

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



emc

evangelical
mennonite
conference



DELEGATES: BE SURE TO BRING THIS REPORT ISSUE WITH YOU TO CONVENTION.
SUPPLEMENT TO THE MESSENGER, MAY 2014

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

A PRAYER FOR UNITY



My favourite Scripture passage is Jesus' prayer for us in John 17:

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

My prayer too is that we would have the unity, rootedness and radiance that Christ envisioned so that the world around us would recognize the work of God. This has been my lifelong yearning for the Church, and now especially for our conference.

This report booklet reflects the good work that our prayers, people and financial support has accomplished during the past year in the initiatives of our churches locally and internationally; and the reports express the need and vision for continued ministry. This is the work that we accomplish together as we pool our resources as a conference. These reports may also reflect some tension and mistrust in relationships, disparate theological viewpoints and church practices, and a limited sense of vision for ministry that we could enthusiastically

endorse together. This is true of the Church throughout the course of history, and illustrates why Jesus felt it necessary to pray for us in this way.

Agreeing on a Vision Statement and Statement of Core Values was one of the defining moments of the year and it provides a platform for envisioning our priorities and shaping our commitments for the coming years. Leadership will continue to do the work of implementing the vision statement into the life of the conference.

La Crete Christian Fellowship and the churches of Region 1 hosted our annual gathering in 2013 with enthusiasm and warm hospitality—a real highlight for all who attended. This summer, we will be hosted by the churches of Winnipeg at the University of Manitoba campus and we look forward with anticipation to our time together.

Consider these reports as an invitation. In addition to your own church involvements, our work together as a conference is best accomplished when we offer our time, perspectives, experience and resources. As you read the reports, I invite you to consider how you might joyfully engage in the work we do together.

God bless.

*Abe G. Bergen,
Moderator*



Delegates work around tables to answer questions posed by the Strategic Planning committee on next steps for EMC.

GENERAL BOARD

Richard Klassen finished his term as Conference Moderator, completing four years of service, and Abe Bergen began serving as Moderator in July after serving as Vice Moderator. Richard Klassen ended his term as Moderator with a rousing piano solo at Annual Convention to the surprise and delight of the audience.

Conference Council approved the review of the Statement of Faith under the guidance of the Board of Leadership and Outreach who will implement this review over the next few years.

In keeping with its mandate to promote vision for the future, the Board reviewed and presented the Vision and Values Statements to the Conference Council for approval in July; with its adoption, the Board continued its work to implement the statements into conference ministries.

Participation in the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry at Canadian Mennonite University was approved and Ward Parkinson was appointed as one of the representatives on the Advisory Committee.

EMC Representatives met with Providence Theological Seminary administrators to discuss the possibility of hosting or offering a graduate level course in Anabaptist Theology and History for EMC students at Providence and ministers new to the EMC.

The General Board supported Steinbach Christian High School by writing a letter of concern to the Government of Manitoba regarding Bill C-18, expressing its concern that “bullying” seemed narrowly articulated as relating to gay issues.

The General Board began processing a conversation regarding

GENERAL BOARD STAFF

Tim Dyck, General Secretary
Erica Fehr, Administrative Assistant

BOARD MEMBERS

Abe Bergen, Moderator,
Kleefeld (2015)
Darren Plett, Vice-Moderator,
Pleasant Valley (2014)

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- #1 Peter Janzen, *Hillside*
- #2 Chris Hughes, *Abbeydale*
- #3 none currently
- #4 Glenn Loewen, *Portage*
- #5 Henry Friesen, *The Connexion*
- #6 Kelly Lesser, *Roseisle*
- #7 Troy Selley, *Oak Bluff*
- #8 Barry Plett, *Blumenort*
- #9 Lowell Froese, *Leamington*

BOARD CHAIRS

Wes Kroeker, *EFC Steinbach* (Board of Church Ministries)
David Funk, *Abbeydale* (Board of Leadership and Outreach)
Anthony Reimer, *Blumenort* (Board of Missions)
Leonard Plett, *Treesbank* (Board of Trustees)

NOMINATIONS

Vice-Moderator: One to be elected for a two-year term

Darren Plett, Box 41, Rosenort, MB R0G 1W0 (Pleasant Valley EMC)
Darren is currently serving as vice-moderator. He has served as chair of the Church Planting Task Force and the BLO and particularly enjoys and feels blessed by the opportunities to visit different EMC and non-EMC churches through speaking and consultation ministry. He also serves as chair of the Rosenort Rec District Board and as volunteer coordinator for their local recreation trail development and construction. He is happily married to his best friend and soul-mate Pearl, and they have five grown children, including one son-in-law.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GENERAL BOARD

- ▷ Initiate and recommend Conference goals and policies
- ▷ Prepare the agenda for Conference Council meetings
- ▷ Oversee the implementation of decisions
- ▷ Receive reports from the Boards and coordinate relationships between the Boards
- ▷ Initiate the formation of regions and the restructuring of existing ones when necessary
- ▷ Prepare the annual slate of Nominating Committee candidates
- ▷ Act on behalf of the Conference between Council meetings
- ▷ Serve as legal representative of the Conference
- ▷ Fill vacancies on Conference Boards which occur between Council sessions
- ▷ Deal with matters that do not come under the direction of any other Conference Board
- ▷ Maintain a Conference Administrative Handbook
- ▷ Appoint committees and task forces to work on specific projects and programs as required
- ▷ Appoint representatives to Conference-affiliated agencies and receive reports from them
- ▷ Appoint and supervise staff in accordance with policies established by the Conference Council

homosexuality, recognizing that numerous churches, pastors and church members are grappling with the issue in their families and friendship circles. Several staff members were encouraged to attend the MB study conference in Edmonton on the topic. A letter of concern was written to a sister conference regarding the impact on joint endeavours if they should vary from the Biblical perspective.

In its effort to promote spiritually relevant and biblical direction, the General Board met with and heard concerns from the Morris Fellowship Chapel about perspectives on Creation as reflected in *The Messenger* articles. In an effort to be proactive, a brochure on EMC perspectives on Creation was commissioned.

The Mennonite World Conference invited the EMC to participate in a Global Anabaptist Profile survey. The

project was approved for conference participation, and select churches have been asked to participate in the survey, which will be compiled and presented in late 2014.

With regret, the Conference accepted the dissolution of the Fish Creek Christian Fellowship (Calgary) and agreed to hold the church memberships for one year to allow families time to move to new churches.

The La Crete Christian Fellowship Church and the churches of Region 1 hosted the 2013 Annual Convention with flourish and enthusiasm, making the long drive worthwhile. As we plan to meet in Winnipeg in 2014 (Region 7) in a few short months, the General Board is already working with the churches of Region 4 for an enriching convention in Brandon in 2015.

