Waterloo. Our Camp Committee is engaged in planning significant up-grades to the facilities – including the ‘Vauxhall Cabin’ specifically for individuals with physical handicaps.

4. Our Conference has approved the creation of a new full-time position, Conference Minister – Mission Facilitator. This position will be jointly funded and administered by MCA and MC Canada. We want to be more active and intentional in sharing our faith and our resources.
—submitted by John Schellenberg

MCA Officers

John Schellenberg
Moderator
Lorne Buhr
Secretary
Linden Willms
Vice-Moderator
Don Neufeldt
Finance



Allyson Enns (Edmonton) and Amanda Brown (Didsbury) float with campers down the Little Red Deer River. Photos: Nicky Berg



Valaqua counsellors Tyler Regehr (Tofield) and Jeff Friesen (Edmonton) create a moment to remember.

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Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Activity

A body of thirty-eight congregations seeking to align themselves with God's purposes in the world.

Ministry goals and objectives

To provide nurture, leadership and assistance to local congregations, through connecting them with each other, the wider church and the global community. Doing together what we can't do as individual congregations.

Average Annual Budget

\$422,000

Reporting to

Executive / General Council (Armin J. Krahn, moderator; Allan Klassen, vice moderator; Lois Mierau, secretary; Henry Jantzen: finance chair) and the congregations of MC Sask.

North Saskatchewan River." (from an article by Peter Wilson, agWORLD, Sept. 8, 1999) The timber framing part of the project went well thanks to the leadership of the Peters brothers from Mitchell, Manitoba.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan members were joined by individuals from the Saskatchewan Correctional Centre Urban Camp program, who served part of their sentence working on projects in the community. Urban Camp workers were brought to and from Shekinah by Saskatoon area Mennonite Church volunteers, resulting in over 21,000 kms of driving, and 2500 hours of labour.

When funds ran low and spirits dropped, local contractors offered their expertise at little more than cost, individuals came forward with unexpected donations and others did more creative fundraising.

In the past three years, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan constituents have rubbed shoulders with the wider community in the same way that a prairie fire can race across fields. A dream has taken hold and people have become excited, dedicating time and energy, with no immediate rewards other than the belief that Timber Lodge is a worthwhile project and they want to be part of it.

Even though Timber Lodge is not fully completed, it is functional, comfortable and ready for visitors. The Saskatchewan Women in Mission were the first to test out the new beds, feel the warmth of the timber shelter, and wake in the morning to see the incredible view from the Lodge windows.

Timber Lodge represents a dream to those that believe in the meaning of the word "Shekinah" – the radiance and presence of God's glory among God's people. It is to be shared and experienced by all who come to Shekinah Retreat Centre. May we seek God's face as we pursue the fruition of this and many other dreams for ministry.

—submitted by Armin Krahn, moderator, MC Sask.

Staff

Rudy Froese

Conference Minister
(until summer, 2002)

Anna Rehan

Conference Youth
Minister

Wendy Harder

Conference Young
Adult Minister
(until summer, 2002)

Raising funds...Raising beams... Raising children...Raising dreams!

It started as a dream. It grew into an architect's drawing - which led to a building committee - from which the idea to dismantle a grain elevator emerged - to volunteers from many walks of life being invited and challenged to be part of the almost forgotten art of timber frame construction.

And the broader community watched, with great anticipation, as the largest timber-framed building in Western Canada took shape.

"The racket of hammers, saws and other miscellaneous construction tools merged with the sweet sounds of laughter as the keen spirit of volunteerism came together in a building bee on the banks of the



Shekinah Retreat Centre - Timber Lodge is an outdoor education and recreational centre, providing year round facilities and programming for church retreats, weddings and business conferences.

Mennonite Church Manitoba

Activity

We are forty-seven congregations with 9,821 members working together in three ministry areas:

- 1) Evangelism and Service Ministries
- 2) Education Ministries
- 3) Leadership Ministries

We also work together in the area of Church Relations. Evangelism and Service Ministries includes radio broadcasting in three languages, and special choirs engaged in music ministries both in Manitoba and beyond. Media Services also includes a professional recording studio that serves both MCM and other organizations. Education Ministries includes three camps that operate year-round for a variety of retreats, school rentals, children's camps (primarily in summer), and rentals for family reunions, etc.

Ministry goals and objectives

Our vision is to be a community of congregations unified in Jesus Christ, living a biblical Anabaptist faith, together presenting Jesus Christ to the world. We see ourselves growing in size and faithfulness, and building up our community of churches. Our mission is to resource and empower each other, and to facilitate spiritual growth, service, and evangelism.

We have come through a six-year period of restructuring that has involved changing to a new "policy governance model" which empowers staff to become much more mobile, flexible, and able to respond to church energies and initiatives. Through Reference Groups, Ministry Directors are in touch with regional concerns and goals that help us truly become servants of the churches.

Average Annual Budget

\$1.75 Million

Reporting to

MCM delegates elect a regionally representative 7-member Board of Directors who have overall responsibility to carry forward the policies which MCM staff implement. Current Board members are Bernie Wiebe (Moderator), Armin Ens, Albert

Durksen, Robert Martens, Bob Pauls, Hugo Peters, Bernie Tiessen and Ruth Wiens. MCA reports to congregations through delegate participation at annual conferences.

Ministry Experience - a story

Loretta Friesen. Loretta was a Bible Instructor at Camp Moose Lake in 2001. Loretta grew up in the Covenant Mennonite Church, Winkler, where she got involved in church life. She also attended Camp Moose Lake for 10 years. She revelled in all the activities and felt very loved and accepted, as if camp were her second home.

