



Annual Report  
2016

Floradale Mennonite Church Inc.  
Annual meeting  
Sunday, February 26, 2017

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**Floradale Mennonite Church**  
**Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**Sunday, February 26, 2017**

1. Welcome by Rick Martin
2. Devotions by Gary Knarr
3. Review the Agenda  
**Motion:** To accept the agenda.
4. Review the minutes of the previous annual meeting  
**Motion:** To accept the minutes of the Feb. 21, 2016 annual meeting.
5. Board of Directors formal re-organization
  - a. **Motion:** To accept the actions of Church Council for the past year as outlined in the printed minutes (See the Church Council report in the 2016 Report booklet).
  - b. **Motion:** To accept the reports in the Annual Report booklet of 2016.
  - c. **Motion:** Be it resolved that all positions on the current Board of Directors of Floradale Mennonite Church Inc. be declared vacant.
6. Presentation of the slate of officers
  - a. **Motion:** To accept the slate of officers for 2017-2018 as presented.
  - b. **Motion:** To accept the appointments to the Gift Discernment and Staff Relations committees.
7. Financial Statements
  - a. Review the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2016  
**Motion:** To accept the financial statements for the year ending Dec. 31, 2016 as presented.
  - b. Appointment of Auditor for 2017  
**Motion:** To appoint Martin Professional Corporation as our auditor for 2017.
  - c. Disbursement of the 2016 surplus of \$5,943.43  
**Motion:** To transfer \$1,000.00 to the Elders' Discretionary Fund and to donate \$4,943.43 to Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.
8. Budget for 2017
  - a. Review the proposed budget for 2017  
**Motion:** To accept the proposed budget for 2017.
  - b. The Generosity Fund
    - i. The following disbursements are recommended:
      1. \$5,000 to Meserte Kristos College for scholarships
      2. \$3,000 to support Stefan Cherry's work with Navigators
      3. \$10,000 to House of Friendship to purchase and renovate a building in Cambridge for addition support
      4. \$35,000 to Elmira Developmental Support Corporation for the "Field of Dreams" housing project**Motion:** To approve the recommended disbursements from The Generosity Fund.
    - ii. Syrian Refugee Support - MCC Ontario needs more time to disperse the \$60,000 that we promised.  
**Motion:** To extend the time frame for allocating our \$60,000 donation to MCC Ontario for Syrian Refugee Support from three years to five years (ending in 2019).
9. Other Business
  - a. Discuss the possibility of electronic bulletins for Sunday morning services
  - b. Discuss online donations to possibly replace cash and cheques
  - c. Update on the Reference Group's work to find our next lead pastor
  - d. Any other business?
10. Adjournment  
**Motion:** To adjourn the Annual Meeting of Floradale Mennonite Church Inc.

Floradale Mennonite Church Inc.

Annual meeting

Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016

Attendance: 77

1. Welcome: Rick Martin thanked the catering committee for the delicious soup lunch and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

2. Devotions: Fred Redekop commented that we are a diverse congregation, just as the four gospels and the Bible are diverse. Fred referred to John 9 where the man born blind is brought to Jesus and in response to why he was blind, Jesus said it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him. The Kingdom of God is diverse and our response to diversity needs to be love and care. Fred led in prayer.

3. Review of the agenda:

**Motion #1**: to accept the agenda as printed. **M/S/Carried** Florence Jantzi, Mahlon Martin

4. Review of previous annual meeting minutes:

**Motion #2**: To accept the minutes of the annual meeting held Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015 as printed.

**M/S/Carried** Barb Draper, Karen Bender.

5. Formal re-organization of the Board of Directors:

a) **Motion #3**: to accept the actions of Church Council for the past year, 2015, as outlined in the printed minutes of the meetings throughout the year.

**M/S/Carried**, Barb Draper, Mary Frey Martin

b) **Motion #4**: To accept all the reports as printed in the annual report books of 2015.

**M/S/Carried**, Barb Draper/Shirley Redekop

c) **Motion #5**: Be it resolved that all positions on the current board of directors be declared vacant.

**M/S/Carried**, Willis Freeman/Nancy Martin

6. Presentation of the slate of officers:

Pauline Martin, chair of the Gift Discernment committee, thanked everyone who accepted a position to serve the church and reviewed the slate as printed.

a) Those who accepted terms on the Board of Elders asked to have a one-year commitment.

b) Florence Jantzi has accepted a 3-year term as chair of the Christian Education Commission.

c) Gift Discernment has not filled the Sunday School positions; they will work at that closer to September when it has been decided whether to continue having children's Sunday school during worship.

d) Junior youth leaders/Boys and girls club: There are very few participants and Gift Discernment did not know how to proceed. Dan Bender and the Community Life commission will consider what to do for the coming year.

**Motion #6**: to accept Slate of Church Officers for 2016-17 as printed.

**M/S/Carried**, Pauline Martin, Shirley Redekop

7. Gift discernment/Staff relations appointments:

a) The 2016-17 gift discernment committee continues with Pauline Martin, Vernelda Weber, Gloria H. Bauman and Steve O. Bauman.

b) Brenda R. Martin has been serving on staff relations committee, but she needs to be replaced since she has accepted the position of treasurer. Council will work at this.

**Motion #7**: To accept the positions on the gift discernment and staff relations committees as printed.

**M/S/Carried**, Angela Ishaka, Mary Frey Martin

Rick thanked all the volunteers who work for the church. Those on the slate and those not on the slate.

8. Financial Statements of 2015:

Willis Freeman thanked everyone for supporting the budget this past year. The final Sunday of the year produced a surplus. He thanked Nancy Martin, treasurer, and the rest of the people on the finance committee for their work. Nancy is retiring and Brenda Martin is taking over.

Willis drew attention to:

a) On page F3 we had gross receipts of \$564,611.

b) Money remaining in various funds at the end of the year totalled \$386,242 (pg F2). A considerable part of that is in the generosity fund.

c) Our property and equipment fund had a deposit of \$103,626. This was a bequest from the estate of Adeline Martin designated to be used for the facilities.

d) Our line of credit is not being used, but we plan to leave it that way.

e) We met the budget and had a surplus of about \$15,000.

**Motion #8**: to accept the financial statements for the year ending Dec. 31, 2015 as presented. **M/S/Carried**, Willis Freeman/Roy Draper.

9. Appointment of auditor for 2016. Although there is a different name on our accountant's report, it is still Cheryl Martin. The company has re-organized.

**Motion #9:** To use Martin Professional Corp as our auditor for next year.

**M/S/Carried,** Willis Freeman, Clarence Diefenbacher

Q: Why is there no signature on the letter from the auditor on page F1?

A: Nancy has a letter in her file that includes the signature from Cheryl Martin.

#### 10. Disbursement of 2015 surplus

We had a surplus of \$15,753.67. About one third is from savings and two thirds surplus dollars above budget.

**Motion #10:** To disburse the surplus as follows: a) \$10,000 to Mennonite Church Eastern Can.

b) \$756 to the Elders Discretionary fund

c) \$600 to the MYF Convention fund

d) \$4,397.67 to Home Improvement fund

**M/S/Carried,** Willis Freeman, Shirley Redekop

#### 11. Staffing plans for 2016:

Rick Martin reminded us that we have had many staff changes in the past year and our 23-year veteran administrative assistant is leaving. There were nine applicants for the job, but none within our congregation. The search committee chose Erin Miles who lives in Elmira, attends Trinity United Church and has two young children. Included in her skills are bookkeeping and maintaining a website. She will begin training on Tuesday as Friday is Veg's last day.

When Fred Redekop will leave at the end of August, we will have a complete transition of staff in one year. When budgeting for 2016, Council and the Finance committee assumed that we would not put in an interim pastor between September and December. Nancy Mann will take over the task of lead pastor as she did during the three months that Fred was on leave. Later in the fall, Church Council will make plans for the future and consult the congregation. This budget is built on that assumption.

#### 12. Budget for 2016

Willis Freeman referred to page F5.

a) Wages and benefits are up for ministerial support and for the administrative assistant. The Admin Assistant is going from 9 to 16 hours per week.

b) Building and occupancy cost has no major changes although maintenance costs are going up. Water testing has been moved to repairs and misc.

c) Program costs: There is a new line for welcome packages.

d) Advertising: Because we are spending money and time on the new website. Finance committee felt advertising in the newspaper was outdated and of limited effectiveness.

e) Local mission programs: Urban ministries is down by \$2,000 since our three-year commitment to the Jane-Finch community is now complete.

f) Canadian Bible Society has been added since they no longer do local fundraisers.

g) MCEC was cut it by \$10,000 but we are giving \$10,000 to MCEC from the surplus.

h) Our budget for 2016 is \$352,357.44, an increase of 1.8%

Q: What is the cost of putting an ad in the *Observer*?

A: Last year it was \$811.

Q: Are there other ways to provide visibility?

Fred: The *Woolwich Observer* is going to more online content. Since January, Fred has been writing for the online version. He is committed to doing this until June. If you want to see his column in the print edition, you should make it known to the *Observer*.

