



MANITOBA  
MULTIFAITH  
COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Pursuant to By-Law No.1 of MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, Inc. (2011),  
notice is given for its ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to take place via a "virtual" format (Zoom):

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 7:00 pm

To receive the reports of the President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Committees of MMC, and Auditor(s);  
to appoint auditors; to elect the Board of Directors; and to consider and transact any other MMC business.



"Summer Dreamscape 2" by Char Vanderhorst "I enjoy painting nature – striving to capture their beauty in its purest form. Painting landscapes which connect me to the natural sacredness of the earth. I love to incorporate symbols of plants, water, skies, and trees that represents healing, life, wisdom, and harmony." Acrylic on canvas; 16" x 16"; [www.charvanderhorst.com](http://www.charvanderhorst.com)

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

*To operate exclusively as a charitable organization for the purpose of promoting interfaith and multifaith dialogue and understanding, and to educate the public about world religions and to promote collaboration amongst people of faith in order to foster the well-being of the community as a whole.*

MMC Articles of Incorporation, 2011

## MISSION

*The Manitoba Multifaith Council exists to promote multifaith dialogue and understanding, while collaborating to serve the community as a whole.*

## VISION

*People of diverse faiths working together to build a just and caring society.*

Adopted by MMC Board of Directors, 2017

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

*With this Annual Report, Manitoba Multifaith Council acknowledges that we gather on Treaty One Land, in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.*

*We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.*

*May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with its peoples.*

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### MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL

PO Box 69017 RPO Tuxedo Park WINNIPEG MB R3P 2G9

Charity BN/Registration #80122 8602 RR0001





## 2020-2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Pursuant to **BY-LAW NO.1** of **MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, Inc.** (2011), and with concurrence of the **MMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, formal notice is hereby given for the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of **MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, Inc.** to be held **via Zoom** on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, at 7:00 pm** (Central Time – Canada).

**The purpose of said meeting is to receive the reports of the President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Committees of MMC, and Auditor(s); to appoint auditors; to elect the Board of Directors; and to consider and transact any other MMC business.**

  
Ray Harris, Secretary

  
Payam Towfigh, President

  
Belle Jarniewski, Past President

Approved by **MMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
and dated at **WINNIPEG, Manitoba, on August 8, 2021.**

After the business portion of the meeting, program will include a presentation by **John Longhurst, 2021 Lieutenant Governor Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding: "Religion in the News: A Winnipeg Multifaith Success Story"**



To register for this AGM:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpc-CppzlvGdGFL8SOgogaeTORZippfxF>



An **ANNUAL REPORT** is currently being compiled, and will be made available, via our regular emailing, **MMC CONNECTS**, the weekend prior to the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**.

*Manitoba Multifaith Council acknowledges that we gather on Treaty One Land, in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with its peoples.*



PO Box 69017 RPO Tuxedo Park WINNIPEG MB R3P 2G9  
<https://manitobamultifaith.ca> [www.facebook.com/manitobamultifaithcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/manitobamultifaithcouncil)

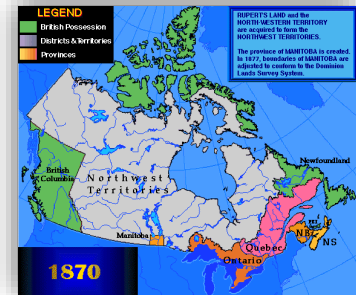


# 150 Days of Solidarity, Reconciliation and Prayer



July 15<sup>th</sup> – December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

This year marks 150 years since Manitoba became Canada's fifth province. Because of the current COVID-19 situation which continues to evolve, our provincial officials have announced that all Manitoba 150 initiated events are being paused until 2021. In the meantime, while official Manitoba 150 festivities are suspended until a later date, the members of the Manitoba Multifaith Council are inviting Manitobans of all various faith traditions and those of no formal faith observance to consider joining with us in **"150 Days of Solidarity, Reconciliation and Prayer"** as we consider the past, present and future blessings and challenges encountered by the citizens of our beloved province.



From the outset, the Manitoba Multifaith Council would like to express gratitude to the many Manitobans who have stepped forward to help each other through this very challenging time. We appreciate our front-line workers – our healthcare workers, educators, cleaners, grocery staff, letter carriers, security staff, police, fire fighters, staff in personal care and assisted living facilities, local mask and PPE makers, etc. We appreciate the many staff and volunteers who have provided care for the most vulnerable among us, including those delivering meals, making phone calls to those who are “home alone” and so much more.

Just over 100 years ago, another pandemic swept through Manitoba and left approximately 1200 Winnipeggers dead out of a population which at the time numbered 180,000. A century ago, many came together to help— then like now—often risking or even sacrificing their own lives in the process. At a time before socialized medicine, according to historian Essylt Jones, *“workers often created their own health care institutions, including old-age homes, clinics, and hospitals,”* given their understanding of *“not only the humanitarian value of such endeavors but also their instrumental value in recruiting and retaining members.”* Formal mutual aid was organized within ethnic and faith communities and provincial government records show that *“Winnipeg had approximately forty functioning mutual benefit organizations.”* Informal networks of mutual aid also existed in 1918, such as family associations, as well as financial help in North End neighborhoods *“in the form of credit from local shopkeepers, already a common practice.”*



Winnipeg Free Press newspaper carriers wore masks in a bid to guard against the Spanish Flu pandemic  
L.B. Foote photo/Winnipeg Free Press Archives

In 2020, members of our faith communities and members of the community at large have reached out in many ways – from thinking out-of-the-box on ways to keep in touch, to providing safe opportunities for worship, to raising funds to help those in need. The Manitoba Multifaith Council thanks Manitobans across the province for their important work throughout these uncertain times and for your support of one another.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks writes, that *“loss teaches us to value things, though usually too late. What we have, and then lose, we do not take for granted. The religious vision is not about seeing things that are not there. It is about seeing the things that are there and always were, but which we never noticed, or paid attention to. Faith is a form of attention. It is a sustained meditation on the miraculousness of what is, because it might not have been. What we lose and are given back we learn to cherish in a way we would not have done had we never lost it in the first place. Faith is about not taking things for granted.”*



Words like these are more meaningful than ever today. So many of the everyday things we took for granted are—at least for the moment—no longer all available to us. We hope that this pandemic will eventually be behind us and that we can return to at least a semblance of normalcy. Hopefully, when that time comes, we will remember what and whom we missed and remember to be grateful for every opportunity. Hopefully, we will remember the kindness and courage of the many people who risked their own health in order to keep us safe and continue to honour them and to emulate their courage and generosity. And hopefully, we will cherish the miraculousness of every day.

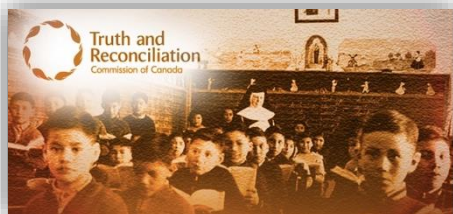


Besides reflecting on the situation of the current pandemic in our province and across the globe, we do well to also reflect on the 150-year history of our province. As noted by the Manitoba 150 Host Committee Co-Chairs, *“since our earliest days, Manitobans have shown a strong sense of community in the face of change and have grown stronger and more connected as a result of it. From the First Nations who called this place home for thousands of years; to the birth of the Métis Nation, whose leader Louis Riel protected the rights of all who lived here while ushering Manitoba into Confederation; to the arrival of generations of newcomers, everyone has contributed and continues to contribute to making Manitoba the great province it is today.”*

Nevertheless, we readily acknowledge there is always more good to be done. We know that our 150-year history as a province is not without its painful moments and struggles which continue into the present day. With humble contrition for past failures and with great hope for the future, the members of the diverse faith communities of our province remain committed to work together with all Manitobans to build an even better province in the days, months and years to come.

To that end, in commemoration of Manitoba’s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, on July 15, 2020 we will begin **“150 Days of Solidarity, Reconciliation and Prayer.”** We invite all Manitobans to join with us, in a spirit of solidarity and in recognition of our common humanity, to mark these 150 days in whatever ways each may find appropriate according to their conscience and preferred spiritual outlook.

Those coming from faith traditions where prayer and fasting is seen as an apt approach may wish to join some of us in setting aside Wednesdays as a special day for such an effort. Others might choose to meditate or do some reflective reading on a regular basis in support of the cause. Keeping in mind “Truth and Reconciliation” and the “Calls to Action,” let us all continue to work together for healing with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. As circumstances permit, we invite all Manitobans to be creative and generous in making various efforts to reach out to their neighbours in acts of kindness and solidarity.



During these **“150 Days of Solidarity, Reconciliation and Prayer,”** we invite all citizens of our province to participate at least in some small way, trusting that, through our collaboration spiritually and practically, we can and will build together a more just and caring society. May Manitobans continue to draw closer to one another and rejoice in the gifts of peace, hope and love both now and in the future.

Over the next few months, the Manitoba Multifaith Council will do its best to collate and post on its website up to 150 suitable practical suggestions for the **“150 Days of Solidarity, Reconciliation and Prayer.”**

For further information: [150days.manitobamultifaith@gmail.com](mailto:150days.manitobamultifaith@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/manitobamultifaithcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/manitobamultifaithcouncil)





INVITATION FOR NOMINATIONS

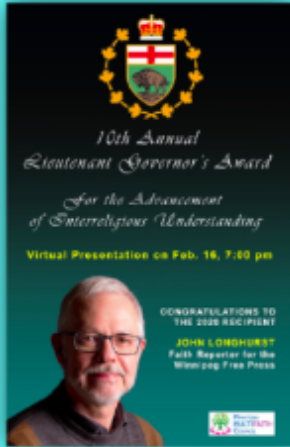
### Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding

Each year, under the patronage of the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, the Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding is presented to recognize the contributions of an individual member of Manitoba's various religious communities toward greater interfaith understanding and harmony among the religious communities in the

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### Manitoba Multifaith Council (MMC) is pleased to announce John Longhurst as recipient of this year's Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding.

