



## Mennonite World Conference

A Community of Anabaptist related Churches

## Congreso Mundial Menonita

Una Comunidad de Iglesias Anabautistas

## Conférence Mennonite Mondiale

Une Communauté d'Eglises Anabaptistes



### Report to **CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCHES – 2021**

*Mennonite World Conference (MWC) is called to be a communion of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service and witness.*

#### GIVING THANKS:

- MWC is our Anabaptist global church with more than 1.4 million baptized believers in 107 national member churches, including Be In Christ Canada. Learn about our global Christ-centred faith community by visiting our [website](#) and [signing up](#) for the monthly online [MWC Info](#) newsletter, bimonthly [Prayer Network](#) and the biannual [Courier/Correo/Courrier](#) magazine.
- Together we are the church, the body of Christ here on earth, and together we witness to **hope** in challenging times through the grace of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit. Along with the apostle Paul, we can take comfort in God's assurance: *"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness"* (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- Learn how the global church walked alongside one-another in the [2020 Year-in-Review Video](#).

#### GETTING INVOLVED:

With your support, MWC's four Commissions create connections between our members:

##### The [Deacons Commission](#):

Up to the end of December 2020, the [MWC COVID-19](#) fund has supported 47 humanitarian initiatives carried out by 53 national Anabaptist churches in 28 countries, with a total project value of US\$444,711. *"Covid-19 has no borders. The only way to end this pandemic is with global cooperation. The only valid response from the global church is one of interdependent compassion. May we respond today as our forebears of the early church did."* – César Garcia, MWC General Secretary.

##### The [Mission Commission](#):

Members of the [Global Anabaptist Service Network \(GASN\)](#) and the [Global Mission Fellowship \(GMF\)](#) brought supplies and solace to their communities during the pandemic – often helped by grants from the COVID-19 task force. (GMF represents 71 members in 36 countries in the Global Mission Fellowship and GASN has 59 members in 29 countries.)

##### The [Faith and Life Commission](#):

Five years of [Lutheran-Mennonite-Roman Catholic Trilateral dialogue](#) examined baptism in light of contemporary pastoral and missional challenges facing all three Christian communities. The report published this year *"raises the question for each of these churches: are there ways of acknowledging our different practices of baptism that grow the unity for which Jesus prayed?"* says Mennonite delegation member Larry Miller. The commission is developing a study guide for churches to explore the implications of the report and act on its recommendations.



GKMI Synod of Indonesia distributed COVID-19 relief supplies on Sumba Island, Indonesia. Photo: Agus Mayanto



Congregations in Honduras, Germany and India made Peace Trees following the suggestion in last year's Peace Sunday worship package. Photo: Barbara Hege Galle

## The Peace Commission:

2020's Peace Sunday resources have the theme *When one member suffers, all members suffer: Peace as accompaniment and solidarity* "If we are interested in embodying God's peace and justice in this world, what happens to one affects and should also matter to others," says Andrew Suderman, Peace Commission secretary.

Commission members are volunteers from around the world who represent the General Council and bring expertise in caring, mission, service, theology and peace work for our 107 national church members. Thank you for helping them in this important work.

We are grateful for the CCMBC congregations that are joining Anabaptist churches around the globe in worship by participating in Peace Sunday and Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday, and taking up a One Lunch Offering to support the ministry of our global Anabaptist church family.

Thank you for your generous support of the MWC community through the CCMBC, from congregations and individual donors!

## PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND INTERCESSION

- MWC leadership including MWC General Secretary César García, and the MWC Executive Committee met virtually April 28-29, 2021. Pray for their ongoing work and discernment.
- Pray for and plan to attend: MWC Global Assembly in Semarang, Indonesia (July 5-10, 2022); and Global Youth Summit (age 18+) in Salatiga, Indonesia (July 1-4, 2022). These events take place every six years; and this will be the second time in Asia. Theme: *Following Jesus Together Across Barriers*.
- As churches face persecution, natural disasters, political turmoil and conflict, the presence and identification with the global Anabaptist church is an essential means of support, encouragement and resources to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior and brother.



*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need"* (Romans 12:12).

In Christ's peace,

*Gerald Hildebrand*

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