



# Annual Report 2025

Pursuant to **BY-LAW NO.1** of **MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, Inc.** (2011),  
notice is given for its **Annual General Meeting** to take place:

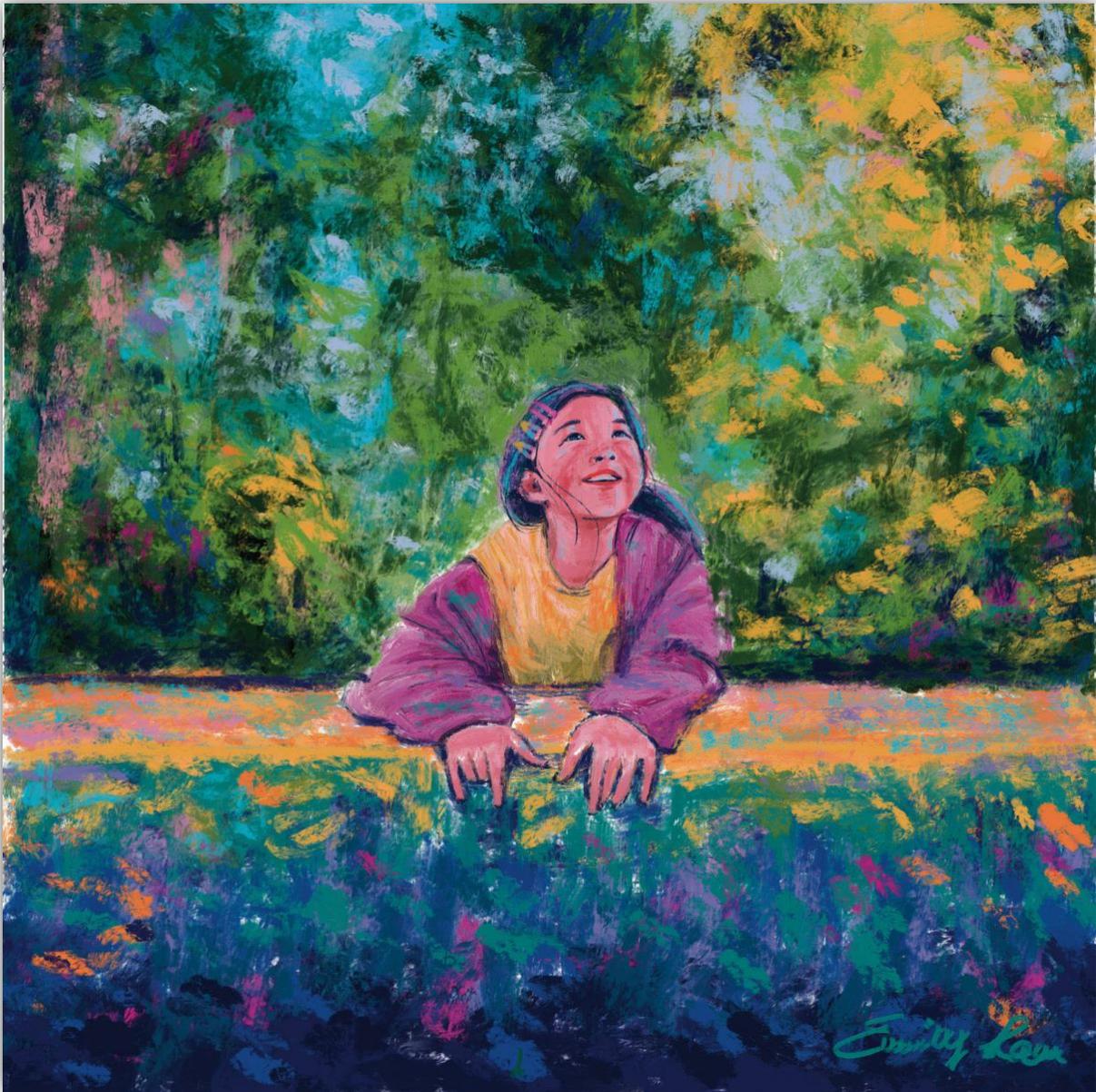
**Tuesday, September 9, 2025**

**7:00 pm**

**St Mark's Fellowship Hall**

**600 Cambridge St (at Corydon Ave)**

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.



