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**“Many Gifts” Resource Cover Letter**

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Dear Pastors and Church Leaders,

Last fall, Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA held a bi-national consultation on gift discernment. The consultation began by recognizing that, as denominations, we have not addressed this area of congregational life in the last number of years and many congregations are now struggling to find individuals to serve in various congregational positions. Good news stories were also shared; stories from congregations, Mennonite schools, and area churches. The stories featured people who were mentoring and developing leaders of all ages for a wide variety of ministries.

Through worship and reflection on how these settings for leadership development had grown, the group brainstormed for ways of equipping our congregations so that these good news stories could multiply and our church could live out the vision of Ephesians 4: 12,13, “... *to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.*” At the end of the consultation, we (Elsie and Karen) were invited to develop a resource that would assist congregations in calling and growing congregational leaders.

We are delighted to present your congregation with the booklet that has emerged: *Many Gifts: Calling and Growing Congregational Leaders*. This is the first in a series of resources to be developed to equip you and your congregation to call and nurture leaders for the church’s mission with its varied ministries.

We pray that the booklet *Many Gifts* will provide helpful tools for nurturing the leadership gifts at all ages. We hope that engaging the content of this booklet will be of help to your congregation as you mature in forming a people of God and engaging the world with the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Elsie Rempel  
Director of Christian Nurture

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Denominational Minister and Director of  
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