



Thank you for your partnership in the MCEC Area Church community of congregations during the past year. Our theme for 2009 has been **Extending the Peace of Jesus Christ: Growing Congregations**. The stories below share a small picture of how God has formed disciples within the MCEC community of congregations.

As an area church . . .

MCEC Report on Ministry 2009
 Extending the Peace of Jesus Christ: Growing Congregations



MCEC embraced four new congregations as they officially came into fellowship with the MCEC community of congregations. The Church of the Living Word in Ottawa, Markham Christian Worship Centre, Rehoboth Evangelical Church (Toronto), and Chin Christian Church (Kitchener) were received and welcomed at the 2009 MCEC Annual Church Gathering. In a moving and sacred moment, a pastor or lead elder from each of the new congregations offered a prayer of blessing in their own language for the churches of MCEC.



MCEC celebrated the Christian presence that two congregations have provided to their communities for many years as they both held their final worship services. Warden Woods Mennonite Church (Toronto) and Welcome Inn Church (Hamilton) officially closed their doors after much discernment and prayer. May God be praised for the lives impacted and changed by the faithful ministry of the members of these congregations. (Welcome Inn Community Centre continues its ministry.)



MCEC was strengthened by meeting together as a community. The Annual Church Gathering in the spring focussed on the Congregational Life Cycle. Led by Betty Pries, Associates Resourcing the Church, stories were shared of real life congregational transitions. Observations emerged that prayer is essential in the face of congregational transitions and that discerning God's will involves discipline and time. The Fall Consultation on the Life of the Church moved us deeper into the practice of discernment in the church. Jack Suderman and Sue Steiner led participants through a discernment "exercise." A consensus developed that the Church's vocation is to be a discerning community that is not afraid, but bold.



MCEC was resourced through events like Jr. Youth Breakaway, Youth Bible Quizzing, and School for Ministers. A relatively new program, Transitioning into Ministry (TiM), continues to mature and grow, providing support to pastors who are new to their ministry and to the congregations who support them.



Thank you for the support that your congregation gives towards the MCEC ministries that touch the lives of many people. We are grateful for your congregation's commitment to this ministry both through your prayers and your financial partnership. Thank you!

David Martin
 Executive Minister