



Sharing on the Journey

MCC BC Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 14, 2023
South Abbotsford Church



**Mennonite
Central
Committee**

Mennonite Central Committee BC Annual General Meeting

October 14, 2023

South Abbotsford Church

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Sharing on the Journey

Dear Friends of MCC,

This year we are marking the 100th anniversary of an epic journey.

In the summer of 1923, thousands of Mennonites living in Ukraine were caught in the middle of a violent conflict and famine. My grandfather was among them. Having lost both parents and an older brother during the conflict, he and his siblings began to flee, moving from one village to another as battle lines shifted. They were among the thousands who were helped by MCC and came to Canada in the 1920's.

Little did they know that the organization created to assist them, MCC, would become a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches. And little did they know that when they came to Canada, they would be displacing indigenous people, that 100 years later there would be another war in Ukraine, and that conflict and drought in many countries would be contributing to a global refugee crisis displacing over 100 million and a global food crisis impacting over 800 million. These people are also on an epic journey, in search of hope.

Today MCC is providing relief, development, and peace in 45 countries, assisting thousands of people facing conflict and poverty. And here at home we are caring for those who live homeless, supporting those who experience domestic violence, responding to child poverty, working toward reconciliation with indigenous people and assisting refugees from around the world.

“The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless ...”

— PSALM 146:9 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

Thanks to your support, MCC is making a difference for thousands of people who are on a journey, searching for hope.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne".

Wayne Bremner
CEO - Executive Director
Mennonite Central Committee BC

MCC BC AGM Speaker & Local Program Highlights



Keynote Speaker: Bruce Guenther

Bruce Guenther is the disaster response director for MCC and is responsible for MCC's international humanitarian relief and food security programs. Bruce has worked with MCC for over 15 years and has supported responses to various hunger crises including in DR Congo, Ethiopia, Syria, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe. He lives in Winnipeg with his family and is a member of Hope Mennonite Church.



Local Program: Migration & Resettlement

The most recent UN reports indicate over 100 million have been forced to leave their homes, including those caught in the violence in Ukraine. MCC has been responding in many locations around the world as well as helping receive refugees arriving in Canada. Learn how MCC is making a difference here at home and around the world.



Local Program: Homelessness Prevention & Outreach

MCC has been involved in caring for people who live homeless for over 16 years. Recent reports show an increase in the amount of people who live homeless. Learn how MCC is bringing compassion to their daily struggles and hope for the future.



Local Program: New Foundations

Moving to Canada from another country can be an overwhelming experience! Learning a different culture and different customs is challenging at times. MCC is responding in Victoria through the New Foundations program, providing a supportive learning environment for people who are new to Canada to gain important skills for their life in Canada.

**Mennonite Central Committee BC
Annual General Meeting Agenda
South Abbotsford Church
October 14, 2023**

REGISTRATION

8:30 | Check-in and coffee

OPENING SESSION

9:00 | Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:20 | Keynote Speaker – Bruce Guenther

10:05 | Coffee Break

BUSINESS SESSION

10:30 | Business Session – Peter Wolfe

- Agenda
- Minutes
- Nominations
- Audited Financial Statements for 2023
- Appointment of Auditor 2024

11:15 | HyLand Legacy Report

11:45 | Lunch

12:30 | Local Program Highlights

1:50 | AGM Evaluation

2:00 | Closing Remarks – Peter Wolfe

Motions

MCC BC Annual General Meeting

October 14, 2023

Agenda

1. That the agenda be approved as presented.
2. That the members do hereby waive the requirement of section 35 of the Societies Act of British Columbia that the financial statements presented be for a period ending not more than 6 months before the annual general meeting. M/S/C

Minutes

3. That the minutes of the October 15, 2022 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented.

Board Nominations and Election

4. That Kevin Baarda is hereby elected to the board of directors of MCC BC to serve a third three-year term (2023-2026) as a MC Representative.
5. That Craig Toews is hereby elected to the board of directors of MCC BC to serve a third three-year term (2023-2026) as a MB Representative.

Auditor's Report and Financial Statements

6. That the Auditor's Report and the Audited Financial Statements for MCC BC for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2023, be approved as presented.

Appointment of the Auditors

7. That KPMG be appointed as the auditors for MCC BC for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

Host Congregation

8. That the participants of the 2023 Annual General Meeting express appreciation to South Abbotsford Church for hosting the MCC BC Annual General Meeting.

Adjournment

9. That the 2023 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

MINUTES
MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE BC
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
October 15, 2022 9:00 AM
Emmanuel Mennonite Church

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen

Karen welcomed attendees and read a land acknowledgement. Karen then opened the meeting with a prayer.