*Abe G. Bergen,
Moderator*



Prayer for Abe Bergen, newly elected Conference Moderator

BOARD OF LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH

The Board of Leadership and Outreach has continued to be active and responsive to the needs in our churches in the past year. I will offer a couple of highlights and then leave space for others to report on BLO stuff.



Jerry and Renee Ritskes, speakers at the 2013 Ministerial Retreat

In seeking to provide resources and strengthening for our pastors and church leaders, we engaged Tim Geddert of Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary to present at our Ministerial Day in July. Geddert taught on the theme of loving our enemies and how Christ's call to peacemaking is brought to bear in our daily lives.

The past six months have featured two events geared to strengthening the leadership in our conference. In early December we held a Ministerial Retreat at Pinawa, Man., with speakers Jerry and Renee Ritskes of Focus on the

Family. Their presentations were a real encouragement to our pastors and spouses.

In February we conducted a Discover Your Ministry Potential seminar in Leamington, Ont. At this event participants explored what ministry is like and how they could see themselves serving in the kingdom. We trust the Spirit of God is still calling and leading leaders into missions and church ministry.

In other on-going BLO ministry, the Ministerial Examination Committee has interviewed four ministerial candidates and two deacon couples since our last report.

By the time you read this I will be enjoying a sabbatical till the end of June. See you at Convention!

*Ward Parkinson,
Conference Pastor*

CHURCH PLANTING

We rejoice because we believe God has and is continuing to reveal his amazing work among us. Picture Butte Mennonite Church has 27 people attending the Christian Life class. Has there ever been a Christian Life class this large in any of our churches?

Cornerstone Fellowship Church is looking forward with fresh hope and new zeal in ministering the gospel to people in Swift Current. There has been growth in their attendance with new families joining them.



Janine Parkinson, David Kruse and Darrel Guenther lead singing at the Ministerial Retreat.

BOARD OF LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH STAFF

Ward Parkinson, Conference Pastor
Charles Koop, Canadian Church
Planting Coordinator
Erica Fehr, Administrative Assistant

BOARD MEMBERS

Glenn Plett, *Morweena* (2016)
Keith Hillier, *Steinbach EMC* (2016)
David Funk, *Abbeydale* (2015)
Alvin B. Plett, *Heartland* (2015)
Kim Stoesz, *Braeside* (2015)
Jacob Enns, *Leamington* (2014)
Earl Unger, *Stony Brook* (2014)
Edwin Plett*, *Prairie Rose*

*Member-at-large

The church is looking for someone to co-pastor with Bryan and Janice Bezanson in pursuing their new vision and goals.

Portage Evangelical Church has been asked to bring a worship service and minister on the Dakota Tipi Reserve north of the town. They started serving in the New Year and the Chief and his wife (David and Mildred Pashe, formerly involved at Sioux Valley) are attending along with other adults and children.

The Filipino ministry in Steinbach EMC is continuing with Carl and

seasonal workers from South America in Spring.

The ConneXion in Arborg is growing with new families and couples attending. It is exciting to see how God is drawing people to himself through the ministries and outreach efforts of ConneXion such as the Drop-in Centre. At the time of this report they are in the midst of looking for a pastor to come alongside them and serve half-time.

Oak Bluff Bible Church is continuing to grow just as the community around them is growing with many new homes being built. To help them provide for this increase, the church has been looking for a new meeting place and recently put in a bid for a building.

The Church Planting Task Force encouraged and helped support 15 people to attend the Church Planting Congress this year. The congress was encouraging because of its down-to-earth teaching about the difficulties and struggles in church planting.

The Church Planting Task Force is always looking at new ministries that churches are thinking and praying about, as well as looking for church planters and ministers who feel led to urban and rural missionary work in Canada.

Through the Discover Your Ministry Potential ministry a number of potential leaders have been discovered and we are praying for them as they seek God's guidance for the future.

The Ebenezer Christian Church in Brandon has completed the



Members of the Church Planting Task Force on a lunch break

NOMINATIONS

Two to be elected for a three year term (four EMC Ministerial members must be on the BLO at all times).

Earl Unger, 91 Donald Ave, Steinbach, MB R5G 2B7 (Stony Brook Fellowship)

Earl has been the lead pastor at Stony Brook Fellowship for the past 15 years. He has been in full-time pastoral ministry for more than 25

Lisa Loewen giving leadership to about 20-30 people who attend Bible studies each week. They serve with the Filipino community through catering and build relationships through parties, basketball and other special events.

The Dauphin church plant where Oscar and Mirna Hernandez are serving is called Iglesia Cristiana Tabernaculo Ebenezer. They are a small group of about twenty people and looking forward to greeting

renovations on their building and officially moved in on April 13, 2014. There are a number of churches and people in the Conference who have helped make this possible through giving of their time and finances.

God is among us!

*Charles Koop,
Church Planting Coordinator*

STATEMENT OF FAITH REVIEW

The Statement of Faith Review Team was formed to lead our conference through the process of examining our Conference Statement of Faith. The team has sent out study guides to all churches in the conference to assist in the study of our Statement of Faith. Responses from these studies are starting to come in. Keep them coming!

We ask that each church summarize their discussions and send a collective response to the conference office by mail or e-mail (efehr@emconf.ca). The deadline for churches to contribute their responses is June 30, 2014. Churches are also encouraged to focus the

next few months on teaching and preaching specifically on the thirteen articles that are found in our Statement of Faith.

In the next step of the process the team will analyze these responses and plan two EMC ministerial study conferences that will deal with the major theological issues that have been raised by the churches. This will take place between June and December 2014. This will be followed by the team's writing a draft of a revised Statement of Faith that will be presented at the Conference Ministerial and Conference Council meetings in July 2015.

If you have questions or comments please contact any of the team members. Review Team members are Angel Infantes (Braeside), Darryl Klassen (Kleefeld), Cameron McKenzie (Fort Garry), Doris Penner (Prairie Rose), Ed Peters (Island Gospel Fellowship), Colin Peters (Prairie Rose).

*Colin Peters, Secretary,
Statement of Faith Review Team*

NOMINATIONS (cont'd)

years. He and his wife Caroline have been married for 38 years and have two grown children. His passion is to see churches achieve spiritual maturity and health through consistent Biblical teaching and discipleship. His other interests lie in leadership development and church-planting.