Comment: The surplus money to Home Improvement fund is for the new website.

There was some discussion about cutting the funding to Jane Finch. We began a three-year commitment of \$2,000 when MCEC was withdrawing money from them. Darrell Jantzi reported that he has received an impassioned plea from Jane Finch to continue the support. He thought he had made the proper request to the Finance committee to continue the support. Leon Kehl reported that the Mission Commission did suggest \$1,500 go to Jane Finch, but Council decided not to go beyond the three-year commitment.

**Motion #11:** to accept the proposed budget for 2016 as presented.

**M/S/Carried,** Willis Freeman, Murray J. Martin

#### 13. Generosity fund

Willis reported that the finance committee's recommendations for the Generosity Fund have been in the bulletin and Council minutes. They recommend:

a) \$5,000 to the House of Friendship for their food hamper building renovation.

b) \$50,000 to MennoHomes for the Elmira building project.

- c) \$5,000 to Meserete Kristos College in Ethiopia for scholarships. Subsequent scholarships need to be confirmed for future years.
- d) \$5,000 to Conrad Grebel for third-world travel costs for a peace conference in June, 2016.

Q: Why has only \$2,500 gone out of the fund this year? A: MCC Ontario has not been pushing this matching fund and only three groups have been approved to receive money to date. MCC only asks for the money when it is paid out. The need will continue to be there and we expect the full \$60,000 over three years will be spent.

Jeff Bauman commended Council for using the money and supporting the MennoHomes project.

**Motion #12:** To approve recommended disbursement from the generosity fund. **M/S/Carried**, Willis Freeman/Darrell Jantzi.

#### 14. Welcoming initiatives:

- a) Dan Bender reported on the work coming out of the committee working at welcoming new people to the church. At the top of the list of initiatives was a new website. It should be ready to go in a few days. He suggested people go to [floramc.org](http://floramc.org) to see the new site.
- b) Welcoming packages will be completed this week. Dan encouraged us to work a bit harder to be more welcoming, such as including newer people when talking in the foyer. A potluck lunch in March will also remind us how to work at being more welcoming.
- c) Some upcoming events are the talent show next Saturday and Theatre of the Beat's presentation on April 10.

#### 15. Other Business:

- a) Lester Kehl, who represents us on the House of Friendship board, encouraged people to be involved in serving the community as volunteers in not-for-profit organizations. He invited people to sit in on a few meetings to test their gifts.
- b) Lester also reported that House of Friendship plans to begin the food hamper building renovation in March. This does not enlarge the space, but will give safer access to large trucks for unloading.
- c) Rick noted that the *Focus on Floradale* has been around for 30 years and thanked Barb and the committee for their work.
- d) Mary Frey Martin mentioned concerns about the children's Sunday School program. She suggested

that as we look at future hiring, we should consider our needs in this area.

- e) Pauline commented that the Gift Discernment committee doesn't know how to address this concern. She asked Jane Hesselink to comment.
- f) Jane reported that the numbers for children's Sunday School have been inconsistent. The two youngest classes have been combined to make it less frustrating if there are no students. These problems are not new; there was the same issue when Sunday School was at 9:45. The parents probably need to be polled again. There is an issue for parents who would like to participate in Sunday School themselves.
- g) Angela Ishaka reported that it continues to be an issue. Parents tend to feel it's not worth coming at 9:45. She went on to say that we should not despair, but we should invest in our children. There is no easy way to solve the problem except to invest in our children and give them good content.
- g) Susan Martin, a Junior youth SS teacher, commented that they need curriculum that they enjoy.
- h) Alina Kehl challenged everyone to reach out to the community, using the example of the family in need of help that was featured in the *Observer*. She encouraged us to use our facilities to do more in our community.
- i) Rick acknowledged this is the last annual meeting for Fred who loves the church and has served here for 25 years.
- j) Rick pointed out that the turnover of staff means we are going through a challenging time, but we need to be thankful that it's not going badly. The staff is stepping up and the congregation is supportive.
- k) Mary Frey Martin expressed thanks to Rick Martin for his capable leadership.

**Motion #12:** to adjourn

**M/S/Carried**, Lester Kehl, Doug Draper.

Adjourned: 3 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Barb Draper

# Major actions taken by Floradale Church Council in 2017

January 27: a) We agreed to tweak our logo so that it will work better for professional printing.  
b) We decided to print welcome packages that introduce our congregation to visitors.

March 23: a) We agreed to pay the registration costs for delegates from our congregation attending the Mennonite Church Canada assembly in Saskatoon in July. Fred Redekop and Roy and Barb Draper attended the assembly.  
b) Following a recommendation from Elders at our previous meeting, we added a young adult member to the Church Council for a one year term, renewable for a second year. Doug Draper served as young adult representative for 2016.

April 20: a) We agreed to participate in MCEC's ReLearning Community program at a cost of \$4,000. Members of the team are: Alina Kehl, Katie Gerber, Nichelle Bauman, Greg McCorquodale and Leon Kehl.  
b) We decided to use a children's ministry team approach for the coming school year providing both 9:45 classes and junior church. The team for 2016-17 will be Nancy Mann, Florence Jantzi and Jane Hesselink.

May 17: We purchased Media Shout software as a resource for worship. This allows us to put announcements, songs, scripture, photos etc. into a sequence ahead of time and should make it simpler to run the projector on Sunday morning.

June 22: a) We agreed to pay for our participation in ReLearning Community via the Generosity Fund. Council has authority to use up to 5% of the fund between annual meetings.  
b) We decided to offer Gary Knarr a three-quarter-time position as our interim pastor. He was recommended by MCEC. The Elders and staff joined us for this meeting to also meet with him and to confirm he is a good choice.

August 17: a) We decided to hire Betty Pries of L3 Group to help us on our journey of transition between pastors. She will help us engage the congregation as we think through our next steps.  
b) We attached a letter from MC Canada to the minutes, letting them know about the outcome of the Being a Faithful Church process which affirms "that the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* still reflects our common understanding of faith and practice. At the same time, delegates affirmed the need to respectfully acknowledge that prayerful discernment has led some congregations and individuals to embrace committed same-sex relationships in a way that is not reflected in the confession. In addition, delegates affirmed the need to create space in order to see if these congregations and individuals reflect a nudging of the Spirit."

Sept. 21: Because of positive feedback from the congregation to the idea, we agreed to give \$10,000 from the Generosity Fund to support the construction of a women's dorm at Meserete Kristos College in Ethiopia.

Oct 19:

Dec. 5:

## Interim Pastor's Report

These months have been a wonderful opportunity for me to serve God with the people of Floradale Mennonite Church. I very much appreciate working with Floradale Mennonite's people and staff. The congregation's leadership and staff are highly committed, caring and capable people with whom I enjoy conferring and working to help carry out our part of God's mission to the world.

My three-quarter-time ministry at Floradale MC centres on providing ministry to the congregation during this interim time between long-term pastors, and helping the congregation have a successful transition from Fred's excellent ministry of 25 years to your next pastor's ministry. My work focuses primarily on pastoral care, preaching half time, and worship planning. I serve with Church Council, Elders, Worship Committee and the Reference Group.

The Reference Group is consulting and working with the congregation during these months as we discover together our congregation's identity as a faith community, discern its future direction, and determine the gifts and qualities needed in our next long-term pastor to help the congregation move toward the direction to which God is calling us.

Adult Sunday School, Small Groups and the Men's Breakfasts are proving excellent opportunities for me to come to know the people of the congregation, along with visits and conversations after worship and during fellowship events.

My ministry in the wider church and community include participation with the interdenominational Elmira District Ministerial Association, the Mennonite Woolich-Grey Cluster, and taking turns providing worship services at Chartwell, Barnswallow and Parkwood Mennonite Home. I presently chair the meetings of the interim pastors of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.

An interim is a time of opportunity for a congregation to reflect on where God is leading us into the future, and to open ourselves to dream of possibilities while being grounded in the realities of who we are and what unique gifts we bring as a congregation for God's mission to our own community and the world. I firmly believe that God is

with us in this time of reflection and transition, and will lead us as we journey together toward the place where God would have us be. During an interim, congregations often feel a bit unsettled and cannot help noticing that not all things are as they were. As we continue to journey together and support one another in our faith community, we will discover that God constantly goes with us and gives us joy in the journey and guides us with His light.

"Come, let us walk together in the light of the Lord!" Isaiah 2:5

*Gary Knarr, Interim Pastor*

Membership as of January 1, 2016 - 249

Losses by Death: 5

Earl Wideman	March 23
Nadine Shantz	May 26
Amsey Martin	June 5
Angie Martin	August 4
Ermina Martin	September 3

We lovingly remember our friends who have passed on, and commend them to God.

