



# Minute BOOK

Saskatoon 2002  
July 3-7, 2002

Circle Drive Alliance Church  
Saskatoon SK





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Editor: Gina Loewen  
Design and Layout: Lynette Wiebe  
Logo design: Gerry Unrau

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## Introduction by the Moderator

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The third annual delegate assembly of Mennonite Church Canada, held in Saskatoon, was another important time for consulting each other as the church across Canada. Together we spent four days in an Assembly that was rich in worship, business agenda, fellowship, food and festivities. The Assembly was preceded by a two-day consultation on food, faith and agriculture. The agenda of food and trade spilled into the Assembly agenda in a variety of ways. The Assembly ended with a one-day Multicultural Consultation that focused on the empowerment of non-traditional Mennonite voices in the life and work of Mennonite Church Canada. This was a new initiative that recognized the changing demographics in the church, and that invited the newer churches to help set the ongoing agenda.

This year, in a new way, finances became the central agenda around which much of the Assembly was framed. In my opening Moderator's Address I noted that this past year had not been as "comparatively easy" as I had expected. I was looking forward to implementing the new program councils – Witness, Formation and Support Services. But it was not exactly like that!

Besides the launching of the new structures, we reported on our response to three difficult issues - a \$450,000 oversight in budget planning (largely in the newly created Support Services Council); the crisis in Mennonite Publishing House; and an education proposal, which proved to be a more challenging project than we anticipated.

As leaders, we came prepared to provide full disclosure and accountability in MC Canada finances. But the level of concern by the delegates regarding the financial crisis at MPH and the budget challenges quickly made them the most visible items on the agenda. No doubt, we were all mindful of the finance and accounting troubles that were making headlines in the business world during the summer of 2002.

We should note here that the General Board presented the delegates with a revised budget for the current year ending January 31, 2003 that foresaw a deficit of \$128,000, rather than a previously projected surplus of \$35,000. The operating budgets for the next two years included a projected deficit of \$223,000 for 2003-2004 (assuming a 7.7 percent revenue increase) and a balanced budget in 2004-2005 (assuming a 6.3 percent revenue increase). The plan that was accepted called for strong financial support from the church; the deficits, if incurred, are to be covered with undesignated bequests. In addition, the plan further included a commitment by staff to monitor both revenue and expenses against monthly benchmarks approved by the General Board. A contingency plan will guide cutbacks if benchmarks are not met.

The Education Proposal was a third area of challenge. A year ago we believed that we could expect to have delegates vote on a recommendation for greater coordination of the three Mennonite colleges in Canada and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary through the creation of a Canadian Mennonite Education Agency. We discovered, however, that it sometimes takes longer to build consensus, especially when there are eleven different partners who need to agree. The delegates engaged actively in discussion about the issues and in the end were ready to have more work be done on the form and content of the coordination between the church-related schools. We know that our investment in higher education is large. We now need time to clarify unresolved issues so that we can be good stewards of what God has given us to tend.

Finally it was exciting to experience how our Assembly theme, "Tending God's Field, Forming God's People", was superbly connected not only with the Assembly content, but also with our location – the middle of the Canadian prairies, Canada's *breadbasket*. We know that the Mennonite Church in Canada is becoming increasingly urban. Many of us are not sufficiently aware of the huge changes that have been descending upon the world of farming. It is a global business, with global assumptions that often underlie whether we will succeed or fail. We expect that this agenda will be continued in the next years.

In my moderator's address I referred to the plant and bulb, which I had received last year in the Abbotsford Assembly, as a symbol of the new and old church in Canada.

I took my bulb home and put it in the ground in our herb garden. A small green shoot with a few leaves appeared before the end of the fall, but I forgot about it over the winter. In the spring I suddenly

noticed a new plant growing vigorously in our herb garden. Initially I thought it was a weed. But I have watched it grow throughout the months. As I left for Saskatoon, it was about to bloom – a lily with white flowers (I think). For me it is a wonderful metaphor for MC Canada, and our agricultural theme this year enhances it. The plant (and the church) are growing – even vigorously. But it does need major attention. I watered the lily. I fed it with Miracle Grow fertilizer. And it is growing. And it looks like it is about to bloom. But it needs a bit more help. It's growing up at an angle. It needs a brace, a support, or it will fall over. When I get back from Assembly I will do that. I hope I haven't waited too long. For me this is a wonderful metaphor for our new church body — growth, potential for blooms, feeding, and needing support. It's all there!

If you attended the Saskatoon Assembly, you also sensed with the rest of us that there is a new level of excitement and energy in Mennonite Church Canada. We are excited about the dreams, the vision, that we have for how the church can grow and flourish to fulfill God's mission. I pray that God will help us as we plant and water in the fields that we have been given. And we know that God will give the increase.

Ron Sawatsky

Moderator



## MINUTES

### ASSEMBLY 2002

Mennonite Church Canada  
Circle Drive Alliance Church, Saskatoon, SK  
July 3-6, 2002



Theme: Tending God's Field, Forming God's People

Wednesday, July 3, 2002

#### 1. Opening Worship

Our opening worship, led by Ray Friesen, Duff Warkentin and Simply Superb, included greetings by Ron Sawatsky (Moderator, Mennonite Church Canada) and Armin Krahn (Moderator, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan). We saw a presentation on the work of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan. The scripture readings were from Psalm 1:1-6 and 1 Corinthians 3:6-9; the latter was read in eleven languages. Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary President Nelson Kraybill preached on "Like Trees Planted by Water." He greeted us with the symbol of the cross; he said the cross shows how far God is willing to go toward us. Our faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be judged by what we do with Jesus Christ. The post-modern, multicultural world of many truths and many moralities has come to our doorstep and provides a marvelous opportunity to speak the Gospel to the surrounding culture. Today's world is like the 1<sup>st</sup> century as it has not been since. Within this context the highest calling of the church must be the calling of our young people to Jesus. Only in this way are we a people like a tree planted beside the water. The Mennonite future is evangelical. Not all in the evangelical stream is laudable, but many evangelicals also drink from the Anabaptist stream. The power of our peoplehood will rest in a clear stance – as clear as the evangelicals take. We need to be radically grounded in Jesus, immersed in the Scriptures, and giving ourselves to Christ in worship.

Thursday, July 4, 2002

#### 2. Morning Worship

Garth Ewert-Fisher, Duff Warkentin and *Simply Superb* focused our morning worship. The scripture returned to the theme of 1 Corinthians 3:6-9. *Simply Superb* presented a scripture musical drama based on Luke 14:15-24 – the story of the Great Banquet.

#### 3. Moderator's Address

Ron Sawatsky welcomed the delegates. He noted three major issues emerged in the past year – a significant oversight in MC Canada's annual budget, the financial crisis at Mennonite Publishing House, and the work on a proposal regarding the place and relationship of our educational institutions within MC Canada's mission. He expressed appreciation for the "Making Peace with the Land" conference held prior to assembly, and said that as MC Canada becomes more urban, too many of us have been unaware of the many changes and challenges in agriculture. He said this year was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a meeting, in Tiefengrund, Saskatchewan, during which Mennonite leaders from Manitoba and Saskatchewan decided to form what became the Conference of Mennonites in Canada. It also is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Northwest Mennonite Conference. Regrettably, the Northwest Conference has decided not to pursue full affiliation with Mennonite Church Canada. He also briefly reflected on the many changes and difficulties in his six years as moderator of Conference of Mennonites in Canada, and now the transformed Mennonite Church Canada.

Sawatsky then introduced the assembly appointees: Assistant Secretary, Marg Buckner; Parliamentarian, Peter Peters; Resolutions Committee, Harold Peters-Fransen, Janette Thiessen and Herman Wiebe; Listening Committee, Anita Jantz, Darrell Fast and Sunny Lee. He noted the other assembly planning committees listed in the worship booklet. He ended his presentation by reviewing the discernment plan for assembly, noting the bylaw amendment recommendation, the proposal on education presented for discussion, and the "ground rules for delegates" in the report book.

#### 4. Delegate Information

Sam Steiner reported on congregational delegates by area conference: MCBC – 35, MCA – 27, Northwest – 3, MC Sask – 85, MCM – 122, MCEC – 80. There were also 36 area conference

delegates. These numbers included more than half of potential area conference delegates and over 200 congregational delegates, and thus represented a quorum as required by the MC Canada bylaws.

**5. Minutes of 2001 Assembly**

Sam Steiner said the summary of the actions taken at last year's assembly were included in the report book; the full minutes were published in *Minute Book 2001*.

**MOTION #1 – The delegate assembly adopts the minutes of the 2nd annual session of Mennonite Church Canada as recorded and published in *Minute Book 2001* issued by Mennonite Church Canada.**

*Sam Steiner/Bernie Wiebe Carried.*

**6. Nominating Committee**

Renata Klassen reported for the Nominating Committee, and said the slate was published in the report book. Additional nominations could be made until 10:30 a.m. on Friday. Nomination forms must be signed by five delegates, include nominee biographical information and have the approval of the nominee. She noted the recommendation from the General Board that Ruth Friesen be appointed to serve an additional year as chair of Christian Formation Council, due to difficulties in identifying a chairperson for the Council. This would be a variance from the bylaws.

**7. Introduction and Greetings**

**a) Mennonite Church USA (MC USA)**

Ron Sawatsky introduced Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) moderator, Ervin Stutzman. Stutzman said that MC USA was legally only a few months old – it was established in February 2002, and will not have its first assembly until July 2003 in Atlanta, Georgia. As he reflected on the integration/transformation process, he recalled the original vision was for one large child – but we had twins instead! He commented that Mennonite Mission Network (MMN), the MC USA equivalent to MC Canada Witness, was having financial problems, but the reasons are unclear – was it a poor US economy, the new "First Fruits" funding strategy, or the expansion of local congregational programming. Stutzman said there were too few pastors available in MC USA, a concern shared with MC Canada. He closed by expressing appreciation for the opportunity to work closely with Ron Sawatsky, and said he looked forward to the joint assembly in 2005.

**b) Mennonite World Conference (MWC)**

Dothan Moyo and Ray Brubacher, national and international coordinators for the Mennonite World Conference assembly in Zimbabwe, welcomed us to Africa 2003. MWC represents 87 Mennonite and Brethren in Christ national churches from 48 countries on five continents. Dothan Moyo urged us to "come" – to share the African Anabaptist joy, pain and experiences. We have much to learn from one another. Ray Brubacher said assembly highlights would include congregational singing, Bible study, preaching, the youth summit and the global village. MC Canada members can participate in three ways – attending the assembly, contributing to the travel fund to enable others to attend, and through prayer.

**c) Conferencia Menonita de Mexico**

Ron Sawatsky welcomed Peter Stoesz, President of the Conferencia Menonita de Mexico. Peter expressed thanks for the privilege of attending these meetings. The church in Mexico faces many challenges; as a small body the opportunities to serve are greater than they can manage.

**d) Fraternal Delegates**

Ron Sawatsky welcomed Rhoda Keener (Mennonite Women), S. Roy Kaufman (Central Plains Conference, formerly from Tiefengrund, SK), Wayne and Donella Clemens (Souderton, PA), Don Peters (MCC Canada), Bob Veitch and Jim Brown (Mennonite Foundation of Canada), Ron Loeppky and Ron Rempel (Mennonite Publishing Service/*Canadian Mennonite*)

**8. David Toews Book Launch**

Adolf Ens presented to Helmut Harder the first published copy of Harder's book, *David Toews Was Here, 1870-1947*. David Toews had great influence on the Conference of Mennonites in Canada, Rosthern Junior College, and the immigration movement of Mennonites from Russia

in the 1920s. Verner Friesen, a nephew of Toews, introduced other family members who were present. Friesen thanked Helmut Harder and CMBC Publications for making this book possible.

#### 9. Resolutions Committee

Harold Peters-Fransen, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee, moved the following:

**Resolution 1 – This Delegate Assembly grants floor privileges to all guests recognized by the chair this morning; as well as all members who are not delegates of MC Canada churches.**

*Harold Peters-Fransen/Arthur Driedger Carried*

#### 10. Comprehensive Report

Dan Nighswander opened the comprehensive reporting period. He said the report book, displays, delegate handouts, and seminars all provided reporting. The formal reports are in the report book; the organization chart for MC Canada is located on page 16. The oral reporting from the schools will take place separately.

MC Canada staff, within the context of a visual presentation, provided glimpses from the sweep of MC Canada program. Christian Witness Council highlighted international programs in Ukraine, Germany, Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Macau, Burkina Faso, Chile, Cuba, Korea, China, and Colombia, as well as programs in Native Ministries, 10<sup>th</sup> Man and Mennonite Voluntary Service. The Peace and Justice Office responded to the events of September 11, the Middle East crisis, military aid to Colombia, and addressed peace concerns with the Canadian government together with partners like MCC, Mennonite Disaster Service and Christian Peacemaker Teams. The Church Planting office mentioned cooperation with area conferences and other language groups. Christian Formation Council highlighted the Mennonite Heritage Centre, the Heritage Centre Gallery, the Resource Centre, *Der Bote*, the *Canadian Mennonite*, Company of 1000, Youth Ministry, worship resources, prayer guides, Faith and Life Resources publications, and MC Canada identity literature. Canadian Women in Mission told how they intersected with MC Canada programs as they celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Support Services highlighted the MC Canada website and the new Human Resources department. Betty Enns, Herman Wiebe and David Brubacher talked about how the vision for a missional church was expressed in the local congregation and area conferences.

Ron Sawatsky asked assembly participants to gather in small groups to discuss whether MC Canada is doing what it ought to be doing, and invited commendations and/or constructive suggestions.

#### *Discussion:*

- The presentations have been excellent; it's a good start for MC Canada. Are enough of our younger aspiring leaders here to catch this same vision? How can this vision be communicated to the local congregation?
- Many MC Canada resources that are available to congregations are not being fully used. Our "white" congregations have not grown as rapidly as newer immigrant churches.
- The report was good; much work is being done. Our group wondered if "missional church" is communicating to the local congregation – what does it mean for the local congregation?
- MC Canada staff has vision and insight, but the missional church concept is not new. Will the national vision siphon resources from local congregations? Will we be able to sustain these programs financially?
- The *Canadian Mennonite* should contain more Bible study material – perhaps in the center four pages.
- The group discussed the concept of "Formation," and thought the terminology used is too academic. It needs to filter down to the general membership.
- The dialogue on land use and food issues, urban and rural issues was good; we have continued to spread the gospel across the street and around the world.
- Does MC Canada really "own" the educational institutions? We need to be stronger in winning younger persons to the church. The group also believed we need full and competent financial accountability from all agencies to which we relate.
- The group appreciated the breadth of Anabaptist teaching; we need to strengthen Mennonite education.

Joy Kroeger chaired the next items.

#### 11. MC Canada Financial Report for FYE2002

Finance Committee Chair Bruno Friesen began the reporting, using the financial statements and the report of the Finance Committee in the report book. Congregational giving has continued a downward trend, but sizeable bequests have made it possible to balance the budgets. Thus far in the current fiscal year, donation receipts are slightly ahead of last year at the same time. Friesen thanked the MC Canada staff for their hard work.

