



## MCEC Report on Ministry 2011 Extending the Peace of Jesus Christ: Growing Congregations



Thank you for your partnership in the MCEC Area Church community of congregations during the past year. This past year we have focused on what the Spirit is saying to the churches. The stories below share a small picture of how God's Spirit is speaking and moving within the MCEC community of congregations.

### What is the Spirit Saying To The Churches?

God's Spirit nudged seven individuals to share at the Annual Church Gathering what they felt God's Spirit was saying to the churches. Each shared a letter to the church and we were encouraged to renew our confidence in the presence of God at work in the world. We were reminded to remember our radical beginnings and return to our first love. These letters are now available from MCEC as a DVD and Study Guide.

God's Spirit challenged participants at the MCEC Fall Equipping Day to speak more boldly in their congregations about Christian values in relation to money and generosity. Nathan Dungan, a generosity consultant, showed how his book *Money Sanity* can be used by youth, families, and study groups to explore how God wants us to be wise consumers and generous givers.

God's Spirit spoke to 118 persons representing 50 congregations as they gathered at regional consultations to discern questions of faith formation. Materials from the six meetings are currently being processed and a full summary will be provided to all MCEC congregations.

God's Spirit guided six congregations as they engaged the unique life cycle of their congregation. We rejoice in healthy beginnings and healthy endings.

- **Freedom Gospel Ethiopian Church** (Toronto, ON) was welcomed as an Emerging Congregation within MCEC. This group of 50-55 people meets at Danforth Mennonite Church under the leadership of Pastor Ashenafi Fulase.
- **Refuge de Paix** (Sherbrooke, QC) was also welcomed as an Emerging Congregation. Originally from Latin America, Refuge de Paix is a group of 25-40 people led by Pastor Lucy Roca. Meeting since 2006, they offer love, teaching, and support for new immigrants to Canada.
- **The Gathering Church** (Kitchener, ON) moved into Full Congregational Status within the MCEC community. The Gathering became an emerging congregation in 2006. Through neighbourhood events and contemporary worship, this congregation reaches out to people new to the Christian faith.
- **Église Évangélique Mennonite de Rawdon** (Rawdon, QC) closed in 2011 after 29 years of ministry in Rawdon, a small bilingual town north of Montreal. Due to declining membership, Rawdon held its final service on June 5, 2011.
- **Vision Mennonite Church** (London, ON) began when a small number of Korean Christian began worshipping at Valleyview Mennonite Church in 2000. As families have moved away from the London area, membership at the congregation decreased. The congregation held its final service on October 2, 2011.
- **Toronto United Lao Mennonite** merged with Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church in the fall of 2011. The congregation will continue ministering to the Laotian community of Toronto under the name Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church.

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