Gains by Baptism, Transfer,

Confession of Faith: 6

Taylor Clemmer	July 17
Sheri Clemmer	July 17
Jeff Martin	July 17
Taylor Holst	July 17
Gary and Christine Knarr	September 25

Membership as of December 31, 2016 - 250



## Associate Pastor's Report

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” ~ Thessalonians 5:16-18

These words of instruction to the early church at Thessalonica are a good reminder for the church of our time as well. We have experienced much change in our congregation this year, as we welcomed Erin Miles, Gary Knarr and Nichelle Bauman to our ministry team. While change can be challenging for churches, the faithful support of our many congregants, who pray for the church continually, is a wonderful blessing as we turn towards a new chapter of the Floradale congregation.

I continue to serve the congregation in various pastoral responsibilities, including involvement on the Worship Committee, Elders, the Gifts Discernment Committee, and the VBS Committee (joint project with Elmira Mennonite Church). I appreciate the opportunity to preach monthly, to serve in young adult ministries and to assist with the children’s ministries.

One of my primary initiatives this year has been the implementation of our Junior Church ministry in September, 2016. This program takes place weekly following the children’s story in worship. We share a time of singing, a Biblically-based story, and some open response time with the children. We close with an inter-active prayer time. This model is designed to help children of all ages engage with the Biblical story in a child-friendly manner. I am so grateful for the generous support of the congregation in this ministry. In addition to parent helpers, 23 people have supported this ministry

as volunteers. Thank you for blessing the children with your engagement. Our VBS program took place at Elmira Mennonite Church from July 4-8, 2016. Approximately 55 children attended.

Our Young Adult ministry continues with monthly “Supper-at-Six” events – once a month on Sunday evenings. We alternate our program to include speakers, Bible study and social times together. We also participated in the MCC Meat Canning project (in April) and the Floradale Tea Ball project at the MCC Relief Sale (in May). We appreciate these opportunities to serve alongside others.

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in our Re-learning Community group. In this MCEC-sponsored program, we are being challenged to think deeply about how we can grow in our Christian faith and life, as well as how we share our faith with others. MCEC has provided our group with training opportunities to explore these questions in new ways. I wonder how the seeds of this new initiative will grow into new ventures here at Floradale.

In the coming months, I look forward to participating in the visioning process with Betty Pries of L3 Consulting, as she leads us in examining questions such as “How is God at work in our congregation?” and “What are our gifts and strengths?” We have an exciting opportunity to explore these questions together in the coming year.

May we continue to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks together as we travel as pilgrims on this journey of life and faith.

~ Nancy Mann

## Music Ministry Report

My first five months in this role have gone well. I am learning a lot and want to continue to learn and grow. I continue to enjoy leading the worship team. There is lots of energy from those who faithfully come out to participate, and I hope to get more people involved in the team, so that we can work towards having a rotation with both instruments and vocals. We try to include a variety of new praise choruses, familiar ones, as well as older hymns and modern selections from the *Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story*.

My biggest learning curve was to assist Merri-Lee with the Christmas choir. It was great to

wade into leading a choir slowly and gave me the opportunity really observe and learn. We sang at the Community Carol Sing at St. Theresa’s Catholic Church on Dec. 4th, and here at Floradale on Dec. 18th during the worship service. I look forward to working with the choir in the future!

In August, I spent time preparing a music binder and powerpoint slides for the Junior Church program. Since its beginning in September, I have been supporting the Junior Church ministry though leading music with the children downstairs in the multipurpose room each Sunday, unless I am involved upstairs. In November, we made a lantern

craft and practiced two songs which the children contributed to the worship service on Dec. 18th.

I have been working to increase our compliance with copyright laws. You may have noticed some songs being excluded from the videos of the worship services that are posted on the website. This is because the licensing that we hold does not cover the recording and posting online of all the songs that we use in worship.

In November, we held our first Worship Café, and around 60 people came out. It was a great evening of worship and fellowship. Thanks to everyone

who pulled together to make it possible. April 2 will be the next Worship Café. We hope to make it a quarterly evening service if people continue to express interest.

In the coming year, I hope to continue to work toward offering a blend of music styles. I hope to have an ensemble or choir sing at Easter, and it would be fun to have a campfire and song evening in the summer. I am always open to suggestions for services and special music.

*By Nichelle Bauman*

## Youth ministry report

2016 has been a year of growth in our young people. I've been watching them grow in their relationships with each other and with God and am so encouraged by them! It's my prayer that these youth will continue to be supported and loved in this church, that they would know they are loved by God and would commit themselves to seeking His heart for their lives!

Some of the service events our group engaged in this year included serving a meal at Stirling Avenue Mennonite with Stirling Suppers, raising money for and attending the Coldest Night of the Year walk, packaging dried vegetables at Reapers of Hope, picking up trash on the Kissing Bridge Trail for Community Clean-up Day, collecting cans for Halloween for Hunger, volunteering at Operation Christmas Child, making Tea Balls at the Relief Sale and raising money for and participating in the CN Tower climb! We had some amazing weekend retreats at Silver Lake, Pitch and Praise, and the cottage in Wiarton! We saw a Rangers game, went to the Air U trampoline park, hiked at Halton Falls, had a boating and BBQ day, went through a corn maze, enjoyed a progressive dinner, and celebrated our year with a Christmas dinner!

This past summer our group spent a week in Detroit with MDS, helping to clean out basements and dealing with some of the devastating effects from a 2014 flooding. Many homes sit vacant... some streets filled with deserted homes. We spent our week sleeping, eating and hanging out at Community Christian Fellowship Church, and then separating into smaller work groups to head to our job

sites during the day. Our time serving there opened our eyes to the devastating conditions people are living in, just three hours south of us! I hope and pray that our work was seen as a pouring out of God's love on His beloved people.

One of the big things that had been a part of our youth ministry this year was a group we started in September, called Life-on-Life. Modelled after the work being done in the Relearning Community group here at Floradale, several youth and I have been meeting bi-weekly to engage in deep and meaningful conversations about the burdens and joys of our hearts, and what God has been doing in our lives. It has been such a blessing to walk alongside the faithful youth that make it out each week, to watch them grow and help keep them accountable to their faith!

We've begun 2017 with a bang, having hosted a large square dance with several other youth groups in the area joining us! I'm so excited for the next couple of months, to watch God work in and through our youth. We will be attending the annual MCEC Winter Retreat at Silver Lake in early February, and have plans to host a gym night/ panel discussion on healthy, Godly relationships and singleness in March with several other youth groups. Our Life-on-Life group has begun a weekly, convicting and empowering book study that will continue until the summer. Exciting summer plans are in the making!

*Katie Gerber*  
Youth Worker

## Board of Elders Report

The Elders at Floradale continue to meet regularly to discuss various issues that the church is experiencing. This has been a year of transition for the congregation with Pastor Fred leaving after twenty-five years of service and Angela Ishaka moving out of the area. We are fortunate to have Gary Knarr and Nichelle Bauman added to our staff, who along with Nancy Mann and Katie Gerber continue to do a great job with the work of the church.

We continued to have our communion service twice a year as in the past. We again set up the Small Family Group program and have had positive feedback and will be reviewed annually.

As the church begins the process selecting a new full-time pastor, I believe the role as Elders will be needed to support the Pastoral team we have in place now, along with the congregation as these can be stressful times.

I would also like to thank Mary M. Martin and Rita Bauman for the work they provided to the Board of Elders this past year.

*Dale Martin*  
Elder Chair

## Church Council Report

Church Council met ten times in the past year, including one joint meeting of Elders, Staff Relations, and Church Council. These are some of the highlights:

**Staffing** – We continue to be very fortunate as key staff departures were filled with very competent replacements:

Brenda Martin (a volunteer) took over the very important position of Church Treasurer.

Erin Miles was hired to replace Vernelda Weber and quickly made some significant contributions to the church.

Angela Ishaka and her family left for Flin Flon, Manitoba, so that Noah could take a teaching position. The transition to Nichelle Bauman was very smooth and our excellent music program has continued with Nichelle's energy and enthusiasm.

Gary Knarr has filled in admirably as our interim lead pastor.

Our church has been blessed by a total of six wonderful new staff members (Nancy, Katie, Erin, Angela, Nichelle, and Gary) in a period of less than two years.

We have hired Betty Pries, an experienced facilitator working for L3 Group, to lead us through the process of finding our next lead pastor. The first step in the process is talking to our congregation about "Who is Floradale Mennonite Church?" What makes us unique? What are our gifts and strengths? What opportunities lie on the horizon for us? What challenges are we facing? How is God at work in our

congregation? After gathering this information we will be prepared to establish a search committee and look for the pastor who best meets our needs. We ask the congregation to participate fully in the process and to have patience since the ideal candidate is not always readily available. We look forward to this exciting journey and pray for God's continued guidance.

### Events

- On April 15, 2016 about 150 people attended "This Will Lead To Dancing" presented by Theatre of the Beat. The event generated a profit of \$715 that was donated to Shalom Counselling Services.
- On May 29, 2016 we held an outdoor service honouring first responders (e.g. fire fighters, paramedics, police, etc.). We put a lot of energy into the event and were disappointed that the local community did not attend.
- On August 27 and 28, 2016 we celebrated Fred Redekop's 25 year career at Floradale Mennonite Church. Fred loved our congregation and made a wonderful contribution to the life of our church.
- We held a very successful Worship Café on November 6, 2016. We plan to hold another one next year.
- We are planning to host the play "Yellow Bellies" on June 17, 2017, a play by Theatre of the Beat about conscientious objectors in World War II.