Pam Peters-Pries said the financial report for 2002 reflected the old structure and nomenclature. The revenue in FYE2002 was \$3,251,991, with expenses of \$3,059,182. After transfers to reserves of \$162,318, MC Canada had a surplus of \$30,491. The transfer to reserves was primarily composed of funds received from the former binational church bodies (Mennonite Church and General Conference Mennonite Church) for startup and transition expenses to Christian Witness Council. These funds were not fully spent and will be part of a restricted reserve for Christian Witness Council. In order to eliminate the accumulated deficits from the past, and to preserve the internal CMBC surplus that remained, the General Board approved an additional \$101,267 transfer from bequest income. Without this additional income, MC Canada would have begun its new structure with an accumulated deficit of \$24,796, and would not have preserved the CMBC surplus. Before the injection of the additional bequest funds, MC Canada had an operating deficit of \$63,220. Most of this was due to ramp up expenses that were to be covered by reserve funds and an advance on asset distribution from the Mennonite Church and General Conference Mennonite Church. Actual ramp up expenses were less than anticipated (under \$150,000), only \$40,000 was transferred from reserves and no advance on asset distribution was requested. This increased the General Board's deficit even though its income was higher than anticipated.

Pam Peters-Pries said work on the pension plan had not moved as rapidly as hoped. However, a Pension Review Committee will be established to bring recommendations and to respond to four areas of concern identified by last year's pension survey – providing more investment options, strengthening MC Canada's investment policy statement, improving plan member access to information and improving methods for monitoring the pension plan. Finally, she announced the appointment of Paul Klassen as Director of Finance, and Lorna Friesen as Assistant Director of Finance.

#### *Discussion:*

- Financial statement notes 4, 7 and 12 comment on the mortgage on the 600 Shaftesbury property. This mortgage of \$3.3 million will be used in two places – for CMU and for Mennonite Publishing House. It's an odd practice to have one mortgage serve two purposes. Could 600 Shaftesbury be foreclosed if one party defaults? Did CMU agree to this? Response: One mortgage secures both obligations; it is being paid on two repayment schedules. The financial crisis at MPH does have risks for other programs of the church. The General Board has looked at other sources of funds if MPH should default in its payments.
- What is the MC Canada policy on use of bequests? What has happened to the bequest line on the proposed budgets? Response: The budget issues will be discussed Saturday. The current policy is to use 10% of bequests in the year received, and 10% each year for a total of ten years. The General Board can override this policy, as it did this year.

#### **MOTION #2 – The delegate assembly approves the audited financial statements for Mennonite Church Canada for the year ended January 31, 2002.**

*Bruno Friesen/Bruce Baergen*

- The financial statement presentation was seriously flawed; the information is too confusing and incomplete. The statements shouldn't be approved.
- The financial report given to delegates was not signed by the auditor. Who was the auditor? Response: KPMG was the auditor; when the copies needed to be made, only an electronic copy of the audit had been received. The General Board has received signed copies.

The motion **carried**.

#### 12. Education Institutions

##### a) **Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS)**

AMBS President Nelson Kraybill and Dean Loren Johns reported. Kraybill said that MC Canada appoints five members to the AMBS board out of a total of 18. Arthur Boers is a

recent Canadian addition to the faculty; Karl Koop, a Canadian former member of the faculty, has recently moved to CMU. AMBS is also part of the Winnipeg conversation on an inter-Mennonite seminary program. Kraybill and Johns reviewed financial assistance options available to Canadians at AMBS, and noted that next year's entering class will include more Canadians and more full time students. They ended by reporting on a recent Lilly Foundation grant for a seminary "Explore" program targeted at young adults 17-18 years of age to encourage them to explore church vocation. The "Explore" program combines time on campus, in a wilderness setting and in an urban setting, together with significant scholarship funds.

- b) **Columbia Bible College (CBC)**  
Dean George Schmitt reported. He recalled earlier Mennonite Brethren and General Conference cooperation in British Columbia that led to CBC; this cooperation has occurred again at CMU. Working at relationships between the colleges and seminary and MC Canada is important; Schmitt pledged CBC's cooperation in the process. CBC has about 500 students; over 50% are in ministry courses. Enrolment looks like it will be higher next year. CBC's new President, Paul Wartman, began his duties this month.
- c) **Canadian Mennonite University (CMU)**  
Presidents Gerald Gerbrandt, Dean Peachey and John Unger reported. Gerald Gerbrandt said CMU's mission is within the mission of Mennonite Church Canada as CMU prepares students for active participation in a missional church, both locally and around the world. CMU resources the larger church – through *Vision*, portable CMU, etc. John Unger said CMU's School of Discipleship and Menno Simons College's courses on conflict resolution provide diversity in training. Sixty-one young persons graduated from the School of Discipleship this year; their service experiences have often been life-changing. Dean Peachey provided illustrations of how Menno Simons College's education has shaped the lives, convictions and world views of its students.
- d) **Conrad Grebel University College (CGUC)**  
President John Toews said Conrad Grebel University College is neither a Bible College nor a free-standing Mennonite university. It's affiliated with the University of Waterloo where undergraduate students can register in 150 academic programs. Grebel's 10.5 faculty provide the music department for the university, and anchor the Peace and Conflict Studies faculty. Conrad Grebel also has its own Graduate Theological Studies program. Conrad Grebel University College is a mission outpost at the University of Waterloo, the no. 1 ranked university in Canada. This summer a \$4.1 million expansion program is beginning. Conrad Grebel is in the midst of administrative changes – Marlene Epp began service as Academic Dean on July 1; Henry Paetkau becomes the President on January 1, 2003 after John Toews' retirement.

Ron Sawatsky chaired the next items.

### 13. Proposals on Education

Ron Sawatsky reminded delegates of the process to the present. The proposal in the report book is the fourth draft; timing of the various drafts became an issue. The General Board had hoped to bring a proposal for delegate action. However, there are eleven partners in the process and it was not possible to produce full consensus. This document represents the General Board's best thinking, but the Board does not want to press for premature outcomes. The Board wants discussion and feedback on what you see in the various breakout groups. The General Board will continue dialogue in the next year; we hope to have proposals before delegates next year.

Dan Nighswander said MC Canada has talked for many years about the importance of education in the life of the church. The General Board was asked to address governance issues between MC Canada and the colleges and agreed to do so. An educational consultation was held in November 2001, followed by a series of draft proposals. The document has continued to evolve. Nighswander called particular attention to the vision statement, the proposed agency's mandate and the overall principle on governance/accountability. The outstanding issues focus on the details of how the institutions relate to MC Canada. He invited the break-out groups to discuss: 1) Does the vision statement capture [the delegates'] sense of the place of educational institutions in the church? 2) How can the proposal for an education agency be improved? 3) How do [delegates] think MC Canada should relate to CMU? AMBS? CGUC? CBC? Other schools?

*Discussion/Responses:*

- There is significant affirmation for the vision statement, though it is a long, run-on sentence. Lay leadership training should be better addressed. There is some concern that the intellectual task of the church is not adequately addressed, and some persons wondered if the proposal would make a real difference. The regionalization issues are very complex; and some wondered if equal visibility for the schools was a realistic goal. There is no clarity on how funding patterns would shift.
- The group was concerned that the institutions not just become regional schools; there is need for a national perspective.
- The mission statement is too long, and contains nothing about nurturing within the context of the community. Some felt the mandate does not reflect the priorities of vision statement – that there is too much emphasis on pastoral education. There were advocates both that MC Canada should be a “big brother” to the schools, and that it should be primarily a networker.
- The vision statement is too vague; the agency is trying to be all inclusive. The focus should be on the colleges, secondary and elementary schools. There was yearning for one national school; that this proposal cuts CMU adrift. There were strong pleas for the schools to maintain their ties with the church with a missional vision.
- The discussion does not address how CMBC has become transformed into CMU? Where is the national school that is wanted? What are the issues that CMBC faculty and staff face in dialoguing with the Mennonite Brethren? This issue comes back to the local congregation.
- The unique strengths of each school should be recognized – Conrad Grebel with its Peace and Conflict Studies program and connection to the University of Waterloo, CBC’s own niche in theological education. Let there be regional schools at the undergraduate level; MC Canada should have a graduate school that we sponsor nationally. What is the inherent value in a national undergraduate school? Our strength at the undergraduate level is meeting the regional needs of the constituency. The graduate level needs national coordination.
- MC Canada’s education agency should influence the programs in the different schools. CBC has pastoral leadership training. CMU has inter-Mennonite training. CGUC has its own strengths.
- The regional schools each have different strengths that should not be homogenized. They can learn from one other, and should be encouraged in their strengths.

**14. Listening Committee**

Darrell Fast reported for the committee. He said the assembly got off to a good start in comfortable facilities. However, the multi-media comprehensive report was overwhelming and the financial report had difficulties. Last year’s assembly called for simplified financial reporting; this was not achieved and should be revisited.

**15. Evening Worship**

Christy Martens-Funk, Pauline Steinmann, Duff Warkentin and Simply Superb led our worship. The scriptures read were 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 and Mark 4:26-29.

Lorna Rogalski, President of Canadian Women in Mission (CWM), introduced a celebration of praise and worship after fifty years of CWM service. Agnes Ewert was the first secretary-treasurer in 1939, and was present at the evening service. The Women in Mission presented a skit, “No Empty Hands,” that symbolized a meeting of a Ladies Aid in early 1940s rural Saskatchewan. Each area conference Women in Mission president then reported on their history and current activity. Canadian Women in Mission’s motivation to be hands for God has not changed throughout its history. Women have needed to be creative in their contribution to the church; for many years they were not allowed to have public roles. Women delegates to the Conference of Mennonites in Canada were not accepted until 1955.

Karen Martens-Zimmerly then preached on “Seasons of Celebration and Mystery.” She described the miracle of “lifeless” seeds that produced great bounty. The Mark 4 passage provided the parable of the seed and the sower. Can we see the sign of God’s kingdom in the story/parable of our own lives? Despite the difficult time for agriculture in Saskatchewan in 2002, the seeds still hold the potential of life. We don’t always know how the seeds will develop. The landscape of church leadership has changed in the fifty years of CWM. God can do immeasurably more than we can think or imagine.

Friday, July 5, 2002

**16. Opening Worship**

Garth Ewert-Fisher, Duff Warkentin and Simply Superb focused our morning worship. The scripture passage returned to 1 Corinthians 3:6-9. Simply Superb presented a scripture musical drama based on Luke 12:13-21 – the story of the Rich Fool.

Ron Sawatsky chaired the next items.

**17. Discerning the Gospel of Peace Through Jesus Christ**

Ron Sawatsky introduced Arlyn Friesen Epp, Director of Peace and Justice. Sawatsky said there was no formal delegate business on this issue, but that MC Canada needed to talk about the peace of Jesus in the current context of fear and violence perpetrated in the Middle East, in Afghanistan, in Colombia, among the First Nations, and elsewhere within Canada.

Arlyn Friesen Epp focused our thoughts on Romans 12:1-2. We are easily conformed to our world; Christian peace-building is the transforming work of the Spirit. He introduced five stories of peacemaking.

Brice Balmer (Kitchener, ON) discussed Canada's multi-cultural nature – persons of many cultural and faith traditions bring their fears and conflicts to Canada. Christian assumptions are challenged. The Kitchener-Waterloo Council of Churches recognized Christian churches need to make space for others, but has learned the difficulty of dialogue among Christians, Muslims and Jews. Because Christians hold the majority cultural status in Canada, Christians can either maintain the status quo or they can help new Canadians of other traditions find their way in their new society.

Donovan Jacobs (Winnipeg, MB) said First Nations persons have not known peace for many years. He read a poem, "Despairing Peace" about the journey toward peace. Peace means keeping honor in the face of injustice. Making peace doesn't always feel good – it sometimes calls peacemakers to depths of sorrow. Injustice has brought pain, anger and distrust to First Nations people. He called for MC Canada to help its Native brothers and sisters find justice and peace.

Raul Bogoya (Winnipeg, MB) said the small Mennonite church in Colombia has chosen not to be conformed to the world. It has tried to help people in the context of widespread violence through assistance for refugees, counseling programs, peace and justice advocacy, as well as spiritual assistance. The conflict in Colombia is not just a national conflict, it is also international. Mennonite Central Committee and the Mennonite churches in the US and Canada have also provided assistance, as has Christian Peacemaker Teams.

Glenn Witmer (Jerusalem, Israel) was interviewed on tape from the Middle East. He has published an electronic newsletter, *MennoLetter from Jerusalem*, that is available on the MC Canada website, and provides source material for discussion. Witmer said it was important to hear voices other than the official voices. Peace will come only when Jews and Palestinians work together for peace.

Esther Epp-Tiessen (Winnipeg, MB) traveled to Iraq for MCC Canada in February 2002. She said the beginning of peacemaking is remembering. Christians must remember that all people are children of God and are loved by God – even those that are our enemies. When we are conformed to this world, we forget this. Christians are called to remember those whom others want to forget. She told several stories of innocent suffering through the legacy of the Gulf War.

Arlyn Friesen Epp invited small group discussion with written responses on 1) What stories of peace might you share with your small group? How has God been at work in your community? What transforming activity should be highlighted? 2) As a peace church, what is the role of MC Canada and its congregations in today's world? What are our challenges? Where must we grow? What are the possibilities? What are the opportunities? In what specific ways, locally and nationally, might we respond as peace-builders and become actively engaged?

*Discussion/Response:*

- There is no way to peace; peace is the way. The way we work needs to be peace.
- Something "broke" during our discernment time yesterday morning. We need to think how that happened, and need to respond sooner rather than later.
- Last evening there was mention of a time when women weren't allowed to be delegates to conference. This struck me as sad, not funny, though there was some laughter. Peacemaking includes confessing where we have sinned.
- To have peace means to be able to listen to other stories and points of view.

Marilyn Houser Hamm, former Director of Peace and Justice, reported how MC Canada had responded to issues of peace and conflict in the past year, and challenged us to have a larger vision of what we can do for peace, even as a small denomination. She led a dedication of a peace oil lamp as a sign of the light of God, and a symbol of the prayers we offer for peace in Iraq. Arlyn Friesen Epp closed with prayer.

**18. Elections**

Renata Klassen of the Nominating Committee said no additional nominations had been received. Nominating Committee member Henry Loewen introduced the persons who were nominated to MC Canada positions.

**MOTION #3 – That nominations cease and the slate be accepted as presented.**  
*Renata Klassen/Kate Janzen Carried*

Joy Kroeger chaired the next items.

**19. Issues from General Board**

Ron Sawatsky noted the General Board-related items in the report book. The General Board met in person four times; the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) met twice to look after partnerships between MC Canada and MC USA – most particularly AMBS and MPH. He also noted there had been a performance review for the General Secretary, and that Dan Nighswander had been appointed for another three year term, beginning September 1, 2002. Sawatsky described the review process.