Peter Doerksen, Box 967, Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0 (Vanderhoof Christian Fellowship)

Peter has pastored several EMC churches, has served as a missionary in Mexico, and is currently serving as the chair of Region 1. He is the Interim Pastor at Hillside Christian Fellowship till April 30, 2014, after which he will begin his pastoral responsibilities at Vanderhoof Christian Fellowship.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARD OF LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH

- ▷ Serve as executive for the Conference Ministerial
- ▷ Arrange for the examination of ministerial candidates
- ▷ Identify and respond to theological issues
- ▷ Identify and respond to spiritual and social concerns
- ▷ Arrange ministerial activities
- ▷ Foster pastoral fellowship
- ▷ Promote recruitment, orientation and training of ministers
- ▷ Cooperate with local congregations or regions in Canadian evangelism and church planting



An orientation breakfast meeting for new leaders in the EMC

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STAFF

Tim Dyck, General Secretary
Wannetta Fast, Accountant
Diana Peters, Administrative
Assistant

BOARD MEMBERS

Allister Penner, *Fort Garry* (2016)
Tony Hiebert, *Ridgewood* (2015)
Jake Elias, *La Crete* (2015)
Elmer Friesen, *Rosenort EMC* (2014)
Leonard Plett, *Treesbank* (2014)

NOMINATIONS

Two to be elected for a three year term

No nominations at this time

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- ▷ Prepare the annual budget
- ▷ Raise funds and manage all Conference money
- ▷ Manage the Conference Office
- ▷ Administer the Church Building Loan Fund
- ▷ Promote stewardship and estate planning
- ▷ Prepare and present an annual audited financial statement to the Conference Council

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Conference Council approved a “stretch” budget for 2013. We knew that it would be a challenge to reach the targeted amount of income that had been approved. The Board of Trustees appointed General Secretary Tim Dyck to serve as Stewardship Advisor to raise awareness of funding needs within the Conference. The BOT is pleased to announce that the Conference ended the year with a minimal shortfall of \$3,400.

We want to thank all of the churches and individual donors who contributed to the overall budget and special

projects throughout 2013. Our Conference has a growing vision and your contributions have made it possible to achieve that vision. Thank you for your commitment and dedication.

The pension plan that has been in place for many years was modified this past year. Church staff have been migrated to a Group RRSP under the same policy with our pension provider. This provides greater flexibility for all churches to participate in the pension plan. We encourage every church to consider making contributions to the pension for all workers.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES December 31, 2013

	Budget Fund	2013 Budget	2013 Total All Funds	2012 Total All Funds
RECEIPTS				
Donations	\$ 1,736,798	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 2,392,132	\$ 2,239,212
Interest Income	6,391	23,488	45,492	50,716
Other Receipts	50,679	46,000	346,788	179,271
	1,793,868	1,869,488	2,784,412	2,469,199
DISBURSEMENTS				
Board of Missions	1,105,669	1,160,000	1,526,187	1,491,423
Board of Church Ministries	180,620	203,000	321,352	209,650
Board of Trustees	200,918	200,000	238,046	211,457
General Board	35,177	40,000	59,236	82,964
Board of Leadership and Outreach	495,353	487,000	577,481	588,058
	2,017,737	2,090,000	2,722,302	2,583,552
Excess of receipts over disbursements	(223,869)		62,110	(114,353)
Transfers	220,512	220,512	-	-
Fund Balances, beginning of year	302,147	-	3,045,990	3,160,343
Fund Balances, end of year	\$ 298,790	\$ -	\$ 3,108,100	\$ 3,045,990

The Church Building Loan Fund that is coordinated with Mennonite Foundation continues to be well used by our EMC churches. Two churches completed their loans this past year and several others are at the point of entering into new loans. Of the nearly \$1,000,000 that is available for loans, currently only \$270,000 is loaned out. The BOT is considering expanding its mandate to provide loans for building expansions and renovations as well.

A long-term cash management policy was approved by the BOT to manage deposits in restricted funds. The goal of the policy is to achieve an effective balance between maintaining adequate liquidity while earning a competitive rate of return.

A Treasurer’s Day event was conducted in Southern Ontario on March 2014. The event was well received and appreciated by the trustees and treasurers of Region



Darren Pries-Klassen,
Mennonite Foundation of
Canada Executive Secretary,
presents at the Region 9
Treasurer’s Day.

9 churches. Discussion topics included: how giving has changed and what the church needs to do to adapt; policies for benevolence and receiving; and an overview of the many practical services available through the Conference.

The ability to host online meetings for our boards and committees has taken another step forward this past year. Additional equipment has been purchased to facilitate online meetings, resulting in savings of many hours and travel expenses for committee members.

We retained On Business solutions again this year to do the 2013 audit. A

summarized extract from the audited financial statement is included for your reference. Copies of the complete audited financial statement are available at the Conference office. They will also be made available from the BOT members at the annual Convention in July. We also attempt to keep the EMC constituency informed on the financial situation with brief quarterly reports in *The Messenger*.

Submitted by
Tim Dyck,
General Secretary

Leonard Plett,
Board of Trustees Chair

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2013

	<u>Budget Fund</u>	<u>2013 All Other Funds</u>	<u>2013 Total All Funds</u>	<u>2012 Total All Funds</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash	\$304,797	\$2,280,267	\$2,585,064	\$2,521,466
Donations Receivable	172,168	46,205	218,373	221,230
Accounts Receivable	5,602	-	5,602	4,625
Investments				
Vehicle Loans	-	79,546	79,546	39,221
Building Loans	-	268,885	268,885	312,451
Fixed Assets				
	-	148,907	148,907	148,907
	<u>\$482,567</u>	<u>\$2,823,810</u>	<u>\$3,306,377</u>	<u>\$3,247,900</u>
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	\$11,881	\$-	\$11,881	\$31,080
Relocation Fund	171,896	-	171,896	156,330
Loans Payable	-	14,500	14,500	14,500
	<u>183,777</u>	<u>14,500</u>	<u>198,277</u>	<u>201,910</u>
FUND BALANCES				
Investment in Fixed Assets	-	148,907	148,907	148,907
Externally Restricted	-	1,867,135	1,867,135	1,690,100
Internally Restricted	-	793,268	793,268	904,836
Unrestricted Budget Reserve	353,333	-	353,333	348,333
Unrestricted	(54,543)	-	(54,543)	(46,186)
Total Fund Balances	<u>298,790</u>	<u>2,809,310</u>	<u>3,108,100</u>	<u>3,045,990</u>
	<u>\$482,567</u>	<u>\$2,823,810</u>	<u>\$3,306,377</u>	<u>\$3,247,900</u>



BOARD OF MISSIONS

INTRODUCTION

It has been a privilege to serve on the EMC Board of Missions these past six years. I am blessed to have been able to catch a glimpse of the difference that we as a conference are making in Nicaragua, Paraguay, Bolivia, Mexico and all our EMC associate fields. I have also come to greatly appreciate each of my fellow BOM members who have a huge heart for missions and a passion to see God's kingdom advance.

And what can I say about our executive staff? Ken, Gerald, Tim, and Diana are committed, dedicated workers in the kingdom. I am not sure we always realize and value the tremendous job they are doing. I want to say a big thank you to our excellent staff!

A number of years ago, at the Leamington convention, David Shenk commented that "the best missionaries are Mennonites from Canada." We really do have some of the best missionaries. Our missionaries are top-notch people, who love those whom the Lord brings into their lives. God bless you richly for your service to Him!