## Decisions

- To participate in the Re-Learning Community program at a cost of \$4,000 (from The Generosity Fund).
- To purchase “Media Shout” software to create the overhead visuals for our worship services.
- To purchase “MyCongregation” software for \$200 (to be used for databases, producing a photo directory, etc.).
- To donate \$10,000 to Meserte Kristos College from The Generosity Fund to be used for the construction of a women’s dormitory.

Church Council also spent time working with Staff Relations Committee on staff job descriptions, reporting responsibilities, and annual reviews.

We have noticed a continued decline in average Sunday morning attendance. The number has declined from an average of 188.6 in 2007 to 142.9 in 2015 to 133.3 in 2016. Our membership is remaining fairly constant while attendance is falling (i.e. members are attending less regularly). We are very pleased by the relatively large number of young adults who attend our worship services and young adult events.

We are experiencing many emotions at the beginning of 2017. We are sad to see our beloved pastor Fred leave after 25 years and we are also excited about the future of our church. We are confident that God will continue to bless us as we move into an uncertain future with faith. Please pray for Church Council and for Floradale Mennonite Church.

*Rick Martin*

## Staff Relations Committee Report

Floradale Mennonite Church by-laws state that “The purpose of the Staff Relations Committee is to care for the relationship between the staff and the congregation, and when necessary, to mediate conversations between staff and members of the congregation, staff and the Church Council, and between staff and other staff members.” Our committee focus is to be proactive by making contributions to ensure that positive, clear structures are in place so misunderstandings can be avoided. Please do not hesitate to speak with us if you see an issue that our committee should address.

This past year, Staff Relations Committee was represented on the Search Committee for our new Administrative Assistant. Using input from various people, we also completed the three-month probationary review of the Administrative Assistant.

A major focus of the year was drafting job description revisions for the Associate Pastor, Mu-

sic Ministry Worker, Youth Worker and Administrative Assistant. Church Council will examine and make final revisions before their approval of the job descriptions later in January 2017. The annual review process will also be discussed at the same time.

Staff Relations Committee also does some basic ground work regarding the Memo of Understandings and office staff salaries before the Finance and Stewardship Commission and Church Council complete and approve.

Floradale Mennonite Church is blessed to have very dedicated and caring Pastors, Ministry workers and support staff.

Yvonne Martin  
Marilyn Martin

# Christian Education Commission

## Christian Education Commission Chair

We place high value on providing good Christian Education opportunities for both children and adults at Floradale. At a time when attendance has been shrinking, we have tried different options. Last year we held Sunday School for children during the worship service. While this was appreciated by some, it didn't meet the need for children of parents who want to attend Sunday School.

Looking ahead to the fall of 2016, we needed to make a decision about what we would offer for the children. Nancy Mann, Jane Hesselink and I began working together as a Children's Ministry Team to discuss options. A Parent/Teacher Meeting was held in April where a proposal was presented to offer something for children during both Sunday School at 9:45 and the worship hour at 11:00. There was affirmation for going this route so both of these programs were implemented in September 2016.

Even though attendance has been sporadic, we are committed to providing good programming for those who attend. A Sunday School Teachers' Meeting was also held in September which gave important information and guidance on working effectively with children. We reviewed our *Safe Church Policy* and provided an opportunity for everyone to sign the form.

Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who faithfully give of their time and energy to support the Christian Education ministries for adults and children. The reports which follow give you an update on our activity this past year.

*Florence Jantzi* , Chair

### Children's Sunday School (9:45 a.m.)

A class for age 2 to Grade 5 is available during the 9:45 a.m. Sunday School time using stories from the *Shine Bible* and a number of support materials. Unfortunately, attendance has remained very low and unpredictable with often no students. The four teachers have agreed to continue providing this program for the remainder of the year in spite of this uncertainty.

Submitted by *Jane Hesselink*

## Adult Sunday School Report

Our Sunday School year was launched on Sept. 11 with a potluck breakfast where the adult classes were introduced:

Drawing class:	Room 12
Discussion class:	Room 9
Seniors class:	Board room
Adult Bible Study:	Room 11

During the months of Feb. and March Nichelle Bauman is leading a three-session series on music, helping us to consider how music is central to our faith. Leon Kehl is also offering five sessions dealing with creation care.

## Worship Committee

In 2016, the worship committee continued to do worship planning for all regular and special services here at Floradale. Some special services include: Outdoor Service (May), Global Music Sunday (June), Farewell to the Ishakas (July), Welcome Back Potluck Breakfast, Sunday School & Junior Church Launch (September), World Communion Sunday (October), Worship Café (November), and the Christmas Choir and Jr. Church Children singing in December.

Members of the committee find scripture readers, worship leaders, guest speakers and people who do special music. In 2016 the committee increased in size to incorporate more feedback and idea generation. Nichelle Bauman replaced Angela Ishaka on August 1st as the music ministry worker, and chair for the committee. MediaShout was purchased after a trial run and is being used on a weekly basis during worship services.

*Nichelle Bauman*

Worship Committee chair

## Junior Church

This fall we began a weekly Junior Church program for our children. This program is designed to make the Sunday morning gathering and worship time an enjoyable experience for children.

Everyone remains in the sanctuary during the opening parts of the worship service. After the children's time, the children go to the multi-purpose room where they enjoy singing, a creative Bible presentation, some response time at different centres, and a closing prayer.

We also prepared some special music for Christmas and sometimes we share a craft together. Children of all ages are welcome to participate, and the older children help the younger ones.

Nancy Mann serves as the program coordinator, along with support from weekly team leaders, parent volunteers and other children's ministry supporters.

Prepared by *Nancy Mann*

## Nursery Report

Because most of the children are participating in Junior Church, and the very young children who use the nursery are usually accompanied by their parents, the nursery has not been staffed during the worship service.

## Vacation Bible School

This year we partnered with Elmira Mennonite Church to offer a VBS program, as we have in recent years. Our VBS took place the week of July 4 – 8, 2016, during the mornings at Elmira Mennonite Church. Nancy Mann and Noah Ishaka (from Floradale) and Rose Koch, Alison Notzold and Sarah Freeman (from Elmira) served on the VBS planning Committee.

We followed the MennoMedia curriculum: *Surprise! Discovering Stories of Jesus*. Approximately 55 children (Ages Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8) from our two churches and the broader community attended.

One of the most enjoyable parts of the VBS week is to see so many people in our churches come together to share a joyful and fun time with our children. We continue to share some of the VBS songs in our Jr. Church times. "*We want to walk; walk like*

*Jesus*." May this be our ongoing prayer as we seek to nurture our children in faith.

Our 2017 VBS will take place at Elmira Mennonite Church July 3 – 7.

Prepared by *Nancy Mann*

## Library Report

This year, 2016, we purchased 63 new books. The focus was on buying books to complete series that were started in the library.

We also purchased a new computer, as the old one had its issues about when it wanted to turn on (or not), and we purchased a step stool so the books on the top shelves are easier to reach.

We try to purchase books that appeal to a wide range of readers, fiction and nonfiction. I am sure we are competing with the iPad, and tablets, where people can read the book and not have to worry about returning it.

We hope you will come into the library and find a book to read.

Sharon Cressman	Marilyn Martin
Rosie Martin	Norma Bauman
Gloria H Bauman	

## Focus on Floradale

We again did six issues of the newsletter *Focus on Floradale* in 2016. The extra issue came out in the summer and was a special look at "25 years with the Redekops." These 12 pages had memories, photos and a timeline of what happened since the Redekops arrived in 1991.

Other issues explored the following themes: being a welcoming community; what happens when the power goes out; 50 years of memories of the relief sale; new doorways; and reflections on the U.S. election. We also try to get photos of events that happen at church which makes the *Focus* an important historical record.

We are always looking for your contributions, so don't be shy about responding to the theme, sending a photo, submitting a recipe, or communicating with the congregation. We try to have a note in the bulletin when items are due for the next issue.

*Barb Draper*, editor  
Mary M. Martin      Nicole Woeschka  
Tim Greenwood

# Community Life Commission

## Community Life Commission Chair

2016 was a busy year implementing new community life strategies/initiatives as well as some re-occurring events from previous years.

- Our new website including an on-line calendar of church and community activities went live end of Feb 2016.
- New welcome packages were assembled and included on new welcome table in foyer.
- A Church Greeter pizza lunch and training was offered.
- We conducted 'be a more welcoming church' lunch & learn training for entire congregation.

The Outdoor Worship Service conducted in late May was well attended once again. It was wonderful that a variety of First Responders (Fire Fighters, Paramedics, Police) attended the afternoon activity.

A Sunday evening Worship Cafe event was hosted in November for the first time and will be repeated in 2017.

