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January is often a time of reflection



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This includes reflections on the year past and on the year to come.

For me personally, this has been a significant year, having accepted the position of Interim Executive Secretary of Support Services on a half time basis.

It has been gratifying to experience the energy and passion of the MC Canada staff team from an objective point of view. Often this is difficult to see or appreciate from the pew. When I accepted this position, I was open to surprises and some ambiguities that go with it. Besides coping with basement office flooding during the heavy rainfalls, hot water tank leakages and so on, I have received energy and a new appreciation for the work of the church by participating in and supporting the ministry we do together as Area Churches, congregations, and individual members.

The church is being challenged by many issues that include standing up for peace when our country is at war, witnessing our faith to those of other faiths in a pluralistic world, or those without a faith. We are challenged to walk with individuals and families struggling with gender identification and acceptance. We are challenged to respond to those suffering injustice and poverty in our own country and abroad in often forgotten places. We are called to respond to those looking for leadership and assistance as they struggle to establish Anabaptist communities of faith in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the former Soviet Union.

All of us, in the pews, and in the community of faith are part of this calling. Mennonite Church Canada is an organization that helps us all to participate efficiently and effectively. For this I am grateful. Through the grace of God, we can be true to our calling. It is the highest calling imaginable!

This New Year again promises to be challenging as Mennonite Church Canada begins its search for a new General Secretary, and a new Executive Secretary for Support Services. We will also do some internal restructuring to strengthen and improve our contact and relationships with congregations and individuals via a new Church Relations function. Watch for the employment postings; quite possibly, you or someone you know might be the person with the combination of gifts, skills, and inspiration to excel in one of these leadership positions.

We are grateful to God for continued guidance and the opportunity to work with you in the kingdom. May this year bring peace and reconciliation in a troubled world.