Heidi Epp led attendees in a song.

OPENING REFLECTIONS

Wayne Bremner

Wayne introduced the theme, "Good News in Challenging Times". Wayne highlighted a few events from the past year and how MCC has worked and is working to address them, including the BC floods, and situations in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Ukraine.

UKRAINIAN CRISIS

Andrew and Katie Geddert

Andrew and Katie gave a brief history of the past decade in Ukraine and shifting front line between Ukraine and Russia. MCC has been working with vulnerable populations throughout this time. MCC has raised over \$10m USD for the Ukraine response since Russia's attack began in February 2022. MCC's emergency response includes distribution of food/medicine/hygiene, evacuation of vulnerable populations, and provision of temporary shelter and meals. MCC has a network of partners that are working to meet basic needs, including distribution of material resources, and caring for vulnerable people. Andrew highlighted the work of several of these partners. Current priorities for partners in Ukraine include continued support for the vulnerable and internally displaced persons, heating for winter, and psycho-social-spiritual support and trauma response.

Heidi Epp led attendees in a song.

Stacy Dantsev, MCC BC Settlement Assistant, Ukraine, shared how MCC is working in Abbotsford to support Ukrainians coming to Canada. Stacy introduced Igor who shared about his family's life and journey from Ukraine to Canada after the war started. Igor's daughter sang a prayer song for Ukraine.

BUSINESS SESSION

Heidi Epp led attendees in a song.

OPENING COMMENTS

Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen

MOTION 2022-01: That the agenda be approved as presented. M/S/C

MOTION 2022-01a: That the members do hereby waive the requirement of section 35 of the Societies Act of British Columbia that the financial statements presented be for a period ending not more than 6 months before the annual general meeting. M/S/C

MINUTES OF 2021 AGM

Louise Larsen

Louise reviewed the October 16, 2021 AGM Minutes and presented a motion to approve them.

MOTION 2022-02: That the minutes of the October 16, 2021 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented. M/S/C

NOMINATIONS

Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen

Gerry Grunau was nominated for re-election to serve a three-year term as an MC representative.

Phoebe Cheung was nominated for re-election to serve a three-year term as an MB representative.

Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen was nominated for re-election to serve a three-year term as a member at large.

MOTION 2022-03: That Gerry Grunau is hereby re-elected to the Board of Directors of MCC BC to serve a third three-year term (2022 to 2025) as an MC representative. M/S/C

MOTION 2022-04: That Phoebe Cheung is hereby re-elected to the Board of Directors of MCC BC to serve a second three-year term (2022 to 2025) as an MB representative. M/S/C

MOTION 2022-05: That Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen is hereby re-elected to the Board of Directors of MCC BC to serve a three-year term as a member at large. M/S/C

AUDITED STATEMENTS

Sharon Zacharias

Sharon Zacharias, MCC BC Board Treasurer, presented the audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2022 and the auditor's report, providing highlights, comments, and analysis. Sharon invited questions and then moved that the audited financial statements and the auditor's report be approved.

Question: Is there an agreement as to how much of the Legacy Trust assets are used to maintain the donated properties vs. donate to MCC?

Answer: The board of MCC BC and Legacy Trust are in the process of developing principles and policies to guide donation expectations.

Question: What does the long-term debt relate to?

Answer: Mortgages on various properties (office and thrift stores).

MOTION 2022-06: That the Auditor's Report and the Audited Financial Statements for MCC BC for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022 be approved as presented. M/S/C

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Sharon Zacharias

Sharon introduced the motion related to appointing the auditor for FY23.

MOTION 2022-07: That KPMG be appointed as the auditors for MCC BC for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023. M/S/C

Heidi Epp led attendees in a song.

MCC LEGACY TRUST REPORT

Peter Helm

Wayne introduced Peter Helm as the new President of MCC Legacy Trust. Peter spoke about the identity of MCC Legacy Trust and the blend of ministry and land development that mirrors his own life experience. Peter highlighted several current projects, including Briarwood and Menno Hall. He also spoke about property maintenance of existing assets – both increasing profitability of these properties and developing flourishing communities within them.

Wayne thanked Jay Teichroeb for his 8 years with MCC Legacy Trust and Gerry Friesen, who was a board member of MCC Legacy Trust and who recently passed away, for his service.