John has been a *Winnipeg Free Press* Faith Page columnist since 2003. Today, it is the only Faith page remaining in Canada. Much of the credit for its continued existence can be attributed to an initiative by John and the *Winnipeg Free Press*. In March 2019, John reached out to faith groups across Winnipeg in a bid to help provide financial support in order to preserve news reporting on faith communities. Some 17 faith-based groups have lent their support to the project, and this has meant that John's reports are no longer limited to the Saturday edition of the paper. *Winnipeg Free Press* readers have learned more about the

activities and contributions of faith groups, and attendance has increased at events presented by these communities. In consequence, the diverse audiences at these events fostered dialogue and understanding. It is particularly during the time of this COVID-19 that John's work has been particularly prominent, appreciated, and helpful. John has written extensively on the response of faith groups and "pivots" that so many have had to make in these challenging times, as well as noting COVID stories that have shone a light on the generosity of Winnipeg faith communities without shying away from writing about the thankfully rare examples where groups have behaved in ways that have endangered others. John has also encouraged Manitobans to support front-line workers.

As the only daily newspaper in Canada with reporters dedicated to covering religion, the *Free Press* occupies a unique position of being able to document, on a weekly basis, the impact of this global pandemic on faith communities, along with responses from people of faith. All of this comes in large part due to John's vision and commitment who recognized the importance of faith awareness, understanding and education for Manitobans.

*"In this province where we so proudly embrace multiculturalism, Mr. Longhurst's vision, passion and commitment to bring voices from our diverse religious and cultural communities together, truly exemplifies the spirit of this award,"* said Her Honour, Lt.-Gov. Janice C. Filmon. *"It will be my pleasure to formally recognize Mr. Longhurst for his work in building harmony and understanding in our province, our country, our world."* Indeed, for decades, John has served as advocate and chronicler in the fields of Christian ecumenism, and interreligious dialogue and understanding. Most of his engagement over the course of his career has been avocational: a labour of love. The breadth of vision attained through his international work has opened his heart and mind to diversity in such a way as to make him a champion for the interfaith enterprise in Manitoba and across Canada. He is committed to a "level playing field" for religious expression and religious freedom.



# MMC ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021 and AGM AGENDA

## 1. OPENING BUSINESS

- 1.1. Welcome, [ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TERRITORY, DECLARATION OF QUORUM](#), OPENING PRAYER
- 1.2. Adoption of AGENDA
- 1.3. Adoption of [MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING](#)

Payam Towfigh  
Belle Jarniewski  
Ruth Ashrafi  
Ray Harris

MOTION 2021-1

MOTION 2021-2

## 2. REPORTS of the [PRESIDENT, STANDING COMMITTEES, AFFILIATE PARTNERS](#) and [MEMBERSHIP REPORT](#)

Payam Towfigh  
Christine Baronins  
Ruth Ashrafi  
Bernie Mullins  
/Larry Campbell  
Julie Turenne-  
Maynard /Ron  
Long  
Paul Peters Derry

MOTION 2021-3

## 3. [FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

Paul Peters Derry

MOTION 2021-4

MOTION 2021-5

## 4. [NOMINATIONS REPORT](#)

Ray Harris

MOTION 2021-6

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

Payam Towfigh

## 6. CLOSING BUSINESS, including [INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS](#) for 2021-22

Diane Dwarka

## 7. PROGRAM

- MUSICAL OFFERINGS by Rachel Landrecht, voice, and Neil Weisensel, piano
- REMARKS, Q & A from Recipient of this year's [Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding](#) "RELIGION IN THE NEWS: A WINNIPEG MULTIFAITH SUCCESS STORY"

Ruth Ashrafi

Christine Baronins  
John Longhurst

## 8. [ADJOURNMENT](#)

Payam Towfigh

MOTION 2021-7

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# MMC ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, INC. (2011) ■ BY-LAW NO. 1

With amendments reviewed and adopted by MMC Board of Directors, 04-May-20, confirmed 14-Sep-20.

## **7.0 GENERAL, ANNUAL, AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

### **7.1 General Meetings**

General Meetings of the Council shall consist of members of MMC.

GENERAL,  
ANNUAL,  
SPECIAL  
MEETINGS OF  
THE COUNCIL

General  
Meetings

### **7.2 Quorum<sup>23</sup>**

7.2.1 Meetings of the membership shall take place only if one third (1/3) of the members in good standing are present.

7.2.2 Policy Resolutions shall be adopted only if approved by

- a) a majority of members present, and
- b) a majority of the faith communities whose membership dues have been paid in full by March 31<sup>st</sup> of that year.

Quorum for  
Meetings  
of the  
membership

### **7.3 Annual General Meeting**

7.3.1 The Annual General Meeting of MMC shall be held within Manitoba normally in the month of May. The purpose of the AGM is to receive the reports of the President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Committees of MMC, and Auditor(s); to appoint auditors; to elect the Board of Directors; and to consider and transact any other MMC business.

7.3.2 Notice of the Annual General Meeting should be given at least twenty (20) days in advance. The non-receipt of notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings.<sup>24</sup>

7.3.3 Printed and digital copies of the Annual Report shall be made available via the MMC website, and to any Member upon request, at least seven (7) days in advance of the date set for the Annual General Meeting.<sup>25</sup>

Annual  
General  
Meeting

### **7.4 Special Meetings**

7.4.1 A Special Meeting of MMC may be held as determined by resolution of the Board.

7.4.2 The Board shall call a Special Meeting of MMC on written requisition of the Faith Community Membership carrying not less than 20 percent of the voting rights.

7.4.3 Notice of any Meeting where special business will be transacted should contain sufficient information to permit the member to form a reasoned judgment on the decision to be taken, and should be given at least twenty (20) days in advance. The non-receipt of any notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings.

Special  
Meetings

### **7.5 Voting Rights**

7.5.1 Every member shall have one vote.

7.5.2 There shall be no proxy voting.<sup>26</sup>

Voting  
Rights



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

This past year was perhaps the biggest universal challenge humanity has faced in generations. Our normal ways of life have changed for many years to come. MMC also has not been immune from disruptions of normal life that COVID-19 has caused. Our vision is about people of diverse faith, working together to build a just and caring society. Our work had to take a different shape and form this year and we pressed forward.



As we shifted our board and committee meetings online and switched our activities and events to digital platforms, we lost the face-to-face human connection. However, I am grateful that the new technologies enabled us to carry out our work quite effectively.

This past year, we had a few exciting online events. One of those events was the annual Lieutenant Governor's award online. Although we had our doubts about moving it online, we collaborated with her office to make it happen. We were able to create a space honouring John Longhurst for his many years of dedicated work on reporting faith-based activities in our city with this award. We proved that there is a place for new digital formats to promote such events. I was also pleased to see our board agreeing to explore how we can create a similar award on a national level.



Our second major online event was in collaboration with the Canadian Interfaith Conversation. This event was originally going to take place in the Canadian Human Rights Museum, but had to be moved to a virtual format. The title of "*Free to Believe, Responsible to Act*" was a very relevant topic to discuss during these challenging times. We hope we are able to have this national event in CMHR next year when we hope to be involved with its programing and promotions again.

Our committees this year were also busy adjusting their activities with the new realities. Our **Justice and Corrections, Education, Community Relations** and **Spiritual Health Committees** have all been involved in various activities this year and I would like to thank their members for their work. It is great to see that our website has been re-established after a few years of absence.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am also pleased to report that our board's financial position is strong. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our treasurer, Paul Peters Derry, for his work in this regard. I would like to thank our secretary, Ray Harris, for his many hours of looking after the affairs of the board. I would also like to thank past president, Belle Jarniewski, for her continuous commitment to the works of our board.

In addition to dealing with COVID-19, we faced other horrifying tragedies this year that moved us to take action to promote a conversation and discourse within our communities. These unfortunate events included the eruption of violence in Gaza and Israel, the targeted attack on a Muslim family in London, Ontario, and the discovery of the remains of Indigenous children on the grounds of many former Indian Residential Schools.

I was moved to see that two members of our board, one from the Jewish and the other from the Muslim communities, collaborated and provided a statement that was printed in the *Winnipeg Free Press* to address the violence in the Middle East and in Canada, and invited all of us to look for peaceful solutions for these ongoing problems.

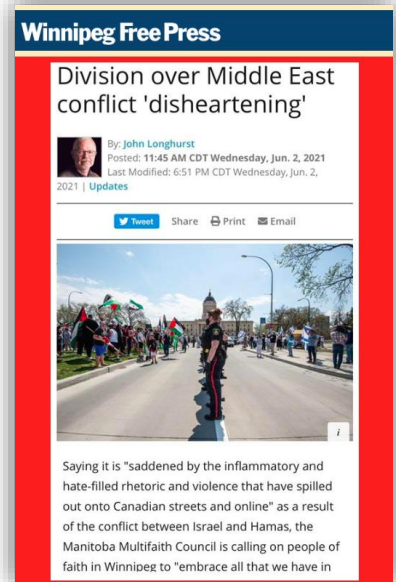
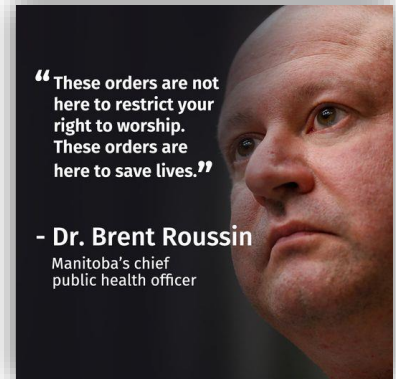
As we all work hard to promote unity and harmony in our communities, I would like to close my report with these words from the Baha'i Writings:

*"So powerful is the light of unity  
that it could illumine the whole earth"*

I look forward to working with all of you in this coming year.

