

Walking Together Toward a Sustainable Future

Capital Campaign Rationale for Mennonite Church Canada

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Prepared by Norm Dyck, Witness Liaison

Deepening Companionship

For more than twenty years, donors within Mennonite Church Canada have walked alongside Meserete Kristos College/Seminary in a relationship of companionship. Together we have witnessed God's work through the formation of pastors, evangelists, church planters, and Christian leaders serving one of the world's largest and fastest-growing Anabaptist churches.

Through this companionship, Canadian supporters have helped nurture scholarships, faculty development, library resources, and strategic infrastructure. These shared investments have strengthened the Seminary's ability to equip leaders who now serve throughout Ethiopia and beyond, while also enriching the witness of the Canadian church as we have learned from our Ethiopian sisters and brothers.

Throughout this relationship, Mennonite Church Canada has intentionally prioritized people over buildings. We continue to believe that investing in students and faculty offers the greatest long-term return for the church. At the same time, we have welcomed donors who have felt called to support strategic infrastructure projects that strengthen the Seminary's mission.

Today we believe we have reached one of those strategic moments.

From Dependence Toward Resilience

For nearly a decade, Mennonite Church Canada has encouraged the Seminary to explore practical ways of becoming increasingly financially sustainable.

This has never been about stepping back from our companionship. Rather, it reflects our conviction that healthy companionship seeks the flourishing of one another. One expression of that flourishing is helping one another grow in resilience, capacity, and long-term sustainability.

The Seminary's proposed mixed-use building represents an important step in that journey.

Rather than relying primarily on external donations to meet future operational needs, this project is designed to create a long-term source of income that can support scholarships, faculty development, campus maintenance, and ministry for generations to come.

In other words, today's capital investment has the potential to reduce tomorrow's fundraising need.

Timely Stewardship

Several factors make this an especially significant opportunity.

First, a generous donor has committed \$200,000 over the next four years as a matching gift toward a \$500,000 Canadian campaign. This remarkable commitment provides a strong foundation and invites others to multiply its impact.

Second, many of the Canadian donors who have faithfully supported Meserete Kristos College/Seminary for decades are entering a season of legacy giving. Their generosity has helped build a remarkable institution. We believe this is an opportunity to steward those gifts toward a project that can strengthen the Seminary's financial future for generations.

Third, Mennonite Church Canada's commitment has the potential to become the catalyst for a much larger international effort. Our hope is that Northwest Mennonite Conference and MK Link USA will also invite their supporters into this vision. In this way, a Canadian campaign of \$500,000 could become part of a coordinated North American response with the potential to raise upwards of \$1.5 to \$2 million for the Seminary's long-term sustainability. We believe this reflects the very nature of companionship: companion churches discerning together how best to strengthen one another for the sake of Christ's mission.

Finally, the Seminary has undertaken careful planning to ensure this project serves its mission. Located in the growing city of Bishoftu, the building is intended to generate sustainable income through commercial, hospitality, and meeting space while remaining firmly rooted in the Seminary's educational and ministry calling.

Our Commitment

Mennonite Church Canada remains committed to walking in companionship with Meserete Kristos College/Seminary. Scholarships and leadership development continue to be central expressions of that companionship.

This campaign does not represent a change in that commitment.

Rather, it reflects our belief that strategic infrastructure can sometimes become a ministry investment when it strengthens the long-term resilience of theological education.

By helping establish a permanent income-generating asset, we are investing in the Seminary's ability to educate future generations of leaders with increasing confidence, capacity, and sustainability.

Our Invitation

We invite Canadian supporters to consider becoming part of this important next chapter.

The Seminary's future has been shaped by decades of faithful generosity, shared learning, and companionship in Christ's mission.

Together, we now have an opportunity to help ensure that future generations of Ethiopian church leaders are equipped by a Seminary that is spiritually strong, missionally faithful, and increasingly financially resilient.

As companions in Christ's mission, we invite you to join us in building for the future.