

The following document is an early review of the collected data. It is meant to serve as a quick first look at what the gathered Mennonite Church Canada body is saying. It is subject to change with a more thorough review which will follow in the months ahead.

## Session 5: Create Spaces as Companions

Mennonite Church Canada is strongly being encouraged to shift from a **transactional** to a **relational** model of engagement that emphasizes mutuality, presence, and transformation:

### From Transaction to Relationship: A New Way of Being Together - Cultivating Presence Over Performance

- Focus on *being with* others, not just doing for them.
- Embrace the language of “we”—a shared journey, not separate roles.
- Shift from asking “*What need can we meet?*” to “*Who are we being invited to meet?*”
- Redefine success—not by outcomes, but by the depth of connection and mutual transformation.
- Let go of the power dynamics tied to money; see giving as mutual exchange, not control.

### Mission at a Crossroads: Embracing a Transformative Path

- We are being called to see through an *intercultural lens*, honoring diverse ways of knowing and being.
- The past has shaped us, but it no longer defines us—*release it with gratitude*.
- There is a growing desire to do the *deep, inner work* of becoming.
- The question is no longer “*What can we do?*” but “*Where are we willing to show up—with vulnerability and courage?*”

### Practices for Companionship: Living into Relational Mission

To thrive in this space of mutual presence, we are invited to embody new ways of being:

- **Come with curiosity, not assumptions.**
- **Listen with humility**—practice the art of being a guest.
- **Walk as fellow travelers**, not as guides or saviors.
- **Nurture existing relationships**—honor what already is.
- **Ask for help**—it’s a sign of strength, not weakness.
- **Receive the gifts others offer**—with gratitude and openness.
- **Take time to reimagine**—let imagination lead transformation.