Thank you to the churches and individuals who give sacrificially, pray diligently and who trust us as a board to faithfully administer your missions program.

We have a wonderful history of EMC missions, of which I am honoured to say I have been a part. We also have a very promising future if we remain faithful to the call of Christ to go to

all the nations. I would challenge and encourage us to continue to forge ahead, exploring new areas of involvement. Let's continue to listen to the voice of our Father, discerning His heart as we pray for His guidance and wisdom.

Let us continue to be faithful and obedient to the word of God, sharing His love with those who need to hear. May we be known as the people with "beautiful feet" bringing the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth.

*Anthony Reimer,
Board of Missions Chairperson*

BOLIVIA

MEM Bolivia is a partnership between the EMMC and the EBMC (Bergthaler)

conference of Alberta, in association with the EMC. We are involved in church planting and discipleship among Mennonite Colonies, but give much emphasis to improving education among these people.

John and Helen Froese have taken on the pastoral role of the “Evanjeelische Menoniten Jemeent,” a church of about 200 in the community of Villa Nueva. MEM workers started this church about 15 years ago and the mandate of the Froeses is to continue to bring this congregation to independence, where they will no longer require a missionary pastor. John’s years of pastoral experience and solid biblical teaching is well accepted and respected by the people in this congregation.

The community of Villa Nueva (60 kms east of Santa Cruz) was started by MEM staff together with Mennonite families from various colonies. It is now a community of more than 50 families. A strong, government-approved school has also been established, with more than 200 students, mostly Mennonites. The school has a strong local leadership board and is on its way to being independent of mission support; however, this will be a somewhat longer process.

Henry and Caroline Krahn are stationed in San Jose, Bolivia, as host couple at a newly constructed mission outreach centre in that town (Casa de la Amistad), which includes guestrooms and a library/bookstore with German and Plautdietsch material. They are working alongside other MEM workers in an outreach to colony Mennonites in that area. Improving education is a very important part of the ministry. There is strong resistance from within the colony, but a good-sized group of families who have been excommunicated from the Old Colony system are seeking change.

*David Janzen,
MEM Director*

GUADALAJARA

The Psalmist David writes that he is “fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful and I know that full well.” This past year in Guadalajara has been similar to what David writes about. The EMC Church Plant effort has been overwhelming and wonderful. As in childbirth, His power is magnified in the development of Christ’s Church.

As missionaries we are committed to living intentionally. Guided by our recently developed Memo of Understanding, we make connections and build upon those connections. The intriguing reality is that as much as we are intentional, and while we are going about our daily activities, God does far more than we can ask or imagine.

Living in our gated communities people watch us. They see us in the markets, walking or biking in the park across



EMC and EMMC leaders meet with EMC missionaries to Bolivia.

BOARD OF MISSIONS STAFF

Tim Dyck, General Secretary
Ken Zacharias, Foreign Secretary
Gerald Reimer, Conference Youth Minister
Diana Peters, Administrative Assistant

BOARD MEMBERS

Beth Koehler, *Steinbach EMC* (2016)
Sid Reimer, *Fort Garry* (2016)
Len Barkman, *Heartland* (2015)
Fred Buhler, *Pineridge* (2015)
Warren Kroeker, *Braeside* (2015)
Alvira Friesen, *Rosenort EMC* (2014)
Anthony Reimer, *Blumenort* (2014)



Diane Koop and Alvira Friesen visit during Alvira’s Guadalajara field trip.

NOMINATIONS

Two to be elected for a three-year term

Alvira Friesen, Box 700, Morris, MB R0G 1K0 (Rosenort EMC)

Alvira has been an EMC missionary for many years. She serves as the Executive Director for Rio Grande Bible Institute Canada and on Rosenort EMC’s Missions Committee.

Abe E Klassen, 6105 50 St, Taber, AB T1G 1J7 403-331-9563 (Taber EMC)

Abe has served on the Taber EMC church board for seven years, six of them as chair, as well as serving on community committees and boards. He was been a deacon in the Taber EMC for two years and is currently serving as a minister.

the street. God gives us opportunities to connect the moment we walk out of our homes, whether it is to water the grass, go to birthday parties or attend neighbourhood meetings. So often the initiative has to come from us to begin the conversation. Then comes the privilege of being invited into their lives and homes, whether it is through giving English classes, watching “The Bible” on Discovery channel, riding bike to Puerta Vallarta with a bunch of guys, or just being neighbourly and bringing some favourite dish to a neighbour. Often God is asking us to just walk across the room or street, to take the initiative, jump the cliff, become vulnerable, and love them like Jesus.

Some special contextualized events occurred beyond our personal connections, through the ministry of the prayer team and SBC’s Mission X, weekly Bible studies, leaders



CME council in Mexico

breakfasts, baptisms and monthly Convivios (larger joint cell group gatherings).

This past year we said good-bye to the LeRoy and Faith Siemens family and welcomed Ernie and Diane Koop in joining Dallas and Tara Wiebe and John and Connie Reimer.

*John Reimer,
Guadalajara Missionary
Team Leader*

PARAGUAY – AMAR

First of all, we thank the Lord for all of you and for the support you have shown to us throughout our years as church planting missionaries—first with the Guarani tribes, then in a traditional Paraguayan town, then to the capital city of Asuncion, and finally in the Alto Refugio HIV/AIDS ministry.

God was already forming the foundations for this ministry many years before we realized it. He chose Alicia, a new Christian, to be His chosen instrument to touch thousands of lives, many of whom

did not know how great God’s love is for them. Alicia, who was diagnosed with AIDS in May 1997 and died in September 1998, opened a new world of challenges for us.

From its humble beginnings in the year 2000, Alto Refugio has become an ever-widening door to invite people infected and affected by HIV to come and find a helping hand. Thanks to the generosity of many people around the world, we have seen this work grow. The Lord has done this through the dedication of special people who have been a part of this ministry over the years.

Central to the ministry is the Board of Directors. From the beginning it has been a challenge to have a board that actually takes ownership



Guadalajara missionary team

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

- ▷ Promote missions according to the scriptures and the directives of the Conference Council
- ▷ Receive counsel from the Conference Ministerial in theological matters
- ▷ Inform the Conference of the Board’s activities
- ▷ Establish goals of the mission programs, formulate basic policies, and enter new fields under the authority of the Conference Council

Note: The Board meets at least five times a year for all-day meetings.

of the ministry. Often it seemed like a “puppet” board that simply rubber-stamped whatever we were doing. There were many changes to the board over the years, so that the present board consists of ethnic German Mennonites and Paraguayans. There came a time when they faced their biggest challenge, as EMC, with a church planting focus, was in the process of transitioning the ministry to local leadership. Alto Refugio would need to become a national entity where the Board of Directors would take on full responsibility. After many discussions with EMC representatives, a process was worked out that would transfer full responsibility to the board by the end of 2014.

