

Formation Committee Report 2025

Formation: This committee shall be responsible for:

- i) the education interests of the congregation, including Sunday School, activities for children, activities for youth, the library, audio visual aids and church periodicals;*
- ii) Deepening relationships and building community, including encouraging and facilitating the creation of small groups and coordinating church picnics, retreats and potlucks...*

We started 2025 by shaking off the chill of winter and organizing a progressive supper on January 25. At least thirty participants joined the fun as hosts and guests.

Twenty seven people attended our retreat weekend at Camp Koinonia from February 15-17. The weather was very cold, but the lodge was warm and inviting for fellowship, games and activities. Meal preparation, cooking and clean up was done by our group.

AMC continues to have a core group of children and youth regularly attending the “AMC kids” events, usually taking place Sunday morning before the worship service. We did not have specific curriculum for the first half of the year, allowing leaders to take the direction. For fall and into the new year we purchased the multi age Shine teachers guide. This makes it more approachable for new teachers. Youth are also taking turns teaching & helping in the class.

In early spring Erika met with the youth grade 7 and older for baptism discussion with the curriculum “Water washed and Spirit Born”. June 22nd was Baptism Sunday for Emily, Leo and Sydney as well as grad recognition for Sean. In lieu of a “church picnic” a BBQ lunch was served on the church yard. It was memorable as the rainy morning weather pushed the lunch inside and the power outage push it back outside!

Mentorship relationships with youth and AMC adults continue with varied regularity. The youth has not had regular meetings this fall and there is opportunity for someone to step into Sunday morning times with the kids. They have been meeting monthly with Margruite for activities and conversation.

Many of our young people participated in Camp this summer. Many thanks to the generous anonymous donor for paying camp fees. Six youth and Erika went to Matheson Island as part of a joint venture with Altona Bergthaler Church in late July for the second year. In preparation for this both youth groups hosted a fundraising lunch at AMC in May. It was wonderful to have a full house and raised \$6400! There was a service weekend opportunity at Matheson Island May 23-25. Many repair and maintenance tasks were completed.

Thank you to all who participate in the adult discussion group on Sunday mornings. This self-lead group resumed in fall and has discussed articles from the Canadian Mennonite, MAID, and AMC membership and constitution. We would encourage you to sit in one Sunday.

In November we organized AMC’s Fun (fundraising) Fall evening. It was wonderful to have 35 people attend the auction and raise \$3000 for the general budget. Shout out to Auctioneer Myron for the many laughs!

Julia continues to serve as our librarian. Many books have been culled and new (or new to us) books purchased. The accessible library space in the foyer sees regular turn over and is a welcoming space to feature books. There is continued work in the basement library space. Thank you for serving us in this capacity.

We look forward to 2026 as we continue to plan, serve and provide meaningful, community building times for all at Altona Mennonite. We appreciate your suggestions and initiatives for building community and extending hospitality. Thank you for your support and participation.

On behalf of the AMC formation committee,
Andrea Hildebrand, Margrute Krahn, Julia Thiessen