**"The Dreamer"** by Emily Lau: "Dream Big my child. Go make a difference in this world.  
Set some boundaries and take up space. May you find peace in every step you take."  
Digital oil painting; 80" x 80" <https://www.emilyartgallery.com/>

## AGENDA – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

BUSINESS ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	PAGES	MOTION
<b>1. OPENING BUSINESS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome, <a href="#">Land Acknowledgement</a> and Declaration of Quorum</li> <li>Opening Prayer</li> <li>Adoption of Agenda</li> </ul>	<i>President</i> <i>Payam Towfigh</i>	<i>page 21</i>	<a href="#">MOTION #2025-1</a>
<b>2. ADOPTION of 2024 AGM MINUTES</b>	<i>Payam Towfigh</i> <i>Ray Harris</i>	<i>pages 4-8</i>	<a href="#">MOTION #2025-2</a>
<b>3. REPORTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 <a href="#">President</a></li> <li>3.2 <a href="#">Standing Committees</a></li> </ul> <p><i>Motion to receive reports</i></p>	<i>Payam Towfigh</i> <i>Diane Dwarka</i> <i>Committee Chairs</i>	<i>pages 3</i> <i>and 12-18</i>	<a href="#">MOTION #2025-3</a>
<b>4. <a href="#">FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</a></b> <p><i>Motion to receive Financial Statement</i></p>	<i>Jessie Pannu</i>	<i>pages 9-11</i>	<a href="#">MOTION #2025-4</a>
<b>5. APPOINTMENT OF REVIEWER</b> for <a href="#">FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</a>			<a href="#">MOTION #2025-5</a>
<b>6. <a href="#">NOMINATIONS REPORT</a></b>	<i>Ray Harris</i>	<i>page 19</i>	<a href="#">MOTION #2025-6</a>
<b>7. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS</b> for 2025-26	<i>Diane Dwarka</i>		
<b>8. NEW BUSINESS</b>	<i>Christine Baronins</i>		
<b>9. PROGRAM</b>			
 <p><a href="#">Tanya Brothers</a>  <a href="#">“The Unrealized Promise”</a>  Justice Manitoba</p>		<i>page 20</i>	<i>Introduction by</i> <i>Labeed Ahmed</i>
<b>10. CLOSING BUSINESS,</b> including <b>Thanks</b> and <b>Adjournment</b>	<i>Nick Chubenko</i>		<a href="#">MOTION #2025-7</a>

*Please join us after adjournment for follow-up conversation, networking and refreshments!*



## Motions for Consideration

### MOTION #2025- 1

It was moved by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the [AGENDA](#) as circulated (included on [page 1](#) of the **ANNUAL REPORT**) be adopted.

### MOTION #2025- 2

It was moved by **Ray Harris**, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that [MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING](#), as included on [pages 4-8](#) of the **ANNUAL REPORT**, be approved [with additions, corrections or edits].

### MOTION #2025 - 3

It was moved by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that **REPORTS** of the [PRESIDENT](#), and [STANDING COMMITTEES](#), as found on [pages 3 and 12-18](#) of the **ANNUAL REPORT**, be received for information.

### MOTION #2025 - 4

It was moved by **Jessie Pannu**, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that [FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#) for the **Fiscal Year** ending **March 31, 2025**, as found on [pages 9-11](#) of the **ANNUAL REPORT**, be received for information.

### MOTION #2025 - 5

It was moved by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the Board of Directors appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to conduct a review of [FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#) for the **Fiscal Year** ending **March 31, 2025**.

### MOTION #2025- 6

There being no further nominations, it was moved by **Ray Harris**, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the [NOMINATIONS REPORT](#), as it appears on [page 19](#) of the **ANNUAL REPORT**, be accepted as our **Board of Directors** and **Officers** for **2025-26**.

### MOTION #2025 - 7

There being no further business, the **2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, INC. (2011)**, adjourned on a motion of \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ pm.



## From the President

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Dear friends,

This past year has been a busy one, filled with many memorable events.

Although the world around us seems to be slipping further into disintegration and conflict, I believe it is more important than ever to redouble our efforts locally working to positively influence the communities around us and staying true to the vision set by our board.

We began 2025 with the **Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding**, honoring Dr. Mohinder Singh Dhillon for his many decades of dedication to fostering social harmony in our province.

We then held our annual **Multifaith Leadership Breakfast**, where we forged new connections and strengthened bonds with like-minded individuals and groups.

This year, we were also proud to witness two of our long-time board members, **Diane Dwarka** and **Ray Harris**, receiving the **King Charles III Coronation Medal**.

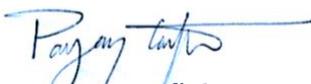
One of the year's biggest highlights was our co-sponsorship of the **"Our Whole Society"** conference at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. We heard from prominent speakers and participated in workshops highly relevant to our board's work.

We are also exploring new collaborations with organizations that share our goals. As these plans take shape, we look forward to sharing more details with you.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our members serving on our various committees—**Community Relations, Justice and Corrections, Education, Spiritual Health**, and the **Executive Committee**. Your dedication strengthens our community and enhances the quality of programs we offer.