We returned to Canada early this year, but are thankful for Beto and Elsa Hein, who have taken over as directors, and for a committed board who are standing with them as they enter a new phase of ministry.

*Dave and Judy Schmidt,
EMC Missionaries*

**PARAGUAY – MINGA
GUAZÚ CHURCH PLANT**

The Minga Guazú church plant is moving forward slowly but surely. The number of contacts has increased significantly in the last



Elsa Hein, interim director of AMAR

year since Chris and Revita and Joanne moved into the Km. 18 community, where we now have all our studies and services. It has been exciting to see some new believers and seekers join the group. In April 2013 we celebrated the baptism of a couple and a youth.

Church plant activities continue to involve a lot of children. We had about 10 to 20 kids in Sunday school and about five to 30 at Saturday kids’ club. Last year we had a Christmas program and live nativity scene, which the kids were so excited about. The event drew a good crowd of around 60 people from the community.

Summer and winter vacation Bible schools were well attended and provide a good kick-start and mid-year boost for the kids club and Sunday school programs. A great result of the VBS events is that we get to connect with some of the parents. Last year two women came to know Jesus as a result of the contact made with them at VBS. Now they regularly attend Bible study and one of them is requesting baptism.

The midweek Bible study was well attended. In 2013 we typically had more than 30 people (children included) on Wednesday evenings for Bible study and fellowship. These evenings continue to be an exciting time of teaching and sharing.

Chris and Revita were doing a marriage course/counselling



Renita and Gil Rempel, EMC missionaries in Paraguay, lead Sunday morning worship.

with two of the couples that make up the group, discipling and working with them towards healing of past hurts, personal and marital growth.

The core group of our church in 2013 consisted of four families (seven adults and 14 children), plus the missionary team.

Other outreach activities included a children’s day event that drew over 200 people, a three-day evangelistic campaign, men’s and women’s Bible studies, and weekly visits and social/medical help.

*Gil Rempel,
Paraguay Field Chairperson*

**RECENT EVALUATION OF
ASSOCIATE MISSIONS**

An important component of the EMC Missions program has been our strong partnership with a variety of mission agencies. EMC Missions supports about 80 workers under the Associate Missions umbrella with finances, prayer and other logistical support. At a recent meeting, the board evaluated our Associate Missions program to see if it still meets our needs. We sent survey questions to our churches and

associate workers, asking for their input into this discussion.

The conclusion of this review was that the board sees this program as an essential part of our work and desires to strengthen the relationship with these workers. Some of the practical ways of increasing our connection with associate workers are described here.

The Board desires to strengthen the lines of accountability and responsibility with our Associate workers by seeking opportunities to engage more deeply.

We also want to improve the level of communication with our associate workers in both directions. We want to communicate more effectively about the services and opportunities available from EMC Missions.

We also want the workers to be able to report more frequently at our annual Convention and in local EMC churches. *The Messenger* also continues to be an excellent venue for all workers to report on their ministry.

There are a variety of short-term opportunities that our associate workers can provide. We have not yet taken full advantage of this opportunity. We would like to see individuals from our EMC churches

engage in short-term ministry with our existing workers who have a wealth of experience and passion.

Lastly, the board recognizes that our associate workers have not received an increase in the financial support that we have provided for many years. We would like to correct this by providing a greater supplement in the years ahead.

Tim Dyck,
General Secretary

MINISTRIES IN TRANSITION

The BOM desires to transition ministries from missionaries to a local board at the appropriate time. It is important that national believers take ownership of the ministries that have been started among them.

Starting in 2008 EMC Missions began shifting three different ministries to national leadership by writing five-year agreements with each of these ministries.

In 2014, the Paraguay field will see the AMAR HIV/AIDS ministry and Radio Mensajero (MBN) complete the transition when Dave and Judy Schmidt and Benny and Esther Goertzen return to Canada to enter retirement. Both of these ministries

have a local Board of Directors that is now directing these ministries.

The German CME conference in Northern Mexico is a growing conference. Now is the right time for transition to take place for them. John and Lorna Wall have served with this conference since 2005. They will be concluding their ministry with the CME in December 2014.

We say thank you to our EMC missionaries who have worked so faithfully in each of these three ministries and in this transitioning process.

Ken Zacharias,
Foreign Secretary

PURE MOTIVATION FOR MISSIONS

The Church is the bride of Christ. She is not yet fully mature but is being prepared for marriage to God's Son, and as such, is to remain faithful. But she is also to be at work, spreading the Gospel to all nations. George Miley in his book, *Loving the Church, Blessing the Nations*, asks the question: How do we mobilize her to this task?

We honour her. We affirm her beauty, wooing her gently and giving her time to process her calling and arrive at her own conclusions. This will set the stage for her to be able to give herself fully to Christ. And when the Church makes her own decision to give herself to Christ, her bridegroom, we have pure motivation for missions.

Before Jesus returns the bride must be fully prepared. How can EMC churchgoers take ownership of being bearers of Good News?

Gerald Reimer,
Missions Mobilizer



The 2013 EMC Board of Missions and related staff members



Locally initiated and carried out, the EMC Young Adults Retreat was held on Feb. 28 to March 2, 2014.

BOARD OF CHURCH MINISTRIES

THE YOUNG ADULTS' RETREAT

As the BCM looks at the past year, there are many things that catch our attention. One of the events that we want to highlight is the Young Adults Retreat held on Feb. 28 to March 2, 2014. We wish to bring attention to this successful event because of the way it came into being.

The BCM did not initiate, plan or execute this event. Rather, several people from EMC churches in southern Manitoba planned it, seeing the need for a meaningful event that would encourage and grow the faith of our young adults.

How did they do it? A need was recognized, conversations were initiated, dreams were shared, meetings were convened, e-mails sent, and phone calls were made. As plans and resources came together the BLO was notified and the BCM was invited to participate by providing some resources.

As the organizing team discovered, the BCM is not necessarily set up to provide quick responses. Anything that is outside of what the BCM has previously approved takes some time to process. It is not that we are unwilling to contribute, but we meet every two months and our staff cannot make commitments outside of what the board has approved. We were able to contribute some funds for the event and provide our encouragement to the organizers.

This type of seeing and meeting needs must keep happening. Gather like-minded people together, pray, define your vision, plan the event or ministry, and start looking for resources. Please include the BCM in this process. We can help you connect to other visionaries, speakers, experts and other resources.

We want to help you achieve the vision you have been given. We may

not move quickly or in the way you expect, but we want to contribute to your success.

*Wesley Kroeker,
Board of Church
Ministries Chair*

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The BCM has a wide mandate that involves the past, present, and future. We are engaged at present in serving churches through direct contact, by educating and by publishing. We respond to the future by serving children who become teens who become adults. And we respect the past by overseeing the conference's archival holdings that tell of the faith journey of our conference, its churches, and its past generations.

