



**"Surely this great
nation is a wise and
discerning people!"**

- Deut. 4:6



Christian Formation Council Report



- *Forming faith in congregation and home by :*
 - *Leading*
 - *Motivating*
 - *Offering resources*
- *Sharing in God's work of forming people into God's character, and*
- *Partnering in ministry with area churches and their congregations*

*"Surely this great nation is a wise
and discerning people!"*

My name is Sue Steiner, Chair of Christian Formation Council;

and I'm Dave Bergen, Executive Secretary for Christian Formation.

We'd like you to know about (slides on the screen)

our focus for ministry in Christian Formation (*pause*)



Christian Formation Council Report

- 10 elected Council members
- Ministries involving:
 - Ministerial and Congregational Leadership
 - Church Schools
 - Christian Education & Nurture
 - Youth & Young Adult Ministries
 - Resources & Publishing

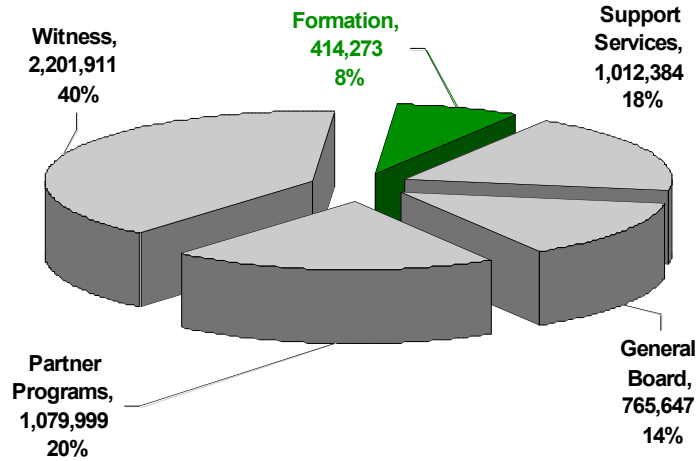
*"Surely this great nation is a wise
and discerning people!"*

o the areas of ministry in which you are involved through the Formation Council (*pause*)



Budget FYE 2008

Christian Formation Council



"Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!"

our budget which, through your generosity, enables us to do ministry
(pause)



Christian Formation Council Report



Staff leading Formation ministry:

- 13 persons
- 10.3 full-time equivalency

*"Surely this great nation is a wise
and discerning people!"*

o our staff who carry out Formation ministry (*pause*)



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Ministry Partners include:

- *Mennonite Publishing Network*
- *Mennonite schools: K ► seminary*
- *Mennonite Camping Association*
- *Mennonite Creation Care Network*
- *North American Young Adult Fellowship*

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o and the many partners who share with us in our ministry (*pause*)

You'll find the full Christian Formation Council report on pp 30-35. We'll leave you to read the details.

We'd like to talk to you about some of the exciting growing edges in Christian Formation. Although time does not permit a line by line description of how your gifts are being multiplied, we hope these highlights give you a sense of the partnership you have in Formation ministry.



Christian Formation Council Report



Growing leaders for the church

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and discerning people!"*

1. Leadership

One of the areas we as a church have identified as a priority is the area of leadership.

Together we've discerned the need to "grow leaders for the church"

This past year the Christian Formation Council undertook two important initiatives in the area of church leadership:



Christian Formation Council Report



Pastoral Trends Survey

- *Pastors from 1975-2008*
- *How can we best nurture and support pastors?*

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A. We conducted a Pastoral Trends Survey

This project surveys our MC Canada pastors from 1975 to 2008

The survey set out to understand how Mennonite Church Canada can best nurture and support its pastors.



Christian Formation Council Report



- Pastoral calling
- Support for pastors
- What helps pastors thrive
- Sources of stress
- What we are doing well
- What needs improvement

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We learned some important things about pastoral calling, support for pastors, what helps pastors thrive, what ministry experiences cause unhealthy stress, where we as a church are doing well in relation to our pastors; and where we can make some improvements.



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Implications for:

- *Pastors*
- *Congregations*
- *Area and National church*
- *Schools*

*"Surely this great nation is a wise
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There are implications in this report for pastors, congregations, the area churches and national church, and for our schools



Christian Formation Council Report



Discernment:

- Thriving Pastors, Healthy Churches
- This Afternoon!
- And at the Summit...

*"Surely this great nation is a wise
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This afternoon's discernment session, entitled "Thriving Pastors, Healthy Churches" will speak to this in greater detail. This will also be the topic in one of the Summit Leadership Track workshops.