As I complete my term as President of the MMC this year, I am delighted to welcome our incoming president, **Christine Baronins**. I am confident Christine will lead our organization to new heights as we navigate these challenging yet hopeful times.

Respectfully submitted,



**Payam Towfigh**  
MMC President



# Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

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Pursuant to **BY-LAW NO. 1** of the **MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL, Inc. (2011)**, its **Annual General Meeting** took place on **Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 7:00 pm.** The meeting was held in-person at **St Mark's Lutheran Church, in Winnipeg.** Approximately thirty people came to the meeting, including both board members and guests from the public. A few printed copies of the 2024 Annual Report were made available, and the Report was also accessible by PowerPoint to those present.

## 1. OPENING BUSINESS

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**President Payam Towfigh** welcomed everyone who gathered for the AGM, and expressed gratitude to St Mark's for opening its facilities to MMC for this occasion.

**President Towfigh** acknowledged that this AGM was being held on Treaty One Land, in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Dakota Peoples, and the homeland of the Metis Nation.

**President Towfigh** then declared a sufficient quorum for the meeting.

In her opening prayer, **Christine Baronins** gave thanks for the freedoms we do experience in this land, and the opportunity to serve within the Manitoba Multifaith Council. She expressed the desire that God would guide the work of MMC, that we would be instruments of God's love. And that the evening would help MMC to fulfill its purposes.

### **MOTION #2024-1**

It was moved by **Ron Long**, and seconded by **Tanis Moore**, that the **Agenda** as found on page 2 of the **AGM Report** be adopted. **APPROVED**

## 2. ADOPTION OF 2023 AGM MINUTES

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### **MOTION #2024-2**

It was moved by **Nick Chubenko**, and seconded by **Christine Baronins**, that the **Minutes** as recorded for the **2023 AGM** be adopted. **APPROVED**

### 3. REPORTS

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#### PRESIDENT

In his Report, **President Towfigh** drew attention to the horrific attacks of last October 7, and the way they have affected Manitobans. He noted that such moments show how global events are felt here in this land. Mention was made regarding **Premier Wab Kinew's** comments about the legislative prayer at MMC's Leadership Breakfast. As an update, **President Towfigh** reported that just the day before the AGM, a Prayer Summit was hosted by the Premier, at which close to 70 people gathered to share convictions on how best to approach the opening of a legislature session. It was a stimulating time, and more work is forthcoming. **President Towfigh** expressed thanks to the Treasurer, Jessie Pannu, for her fine work, and to the members serving on MMC's various committees.

#### COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

This Committee has been instrumental in mounting several important public events during 2024. In February of this year, the Committee worked with the **Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Anita Neville**, to host the annual Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding. The Award recipient was Rev. Dr. **Loraine Mackenzie Shepherd**, who has built important relationships with different faith traditions through her writing and work with the United Church. In April, this Committee hosted the Annual Multifaith Leadership Breakfast, with guest speaker Premier Wab Kinew. Close to 170 people attended, and heard the Premier invite MMC to participate in a re-thinking of the prayer which opens legislative sessions. MMC has welcomed the opportunity to help with this task. The Committee plans to explore other ways of impacting the community.

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Under the leadership of its new Chair, **Tanis Moore**, this Committee has begun to explore ways of inviting people to the various locations of faith communities in the city. A first expression of this was the invitation for people to visit the Manitoba Buddhist Temple. The Chair looks forward to creating more such events in the future.

#### JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

This Committee continues its work of supporting chaplains in the provincial and federal penal institutions. It also continues to represent faith communities especially with the province's justice system. This past year the Art Contest for Inmates was sponsored by the Mennonite Faith Community, based on the theme: "Seeking the Light Inside." A special feature of the AGM was the exhibition of many pieces of art from this contest, and brought by Bernie Mullins. This fall a book launch will be held, *Transformative Moments in Chaplaincy* by Don Stoesz and Joan Palardy.

## SPIRITUAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

In November of 2023, this Committee held a Workshop focusing on the relationship of Spirituality and Religion with Mental Health. It was well attended and resulted in rich conversations. Work is being done to advocate for spiritual health within the Health Care System.

### MOTION #2024-3

It was moved by **Belle Jarniewski**, and seconded by **Christine Baronins**, that the **Reports of the President and the Standing Committees** be received for information.

**APPROVED**

## 4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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The 2024 Financial statements were prepared by **Jessie Pannu** and reviewed by Belle Jarniewski. In her report, the Treasurer noted that the statements are prepared using the cash method of accounting where revenue is recorded when the money comes in, and expenses are recorded when they are paid. This can result in a slight mismatch of income and expense as was the case for the Multifaith Leadership Breakfast for 2024. Jessie expressed the conviction that MMC has a healthy bank balance as shown in the Balance sheet for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

### MOTION #2024-4

It was moved by **Belle Jarniewski**, and seconded by **Nick Chubenko**, that the **Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2024** be received for information.