Best regards,

  
**Payam Towfigh**  
MMC President



## MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Pursuant to **BY-LAW NO. 1** of the MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, Inc. (2011), its Annual General Meeting took place on **Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 7:00 pm**. The meeting was held via Zoom in light of the pandemic, COVID-19.*

Approximately 32 people registered, representing different faith traditions and affiliate partners. The **2019-2020 Annual Report** had been prepared ahead of time by **Treasurer Paul Peters Derry**, and made available through our *ConstantContact* emailing—**MMC Connects**.

The event was chaired by **President Belle Jarniewski**. She welcomed participants to what she hoped would be the first and last AGM via Zoom! Before the meeting began, the President indicated that this event would be recorded, and noted agreement for the same.



### 1. OPENING BUSINESS

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#### 1.1. Welcome, Acknowledgment of Territory, Declaration of Quorum and Opening Prayer

As the meeting began, **President Jarniewski** acknowledged that the AGM was being held on Treaty One Land, in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis Nation.

Belle then invited board member, **Diane Dwarka**, to pray from her Christian faith tradition. She thanked the Creator for the many good things that had been a part of the past year for MMC, for the guests who had contributed to various events, and for what had been accomplished through our work. She prayed that we would never tire in expressing acts of kindness, while thanking God for the leadership of Belle during these past four years, and praying wisdom for Payam as he assumes leadership of MMC.

#### 1.2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION #2020 – 1
It was moved by <b>Ron Long</b> , seconded by <b>Larry Campbell</b> , that the <b>AGENDA</b> as circulated (included on <i>page vi</i> of the <b>ANNUAL REPORT</b> ) be adopted.
CARRIED

# MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## 1.3. Adoption of Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

**President Jarniewski** drew attention to the Minutes from the 2019 AGM, found on pages 3-7, noting that there was no outstanding business from the same.

MOTION #2020 – 1
It was moved by <b>Ray Harris</b> , seconded by <b>Ron Long</b> , that <b>MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b> , as included on <b>pages 3-7</b> of the <b>ANNUAL REPORT</b> , be approved.
CARRIED

## 2. REPORTS of the PRESIDENT, STANDING COMMITTEES, AFFILIATE PARTNERS and MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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**President Belle Jarniewski** began her report by acknowledging the honour that has been hers during these past four years to give leadership to MMC. She also acknowledged some of the ways these past four years have resulted in a very different world, characterized by extremism, racism and ideological resurgence. She recognizes the need in Canada for this nation to face its own history, and one of the keys for this is to encourage good education. She drew attention to the wisdom of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks who said: *“The religious vision is not about seeing things that are not there. It is about seeing the things that are there but which we never paid attention to. Faith is a form of attention.”* She anticipates continued serving with MMC, albeit in a different role as Past-President.

Committee Chairs reported on their respective Committees, each one thanking members of their Committee for their work this past year:

As the new Chair of the **Spiritual Health Committee**, **Julie Turenne-Maynard** thanked **Ron Long** for his chairing of this Committee over the past few years. She also thanked **Peter Dyck** for his years of service on this Committee. Among other things, she reported that the workshop on trauma last year was well received, and will hopefully be repeated. COVID-19 has impacted planning by the WRHA Spiritual Health Advisory Committee. But Clinical Pastoral Education has been able to continue at St Boniface Hospital and Victoria General Hospital.

**Larry Campbell** reported for the **Justice and Corrections** Committee. As in recent years, an art contest has been held for inmates and the quality of work presented has been excellent. The pandemic, unfortunately, is impacting the public showing of this art. Unfortunately, the Correctional Service in Dauphin has closed, and the pandemic has prohibited volunteers from in-person visits. Letter writing has found a way to make important contact with inmates.

# MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Ruth Ashrafi** reported that the **Education Committee** has begun a series of events designed to inform the public about faith traditions that may not be so well known. In particular, evenings were devoted to education the public about the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints and the Baha'i faith traditions. Plans are to continue with this series in the coming year.

**Christine Baronins** reported on the work of the **Community Relations Committee**. An active year witnessed the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding given to Sensei Fred Ulrich. The Annual Multifaith Leadership Breakfast, held at Booth University College, featured Dr Neil Craton, author of *Wisdom from the Homeless*. In recognition of Manitoba 150, a letter (see pages ii-iii) was composed by **Belle Jarniewski** and **Robert Polz**, "150 Days of Solidarity: Reconciliation and Prayer," inviting participants to pray each Wednesday for this Province and to suggest ways we can extend service to Manitobans. This committee has also taken on the task of developing an increased social media presence for MMC in order to reach across various platforms.

MOTION #2020 - 3

It was moved by **Diane Dwarka**, seconded by **Ron Long**, that **REPORTS** of the **PRESIDENT, STANDING COMMITTEES, AFFILIATE PARTNERS** and **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**, as found on **pages 1-2** and **14-30** of the **ANNUAL REPORT**, be received for information.

CARRIED

## 3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Treasurer Paul Peters Derry** drew attention to the **Financial Report**, found on pages 8-12. He pointed out the transition of his report to reflect more clearly the reporting guidelines of Canada Revenue Agency. Because of various events set up by the Committees of MMC, there has been a healthy accumulation of income. As well, the sales of multifaith calendars have contributed to this. This healthy financial condition invites us to ask what it means to be good financial stewards.

MOTION #2020 - 4

It was moved by **Paul Peters Derry**, seconded by **Cornell Rempel**, that **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** for the **Fiscal Year** ending **March 31, 2020**, as found on **pages 8-12** of the **ANNUAL REPORT**, be received for information.

CARRIED

# MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MOTION #2020 – 5

It was moved by **Larry Campbell**, seconded by **Ron Long**, that the Board of Directors appoint **Alex Watt, CPA, CA**, of **FROSTIAK & LESLIE CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS, Inc.**, as auditor to conduct review of Financial Statements for the **Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2020**.

CARRIED

## 4. NOMINATIONS REPORT

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Secretary **Ray Harris** presented the **Nominations Report**, as listed on page 30 of the Annual Report. Reluctantly the board acknowledged the conclusion of service for **Nafiya Naso** and **Greg Barrett**; Certificates of Appreciation will be given. The board welcomes new members, **Larry Campbell**, **Jamileh Naso** and **Khaled Al-Nahar**. It was noted that the Health Committee will be chaired by **Julie Turenne-Maynard** and represented on the board by **Ron Long**; the Justice and Corrections Committee will be overseen by **Bernie Mullins** and represented on the board by **Larry Campbell**. **Belle Jarniewski** will now assume the role on the Executive as Past-President.

MOTION #2020 – 6

There being no further nominations, it was moved by **Ray Harris**, seconded by **Larry Campbell**, that the **NOMINATIONS REPORT**, as it appears on **page 31** of the **ANNUAL REPORT**, be accepted as our **Board of Directors** and **Officers for 2020-21**.

CARRIED

MOTION #2020 – 7

There being no further business, the 2019-2020 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, INC. (2011)**, adjourned on a motion of **Belle Jarniewski**, at 8:15 pm.

CARRIED

## 5. PROGRAM

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The program portion of the AGM began with a word of appreciation to outgoing President, **Belle Jarniewski**. In expressing thanks on behalf of the board, **Ron Long** drew attention to Belle's passion for the oppressed, and the way she has represented MMC in the larger community. **Christine Baronins** arranged to present a gift to Belle, and **Diane** arranged for members of the board to contribute their personal note of thanks which she put together in a portfolio for Belle. leadership to the Baha'i community here while heading

# MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

up State Industries, a polyurethane company. Ray assured Payam that he doesn't need to wear the football helmet his firm has created for professional players! The board welcome him with a virtual applause!!

Payam expressed appreciation for this opportunity to lead MMC, and hoped that during his leadership he will help to create unity not only within the board but through the board to the wider community.

*Peu importe vos origines,  
vous êtes chez vous  
dans notre communauté.*

No matter where you are  
from, we're glad you're  
our neighbour.

لا يهم اين ولدتم، و لكننا  
سعداء انكم جيراننا.

The program concluded with a moving interview of one of the Yazidi students who had come to Winnipeg through **Operation Ezra**, and had recently graduated from high school. **Jamileh Naso** interviewed **Abdullah Naso** by asking thought provoking questions such as the hurdles faced, persons who helped, and hopes for the future. Abdullah expressed his thanks for Operation Ezra and acknowledged that one of his favourite things at school was sports. He indicated that he hoped to attend university and engage in scientific lab work.

**Christine Baronins** brought the AGM to a close by introducing a musical video created by Eric Whitacre.

The video brings together peoples from around the world to participate virtually in "Sing Gently." The differing voices blending in harmony seemed to capture President Payam's hopes that MMC will continue to exhibit its own unique unity in our city and province.



Ray Harris, MMC Secretary



Belle Jarniewski, MMC President

Neither sleet nor rain nor snow... nor GLOBAL PANDEMIC  
will stop MMC's sometimes rather motley crew from gathering!





## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

What a year it's been! Therein lies an understatement, if there ever was one! Our MMC finances have been similarly impacted, though the import has been mostly positive.

A global pandemic notwithstanding, **the state of our MMC finances continues strong, even robust.** Our expenditures are down. The absence of a **Multifaith Leadership Breakfast** meant we did not have that financial outlay, even though we also did not have the donations that event would usually bring. Shifting to a virtual platform meant that costs for workshops offered by **Spiritual Health** and **Justice/Corrections** committees were significantly less. In many respects, we can say that we were able to do more with less.