Be sure to take advantage of one or both of these opportunities to hear the report given by Dieter Schoenwetter, who was our Project Director for this important initiative!



Christian Formation Council Report



Denominational Minister &

- Director of Leadership Development
– *What the church needs...*

- *Karen Martens Zimmerly*
– *Minister to the denomination*
– *Strengthening leadership
development capacity*



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B. We have also made adjustments to the position of Denominational Minister and added to it the title: Director of Leadership Development

Sven Eriksson's retirement last March gave us an opportunity to examine what new needs have arisen and how this office can respond as we go forward. Such reviews are a routine part of every staff transition.

When Karen Martens Zimmerly begins her work this September, she will be Denominational Minister, but also Director of Leadership Development.

We have maintained the traditional role of minister to the denomination, but we have spelled out more clearly the role of this position in strengthening the leadership development capacity of our church

Karen will be charged with:

Promoting a vision and strategy for pastoral and other leadership development in MC Canada

Nurturing a culture of call for pastoral and other leaders within MC Canada, in partnership with Area Churches

Promoting the training and ongoing formation of ministers and candidates for ministry, with area churches, church schools, agencies and staff

Paying attention to emerging leadership issues in MC Canada, including attention to alternative leadership models



Christian Formation Council Report



Leadership Training Fund

- *Pastoral training*
- *Directed giving*
- *Anabaptist Mennonite framework*
- *Expanded financial participation*
- *Matching support*
- *Giving with the heart for vision*

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2. We also want to talk to you about a new Mennonite Church Canada Leadership training fund:

This new Leadership Training Fund will be specifically focused on support and training for pastoral leaders;

You as a church have called for the strengthening of our pastoral leadership development capacity;

You have been clear in communicating that you want to be able to direct your giving in ways that will ensure that our pastors can get the formal training they need, within our Anabaptist Mennonite tradition. We want to take you seriously.

We have now established the beginnings of an MC Canada "Leadership Training Fund." We envision that this fund will target pastoral leadership candidates—by offering financial assistance to individuals who declare their intent to prepare for pastoral leadership ministry.

Some of you may be familiar with the longstanding Company of 1000 forgivable loan fund. This fund will continue and will become one aspect of a more broadly based Leadership Training Fund.

We also envision that money given to the Leadership Training Fund will be multiplied with matching support by congregations, area churches and our schools. Details of this fund are still being shaped. But we do expect that the Leadership Training Fund will grow to offer a variety of different ways to participate financially in the church's mission of growing leaders. In terms of accounting, for the present time this fund will continue to appear under the General Board budget.

You can help make this dream come true and insure that our church will be guided by strong pastoral leaders for many years to come.

We invite and challenge you to put your money where your heart and our vision for pastoral training lies.



Christian Formation Council Report



Ministry with Seniors

- 1/3 of Canadians turning 65
- 11,000 in Mennonite Church Canada
- Challenge and opportunity

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3. Ministry with Seniors

In the next 15 years close to 1/3 of Canadians will turn 65 years of age
(Including Sue & Dave!)

In MC Canada terms this represents about 11,000 of those currently listed as members of our congregations, not counting those affiliated but not formally members, or the many more linked to networks of friendship

This growing bulge of seniors represents a huge challenge and opportunity for the church



Christian Formation Council Report



Challenge?

- Supporting spiritual needs
- Transitions in health
- Sandwiched, giving care
- Linking church and experience
- Quest for spiritual depth

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What is the Challenge? to offer resources that will help with the spiritual needs of this generation

-- as they experience transitions from relative health to increasing issues with health; as they try to juggle giving "sandwich care" to their parents and at same time to their grown and growing offspring; as they look to the church to help them make meaningful connections between their experience and their quest for spiritual depth.



Christian Formation Council Report



Opportunity?

- A living resource bank
 - Experience
 - Training
 - Wisdom
- Mentoring, coaching, contributing

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What is the Opportunity?: our seniors are a vast living resource bank.

They have a lot of experience, training, and wisdom in the fields of education, health, pastoral ministry, business, development, finances, etc; This living resource bank offers huge mentoring possibilities for young adults, emerging leaders, and others who are learning to find their way in the world and in their faith.