**APPROVED**

## 5. FINANCIAL REVIEW

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The treasurer asked for a motion from the floor to appoint Payam Towfigh as the reviewer for next year's financial statements.

### MOTION #2024-5

It was moved **James Christie**, and seconded by **Ray Harris**, that **Payam Towfigh** be appointed to review the financial statements ending March 31, 2025.

**APPROVED**

## 6. NOMINATIONS REPORT

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As he introduced the Nominations Report, **Ray Harris** drew attention to the many individuals who serve the mission of MMC through their work on its various Committees

expressing thanks to them. He then indicated the names of those who have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors for the coming year.

**MOTION #2024-6**

There being no further nominations, it was moved by **Ray Harris**, and seconded by **James Christie**, that the **Nominations Report** as presented be accepted as the Board of Directors and Officers for 2024-2025. **APPROVED**

## 7. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS for 2024-25

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As she began the Installation of Officers, **Diane Dwarka** noted that this moment marked the beginning of a new year of work, fun and fellowship. Inviting the Executive to stand, she asked: *“Do you the Members of the Executive promise to do your best to carry out your duties as outlined in the By-Laws of this organization?”* Once the Executive responded in the affirmative, she asked remaining Board members: *“Will you diligently perform the duties of your office?”* Upon affirmation, Diane installed the Board members saying, *“I now confer upon you such obligations and authority as belong to your office.”* Then turning to others present at the AGM she asked: *“Do you promise to support these people elected here tonight with your work and prayers?”*

Upon affirmation of all present, Diane also thanked Belle Jarniewski for her faithful work with MMC.

## 8. EXPRESSION OF THANKS

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Upon completion of the Business of the AGM, **President Towfigh** invited **Belle Jarniewski** to join him. He then expressed deep appreciation to Belle for her important contribution to the life and service of MMC, having fulfilled the responsibilities of Board Member, Vice-President, President and Past-President. A **Certificate of Appreciation** was presented to her, quoting the Hebrew phrase, *tiqqun olam*, which means “the repairing of the world.” Those gathered echoed the President’s remarks with their appreciation.

## 9. PROGRAM

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Moving into the Program element of the AGM, **Nick Chubenko** introduced the guest speaker, *Winnipeg Free Press* writer, **John Longhurst**. He took this occasion to give those present an idea of what it has been like for him to write close to 1,000 Faith Page articles for the *Free Press* over the past five years. As he noted, the *Free Press* has created something that is unique in North America, with its articles focusing on religious faith. John pointed out that in his view, religious faith plays an important role in the wider community. Faith informs our response to issues like hunger and justice. Thus faith is critically important in our world today. It is also difficult in our world, especially following the events of October 7, 2024.

John acknowledged the different reactions he receives from the reading public as he attempts to create healing conversations in a world of mistrust. But instead of contributing to a world often divided between “Us” vs “Them” he seeks to reduce suspicions in “such a time as this.” One suggestion to overcome these divisions was to draw upon the Indigenous experience of “circle meetings,” as a safe place to tell our stories and seeking healing. Those present expressed deep appreciation to John for his comments and contribution to the city.

## 10. CLOSING BUSINESS

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Bringing the AGM to a close, **Diane Dwarka** thanked the guest speaker, those who helped to set up St Mark’s for the meeting, and all who were present.

### MOTION #2024-7

Having concluded the Business and Program, the 2024 AGM of the Manitoba Multifaith Council was adjourned on a motion of Ruth Ashrafi, seconded by Tanis Moore.

**APPROVED**



**Ray Harris**, MMC Secretary



**Payam Towfigh**, MMC President



# Financial Statements

The Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2025, have been prepared using the **cash basis of accounting**. This means that revenues are recorded when cash is received, and expenses are recorded when cash is paid, regardless of when the transactions occur.

This method has been consistently applied in line with our organization’s accounting policies. This approach may not fully reflect our organization’s financial position as it would under accrual-based accounting standards. Refer to the notes appended to the Financial Statements.

