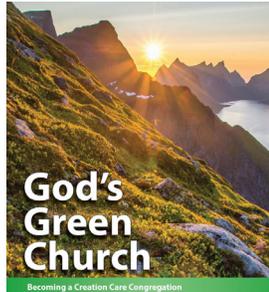


Despite another difficult year, I am grateful for continued efforts to resource our nationwide church and to connect us to our Indigenous neighbours and international partners:

- Congregations across the country again shared [weekly online worship services](#) with our nationwide community of faith from June until September.
- The Sustainability Leadership Group (SLG), together with students from The King's University in Edmonton, produced "[God's Green Church](#)," a resource to help our congregations become more sustainable communities.
- We have engaged with MC USA to update our ministerial misconduct policy (release forthcoming in Jan. 2022).



Here are highlights from our programs:

CommonWord

Bookstore and Resource Centre

CommonWord is your bookstore and resource centre, a nationwide ministry of Mennonite Church Canada. We help connect you with Anabaptist and related materials – to buy, borrow or access online at commonword.ca – that inspire, provoke, equip and engage. Don't let the pandemic keep you from reading or accessing new resources. Let CommonWord encourage your faith conversations:

- Peruse our carefully selected reading lists.
- Circulate bulk loan orders among your church members.
- Pick up our discounted Common Read titles.
- Attend our book launches (virtual and in-person).
- Engage children with our CommonWord Kids collection.

Indigenous-Settler Relations

- In June, more than one hundred people joined Mennonite Church Canada's [Be it Resolved Challenge](#), a group that committed itself to: 1) remembering the commitments Mennonites have made to Indigenous justice over the past 50 years and 2) making a personal pledge to live out specific "calls to action."
- For decades Indigenous activists and their allies (Mennonite Church Canada joined the effort in 2016) have advocated for UNDRIP to be recognized in Canadian law. On



June 21, 2021 - Indigenous Peoples Day - [Bill C-15](#), *An Act Respecting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, achieved Royal Assent. Implementation will take time, but C-15 should bring us closer to the

Declaration's vision of "harmonious and cooperative relations" rooted in justice and respect.

- Mennonite Church Canada, in partnership with regional church ISR working groups and [Christian Peacemaker Teams](#), supported Indigenous land and water defenders. We brought weekly meals and supplies, wrote [solidarity statements](#) and sent teams [out to the land](#), to be with, learn from and support Indigenous neighbours.



Esther Kern (front row middle) and David Janzen (right) visited Wet'suwet'en.

International Witness

- In July, IW hosted [an online conversation](#) with the Colombian Mennonite Church (IMCOL) to share our churches' responses to the discovery of unmarked graves at former Indian residential school sites in Canada and to ongoing violence against civilians in Colombia.



George and Tobia Veith.

- Witness workers George and Tobia Veith returned to Canada in the fall, [ending 30 years of service](#) in the greater China area. They spoke in churches from October (2021) to January (2022) sharing how they witnessed God at work.
- Witness worker Bock Ki Kim continued to train facilitators in restorative justice circle training at the Chuncheon Community Peace Center in South Korea. They are in high demand at local schools, with the police service and community groups.
- Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia has invited [Werner and Joanne De Jong \(MCA\)](#) to teach and support faculty development. After a lengthy delay due to visa issues, the De Jongs left for Ethiopia in mid-January (2022).



Werner and Joanne De Jong.

You can find our full annual report for 2021 at [CommonWord](#).

Blessings in 2022,

Doug Klassen
Executive Minister