Christian Formation Council Report



Early retirement

- Refocusing time and energy
- Service ministries

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Many are retiring early—giving the church the opportunity to invite them to a meaningful refocusing of energy for a variety of service ministries



Christian Formation Council Report



Financial ability

- Good pensions
- Inheritance
- Invitation to faithful stewardship

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This is a generation which has on the whole prospered financially. They've built their careers in a time of economic health; they have good pension plans; many are inheriting their parents substantial assets.

How shall we invite each other to faithful living as stewards of what we have been given?



Christian Formation Council Report



New directions--Ministry with seniors

- Spiritual resources
- Engaging seniors with the church
- Engaging the church with seniors

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How is Formation Council responding?

We have invited Marianne Mellinger from Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, who is working in the area of ministry with seniors, to be a resource for a Formation Council discussion on spiritual ministry among seniors and the elderly. We are working together to discern pathways for ministry, to devise resources, create opportunities to engage seniors with the church's ministry, and the church in ministry with seniors.

We value your prayers, input and support as we explore this new direction.



Celebrating *Der Bote*



- Rich legacy of 84 years
- Shared stories of immigration and resettlement
- Sustained ties of faith and community
- Spiritual teaching and nourishment

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Celebration & Thanksgiving: *Der Bote*

We conclude with a note of celebration and thanksgiving for one of our ministries which came to a close this year

Der Bote, our German language magazine ceased publication on March 31, after 84 rich years.

This paper sustained ties of faith and community for a unique segment of our church who share an east to west global immigration and resettlement story

Der Bote was a faithful source of spiritual teaching and nourishment



Thank you!



Ingrid Janzen Lamp

- 42 years
- Interim Editor
- Assistant Editor
- Editor



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We are grateful for the various editors who have guided *Der Bote*, especially Ingrid Janzen Lamp who was charged with the challenging work of bringing this faithful friend to a dignified conclusion. Ingrid was involved with *Der Bote* for 42 years in total—as Editor's assistant, Interim Editor and Editor.



Thank you!



Lois Bergen

- Bote Secretary, 16 years
- Skillful attention to detail
- Careful listening to readers



*"Surely this great nation is a wise
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We thank Lois Bergen, *Bote* Secretary for 16 years, for her careful attention to the many details of subscriber lists, printing and mailing, for the personal care she has shown to our readers, and her attention to the many other matters related to *Der Bote*



Thank you!



Andrea Dick

- Graphic Designer, 9 years
- Dedicated, Flexible



"Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!"

We thank Andrea Dick, Graphic Designer for 9 years, for insuring that our readers would always receive an orderly and visually pleasing paper.

These folks, and those who preceded them have put heart and soul into their work, as servants in ministry to Christ and the church. We express our gratitude to them, and our thanks to God for their ministry. *(staff present invited to stand)*



Thank you!



- Loyal readers and supporters
- Passion and faithfulness
 - A blessing to the church



"Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!"

Thanks also to our *Bote* readers. They have been, and continue to be, loyal and strong supporters of the church.

They have experienced much, and given much, and in many significant ways have helped build and shape the church to become what it is today.

We thank you all for your passion and your faithfulness; for the way this ministry has been blessed and has been a blessing to so many;



Looking ahead...



- MC Canada and *Canadian Mennonite* connecting with *Der Bote* readers
- New this fall: expanded obituary section
- Subscription invitations to all readers

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The story may be changed but it is not over.

We are pleased to share that *Canadian Mennonite* and MC Canada are working together to continue connecting with *Bote* readers; --this Fall there will be a new, expanded obituary feature in *Canadian Mennonite*; and, they are offering subscriptions to all former *Bote* readers so they may continue to stay connected to the life and ministry of the church in Canada and around the world.



Holy God, we praise thy name



Holy God, we praise thy name.	Grosser Gott, wir loben dich!
Lord of all, we bow before thee.	Herr, wir preisen deine Stärke!
All on earth thy scepter claim;	Vor dir neigt die Erde sich
All in heav'n above adore thee.	und bewundert deine Werke.
Infinite they vast domain,	Wie du warst vor aller Zeit,
Everlasting is thy reign.	so bleibst du in Ewigkeit.

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Close with one verse of Holy God we Praise your Name—a song that is evocative for many Bote readers, of much in their life and faith experience.

Holy God, we praise thy name. Lord of all, we bow before thee.
All on earth thy scepter claim; All in heav'n above adore thee.
Infinite they vast domain, Everlasting is thy reign.

Grosser Gott, wir loben dich! Herr, wir preisen deine Stärke!
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