Buffeted by the changes and chances thrown our way, MMC continues to be a tangible force for multifaith education, awareness and advocacy through sales and distribution of the **Multifaith Calendar**. Without our annual **Multifaith Leadership Breakfast**, we did not have a marketplace for discount sales of remaining 2021 calendars. We used this opportunity to distribute strategically extra calendars, among Manitoba's 14 **MPs**, 6 **senators** and other **parliamentary leaders**, as well as all 57 of **MLAs**, and Winnipeg's **City Councillors** and **Mayor**. We offered 20 additional calendars to **Assiniboine Community College** (Brandon), and in return, ACC has increased its order from 40 (2021) to 75 calendars 2022. I had the privilege of reviewing art submissions for the 2022 Multifaith Calendar. With realignment proposed for school divisions, potentially putting at risk some of our major orders, we were delighted to learn that **Winnipeg School Division** has prioritized its order for 250 calendars for the coming year. MMC can celebrate that it will maintain its number of calendars ordered for the coming year, where other regions across (Ontario and Alberta) the country have decreased their respective orders.



2021 also marks **the tenth anniversary of MMC's incorporation as a not-for-profit agency**, and with that, our **registered charity status** with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). For that reason, we could also remark what a decade it's been! As part of this accountability, I can report that our Board is engaging the services of Jim Cornelius for a review of our Financial Statements alongside our annual submissions to CRA. Prior to his August 2020 retirement, Jim served for 23 years as Executive Director of Canadian Foodgrains Bank. This year's Lieutenant Governor's Award Recipient, John Longhurst, profiled Jim's work in a piece entitled, "[Hopeful about Hunger](https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/faith/hopefulabouthunger-572344962.html)" (<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/faith/hopefulabouthunger-572344962.html>)

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In addition to continuing tasks related to MMC finances, I have had communication with Peter Notebloom, General Secretary of the **Canadian Council of Churches**, and staff resource for **Canadian Interfaith Conversation** (another multifaith initiative which had its genesis here in Manitoba), about working towards achieving charitable registration status for Canadian Interfaith Conversation.

For MMC finances, our chequing and savings accounts are housed at Access Credit Union (formerly CrosstownCivic Credit Union). While we were supportive of the credit union merger, the transition has not been entirely smooth. Our MMC Board, through its Executive, may consider the possibility of alternative arrangements.

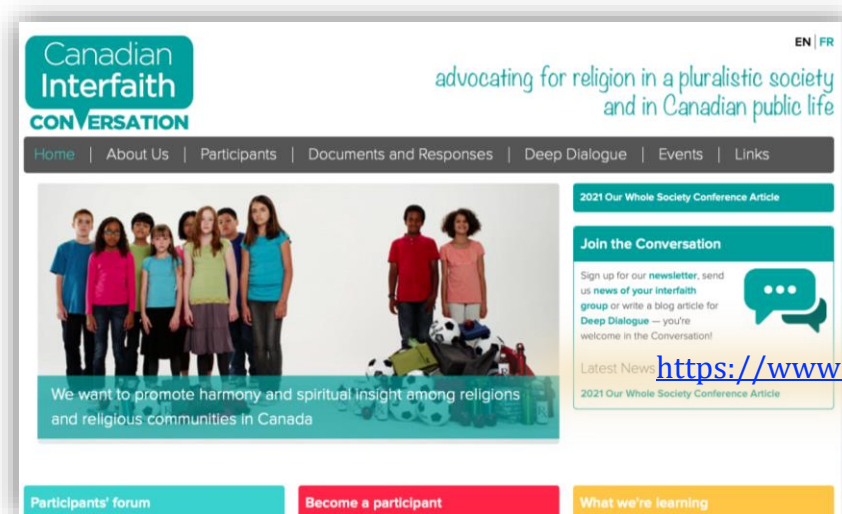
Finally, on a more but not entirely personal note, I share news that God-willing and COVID-19 allowing, I will be ordained to the transitional diaconate within the Anglican Communion, by Bishop Geoff Woodcroft of the Diocese of Rupert's Land on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be a hybrid in-person/virtual celebration. I invite your prayers and if you are so inclined, your presence via either platform. Pre-registration per COVID protocols: <https://www.stbenedictstable.ca>

Our work continues!

Respectfully submitted,



**Paul Peters Derry**  
MMC Treasurer



<https://www.interfaithconversation.ca>



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MMC FINANCIAL STATEMENT		April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021	
Paul Peters Derry, Treasurer		updated	22-Aug-21
<b>INCOME</b>			
Bank Interest, Dividends, Credits, etc.	Account interest	6.86	
	Patronage allocation	4.07	
		0.61	4.68
	Term Deposit interest	136.16	147.70
Faith Community/Affiliate Partner Memberships		1,500.00	1,647.70
<b>MULTIFAITH CALENDARS</b>			
Proceeds from sale of Multifaith Calendars	from Government sources	149.50	
	from all other sources	5,255.25	5,404.75
<b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE</b>			
no income received during current fiscal year			-
<b>EDUCATION COMMITTEE</b>			
no income received during current fiscal year			-
<b>JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE</b>			
Donation(s) towards Corrections Art Contest - 2020 (Knox United Church, Brandon)		450.00	
Donation(s) towards Corrections Art Contest - 2021 (RC Archdiocese of Winnipeg)		450.00	900.00
<b>SPIRITUAL HEALTH COMMITTEE</b>			
Fall 2020 Workshop COVID-19 and Grief -proceeds from partnership with IHCAM			445.93
<b>GROSS INCOME</b>			<b>\$ 8,398.38</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Administrative costs	Postage, photocopying, supplies	255.97	
		31.08	255.97
MMC PicturePostage stamps - presentations to past Board members, regular postage		294.15	
	RPO Box Rental	173.00	723.12
Annual General Meeting (AGM) - photocopying, certificates, presentations			170.15
Banking Fees			13.00
Manitoba Companies Office Registration			40.00
Membership in Partner Organizations			-
Website development, communication and maintenance	ConstantContact annual subscription	501.20	1,447.47
<b>MULTIFAITH CALENDARS</b>			
Wholesale cost		3,987.50	
RST paid on wholesale purchase price		279.13	4,266.63
Postage, delivery costs		97.84	
	CanadaPost flat-rate shipping boxes	215.88	4,580.35
<b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE</b>			
LG Award		329.12	329.12
<b>EDUCATION COMMITTEE</b>			
no expenditures during current fiscal year			-
<b>JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE</b>			
Corrections Art Contest - 2020	Awarding of prizes	450.00	
	Miscellaneous expenses	37.91	487.91
<b>SPIRITUAL HEALTH COMMITTEE</b>			
after income received from Fall 2020 workshop, no additional expenditures during current fiscal year			-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$ 6,844.85</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>			<b>\$ 1,553.53</b>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BANK BALANCES, 01-Apr-20			
<b>BANK</b>	BUSINESS ALL-IN-ONE account	10,334.92	
	TERM DEPOSIT account	5,657.98	
	PLAN 24 account - S01	2,426.59	
	PAY-PAL account	10.11	18,429.60
<b>SHARES</b>	CCCU SHARE CAPITAL account	5.00	
	CCCU SURPLUS SHARES account	27.19	32.19
<b>TOTAL BANK</b>			<b>\$ 18,461.79</b>
	<i>Less: Cheques issued but not cashed</i>		0.00
<b>ACTUAL BALANCE OF FUNDS, 01-Apr-20</b>			<b>\$ 18,461.79</b>

<b>GST PAID IN PURCHASES</b>		\$ 268.95
<b>GST REBATE</b>	<i>for previous fiscal year(s)</i>	\$ 152.88
<b>DEPOSITS</b>		\$ 7,899.26

BANK BALANCES, 31-Mar-21			
	BUSINESS ALL-IN-ONE account	11,660.85	
	TERM DEPOSIT account	5,657.98	
	PLAN 24 account - S01	2,565.36	
	PAY-PAL account	10.11	19,894.30
	CCCU SHARE CAPITAL account	5.00	
	CCCU SURPLUS SHARES account	18.87	23.87
<b>TOTAL BANK</b>			<b>\$ 19,918.17</b>
	<i>Less: Cheques issued but not cashed</i>		
	<i>cheque #543</i>	50.00	50.00
<b>ACTUAL BALANCE OF FUNDS, 01-Mar-21</b>			<b>\$ 19,868.17</b>

PROFIT (LOSS) CALCULATIONS	INCOME	EXPENSE	PROFIT (LOSS)
Multifaith Calendars	5,404.75	4,580.35	\$ 824.40
			<b>\$ 824.40</b>

DEPOSITS		
000007057241-001-C140 -00101		\$ 7,755.81
000007057241-001-S200 -00201		\$ 138.77
000007057241-001-E391 -00203 Surplus Shares		\$ 4.68
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS</b>		<b>\$ 7,899.26</b>
000007057241-001-T400 -00401 GIC 1-5 Year		
11-Nov-20 Credit Interest (not paid out, rolled back into GIC)	136.16	\$ 136.16

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## OTHER TABULATIONS

GST PAID IN PURCHASES					<i>current fiscal year</i>	
				1.82		
				1.55		
				8.65		
				16.02		
				12.15		
				199.38		
				3.76		
				10.91		
<b>TOTAL</b>				14.71	<b>\$</b>	<b>268.95</b>

GST REBATE		<i>for previous fiscal year(s)</i>		<b>\$</b>	<b>152.88</b>

RECEIVED	FAITH COMMUNITY-AFFILIATE PARTNER		
21-Nov-20	FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST	CHURCH OF WINNIPEG	100.00
8-Jan-21	CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK		100.00
28-Dec-20	MENNONITE CHURCH MANITOBA		100.00
5-Jan-21	BHAI KAHAN SING NABHA FOUNDATION		100.00
28-Nov-20	ROMAN CATHOLIC	ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. BONIFACE	100.00
19-Feb-21	BAHA'I COMMUNITY OF WINNIPEG		100.00
19-Feb-21	WINNIPEG MANITOBA STAKE	OF THE CHURCH OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS	100.00
13-Nov-20	ANGLICAN DIOCESE	OF RUPERT'S LAND	100.00
21-Nov-20	ROMAN CATHOLIC	ARCHDIOCESE OF WINNIPEG	100.00
28-Nov-20	SALVATION ARMY	DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS	100.00
21-Nov-20	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	IN CANADA, MANITOBA & NW ONTARIO SYNOD	100.00
13-Nov-20	PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA		100.00
20-Nov-20	JEWISH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE		100.00
28-Nov-20	MANITOBA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION		100.00
9-Dec-20	INTERFAITH HEALTH CARE	ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA	100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>



# REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES



## COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Community Relations Committee was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic therefore, event plans had to be modified or placed on hold. Although in-person events were not held there was still opportunity provided to hold virtual events which resulted in greater event participation from a broader geographic region allowing a silver-lining to be discovered in a time of challenge and uncertainty.