For whatever reason, despite its wide and rich mandate, the BCM seems to be chronically short of both board and committee workers. The Archives is also seriously underfunded.

BOARD OF CHURCH MINISTRIES STAFF

Terry M. Smith, Executive
Secretary/Editor

Gerald D. Reimer, Conference Youth
Minister

Andrew Walker, Administrative
Assistant/Assistant Editor

BOARD MEMBERS

Russell Doerksen, *Fort Garry*
(Member-at-Large)

Henry Friesen, *The ConneXion*
(2016)

Brigitte Toews, *Heartland* (2015)

Stephanie Penner, *Stony Brook*
(2014)

Wes Kroeker, *EFC Steinbach* (2013)

NOMINATIONS

Four to be elected for a three year
term

Russell Doerksen, Box 438 c/o
Providence Seminary, Otterburne,
MB R0A 1G0 (Fort Garry EMC)

Russell has been part of the
Fort Garry congregation for about
five years. During the summer
and fall of 2012 he did his pastoral
practicum at the Fort Garry EMC
where he preached, led worship
and taught adult Sunday school.
He completed his M.Div. at
Providence in April, 2013, and
was the valedictorian for his class.
Russell would bring his learning, his
enthusiasm for more learning, his
inquisitive mind and solid research
skills to the work of the BCM.

Drawing from the gifted and serving
members that make up the EMC, the
BCM would welcome:

- Four more board members
- Members for its Archives
Committee, Education
Committee, National Youth
Committee, Inter-Mennonite
Chaplaincy Association
(University of Manitoba campus)
- A coordinator/supervisor of
transcription and translation
efforts within the Archives
- Funds to cover the transfer,
housing, and organization of
EMC Archival materials within
the Mennonite Heritage Centre
(Winnipeg, Man.)

As churches and delegates ponder
such matters, we welcome counsel
and direction as decisions are made
on how best to plan for the future,
minister in the present, and honour
the past.

*Terry M. Smith,
Executive Secretary*

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Over the past several years the BCM
has handed out the book entitled
Sticky Faith (Zondervan, 2011) to
more than half of the youth leaders in
our conference.

Written by Dr. Kara Powell, executive
director at the Fuller Youth Institute,
this book addresses the concern that
students are increasingly leaving
the faith. One solution the book
suggests resides in developing more
intentional interactions between
generations within the local church
setting, leading to the nurture of
long-term faith in teenagers.

Whether or not the statistics are



**Why are our archival materials
being moved to Mennonite Heritage
Centre? Space and research
accessibility.**



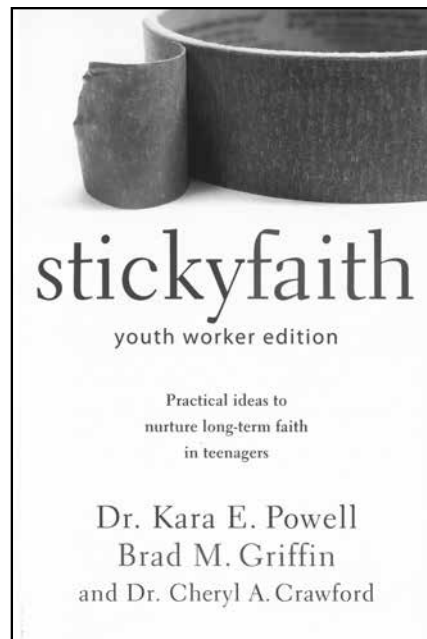
To help retain young people, some youth leaders have been given a copy of *Sticky Faith*.

as alarming in the EMC, the BCM encourages churches to keep investing in the next generation. Most EMC churches have a youth program, but adults can do more:

- Connect with the youth, whether casually or as a weekly volunteer.
- Support your students by sending them to Abundant Springs, happening next on May 15-18, 2015.
- Encourage your youth to go on mission trips.
- Equip your youth leaders by sending them to a retreat like TRU, happening Oct. 17-19.
- Stay connected to your young adults when they head off to college or university.

And, above all, pray for teens to radically and completely commit their lives to Christ!

*Gerald Reimer,
Conference Youth Minister*



NOMINATIONS (cont'd)

Jessica Wichers, 312-360 Elmdale St., Steinbach, MB R5G 0N2 (Anola Fellowship Chapel)

Jessica was home-schooled through primary and secondary school and then took classes at SBC in 2007-2009. She has leadership and administrative ability and is actively involved as a youth leader at Anola Fellowship Chapel. She has been involved in planning short term mission trips for youth and adults. She enjoys music and leads a worship team at AFC.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF CHURCH MINISTRIES

- ▷ Provide resources and services to help congregations with Christian education, family-life teaching, music ministries and youth work
- ▷ Minister to post-high school students and make arrangements for Conference youth events
- ▷ Produce Conference publications and periodicals
- ▷ Promote the writing and publication of Christian literature
- ▷ Administer the Conference Archives

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Peter Enns, *Wymark* (2016)
Pete Goertzen, *New Life Christian Fellowship* (2016)
Ruth Anne Peters, *Island Gospel Fellowship* (2016)
Alvin B. Plett, *Heartland* (2016)
Landis Benitez, *Ebenezer Christian Church* (2016)
Hilda Koop, *Heartland* (2015)
Sid Reimer, *Fort Garry* (2015)
Alvin Rempel, *Rosenort Fellowship* (2015)
Arnold Thiessen, *Braeside* (2015)
Waldon Plett, *Riverton* (2014)

NOMINATIONS

Two to be elected for a three year term

Waldon Plett, Box 426, Riverton, MB R0C 2R0 (Riverton Gospel Chapel)

Waldon is a farmer. He is a deacon in the Riverton Gospel Chapel and is also a Conference delegate. Waldon is interested in the Conference and knows many EMCers within the various regions.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- ▷ Select enough candidates for all elected offices of the Conference, other than the Nominating Committee
- ▷ Conduct annual elections

The committee strives to fill all of the boards and affiliate agencies with EMC members who are offering to serve as board members or representatives. We are grateful to all of the volunteers who give of their time and energy to provide guidance to the board or agency that they serve. A great deal of attention is given to regional representation. The committee invites each church to forward nominees and in addition approaches directly individuals with recognized attributes. The conference clearly depends on these avid and dedicated volunteers.

In early December the committee meets to familiarize itself with its mandate and the pending vacancies. Contact assignments are made based on regional representation.

In January the Nominating Committee connects with all of the churches to encourage nomination of persons to these boards. The best results come when churches respond positively to these requests. We recognize that the local church is the best source for these nominations.

In March the committee meets to review the vacancies that still remain, and then actively searches for volunteers to complete the slate. Any remaining vacancies remain an on-going challenge for the committee. Contacts are continued well into June.

In June the committee makes final preparation for the elections at the July council session

At the July council session the committee oversees the election process. It then re-organizes in preparation for the work of the following year.

All of our Conference boards and our affiliate agencies are blessed to have so many gifted individuals involved in the governance process.

Thank you all for your service.

*Sid Reimer,
Nominating Committee Chair*



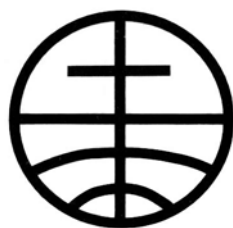
Delegates vote at Conference Council.

CONFERENCE-RELATED INSTITUTIONS



MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE
www.mds.mennonite.net

Mennonite Disaster Service is a volunteer network of Anabaptist churches that responds in Christian love to those affected by disasters in Canada and the United States.



MENNONITE WORLD CONFERENCE
www.mwc-cmm.org

The EMC has been a member of the Mennonite World Conference for many decades. In addition to the assemblies, which are held every six years, being part of this global fellowship of Anabaptist churches enables the EMC to relate with other churches in many countries.



Mennonite Central Committee

MCC CANADA
www.canada.mcc.org

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.

MCC's priorities in carrying out its purpose are disaster relief, sustainable community development and justice and peace-building. The EMC has opportunity to send two delegates to the annual delegate assembly of MCC Canada as well as numerous delegates to the provincial MCC organizations.



MENNONITE FOUNDATION OF CANADA

MENNONITE FOUNDATION OF CANADA
www.mennofoundation.ca

Rooted and founded in a tradition of caring for each other and caring for our communities, the Mennonite Foundation of Canada is a public charitable foundation for people of faith, making giving joyful and easy since 1974.



Two children, Syrian refugees living in a tent on the outskirts of Irbid, Jordan, carry a box of food into their tent. (MCC photo)



Steinbach Bible College

STEINBACH BIBLE COLLEGE
www.sbcollege.ca

Since 1936, SBC has been providing students with a unique opportunity to discover and develop their potential for ministry in the church and society. Courses are taught from an Evangelical Anabaptist perspective. This past year there were 27 students from EMC churches enrolled at SBC.



MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
www.mhsc.ca

The EMC is linked to the MHSC because the histories of the Mennonite-Anabaptist churches are connected in this country. There is, as well, a common need to help new generations understand the Anabaptist story as it is lived out today.

MHSC was established in 1968. It includes six provincial Mennonite historical societies, four Mennonite denominational bodies (including the EMC), MCC Canada, and the Chair of Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg.



EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA
www.evangelicalfellowship.ca

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) is the national association of evangelical Christians, gathered together for influence, impact and identity in ministry and public witness. The EMC has been an affiliate member of the EFC since 1988.



CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY
www.cmu.ca

Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) is an Anabaptist Christian University located in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY
www.cmu.ca/programs/gradprograms.html

The Graduate School of Theology and Ministry seeks to inspire and equip women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society. The programs of the Graduate School prepare for ministry and leadership in the church and church-related organizations, further graduate studies and a teaching career, and growth and service in the world.

CURRENT EMC REPRESENTATIVES AND BOARD MEMBERS NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

Larry Eidse, *Rosenort EMC* (2016)



EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF CANADA

Tim Dyck, General Secretary
Abe Bergen, Moderator

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

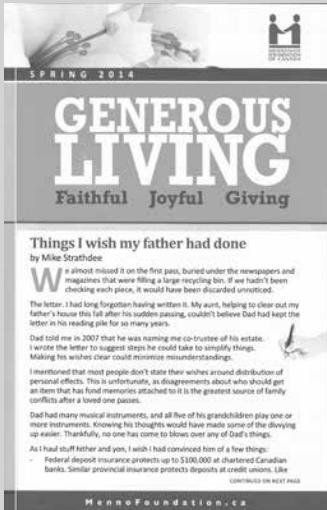
Ward Parkinson, Conference Pastor

MCC CANADA

Ron Penner, *Aberdeen* (2015)
Ray Plett, *Heartland* (2015)

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE

Murray Barkman, *Aberdeen* (2016)
Denis Keating, *Heartland* (2015)
Leo Penner, *Blumenort* (2014)



MENNONITE FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Allister Penner, *Fort Garry*
Abe Bergen, *Kleefeld*

MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

Glen Klassen, *Fort Garry* (2015)



MENNONITE WORLD CONFERENCE

Ron Penner, *Aberdeen* (2015)

STEINBACH BIBLE COLLEGE

Robert Goertzen, *Steinbach EMC* (2016)
Henry Friesen, *The ConneXion* (2016)
Trevor Arsenault, *EFC Steinbach* (2015)

CURRENT EMC REPRESENTATIVES AND BOARD MEMBERS PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

EDEN HEALTH CARE SERVICES (MANITOBA)

Alvin Rempel, *Rosenort Fellowship* (2016)
Carolyn Plett, *Blumenort* (2016)

INTER-MENNONITE CHAPLAINCY ASSOCIATION

Tracey Hodges, *MacGregor*
Stephanie Klassen, *Rosenort EMC*

MCC ALBERTA

David Fehr, *La Crete* (2015)
Susan Thiessen, *Abbeydale* (2015)

MCC BRITISH COLUMBIA

Marian Martens, *Island Gospel* (2014)

MCC MANITOBA

Peter Plett, *Ridgewood* (2016)
Denis Keating, *Heartland* (2014)

MCC ONTARIO

No representative currently

MCC SASKATCHEWAN

No representative currently

STEINBACH CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Burton Loewen, *Steinbach EMC* (2016)
David Driedger, *Blumenort* (2015)
Brad Brandt, *Blumenort* (2014)

2014 APPOINTMENTS

EDEN HEALTH CARE SERVICES (MANITOBA)

One to be appointed

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

One to be appointed

INTER-MENNONITE CHAPLAINCY ASSOCIATION

Three to be appointed

MCC BC

One to be appointed

MCC MANITOBA

Four to be appointed

MCC ONTARIO

One to be appointed

MCC SASKATCHEWAN

Two to be appointed

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE

One to be appointed

STEINBACH BIBLE COLLEGE

One to be appointed

STEINBACH CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

One to be appointed

EMC CONVENTION 2014

FEATURES AND PROGRAM

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2014

9 a.m. Ministerial Meeting
Noon Lunch
5 p.m. Supper
7 p.m. **Inspirational Session 1**
Surprising Identities: 'Who am I?' and 'Who are You?'

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2014

9 a.m. Conference Council Meeting
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Youth Event
2:30 p.m. Tours and Workshops
5 p.m. Supper
7 p.m. **Inspirational Session 2**
More Surprises: From the Bush to the Mountain

SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2014

10 a.m. **Inspirational Session 3**
Surprises Never Stop: God's Connections
Noon Lunch
2 p.m. **Inspirational Session 4**
We are that Mountain!

CONVENTION OFFERING PROJECTS

Friday evening an offering will be received for Steinbach Bible College. Our EMC-affiliated college is involved in training Christians to serve effectively in our world, including in the pastorate and missions.

Saturday evening the offering will help to defray the costs of Convention for food, honorariums, childcare and other costs.

SPEAKER

Dr. Richard Showalter (DMin, Gordon-Conwell) was raised in Kentucky, but the Lord's call has taken him to many places in the world. A pastor, teacher, church planter, and writer, he has served as a missionary in the Middle East (1982–1989), president of Rosedale Bible College (1989–1994), and president of Eastern Mennonite Missions (1994–2011). He is currently chair of the missions commission within Mennonite World Conference and president emeritus of the International Missions Association. He and his wife Jewel have been married for 46 years; they have three married children and 13 grandchildren.

INSPIRATIONAL SESSIONS

Surprising Identities: 'Who am I?' and 'Who are You?' | Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Two identity questions emerge when Moses encounters God at the burning bush. Who is Moses to be chosen and who is God? We will learn how God's answer applies to us.

More Surprises: From the Bush to the Mountain | Saturday, 7:00 p.m.

In session two we plot the trajectory from the individual encounter with God to the corporate. God takes the personal and transforms it into corporate blessing.

Surprises Never Stop: God's Connections | Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

The story continues in the New Testament as both Peter and Cornelius have "burning bush" experiences which God transforms into a blazing second Pentecost initiating the greatest movement in history—the global Christian movement.

We are that Mountain! | Sunday, 2:00 p.m.

The series concludes with the image of a mountain in Daniel's interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream—a mountain which fills the earth and which is applied to both Jesus and the church.

MINISTERIAL MEETING

Friday, July 4, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (sign in at 8:30 a.m.)

Fort Garry EMC, 602 Pasadena Ave, Winnipeg | For pastors, ministers, deacons, elders, and missionaries and spouses.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday, July 5, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (sign in at 8:30 a.m.)

University of Manitoba, University Centre, second floor | Everyone welcome — only voting is restricted to delegates.

YOUTH EVENT

Saturday, July 5, 1:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Meet at Fort Garry EMC, 602 Pasadena Ave. The day will include a Menno-run style game, snowball fight, supper and youth session. Wear weather appropriate clothing which can get wet.

TOURS AND WORKSHOPS

Conference attendees are invited to participate in one tour or two workshops. Popular workshops will be offered twice so please register with your preferences. Please note that workshop titles or presenters may change.

TOUR: *Railroads, Rivers, and Renewal: A Bus Tour to Interpret the City with New Eyes*

This tour will allow participants to see and reflect upon urban issues like planning, poverty, politics, race, revitalization, and missions. The tour will stop to visit sites in a few neighbourhoods and especially in Winnipeg's North End. Led by Kent Dueck, ICYA and Rudy Friesen.

TOUR: *Visit to the Mosque*

Join this guided tour to a mosque in Winnipeg. Gain an understanding of Islam to better understand our Muslim neighbours. We will begin with a short orientation beforehand and a debriefing after the visit. Led by workers with experience in Muslim ministries.

WORKSHOP: *University of Manitoba Campus Ministries*

This workshop/walking tour will introduce us to the issues and opportunities our university students face in post-secondary education and to EMC (and EMC affiliated) campus ministries. Led by Len Harms, Fort Garry University Pastor.

WORKSHOP: *Can There Be True Reconciliation?*

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has uncovered many abuses that took place through the government sponsored Residential School system. Several generations of First Nations children were subjected to schools designed to eliminate their culture and language. What does reconciliation look like following this dark period of Canada's history? What role does the church play in this reconciliation process?

WORKSHOP: *Afghanistan – At a Tipping Point?*

Hear updates on the social and political conditions of Afghanistan, but more, on how God's kingdom is moving among the Afghans through Pamir Productions (a media ministry for Afghanistan).

WORKSHOP: *Thriving Ministries: Knowing when to Leave*

Knowing when to turn the leadership of a ministry over to the national church can be complicated, but the timing can be critical for ministries to continue to thrive. Find out how these decisions have been and are currently being made in EMC missions.

WORKSHOP: *Silk Road – The Church of the East*

In 2007, Richard and Jewel Showalter traveled the Silk Road and visited with missionaries, church leaders, pastors, and ordinary people of the Church of the East, an expression of Christianity little known to the West. Join our speaker, Richard Showalter as he shares these experiences.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL AGENDA

Saturday, July 5, 2014

9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

University of Manitoba,
University Centre, Second Floor,
Manitoba Rooms

Chair: Abe Bergen, Moderator

1. Welcome and Opening
 2. Conference Council Minutes
 3. Elections
 4. Reports from Conference Boards
 - A. General Board
 - B. Board of Church Ministries
 - C. Board of Missions
 - D. Board of Leadership and Outreach
 6. Election Results and Nominating Committee Report
 - E. Board of Trustees
 7. Affiliate Agency Reports
 - Mennonite World Conference
 - Mennonite Historical Society of Canada
 - Winnipeg Centre For Ministry Studies
 - Mennonite Disaster Services
 8. Question Period
 9. Adjournment
-

Sunday morning and afternoon the offerings will be designated to missions. The goal is to raise \$20,000 for these projects (on a pro-rated basis)

PARAGUAY - SANTA TERESA

MEDICAL PROJECT: \$5,000

These funds will assist the Tres Palmas Mission committee in providing medical services to the people they serve at the St. Teresa Indian station. This will provide for hospital costs, ambulance services and pharmaceutical supplies for the Indian people.

PARAGUAY - CHURCH BUILDING

CONSTRUCTION: \$5,000

The EMC church planting team is ministering to a new group of believers in the Taji Poty and Guavira communities close to Minga Guazú. At present this church group is meeting under a tree and a church building is needed. This offering will be designated towards the construction project.

MISSIONARY CHILDREN

EDUCATION: \$5,000

Rempels, Kroekers and Wiebes have five of their children attending private schools in Paraguay and Guadalajara Mexico. This project will assist with the educational costs associated with having their children receive a good education.

CANADA - DAUPHIN CHURCH

PLANT FACILITY RENTAL: \$5,000

The Dauphin Church Plant, begun in March 2013 with Oscar and Mirna Hernandez leading, has approximately 15-25 people meeting regularly in a rented space. This project will help cover the cost of renting the meeting facility.

All EM Conference projects are approved by its governing boards. In the event that a project is fully funded or cannot be carried out for any reason, the Evangelical Mennonite Conference boards may apply designated donations to another approved project.



emc

64th Annual Convention

ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

Burning Bushes and Blazing Mountains

with RICHARD SHOWALTER

July 4-6, 2014

University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Register at www.emconference.ca