Prepared by: Jessie Pannu

Reviewed by: Payam Towfigh

Respectfully submitted,

**Jessie Pannu**  
MMC Treasurer

## BALANCE SHEET COMPARISON

As of March 31, 2025 (Cash Basis)

### BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	AS OF MAR. 31, 2025	AS OF MAR. 31, 2024 (PY)
Current Assets		
Charity High Interest Savings (7118)	\$4,443.74	\$4,293.79
Charity Standard Chequing (7100)	\$4,525.34	\$2,868.45
GIC 110477381898	\$4,236.65	\$4,000.00
GIC 110477381807	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$13,205.73	\$15,162.24
Total Current Assets	\$13,205.73	\$15,162.24
Total Assets	\$13,205.73	\$15,162.24

*PY = Past Year*

## PROFIT AND LOSS COMPARISON

Period: April 2024 – March 2025 (Cash Basis)

### INCOME STATEMENT

INCOME	APR. 2024 – MAR. 2025	APR. 2023 – MAR. 2024 (PY)
2024 Chaplaincy Arts Contest	\$0.00	\$450.00
Faith in the Public Square	\$178.46	\$0.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$375.00
Membership Dues	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00
Multifaith Calendar Sales	\$6,367.69	\$6,066.35
Multifaith Leadership Breakfast <sup>1</sup>	\$5,750.01	\$80.00
Refunds - Allowances	\$6.00	\$500.00
SCU Member Bonus	\$18.14	\$16.86
Spirituality and Mental Health Workshop	\$0.00	\$350.00
GST Rebate	\$313.90	\$187.29
Interest Earned	\$613.30	\$552.95
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$14,447.50</b>	<b>\$10,078.45</b>

### EXPENSE STATEMENT

EXPENSE CATEGORY	APR. 2024 – MAR. 2025	APR. 2023 – MAR. 2024 (PY)
Accounting Fees	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
AGM Expense	\$377.82	\$500.00
Bank Charges	\$37.00	\$0.00
GST Expense	\$775.60	\$257.04
Marketing – Constant Connect <sup>2</sup>	\$1,475.00	\$0.00
Multifaith Calendars	\$5,512.72	\$5,252.29
Multifaith Leadership Breakfast <sup>3</sup>	\$5,166.50	\$2,000.00
Office Expenses	\$306.21	\$0.00
Other General/Admin Expenses	\$258.05	\$322.94
Program Spending <sup>4</sup>	\$1,622.16	\$0.00
Corrections Art Contest	\$450.00	\$358.38
Winnipeg Free Press	\$0.00	\$500.00
RPO Box Rental	\$0.00	\$182.00
Website	\$422.95	\$461.11
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,404.01</b>	<b>\$11,033.76</b>

### NET PROFIT

April 2024 – March 2025: (\$1,956.51)<sup>5</sup>

April 2023 – March 2024 (PY): (\$955.31)<sup>6</sup>

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1. Multifaith Leadership Breakfast - income

The Multifaith Leadership Breakfast, typically held in February, was scheduled for April in 2024. As a result, no income or expense related to this event was recognized in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024.

### 2. Marketing – Constant Connect, etc. - expense

Marketing expenses related to Constant Connect were paid by Paul Peters Derry, who submitted reimbursement claims covering two fiscal years within the current reporting period. This timing resulted in an increased marketing expense in the current year.

### 3. Multifaith Leadership Breakfast - expense

The amount of \$2,000 recorded in the previous fiscal year represents a deposit paid for the Multifaith Leadership Breakfast, which took place in April 2024. The total cost of this event was \$7,166.50. The resulting shortfall was reviewed at a subsequent board meeting, during which the board committed to aiming for a break-even outcome for future events.

### 4. Program Spending – Faith in the Public Square - expense

The program spending amount of \$1,622.16 is MMC's share of the cost of hosting the *Faith in the Public Square* event at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in December 2024.

### 5. Net Profit, April 2024 – March 2025

The actual amount of net profit for the above fiscal year is (\$3,956.51). This figure includes a \$2,000 deposit for the 2024 Multifaith Leadership Breakfast, which was recorded as an expense in the previous fiscal year due to the cash basis of accounting used for the financial statements.

### 6. Net Profit, April 2023 – March 2024

The actual net profit for this period was \$1,044.69. The \$2,000 expense referenced in Note 5 pertains to an event scheduled for the 2024–2025 fiscal year but was recorded in the current period due to the cash basis of accounting.



# Reports of Standing Committees



## Community Relations Committee

### Faith in the Public Square

On December 8, 2024, the **Reverend Dr. Jerry Pillay, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC)**, visited Winnipeg as part of his Canadian tour. In partnership with the Manitoba Multifaith Council, the Community Relations Committee hosted an event at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, where Dr. Pillay took part in a panel discussion exploring how churches, and individuals of all faiths and beliefs, can engage more deeply in public discourse and contribute to a more respectful and constructive social conversation.

Dr. Pillay, who began his term as WCC General Secretary in January 2023, previously served as Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria. A member of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, he brought valuable insights from his extensive global experience.

He was joined on the panel by:

- Reverend Dr. Michael Wilson, Minister at Charleswood United Church
- Prabhnoor Singh, Vice President of External Affairs, University of Manitoba Students' Union
- Peter Noteboom, General Secretary, Canadian Council of Churches
- Stan McKay, Minister, United Church of Canada

Over the course of 45 minutes, followed by a lively Q & A, panelists shared perspectives on building trust, strengthening civic engagement, and using faith-based values to shape healthier public dialogue.