Dan Nighswander reported on the follow up to actions taken at Abbotsford 2001 – the resolution on Colombia had been fulfilled, the resolution on health care has emerged into support for an inter-Mennonite cluster of health care agencies in Canada. He noted the General Board had held conversations with the Northwest Mennonite Conference during the past year. Work on partnerships with churches in other parts of the world has been slowed by legal issues that need to be worked on. MC Canada (and local congregations) cannot send money to an overseas charity unless proper legal arrangements are in place. Finally, he noted relationships with other church and faith relationships.

**20. Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC)**

Joy Kroeger reminded delegates that the CMBC portion of CMU remains accountable to MC Canada. President Gerald Gerbrandt reported that 500 Shaftesbury is now the center of CMU activity. He said program development had gone well and that students have responded positively. CMU has completed its first two years in the black.

CMBC Board Vice-chair Ester Neufeldt reported that governance and leadership changes have proceeded rapidly, and that trust among the three schools has been growing. The three college boards have agreed to move to one president, and a search committee has been put in place. Jake Harms, Walter Bergen and Helmut Harder are serving on this committee. The new president will take office sometime in 2003; until then CMU will continue with three presidents. John Unger will be Acting President of CMBC during Gerald Gerbrandt's sabbatical this coming year. Board governance is being reviewed by a task force; there will be ongoing conversation with the MC Canada General Board as this develops.

Bruce Baergen, the past CMBC Board Chairperson, expressed one concern on behalf of the CMCB board. CMBC's accountability was clear when it related to Conference of Mennonites in Canada. CMBC is still connected to MC Canada, but significant changes have occurred and business has to be done differently. CMBC is in limbo, and is not clear what it means to be owned by the church. How can CMU remain accountable to MC Canada? CMU doesn't want to be distanced from the denomination, and the CMBC board wanted this concern to be shared at Assembly.

*Discussion:*

- What are the annual operational costs for CMU? Response: \$9.0 million. Revenue comes from student fees (\$4.2 million), government grants (\$2.6 million), and charitable giving (\$2.2 million, including funds from MC Canada).
- CMU is moving to one president; when will there be one board? Response: The task force is working on this; there is not a time line. Managing CMU's relationships to its owners is a significant issue. Delegate counsel is welcomed.
- What is the anxiety about accountability? Response: How to move CMU's accountability to the church forward; it's a governance question. The anxiety is not how to teach, but how to ensure we hear from the churches.

**21. Mennonite Publishing House (MPH)**

Ron Sawatsky and Ervin Stutzman reported as chair and vice-chair of the interim MPH board. They said they had struggled how best to communicate the complex issues. Delegates should have reviewed the documents they have received – *The Mennonite* article about the MPH annual meeting, the "Update on MPH" document, the condensed summary of the audited financial statement and the news releases from MC USA and MC Canada. Some of this material is also available on the MC Canada website. Ron Sawatsky said the MPH board told the auditors it wanted an approach that used conservative Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). They noted the MPH Executive Committee had met 18 times via conference calls since March 2002.

Ervin Stutzman and Ron Sawatsky then carried on a conversation about questions they have heard about the MPH crisis. MC Canada is involved because it is one of the legal owners of MPH. The church could not allow MPH to go bankrupt for moral and ethical reasons, as well as legal reasons that could lead to even greater difficulties. The matter of unsecured debentures had grown over the years – originally the debentures were legal, but securities rules changed, putting many of these loans into legal limbo. The MPH financial crisis developed over a long period of time – the "Update" document outlines in detail how the net worth had eroded to a negative figure. Financial difficulties were found both in MPH and Faith and Life. The Mennonite Church's belief that MPH should pay its own way also contributed to the problems. Some persons have wondered why a non-Mennonite consultant was engaged – the required staff downsizing needed outside help; the MPH financial problems came under Mennonite leadership. Mennonite expertise is being used, particularly in the person of Norman Shenk. MPH has been an organization in turmoil; relational issues have developed and continue. Scottsdale is a small community for Mennonites, with two churches and one major business – MPH. There is a lot of pain in the Scottsdale community. The Allegheny Conference (which includes Scottsdale) has spearheaded a debt reduction drive so that publishing in the church can start with a clear slate. A Debt Reduction Committee has been put in place with three members – the Canadian member is Wilmer Martin of Waterloo, Ontario.

*Discussion:*

- (Ron Loepky, *Canadian Mennonite* Board): Some people think that Mennonite Publishing Service (MPS), which publishes the *Canadian Mennonite*, is in financial trouble. The *Canadian Mennonite* is not in financial trouble. MPS is solely Canadian, and is unrelated to MPH. There have been oversight issues at MPH for many years; the church has allowed it to slide into this crisis. What are the lessons we've learned from this? Should church boards like MPS have directors and officers liability insurance? Does MC Canada have a policy on this? Response: The Mennonite Church General Board (on which Ervin served during the 1990s) found it easy to assume "someone else" understood the complex issues. Church board members need to know how to ask hard questions of their agencies. The MC Canada General Board has directors and officers insurance; the JEC has certainly been aware of the potential liabilities.
- It's said that MC Canada holds 25% percent of the liability, since we have 25% of the membership in the North American Mennonite Church. It would have been as accurate to say that MC Canada was responsible for 40% of the Faith and Life debt and 10% of the MPH debt. MC Canada has taken responsibility for more than it should have. Response: This is not an easy issue. The JEC assumes the majority of the debt reduction funding will come from parts of the United States. MPH income will come from sales at the Provident Bookstores which are all in the U.S. The MC Canada General Board understands the ripple effect this crisis can have on other church programs. Concerns were expressed about the mortgage that also includes CMU. The General Board did not ask CMU's consent, but CMU understood the issues.

- The persons working on this issue are to be commended; you have gathered some good expertise. Is there a ten year plan for the turnaround? Response: This is what Norman Shenk is working on. If the debt is paid, a 10-year turnaround won't be needed, but MPH needs to fit into the long term plan of the church.
- Some of the curriculum material published by MPH is theologically inappropriate. When we have complained, the MPH staff have not been responsive. We need material that is radically Mennonite and Christ-centered. Response: Any disrespectful responses are to be regretted. Concerns have been expressed in various parts of the church; the church has become much more diverse than it was 20 years ago. It would be hard to find a curriculum that would suit everyone.
- The business plan seems backward; you seem to be building on what is salvageable at MPH. Rather you should ask what the church needs, then decide what publishing would look like. Not all of MPH is worth keeping. Response: The conversation within our own board includes this question. It's a chicken and egg question; whether there should be a controlled descent or immediate shutdown.
- The JEC is to be thanked for picking up and taking on the responsibility for the MPH crisis. The JEC had the authority of the church that the former MPH board did not have.

Ron Sawatsky said the MPH board invited delegate prayers, conversation and counsel. Ervin Stutzman said that Ron Sawatsky will continue as chair of the interim MPH board after his term as MC Canada moderator ends.

**Saturday, July 6, 2002**

**22. Opening Worship**

Garth Ewert-Fisher, Duff Warkentin and Simply Superb again led our morning worship. The scripture returned to 1 Corinthians 3:6-9. Simply Superb presented a scripture musical drama based on Luke 15:11-32 – the story of the Lost Son.

Ron Sawatsky chaired the next items.

**23. Making Peace With the Land**

We saw a video presentation, "The Change in Farming," with Henry Haws, prepared by Dan Dyck. Marilyn Houser Hamm, coordinator for the *Making Peace with the Land* conference, reported that 300 persons participated at Osler Mennonite Church – about half were "country mice" and half "city mice." She introduced Laura Rance (*Farmers Independent Weekly*). Rance said the food production process is just as important as the end result. The fact that Canadians have an adequate food supply is not enough; we need to know how the food comes to us. She described the difficulty of maintaining a "family farm" in today's society; indeed some farm families fear that one of their children will want to farm. Industrialization has begun to squeeze out the small operator. Frugality has given way to free spending. Productivity is everything. It's hard to care for one's neighbour if you need his land for your own farm to survive. We have lost the sense of place and roots. Money does not buy community. We need to understand we are connected to the land. Our concern is not only saving the family farm; it's about securing our future.

Harold Penner discussed some of the issues raised at the conference. He said some participants came with apprehension about the approach that would be taken on issues like genetically modified food organisms (GMO's). The planners had no "agenda" on this kind of technology, but wanted to provide a forum for discussion of difficult issues. He used the example of GMO potatoes that don't need to be sprayed with pesticides, and asked which approach was better.

Andrew Reesor-McDowell, who helped lead the "Making Peace with the Land" sessions, invited questions and observations:

- The conference was long overdue and much appreciated. We need more recognition of ongoing land issues with our aboriginal neighbours as well. They have much to teach us about living at peace with the land.
- Modern students are often completely detached from the land; they've lost the rhythm of the land. We need to find ways to connect urban Mennonite folks with the land.
- Living in a rural cooperative is a good way to learn the rhythms of weather, working with the soil, and the ability to share our surpluses with others, etc. This kind of cooperative would be a good way to connect "city mice" with agriculture.

- This is not only a rural issue; urban churches need to be better connected with rural churches – perhaps through partnerships.
- We need to learn from those who use pesticides less freely.
- My generation still had some connection to the farm, but our urban children don't even have that memory.
- There needs to be more discussion/acknowledgement of the pain of those who have been forced to move from the farm to the cities, or of agricultural businesses that fail. We need to learn to hear from the lives of people going through major transitions.

Ray Hamm presented a resolution from the *Making Peace with the Land* conference. He said that we need to keep hearing one another's stories, and that MC Canada should make resources available to the churches.

**Resolution 2 — Whereas**

- **Food and the food system involve all of us, not only producers;**
- **Food is an important question not only for us, but for all people;**
- ***Making Peace with the Land* was strongly affirmed as a good beginning;**
- **There is need for faith-based initiative and leadership in these areas,**

**Be it resolved:**

- **The General Board of Mennonite Church Canada find ongoing ways to encourage and facilitate reflection and action, and the creation of new models, about the production and distribution of food, with a view to strengthening community and well-being.**

*Ray Hamm/Ken Bechtel*

*Discussion:*

- What are we actually asking the General Board to do? Response: Minimally, to keep the conversation going; to keep MC Canada working on the question.
- The resolution is limiting in some ways. MC Canada congregations need better understanding. The General Board is not equipped to come up with new farming techniques.
- The list of congregations in *Bridge* (the daily conference newsletter) for attending services Sunday morning only included urban congregations. There are also many nearby rural congregations.
- The conference theme next year should be agriculture and community; tremendous things could happen.
- The resolution is good; the same issues face agriculture in Ontario. We need to address government on the economic issues involved.
- Ongoing discussion is good, but we need to work cooperatively with MCC and other groups that are also addressing this issue. We should not add program and staff to do this.

The resolution **carried**.

**24. Consolidated Program Projections**

Delegates saw a multi-media presentation with consolidated MC Canada program projections. Christian Formation will be placing increased emphasis on encouraging support of families and nurturing faith – as an approach, not a program. MC Canada can provide a place to dialogue on nurturing faith, help to gather and distribute resources, and to collaborate in this with congregations, area conferences and MC USA. In youth ministries, MC Canada can provide service ministries for youth and young adults, mentoring programs for adults and youth, youth assemblies, short term service opportunities, and perhaps a Canada-wide youth council. MC Canada congregations now worship in at least ten languages; the church reflects the Canadian multi-cultural society. Leaders in multi-cultural congregations need to be able to identify both with their own culture and the Canadian culture. This will take time and support from both MC Canada and the area conferences. This means Anabaptist teaching materials that reflect appreciation for the many cultures. Congregational lay leadership needs a culture of encouragement. This may mean training programs for lay leadership within congregations – an Institute of Lay Leadership. In Christian Witness there is the potential in assisting congregational partnerships in missional formation. There are churches in other countries ready to partner with us; they are no longer just “mission” churches, but sister churches ready to partner with us. MC Canada can help focus these partnerships.

Delegates then went to breakout groups to consider questions such as changing the youth assembly schedule to every two years, identifying the priorities for Christian Formation to enhance Christian education and nurture in the local congregation, suggesting assistance MC Canada could give for becoming multi-cultural congregations, and stating program priorities for Mennonite Church Canada Witness.

*Discussion/Responses:*

- The group affirmed alternate years for youth events. This change will require good publicity.
- We affirmed alternate years for youth assemblies; this included discussion on the Peace-it-Together gatherings. It would be helpful to have more cross-cultural assistance in Christian education; the question is how best to do this. One way would be to invite international students into our homes. For Christian Witness the priorities are all important; it's important to get staff into all areas of the country.
- Lay leadership training would be served by more online courses that would serve rural areas. Milestone ministries are important – congregational markers at various stages of life. Appreciation was expressed for the variety of partnerships available.
- Discussion on youth assembly changes was ambivalent. The multicultural emphasis comes from the urban context; rural-urban partnerships could help. Christian Formation needs to give attention to biblical literacy.
- The group affirmed alternate year youth assemblies, and expressed the hope they would not just be big parties. "Multi-cultural" can also mean differences between youth and adults, work contexts, etc.
- The group affirmed youth assemblies in alternate years, but this will have impact on area conference programming. Coordination with MC USA needs to be careful. The group was concerned about the reduced Sunday school attendance by young adults.

Joy Kroeger chaired the following items.

**25. Budgets and Projected Budgets for Fiscal Years Ending (FYE) 2003-2005**

Finance Committee Chair Bruno Friesen responded to comments on the financial report presentation on Thursday morning. He wondered if the concerns were on the presentation of the reports or on the veracity of the numbers in the audited report. If the latter, the General Board takes the concern very seriously. Both the Finance Committee and General Board reviewed the audited financial statements and were comfortable with them. If it's a matter of report presentation, this can be addressed with the help of delegates telling us what information is most helpful.

Bruno Friesen then spoke to the budget recommendations – this is a return to a three-year forecast that was used prior to transformation. Benchmarks are in place to monitor the budgets. He noted the substantial increase for Mennonite World Conference, and assured delegates that unrestricted and bequest funds are available to cover the projected deficits.

Pam Peters-Pries said the visions at Abbotsford 2001 have been converted into reality. She noted some corrections to the projected budget for FYE2005. She said at Abbotsford 2001 a projected budget for FYE2002 had been presented and approved. This budget needed to be revised when additional costs came to light, especially in the area of Support Services – a new council that did not have the transition leadership in place that other councils did. This significant budgetary omission resulted in significant changes to the FYE2003 budget as well as the subsequent years. A balanced budget is projected for the third year of the cycle – FYE2005. The revised budget for FYE2003 does not reflect the total cost of programs approved at Abbotsford; cost savings had to be achieved through delayed staff appointments and reductions in giving to Mennonite World Conference and Canadian Mennonite University for this year. The revised budget of \$5.678 million also revised bequest revenue downward to more accurately reflect MC Canada's policy on recognition of bequest income. Congregational giving will need to increase slightly to meet the budget for FYE2003. Revenue is expected to catch up with program expenses by FYE2005. The Christian Witness Council budget is 53% of MC Canada's total budget, the greatest portion of this is in international ministries. Christian Formation takes 15.8% of the budget. Support Services is 20% of budget; this includes MWC, and all communications and Human Resources costs for MC Canada. CMBC and *Canadian Mennonite* are 12.6% of budget.