### *Multifaith Leadership Breakfast*

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Multifaith Leadership Breakfast normally held in February was cancelled.

### *Lieutenant Governor's Award for Interreligious Understanding*

MMC's Community Relations Committee was pleased to recognize John Longhurst as the 2020 recipient of the **Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding** at a virtual event held on February 16, 2021. This event was hosted by Her Honour Janice Filmon and organized by the Community Relations Committee.

As with all LG nominee submissions, Mr. Longhurst has had a significant and lasting impact on the Winnipeg Community as a faith columnist, faith and media projects organizer and contributor, and his involvement in several other interfaith activities. The most current and significant achievement which made John an obvious recipient of this year's LG's recognition is the pilot project John initiated in 2018 to expand faith reporting in the *Winnipeg Free Press*. In a time when the virtual world became more prominent and our connection to one another was supported by these online experiences, John was integral in ensuring stories of faith were in the forefront, and by providing the religious content that was a welcome and needed source of inspiration to citizens of the province.

An excerpt from the Lieutenant Governor's Award nomination letter submitted by Dr. James Christie sums up John's dedication to interfaith work and interreligious understanding: *"Key is that John's grounding in his Mennonite Christianity never inhibits his appreciation of the faith traditions of others, nor his commitment to the protection and promotion of the rights of all."*



<https://manitobamultifaith.ca/news-events>

## *Our Whole Society Conference*

MMC partnered with **Canadian Interfaith Conversation** to plan and host a conference at the **Canadian Museum for Human Rights**. The pandemic caused this event to be

modified and held online with plans for a full scale in-person event to be held at the museum in May 2022. MMC Community Relations was represented on the steering committee assisting in both the planning and advertising of the 2021 online event. The OWS Virtual Conference was held on May 4, 2021, featuring two panel sessions separated by breakout participant discussions. Community Relations members Nafiya Naso and Belle Jarniewski were directly involved as presenter and facilitator at one of the two plenary sessions. The virtual event



was deemed a success with 250+ registrants participating across the country. Stay tuned for upcoming information regarding the May 2022 event at CMHR.

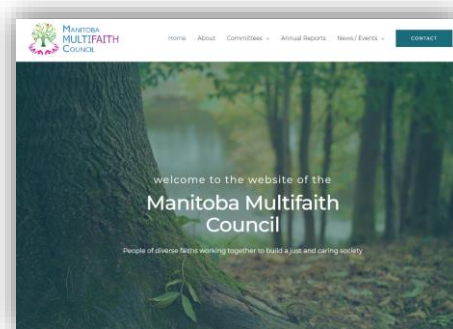
For additional information on this year's event see article links below:

- <https://news-ca.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/free-to-believe-and-responsible-to-act-%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B>
- <https://presse-ca.eglisedejesus-christ.org/article/libres-de-croire-responsables-d-agir>

## *Social Media and Media Relations*

### **New Manitoba Multifaith Council Website**

The CR Committee focused efforts this year on expanding MMC's online presence and extending its reach. A new website was created with special recognition and thanks extended to Community Relations Committee Member, Father Robert Polz and friend of MMC, Robert Gagnon for their dedicated efforts in creating this new and improved organizational webpage. The new page is both functional and visually appealing.



### **MMC Facebook Page, Twitter and Instagram Accounts**

MMC has extended its online presence with the addition of a new Facebook page along with the creation of Twitter and Instagram accounts. Special recognition and thanks to CR Committee Members, Belle Jarniewski and Nafiya Naso for creating, managing and monitoring these accounts.



## *Future Plans – Interfaith and Government Outreach*

In addition to electronic outreach, the Community Relations Committee looks forward to planning and participating in in-person events to further assist the Manitoba Multifaith Council in building relationships with government, media, related organizations, faith communities and the larger public.

Respectfully submitted,



**Christine Baronins**

*Chair, MMC Community Relations Committee*

*Committee Members: Christine Baronins, Richard Baronins, Lauri Eagles, Ray Harris, Belle Jarniewski, Nafiya Naso, Jessie Pannu, Robert Polz, Gale Schultz*

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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*By way of a report for MMC's Education Committee, we include the timely, informative statement prepared by its Chair, Ruth Ashrafi, on Pope Francis' historic visit to Iraq.*

POPE FRANCIS' HISTORIC VISIT TO IRAQ

## “Lighting Up the Darkness by Shining Together”

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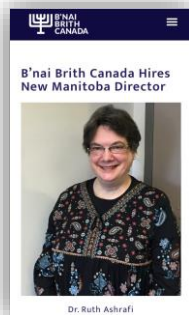
### *Visit by Pope important encouragement for ancient Christian community*

From March 5<sup>th</sup> till 8<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis made a historic trip to Iraq. This visit is significant for many reasons. Iraq is home to about 0.5 to 1.5 million Christians. Exact numbers are difficult to verify due to the Iraq War, the short but destructive rule of ISIS, and the current volatile situation.

The unrest of the last decades has prompted many Iraqi Christians to flee to Western countries. The visit by the Pope was an important encouragement for this religious minority.

Iraqi Christians have a long history. According to the tradition, two of the twelve apostles, Thomas and Thaddeus, brought the gospel to cities in Syria and Iraq in the thirties and forties of the first century CE. Christianity quickly became the main religion, although other religious faith groups continued to exist.

With the advent of Islam, many inhabitants of this region became followers of the new religion, but Christians remained an important minority. Despite being one of the oldest Christian communities in the world, no pope has ever visited this region.



## Historic speech by Pope on Abrahamic faiths

Iraq has been the stage of much of biblical history. The Pope, delivering a speech on the Plain of Ur, the birthplace of Abraham, the father of the three monotheistic faiths, was clearly aware of the historical significance of his visit to this place.



He referred to the famous story of Abraham looking at the stars, while God told Abraham that as his descendants would be as numerous as these. Then the Pope reminded his audience that stars light up the darkness because they shine together.

He called upon the children of Abraham to preserve our fraternity by worshipping God and remembering that there will be no peace without sharing and acceptance. With a special reference to the pandemic, he repeated his words from Fratelli Tutti “no one is saved alone.”

## Reactions to Pope Francis' interfaith remarks

In a press conference during the flight back to Rome, the Pope elaborated on his historic meeting with Ayatollah al-Sistani, the leader of the Shi'ites in Iraq, and his approach to interfaith dialogue by quoting the latter's phrase: “Men are either brothers by religion or equals by creation.”

Pope Francis said interreligious dialogue “is also a cultural journey.” He emphasized that Christians must understand that with Muslims, “we are brothers, and we must continue forward [in the dialogue] with the other religions.”

Then, in a significant part of his response, Pope Francis emphasized that “many times one has to risk to take this step forward [in the dialogue].” He noted that “there are some critics who say the pope is not courageous; he is mindless [incosciente], that he does things that are contrary to the Catholic doctrine, that it is a heretical step, that there are risks.”

Responding to such critics, Pope Francis said, “These decisions are taken in prayer, in dialogue, taking counsel and reflecting; they are not capricious; they are in line with what the [Second Vatican] Council taught.”

## Dr. Ruth Ashrafi

Chair, Manitoba Multifaith Council Education Committee



For the full text of Pope Francis' speech:

[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2021/march/documents/papa-francesco\\_20210306\\_iraq-incontro-interreligioso.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2021/march/documents/papa-francesco_20210306_iraq-incontro-interreligioso.html)

For pictures of the Pope's visit: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2021/pop-francis-baghdad-iraq-photos/>

**Committee Members:** Ruth Ashrafi, Karla Berbrayer, Maury Donen, Belle Jarniewski, Manju Lodha, Shelagh Marchen, Polly Panchu, Dalip Shekhawat, Tony Tavares

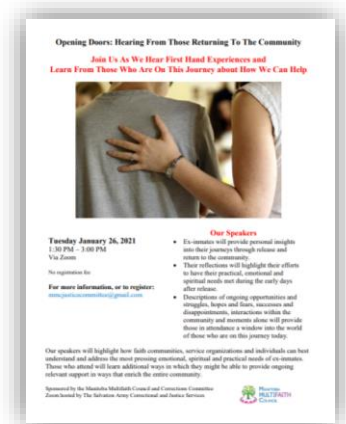
## JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

The Manitoba Multifaith Council Justice and Corrections Committee meets each month to reflect, discuss, and act on important matters that affect the people who are involved in the criminal justice system. Although the committee is concerned with justice in a broad sense, it tends to focus on the area of corrections. For the past couple of years, the Justice Committee has used a rotating style of leadership. A different committee member leads each month's meeting, and the topical agenda items are usually transferred to the next month's agenda. This approach seems to work well for the committee, which usually averages 6-8 attendees each month that begin with a reflection, and a group check-in. All committee meetings occurred over Zoom between September 2020 and June 2021.

