

A People of Diversity: Mennonites in Canada since 1970

November 15 – 17, 2018

**The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada's
50th Anniversary Conference**

Hosted by the Center for Transnational Mennonite Studies

U. Winnipeg

FREE ATTENDANCE | REGISTER AT CONFERENCE

This anniversary conference focuses on the increased diversity of Mennonites in Canada since 1970. Listen to stories of new ethnic identities, crossing old boundaries, and new ways of thinking about faith, culture, and socio-political issues. Consider their implications on being “Mennonite” in the 21st century.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MHSC 50TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Location: Mennonite Heritage Archives (610 Shaftesbury Blvd)

Open to the public

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

RECEPTION FOR PRESENTERS, SESSION CHAIRS, AND MHSC BOARD MEMBERS

Location: University Club, 4th Floor Wesley Hall, U. Winnipeg

FEATURED EVENING I: KEYNOTE ADDRESS

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Eckhardt Gramatte Hall, 3rd Floor Centennial Building

Chair and Conference Introduction, Royden Loewen, Chair in Mennonite Studies

- Ted Regehr, U. Calgary, “A 50th Year Retrospective”
- **Keynote Address:** Marlene Epp, Conrad Grebel University College, “The Intersectional Mennonite and Writing Inclusive Histories: Cookbook as Metaphor”

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16:

Location: Convocation Hall, 2nd Floor Wesley Hall Building

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Conference Welcome: Annette Trimbee, President, U. Winnipeg

INDIGENEITY, MISSION, AND COLONIALISM

Chair: Joe Wiebe, U. Alberta

- Daniel Sims, U. Alberta, “‘Accrued Many Rights:’ The Ingenika Tsay Keh Nay and Mennonite and Catholic Missionaries”
- Melanie Kampen, Toronto School of Theology, “‘They shout peace! peace! When there is no peace’: Colonialism and a Trauma-Informed Theology”
- Brian Froese, CMU (hereafter CMU), “Evolving Conceptions of Service: Mennonites and Missions in Post-1960s British Columbia”

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Coffee

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AN ANABAPTIST AGRICULTURE

Chair: Kenton Lobe, CMU

- Jake Buhler, MHS Sask., and Nettie Wiebe, National Farmers Union, “Eldorado Nuclear and the Farmers of Warman, Saskatchewan”
- Jodey Nurse-Gupta, U. Waterloo, “Mennonites vs Red Tape: The Milk Marketing Board and Old Order Mennonites in Ontario”
- Royden Loewen, U. Winnipeg, “Chemical Champions and Biotic Believers: Divergence on Manitoba’s Earth”

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Break for Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Chair: Val Hiebert, Providence University College

- Lucille Marr, McGill University, “Movement and Dance: Women from the Anabaptist/Mennonite Communities in Quebec”
- Irma Fast Dueck, CMU, “Helping the Church be Church: Listening to LGBTQ Voices in MC Canada”
- Carol Penner, Conrad Grebel University College, “Women Moving Into Ministry: A Canadian Mennonite Press Survey”

3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Coffee

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

RE-IMAGINING EDUCATION

Chair: Lloyd Kornelsen, U. Winnipeg

- Bruce Guenther, Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, “From Bible School to University: A Changing Educational Tradition”
- Robyn Sneath, U. Oxford, “Citizenship, Religion, and Minority Education: The Old Colony Mennonites of Southern Manitoba”

- Janice Harper, U. Waterloo, “The Elmira Life and Work School: Collaborating with a Publicly Funded School Board”

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Break for Dinner

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

FEATURED EVENING II: CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Location: Convocation Hall, 2nd Floor Wesley Hall Building

Chair: Eliakim Sibanda, U. Winnipeg

- Stephanie Phetsamay Stobbe, Menno Simons College, “The Role of Mennonites in the Lives of Southeast Asian Refugees”
- Paul Lam, Vancouver, “Chinese Mennonite Brethren Churches in Vancouver.”
- Zacharie Leclair, Université de Montreal, “From Radical Revival to Slow Gentrification: the MB Church at Sainte-Thérèse, Quebec”
- Rich Janzen, Centre for Community Based Research, “Pathways to Cultural Diversity in Canadian Mennonite Congregations”

Reception to Follow

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Location: Convocation Hall, 2nd Floor Wesley Hall Building

