



NEWNESS & MOVEMENT EVIDENT AT ANNUAL MEETING

*New strength, hopefulness new,
new hearts, spirits new,
new minds, wisdom new,
Spirit of God moving ...*

The above words, from the hymn chosen by host Ev Buhr (President, Alberta Women in Mission), seem most appropriate for our organization. They convey the emphasis on newness and movement that was evident at this summer's Mennonite Women Canada (MW Canada) annual meeting in Calgary. For example:



Guests enjoying fellowship and lunch at Annual Meeting in Calgary, July 1, 2010.

New strength, hopefulness new is evident in the encouraging and challenging report from the Task Force that moved the organization to:

- Unanimously adopt a new definition of membership that “All women who are part of a Mennonite women’s organization or participate in a Mennonite congregation in Canada are welcome.” *(So, female reader, consider yourself part of the sisterhood in our denomination!)*
- Unanimously approve that the MW Canada Executive be empowered to appoint representatives to the Executive from areas when there are no regional women’s organizations or area church Women’s Ministries.
- Develop a Communications Committee to address the lack of knowledge about Mennonite Women Canada cited by a number of survey respondents. The mandate of this committee, with membership from British Columbia to Eastern Cana-

da, will be to work with the website, blog, newsletters, and other communication initiatives which exist or might yet develop. *(If you are interested in this work please contact Erna Neufeldt, neufeldte@yahoo.com).*

New minds, wisdom new are also anticipated as three new women join the Executive:



Liz Koop (right) and Lois Mierau (centre), accept candles from Erna Neufeldt (left) to symbolize God's light and help in their work for MW Canada.

• Liz Koop, St. Catharines, Ontario (ON), President-Elect until 2011 when she moves into the President’s chair. Liz and husband Alf are grape growers in Vineland, ON.

• Lois Mierau, Langham, Saskatchewan (SK) Secretary-treasurer. Lois and husband Gaylord own and operate a small farm northwest of Saskatoon, SK. Lois volunteers part time as receptionist at the Mennonite Central Committee office in Saskatoon.

• Patty Ollies, Milverton, ON, new Chair of Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. Patty is the coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee Thrift Stores in Ontario.



Ruth Jantzi (left), outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, presents her successor Lois Mierau (right) with a “gift bag” of things she will need – steno pads to take two-plus long days of minutes; good writing pens; banking files; and stamps.

New hearts, spirits new will hopefully result from this year's Bible Study guide, *Seek Peace & Pursue It, Women, Faith and Family Care**, written by Elizabeth Soto Albrecht, seeks to inspire readers to carry out God's message of peace – starting in our homes. "Christian families are not automatically peaceful ones," concludes Soto Albrecht. "They must work toward that goal with God's help, following biblical examples and applying Jesus' teachings.

*In Canada, order by phone from Faith & Life Resources at 1-800-631-6536.

TASK FORCE

Upon completion of their mandate, the Task Force on Bridging the Gap and Enlarging the Tent, chaired by Marguerite Jack, presented a report at our Annual Meeting in Calgary. To read the complete summary, recommendations and executive response please visit <http://www.mennonitechurchcanada.ca/mwc/>.



OFFERING

An offering of \$1040 was received at the Annual Meeting. By tradition, the offering is shared evenly between the host organization and MW Canada. Alberta Women in Mission chose the money to go for kitchen upgrades at Camp Valaqua and MW Canada designated its portion to the International Ministries project (Colombia Mennonite Church).

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSISTANCE FUND – a project of MW Canada

With your gifts of \$2849.50 we are able to support Kara Carter, Milverton, Ontario (ON) and Virginia Gerbrandt, Leamington, ON with their studies for this coming school year. "Why I am at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary" is an article by Virginia that you can find on our website at <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/AtAMBS.htm>

We invite you to continue to support this important ministry. In the past 8 years you have been able to help 14 women pursue an education in ministry.

Photos courtesy Waltrude Gortzen & Donita Wiebe- Neufeldt
Newsletter prepared by Erna Neufeldt
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"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." **1 Peter 4:10**



MW Canada Executive, 2010. (L-R): Lois Mierau, Waltrude Gortzen, Liz Koop, Erna Neufeldt, Patty Ollies, Ruby Harder, Ev Buhr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **October 15-16, 2010:** Saskatchewan Women in Mission Fall Retreat at Shekinah Retreat Centre. *Worshipping God using our Senses* includes 3 sessions on our 5 senses, book club, a banquet, worship and fellowship. Contact: Barb Wolfe sb.wolfe@sasktel.net.
- **October 15-17, 2010** British Columbia Mennonite Women's Ministry Retreat at Camp Squeah. *Women's Health* focus includes sessions with breast cancer survivor Feather Janz and Lisa Adrienne, composer/singer of *Carry On*, manicure evening, worship, fellowship and silent auction. Project: new or gently used bras for Fraser Valley Crisis Pregnancy Centre. Visit: http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mc-cwebcalendar/view_entry.php?id=3815&date=20101015
- **October 23, 2010:** Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Enrichment Day at Bethany Mennonite Church, Virgil, ON. *Haiti: Building in Hope* with speakers Donna Thiessen and Leah Reesor. Special music by Bethany Bell Choir. Visit: http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mc-cwebcalendar/view_entry.php?id=3922&date=20101023



Please keep Anne Garber Kompaore and Hinke Loewen Rudgers, recipients of Pennies & Prayer Inheritance Fund awards, in your prayers.

<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/>
blog: <http://www.mennowomencanada.blogspot.com>