Pam Peters-Pries said the FYE2004 budget increased by 9% because it includes a full year of the programs approved at Abbotsford 2001, as well as a 2% inflation factor. The projected FYE2005 budget holds program costs steady except for a 2% inflation factor. MC Canada anticipates increased financial support for our ministries, but does not assume this naively. The General Board has approved a process of checking donations against benchmarks based on a seven year donation average. If the benchmarks are not achieved, planned program reductions will be made. Peters-Pries reported that at the end of May, MC Canada had received 19% of the year's projected income; this is above the historic average. The General Board has also approved withdrawals from bequest funds to cover the planned deficits in FYE2003 and FYE2004. These additional withdrawals were not reflected in the bequest revenue lines, so that delegates can see the deficits that are being planned. Even with the additional withdrawals from the bequest funds, MC Canada will have \$300,000-\$600,000 remaining. The General Board thus recommends approval of the budgets, with a firm commitment to careful monitoring of them. The General Board recognizes this will be a challenge for the constituency.

Dan Nighswander said MC Canada leadership is aware of the larger context of anxiety about clear, truthful and transparent financial reporting. Last year we discovered some significant mistakes in budgeting. Because of the major program transitions, staff had to project budgetary expenses without the benefit of past-year experience. Christian Witness and Christian Formation did a great job of this; Support Services was not yet in place. This led to a \$500,000 error that needed to be addressed through reductions and postponements. This will not recur – as General Secretary Nighswander said he will monitor this with the help of the financial expertise of Pam Peters-Pries and Paul Klassen, the new Director of Finance, as well as a new accounting system. The essential tools are in place.

Ron Sawatsky said improved procedures in budget building are now in place. The General Board recognized there might be a temporary downswing in income after MC Canada's transformation, but agreed that MC Canada needed to challenge the church. The General Board believed there would be benefits for area conferences and congregations. The General Board is taking an aggressive approach in balancing the budget this year and next year through use of bequest funds, but it is not depleting these funds. Benchmarks to monitor donation income will be followed, and contingency plans in the event of donation shortfall will come to the General Board in November. MC Canada follows GAAP in its financial work, and expects this of the other agencies we support. MC Canada's new resource development department will also provide additional income. Sawatsky noted that Pam Peters-Pries began as Executive Secretary of Support Services last September, and was the person who identified the budgeting error that had been presented to the Abbotsford assembly. The incumbent Treasurer left in April and the Assistant Treasurer returned early from a sabbatical to assist us. During the transformation to MC Canada some mistakes have been made. Sawatsky invited delegates to help us move forward together to maintain trust. He also referred the financial report for FYE2002 approved earlier – it did not include a repayment schedule for Mennonite Publishing House on the mortgage because this schedule came after the audit field work was done.

**MOTION #4 – The delegate assembly approves the revised budget presented for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2003, as well as the projected budgets presented for fiscal year ending January 31, 2004 and fiscal year ending January 31, 2005.**

*General Board/Glenn Zehr*

*Discussion:*

- Thanks for the additional information. "Projected budget" is new language; it would be better to approve budgets instead of "projected budgets." Is monitoring of the budget part of the motion? Response: The General Board has approved this already in a formal action.
- Under the previous GCMC structure AMBS received a portion of undesignated donations. Where does AMBS show in the budget? Response: MC Canada will forward designated funds; we are monitoring what effect this will have on AMBS. AMBS funding will be part of the education discussion. This may require conversation between AMBS and MC Canada staff.
- Why did CMU's amount get reduced this year? Response: They were cut by the same percentage as the councils were cut when the financial error came to light. CMU is being restored in the same way.

- Are deficits being carried forward? Response: General Board has agreed to balance the budgets the next two years from bequest funds. The deficits will not carry forward.
- The benchmarks are in place for July 2003. What happens if there are problems in the current year? Response: We have started to monitor the budget, but it would be harder to implement program cuts this year to make the expenses balance. This could mean a bit larger deficit this year; it will be easier to ensure we don't get out of line in FYE2004.
- The projected donation increases cause some unease – fund drives are happening for AMBS, CMU and MPH. Can you allay the unease? Response: That's a key question. We are telling the church clearly what is happening; we anticipate resource development staff will help. Most of the MPH money is not coming from Canada. When there is vision, money is available. MC Canada staff has done a good job of setting the vision to the church.
- We need to be careful how we use "missional church" language. Some congregations may hear this as endorsing more program at home with less support for the area or national conference.

The motion **carried**.

**26. Appointment of Auditor**

**MOTION #5 – The delegate assembly appoints KPMG as the auditor for Mennonite Church Canada for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2003.**

*Bruno Friesen/ Wilmer Martin Carried*

**27. Recommendation on Changes to the Bylaws**

Dan Nighswander reviewed the changes listed on p. 64 of the report book. The Finance Committee related to Support Services. Now the General Board has said this is a responsibility it cannot give away. Thus the Financial Policy and Audit Committee will report to the General Board. He noted several additional bylaw amendments to accommodate this change:

Section 21, Subsection (4) shall end: "...by the **General Board**."

New Section 29(a) should read "... prepared by the **Director of Finance** ..."

New Section 29 (f) should add "... **and review proposed budgets before submission to the General Board.**"

**MOTION #6 – The delegate assembly approves the changes to the bylaws for Mennonite Church Canada as recommended on p. 64 of the report book and as amended in the presentation.**

*General Board/Bernie Enns Carried*

**28. Resolutions**

The Resolutions Committee brought a series of resolutions:

**a) Resolution 3**

- **We commit to support the Mennonite Publishing House (MPH) Executive Committee by giving encouragement through prayer and constructive comments.**
- **We recommend a serious review of what happened at MPH to ensure it does not happen again.**
- **Further, we request that MC Canada look at the implications of how we operate in relation to all subsidiary organizations.**

*Ron Loeppky/Ken Loewen*

*Discussion:*

- In our history we had a travel debt in coming from Russia to Canada; we took care of that and we'll take care of this.

The resolution **carried**.

**b) Resolution 4**

- **As citizens of Canada and as children of God through Christ Jesus, we are concerned about the United States announcing a policy to assassinate Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, and all that such an operation will entail including increased suffering to the people of Iraq.**
- **We ask the General Board to write a letter on our behalf, encouraging our Canadian government to continue the policy of opposing the U.S. government on this matter.**

*Peace and Justice Office/Marvin Baergen Carried*

c) **Resolution 5**

- **We weep with our fellow citizens in many places like the city of Saskatoon where a Jewish synagogue was fire-bombed and a library containing valuable documents and books was damaged.**
- **We ask that Mennonite Church Canada show empathy to our Jewish neighbours by asking the General Board to send a letter expressing our feelings in this and other instances of such violence.**

*Jake Wieler/Mel Letkeman*

*Discussion:*

- Do we always write a letter when such an incident happens? To whom do we send them? Response (Mover): It's important that a letter be sent in this case. If the resolution provides future direction, so much the better.
- A Muslim mosque was fire-bombed in St. Catharines, Ontario. Does this also apply to that community?
- A mosque was also defaced in London, Ontario. It's not right to send only one letter.
- The phrase "other instances" would cover this. This should not become a form letter, but should be personal response.
- The implications of this resolution are concerning. Should we rather develop a denominational statement on the implications of the events of September 11?
- Since the assembly is meeting in Saskatoon, it makes sense to write a letter here. The General Board can look at ways to implement this in other situations.

The resolution **carried** with some opposition.

d) **Resolution 6**

- **The costs of planning, hosting and attending annual assemblies are escalating at the same time that there is increasing pressure on denominational, conference, and congregational budgets.**
- **Moving to a biennial schedule of assemblies, as MC USA does presently, and the youth conference is moving towards, would save considerable money that could be used in other areas of ministry, mission and relief work around the world. Any annual reporting needed might be incorporated into the annual meetings of area conferences since MC Canada people attend these gatherings.**
- **We ask the General Board to review the practice of holding annual assemblies and bring to the 2004 assembly a report and recommendation on the possibility of moving to biennial assemblies.**

*Ray Friesen/Henry Block*

*Discussion:*

- I oppose the resolution. This assembly was a disappointment as it moved to a more Mennonite Church style with little floor time and delegate discussion. Biennial sessions would perpetuate this.
- With major financial issues still with us, we need to address them regularly. Response: A major review of transformation is scheduled for 2004. Changes would likely take place after 2005 (the next joint assembly).
- What are the costs of this assembly? Response: The basic costs this year were \$15,000-\$17,000. This does not include staff preparation time.
- It's good to seriously look at the biennial possibility. But keep the worship, especially the morning worship; it sets the mood for the day. It would be good to have time for more delegate input as well.
- A review of the assembly schedule is appropriate. The Mennonite Church style is good, but there is also need for delegate input. The cost of assemblies needs to be balanced with other opportunities.
- There is also a cost in not having an annual assembly – that's the matter of accountability.

The motion **carried** with some opposition.

e) **Resolution 7**

- **Realizing that intensive agendas and competent staff lead to less delegate discussion and the feeling of less ownership, we urge the Program Committee and General Board to program less intensively and provide more opportunity for delegate discussion and decision time in future assemblies.**

*Resolutions Committee/Ken Bechtel Carried with some opposition.*

f) **Resolution 8**

- **It is important that as churches we have confidence in our leadership process. We ask that our Nominations Committee consult with local churches concerning the viability and integrity of potential candidates for Mennonite Church Canada.**

*Jake Buhler/Joe Neufeld Carried with some opposition*

g) **Resolution 9**

- **We invite this Assembly to acknowledge with thanks the good gift of competent, dedicated and committed leadership through the General Board and staff of MC Canada as experienced once again during these days. We appreciate the ways in which we have been reminded and encouraged to go on tending God's field, and to form and be formed as God's people in the world.**
- **We commit to support those who have been called and appointed to work with and for us through the ministries of Mennonite Church Canada.**

*Resolutions Committee/David Regier Carried*

h) **Resolution 10**

- **Acknowledging the enormity of the task of hosting MC Canada's annual assembly, we thank all the host churches, dedicated volunteers and billets for their warm "Bridge City" welcome and hospitality. We recognize the time and energy expended on our behalf. God bless you for your service.**

*Resolutions Committee/Applause Carried.*

i) **Resolution 11**

Several newsworthy items that appeared in the Saskatoon *Star-Phoenix* this week led to this resolution. It seems many years ago an enterprising person began selling "clean Saskatchewan air" sealed in a can. It was recently discovered in an old barn in Minnesota, and sold, via eBay for \$25.00. Also, we're told a certain furry rodent plentiful in Saskatchewan is being bred in Ontario and offered for sale in pet stores for the sum of \$249 – expensive enough to be considered exotic. Our brothers and sisters from Southern Ontario will be returning soon to the hot, humid, smog-filled air of home. Since we in Saskatchewan care deeply about them and for their well-being:

**Resolved that we allow them the right to take home, by any means possible, some of our clean, healthful Saskatchewan air. And, in addition, a real, live prairie gopher to love and care for as a reminder of the good days spent here. All free of charge.**

*Herman Wiebe/Laughter Carried.*

**29. Listening Committee**

Darrell Fast said this has been a good assembly. We were well served by the facilities and staff of Circle Drive church and our Saskatoon hosts. Anita Jantz said that MC Canada is a diverse body, and we have rich and varied gifts. There did appear to be some frustration at the congregational level that a gap exists between the congregations and the vision presented by MC Canada staff.

Darrell Fast said that even though there was opportunity for delegate interaction in breakout groups and seminars, there was little delegate discernment time in the plenary sessions. This was felt most keenly during the report on the MPH financial crisis.

Darrell Fast also noted the absence of brothers and sisters from MC USA, particularly from Newton, Kansas, especially in view of the role of the General Conference Mennonite Church in the formation of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada.

Anita Jantz said delegates had expressed gratitude for the way reporting was done, and for the excellent presentations. However, there was a strong desire for more time for debate and expression of concerns from the floor.

Darrell Fast closed by noting the nervous laughter when reference was made to the time women were not permitted to be delegates. This causes us to reflect on how we have failed to give and receive forgiveness for sins of the past, and how we need to pray for forgiveness for sins of exclusion even at this assembly. He invited delegates to a minute of silent prayer so that we could continue to listen for the voice of God.

Joy Kroeger then thanked all committees and volunteers who made this assembly a success.

**30. Farewell for Ron Sawatsky**

Ron Sawatsky briefly reflected on his six years of service as moderator of Conference of Mennonites in Canada and Mennonite Church Canada. He was thankful for the opportunity to lead. This time has been a gift to him, and changed his own sense of spirituality and sense of leadership. It has sometimes been a lonely role, but he has caught a glimpse of the length and breadth of MC Canada. He recalled the high points of various assemblies, the friendships gained, and the close relationships developed with MC USA and the councils and staff of MC Canada. He particularly recalled leadership persons with whom he had closely worked. He expressed thanks for the support of his home congregation, Waterloo North Mennonite Church, and especially for his wife, Sue, and his children, Bevan and Laresa. He is optimistic for the future of MC Canada.

Bruce Baergen, Dan Nighswander and Joy Kroeger then expressed thanks to Ron (and Sue) for his service for the church. They presented gifts of T-shirts, a scrapbook and mugs to Ron and Sue.

**31. Assembly 2003.**

Wanda Roth Amstutz, co-pastor at the Niagara United Mennonite Church, and David Brubacher, MCEC Minister to Conference, welcomed MC Canada to hold its 2003 delegate assembly in St. Catharines, Ontario. They promised a warm welcome.

Ron Sawatsky announced the delegate discernment time was closed.

**32. Closing Worship**

Clare Ewert Fisher and Henry Paetkau, with Simply Superb and Duff Warkentin, led our worship. Scriptures read were 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 and John 21:15-19.

The children's assembly, organized by Lynne Driedger Enns, reported on their own tending of God's field, and forming God's people. The children sang, "Let's make a garden of the world" by Valerie Wiebe. Debbie Ann, Gerry and Amanda Unrau told a story about Rebecca, her cat, and a pumpkin. A mass choir, led by Duff Warkentin, then sang "A Naramata Alleluia."

Menno Epp preached on "Intended for Tending." He said a central issue of the Gospel message is love. Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Epistle to the Corinthians tells of many congregational struggles, but chapter 13 brings renewal of a call for love. Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" after many failures. Peter was God's field, we are God's field, the world is God's field. Sometimes the field is covered with debris – anger, bitterness, contentiousness – as with Corinth and Peter. The scriptural mandate is to love, and love means to be engaged. Love is demonstrated in truth and action, not only words.

