



Mennonite Church Canada **2017 Special Delegate Assembly** **Future Directions: Covenant New**

Conversation Starter for Congregations

In preparation for Special Delegate Assembly, Oct. 13-15, 2017
re: Future Directions Process

Society is changing how people connect to the church. In this shifting landscape, the church has an opportunity to strengthen its role as a place of transformation, even as society seems to push the church toward the margins.

Our old ways of being church – at every level – need to adjust to this shifting ground. For example, regular church attendance today means 1-2 times/month; generous givers have more good causes to support than ever before; overall, loyal, committed giving to the church at the regional and national levels continues to decline.

However, these new circumstances present us with a unique opportunity to re-think how we offer meaning, purpose and connection to people – in our neighbourhoods, cities, and beyond into the world – who are looking for meaning beyond traditional faith communities. Leaders of our Area Churches and MC Canada have had many long conversations about how to support our congregations' best imaginings in these changing times. Across Canada, many pastors, leaders, and church members have contributed to these discussions.

From Oct. 13-15, congregational delegates will gather in Wpg. to discern the Final Report and recommendations on our Future Directions process. The proposal strives to:

- Strengthen local Congregations as centres of worship and mission
- Enhance Area Churches to better resource congregations in their work
- Re-imagine Mennonite Church Canada as our connecting point for Mennonite identity and witness.