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

On February 4, 2025, the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, Her Honour Anita Neville, hosted the annual Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding at Government House. The event brought together provincial interfaith leaders and community friends to honour this year's recipient, **Dr. Mohinder Singh Dhillon**.

Dr. Dhillon immigrated to Canada with his wife and daughter in 1967, Canada's Centennial Year. Since then, he has played a central role in establishing the Sikh community in Manitoba and fostering genuine multifaith understanding both within the province and across Canada. His contributions extend beyond faith work, including service with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and the City of Winnipeg's Community and Race Relations Committee.

The Community Relations Committee is honoured to collaborate with the Lieutenant Governor's Office in recognizing excellence in interfaith dialogue and service. The

Manitoba Multifaith Council welcomes community nominations for this annual award. Details on the nomination process can be found at: [manitobamultifaith.org](https://manitobamultifaith.org)

## **Multifaith Leadership Breakfast**

The annual Multifaith Leadership Breakfast, held each spring, continues to be a signature event for the Manitoba Multifaith Council. Organized by the Community Relations Committee, this gathering brings together faith leaders, community members, and government representatives for connection, conversation, and inspiration.

On April 2, 2025, guests assembled at the RBC Convention Centre to hear keynote speaker **Dorota Blumczynska, Chief Executive Officer** of the **Manitoba Museum**. Dorota shared her powerful personal story — from being born in Poland during a time of political unrest, to living in a refugee camp in eastern Germany, to arriving in Canada as a Privately Sponsored Refugee on October 27, 1989.

Before joining the Manitoba Museum, Dorota served as Executive Director of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM) for 13 years, leading the organization through a period of remarkable growth, innovation, and community impact. Her address reflected a deep commitment to social justice, equity, and building welcoming communities.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Moving forward, the committee aims to increase the event's visibility, expand participation, and further raise awareness of local issues affecting our communities.

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## **Our Whole Society Conference**

Rocky Baronins, Chair of the Community Relations Committee, along with board members Diane Dwarka, Labeed Ahmed and Paul Peters Derry, and MMC President Payam Towfigh, participated in planning a two-day conference in June at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Organized by the **Canadian Interfaith Conversation**, the event featured speakers and presenters from Winnipeg and across Canada, including Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham, MLA Mike Moroz, and international human rights lawyer Payam Akhavan.

On the conference's final day, Rocky Baronins served as a panelist, speaking on how faith communities can engage with their neighbours to foster peace and hope.

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## **Looking Ahead**

As we look to the coming year, the Community Relations Committee remains committed to strengthening connections, expanding outreach, and amplifying the voices of Manitoba's diverse faith and community leaders.

Our objectives for the year ahead include:

- Deepening relationships with political and community leaders.

- Increasing engagement and participation in the nomination process for the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding.
- Exploring the addition of a summer event to bring together community and faith leaders.
- Expanding our committee membership by two additional members.

Through these initiatives, we aim to ensure the Manitoba Multifaith Council remains a trusted convener, a respectful voice, and an active participant in shaping a more inclusive future for all.

**2024-2025 Community Relations Committee:**

Rocky Baronins - Chair  
Diane Dwarka  
Robert Polz  
Christine Baronins  
Jamileh Naso  
Wilson Akinwale

Respectfully submitted,



**Rocky Baronins**

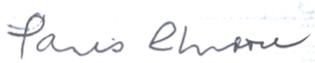
Chair, MMC Community Relations Committee

## Education Committee

Brief summation of the Education Committee's activities will be made at the AGM.

**2024-2025 Education Committee:**

Tanis Moore (Chair)  
Izzeddin Hawamda  
Manju Lohda  
Shelaghl Marchenski



**Tanis Moore**

Chair, MMC Education Committee

## Justice and Corrections Committee

The **Justice and Corrections Committee** seeks to advocate for the religious needs of those involved in the criminal justice and correctional systems in Manitoba. The prime objectives are to support chaplains who serve in correctional institutions, liaise with religious communities, and link with service organizations that reintegrate offenders into the community or assist victims of crime.

The **members of the committee** are Bernie Mullins (Coordinator of Chaplaincy), Ken Kuhn (Interim Chair), Peter Kanygin (Secretary), Rhonda Gorham, Peter Rempel, Mary Lyseki, Greg Dunwoody, Larry Campbell, and Don MacCormack. Labeed Ahmed, a MMC board member, has recently joined the committee representing the Muslim faith community. The committee meets monthly on Zoom which is provided by the Salvation Army Correctional Services. We are thankful for the services of Oscar Boloko and Ellen Allen who have completed terms.