The mass choir sang, "Listen to the Wind." We took an offering for Mennonite World Conference, followed by a litany of thanks for those who have served MC Canada, and a commissioning for MC Canada staff and elected persons. Dan Nighswander thanked Henry Paetkau for his service as Denominational Minister. He then introduced Henry Krause, incoming moderator. Henry Krause expressed thanks for the privilege of service. He is looking forward to the challenge, and to working with the General Board and staff. He expressed thanks to Ron Sawatsky for his legacy. Henry Krause said it was a dangerous thing to be the church, but the view is spectacular. We're on a dangerous assignment, but it's only there that we see the awesome beauty of God. God will lead where we did not plan to go. God is with us. God will enlighten us and give us courage.

We ended the assembly with a service of communion led by Henry Paetkau.

**33. Adjournment**

*Minutes recorded by Sam Steiner, MC Canada Secretary, with assistance from Margaret Buckner, Assistant Secretary for Saskatoon 2002.*

## Abbreviations

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|      |  |            |                                    |
|------|--|------------|------------------------------------|
| AMBS | Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary   | MC         | Mennonite Church                   |
| CFC  | Christian Formation Council              | MCA        | Mennonite Church Alberta           |
| CBC  | Columbia Bible College                   | MC BC      | Mennonite Church British Columbia  |
| CWC  | Christian Witness Council                | MC Canada  | Mennonite Church Canada            |
| CGUC | Conrad Grebel University College         | MC Sask    | Mennonite Church Saskatchewan      |
| CMBC | Canadian Mennonite Bible College         | MCC        | Mennonite Central Committee        |
| CMC  | Conference of Mennonites in Canada       | MCC Canada | Mennonite Central Committee Canada |
| CMU  | Canadian Mennonite University            | MCEC       | Mennonite Church Eastern Canada    |
| CPT  | Christian Peacemaker Teams               | MCM        | Mennonite Church Manitoba          |
| CWM  | Canadian Women in Mission                | MC USA     | Mennonite Church USA               |
| FTE  | Full Time Equivalent                     | MFC        | Mennonite Foundation of Canada     |
| FYE  | Fiscal Year Ending                       | MMN        | Mennonite Mission Network          |
| GAAP | Generally Accepted Accounting Principles | MPH        | Mennonite Publishing House         |
| GCMC | General Conference Mennonite Church      | MPS        | Mennonite Publishing Service       |
| GMO  | Genetically Modified Organism            | MVS        | Mennonite Voluntary Service        |
| JEC  | Joint Executive Committee                | MWC        | Mennonite World Conference         |
| MB   | Mennonite Brethren                       | PTT        | Publishing Transformation Team     |

## Slate of Nominees

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Moderator (2yr) – Henry Krause, Langley BC  
Assistant Moderator (2 yr) – Joy Kroeger, Hanley SK  
CMBC Board (3yr) – Grace Funk, Swift Current SK  
CMBC Board (3yr) – Harold Hildebrand Schlegel, St. Jacobs ON  
Christian Formation Council Chair (1yr) – Ruth Friesen, Edmonton AB  
Christian Formation Council (3yr) – Van Hoa Chau, Winnipeg MB  
Christian Formation Council (3yr) – Veronica Dyck, Vancouver BC  
Christian Formation Council (3yr) – Donna Driedger, Osler SK  
Christian Formation Council (3yr) – Rudy Franz, Gretna MB  
Christian Witness Council (3yr) – Dori Zerbe Cornelsen, Winnipeg MB  
Christian Witness Council (3yr) – Ernest J. Epp, Saskatoon SK  
Christian Witness Council (3yr) – Abe Buhler, Black Creek BC  
Support Services Council (1yr) – Bruno Friesen, Calgary AB  
Support Services Council (3yr) – Sheila Wiens-Neufeld, Langham SK  
Nominating Committee (3yr) – Glenn Zehr, Millbank ON



## Appointments and Committees

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### Hosting Committee (Saskatoon SK)

Chairperson - Len Andres  
Facilities – Jake & Betty Banman  
Food Services – Darlene Martens, Aberdeen SK  
Guest Services – Delmar Rempel  
Hospitality – Howard Willems & Brenda Baergen  
Registration & Lodging – Ron & Sue Schellenberg  
Tours & Activities – Rich & Alice Krahn  
Transportation – Bill Schofield  
Treasurer – Rudy Dyck

### Hosting Congregations

Cornerstone Mennonite Church, First Mennonite Church, Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Nutana Park Mennonite Church, Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite Church, Warman Mennonite Church, Wildwood Mennonite Church, Zoar Mennonite Church (Langham)), Zoar Mennonite Church (Waldheim)

### Assistant Secretary

Margaret Buckner, Saskatoon SK

### Parliamentarian

Peter Peters, Regina SK

### Nominating Committee

Arny Froese, Abbotsford BC  
Renata Klassen, Saskatoon SK  
Henry Loewen, Winnipeg MB  
Tim Wiebe-Neufeld, Edmonton AB  
Herb Schultz, New Hamburg ON

### Program Committee

Craig Friesen, Rosthern SK  
Mildred Roth, New Hamburg ON

### Resolutions Committee

Harold Peters-Fransen, Winnipeg MB  
Janette Thiessen, Abbotsford BC  
Herman Wiebe, Langham SK

### Listening Committee

Darrel Fast, Leamington ON  
Anita Jantz, Saskatoon SK  
Sunny Lee, Winnipeg MB



**Board Summary**

|  | <b>1</b>                              | <b>2</b>                  | <b>3</b>                  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|  | <b>2001-02<br/>Revised<br/>Budget</b> | <b>2001-02<br/>Actual</b> | <b>2000-01<br/>Actual</b> |
| <b>Revenues</b>                              |                                       |                           |                           |
| General Budget                               | 37,427                                | 52,417                    | 5,368                     |
| General Board                                | 570,134                               | 495,928                   | 82,735                    |
| CMBC   | 408,422                               | 521,641                   | 420,317                   |
| Ministries                                   | 397,703                               | 375,851                   | 378,397                   |
| Resources                                    | <u>94,314</u>                         | <u>89,132</u>             | <u>95,803</u>             |
| Leadership                                   | 1,508,000                             | 1,534,968                 | 982,620                   |
| All boards                                   |                                       |                           |                           |
| Other Donations (net of Admin & Fundraising) |                                       |                           |                           |
| General Board                                | 115,001                               | 264,602                   | 171,526                   |
| CMBC   | (49,872)                              | 102,245                   | 25,895                    |
| Ministries                                   | 184,680                               | 227,422                   | 174,076                   |
| Resources                                    | 277,181                               | 377,295                   | 322,258                   |
| Leadership                                   | <u>(4,250)</u>                        | <u>16,148</u>             | <u>33,358</u>             |
| All boards                                   | 522,740                               | 987,712                   | 727,113                   |
| Grants, Interest, Fees & Other Income        |                                       |                           |                           |
| General Board                                | 224,001                               | 252,278                   | 279,756                   |
| CMBC   | 0                                     | 119,003                   | 673,041                   |
| Ministries                                   | 58,850                                | 95,756                    | 80,405                    |
| Resources                                    | 198,016                               | 261,000                   | 165,587                   |
| Leadership                                   | <u>400</u>                            | <u>1,273</u>              | <u>3,180</u>              |
| All boards                                   | 481,267                               | 729,310                   | 1,201,969                 |

|   |               |                |                |
|---|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Total Revenues</b>   | 2,512,007     | 3,251,991      | 2,911,702      |
| <b>Expenses</b>   |               |                |                |
| General Board   | 424,530       | 560,953        | 506,744        |
| CMBC  | 520,262       | 714,120        | 752,750        |
| Ministries  | 644,850       | 668,074        | 705,871        |
| Resources   | 877,350       | 990,349        | 870,947        |
| <u>Leadership</u>   | <u>96,500</u> | <u>125,685</u> | <u>117,230</u> |
| All boards  | 2,563,492     | 3,059,182      | 2,953,542      |
| <b>Transfers (to) from Capital &amp; Internally Restricted Reserves</b> |               |                |                |
| General Board   | 23,000        | (20,289)       | 33,691         |
| CMBC  | 0             | 4,453          | (1,483)        |
| Ministries  | 0             | (136,737)      | 810            |
| Resources   | 10,000        | (9,745)        | 8,837          |
| <u>Leadership</u>   | <u>0</u>      | <u>0</u>       | <u>0</u>       |
| All boards  | 33,000        | (162,318)      | 41,855         |
| <b>Unrestricted Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)</b>                       |               |                |                |
| General Board   | (12,005)      | 1,152          | 13,096         |
| CMBC  | 60,077        | 67,585         | 60,077         |
| Ministries  | (32,905)      | 0              | (40,007)       |
| Resources   | (8,503)       | 0              | (14,053)       |
| <u>Leadership</u>   | <u>13,095</u> | <u>0</u>       | <u>19,132</u>  |
| All boards 31-Jan-02  | 19,760        | 68,737         | 38,245         |

## Seminars

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### Thursday

- 1 THE GLOBAL BANQUET: POLITICS OF FOOD. *Making Peace With the Land Organizers*
- 2 GRATITUDE FROM THE HEART: A BIBLE STUDY IN COLOSSIANS. *Erv Stutzman*
- 3 COUNTRY MOUSE/CITY MOUSE. *Greg Bowman*
- 4 WHAT WAS PAUL TALKING ABOUT? *Dan Nighswander*
- 5 CHURCHES PLANTING CHURCHES. *Chris Arney & Jean-Jacques Goulet*
- 6 PRAYER: A SPIRITUAL RESOURCE FOR THE MISSIONAL CHURCH. *Steve Plenert*
- 7 SHOULD YOUR CHURCH HAVE A WEBSITE? *Stuart Williams*
- 8 BEING THE CHURCH IN ZIMBABWE. *Dothan Moyo*
- 9 PRECIOUS PAPERS: CRITICAL DOCUMENTS AND DECISIONS FOR YOUR PERSONAL AND FAMILY ESTATE PLANNING. *Jim Brown & Bob Veitch*
- 10 UNDERSTANDING OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBOURS. *Brice Balmer*
- 11 GET A GRIP. *Jack Suderman*
- 12 LAY LEADERS: GOD'S GIFT TO THE CHURCH. *Maurice Martin*
- 13 THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WITNESS. *Janet Plenert*

### Friday

- 1 THE GLOBAL BANQUET: POLITICS OF FOOD (repeat). *Making Peace With the Land Organizers*
- 2 THE BOOK OF REVELATION TODAY AND THE "LEFT BEHIND" SERIES. *Loren Johns*

### Saturday

- 1 "DELAFIELD": THE STORY OF A RURAL COMMUNITY. *Making Peace With the Land Organizers*
- 2 JACOB: "FORMING GOD'S PEOPLE". *Dan Epp-Tiessen*
- 3 WINDOW INTO IRAQ. *Esther Epp-Tiessen*
- 4 WHEN CULTURES COME TOGETHER. *Samson Lo*
- 5 GET CONNECTED. *Jack Suderman*
- 6 PEACE CIRCLES OF FAITH: NATIVE ABORIGINAL LEADERSHIP. *Donovan Jacobs & Walter Franz*
- 7 I JUST DO THE BULLETIN. *Ingrid Krueger*
- 8 IS YOUR CONGREGATION BREAKING THE LAW? *Pam Peters-Pries*
- 9 "OPENING DOORS" IN THE MISSIONAL CHURCH. *Justina Heese*
- 10 ARE SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS RACIST? *Fred Redekop*
- 11 INTERNET AND COMMUNITY: THE NEW REALITY. *Stuart Williams*
- 12 THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WITNESS. *Janet Plenert*



## Worship

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Worship services for MC Canada Assembly, Saskatoon 2002, centred around the Assembly theme "Tending God's Field, Forming God's People" based on 1 Cor. 3:6-9. Morning worship services, led by "Simply Superb", a music group from Superb Mennonite Church, focused on three parables from the Wheatbelt Gospel (based on the *Cotton Patch Gospels* of Clarence Jordan). Music and words were written by Grant Martens. Each parable, presented as a contemporary parable using places and people from Saskatchewan settings, encouraged new ways of hearing and seeing ourselves within the gospel texts.

Evening worship services included speakers Nelson Kraybill, Karen Martens Zimmerly, and Menno Epp. Each speaker picked up some aspect of the theme text, highlighting it with other scriptural texts. Nelson Kraybill challenged listeners to be like trees planted by the water, grounded in Jesus Christ, whose roots will bring forth people and congregations who will change the world. Karen Martens Zimmerly used the parable of the sower to describe the Kingdom of God. In God's Kingdom there is a rhythm of springtime, summer, harvest, and winter. The field is God's and the growth, God's work also. God is present throughout all seasons. That God is at work in ways we do not always see, was demonstrated in the historical drama presented by the Canadian Women in Mission. Together we celebrated and rejoiced in their 50th anniversary, noting that individual provincial and local groups had their beginnings long before 1952. On Saturday evening, Menno Epp challenged the gathered congregation to answer Peter's question "Do you love me?" in the affirmative and to demonstrate that love by loving and nurturing even the least of these for we are all part of God's field. Worship culminated in a commissioning service and a feast of the Lord's Supper led by Henry Paetkau, Denominational Minister.

Worship leaders Claire and Garth Ewert-Fischer, Ray Friesen, Christy Martens Funk, and Pauline Steinmann together planned the details of the services, calling on young and old, men and women, musicians and dramatists to lead us into the presence of God. *Simply Superb*, with additional help from song leaders, pianists, and drummer, led the congregation in music.

Planning worship for an event such as Saskatoon 2002 is an awesome task, both in terms of the organizational work involved and in the spiritual richness that is generated and shared among creative and enthusiastic participants. The Program Committee set the theme and arranged for the evening speakers, while the worship committee took responsibility for fleshing out the worship services, all with the goal of creating the space where people could meet and worship God.

### Committee Members:

Pauline Steinmann, Saskatoon (Coordinator)  
Craig Friesen, Rosthern (liaison from Program Committee)  
Grant Martens, Kerrobert  
Duff Warkentin, Rosthern

Pauline Steinmann  
On behalf of the Worship Committee

## Tours

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Approximately 274 people (including tour hosts) participated in the various tours offered. These tours consisted of:

- #1 Prairie Icon – cancelled
- #2 Wanuskewin – 16 people
- #3 Batoche – cancelled
- #4 Mennonite Historical Tour – 2 buses – 95 people
- #5 Peace in the Valley – 37 people
- #6 Mineral Springs – 26 people
- #7 David Toews – 52 people
- #8 Barn Playhouse – 35 people (could have sold many more tickets if we had had them)
- #9 Motorcycle Road Trip – 12 people

### Comments and Suggestions:

It is an excellent idea to get the people into the local churches for the supper meal. It brings people together from across Canada and beyond. I went with the Manitou Springs group and we stopped for supper at Pleasant Point Mennonite Church. They did an excellent job of hosting the group. Harry Harder, the local pastor, welcomed us, introduced the local people and gave us a history of the church and community. We ate supper together with the local people which allowed for interaction and the fellowship was enjoyed by everyone. After supper, we all went upstairs and sang a hymn together and then we all went out to the cemetery and spent time there until it was time to leave.