A new Event Planning Working Committee has been assembled to assist in planning for successful events. Please contact any of the Planning Committee members if you have an event idea:

Erin Miles	FMC Office Admin
Nancy Martin	Volunteer
Gloria H. Bauman	Volunteer
Dan Bender	Community Life Chairperson

The Community Life Commission is always seeking new and creative ways to interact with our surrounding communities. Let's find ways to live out our Mission Statement "Loving God...Loving our Neighbour."

Thanks,  
*Dan Bender*  
Chairperson

## Hopping Thursdays Junior Kindergarden-Grade 5

Approximately 12-15 children have been regular attendees in the Hopping Thursday program. The children spend the first half hour in the gym each Thursday, and then spend the next hour in the multi-purpose room singing, doing art projects, and enjoying a snack together.

Our theme for the year has been "Noah and the Ark," and we have been creating wooden animals and arks, and talking about how we, like Noah, care for the gifts that God has given to us. We usually do some sort of dramatic/musical project each year, and the children are always excited to take part onstage or behind the scenes.

We have been facilitating this program for several years now, and have learned that the best way to ensure success and enjoyment is to create our programs around the needs and interests of the children. Respect for one another, an appreciation for God's creation, experiences with art, drama, music, and physical activity—these things form the basis of our Hopping Thursday program.

Merri-Lee Metzger, Veg Weber, and Chris Kehl

## Hopping Thursday Junior Youth

The theme for this year's Jr. Youth program is "Get On Board." We are exploring eight character values found in the Bible which can help us live out our faith each day. "Kids Can Get it Right" (Faith and Life Resources, MennoMedia) is the material being used and each value is presented in the form of a skit based on a Bible character and event. This has appealed to the youth and most of them enjoy putting on a simple costume and participating in the lesson.

Real-life problems are also discussed and it is very interesting to listen as they share their ideas about how to respond or solve each situation. The fall started strong with up to 20 in attendance however, the numbers have been lower in November and January averaging 14.

Heading to the gym to hang out with Steve sometimes seems to be the highlight of the evening but before they are dismissed, we end with a "Sending" which encourages them to "Go in the Light of God's Word."

We have enjoyed cookies and muffins provided by members of the congregation. Thank you for sharing in our Hopping Thursday ministry in this way. Your prayers that these young lives would indeed be impacted by God's Word, are also appreciated.

submitted by *Jane Hesselink*

## Youth ministry Council

The MYF meets twice a month with the group ranging from 5-10 kids on average depending on the event. Katie continues to have a special relationship with the kids. She is a wonderful mentor to the youth as she lives out her Christian values in her daily living. We are blessed to have here at Floradale.

I would also like to thank the sponsors Liz Weber, Tinus Clemmer and Reg Martin for their passion to work with the youth.

Please continue to pray for the group in the coming year.

*Steve O Bauman*

Youth Ministry Council Chair

*(For more information on the youth program, see the youth worker's report on page 9.)*

## Church Camping

The Cedar Rail Camp Ground at Scone, Ont., was the location of our church camping again this year. We had a very small group made up of 8 people, all adults. There were a number of other activities going on that same weekend so that may have been a factor in the small number of people. It is a good time to spend time and get to know people outside of the church setting and we always enjoy good food at our community supper!. So join us if you can this year.

*Howard Bauman*

## Men's breakfast

We had another good year of men's breakfasts with different speakers. This year we were sorry to see Fred Redekop leave. He did a wonderful job arranging a variety of speakers. Some of the speakers who came were from the Credit Union who came to explain the reasons behind the name change. Also Erv Weins came from M.C.C. and Mike Strathdee from the Mennonite Foundation came to speak at one meeting.

In September I asked Gary Knarr if he would take over for Fred to arrange the speakers for our breakfasts and he has been doing a wonderful job of this. Thank you so much, Gary!

*Mahlon Martin*

## Junior Youth

There is no report this year since the numbers were too low to run a viable program.



## Mission and Service Commission

The Missions and Service Commission is part of the outreach of the congregation both locally and internationally. There are a number of committees under this commission and the annual report contains reports from some of these.

For me this has been a year of excitement but also one with elements of sadness. As I write this we are wrestling with what to do with our Urban Ministries ministry. This has been an important ministry of the church for over 30 years. I think it started with an idea of reaching out to Jane-Finch, through the vision of Dalton Jantzi. We did that, feeling that in walking with these people, we might better be able to reach out to our local neighbours. After many years those church connections with Jane Finch stopped both on relationship and financial level.

What should the mission of Urban Ministries be? We've continued with the House of Friendship vegetable growing project, thanks to the work of a number of people and a core group of dedicated volunteers. This year our tireless volunteers in that commission are feeling they are at the age that they can no longer continue as they had before and need to step back. Has the season for this passed as well or should we revitalize and change it? A number of years ago we faced that situation with our Tea Ball project and that project found new life. What should we be discerning for this upcoming growing season?

For me some of the excitement comes from our Generosity Fund. Seeing how the legacy of pillars of our church continues to help support our church's mission both locally and internationally is truly humbling. At times we struggle with the best way to use these funds but that is natural and we need to feel good about the generosity of these people and use it to inspire another generation.

This year because of the exceptional response to the Syrian Refugee crisis, MCC has been tremendously stretched to respond. After the rush to meet government targets, the flow of refugees has slowed drastically. Many fully funded groups are now waiting for their families to arrive. This wait means MCC hasn't needed to use the Generosity Fund as actively as they anticipated. So we are in conversation to extend our time commitment to five years instead of three and adjusting the terms of reference to better help MCC with their refugee programs.

Finally what gives me excitement is our church's participation in ReLearning Community. A

group of us has been "huddling" regularly and I have found that inspiring. But what is truly inspiring is seeing other initiatives sprouting up in the church at the same time. For me I see the Spirit at work encouraging each of us to discover our own mission and purpose. For example, I've been truly moved by the response of people in our church when two Turkish men arrived in our sleepy town of Floradale, suitcases in hand one stormy night in December. Thanks to everyone who helps with the mission of Floradale Mennonite, whether listed in a formal position or living this mission in their daily life.

*Leon Kehl*

Chair of Mission and Service Commission

## MCC Thrift and Gift Shop report

Sales report (top departments):

Clothing	\$263,579.10
Housewares	168,711.91
Books/Music	124,304.98
Seasonal	99,900.39
Personal Accessories	86,843.47
Home furnishings	73,979.60
Electronic/Electric	70,663.78
Linens/crafts/fabric	69,815.59

Total: \$1,059,098.34

Highest day: \$9,181 Moonlight Madness

Lowest day: \$1,646 Snowy day in April

High Silent Auction: Jaguar Acoustic Guitar \$275

18k gold chain \$710, Limoges platter \$450

The shop has 180 active volunteers ranging in age from 15 to 88. Volunteer groups include Floradale ladies, Home Hardware, Elmira junior youth, St. Jacobs Menn. Church, Elmira ladies, Community Mennonite. Alfa Taime from Indonesia is working in the receiving department. He is here through his International Volunteer Exchange Program term.

Thank you to the many volunteers who have helped in many ways throughout the years. Thank you especially to the Floradale Church ladies who have answered our calls of "help" who come as groups, who assist at the volunteer dinner and regularly volunteer at our shop. We couldn't make a million without you!

*Betty Marshall,*

General Manager, Elmira Thrift and Gift

## Tea ball project

In 2009 after a golf game, Richard Bauman was talking about the lack of interest in the tea ball project and the possibility that Floradale Church would be dropping the project for lack of interest. Merle Shantz, Howie Bauman, Ozie Martin and myself decided we would run the project along with our wives for the next five years if we could get the selling price of the tea balls up to \$10.00 per dozen. Nicole and Tyler Woeschka are also on the committee so we continue having eight people, which works out really well in the event that all positions can't be filled. This still seems to be an issue every year.

Another thing that has really helped make the whole process a lot easier is having Rick Cressman and Tyler Woeschka looking after getting all the equipment to the New Hamburg Sale and doing the setup at the sale and giving the people that work in the tent for those two days a solid, double thickness, plywood floor. Awesome!!

This year we were able to agree to put the price to \$10.00 for a baker's dozen. This worked out really well, making change in payments on purchases is simple.

Another change we have made is in the size of fryers we use. A few people have purchased larger fryers and are donating the use of them for this project. This has really helped speed up production to about 100 dozen per hour. This created another issue with getting the tea balls cooled faster to be able to apply the sugar mixture without having the sugar melt and making a less-than-desirable-looking product. This year we introduced furnace-type cooling fans with a filtering system, to cool the tea balls prior to sugaring. It worked extremely well to speed up the whole process between the trimming table to packaging. As it turned out the health inspectors were also happy with the filtered air we used in cooling tea balls.

This year we sold out again around 11:00 a.m. on Saturday and were able to raise over \$13,000.00 for the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale (NHMRS) with this project. One of the reasons for the increase in money was for the 50-year celebrations; the NHMRS committee requested we make more product, so we made about 10 percent more. The other reason for higher sales is the price increase over last year.