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Sue Kupp/Nick Schuurman/Hannah Janzen

Sue highlighted the Homelessness Prevention and Outreach Program. She spoke about the weekly BBQ that happens at the MCC Centre in Abbotsford and the Rent Bank program. Sue introduced Nick Schuurman, who spoke further about the Rent Bank program and Hannah Janzen, who spoke about the Circle of Friends program. Nick shared about the housing crisis and the situations of the people that he works with that are looking for financial support with rent payments. Hannah shared about how Circle of Friends seeks to connect people transitioning out of homelessness to community and healthy relationships.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

Jet Takaoka

Jet Takaoka, MCC BC Advancement Director, spoke about the global food crisis affecting many countries in the world and how MCC is working to address needs in those countries thanks to the generosity of donors.

CLOSING REMARKS

Wayne Bremner/Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen

Wayne and Karen gave concluding comments. Karen presented the final two motions.

MOTION 2022-08: That the participants of the 2022 Annual General Meeting express appreciation to Emmanuel Mennonite Church for hosting the MCC BC Annual General Meeting. M/S/C

MOTION 2022-09: That the 2022 Annual General Meeting be adjourned. M/S/C

The AGM was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Karli Friesen, Controller for MCC BC.

MCC BC Board of Directors

2023-2024



Peter Wolfe (MB) - Chair

I was born and raised in the Fraser Valley and settled in Langley once our children started arriving. I am by education, an Electrical Engineer, graduating from UBC in 1981 and a registered Professional Engineer. I have spent my working career in the high technology field developing software. I have been a member of South Langley Church (MB) since 1982 and have served in many capacities including 8 years as Moderator. I was widowed from my wife Carol after 28 years of marriage in 2007. I am delightfully remarried to Annette Quiring as of 2011. I have three adult children, all married, along with one grandson. I love to spend free time out in the mountains hiking and have recently taken up long distance running.



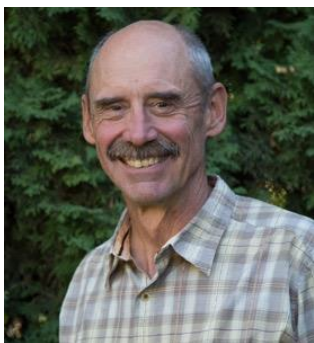
Louise Larsen (MB) – Vice-Chair & Secretary

While I have lived in Abbotsford for much of my life, after graduating high school I moved to Vancouver to obtain my BA. There I started my career in marketing & business management which continued when I returned to Abbotsford 14 years later. I have been blessed to have worked and volunteered with many worthwhile for-profit, non-profit and government organizations including MCCBC and MEDA. Our move back to Abbotsford was driven by the desire to give our children the warmth of a large extended family. Once here, we searched for a church that would support our family's spiritual growth and found that in Northview Community Church, which we have been members of for over 16 years. With the belief that we have a responsibility to live our lives with purpose and for Christ, I am looking forward to contributing to and working with the MCCBC Board.



Sharon Zacharias (MC) – Treasurer

I was raised in Richmond, BC, where I attended Peace Mennonite Church, before my family moved to Abbotsford, BC, in 1989 and we began attending Emmanuel Mennonite Church. I completed my Diploma of Business Administration at UCFV in 1997, then continued my education at TWU, where I graduated with my Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in 2000. In 2001, I received my Chartered Accountant designation. I worked at KPMG, a public accounting firm for 10 years, before leaving to work in industry. I have worked for 11 years as a controller for a private construction/real estate development group of companies, and I currently work there part-time and work part-time as a Senior Manager at a local CPA firm. My volunteer positions include serving on the MCBC Camp Squeah Committee, being Budget Chair of the 2016 Abbotsford BC Summer Games and a member of the Budget Committee for the 2004 Games and serving on other various church and charity finance committees. MCC has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Growing up, I volunteered at the MCC Relief Sale for several years, working at the quilt auction along with my mom. When I was 17, I spent a summer working at MCC's Self Help Crafts (now Ten Thousand Villages). I look forward to continuing my involvement with MCC in a new way going forward.



Gerry Grunau (MC)

Spending time at MCC fits in with my interests in social justice and aboriginal relationships and is a natural extension of the issues that concern Langley Mennonite Church where we have attended for 21 years. Previously, we spent 20 years in Winnipeg (Charleswood Mennonite Church) and I grew up in Vancouver attending Mountainview Mennonite Church. Jane and I currently live in Abbotsford. We have a married son with two grandchildren, a daughter living in Vancouver and one married son living in Winnipeg. I have recently decided to move on to other challenges after 36 years working in civil engineering and managerial positions in the Federal government, primarily with the Department of Indian Affairs. I am involved in various organizational committees including the MCBC Finance Committee and Leadership Board.



