



Mennonite Church Canada continues to adjust to its new structure of being a regionally centered, covenanted partnership between the five Regional Churches. These have covenanted to form MC Canada to implement the nationwide and international priorities that they have collectively determined will foster the health and mission of the Regional Churches and their congregations.

The **covenant**, renewed on October 21, 2018, reaffirms our shared statement of Vision: Healing and Hope:

God calls us to be followers of the Jesus Christ and
 by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace,
 so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

International Witness

A significant transition that took place this past year was the completion of faithful ministry by four of our Witness worker families: the Barkman family in Manila, Philippines, after 6 years; the Nicolson family in Tin, Burkina Faso, after 20 years; the Otto/Rabus family in Mannheim and Ludwigshafen, Germany, after 6 years, and the Tshimanga family in Bloemfontein, South Africa, after 2 years.

MC Canada currently has 6 Witness worker units serving in 5 countries:

- Bock Ki Kim & Sook Kyoung Park (South Korea)
- Jeanette Hanson (Canada & China)
- Mike & Cheryl Nimz (United Kingdom)
- Dann & Joji Pantoja (Philippines)
- Tom & Christine Poovong (Thailand)
- George & Tobia Veith (China)

Indigenous-Settler Relations

ISR took significant steps forward in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action:

- *Unsettling the Word* (May, 2018). We published an anthology advocating respect for Indigenous spiritualities through a re-reading and decolonization of classic Biblical texts (Call #60).
- Bill C-262, *The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. Through ecumenical letter writing, a postcard campaign, public teach-ins and faith-based organizing, we helped get Bill C-262 passed in the House of Commons (Call #43 and #44). We continue to pray and mobilize so that it will receive royal assent by June 2019.
- Please see Steve Heinrich's full report on the MC Canada website for more on ISR's work in 2018.

For MC Canada's full annual report, go to www.mennonitechurch.ca. May you experience the love, peace, joy and hope that we celebrated at Christmas and seek all year long. Blessings to your congregation this new year!

Communication

In 2018, MC Canada conducted a communications survey to assist in developing a communication strategy for the Regional and Nationwide Churches. Katie Doke Sawatzky was hired as part-time MC Canada Communications Officer, primarily to assist with communication for Gathering 2019 in Abbotsford, B.C. The theme of the Gathering (June 28 to July 1) is "Igniting the Imagination of the Church." MC Canada continues to give biweekly updates, which reach congregants through Regional Church emails, and through posts on Facebook.



Donna Entz, at the 40th anniversary of Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso.

CommonWord

We are grateful to report strong numbers in 2018 that reflect our growing ministry:

- This year we served over 10,000 retail customers (up 9.8%), over 500 borrowers (par), over 1,000 online and phone/email customers (up 69%), and over 92,000 website users (up 24%).
- Sales revenue, for the first 10 months of our current fiscal year, is up 8.1%. Online sales revenue has doubled. This includes significant sales of Mennonite Church Canada Indigenous-Settler Relations titles (2,850 items).
- In 2018, 49% of items borrowed by congregations circulated outside Manitoba, including increases in MCBC, MC Sask, and MCEC.
- 95 borrowers in 2018 were from outside Mennonite Church Canada and CMU, the highest number ever.

Henry Paetkau, Interim Executive Minister