

# PURPOSE, VISION, AND PRIORITIES

Building on our purpose to “Extend the Peace of Jesus Christ,” the Executive Council has created a vision statement and named several strategic priorities to guide MCEC’s participation in God’s mission to the world. This will be presented for information and feedback at the Annual Church Gathering.

## Purpose

Extending the peace of Jesus Christ:

- making disciples
  - growing congregations
  - forming leaders

## Vision

Guided and energized by the Spirit, the MCEC community of congregations will share leadership and resources that are needed for our congregations to creatively and prophetically participate in God’s mission in the world.

## Strategic Priorities

### 1. Forming an Anabaptist Identity and Spirituality<sup>1</sup>

The MCEC community of congregations will respond to the deep yearning in our constituency for renewed spiritual depth and new ways of being church. We will support pastors and lay leaders as they guide congregations to deeper Anabaptist understandings of church and the life of the Spirit.

*<sup>1</sup>But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love. Ephesians 4:15-16*

### 2. Supporting Congregational Vitality and Mission<sup>2</sup>

The MCEC community of congregations will support congregational leaders in fostering vital and healthy faith communities that are active participants in God’s mission in the world.

*<sup>2</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ... [for] you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. 1 Peter 2:4,5,9*

### 3. Uniting Behind God’s Ministry of Reconciliation<sup>3</sup>

The MCEC community of congregations will cultivate relationships and understandings that unite us in God’s ministry. As ambassadors of reconciliation, we will celebrate the rich diversity of theology, spirituality, ethnicity, and leadership styles that are present in the body of Christ.

*<sup>3</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20*