Phoebe Cheung (MB)

Phoebe Cheung is a Professional Engineer with over 20 years of experience in managing and delivering transportation projects in BC and Canada. She brings a wealth of capital project experience from both public and private sectors, having worked at TransLink in the past eight years, and before that in engineering consulting with SNC-Lavalin Inc. She has led and participated in complex, multi-disciplinary project teams in all project stages from planning, design, procurement to implementation. Phoebe was raised in Catholic schools in Macau where she spent most of her childhood years in a bi-cultural Cantonese and Portuguese environment. She came to Christ in senior high school after coming to Vancouver, BC as an international student. While she has attended Christian churches of different denominations over the years

(in BC, Hong Kong and Thailand), she feels the most spiritual connection with the Mennonite Brethren community. Phoebe joined the MCC BC Board of Directors in October 2019. She is a member of the Killarney Park Mennonite Brethren Church. Phoebe and Lawrence live with their two children, Erin and Wesley, in North Burnaby.



Orlando Schmidt (MB)

I was born and raised on a dairy farm in Abbotsford, BC. After my parents sold the farm when I was a teenager, I ended up in biblical studies at Briercrest Bible College for 3 years and then studied towards a degree in agriculture from UBC in Vancouver. In 1990, I married Vivian (Klassen) and we began our journey together. Since getting married, I have spent my entire career working in the field of agriculture. A highlight was our 4-year term of service with MCC in northeastern Brazil from 1997-2001 where I supported agricultural development initiatives and Vivian supported several education projects in a rural community in the State of Pernambuco. Since returning to Canada, I worked for nearly 16 years as a soil specialist, then regional manager with the BC Ministry of Agriculture. For the past 4 years, I have worked as

Agriculture Manager for the Bank of Montreal where I use my industry knowledge and connections to support the work of our BC Agriculture Team. Vivian currently works part-time as a sewing teacher at MEI Middle and teaches private piano lessons at home. We have 3 adult children along with a daughter-in-law and son-in-law but so far, no grandchildren. Our connections with MCC in BC have been primarily through the annual relief sale in Abbotsford and the cyclathon. In 2019, our family cycled across Canada raising funds for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in support of MCC. We are active members of The Life Centre (MB) church in Abbotsford.



Randy Redekop (MC)

I am married to Val with three married daughters and one grandchild. I own and have run a development/construction business for the past thirty years. Am a member of Emmanuel Mennonite Church with previous board experience serving on the Columbia Bible College Board. I have volunteered in the past with organizations linked to MCC, such as Mennonite Disaster Service and M2W2. My grandparents were assisted by MCC when they were refugees at the end of WW2 and our family has always been supportive of MCC. My mother continues to volunteer at the Clearbrook store to this day. Part of the reason I have interest in participating on the MCC BC Board is to gain a better understanding of how MCC makes an impact on the community and the world with the dollars we are entrusted with by our donors.

Outgoing Board Members



Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen (MB) – Vice-Chair (Outgoing July 2023)

I spent most of my growing up years here in the Fraser Valley, first in Greendale where my father was pastor at Greendale MB Church and then later in Abbotsford when my father became pastor at Bakerview MB. I studied Music and Theology at Mennonite Brethren Bible College (now CMU) and then completed a Master of Divinity degree (Pastoral Ministry) at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary in Fresno, California. I was Lead Pastor at River East MB Church in Winnipeg from 1990-2000 and have been pastoring at Level Ground (formerly West Abbotsford Mennonite Church) since 2000. I am married to Richard Thiessen who is Director of the Mennonite Heritage Museum, and we have three young adult sons and a daughter-in-law.

I have enjoyed my involvement in Mennonite Church BC as Vice-Moderator as well as my Board member involvement with Canadian Mennonite University. Though I have not had the opportunity to do a term of overseas service with MCC, we were able to live and work in Ethiopia for several months as a family and that was a very rewarding experience.



Ingrid Schultz (MC) (Outgoing – October 2023)

MCC has been an important part of my story. My mother's family received help from MCC in the Ukraine and Germany. After graduating from UBC I served in MCC Bolivia for seven years, my first term as a teacher and my second term as a Regional Coordinator. In between those terms I worked four years in the Personnel Department of MCC Canada. My work with rural churches in Bolivia got me thinking about seminary. I attended the Associated (Anabaptist) Mennonite Seminary, doing my final year of studies in Chicago through the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE). I was a pastor of a Hispanic Mennonite Church in Chicago for seven years, then pastor of the First United Mennonite Church in

Vancouver for 13 years. As a pastor in Vancouver, I was grateful for the way MCC partnered with our churches in welcoming newcomers and supporting people recovering from addictions. In the past 10 years as chaplain at Menno Place, I've had the privilege of mentoring IVEPers who come to serve in the name of Christ. I am a member of Emmanuel Mennonite and MCBC and am thankful for their strong support of MCC.



James Toews (MB) (Outgoing – October 2023)

I am the pastor of Neighborhood MB Church in Nanaimo. Our family moved here in 1987 and in those years, 11 grandchildren have been added to the three children I came here with. We have come to deeply love this town and are blessed with a small, but warm and active church family. I grew up in Abbotsford in the heart of the Mennonite world, into a family that has been integrally involved with MCC from its very beginnings. My children are part of a generation that does not know MCC the way I did. Part of the passion I bring with me is finding ways to articulate and live the mission of MCC as it moves ever farther from its historic roots but ever towards the Kingdom mandate to be salt and light.

Nominated for Election



Craig Toews (MB)

Craig Toews is President of the Abbotsford Chamber Board and is honored to be serving Abbotsford's business community. Recently retired from UFV after 34 years of service, Craig brings extensive experience and a deep understanding of postsecondary with a diverse career spanning IT, Property Development and Community Engagement. He is currently working with UFV formation development genesis on a special development opportunity that will bring campus and community together, envisioning a vibrant and distinct university village with a walkable, transit-oriented lifestyle.

Involved in a variety of initiatives throughout the Fraser Valley, Craig is passionate about community engagement and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship across the region. His collaborative leadership style and passion for the community culminates from working with the business community and advocating for changes that will strengthen our economy.

He also serves on several boards and advocates for good governance and leadership development. "I am grateful for the amazing people I get to work with from across different sectors, with a huge appreciation for the organizations that make our community an amazing place to live, work, play and learn."



Kevin Baarda (MC)

I grew up in the Okanagan before moving to Langley at age 10. I stayed in Langley until I married Kira and moved to Chilliwack. Kira and I are the parents of Isabelle and Owen. I grew up in the Reformed church community until I met Kira and we married at Greendale Mennonite. We have attended Crossroads Community Church for the last ten years where I recently joined the leadership team. I transitioned from framing houses to the accounting field, where I worked as controller for a local builder/agriculture company for many years. Today I am involved in project management and enjoy working with teams to build things. I am passionate about connecting with people and serving in the community. You will often find myself and my family participating in local fundraising activities to benefit those who need help. MCC's mission

to "share God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice" worldwide resonates deeply with me and I look forward to using my gifts to support the work of God in the world.

MCC BC AGM 2023

Nominating Committee Report

MCC BC Bylaws allow for up to 16 Board positions: 5 Mennonite Brethren nominated positions; 5 Mennonite Church nominated positions; 2 other Mennonite Conference nominated positions; and 4 Members-at-large positions nominated by the MCC BC Board. Board members can serve three consecutive 3 year terms, after which, they must step down for one year before being eligible for re-election. A partial term (less than 3 years) does not apply as one of the 3 consecutive terms.

Up for Re-election: yellow highlight

Up for Election

green highlight

Current MCC BC Board Members					
Name	Conference	Term	Start	End	
Ingrid Schultz	MC	3	2020	2023	completed
James Toews	MB	3	2020	2023	completed
Karen Heidebrecht Thiessen	MB	2	2022	2025	resigned
Louise Larsen	MB	2	2021	2024	
Sharon Zacharias	MC	2	2021	2024	
Peter Wolfe	MB	4*	2021	2024	See Note *
Randy Redekop	MC	1	2021	2024	
Orlando Schmidt	MB	1	2021	2024	
Gerry Grunau	MC	3	2022	2025	
Pheobe Cheung	MB	2	2022	2025	
Nominations for Election at AGM					
Kevin Baarda	MC	1	2023	2026	
Craig Toews	MB	1	2023	2026	

MB – Mennonite Brethren, nominated by the BCMB Conference

MC – Mennonite Church, nominated by the MCBC Conference

MAL – Member at Large, nominated directly by MCC BC

Note: * eligible for another term because of serving a concurrent term on the MCC Canada Board

Current MCC BC Board Executive

Chair – Peter Wolfe

Vice Chair – Louise Larsen

Treasurer – Sharon Zacharias

Secretary – Louise Larsen

MCC BC Nominating Committee

Gerry Grunau (Committee Chair) and Peter Wolfe