Our registration desk was beside the Hospitality desk. We think this is a good idea because they deal with the tourist information, which connects with tours. Even though our tours left at 1:00pm on Friday, we had someone at our desk until mid afternoon because there were quite a few people who wanted information as to what to do during the free afternoon.

When we set up our tours, we based our costs on 80% of bus capacity. We felt it was easier to have all tours set at one price because people give their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice and participants also change their minds as to what tour they want to take. Most of our buses were filled to capacity while two were not filled. We were also pleasantly surprised that the invoice for the buses came in as quite a bit less than what we had originally budgeted, which meant that we profited.

Our income was calculated according to all registrants having paid their tour costs (we did not require the tour hosts to pay the registration fee). We have no way of knowing whether this was actually the case. We received registration information from the MC Canada head office and compiled our lists accordingly. People started coming to us and telling us that they had not yet paid but, according to the registrations, we thought they had paid. A few others said they had paid but we didn't have their names on our list. We took them at their word and either accepted their money or placed their names on the list. When some of the tours started filling up, there was some anxiety on our part thinking we might have more people show up than we had spaces for on the bus. As far as we know, all problems were solved and everything went well on the buses. We had to reserve buses a month prior to the conference and had to guess as to how many we might need. We think an earlier deadline for registrations would be very helpful for the tour committee.

We found that out of the total participants in the tours, approximately 2/3 pre-registered and the rest registered at the assembly.

We purchased bottled water for everyone and this was much appreciated by the participants.

We found that there was a real interest in Mennonite history – approximately ½ of the participants were in a Mennonite historical tour. Every area of Canada would have a different twist on Mennonite history and we suspect that they will always be popular.

We received many encouraging comments about the tours. We believe the tours should most definitely be continued. Rich and I truly enjoyed working with our committee, the local assembly committee and the staff from Mennonite Church Canada, particularly Karen Peters. We are thankful for the opportunity to work at this Assembly. It was an enjoyable experience for both of us.

Tour Coordinators: Rich & Alice Krahn

## Children's Program

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This years children's program was bursting with enthusiasm... energy... and friends. Sixty-five children participated in a parallel program to the adult sessions which focused on Tending God's Field, Forming God's People. We explored issues of food and agricultural awareness through daily themes:

Celebrating Children  
Celebrating Community  
Celebrating God's World

The children's book, *Let's Make a Garden*, by Tamara Awad Lobe became our major reference. Discussion, Visual art experiences based on the techniques used by the artist in the book and a commissioned song by Val Wiebe brought this book to life for the children.

Each day we began in a gathering circle where we sang our theme song, *Let's Make a Garden*, by Val Wiebe. Our daily theme was then introduced through clowning ministry. In other words... each morning Clown Carolyn had us smiling and thinking as she introduced the theme of the day... her red curly hair bouncing and bright make-up beaming... her stories and 'clowning' set the tone for each day of togetherness.

From the large group of children we broke into multi-aged groups (some older children and some very young children in each group). Each group traveled to several stations based on the daily theme. Games in the gym; crafts made from recycled materials such as lady bugs and bees all went into their own specially made bag decorated with their own hands resembling the mark of the assembly hands; journey of the wheat seed, where children learned about wheat, ground wheat to flour, mixed, baked and tasted bread; simulations games, where children discussed the distribution of the cost of a loaf of bread and how this affects farmers and multi-national corporations. They also looked at food distribution on a global scale and simulated this unequal distribution of food... those pretending to be Asian found it very difficult and unjust to have to share a few crumbs of bread while the North Americans ate all they wanted plus had leftovers. Snack out in the sunny court-yard (cookies and juice served by the youth) and trips to the Forestry Farm Zoo and Lathey Swimming Pool were special times to play with new friends and old friends alike. And even in all the sweating and swimming the children's tattoos of the assembly hands stayed on.

Children's evening programming was facilitated by Mel and Enid Letkeman. Creating murals, crafts, singing together, games... children bubbled to the very end.

Three meaningful inter-generational activities also were part of the children's experience. Friday morning, adults discussed ways of active peacemaking. Their thoughts and ideas were recorded on brightly coloured hands. On the floor in the front of the large assembly sanctuary, the children busily worked and whispered as they pasted these small hands into a large image of the assembly hands. When all the hands were glued on, we carried it up the stairs into the balcony as Marilyn Houser Hamm quietly accompanied us on the piano. It was quite a thrill to see our many beautiful children line the balcony and unfurl the banner we all made together... a few colourful hands fluttering away before Arlyn Friesen Epp gave the closing prayer and we all sang in deep rich harmony together... all ages... all visioning ways for peace.

Another intergenerational experience happened Friday evening at the Prairie Festival where children and youth and adults laughed and square danced in the hay loft together, sang around the campfire together, cozied up in a horse drawn wagon together... truly memories and friendships children and adults alike will cherish.

Saturday evening, after a busy morning in stations and discussing 'big food and agricultural issues' and an entire afternoon zipping down water slides and splashing in the pool, we had a rehearsal with the adult mass choir in preparation for the evening closing service... a quick service and all of a sudden the children were skipping down the aisles as the congregation sang 'Come all You People'... up on stage we presented our theme song and Val invited the congregation to sing it with us... our African drums sounding as we sang... at the end of our part in the service, as the children were leaving the stage, we presented each child with their own copy of *Let's make a Garden*, these books were donated by our Mennonite Schools - Mennonite Educational Institute, Menno Simons Christian School, and Winnipeg Elementary Schools... holding their bright red book the children all mosied back stage and without any adult suggestion they ALL flopped down on the floor and each opened their book... complete silence... just enjoying a book they had come to love over the last few days... savouring the last few moments of just being together and basking in the warmth of being part of the larger assembly... and then... five minutes later... they were up... and bouncing off to the gym for one last game together.

**Committee Chair:**

Lynne Driedger-Enns, Nutana Park Mennonite Church, Saskatoon

**Committee Members:**

Carolyn Vis, Grace Mennonite Church, Prince Albert  
Louella Klassen Friesen, Zoar Mennonite Church, Waldheim  
Karen Epp, Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon  
Donna Driedger, Nutana Park Mennonite Church, Saskatoon  
Janet Regier, Laird Mennonite Church, Laird  
Mel & Enid Letkeman, First Mennonite Church, Saskatoon

**Program Facilitators:**

Joan Boldt  
Charlene Krahn  
Linda Ens  
Diana  
Audry Kampen  
Don Friesen  
Dory Isaac  
Lois Dyck  
Rob Regier  
Gord Enns  
Irvin Driedger  
Shelley Bueckert  
Lois  
Julia Lane  
Eunice Stobey  
Val Wiebe  
Darryl Bueckert  
James & Susan Funk  
Katharine Funk  
Youth Volunteers

## **Saskatoon 2002 Youth Assembly**

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Youth began arriving and registering on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were a total of 62 youth and 8 sponsors (adults). The majority of the participants were Jr. High Youth, with only a handful of Sr. High Youth.

Each morning, we began our day in worship with singing, a devotional led by Anne Campion, and preparing for the day. The themes followed that of the adults – planting, growing and reaping. Each evening, youth joined the adults for worship and participated by helping with parking/ushering and reading scripture.

Thursday was spent doing a variety of service projects in Saskatoon. Youth were involved in helping with the Children's Program each morning; finishing quilts for MCC to be sent to Afghanistan; sorting fill for making pillows at the MCC warehouse; cleaning, planting and playing at Westridge Village, a low-income housing project operated by Saskatoon Mennonite Care Services; and working at the Saskatoon Food Bank. Their work was much appreciated.

Late Night activities were scheduled on Wednesday – a concert by Stereotrap (a local Christian band) – and on Thursday youth went five-pin and ten-pin bowling.

On Friday morning, we sat in on the adult discernment time and attended seminars. In the afternoon, there was a tour to Fort Carlton Historic Park, supper at Shekinah Retreat Centre, and celebrating at the Prairie Festival in Osler.

Saturday was spent at Pike Lake Provincial Park, playing games, swimming, mini-golf, visiting and eating. We closed with a short worship time before joining the adults again for the evening.

Youth were on their own for night lodging and breakfast. Some were billeted with local youth, others stayed at Central Pentecostal College, Wildwood Mennonite Church, with parents or at home.

Our hope as a planning committee was that all who came had a good experience.

Members of the planning committee were:

Teresa Warkentin & Marco Funk (youth pastors)

Chantel Mierau & Shelly Neufeld (youth)

Anna Rehan, MC Sask Youth Minister

Report by Anna Rehan, MC Saskatchewan Youth Minister



## Ministers' Conference

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Osler Mennonite Church, Osler, SK

Wednesday, July 3, 2002

On Wednesday, July 3, over 100 pastors and spouses joined the almost 200 persons who had gathered in the Osler Mennonite Church on Tuesday for the two-day "Making Peace with the Land" conference (subtitled "A city mouse and a country mouse talk about the pantry"; see their report elsewhere). Newcomers were soon caught up in the energy, intensity and enthusiasm generated on the previous day.

The opening worship introduced the theme of diversity with a lively, if impromptu, rendition of 1 Corinthians 12:4-31. Nettie Wiebe, past president of the National Farmers' Union, elaborated on it in her presentation entitled, "An Alto in the Community Song." Having just returned from the World Food Summit in Rome, Wiebe challenged participants to consider food production, distribution and consumption from a global perspective. In the face of immense poverty and suffering worldwide, she urged Mennonites to respond out of their long tradition of caring, charity and action.

In the major paper of the day, Cam Harder, professor at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, spoke about "Hope for Land-Lovers: A Biblical Vision for Community." Harder, who has researched the impact of bankruptcy on farmers and farm communities, illustrated the impact of the shame that comes with failure on family, friendships and congregations. He pointed out how our economy and culture of competition produce "winners" and "losers" and how an understanding of success as blessing from God contributes to the shame felt by those whose farms (or other businesses) fail. And he encouraged Christians to walk with such persons, and to value them as God does. The community of faith can either add to the pain and shame, or help to heal it, Harder concluded.

In the afternoon the two conferences met separately. Two persons addressed the experience of failure and shame from other perspectives: Samson Lo, Director of Multi-Cultural Ministry for Mennonite Church Canada, offered a cross-cultural perspective while Dori Zerbe Cornelsen spoke out of the context of Hope Mennonite Church, an inner-city congregation in Winnipeg which she pastors. Both offered additional examples of how the Christian community can respond with compassion and caring.

In other business, Samson Lo introduced himself as a recently-appointed staff person and outlined a vision for his work as Director of Multi-Cultural Ministry. Maurice Martin did likewise as the director of a newly-created office of Congregational Leadership Development. Both persons work half-time at these assignments from offices in B.C. and Ontario respectively. Henry Paetkau reported on pastoral leadership issues.

The afternoon concluded with a time of worship. Participants were invited to one of three stations for personal prayer and anointing. Many responded to the invitation as the gathered community sang its petitions and prayers. This continues to be a highlight of the annual gathering.

Henry Paetkau, Denominational Minister



## Making Peace with the Land - A City Mouse & A Country Mouse Talk About The Pantry

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July 2-3, 2002

Osler, Saskatchewan

*Making Peace With the Land*, a two-day conference focusing on Canada's food system from a faith-based perspective, was held in conjunction with the Mennonite Church Canada national Assembly near Saskatoon, at Osler Mennonite Church.

The conference was envisioned through the work of the Peace & Justice office of MC Canada as a needed outgrowth of work on the farm crisis, and in response to the decision of the Lethbridge Assembly to make agriculture and the food system a theme of the 2002 Assembly in Saskatoon. Rural agricultural communities and organizations with whom the Peace & Justice office was in consultation – Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Environmental Task Force, MCC Manitoba Agricultural Committee – all said that next steps needed a broader base of ownership in Canada's food system. The time was urgent for bringing rural and urban participants together in dialogue, as well as to form creative and sustainable alternatives to present practices and the loss of rural families and communities.

The shape of the *Making Peace With the Land* conference was to create emphasis on dialogue, with no prescribed agenda or predetermined outcome of the event. The focus was to bring people together and to provide resources which would allow an informed perspective to guide the discussion. Invitation to the dialogue began with a multi-media presentation, "The Change In Farming," by Dan Dyck, MC Canada Director of Communications.

**Four keynote speakers** – respected and recognized for their work and expertise- addressed the conference. **Dr. Christopher Lind**, social ethicist and researcher in the rural farm crisis, president of St. Andrews College of the Saskatoon Theological Consortium, gave the opening presentation: "Something's Wrong Here." With simplicity and clarity, Dr. Lind opened up a complex situation of understanding in a broad way an historical sweep of the factors affecting Canada's present-day food system and its ramifications. Dr. Lind encouraged a people of faith to build a society from the values of the Kingdom of God that begin with the well-being of society and creation for a sustainable future.

**Laura Rance**, former co-editor of the *Manitoba Co-operator* and now co-editor of the newly-formed *Manitoba Independent Farmers Weekly*, responded to the presentation with encouragement to urban participants that the concerns of all in our society must go beyond making sure that food is on the table. Laura also addressed the entire delegate assembly on Saturday morning's plenary session given to *Making Peace With the Land*.

**Dr. Nettie Wiebe**, professor of social issues at St. Andrews College, past president of the National Farmers Union, and recipient of the Order of Canada, presented a clear call to the faith community to work for needed changes in today's society in her presentation, "An Alto in the Community's Song." Inaction was also an action, reiterated Wiebe, which would produce an unwanted result. Her challenge was given the second day of the event, which expanded to include participants of the Ministers' Conference, some additional 100 persons.

**Dr. Cam Harder**, Lutheran theologian and expert on the prairie farm crisis, also addressed the combined conferences in the address, "Hope for Land-Lovers; A Future for Rural Communities." Dr. Harder presented the often-hidden complexities faced by those dealing with the harsh financial realities of the food system, now combined with the severe drought of the Alberta and Saskatchewan prairies. Harder encouraged new visioning and speaking with one another. He encouraged the church to take an active role in bringing people together and creating new solutions.

In cooperation with the Canadian Council on International Cooperation and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, with grant funding from the Canadian International Development Association, participants engaged in a four-hour process called **Community Dialogue**. With the assistance of trained facilitators provided through CCIC and CIDA funding, this dialogue process assumed a wide variance of opinion and approach in food production and sustainability methods. From many streams emerged common ground, the focus for the dialogue. While Community Dialogues were held in 2002 throughout Canada, ours was the only faith-based dialogue in the country.

With morning prayers at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, just outside Saskatoon, participants were also reminded of the 5,000 - 6,000 years First Nations people have cared for the land and held the land in sacred trust. Walking land that others have nurtured in timeless fashion provided a "sacred canopy" for the dialogue. The documentary, "Delafield," the story of a rural Lutheran community in North

Dakota, poignantly portrayed what many in rural Canada are experiencing, opening deeper levels of conversation the evening of the first day.