Like the last few years, we sold more tea balls on Friday evening than on Saturday and had to work hard selling the last 20 dozen on Saturday. (We likely sold over 1,300 dozen tea balls this year.)

I realize it takes effort from everyone to donate time and money to make this happen, but I think as long as people are willing to purchase the tea balls at a price that makes a good amount of money for the NHMRS, Floradale Church should continue to support the project with a few hours of time, once a year.

Thanks again to everyone who contributes to this cause.

*By Mark Weber*

## Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship has had another enjoyable year where we learned to have fun and serve together.

This past summer the reorganization of our committee took place around a campfire at Marilyn Weber's. Campfires are a great place to relax, chat, reorganize and of course eat! We said thank you to the past committee and welcomed the new committee members.

In October half the group unpacked and sorted food at Woolwich community services while the other half sorted used clothing donations at the MCC thrift store. A lot of sorting was accomplished that evening. Fellowship and treats were enjoyed at Gloria H Bauman's house.

For our Christmas celebration, around 40 women enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Ella Martin at White Pine Ranch. Norma Bauman brought along brain teaser games that kept us thinking. A devotional was presented by Nancy Mann and then we all sang Christmas carols together. A love offering was gathered that evening.

We look forward to the coming year's activities where we can continue to grow together.

*Delphine Burkhart*

## Women's Sewing Group

Between September 2015 and June 2016, the Floradale women's sewing group quilted four bed quilts, two crib quilts and knotted 35 comforters for MCC. Lena Martin and Eleanor Buehler sewed kit bags for MCC and a group of women have been gathering in homes to knit prayer shawls. Among those who received prayer shawls in 2016 were the four Redekop children and Andrew Martin who moved to Milton.

Various craft items were made for the MCC relief sale, including slippers, baby afghans, knit pillows, dish cloths, child cover-ups, baby sweater set and whole-cloth quilted crib quilts.

(from June WMCEC report)

## CFGB Men's Fellowship Report

The Men of Floradale Mennonite Church met in the springtime this past year. We met at the church for a breakfast prepared by the Catering Committee. Our Speaker that Morning was David Epp who is the new Ontario Coordinator for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Next year the new heading at the top of this report should read "Floradale Community Growing Project." The new plan for the Floradale Community Growing Project is to move away from the fundraiser men's breakfast and turn that into fundraiser lunches after Sunday worship service so the whole congregation can be involved. The idea for the change is to get more people engaged in the work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The men are also meeting 10 to 12 times a year over breakfast, so taking away two won't hurt them too much. Also when the project started in 1998 the men were not meeting as a group at all.

This past year we had 25 acres of corn planted. It yielded 119 metric tonnes at a value of \$19,679.30. When Global Affairs (used to be CIDA) adds its 4 – 1 ratio, the amount CFGB can use for their work to END HUNGER is almost \$100,000.00.

The field behind Crossroads restaurant is the land we are, and will be, cropping over the next number of years. The crop that will be planted in 2017 is soybean.

Thanks to the many people who support this project year after year. As you can see by the Financial Statement, the past year was very successful. It

was probably the best year financially to date. Thanks to everyone involved.

*Jeff Bauman*

Below is a "thank you" from CFGB:

Jan. 12, 2017

Floradale Mennonite Church  
Floradale, ON

Thanks for partnering with us to help others! In Matthew 25:35 we read: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

On behalf of the Foodgrains Bank and its 15 member agencies, I want to thank you for remembering these words of Jesus by sharing to help those around the world who don't have enough to eat. These funds will be used by the Foodgrains Bank to meet the immediate food needs of people who are facing hunger, help people grow more and better food, and reduce malnutrition.

Thanks for being part of the mission to end global hunger!

Blessings! May you experience peace and joy as a congregation in 2017.

James Kornelsen,  
Public Engagement Coordinator

P.S. The Foodgrains Bank continues to respond to the needs of people affected by the Syria crisis. With support from the Canadian government, since 2012 we have provided about \$25 million in assistance. We invite you to pray for peace in that country, and for all those impacted by the conflict.

## Urban Ministries Report

For well over 30 years, Floradale Church has sponsored a Mission Garden Project to increase support for special local outreach programs. This year our Committee received \$700 seed money to invest in a project that would help us maximize our breadth of support for local programs we desire to assist. The principle follows an earlier history when many Mennonite churches provided several quarters to their children to invest in a mission project like raising

rabbits, bantams, or an adult growing project like turnips, potatoes, or onions to raise money for a Fall Mission Sunday Offering Celebration. It is still one of many ways our Church Mission Budget advances the cause of missions *across the street and around the world*. Our committee is also invited to help shape and direct the larger annual Mission Budget.

In the *Floradale Focus* last fall, a full description was given of our 2016 Garden Project involvement under the title, “When we all work together, how happy we’ll be” The gracious spirit exhibited was even contagious when we were tired. Almost fifty volunteers assisted us in various aspects of the major bean and sweet corn projects, yielding an abundant crop mainly for the House of Friendship but also the Elmira Food Bank and local families in need. For over seven weeks, we were able to provide many bushels of freshly picked green beans and two hundred dozen cobs of sweet corn for local charities and some to sell.

With the generous help of the Parkview Manors’ Seniors, we were also able to process and preserve 455 lbs of freezer-ready beans and 540 lbs of sweet corn in our modern kitchen. It is hard to put a dollar value on all this food but what a blessing it proved to be. We have so many to thank for their readiness to help pick, preserve and deliver the produce. We appreciate Jim Maurer who again donated the land and with his neighbour tilled, planted, and sprayed the crop along with those who cultivated and hoed the garden. Because of the cooperative effort and the sale of some produce, we were able to cover all the costs with the exception of \$100 for seed. Because of these savings, we were able to donate \$400 to Jane Finch Faith Community and \$200 to our Elmira Food Bank.

Sponsoring a Growing Project goes far beyond the monetary value because it brings a church and community together in a very different setting to accomplish a common good. It’s like knitting prayer shawls and designing quilts and comforters for relief, or engaging in a teaball project for MCC relief.

A challenge today, however, is that families are smaller and rural families fewer. With spouses both employed, it is more the older generation that often commits to the work as opposed to the younger. We have been so fortunate to carry this program forward and find such joy in doing so, but we are getting older. Other easier methods of rais-

ing mission dollars have been suggested but they don’t encourage the closer interaction with our neighbours and friends or provide opportunities for fellowship as we work together in service projects that benefit the local community.

It is our intention to continue with another growing project this spring at Jim’s farm, but we keep working at ways to streamline our efforts and encourage younger involvement in the leadership. After 11 years, Florence and I will step down but will continue to assist. Again we wish to thank all who helped to make this year a success with your encouragement and goodwill.

*Darrell Jantzi* on behalf of the Urban Ministries Committee

Lloyd and Vietta Martin, Earl and Erma Wideman, Glenn Martin and Darrell and Florence Jantzi.

## Fairview & Parkwood Mennonite Homes

Fairview Mennonite in Cambridge received approval in 2016 for the New Horizons for Seniors grant application. They also received \$21,596 in funding to improve three public washrooms adjacent to the central dining room and other items in this area. Fairview also received funding from several other Grants and Funds, helping to increase funding for staff, equipment and supplies.

Fairview has a total of 261 units across all five facilities with a total of 294 residents. Of these residents, 88 are men (with an average age of 81) and 206 are women (with an average age of 83).

Parkwood Mennonite in Waterloo received their three-year accreditation, gaining the highest achievement possible for Long-Term Care Homes. This allows them to receive a small funding premium from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

The Board and Senior Staff of Parkwood have developed a three-year strategic plan that will guide them through 2018.

Parkwood has 95 Long-Term Care residents and 78 residents in their Retirement Suites. Parkwood presently has openings in their Assisted Living suites.

Submitted by *Mahlon Martin*

## MennoHomes Inc.

This past year has been a very active one for MennoHomes. In April, we held our official ground breaking ceremony as we began construction of a new project in Elmira. When completed in 2017, this 25 unit 3-story apartment building will provide much needed barrier-free affordable housing in Elmira. The very active work of our fundraising committee and building committee is ongoing. Please continue to hold their work in your prayers.

New construction is exciting and important but we remain attentive to the 80 households that currently make our housing their home. The impact that having access to affordable housing is immediate, but sometimes the long-term change that this can have on a family is harder to see. This past year, four families were able to transition from our rental housing into home ownership. While this is something we celebrate, the reality is that the majority of our family households are living below the Low Income Cut Off line and home ownership will almost always be beyond their reach. Affordable housing is vital for them.

In 2001, MennoHomes was created by a grassroots network of churches to respond to the need for affordable housing in Waterloo Region. Fifteen years later we continue to address this challenge, partnering closely with local churches as an expression of how Christ calls us to respond to those in our community who need some assistance. Please continue to hold our work in your prayers as we look forward to a busy year in 2017.

Dan Driedger  
Executive Director

## Mennonite Central Committee Ontario

Walking with hosts and guests

*“And let us...provoke one another to love and good deeds.”* Hebrews 10:24

I have only heard it once. A young indigenous man, he happened to be from Attawapiskat, said something like this: “We are not opposed to refugees from Syria coming here, but have you forgotten your relationship with us!?”

