

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 6: International Witness Discernment

### A Ministry of Companionship: Emerging Insights and Encouragement

The evolving model of ministry grounded in **companionship** is receiving strong affirmation from the responses reviewed. This new language is not only resonating—it is helping to shift perspectives, especially for those who may have previously held a more transactional or negative view of mission. It opens space for **imagination**, inviting the church to slow down, to notice, and to attend to the presence and movement of God.

Respondents expressed encouragement in how **relationships and financial support** are integrated within this paradigm. Supporting **Witness workers** remains a vital expression of this companionship, as does the broader work of **International Witness (IW)**.

### Opportunities for International Witness

There is a clear invitation for IW to deepen its engagement in the following areas:

- **Storytelling:** The strongest encouragement from respondents was to continue sharing stories—through new media and in-person encounters. Bringing the people and their stories into congregational life is essential.
- **Youth Exchange:** Welcoming youth from the global church to Canada for mutual learning and service.
- **Global Church Presence in Canada:** Exploring how to receive and support mission workers from the global church who are called to serve in Canada.

### Pathways to Deeper Connection

As IW continues to connect Mennonite Church Canada congregations with the global church, these relationships can lead to richer, reciprocal exchanges such as:

- **Shared prayer practices** across cultures and communities.
- **Hospitality through shared spaces**, including offering church buildings to global congregations already present in our neighborhoods.
- **Cross-cultural partnerships** with mono-cultural congregations within Canada, fostering mutual learning and solidarity.