After Grade ten, Loretta became a counsellor in training. That experience helped her to grow and stretch her faith. Loretta continued as a counsellor and an activity leader. In 2001, Camps with Meaning invited Loretta to serve as Bible Instructor. Her decision was the result of a long and prayerful process. "It came down to the fact that I couldn't say no to God." Loretta's goal for Bible teaching was that campers experience worship as a holy moment.

Loretta surrounded her work with prayer, especially the Thursday Invitation to Faith. "I was hoping that the campers would feel the Holy Spirit moving in them at the Invitation to Faith Campfire." Camp Ministry made an impact on campers. One camper e-mailed Loretta to say that her life had changed, and that Loretta's influence was helping her to pursue her relationship with God. Loretta rejoices that she had opportunity to pray with another girl as she gave her life to Christ.



Loretta Friesen getting ready to sail at Camp Moose Lake.

Loretta, like many other camp staff, has returned to CMU with her ministry gifts affirmed and her excitement for learning renewed. Loretta's experience is but one story of ministry in action. May God, through us, grant us many more "Loretas." —submitted by MCM staff

Staff

Victor Kliever
Executive Director
(until summer, 2002)

Area Directors:

Norm Voth
Evangelism & Service
Ministries
Bob Wiebe
Education Ministries
Sig Polle
Leadership Ministries
(John P. Klassen
begins August, 2002)

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Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Activity

A body of ninety-two congregations reaching out to our neighbours across the street and around the world.

Ministry goals and objectives

To provide ministry and leadership resources that empower congregations for ministry in their communities and to connect these same congregations to God’s mission in the global church.

Average Annual Budget

\$1.62 million

Reporting to

Executive Board, congregations of MCEC

tending

The Lao Community Reaches Out to Newcomers

From its beginning, MCEC has embraced many cultures. Our congregations worship in ten different languages. During our Spring Conference Sessions we had the pleasure of welcoming the Toronto United Lao Mennonite Fellowship as an emerging congregation and our third Lao congregation. This fellowship of approximately thirty people grew out of Pastor Boris Sithideth’s ministry in Toronto over the past seven years.

The congregation is intentional about acknowledging the diversity among the Lao people. In worship, scripture is read in four languages, Lao, Thai, Mandarin and English, with Lao and English being their two official languages. Congregational leaders are concerned that all Lao people feel welcome.

In interacting with the Lao people, we are reminded of similarities with Mennonite people of various backgrounds. Foremost is the shared story of being a displaced people. Today we find a common meeting place in Jesus and in a new homeland.

As the Lao people embrace Christian faith they have a passion for reaching out to their own people. Many have gone back to their home land with the distinct purpose of sharing the good news of Jesus with their families. In doing so they are indeed reaching out to the “neighbour across the street and around the world.”

—submitted by David Brubacher, Minister to Conference



MCEC board member Lorraine Sawatzky with Pastor Boris Sithideth

Administrative Staff

- Ester Neufeldt
 - Accountant
- James Watson
 - Administrative Assistant
- Elsie Horst
 - Administrative Secretary
- Lisa Schell
 - Program Secretary
- Bev Raimbault
 - Mission Secretary




Program Staff:

- Jeff Steckley
 - Giving Project Consultant
 - Coordinator
- Ilene Bergen
 - Minister of Christian Education
- Mary Mae Schwartzentruber
 - Minister of Mission
- J. Laurence Martin
 - Minister of Pastoral Leadership Training
- Muriel Bechtel
 - Minister of Pastoral Services
- Chris Buhler
 - Minister of Peace, Justice and Social Concerns
- Mark Diller Harder
 - Minister of Student and Young Adult Ministries
- Andy Brubacher Kaethler
 - Minister of Youth Ministries
- Minister to Conference
 - David Brubacher

God's Field

Before and After...

An at-a-glance guide to the programs and ministries of Mennonite Church Canada

Was...	Becomes... (in Canada)	Includes...
<p>Ministries Commission (Winnipeg)</p> <p>Commission on Overseas Mission (GC, Newton)</p> <p>Mennonite Board of Mission (MC, Elkhart)</p> <p>Commission on Home Ministries (GC, Newton)</p>	 <p>Mennonite Church Canada</p> <p>Witness</p>	<p>International Ministries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asia & Middle East Europe Latin America Africa <p>National Ministries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach & Church Planting Christian Service Ministry (MVS, Short-term service) Congregational Partnerships Peace & Justice (Shared with Formation) Multi-cultural Ministry Native Ministry
<p>Resources Commission (Winnipeg)</p> <p>Leadership Commission (Winnipeg)</p> <p>Ministerial Leadership Office (GC, Newton)</p> <p>Commission on Education (GC, Newton)</p> <p>Mennonite Board of Congregational Ministries (MC, Elkhart)</p> <p>Mennonite Board of Education (MC, Elkhart)</p>	 <p>Mennonite Church Canada</p> <p>Formation</p>	<p>Christian Education and Nurture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace & Justice (Shared with Witness) Worship & Spiritual Formation <p>Youth & Young Adult Ministry</p> <p>Publishing and Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource Centre Mennonite Heritage Centre and Art Gallery <i>Der Bote</i> <p>Ministerial & Congregational Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denominational Minister Congregational Leadership
<p>Division of General Services (GC, Newton)</p> <p>General Board (MC, Elkhart) and administrative support for Mennonite Board of Missions</p> <p>Mennonite Board of Congregational Ministries, Conference of Mennonites in Canada</p>	 <p>Mennonite Church Canada</p> <p>Support Services</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>Human Resources</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Resource Development</p> <p>Assembly Planning</p> <p>Other Administrative Support</p>