He nailed it. He nailed me. From early in the days of the Syrian Refugee urgency I have wrestled with this question. I am building a relationship with a family of seven from a small village in Syria who is being sponsored by my church. I am deeply committed to seeing all of them enter fully and richly into life in Canada. And, God willing, it is very likely they will.

Frankly it is far more likely to happen for them than for the young lad from Attawapiskat who is reminding us of our first priority relationship...of our link to the people who welcomed my newcomer tribe here. Our hosts. Both our Attawapiskat friend, and our new friends from Syria have faced violence. In the Middle East it is the violence that makes news. Along the shores of James Bay it is the slow grind of structural violence. Our Syrian friend fled the violence, while our friend in Attawapiskat is still in it. One is now a guest here, one has always been the host. Both represent peoples with whom MCC has deep, long and mutually transformative relationships. Yet while many refugees thrive, too many of our indigenous neighbours struggle on the margins in urban and traditional landscapes. We at MCC cannot make this better. But we can build hope-filled relationships and walk humbly beside while persistently working for change.

Thank you for joining us as we honour both those we host and those who continue to host us.

*Rick Cober Bauman,*  
Executive Director, MCC Ontario  
Thank you!

## MCC Ontario's dollars at work

Ontario programs: \$3,654,122  
Forwarded to MCC Canada: \$9,973,509  
Administration and fundraising: \$1,609,809

## MCC Ontario funding sources

Donations:	\$8,169,254
Thrift shops:	\$3,029,364
Relief Sales:	\$649,216
Material Aid in kind:	\$528,135
Estates and trusts:	\$725,927
Government grants:	\$996,731
Other income:	\$1,146,372

## House of Friendship

Learning organizations have a culture of asking questions and seeking out diverse perspectives. One way that we learn is through Program Reviews that are inclusive of all stakeholders, including program participants, who always provide us with lots to learn. Since initiating these reviews as part of House of Friendship's Strategic Visioning (2012), we have learned, tested, and implemented much. For example, we learned that there is a need for a continuum of addiction treatment in our community, including Dry or Transitional Houses. By partnering with donors, the Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation, and local churches, we are piloting Transitional Houses for men and women in post-treatment.

Sometimes change is driven collaboratively with external partners. This is no more true than in Housing Services, where HOF's Supportive Housing and Charles Street Men's Hostel are coming together with housing providers across our community to house more people with more complex needs. The related changes in funding models and program structure require us to be nimble and adaptive as we look for opportunities to improve services. Recently, Kiwanis House became home to a refugee family, in partnership with Reception House.

Sometimes change is driven by a sense of urgency and an opportunity to create systemic improvements. The upcoming renovation of the

Emergency Food Hamper program is long overdue, and will improve food security for some of our most vulnerable neighbours. Similarly, Living Wage and Wage Mark are examples of HOF's efforts to 'walk the talk' with staff, enabling employees to earn a living wage in Waterloo Region and contributing to the broader conversation about the rising income gap. Meanwhile, in Waterloo, we are working with the Waterloo Region District School Board and Life Change Adventures to create Better Beginnings for young children.

Thank you for being part of a learning organization, "where people continually expand their capacity to create the results they truly desire, where new and expansive patterns of thinking are nurtured, where collective aspiration is set free, and where people are continually learning to see the whole together." (Peter Senge)

*John Neufeld*  
*Executive Director*

# Finance and Stewardship Commission

Floradale Mennonite Church ended 2016 in a sound financial position. The budget and extra expenses were met and there is a surplus to disperse. The surplus amount is \$5737.04.

Factors reflected in the 2017 budget.

- 1) MCEC guidelines reflect a consumer price index increase of .017%
- 2) Giving to MCEC is at \$75000.00 plus some of the surplus(achieving approximately \$80,000.00).
- 3) We are complying with the regulations regarding charitable status for Canadian income tax purposes.

## Accountant's Comments:

Please see page one of the financial pages.

## Recommendations of the Finance Commission

1. a) That \$4,737.04 of the surplus goes to MCEC.
  - b) \$1,000 of the surplus goes to the Elders Fund.
  - c) \$206.39 remaining in the Continuing Ed Fund goes to MCEC.
2. That we approve the proposed budget for 2017 of \$359,550.00

## Recommendations for Generosity Fund:

- a) \$5,000.00 to Meserete Kristos College Scholarship
- b) \$3,000.00 to support Stephan Cherry in his work with the Navigators
- c) \$10,000.00 to House of Friendship ("Close to Home" property purchase)
- d) \$35,000.00 to EDSC for their supportive housing building program. (Elmira District Support Corporation builds housing for Elmira District Community Living.)
- e) MCC Syrian Refugee Fund be extended from three years to five years (totalling \$60,000.00).

Submitted by the Finance Commission

*Willis Freeman*, chair

Brenda Martin, treasurer

Roy Draper, Randy Martin, Dennis Brubacher,

Laurel Martin, Mahlon Martin.

## Trustees

The trustees work to keep the building in proper running order. This year some light switches were changed to motion sensor switches in some classrooms and washrooms. Also a window cleaning firm was hired to wash the windows inside and out twice a year.

## Cemetery

Burials are done in accordance with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario.

We have received approval from the Region of Waterloo Health Department regarding the Cemetery expansion. We have verbal approval from the Registrar. The law firm Woods and Fletcher has reworded the by-laws. I have posted signs regarding our application to expand our cemetery in the cemetery as well as had it published in the *Observer*. The Surveyor has mapped and numbered and surveyed the cemetery and he is currently working directly with the Registrar.

We are hopeful that we are very close to getting final approval.

Submitted by *Oscar J.B. Martin*

Cemetery board chair

## Catering Committee report

In 2016 the Floradale Mennonite Church Catering committee catered a variety of events, such as the MCC Annual meeting, Fred Redekop's farewell, fundraiser lunches and several banquets.

The catering team is also responsible for cleaning, replacing items and making sure repairs happen in the church kitchen.

There has been discussion among the team about replacing the commercial stove with equipment that would be more user friendly for everyone.

We have been working towards this decision for several years with money we have raised from catering events. The hope is that in 2017 we will make it happen.

*Susan Martin*

## Audio-Visual

This year we haven't been pushed too hard by events although worship café was a new experience in terms of the acoustics in the foyer. I'm pleased to report that people have become more proactive in contacting AV personnel with their plans and needs for services, saving everyone from the stress of trying to solve problems at the last minute. A big part of this is likely due to the coordination that is required for MediaShout (our presentation software used during worship) which is prepared during the week; as time goes on we have been getting more proficient at using it.

In the past year there has been concern that we may have been violating song copyright laws with our recordings, thus we have begun excluding such songs from our videos. Right now Leon is look-

ing into posting two videos per service on the website. One would be a complete video of the service that only the congregation could see, we would get the links to them via email like we do currently. The other would be a stripped down version for the public to see which would only have the basics like the scripture readings and the sermon.

We currently have three people rotating on the soundboard which works well enough, however Leon is running the camera and MediaShout every week that he is here which seems somewhat unfair. We would like more people so that we could have a rotation on the camera/MediaShout (and/or the soundboard if anyone feels ambitious).

*-Douglas Draper*  
AV Coordinator

## Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

### Growing and Learning Together:

ReLearning Community : 14 MCEC congregations training and learning about discipleship.

"Hopefully in five years we will look back and say, 'Something has changed here at Lis-towel. We aren't the same congregation we were before.'" – Norm Dyck, pastor at Lis-towel Menn. Church.

Sacred Trust: (9 edition sent to 597 emails. Average Facebook audience of 330.)

MCEC released an on-line educational series on sexual misconduct in the church. Look for 2017 printed resources.

Future Directions: A 94% majority vote of attending delegates at MC Canada Assembly 2016 affirmed the Future Directions Final Report and Addendum.

TiM (Transitioning into Ministry) supported 22 pastors who are new to ministry or new to MCEC, with 8 TiM graduates.

Youth Winter Retreat on mental wellness impacted 108 people, while the Junior youth retreat engaged 90 in exploring their God-given gifts.

School for Ministers inspired 83 pastors in worship. Make a Difference Day involved 106 junior youth and sponsors.

Lebold banquet encouraged 118 to embrace the messiness of being the people of God.

Youth Bible quizzing energized 35 youth and 17 volunteers to study the Bible together.

"Mental Illness and Addictions" drew 166 congregational leaders to the conversation.

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada is made up of 110 congregations, 99 congregations and 11 church plants. This involves 321 pastors. In 2016 there were 18 pastoral placements and 12 interim pastoral placements. During the year there were 11 were ordained or licensed.

There were 352 people who attended the annual church gathering where speakers Stuart Murray and Alix Ellish from England invited us to discover God in our neighbourhoods. One congregation, the Shalom Worship and Healing Centre, was received into membership.