The **Manitoba Department of Justice Correctional Services Division, Custody** is responsible for the safe administration of seven centres (six adult and one youth) throughout the province. Chaplains are present in each facility to offer a spiritual presence of hope, comfort, and compassion to the staff and inmates or residents. This fulfills an important role that is valued by both the Correction's Division and the inmates or residents. Chaplains also represent an important link between the community and the facility through the presence of volunteers as well as some notable initiatives that were possible through various partnerships.

Chaplains are particularly grateful to the efforts of various ministry and para ministry organizations that provide inmates with a Bible, Quran, and other sacred texts as well as a variety of resources, religious educational material, and other supportive ministries that offer prayer and encouragement for those members of our community who are in prison.

Activities of the committee this past year have included:

Some members of the committee visit those in prison and provide religious services. Greg Dunwoody has initiated a community ministry located in the St. Kateri Parish Hall at 265 Flora Avenue.

A book launch was organized on September 26, 2024, at the Canadian Mennonite University to promote **Transformative Moments in Chaplaincy**, on the ministry of Rev. Pierre Allard, authored by former chaplains Donald Stoesz and Joan Palardy.

**Prison Fellowship Canada** once again provided inmates with an opportunity to send a Christmas gift to a child through the Angel Tree Program.

The **Salvation Army** continues to partner with chaplains by providing "sunshine bags" to inmates and residents at Christmas as well as pocket calendars for correctional officers.

A public event was held for **Restorative Justice Week** on November 18, 2024, hosted by

Rhonda Gorham, Ministry Manager of the Lutheran Urban ministry at the Lutheran Church of the Cross around the theme: **“Seeking the Light Inside.”** Hank Dixon, a retired federal chaplain and former executive director of Initiatives for Just Communities, spoke on the topic: What is Restorative Justice? The Honourable Matt Wiebe, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Manitoba, brought greetings from the provincial government and proclaimed Restorative Justice Week. He referred to the Manitoba Public Safety Strategy released in November 2024: **“Safer Neighbourhoods, Safer Downtowns.”** The strategy seeks to *Respond: Tough on Crime; Prevent: Pathways to success, not pipelines to prison; and Investing in Communities: Tough on the roots and causes of crime.* The gathering included responses by the John Howard Society and Onashowewin Justice Circle with opening and closing prayers offered by Indigenous elders. Over 60 persons attended the event.

The **Redeemed Christian Church of God Grace to You Church** in Brandon, Manitoba, is hosting the **2025 Chaplains Art Contest**, co-sponsored by the Manitoba Multifaith Council. This year’s theme is **“Healing for the Broken Hearted.”**

Our member Peter Rempel has sparked a **review of the committee terms of reference** that is ongoing. Preliminary considerations include strengthening educational events for the faith communities about ministry in prisons and correctional issues.

Our Anglican representative, Mary Lyseki, encouraged us to endorse the **Winnipeg Indigenous Accord** to promote reconciliation with those in the Aboriginal community. Our committee plans conversations with elders and leaders in the coming year.

Representatives from the Manitoba Multifaith Council Justice and Correction Committee had an opportunity to meet with chaplains in May.

On June 12, 2025, our interim chair participated in a round table sponsored by the Winnipeg Police Board to review the **Five-Year Plan** of the **Winnipeg Police Service**. The round table included a report by the Board on **“The Environment for Policing in Winnipeg 2025.”** The roundtable noted the continuing need for the police service to represent the diverse ethnic, religious and international constituencies of Winnipeg.

Following a retirement, a chaplaincy position is in the process being filled at the Manitoba Youth Centre.

Respectfully submitted,



**Bernie Mullins**, Chaplaincy Coordinator  
Manitoba Department of Justice, Correctional Services Division



**Kenneth C. Kuhn**  
Interim Chair, MMC Justice and Corrections Committee

## Spiritual Health Committee

With Julie Turenne-Maynard's departure from IHCAM/CHAM, Gladys assumed the role of Chair of the Manitoba Multifaith Council's Spiritual Health Committee. New members joined under updated terms of reference, committing to quarterly meetings. Gladys also reached out to regional coordinators from all four RHAs to gather information and strengthen dialogue on advancing spiritual health in Manitoba.

**A joint letter with MMC was drafted for the Ministry of Health** requesting a meeting to discuss reinstating a provincial spiritual health framework. The proposal emphasized a collaborative, resource-optimized approach, designating regional leads and ensuring Indigenous representation.

The Committee also worked with the WRHA on updating the **End-of-Life Care Guide** to ensure accurate, culturally appropriate information for multiple faith traditions. Updates from Muslim leaders were incorporated, with further input sought from Jewish, Indigenous, Buddhist, Sikh, and Jehovah's Witness representatives. The updated guide will be shared with the MMC Board for additional feedback and validation.

In October 2024, IHCAM and MMC co-hosted the **Spirituality and Social Connections Workshop**, drawing over 70 participants. The Committee partnered with WRHA to request a provincial declaration for Spiritual Health Awareness Week, during which IHCAM launched its YouTube Spirituality Channel featuring five interviews with practitioners across Manitoba.

Planning advanced for the **Fall 2025 Workshop** (October 29, 2025), focusing on the integration of spiritual health into mental health, addictions, and homelessness services. The half-day event will feature a keynote speaker, panel discussions—including lived experience voices—and networking opportunities, with partners such as the Salvation Army Centre of Hope, CPE students, MMC, and the Mayor's Interfaith Committee.

### 2024-2025 Spiritual Health Committee:

Nick Chubenko  
Ron Long  
Bonny Mcintosh  
Chennene Layne  
Gladys Hrab

Respectfully submitted,



**Gladys Hrab**

Chair, MMC Spiritual Health Committee



# Nominations Report

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

*Having been elected/ re-elected at the **2024 AGM for the 2024-26 term:***

- ASHRAFI, Ruth
- BARONINS, Christine
- DWARKA, Diane
- POLZ, Robert

*Having been elected/ re-elected at the **2025 AGM for the 2025-27 term:***

- AHMED, Labeed
- BARONINS, Richard
- CHUBENKO, Nicholas
- HARRIS, Ray
- HRABI, Gladys
- KUHN, Ken
- LONG, Ron
- MOORE, Tanis
- PANNU, Jessie
- PETERS DERRY, Paul
- TOWFIGH, Payam

*The following have agreed to fulfill the following positions as **MMC OFFICERS,**  
forming the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:***

- President: Christine Baronins
- Vice-President: Nicholas Chubenko
- Past-President: Payam Towfigh
- Secretary: Ray Harris
- Treasurer : Jessie Pannu

*The following people have agreed to serve as **STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS**  
and/or **BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:***

- Spiritual Health: Gladys Hrabi/ Ron Long
- Justice and Corrections: Ken Kuhn
- Education: Tanis Moore
- Community Relations: Richard Baronins



## Multifaith Calendar 2026

"Growth and Change"

Published annually by the **Multifaith Action Society** (MAS), the **Multifaith Calendar** (MFC) is a unique educational resource that facilitates and promotes understanding of religious observances, occasions and festivals important to a wide spectrum of cultural and faith communities. Featuring 18 pieces of original art from visual artists across North America and Internationally, the new 2026 edition marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Calendar and features the theme: **Growth and Change**.

From birth to death, life is an ongoing experience of growth and change. We all face challenges, obstacles, and circumstances that force us to reach out in new directions. But how do we embrace change in a manner that is meaningful? What does it take to grow in bold, dynamic, and affirmative ways? How do we avoid stagnation or defeat?

Whether it is human beings navigating the unknown, plants finding their way through concrete, or the universe expanding, we are all participating in an interconnected process of growth and evolution. How might we do so in a way that is wise and fruitful?

In our **2026 Multifaith Calendar, Growth and Change**, we invite readers to reflect deeply on these perennial questions and to channel their visions of growth and change in a way that personifies, among other things, personal development, self-discovery, and self-reflection... striving to build deeper connections within as well as reaching out to the world around us. Enjoy!

### WHAT'S NEW FOR 2026

Over the years, the **Multifaith Calendar** has been privileged to feature Indigenous seasons and moons according to different First Nations, including Nisga'a (northwestern BC), the Cree First Nations (large area of across Canada's north from Quebec to Alberta as well as parts of Montana in the US), and the Mi'kmaq First Nations (spanning the maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, parts of Newfoundland and Québec, as well as the northeastern region in the USA).

This new edition of the **MFC** features moon cycles according to the Ojibwe nation. The Ojibwe (also Ojibwa, Ojibway and Chippewa) are an Indigenous people in Canada and the United States who are part of a larger cultural group known as the Anishinaabeg. They are closely related to the Odawa and Algonquin peoples, and share many traditions with neighbouring Cree people, especially in the north and west of Ontario, and east of Manitoba.



Official Distributor for Manitoba  
of the **2026 Multifaith Calendar**

to order: [calendars.mmc@gmail.com](mailto:calendars.mmc@gmail.com)

# Tanya Brothers

## "The Unrealized Promise"



Tanya Brothers is a lawyer with the Legal Services Branch of Manitoba Justice. She was appointed General Counsel in 2021 for demonstrating exceptional legal ability, competence and practice at the highest levels of ethical conduct. Committed to service, Ms. Brothers is active in the community as a volunteer, board member, strategic advisor, facilitator and speaker. She is the current Vice Chair of the St. Paul's College Foundation Board.



## 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

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 Red River 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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