



Mennonite Church Alberta  
Annual Report 2017  
Prepared for MCA Executive by Harold Schilk and  
Tim Wiebe-Neufeld

The **winds of change** were blowing throughout the Mennonite churches in Canada in 2017. At a special MC Canada delegate assembly in Winnipeg on October 14, 94% voted in favour of restructuring the way we do area and national church work.

While nationwide ministry priorities such as **International Witness, Leadership Development, the CommonWord Resource Centre, and Indigenous-Settler Relationships** will continue, the responsibility for that work, however, has shifted. Each church now connects to wider ministries through their region. Congregations will no longer send delegates to national assemblies. Regional executive ministers, moderators, appointees, and delegates will guide the operations of a smaller MC Canada. The regional churches, such as MCA, will provide connection, support, and nurture for missions, for Christian formation, and for congregational vitality. This new structure is more intimate, allowing for an increase of direct relationships with Witness workers, educators and our individual congregational ministries.

As we grow into this new structure, we, as MCA and our member congregations, will experience both challenge and opportunity as we adjust how we relate to each other both within Alberta and beyond. The new structure allows for greater flexibility and regional resources for ministries. With God's leading, we trust this new structure will better equip us to God's service in the world.

Continuing to uphold God's vision of healing and hope, it is our desire to increase our opportunities as Alberta churches for study, fellowship, and connection. In addition to our Annual Assembly in March, we plan to add a fall gathering for inspiration and education. We have also increased our communication with churches through the MCA Weekly Update and our re-vamped website.

Given the increased responsibilities for MCA in the new structure, our staffing has grown this past year. In November, we hired June Miller as our **Communications Assistant**. Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 Tim Wiebe-Neufeld became full time **Executive Minister** to support the regional work within MCA and provide guidance of MC Canada's ministries together with the executive staff of the other regions.

Financially, we finished the year with a lower deficit than forecast thanks to generous Christmas-time giving by you, our members. Exact numbers will be available in advance of our **Annual Delegate Assembly March 16-17, 2018 at Lethbridge Mennonite Church**.

Before we conclude this report of significant change, we need to acknowledge our grief by the sudden passing of our moderator, Dan Jack, this past July. Dan's service to God and commitment to the church were greatly appreciated. His departure resulted in a readjustment of the MCA executive. Notes of thanks go to Paul Neufeldt who shifted from vice moderator to acting moderator and to Vince Friesen and Ed Kauffman who came to share the vice moderator position.

Despite the passing change around us, may we be attuned to God's leading so that we can pick up the hope, which Isaiah so wonderfully expressed when he wrote:

***I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (43:19)***

## MCA at a Glance

- An Extended Faith Family of 12 Mennonite Congregations Worshipping and Serving God Together.
- A Nationwide Community of Faith in ministry partnership with the regional churches of Mennonite Church Canada
- Weekly Sunday Worship Services held in five different languages
- A Pastors Council of 20 church pastors and others in ministry-related roles
- Camp Valaqua's Camping Ministry that reaches hundreds of children, youth, and adults young and old each year.
- North Edmonton Ministry's nurturing of relationships and conversations with people of different faith/ cultural backgrounds
- Supports for education for students interested in faith-based studies at Anabaptist/Mennonite related institutions
- Faith Studies Events that nurture Christian growth and help address faith challenges facing the church today
- Annual Women's Retreats that bring together women from across Alberta