Over 187 participants, plus an additional 100 persons from the Ministers' Conference, came together for this event. A balance of rural and urban, young adult, middle-aged and senior participants, church leaders and laity, men and women, all point to a broad base of interest and ownership in the significant things shaping our own back yard and which call us to be the church in our time.

Deepest thanks and appreciation are to be extended to Osler Mennonite Church for its hosting and hospitality. The venue of a rural setting, and the delights of a rural flavour, provided the special environment needed for this conversation. May there be much more creative conversation, thinking, and acting from this "beginning."

Submitted by Marilyn Houser Hamm, co-coordinator

Organizing Committee:

Marilyn Houser Hamm – Mennonite Church Canada  
Harold Penner – Manitoba Farmer  
Dan Wiens – Canadian Foodgrains Bank  
Ray Hamm – MCC Canada  
Bruno Baerg – MCC Saskatchewan.

Consulting Group:

Stu Clark – Canadian Foodgrains Bank  
David Neufeld – Mennonite Environmental Task Force  
Willie Wiebe – MCC World Food Relief  
Greg Bowman – Mennonite Food, Faith & Farming Initiative, Lancaster, PA  
Ken Reddig – MCC Manitoba; MCC Manitoba Agricultural Committee.  
Laura Rance – Manitoba Independent Farmers' Weekly



## Multi-Cultural Consultation

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Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon, SK

Sunday, July 7, 2002

The Multi-cultural Ministry evolved from a recommendation in "The Diversity Project" generated by Hugo Neufeld and Tym Elias, to which Mennonite Church Canada responded by setting aside a budget and appointing Samson Lo as Director in February, 2002. One of the ten recommendations contained in the report is the conducting of a major multi-cultural consultation with participants from across the country. So, it is only natural that the first major project I undertook upon coming into office was the planning and organizing of this consultation.

In March the Multi-cultural Consultation Planning Committee was formed with Jack Suderman as advisor, Hun Lee, Van Hoa Chau, Kuaying Teng, Noe Gonzalia, Hugo Neufeld and Tym Elias as members, and Samson Lo as Coordinator. It was decided that the Consultation be held on July 7, immediately following the annual Assembly in Saskatoon, to take advantage of the opportunity for a gathering of as many ethnic and host congregation leaders as possible from different area conferences, for a meeting of minds and brainstorming.

In order to promote the event in the following months, Samson Lo started to contact and visit multi-cultural groups in various cities across the country. An invitation to attend the Consultation was posted on the MC Canada website and emailed to all congregations and area conferences in May. Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon, kindly consented to let us use their facilities and extended a helping hand in working out some of the logistics for the event. Registrations started trickling in. There were financial concerns expressed by our multi-cultural brethren and, after some discussions, several area conferences agreed in June to join us in providing subsidies to participants.

On Sunday, July 7, 2002 over 70 participants joined the Mount Royal Mennonite Church congregation in a multi-cultural worship service, which marked the start of the Consultation. Jack Suderman gave a sermon titled "Continuing Pentecost" and sharing came from Samson Lo, Sunny Lee and Billy Chiu. There was hearty multi-cultural singing, inspirational multi-lingual scripture reading and prayers.

In the workshop that followed, Hugo Neufeld and Tym Elias, authors of the "Diversity Project", summarized their report and challenged us with their recommendations. Representatives from ethnic churches responded and shared their views and concerns in these major areas (as summarized by Jack Suderman) – leadership training, available resources, missional strategies, missional training centre, connection with MC Canada structures, continuing communication and facilities for church planting.

In the next session, the participants broke out into seven groups and held discussions on several topics, then came back for brief summaries and Jack Suderman's concluding remarks. The sending saw us all tired but excited, with a feeling that we should have had more time, maybe even two days, as some expressed later.

Highlights of Feedback from Participants:

"It was much appreciated. For myself, and a number of others I talked to, it was the high point of our time in Saskatoon."

"...the Multi-cultural Consultation was, for me, the best part of the whole Assembly. I regret that it had not been incorporated into the general Assembly, as the information I heard should have been heard by everyone there in Saskatoon."

"I learn so much about the Mennonite Church (from the "non- German" groups' point of view)."

"I think it was a success and I hope the energy we saw there keeps running through the process to become a more multi-cultural church in a healthy way."

"...it was apparent that this was an important event. And I have heard from others how significant it was for them. It is a credit to your good planning and to the right timing for such an event, and of course to God's leading. I will be interested in hearing of your further plans to follow up on the dreams and visions that were expressed at Saskatoon."

"For me the consultation represented what our conference with its new focus as "missional church" is to be all about. The testimonies were a sign of what God is doing in our midst. As longer standing members of the Mennonite Church we need to hear of what God is doing among the newer members of our conference. The multicultural work gives us the assurance of continued existence of the Mennonite Church for the future. This is in fact what the biblical concept of church is all about. This consultation also helped us think of our Mennonite global family more realistically. My hope is that next conference such a consultation will be incorporated into the main sessions."—*Samson Lo*

# Equipping

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newsletter of Mennonite Church Canada*

## **Canadian Women in Mission: 1952 - 2002**

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Nutana Park Mennonite Church, Saskatoon SK

Thursday, July 4, 2002

The Canadian Women in Mission's annual meeting took on a different scene this summer as we gathered at Nutana Park Church in Saskatoon to celebrate 50 years as CWM. For many years, it has been difficult to know where to fit in the annual meeting for CWM during the Mennonite Church Assembly. For several years we have held a seminar and then rushed to the dinner line in order to have a dinner meeting, but time is always too short to fit in a business meeting and a program. Since the Program Committee had graciously allowed CWM some time in the evening's assembly, we were able to begin our celebrations in the afternoon and continue the program in the evening.

The Nutana Park Women put on a beautiful spread and served tea, cookies and fruit to two hundred women, before our meeting in the sanctuary. It was a great time for visiting and meeting old friends.

Women were welcomed to the meeting by Esther Patkau, President of the SK Women in Mission. This celebration was to be a time of praise and worship. Valerie Wiebe led the women in hearty singing several times during the afternoon program.

Our business meeting began with the installation service of the new President, Dodie Lepp and Secretary Treasurer, Ingrid Janzen Lamp. Lorna Rogalski led the installation service, using the program, "Servant Leadership: Putting on the Apron" by Elizabeth Claassen. The symbol of leadership used was the 'apron', referring to John 13 and Matthew 20 where, both by His acts and His teachings, Jesus gave us a model of leadership. Lorna tied an apron around both Dodie's and Ingrid's waists and together everyone read a litany of dedication. Dodie and Ingrid accepted the challenge that these aprons represent and asked for support from the women representing their home church groups.

The minutes from our meeting held in Abbotsford and the financial report for 2001 were read and accepted. A revised 'Constitution' was accepted by the members.

Each year CWM receives applications to the Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund from women across Canada who are planning to continue in academic study at the master's level in church related ministries. The members voted to support Melanie Neufeld, Melody Steinman, Lois Siemens, Twilla Epp and Rachel Epp. Each of these five women will receive \$1,000 for their first year at AMBS this September.

Our offering was designated for "Projuse" a Justice Ministries Youth Service project of the Bolivia Mennonite Church and supported by Mennonite Church Canada Witness Council and MCC. The Witness Council has designated \$1,300 US or \$2,000 CAN toward this project. We are most grateful that we received the full amount to cover this project and \$162.50 toward the Botswana Aids Counseling Centre, operated by Rudy & Sharon Dirks.

A new budget "Projects/Opportunities for Giving" for 2003 was introduced and accepted. The following projects are included:





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## **DELEGATES to SASKATOON 2002 ASSEMBLY**

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*(number in parenthesis indicates total possible delegates)*

(pao) provincially active only

### **Mennonite Church BC Congregational Delegates**

Abbotsford Mennonite Fellowship (2)  
Bethel Mennonite, Langley (6) – Dora Hoepfner, George Hoepfner  
Cedar Hills Mennonite, Surrey (2)  
Cedar Valley Mennonite, Mission (4)  
Church of the Way, Granisle (2)  
Clearbrook Mennonite (2) – Dietrich Rempel, Dorothy Rempel  
Comunidad Cristiana de Fe, Vancouver (2)  
Crossroads Community, Chilliwack (2)  
Eben-Ezer Mennonite, Abbotsford (10) – David Hobson, Ingrid Krueger, Jacob Tilitzky  
Eden Mennonite, Chilliwack (6) – Susan Froese, Werner Froese  
Emmanuel Mennonite, Abbotsford (5) – Fran Hofenk, Elinor Neufeld, Waldo Neufeld, April Yamasaki, Gary Yamasaki  
First Mennonite, Burns Lake (3)  
First Mennonite, Chilliwack (4) – Helen Franz, Philip Wheaton  
First Mennonite, Kelowna (2) – Clare Neufeld, Jake Thiessen  
First United Mennonite/First United Spanish Mennonite, Vancouver (7)  
Flatrock Mennonite, Cecil Lake (2)  
Grace Chinese Mennonite, Vancouver (2) – Samson Lo  
Kelowna Gospel Fellowship (pao)  
Langley Mennonite Fellowship (2) – Henry Krause  
Lao Christian Church, Abbotsford (2)  
Living Hope Christian Fellowship, Surrey (2)  
Living Hope Mandarin Ministry (White Rock Chinese Chr. Menn.), Surrey (2)  
Mennonite Japanese Christian Fellowship, Surrey (2)  
Mennonite Church of Vernon (pao)  
Olivet Mennonite, Clearbrook (4) – Sarah Hamel, Jim Ratzlaff  
Peace Chinese Mennonite, Richmond (2) – Kwai Hing Leung (Iris)  
Peace Mennonite, Richmond (4) – Laura Eriksson, Sven Eriksson, Walter Goertz, John Sawatzky  
Point Grey Inter-Mennonite, Vancouver (2) – Henry Neufeld, Tena Neufeld  
Sherbrooke Mennonite, Vancouver (5) – Gary Janzen  
Surrey Mennonite (2)  
United Mennonite, Black Creek (2)  
United Mennonite, Yarrow (2) – Marion Braun, Gotthard Rehler  
Vancouver Chinese Mennonite (4) – Billy Chiew  
Wellspring Christian Fellowship, Abbotsford (2) – Chris Arney  
West Abbotsford Mennonite (3) – George Schmidt, Karen H. Thiessen

**Mennonite Church BC Conference Delegates** (6) – Doug Epp, Henry Kliewer, Janette Thiessen, Veronica Thiessen

### **Mennonite Church AB Congregational Delegates**

Bergthal Mennonite, Didsbury (3) – Lyle Brown, Coreen Froese, Marjorie Loewen  
Calgary Chinese Mennonite (2)  
Calgary Lao Mennonite  
Calgary Vietnamese Mennonite (2)  
Camrose Mennonite Fellowship (2)  
Edmonton Chinese Mennonite (2)  
Edmonton Vietnamese Mennonite (2)  
First Mennonite, Calgary (5) – Dan Jack, Marguerite Jack, Marv Thiessen  
First Mennonite, Edmonton (4) – Bruce Baergen, Paul Bergen, Linda Neufeld-Buhr, Kim Wiens  
Foothills Mennonite, Calgary (6) – Bruno Friesen, Bob Janzen, Diane Janzen, Kate Janzen, Brenda Thiessen-Wiens  
Hillcrest Mennonite, Grand Prairie (2)  
Lethbridge Mennonite (2) – Doris Boehr, Ruth Preston Schilk  
Rosemary Mennonite (5) – Pete Braul, Joyce Hewko, Roy Hewko, Neil Klassen, Alvin Lepp  
Springridge Mennonite, Pincher Creek (2) – Jerry Buhler  
Tofield Mennonite (3)  
Trinity Mennonite, Calgary (3) – Henry Epp, Heidi Friesen, Willi Friesen

**Mennonite Church AB Conference Delegates** (6) – Marvin Baergen, Lorne Buhr, Rha Friesen,  
Doreen Neufeld, Hugo Neufeld

**Mennonite Church SK Congregational Delegates**

Aberdeen Mennonite (2) - Leonard Doell, David Neufeld  
Bethany Mennonite, Watrous (2) – Harold Regier  
Carrot River Mennonite (4) – Elizabeth Enns, Herman Enns, Craig Hollands  
Cornerstone Mennonite, Saskatoon (6) – Peter Funk  
Eigenheim Mennonite, Rosthern (3) – Irene Jantzen, Benno Klassen, Erwin Tiessen  
Emmas Mennonite, Wymark (1) – Fred Heese  
Eyebrow Mennonite (2)  
First Mennonite, Saskatoon (5) – John Dyck, Harry Froese, Sally Kasdorf, Mel Letkeman, Melita Penner  
Fiske Mennonite (2) – Trudy Krahn, Tena Siemens  
Grace Mennonite, Prince Albert (2) – Ed Olfert, Holly Olfert  
Grace Mennonite, Regina (5) – Margaret Jantzen, Joe Neufeld, Brenda Tremblay, Magdalena Widjaja, Karen Martens Zimmerly  
Hague Mennonite (4) – Dave Feick, Jacqueline Funk, Tony Funk, Belinda Reddepp  
Hanley Mennonite (3) – Steve Kroeger, Gary Peters, Heather Peters  
Herschel Ebenfeld Mennonite (2) – Claire Ewert-Fisher, Charlene Krahn  
Hoffungsfelder, Glenbush (2)  
Mayfair (2) Alan Martens, Alvin Wiebe  
Rabbit Lake (2)  
Hope Mennonite, North Battleford (2) – Henry Patkau, Mary Patkau  
Horse Lake Mennonite, Duck Lake (2)  
Laird Mennonite (3) – Barb Froese, Wilmer Froese, Don Regier  
Mount Royal Mennonite, Saskatoon (5) – Jack Dyck, Cari Friesen, Garry Gross, Lee Krahn, Verna Olfert  
Neuanlage Grace Mennonite, Hague (6)  
North Star Mennonite, Drake (4) – Chris Bergen, Margaret Ewert, Marlys Jantz, Ken Quiring  
Nutana Park Mennonite, Saskatoon (6) – Anita Jantz, Anne Klassen, Renata Klassen, Bill Kruger, Helen Kruger, Vern Ratzlaff  
Osler Mennonite (3) – Jake Buhler, Cornie Guenther, Frieda Rempel  
Peace Mennonite, Regina (2) – Margaret Peters, Peter Peters  
Peace Mennonite, Saskatoon (2)  
Pleasant Point Mennonite, Clavet (2) – Vera Falk, Linda Michalowski  
Rosthern Mennonite (5) – Craig Friesen, Tina Siemens  
Superb Mennonite, Kerrobert (2) – Grant Martens, Dan Olfert  
Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite, Laird (3) – Lorne Epp, Sherry Regier  
Warman Mennonite (2) – Henry Block, Ron Harms  
Wildwood Mennonite, Saskatoon (3) – Bruno Baerg, Evelyn Bartel, Pauline Steinmann  
Zion Mennonite, Swift Current (4) – Harvey Braun, Ray Friesen, Ingrid Lamp, George Richert  
Zoar Mennonite, Langham (3) – Ed Bueckert, Doyle Wiebe, Herman J. Wiebe  
Zoar Mennonite, Waldheim (4) – Lillian Friesen, Lorne Friesen, Edward Schmidt, Wally Schmidt