MCEC has also announced that Liz Weber has recently been appointed to a new role at MCEC as Coordinator for Youth Leaders. Liz will continue in her role as Administrative Assistant in the MCEC office and will devote five hours a week to this new role.

*From MCEC report to congregations*





## 2016 Update to Congregations and Area Churches

As we embrace 2017, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to each congregation and individual donor that has supported the ministries of MC Canada and our five area churches this past year. As our wider church family plan a transition to a new structure that will see congregations as the foundational unit of ministry, we do not take your support for granted. In the meantime, our staff is tasked maintaining existing ministry commitments with partner ministries in Canada and around the world, while preparing for change. Looking back on 2016, we can celebrate success stories and inform you of challenges that continue to need your ongoing support.

**Visiting You:** Itinerating international Witness workers from 10 countries paid 60 visits to congregations, sharing stories of God's work in the world. In addition, staff visited 43 congregations on Sunday mornings, plus numerous other contacts and meetings with churches and individuals. Thank you for your generous hospitality!

**Ride for Refuge** - On Oct. 1, eight teams comprising 59 cyclists from Ontario to Saskatchewan rode their bikes in support of the Witness international ministry. Together we raised almost \$16,000. We hope to grow the Ride event in 2017.

**Long Term Witness Workers:** Together with you, we support 27 long term workers in 11 countries. We also financially support ministry with partners in 6 countries where we have no workers. Check out the many blogs maintained by Witness workers at <http://news.mennonitechurch.ca/blogs>.

**Short Term Witness Workers:** In 2016, we sent 8 Short Term workers (3 couples) to serve in 4 countries. Three supported the ministries of long-term Witness workers and 4 served in Palestine/Israel.

**Peacebuilding:** At Assembly 2016, delegates passed a resolution supporting peace in Palestine and Israel. A group of passionate volunteers with knowledge of this conflict is helping congregations engage the Resolution on Palestine and Israel.

**Indigenous Relations:** Following the remarkable sales success of *Wrongs to Rights* – a special publication following the conclusion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) – a second special edition called *Yours, Mine, Ours* was published to address the TRC's call to action to churches that

participated in the Indian Residential School (IRS) system (Mennonites were involved in day schools). More than 3,300 copies of both publications have been distributed. .

**Christian Formation:** CommonWord – a collaboration of Mennonite Church Canada's Resource Centre for churches and Canadian Mennonite University's bookstore, offers 12,000 loan, sale or download items – and links to hundreds of websites. Over 1,000 items were sold online and more than 1,700 items were downloaded. This is a ministry that serves well beyond the 134 congregations that accessed items this year.

**Church History:** The Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives responds to 120 research assistance requests/month, hosts 10,806 historical images online, and produced an award-winning film on conscientious objectors called *The Last Objectors*.

**Art and Faith:** The Mennonite Heritage Centre Art Gallery hosted eight exhibits in 2016. A significant milestone saw the completion of gallery curator and artist Ray Dirks' *Along the Road the Freedom* series of paintings, documenting the faithful and courageous Mennonite women who led their families to freedom in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution. The Gallery is primarily self-funded by donations and grants.

**Finances:** As of Nov. 30, donation income was \$240,000 behind our \$4.4 million donation budget and significantly behind last year's levels for the same time period. Your prayer and financial support continues to be critical.

**Task Forces:** The Being a Faithful Church and Future Directions Task Forces presented their final reports at Assembly 2016. Delegates approved the recommendations of both task forces. The transition to a re-imagined a national and area church system that is closer to its congregational base is now well under way.

**Assembly 2016:** A special delegate gathering to approve new structures is scheduled for Oct. 13-15, 2017, in Wpg. More information will be coming your way over the spring and summer.

In closing, I ask that you pray and financially support as we "wait upon the Lord" so that we can transition to a new future in good health.

Willard Metzger, Executive Director

## SLATE OF CHURCH OFFICERS 2017-2018

<b>Elders:</b>	Rita Bauman	(18)	Steve O. Bauman	(19)
	Mary M. Martin	(18)	Derrick Burkhart	(19)

<b>Church Council Chairperson:</b>	Rick Martin	(18)		
<b>Church Council Secretary:</b>	Vernelda Weber			
<b>Church Council Members at Large:</b>	Rosie Martin	(18)	Glenn Martin	(19)
<b>Young adult Member at Large:</b>	Ashley Albrecht	(18)		

### **Congregational Delegates to M.C.E.C. (5 plus 1 youth delegate)**

Rick Martin	Willis Freeman	Gary Knarr
Florence Jantzi	Leon Kehl	Youth

<b>Gift Discernment Committee:</b>	Pauline Martin	(18)	Brent Bauman	(19)
	Vernelda Weber	(18)	Donna Freeman	(19)
<b>Staff Relations Committee:</b>	Yvonne Martin	(19)	_____	(21)
	Marilyn Martin	(18)		

### **Christian Education Commission**

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Florence Jantzi	(19)		
<b>Sunday School Superintendent:</b>	Richard Bauman	(18)		
<b>Assistant S.S. Superintendent:</b>	Robb Mann	(19)		
<b>Children's Ministry Team</b>	Nancy Mann	(Pastor)		
	Florence Jantzi	(Christian Ed. Chair)		
	Jane Hesselink	(Jr. Sunday School) until June 2017		
<b>Sunday School Secretary:</b>	Shirley Shoemaker			
<b>Summer Bible School:</b>	Nancy Mann	(18)	Alina Kehl	(19)
<b>Worship Committee:</b>	Jeff Bauman	(18)	Christina Bowman	(19)
<i>Chair: Nichelle Bauman</i>	Ryan Bauman			
<b>Librarian:</b>	Gloria H. Bauman			
<b>Library Committee:</b>	Sharon Cressman	(18)	Norma Bauman	(19)
	Marilyn Martin	(18)	Rosie Martin	(19)
<b>Focus Committee:</b>	Barb Draper		Mary M. Martin	
	Nicole Woeschka		Peter Ellis	
<b>Nursery Coordinator:</b>	_____			
<b>Junior Church Coordinator</b>	Nancy Mann			
<b>Church Historian:</b>	Brent Bauman			

### **Community Life Commission**

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Dan Bender	(18)		
<b>Family Life Coordinator:</b>	Brenda L. Martin	(19)		
<b>Family Camping Coordinators:</b>	Howie & Gloria Bauman			
<b>Hot Dog Lunch Coordinators:</b>	Steve & Dana Bauman			
<b>Hopping Thursday Program:</b>	Steve O. Bauman		Christine Kehl	
	Jane Hesselink		Merri-Lee Metzger	
	Vernelda Weber			
<b>Youth Ministry Council Chair:</b>	Steve O. Bauman	(18)		
<b>MYF Leaders:</b>	Tinus Clemmer	(18)	Liz Weber	(18)
	Reg Martin	(18)		

### **Finance and Stewardship Commission**

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Willis Freeman	(19)		
<b>Trustee Chairperson:</b>	Richard Cressman	(19)		
<b>Trustees:</b>	Edgar Bauman	(18)	Ron Martin	(19)
	Dennis Brubacher	(19)		
<b>Church Treasurer:</b>	Brenda R. Martin			
<b>Assistant Treasurers:</b>	Roy Draper		Randy Martin	
<b>Elected Executive Members:</b>	Laurel Martin	(18)	Steve D. Bauman	(19)
	Murray J. Martin	(19)		
<b>Head Usher:</b>	Ross Weber			
<b>Assistant Head Usher:</b>	Derrick Burkhardt			
<b>Audio Visual Coordinator:</b>	Doug Draper			
<b>Assistant A-V Coordinators:</b>	Lorne Bowman			
	Roy Draper			
<b>Church Cemetery Chair:</b>	Oscar J. B. Martin			
<b>Church Cemetery Board:</b>	Robb Martin	(18)	Rod Martin	(19)
<b>Church Booking Coordinator:</b>	Lorne Bowman			

### **Mission and Christian Service Commission**

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Leon Kehl	(18)		
<b>Urban Ministries Committee:</b>	_____	_____		
	_____	_____		
<b>MCC Delegate:</b>	Donna Freeman			
<b>Elmira Thrift &amp; Gift Rep to Board:</b>	Marilyn Weber	(18)		
<b>Fairview Home Delegates:</b>	Mahlon Martin			
<b>House of Friendship Board Rep:</b>	Lester Kehl			
<b>Tea Ball Project:</b>	Tyler Woeschka		Nicole Woeschka	
	Gloria Bauman		Howie Bauman	
	Merle Shantz		Rita Shantz	
	Mark Weber		Marilyn Weber	
<b>Menno Homes Rep:</b>	Clare & Bonnie Brubacher			

### **Floradale Mennonite Church Inc. – Board of Directors**

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Rick Martin			
<b>Secretary:</b>	Vernelda Weber			
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Brenda Martin			
<b>Additional Members:</b>	Florence Jantzi		Dan Bender	
	Willis Freeman		Leon Kehl	
	Rosie Martin		Glenn Martin	
	Ashley Albrecht			
	_____( Elder rep)			