



Mennonite Church Canada

Forming Leaders Together Collaboration between Mennonite Church Canada International Witness and AMBS

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary’s **Forming Leaders Together** campaign is taking us to places we have never been before — both in the world and in unprecedented collaborations. One such collaboration is the partnership between AMBS and Mennonite Church Canada International Witness, which is bearing fruit in these initiatives:

Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program

Thailand

- A lay pastor training for a large group of congregations in Thailand launched in the fall of 2023 with a cohort of 20 students.
- **Jonah Yang** (MA 2018), AMBS Doctor of Ministry in Leadership student, and **Memee Yang**, Mennonite Mission Network service worker, are serving as teachers, mentors and translators.
- International Witness workers **Tom** and **Christine Poovong** are serving as translators, mentors and fellow students.

Philippines

- Six lay leaders and pastors in the **Integrated Mennonite Church** are taking the program in English as a first step in obtaining Anabaptist pastoral training for their family of congregations.
- **Bishop Eladio Mondez** hopes the program will mobilize leaders to talk about further opportunities for Anabaptist education in Asia.

Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism in South Korea and Ethiopia

While International Witness is not directly involved with these programs, Witness workers in both locations are working to further Anabaptist education for Mennonite congregations and beyond.

AMBS needs approximately \$400,000 in additional donor support before June 30, 2024, to fund the campaign initiatives for 10 years.

Will you join us in investing in Anabaptist leaders across the world?
See: amsb.ca/mccanada

Above: Thai participants in the Journey program study together several times per year (l. to r.): Piti Ounsup, Supasith Nonyaso, Dokmai Nonyaso, Phonexay Mahasongkham and Samai Naivimol. (Photo provided)



“In Thailand there are a lot of online study programs, but most are not connected to a real seminary. I appreciate being taught by a reputable seminary. It is also helpful to have the content in English because if I want to connect with the global church, I need to learn this vocabulary and how to talk about faith and the church in English.”
— **Damnern Chonklang**, Journey participant (at right); he and **Fareeya Chonklang** (at left) co-lead a house church in Phrae, Thailand.



“I joined Journey because I wanted to grow in leadership, especially in the context of leading in a church and a faith-based organization. Going through the lessons has allowed me to grow in so many ways. The lessons are meticulously designed so that you can have an introspective experience in understanding the Word of God. The forums and sessions with my mentor are great opportunities to share my reflections as well as to hear how God is speaking to the other participants.”
— **Regina Lyn Sumatra**, Journey participant, Philippines

Forming Leaders Together

Equipping leaders to meet today's challenges

We've been hearing from leaders in Canada and the U.S. that they need more practical skills and a deeper grounding in Anabaptist leadership to be able to guide their congregations and communities effectively.

At AMBS, we've been designing and adapting distance-friendly programs to meet this need:

- **Practical Leadership Training modules**
Helps congregational and organizational leaders develop skills in areas of administration, leadership, contextual engagement and well-being.
- **Transition to Leadership**
Guides new pastors during their first years of leadership, laying the groundwork for fruitful ministry.
- **Ministry Integrity Circles**
Gives pastors who are facing ministry transitions or significant challenges tools to reimagine their work.
- **Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program**
(undergraduate-level) Helps pastors, church planters and lay leaders grow in leadership skills, spiritual practices, and Anabaptist theology and ministry with the guidance of a mentor.
- **Mennonite Education Agency Hispanic Ministries – AMBS Graduate Certificate in Theology** (collaborative program, taught in Spanish)
Provides congregational leaders and bivocational pastors with a foundation in Anabaptist theological and biblical study at the graduate level.
- **Doctor of Ministry in Leadership**
Helps mid-career pastors and leaders deepen their leadership capacity, adaptability and resilience, in turn benefiting their congregations or organizations. Visa restrictions have been lifted, so the DMin is open to Canadians.
- **Invite AMBS**
Serves congregations through customized sessions on topics of interest presented by AMBS faculty and staff.

With the exception of the Journey program (which has international reach), the above initiatives are serving leaders located primarily in Canada and the U.S. — equipping them with practical and theological training from an Anabaptist perspective.

The goal of AMBS's Forming Leaders Together campaign is to fund these important programs for the next 10 years.

AMBS needs approximately \$400,000 in additional donor support before June 30, 2024, to fund the campaign initiatives. Will you help us provide Anabaptist leaders with the skills and resources they need to serve their congregations and communities? See: ambs.ca/mccanada



Top: Janette Lyndaker Gallagher (MDiv 2018), DMin student from Corning, New York (Credit: Peter Ringenberg)

Middle: Journey participants Dwight Moody (mentor) and Francisco Gonzalez (mentee) (Credit: Peter Ringenberg)

Bottom: Malinda Elizabeth Berry, PhD, Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics; Invite AMBS speaker (Credit: Brittany Purlee)



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A seminary of
Mennonite Church USA and
Mennonite Church Canada

Rooted in the Word, Growing in Christ

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