**Mennonite Church SK Conference Delegates** (6) – Florence Driedger, Leola Epp, Henry Jantzen,  
Armin Krahn, Lois Mierau, Margaret Ewen Peters

**Mennonite Church MB Congregational Delegates**

Altona Bergthaler Mennonite (11) – Frank Kehler, Irene Kehler  
Altona Mennonite (3) – Gordon Driedger, Marlene Wiebe, Tim Wiebe  
Arnaud Mennonite (2) – Omar Martin, Marianne Penner  
Bethel Mennonite, Winnipeg (12) – Abe Bergen, Lisa Enns-Bogoya, Ana Isabel Choconta, Arthur Driedger, Gerald Gerbrandt, Jake Pauls, Esther Peters, Herta Peters, Louie Sawatsky, Nancy Sawatsky, Irene Suderman, Jack Suderman  
Blumenort Mennonite, Gretna (5) – Abe E. Ens, Armin Ens, Peter D. Zacharias, Valentine Zacharias  
Carman Mennonite (3) – Eldon Wiebe, Maggie Wiebe  
Charleswood Mennonite/Charleswood Korean Ministry (6) – Hee Myeong Kang, Sunny Lee, Don Reimer, Peter Penner, Elsie Rempel, Esther Epp-Tiessen  
Covenant Mennonite, Winkler (2) – Kelvin Dyck  
Crystal City Mennonite (2) – Ruth Falk, Sig Falk  
Douglas Mennonite, Winnipeg (9) – Don Rempel Boschman, Kathleen Rempel Boschman, Anne Harms, Jake Harms, Charlotte Rempel Kroeker

Elim Mennonite, Grunthal (4) – Harold Peters-Fransen, Cathy Krahn, Helen Voth, Henry Voth  
 Emmanuel Mennonite, Winkler (5) – Rudy Friesen, Sue Friesen, Evelyn Koop, Marvin Koop  
 (replaced by Eva Loewen, Ken Loewen)  
 First Mennonite, Winnipeg (24) – Hermann Dueck, Renate Dueck, Ernest Enns, Irene Enns, Mark  
 von Kampen  
 Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship, Winnipeg (4) – Adolf Ens, Anna Ens, Henry Loewen, Elvira Wiebe  
 Glenlea Mennonite (3) – Carol Friesen, Lawrence Friesen  
 Grace Mennonite, Brandon (2) – Lena Dyck, Peter Letkeman  
 Grace Mennonite, Steinbach (5) – Dave Bergen, Essie Bergen, Paul F. Peters  
 Grace Mennonite, Winkler (8)  
 Graysville Mennonite (2) – Norm Dyck  
 Gretna Bergthaler Mennonite (2) – Rudy Franz  
 Home Street Mennonite, Winnipeg (3) – Tym Elias, Egon Enns  
 Hope Mennonite, Winnipeg (2) – Marianne Siemens, Dori Zerbe Cornelson  
 Jubilee Mennonite, Winnipeg (3) – Terry Goertzen, Abe Rempel, Hanna Rempel  
 Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite (2) – Jake Harms, Margaret Harms  
 Morden Bergthaler Mennonite (7) – Janaya Letkeman, Carol Neufeld, Rick Neufeld, Elsie Wiebe,  
 Walter Wiebe  
 Niverville Mennonite (4) – Paul Adams  
 Nordheim Mennonite, Winnipegosis (2) – Abe M. Krahn, Esther Krahn  
 North Kildonan Mennonite, Winnipeg (9) – Frank Neufeld, Wanda Neufeld  
 Oak Lake Mennonite (2)  
 Plum Coulee Bergthaler Mennonite (5) – Henry Neufeld, Glen Siemens  
 Portage Mennonite, Portage la Prairie (2)  
 River East Mennonite, Winnipeg (3)  
 Rosenfeld Bergthaler Mennonite (2)  
 Sargent Avenue Mennonite, Winnipeg (9) – Edwin Epp, Rachel Epp, Ruth Epp, Victor Kliewer, Ben  
 Sawatzky  
 Schoenfelder Mennonite (3) – Arthur Voth  
 Seeds of Life Community, Altona (2) – Ella Sawatzky, Wes Sawatzky  
 Springfield Heights Mennonite, Winnipeg (10) – Bonnie Unrau, George Wiebe  
 Springstein Mennonite (3) – Ron Doerksen, Ron Loepky  
 Steinbach Mennonite (10) – Peter Harms, Isbrand Hiebert, Martha Hiebert, Gredi Janzen, Homer  
 Janzen, Marv Wirzba, Tanell Wirzba  
 Sterling Mennonite Fellowship, Winnipeg (3)  
 Thompson United Mennonite (2)  
 Trinity Mennonite, Mather (2) – Arlene Redpath, Larry Redpath  
 Whitewater Mennonite, Boissevain (4) – Judith Doell, Lorraine Reimer  
 Wingham Mennonite, Elm Creek (2)  
 Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite (16) – Betty Enns, Bill Enns, Dorothy Heide, Nick Heide, Don  
 Klippenstein, Elsie Klippenstien, Helen Letkemann, Ben Pauls, Pat Pauls  
 Winnipeg Chinese Mennonite (2)  
 Winnipeg Vietnamese Mennonite (2)  
**Mennonite Church MB Conference Delegates** (10) – Armin Ens, John P. Klassen, Daniel Loewen,  
 Eva Loewen, Bob Pauls, Hugo Peters, Alice Pound, Bernie Tiessen, Bernie Wiebe

**Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Congregational Delegates**

Abundant Life, Waterloo (2)  
 Agape Fellowship, Dorchester (2)  
 Avon Mennonite, Stratford (3) – Anne Campion, David Campion  
 Bethany Mennonite, Virgil (7) – Randy Klaassen  
 Bethel Mennonite, Elora (4)  
 Black Creek Faith Community, Downsview (2) – Amy Kuepfer  
 Bloomingdale Mennonite (3) – Mary Mae Schwartzentruber, Glenn Zehr  
 Breslau Mennonite (5) – David Romagnoli, Lynn Romagnoli  
 Brussels Mennonite (2)  
 Calvary Mennonite, Ayr (2)  
 Calvary Mennonite Monetville (2)  
 Cassell Mennonite, Tavistock (3)  
 Community Mennonite, Stouffville (2)  
 Community Mennonite Fellowship, Drayton (3) – Alice Burkhart, Oz Burkhart  
 Crosshill Mennonite, Millbank (3)  
 Danforth Mennonite, Toronto (2) – Tim Reimer

East Zorra Mennonite, Tavistock (7) – Delmer Epp, Elsie Epp  
 Eglise Evang. Men. de Joliette (2)  
 Eglise Evang. Men. de Rawdon (2)  
 Elmira Mennonite (7)  
 Erb Street, Waterloo (7) – Allan Rudy-Froese, Marilyn Rudy-Froese  
 Erie View United Mennonite, Port Rowan (2)  
 Faith Mennonite, Leamington (5) – Anna Mary Brubacher  
 First Hmong, Kitchener (3) – Dan Yang  
 First Mennonite, Kitchener (7) – Alice Kehl  
 Floradale Mennonite (4)  
 Grace Lao Mennonite, Kitchener (2)  
 Grace Mennonite, St. Catharines (5) – Doug Amstutz, Wanda Roth Amstutz, David Regier, Hilda Regier  
 Hagerman Mennonite, Markham (2)  
 Hamilton Mennonite (2) – Mary Anne Klaassen  
 Hanover Mennonite (2)  
 Harrow Mennonite (2)  
 Hawkesville Mennonite (3)  
 Hillcrest Mennonite, New Hamburg (5) – Gwen Albrecht, Ken Albrecht, Jan Steckley, Jeff Steckley  
 Hunta Mennonite, Frederickhouse (2)  
 Kitchener-Waterloo House Church I (2) – Brice Balmer  
 Kitchener-Waterloo House Church II (2)  
 Lao Christian Fellowship, St. Catharines (2)  
 Leamington United Mennonite (15) – Henry Dueck, Darrell Fast, Anna-Lisa Salo  
 Listowel Mennonite (5) – Don Matthews, Joanne Matthews  
 Living Water Community, New Hamburg (2)  
 Mannheim Mennonite, Petersburg (3) – Carolyn Albrecht  
 Maple View Mennonite, Wellesley (7)  
 Markham Chinese Mennonite (2) – Newton Phoon, Wing Kim Yeung  
 McArthur's Mills Christian Fellowship (2)  
 Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal (2) – Jean-Jacques Goulet  
 Milverton Mennonite Fellowship (3)  
 Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship (2) – Monica Dalke  
 Nairn Mennonite, Ailsa Craig (2)  
 Niagara United Mennonite (13) – Arno Bartel, Ann Shertzer, A. Willard Shertzer  
 Nith Valley Mennonite, New Hamburg (3)  
 North Leamington United Mennonite (11) – Abram Driedger  
 Olive Branch Church, Waterloo (2) – Gloria Nafziger  
 Ottawa Mennonite (4) – Katie Derksen  
 Petitcodiac Mennonite (2)  
 Pioneer Park Christian Fellowship, Kitchener (2)  
 Poole Mennonite, Milverton (6) – Paul Dyck  
 Preston Mennonite, Cambridge (3)  
 Rainham Mennonite, Selkirk (2)  
 River of Life, Waterloo (2) – Peter Gruber, David Wenger  
 Riverdale Mennonite, Millbank (4) – Maynard Biehn  
 Rockway Mennonite, Kitchener (3) – Scott Brubaker-Zehr  
 Rouge Valley Mennonite, Markham (3)  
 Shantz Mennonite, Baden (4)  
 St. Agatha Mennonite, Baden (2)  
 St. Catharines United Mennonite (11) – Hugo Berg, Lora Berg, Ben Wiebe  
 St. Jacobs Mennonite (6) – Wendy Janzen, Beth Metzger, Gloria Shantz, Dianne Hildebrand Schlegel, Harold Hildebrand Schlegel  
 Steinmann Mennonite, Baden (10) – Audrey Miereau Bechtel, Ken Miereau Bechtel, Mildred R. Roth, Ervin Steinmann  
 Stirling Ave. Mennonite, Kitchener (7) – Chris Buhler, David Martin  
 Tavistock Mennonite (7)  
 The First Mennonite, Vineland (2)  
 Toronto Chinese Mennonite (2)  
 Toronto Mennonite New Life (2)  
 Toronto United Mennonite (4) – Edward Bergen, Jeremy Bergen, Gary Harder  
 Toronto United Lao Mennonite  
 Tree of Life/Arbre de Vie, Monetville (2)

Valleyview Mennonite/Korean Ministry, London (4) – Victor Fast, Young Jee Na, Young Ho Park, Russell Sawatsky  
 Vineland United Mennonite (7) – Marv Friesen, Herb Rogalski, Lorna Rogalski  
 Wannier Mennonite, Cambridge (3)  
 Warden Woods Mennonite, Scarborough (3)  
 Waterloo North Mennonite (5) – Wilmer Martin, Sam Steiner, Sue Steiner  
 Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite (8) – Erna Epp, Henry Epp, Ester Neufeldt  
 Waters Mennonite, Lively (2)  
 Welcome Inn, Hamilton (2)  
 Wellesley Mennonite (4) – Harold Leis  
 West Hills Mennonite, New Hamburg (2)  
 Wideman Mennonite, Markham (3)  
 Wilmot Mennonite, Baden (3)  
 Windsor Mennonite (2)  
 Zion Mennonite, Elmira (2)  
 Zurich Mennonite (6)

**Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Conference Delegates** (12) – Margaret Andres, Nolan Andres, Muriel Bechtel, Victoria Cordova, Noe Gonzalia, George Hildebrandt, Darrell Jantzi, Anita Janzen, Willard Metzger, Fred Redekop, Andrew Reesor-McDowell, Daniel Genest

**Northwest Mennonite Conference Congregational Delegates**

Bethany Mennonite, Smith AB (2)  
 Bluesky Mennonite, Bluesky AB (2)  
 Centro Evangelica Bet-El, Edmonton (2)  
 Duchess Mennonite, AB (3)  
 Edson Mennonite, AB (2)  
 Holyrood Mennonite, Edmonton (3) – Christie Funk-Froese, Keith Funk-Froese, Vic Thiessen  
 Iglesia Evangelica Menonita, Red Deer (2)  
 Love in Action, Calgary (2)  
 Mountain View Mennonite, Kalispell MT (2)  
 New Hope Community, Muenster SK (2)  
 Pineridge Christian Fellowship, Calgary (2)  
 Primera Iglesia Evangelica, Calgary (2)  
 Primera Iglesia Evangelica, Medicine Hat (2)  
 Salem Mennonite, Tofield AB (5)  
 Sharon Mennonite, Guernsey SK (3)  
 West Zion Mennonite, Carstairs AB (2)

**Northwest Mennonite Conference Delegates** (6)

## Meetings of Mennonite Church Canada

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Planning meetings for the first Canadian conference sessions in 1903 were held in 1902 at Tiefengrund, SK. Delegate sessions for Conference of Mennonites in Canada have been held annually since then. (For information on meetings from 1903-1999, see the 1999 Minute Book of Conference of Mennonites in Canada.)

The Lethbridge 2000 Assembly marked the inaugural annual session for Mennonite Church Canada.

| Year | Place         | Moderator    | Assistant Moderator | Secretary   | General Secretary |
|------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 2000 | Lethbridge AB | Ron Sawatsky | Jake F. Pauls       | Joy Kroeger | Dan Nighswander   |
| 2001 | Abbotsford BC | Ron Sawatsky | Joy Kroeger         | Sam Steiner | Dan Nighswander   |
| 2002 | Saskatoon SK  | Ron Sawatsky | Joy Kroeger         | Sam Steiner | Dan Nighswander   |



## Congregational Partnerships

*"dig in" to the life and ministry of the missional church*

### What's missional? What's a missional church?

Special courses on missional church development will be offered in early 2003, but spaces are limited.

To learn more, visit [www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca), call 1-866-888-6785, or contact one of the regional representatives listed below.

**Regional contact persons:**

**Gerd Bartel**, MC British Columbia  
604-850-6658  
gbartel@mennonitechurch.ca

**Eric Olfert**, MC Saskatchewan  
306-249-4844  
eolfert@mennonitechurch.ca

**Jim Loepp-Thiessen**, MC Eastern Canada  
519-643-8712  
jloep-thiessen@mennonitechurch.ca

**Norm Voth**, MC Manitoba  
204-896-1616  
nvoth@mennochurch.mb.ca





**Mennonite  
Church**  
Canada

600 Shaftesbury Blvd  
Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4  
Toll free: 1-866-888-6785  
T: 204-888-6781  
F: 204-831-5675  
E: [office@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:office@mennonitechurch.ca)  
W: [www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca)