

DUSTING OFF THE BIBLE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



Mennonite Church Canada • Assembly 2012 • Vancouver, BC • July 12-July 15



Willard Metzger
Executive Director
Mennonite Church Canada

What a glorious setting to gather as the People of God! The lapping waters of the sea, the towering trees stretching their branches upward and the immovable mountains stoically bearing witness to generations of activity: these are all expressions of God. The beauty of creation clearly communicates God's love. Like a gift selected with deep love, such an extraordinary context for life is an expression of God's love.

It will be within this context that we will seek to rekindle our appreciation for another glorious gift of God. It will be in Vancouver that we gather to delight in the gift of Scripture. We will see again how Scripture is God's vehicle to communicate. We will experience the presence of God's Spirit in worship and allow the words of life to breathe deeply into our hearts.

What an exciting time this will be! With a greatly reduced time for business, most of our time together will be for study and worship. It is a worshipful Anabaptist gathering of the People of God.

Every congregation will want to be represented with many delegates. Persons will want to come for their own renewal. This will be an opportunity to engage together as the family of Anabaptist Mennonite family of faith.

A link to the electronic copy of the registration booklet is available at www.mennonitechurch.ca/vancouver2012. Make your plans early and ensure that your congregation will be fully represented.

Please do plan to be in Vancouver for this exciting time together. I look forward to joining you in Vancouver soon!

Delegates – send as many as you can

Although the focus of this assembly will be worship and scripture study, there will still be some business requiring attention. We invite your congregation to be fully present. I strongly urge you to send the maximum number of delegates. Tap the shoulders of youth and young adults from your congregation and invite them to attend as Youth Ambassadors or Apprentices to each of your delegates. Invite all your committee chair persons. And if your congregation does not have a tradition of being represented, break that tradition this year by sending at least one person. As your national church staff, we look forward to meeting as many people as possible from our congregations.

Greening our gatherings

At Abbotsford 2007, Mennonite Church Canada delegates passed a resolution asking Mennonite Church Canada to find ways to reduce the environmental impact of our annual delegate assemblies. To meet that objective, we are as much as possible, choosing electronic distribution for assembly information. A link to the electronic copy of the registration booklet for these events is available at

www.mennonitechurch.ca/vancouver2012.

Assembly Package

This mailing also includes an important delegate certificate with which you can register your official representatives, the Minute Book reflecting proceedings and decisions from Assembly 2011, two promotional posters that we encourage to put up on your bulletin boards and a bulletin insert that can be copied and included in bulletins or church mailboxes. A mailing later in April will include more information.

Plan now to attend!

We invite you to circulate this letter widely as encouragement to members of your congregation to attend this event. Feel free to post it on line to your area church or congregational web site, in your newsletter, or distribute in your church mailboxes and in your Sunday bulletins. For those who prefer to submit a hard copy paper registration, simply print the registration form pages in registration booklet, fill them in, and post them in the mail. Those who do not have access to electronic options are encouraged to request paper copies of the registration packet by calling 1-866-888-6785 (local, 888-6781).

However, most people will find the online registration as the best method of ensuring their choices and receiving a record of what they have signed up for. An online registration link will soon be available at www.mennonitechurch.ca/vancouver2012

For further information or details contact:

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We look forward to seeing many from your congregation and area church at the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly, July 12-15, 2012.

In Christ,



Willard Metzger
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