### Opening Doors

A significant amount of the committee's time and energy has been spent on the Opening Doors initiative, which has been a series of Zoom meetings where community representatives reflected on ways to support inmates returning to the community from the Provincial correctional system.

Attendance at these events has been excellent. Participants heard from two men, who spoke about their experiences upon returning to the community, engaged in a 'case study' style exercise to better understand what citizens returning to the community needs, and what the faith community can do to help. The long-term goal is to link faith communities willing to provide post-release support with chaplains who can help facilitate contact with interested inmates. Over the summer, a series of 'coffee chats' with faith community representatives continued the Opening Doors momentum.



### Support for Federal Chaplains



The Justice Committee has tended to be more involved with provincial chaplains. However, the committee is also concerned with the well-being of Federal chaplains, whose working conditions have changed with the introduction of the current single contractor. A committee member reached out to the chaplains at Stony Mountain Institution to make them aware that the committee is available if they choose to use it as a source of support.

# REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

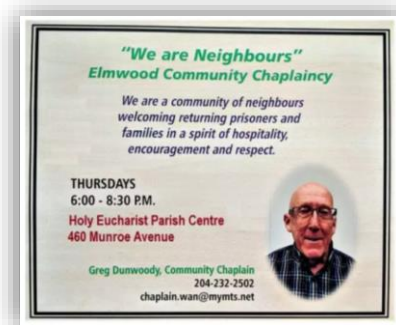
## *Outreach to the Multifaith Community*

Members of the Justice Committee as seeking ways of increasing representation that is more Multifaith. This is an ongoing initiative.

## *Community Chaplaincy Initiative: We Are Neighbours*



The committee received updates from the We Are Neighbours community chaplaincy initiative through Greg Dunwoody. This is an important project, and the committee extends its full support to Greg for his efforts in supporting released inmates.



## *Art Contest*

The chaplaincy art contest occurred again this year. The committee facilitated the support of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Winnipeg, who sponsored the contest. Unfortunately, in-person art shows were not possible this year.

## *Advocacy*

The committee is concerned with advocacy, and recommended that MMC write a letter to the Minister of Justice regarding unfilled chaplaincy vacancies at the Headingly Correctional Centre, the Brandon Correctional Centre, and the Winnipeg Remand Centre. The vacancy at the Headingly Correctional Centre has since been filled, but Brandon and Remand remain unfilled. This is an important concern for the committee.

## *Chaplaincy Advisory Committee*

Justice Committee representatives meet with provincial correctional representatives through the Chaplaincy Advisory Committee. This remains an outstanding item as the committee has not met for some time, primarily because of Covid. However, committee representatives are invited to represent the Manitoba Multifaith Council on chaplaincy hiring boards.

## *Committee Changes*

The committee holds in its prayers Larry Campbell who has been recovering at home following surgery. Larry is an elected member of the MMC Executive, and a valued member of the Justice Committee. The Committee is also sad that Captain Brian Bobolo was transferred to Ontario in June. Brian took regular minutes, and provided the Committee with a gentle, consistent and wise presence. He will be greatly missed.

**Committee Members:** Brian Bobolo, Kathleen Mico, Larry Campbell, Bernie Mullins, Rhonda Gorham, Ken Kuhn, Mary Lysecki, Oscar Boloko, Khaled Al-Nahar, Greg Dunwoody, Ellen Cook

## SPIRITUAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

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### *Formation*

The Spiritual Health Committee planned a half-day virtual workshop entitled **Coping with Grief and Loss During COVID-19** on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

This workshop attracted a 60% increase in participants year over year who were able to connect virtually. The two speakers were Anne Whitford-Fast and Lynn Granke. To listen to the recording, and view the PPT presentation, click here: [Education / Formation - Interfaith Health Care Association of Manitoba \(ihcam.ca\)](https://www.ihcam.ca)



The 2021 workshop entitled ***“Loneliness and the Lived Pandemic Experience”*** will be taking place on November 4<sup>th</sup> and has been tentatively booked at Bethel Community Church. More information and a poster will be circulated in September 2021.

### *Spiritual Care*

The meeting that occurred with Barbara Wasilewski in January 2020 unfortunately did not result in any further action by the department of Manitoba Health and Seniors Care despite a few emails that were sent to re-connect with Barbara during this fiscal year. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic and health transformation took over the agendas of Manitoba Health and Shared Health.

MMC is nevertheless committed to advocate for Spiritual Health Care at the macro level as well as advocate that vacant positions be filled throughout the healthcare system.

### *WRHA Spiritual Health Advisory Committee*

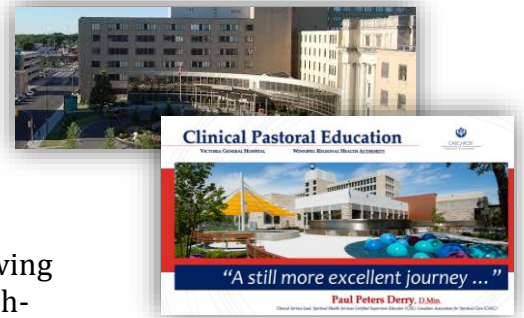
The WRHA Spiritual Health Advisory Committee met virtually on a few occasions during this past year due to the pandemic. Regrettably, the strategic plan goals and objectives are not advancing at the pace that we would like them to, but due to the extenuating circumstances and staff changes, we hope to be able to make a concerted effort in the upcoming year to make progress on the latter.



# REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

## *Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)*

Chenene Layne at the St. Boniface Hospital has continued to offer two extended training programs and Paul Peters Derry at the Victoria General Hospital also offered CPE training.



In summary, I have appreciated the support of the following **committee members** during this past year: Cheryl Hirsh-Katz, Lynn Granke, Mabel Horton, Peter Dyck, Ron Long and Teresa Campbell. On behalf of all committee members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cheryl for her time on this committee and welcome Dorit Kosmin who has become an active member.

Respectfully submitted,

**Julie Turenne-Maynard**  
*Chair, MMC Spiritual Health Committee*

I DON'T RISE  
AND SHINE. I  
CAFFEINATE  
AND HOPE  
FOR THE  
BEST.



"Welcome back, sir. Are you planning on being our guest for one night only, or will this be your usual extended stay?"

© 2014 9GAG is your best source of fun.

I went outside to check on my plants. I felt something cold and wet on my arm. I looked down and saw a mosquito using a wet wipe before he bit me.



GoodLivingGuide.com



### a personal reflection ...

To say that events in Canada and beyond have challenged us these last few months is of course a tremendous understatement.

It was heartbreaking to once again witness violence consuming a region that has seen far too much war, death, and destruction— not only in our lifetime, but for millennia. Closer to home, the discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children in Kamloops devastated us and reminded us that we are terribly far away from meaningful reconciliation. And of course, just over a week ago, a beautiful Muslim family was murdered, targeted because of their faith and beliefs. The individual who committed this despicable act certainly did not think of the tradition common to Jews through the Talmud and to Muslims through the Qu'ran: “to save a life is to save the world entire – but to destroy a life is as if one destroyed the world entire.”

For many of us, numbed and in shock, our response was, “this is not my Canada.” Certainly, it’s not the Canada I remember from my youth. I was very fortunate; as a child I can only recall two incidences of antisemitism – once being called a dirty Jew by the patrol from the public school across the street (and well, he didn’t know that one of his fellow patrols was Jewish and she promptly decked him) and another when the upstairs tenant in our duplex came home drunk and fiddling with the door, he loudly yelled something vile about Jews. Nothing of course, compared to the suffering my Holocaust survivor parents had endured in Europe. In my comfortable neighbourhood of River Heights, I do not remember witnessing hatred against others. My first real friend at the age of five was a little Roman Catholic girl of Polish and Swedish background who lived two doors away. We are still friends today.

In junior high school, my first year in public school, there were kids from many different backgrounds, faiths, and colours. None of those differences seemed to matter to any of us. But... only a few blocks away stood the Assiniboine Residential School. None of us had any idea it was there nor what took place inside. Some of the students from the IRS came to our school for shops and home economics classes. They were tremendously shy we thought – but to my shame – we did not make any serious attempts to get to know them. Racism and suffering were right there in our comfy neighbourhood, but we were completely oblivious to it.

Then there was the Palestinian kid in grade seven. It was 1968, the year after the Six Day War. In those days, we didn’t ask each other “where did you come from.” We kids were all “just” Canadians with perhaps a multicultural identity and some of us with parents who spoke with an accent. It was the first year of Folklorama, and that’s how we saw each other – adding to the tapestry of our multicultural community. We shared our foods and our traditions, but we didn’t have tough conversations.

And then... the Social Studies teacher decided in his infinite *lack* of wisdom or perhaps naivete, to have a debate – me on one side defending the right of Israel to hold onto the Golan, West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, and Louis Chebib explaining why they should be returned (at that point in time to Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon). The ill-advised debate went on for three days and many other classes came to watch. What I didn’t know and would only learn a few years ago when I befriended Louis’ parents, Laila and Farouk Chebib, is that Louis lost friends as a result of the debate. Some parents actually refused to let their children keep on being friends with him. I, a 12-year-old girl at the time, saw only my father’s pride in the paper I wrote and the admiration of my teacher and fellow students. I was blind and deaf to Louis’ suffering.

Today, rather than saying that the tragedies of the present do not reflect “our Canada,” the Canada we “know,” let us instead reflect on the dialogue that is happening today that was not even on the horizon in my youth. Today, we have a government that condemns racism and that is willing to look back at the history of this country with eyes wide open. Today, I am grateful for our willingness to try to understand that the “truths” we grew up with can and must be re-examined. That we must embrace complexity. That the expression “warts and all” when describing a democracy is in fact what is essential to democracy. I am grateful for all of you, my friends, and that are able to have open and honest discussions about issues that are neither simple nor easy. That we support one another in good times and in bad. A special thank you to my fellow Board member Khaled (Nahar) Al-Nahar for his wisdom and courage as we explored a very difficult situation together these past few weeks. Working together to try to set a positive example for others has been an honour and it has given me hope for a better future for our children and grandchildren.