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

PRESERVING A PAST

Chair: Aileen Friesen, D. F. Plett Foundation/ U. Winnipeg

- Sam Steiner, GAMEO, “From Separation to Diversity: The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, 1968-2018”
- Conrad Stoesz, Mennonite Heritage Archives, “Corporate Memory and the Mennonite Archives: A Retrospective since 1967”
- Jenna Klassen, U. Winnipeg/Mennonite Heritage Village, “Artifacts of Migration in the Memory of Immigrant Children”

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Coffee

10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

CONTESTING CONVENTION

Chair: Carlos Colorado, U. Winnipeg

- Paul Doerksen, CMU, “Developing a ‘More Honest Anabaptist Political Theology’?”
- Laureen Harder-Gissing, Conrad Grebel University College, “Canadian Mennonites at the Edges of Activism, 1970-1990s”
- Janis Thiessen, U. Winnipeg, “John Braun and the Radical Mennonite Union”
- Andrew E. Dyck, CMU, “Mennonite Brethren Encounters with Ignatian, Benedictine, and Taizé Communities.”

12:15 – 1:15 p.m. Break for Lunch

1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

MENNONITE IDENTITIES

Chair: Ken Warkentin, Mennonite Church Manitoba

- Brian Cooper, Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, “What’s in a Name?: The Canadian Mennonite Brethren and the Struggle for Direction”
- Jeremy Wiebe, U. Waterloo, “Official Multiculturalism and the Celebration of Ethnicity during the Manitoba Mennonite Centennial”
- Christine Kampen Robinson, Winnipeg, “The Poetry of *Mensajes Schriewen*: Texting in the Construction of a *Dietsche* Space”
- Richard Lougheed, École de Théologie Évangélique du Québec, “Mennonite Mission in Quebec since 1956: A Diversity within a Diversity”

3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Coffee

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

YOUTH AND GENERATION

Chair: Karla Braun, Mennonite World Conference

- Gil Dueck, Columbia Bible College, “Conceptualizing the Millennial: Questions of Theology and Identity”
- Barb Draper, *Canadian Mennonite*, “Ontario Plain People’s Youth: Growth and Diversification”
- Peter Epp, CMU, “It’s Like Dating Around: Mennonite Young Adults, Baptism and the Church”

5:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Conference Reflections: Steven Nolt, Mennonite Historical Society (USA)

Thank yous: Conference Planning Committee

CONFERENCE DETAILS:

Lodging:

- Holiday Inn, 360 Colony St.
Phone: 204-786-7011
*Ask for special U. Winnipeg (Mennonite Studies Conference) rates.

Parking:

- ANX Parkade off of Colony St.
- Impark parking lots around the University
- Hudson’s Bay Parkade on Memorial Blvd
- Street parking also available

Food:

- Stella's, The Buhler Centre
- Elements, Richardson College for the Environment and Science Complex
- Riddell Hall Cafeteria, Centennial Building
- Starbucks, AnX Building
- Garbonzo's, AnX Building
- The University Club, Wesley Hall
- Dozens of restaurants near campus

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Planning Committee: Marlene Epp, Brian Froese, Bruce Guenther, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Royden Loewen, Lucille Marr, and Conrad Stoesz.

Special Thanks: Andrea Dyck and U. Winnipeg student volunteers

Future Mennonite Studies conferences: **2019** Mennonites and Anthropology: Faith, Ethnography, and Cultural Entanglements; **2020** MCC at 100: Mennonites, Service and the Humanitarian Impulse

JOURNAL OF MENNONITE STUDIES

Selected, peer-reviewed papers from this conference will be published in the 2019 *Journal of Mennonite Studies*.

For more information, visit: jmw.uwinnipeg.ca

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2017 Mennonite/s Writing VIII; **2016** Mennonites, Land and the Environment; **2015** Mennonites, Medicine and the Body; **2014** Ex-Mennonite/Near Mennonite; **2013** MCC in Canada at 50; **2012** Mennonites, Human Rights and State Power; **2011** Anti-Modern 'Horse and Buggy' Pathways; **2010** Mennonites in Siberia; **2010** Mennonite/s Writing; **2009** Mennonites, Melancholy and Mental Health; **2008** Mennonites and Money; **2007** Family and Sexuality; **2006** War and the Conscientious Objector; **2005** North American Mennonite Historiography; **2004** Refugee Newcomers; **2003** Mennonite Studies: A 25th Anniversary Conference; **2002** Mennonites and the City; **2001** Mennonite-Aboriginal Relations; **2000** Return of the Kanadier; **1999** 1874 Revisited; **1998** EnGendering the Past; **1997** Mennonites and the Soviet Inferno; **1996** Mennonites as a People Transformed; **1995-1983** Various Themes