Let us remind ourselves each and every day of our mission statement and do our utmost to build a just and caring society!

*Belle Jarniewski*

as presented to MMC Board Meeting - June 15, 2021



# REPORTS FROM AFFILIATE PARTNERS

## CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SPIRITUAL CARE (CASC), MANITOBA REGION

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CASC/ACSS is a national multi-faith organization, committed to the professional education, certification and support of people involved in spiritual care, psycho-spiritual therapy, education and research. We provide educational programs for

interested persons who are preparing to become professional providers of spiritual care and psycho-spiritual therapy in a variety of institutional and community settings such as health care, corrections, education and private practice. CASC/ACSS is concerned with a holistic approach to health, well-being, and personal development with a special focus on spiritual and religious care.

CASC-MB continues to offer educational opportunities even with the challenge of COVID. I extend our gratefulness to Jonathan Jandavs-Hedlin and his years of dedication to this important portfolio. His dedication has grown access to ongoing spiritual education providing our membership and that of the public with numerous important topics of meditation and integration.

This past March at our AGM, our board underwent a significant change, with 5 members moving on to other life challenges. I would like to thank Kurt Schwarz (Ethics), Don Plett (Professional Practice), Joan Crabtree (Past Chair), Jonathan Jandavs-Hedlin (Professional Education), and Adina Lakser (Student Rep) for their dedication and support to CASC over the many years. With the coming of change, I would like to welcome to CASC MB the following members who have dedicated their time, energy, and wisdom to provide ongoing growth, leadership, and support towards our spiritual profession. Please join me in welcoming Amanda Rozyk (Student Rep), Andrew Terhoch (Professional Educational), Greg Dunwoody (Professional Practise), and Chris Salstrom (Ethics).

### *Promotion of the Spiritual Profession*

Our goal continues to shine a light on the importance on spiritual trained professionals who are qualified to journey with individuals, groups, and organizations in maintaining a whole person-centred approach to the many of life's challenges.

We continue to offer our monthly support group to spiritual care providers, via zoom, allowing for the supporters to express frustration, challenges by the ongoing pandemic, and be supported within their peer group.





Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), a fundamental clinical learning piece of preparation for the work of Spiritual Care, continues to be offered at St. Boniface Hospital (Chenene Layne) and Victoria Hospital (Paul Peters Derry).

This spring CASC MB presented our application for the formation of a professional college (FACT MB), along with eight (8) other associations with similar interests to our provincial government.

### *Regional Opportunities for Spiritual Profession*

With the recent news regarding Residential School history within our province and country, CASC MB seeks to connect with a local Elder to speak as part of our regional board to add Indigenous wisdom, experience, and perspectives to the spiritual profession. We are also seeking specific actions that speak to the Truth and Reconciliation 'Calls to Action' by seeking guidance from both our newly recruited Elder and Nimawin, sub-committee of CASC National.

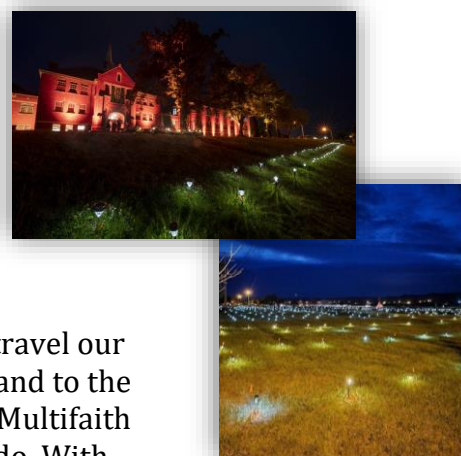
We seek to create an on-line library for educational resources to encompass a broader worldview approach to the spiritual aspect of our being.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge that CASC MB does not travel our path alone. Without the support of our membership, public, and to the larger religious faith community, especially to the Manitoba Multifaith Council for their ongoing support, we could not do what we do. With saying that, I extend, on behalf of our executive, a heartfelt Thank you, Meegwetch, and Merci to you all.

Respectfully submitted,

**Michael Thibert (Two Suns)**

*Chair of the Regional Executive Board, Manitoba Region*



[www.spiritualcare.ca](http://www.spiritualcare.ca)

## INTERFAITH HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA (IHCAM)



The Interfaith Healthcare Association of Manitoba (IHCAM) is pleased to submit its annual report for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

### *Spiritual Health Care*

This past year has continued to bring on challenges for IHCAM as an association who is advocating for spiritual health care in Manitoba's health and human service organizations. The pandemic and healthcare transformation were the ultimate focus for all employees at Manitoba Health & Seniors Care and Shared Health Services and despite the fact that IHCAM and the MMC Spiritual Health Committee was successful in meeting with Barbara Wasilewski from Manitoba Health in January 2021, no further steps were taken afterwards. I reached out on a few occasions via email with no response, and we are continuing to do so currently.



IHCAM continues to be a member of the MMC's Spiritual Health Committee WRHA Spiritual Health Advisory Committee. The strategic plan that was developed in 2019-20 has not been as active as we would like it to be due to the pandemic and staff changes at the WRHA. This committee met on a few occasions virtually.

### *Spiritual Health Awareness Week*

IHCAM was a member of the planning committee for this week that was held in October 19-23, 2020 and our association's website was the communication hub for all activities that were promoted to people in healthcare. You can peruse through the daily activities by clicking here: [SHAW \(Week\) - Interfaith Health Care Association of Manitoba \(ihcam.ca\)](https://www.ihcam.ca/shaw-week) and the sub-menu items that include:

- Whole person health
- Connections and Relationships
- Culture and Community
- Mindfulness and Compassion
- Faith

Another SHAW Week is being planned for October 2021.

### *Communication*

IHCAM continues to produce newsletters on a quarterly basis, and posts information on its website and Facebook pages. If anyone is interested in subscribing to our newsletter or becoming a friend on Facebook, please contact me at [jtmaynard@cham.mb.ca](mailto:jtmaynard@cham.mb.ca).

## COVID-19

IHCAM took the initiative to begin sending daily reflections to its members and contact list in an effort to provide them support during these very trying times. Close to 125 individuals continue to receive these reflections with great appreciation.

## Formation

Every year IHCAM coordinates a few formation sessions, but 2020-21 was a year that brought on continued challenges due to the pandemic. The number of educational opportunities was limited to two offerings:

- **“Do you Feel the Pain in My Heart Too? Honouring the Mystery with Barbara Morningstar,”** postponed to June 11<sup>th</sup>, and attracted over 60 participants.
- An 8-week spiritual care series entitled **“Join the Journey”** had to be deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Respectfully submitted,

**Julie Turenne-Maynard**  
Executive Director

The **Interfaith Health Care Association of Manitoba (IHCAM)** is a non-profit, voluntary association of 9 faith groups that own and operate 32 health and social care organizations in Manitoba including hospitals, personal care homes, community care and seniors housing. IHCAM advocates the value of faith-based health care.

[www.ihcam.ca](http://www.ihcam.ca)

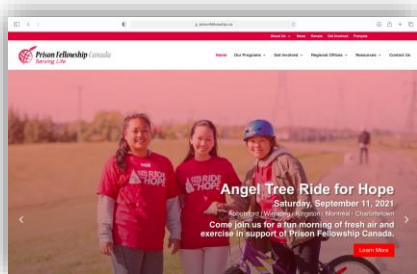


## MANITOBA JUSTICE, CORRECTIONS DIVISION



Chaplains ministering to the staff and inmates living and working in Manitoba's Provincial correctional centres continue to adapt and respond to challenges created by the Coronavirus pandemic. The challenges experienced by the correctional centre chaplains were, in some ways, similar to the challenges faced by their community counterparts, which were finding new and creative ways of ministering in fast-paced ever-changing environment.

The pandemic slowed the work of chaplains, but that work persevered. There was a brief moment during the Fall of 2020 when chaplains were able to safely meet in person. Since then, all chaplaincy gatherings have been held virtually. The coordinator also participated in a series of virtual gatherings sponsored by the Justice Committee on the topic of community reintegration. The chaplaincy art contest was successfully launched in the Fall of 2020, with much appreciation to this year's sponsor, the **Archdiocese of Winnipeg**. Appreciation is also expressed to **Prison Fellowship Canada** for that organization's Angel Tree program, through which incarcerated fathers were able to provide their children with Christmas gifts. Many faith-based groups and organizations provided inmates with access to religious literature, bible studies, Qurans, objects, and many other important meaningful and comforting resources. Throughout the year, Chaplains reached out to volunteers, who unfortunately are still unable to enter the facilities.




Since last year's report, there were some internal moves within chaplaincy, which created an opening at the Headingly Correctional Centre that is now filled. A fruitful partnership with The Salvation Army Correctional Services concluded when two officers transferred to another province. The Chaplaincy Coordinator was honoured to present these outstanding officers with a Certificate of

Appreciation on behalf of the Assistant Deputy Ministers of Courts and Corrections.

Many thanks to the Manitoba Multifaith Council for their continued support, care and love for the ministry to the incarcerated.

Respectfully submitted,

  
**Bernie Mullins**  
Coordinator of Chaplains



## SPIRITUAL HEALTH SERVICES, WINNIPEG REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (WRHA)

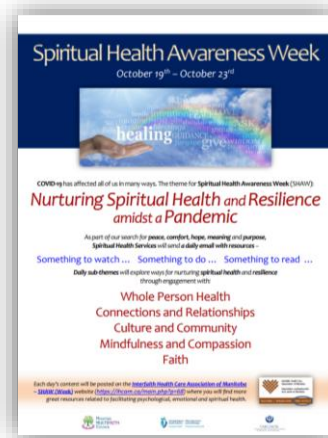


The COVID 19 pandemic has been with us much longer than was originally thought. Spiritual Health Services within the WRHA has continued to provide significant service in the area of patient and family centered care. Public Health Orders have included visitor restrictions. Spiritual Health has played a vital role in connecting patients to their loved ones near and far with technology (phone and iPad primarily). This has occurred across the continuum of care, from acute care to long term care.

In response to the increased level of staff distress, practitioners have shifted more of their time to offering compassionate listening, grief and loss support and spiritual/religious support to staff. In Fall 2020, practitioners were dedicating nearly 30% of their time to staff support.

To meet the significant bereavement needs of those who have lost a loved one during COVID 19, practitioners in PCH's are developing ways to provide both live and pre-recorded Memorial Services. My thanks to both Ferdinand Funk who developed a training module for live Zoom Memorial Services, as well as Helen Kennedy who continues to work with me to develop pre-recorded Memorial Services for a number of PCHs. The response of loved ones, who have not had access to the rituals we normally access at the time of death, has been overwhelming.

In October 2020, a group of practitioners (Leslie Clark, Andrew Terhoch, Paul Peters Derry as well as Julie Turenne-Maynard, Executive Director for the Interfaith Healthcare Association of MB, developed a 5-day set of spiritual and religious resources sent via email to WRHA staff for Spiritual Health Awareness Week. The third week of October was chosen to be in line with the Spiritual and Religious Care and Awareness Week observed by the Canadian Multi-Faith Federation. The theme of the week was Nurturing Spiritual Health and Resilience amidst a Pandemic. Resources were cited on the IHCAM website: <https://www.ihcam.ca/index.html?lang=en#>. Plans are underway for SHAW 2021 using the same format.



**Manitoba's Clinical and Preventive Services Plan** is a five-year plan that outlines new approaches to health care for our province and that will guide improvements to access, quality and patient outcomes for all Manitobans. The re-structured organizational chart aligns Allied Health professionals reporting to one Allied Health manager. Though the change involves further losses of SH managers, there are now opportunities for practitioners to advance through the new structure. The Profession Lead position relates to all managers and is therefore directly involved in the development and implementation of best practice at each site. The two Clinical Pastoral Units (Victoria General Hospital under the direction of Paul Peters-Derry and St. Boniface Hospital, under the direction of Chenene Layne) trained 18 students at various levels in 2020-2021. Many thanks to our educators for facilitating this essential education for current and prospective practitioners.



Restrictions to gathering sizes has meant that many patients and residents have not been able to practice the rituals of their faith or culture. The Profession Lead worked with Shared Health Infection Prevention and Control to develop recommendations for limited gathering sizes in Spring, 2020. In light of the recent discovery of unmarked graves, it is important for Spiritual Health services to work with Indigenous Health Services to facilitate access to ceremony and to provide the healing that is deeply needed at this time.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen R. Boschman".

**Kathleen Rempel Boschman**

*WRHA Professional Lead, Spiritual Health Services*

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Engagement with **faith groups, associations and communities**, as well as **affiliate partners** throughout Manitoba, including:

- Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land\*
- Bhai Kahan Sing Nabha Foundation\*
- Congregation Shaarey Zedek\*
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Manitoba & NW Ontario Synod\*
- First Church of Christ, Scientist
- First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg\*
- Manitoba Buddhist Association\*
- Manitoba Islamic Association
- Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba
- Mennonite Church Manitoba\*
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Boniface\*
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Winnipeg\*
- Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters\*
- Sikh Society of Manitoba
- Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Winnipeg\*
- United Church of Canada: Prairie to Pine Regional Council\*
- Vedanta Society of Winnipeg
- Winnipeg Manitoba Stake – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints\*
- Catholic Healthcare Association of Manitoba (CHAM)/Interfaith Healthcare Association of Manitoba (ICHAM)\*
- Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC), Manitoba Region
- Canadian Interfaith Conversation (CIC)
- Jewish Child and Family Service (JCFS)\*
- Manitoba Justice – Community Safety Division
- North American Interfaith Network (NAIN)
- Pembina Valley Multifaith Council (PVMC)
- Spiritual Health Services – Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA)

\*2020-21 membership dues paid



## NOMINATIONS REPORT

*The following people have agreed to stand for nomination  
as MMC's* **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

*Having been elected/re-elected at the 2020 AGM, continuing their 2020-22 term:*

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- AL-NAHAR, Khaled
- ASHRAFI, Ruth
- BARONINS, Christine
- CAMPBELL, Larry
- DWARKA, Diane
- FONTAINE, Stan
- JARNIEWSKI, Belle
- NASO, Jamileh
- POLZ, Robert

*Having been elected/re-elected at the 2021 AGM for the 2021-23 term:*

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- HARRIS, Ray
- LONG, Ron
- PANNU, Jessie
- PETERS DERRY, Paul
- TOWFIGH, Payam
- TURENNE-MAYNARD, Julie

*The following individuals have agreed to fulfill the following positions as*

**MMC OFFICERS, forming the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

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- **President:** Payam Towfigh
- **Vice-President:** *vacant*
- **Past-President:** Belle Jarniewski
- **Secretary:** Ray Harris
- **Treasurer**  
and **Membership Secretary:** Paul Peters Derry

### **STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS / BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

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- **Health:** Julie Turenne-Maynard / Ron Long
- **Justice and Corrections:** Bernie Mullins / Larry Campbell
- **Education:** Ruth Ashrafi
- **Community Relations:** Christine Baronins



## MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

### MOTION #2021 – 1

It was moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the **AGENDA** as circulated (included on *page vi* of the **2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT**) be adopted.

### MOTION #2021 – 2

It was moved by **Ray Harris**, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that **MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, as included on *pages 3-7* of the **2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT**, be approved [with additions, corrections or edits].

### MOTION #2021 – 3

It was moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that **REPORTS** of the **PRESIDENT, STANDING COMMITTEES, AFFILIATE PARTNERS and MEMBERSHIP REPORT**, as found on *pages 1-2 and 14-30* of **2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT**, be received for information.

### MOTION #2021 – 4

It was moved by **Paul Peters Derry**, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** for the **Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2021**, as found on *pages 8-12* of the **2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT**, be received for information.

### MOTION #2021 – 5




It was moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the Board of Directors engage **Jim Cornelius**, formerly Executive Director of **CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK**, as auditor to conduct review of Financial Statements for the **Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2021**.

### MOTION #2021 – 6

There being no further nominations, it was moved by **Ray Harris**, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the **NOMINATIONS REPORT**, as it appears on *page 31* of the **2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT**, be accepted as our **Board of Directors and Officers** for **2021-22**.

### MOTION #2021 – 7

There being no further business, the **2020-2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, INC. (2011)**, adjourned on a motion of \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ pm.

B	I	N	G	O
<p>Presenter forgets to stop <b>SCREEN SHARING</b></p>	<p><b>ELECTION CANDIDATE</b> knocks at the door <i>BONUS POINTS if they join the Zoom meeting!</i></p>	<p>“And then <b>COVID-19</b> happened...”</p>	<p>“Can everybody see my <b>SCREEN?</b>”</p>	<p>“Let’s <b>PIVOT</b> to another topic for conversation.”</p>
<p><i>Participant spontaneously breaks into</i> <b>SONG</b></p>	<p>“Hey... there’s some background noise... Can you <b>MUTE</b> yourself?”</p>	<p>“Please be <b>PATIENT</b> with us; we’re still getting used to this new <b>TECHNOLOGY</b>”</p>	<p>“This is my <b>THIRD VIRTUAL MEETING</b> today”</p>	<p>“<b>HELLO? HELLO?</b> Can you <b>HEAR ME?</b>”</p>
<p>“I thought this was the night for <b>PARISH BINGO</b>” <i>(as Harold King would say, “Why should Catholics have all the fun?!”)</i></p>	<p>Awkward <b>SILENCE</b> <i>BONUS POINT: “MMC Board Member starts snoring ...”</i></p>		<p>Someone is <b>TYPING</b>, and it sounds like they’re doing it with a <b>HAMMER</b></p>	<p>“According to <b>ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER ...</b>” <i>BONUS POINT: “Fr Robert’s Canon-Law Rules of Order”</i></p>
 <p><i>Impromptu display of affection involving</i> <b>CHAIR, COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE</b></p>	<p>“<b>DOWN</b>” <b>UPSIDE-</b> turned “Our world”</p>	<p>“It’s the <b>NEW NORMAL.</b>” <i>PENALTY POINT: “We’ve never done it that way before...”</i></p>	<p>“I’m sorry... I was on <b>MUTE.</b>”</p>	<p><b>CAT</b> or <b>DOG</b> walks by, or <b>SNAKE</b> slithers past camera</p>
<p>“[insert name of HOUSEHOLD MEMBER], I’m in a <b>ZOOM</b> meeting...”</p>	<p>“I believe that MMC really needs to [<b>SCREEN FREEZE</b>] in order for [<b>SCREEN FREEZE</b>] to happen ...”</p>	<p>Someone takes a sip of what appears to be other than <b>COMMUNION WINE.</b></p>	 <p>“<b>Mr. President,</b> <i>are you still</i> <b>AWAKE?</b>”</p>	<p><b>CELL PHONE</b> rings <i>BONUS POINTS: The ringtone is “A Mighty Fortress,” Celine Dion’s “My Heart Will Go On” or “Hockey Night in Canada” theme song</i></p>

“Celebrating the **VIRTUES**  
in a Virtual Annual General Meeting ...”

SINCE 2020

