

EMMC Annual Year End Report 2025

EMMC exists to **EQUIP** and **ENCOURAGE** our churches
for effective ministry, **EMPOWERING** them to
participate in God's work in the world.

January 2026

Henry Redekopp, Executive Director

With 2025 in our rearview mirror, I am frequently reminded of 1 Thessalonians 5:14 *"The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."* This passage rings true in my life personally, as well as in the work of EMMC. God's faithfulness has enabled our ministry and provided for our needs through your generosity. Thank you for supporting EMMC in 2025 as we reflect on God's goodness this past year.

STAFF & BOARD

In March of 2025, our General Board met for a time of brainstorming and visioning. At that time, we reaffirmed commitment to the Great Commission and the Core Values that drive our mission: Connection to Christ and His Body, Bible-Centered Discipleship, and Spirit-Led Mission. As staff, we have deciphered the brainstorming notes and developed the Two-Year Ministry Plan which our General Board adopted. Our *Confession of Faith*, *Core Values* and *Ministry Plan* will be our guiding documents in shaping our ministry in the next two years.

In 2024, EMMC partnered with Steinbach Bible College with the Barnabas Bursary. This agreement continues as we are asking churches to nominate individuals from their congregation who have the potential of being pastors, and partnering with EMMC and SBC and sending these individuals to Bible school - equipping them for pastoral ministries.

We are seeking a half-time Next Generation Ministry Director. Please join us in prayer as we search for the right candidate to take on this important ministry.

LEADERSHIP

Kelly Lesser, Pastor of Care and Mission is continuing to work with pastors within our churches, as well as working with the Ministerial Council on revising documents, and have given significant attention to the EMMC *Confession of Faith* in the recent months.

We are still in need of more pastors in our churches. Aylmer EMMC, Ontario is looking for a Low German pastor; Austin Evangelical Church, Manitoba is seeking a Lead Pastor; Mennonite Gospel Church, Vauxhall Alberta is looking for a Lead Pastor; Altona EMMC, Manitoba is looking for a Worship Pastor; Morrow Gospel Church, Winnipeg Manitoba is looking for a Youth Director; and Bergfeld EMMC, Manitoba is looking for a youth pastor.

Kelly and I have walked alongside church boards providing assistance and support. Currently both of us are part of a Provisional Church Board at one of our churches.

Antioch Community Ministries in Warman Saskatchewan started their church plant in April, as well as their skateboard ministry. Both are doing well. Please continue to pray for them as they minister in the Warman area.

Darrell & Ellaine Kehler (Discipleship Director) have taken on the role as MEM Interim Field Director in Bolivia. This is a three-month focused term, January 15 to April 15. In the meantime, we are looking for a full-time Field Director who will replace Abe & Margaret Harder. The Harders finished their role in Bolivia at the end of 2025 and now live in Aylmer Ontario.

Over the past year, we have been in conversation with two churches interested in joining EMMC. One is a Low German congregation in southern Manitoba, and the other is an African church in London, Ontario. The Low German church is still in

process, while the African church—House of Prayer—was officially welcomed in December as an associate member of EMMC by General Council. More information will be shared with our churches in the near future. We invite you to join us in praying for these churches and for all of our EMMC family.

MISSIONS

Our primary mission focus is still in Bolivia, more specifically on the Amanecer community. Ben & Bertha Kauenhofen serve there as outreach pastor couple. Last year the Amanecer school was implemented, and is up and running. Here is a brief report from teacher Nancy Friesen:

"We had a great start up year, only four students, two families, but we all learned a lot. This year we hope to start school in February. We have a new family from the Belice Colony with three children coming, along with the four students from last year. Two more families from the colony are still undecided. We are praying that they will see the importance of education and send their children. Anna Blatz from Alberta has moved to Amanecer and will be helping me this year. She will teach grades one and two and I will take the rest. We will be teaching in 3 languages: Spanish, English, Plautdietsch and all subjects.

We need to finish the new classrooms (doors, painting, shelves, air conditioners). We hope to be able to find and hire a Spanish teacher part time, who would then also offer Spanish classes to adults in the evening. We are also looking at the possibility of a school bus so that more colony children have the opportunity to attend school. Lots of prayers are needed for wisdom as we undertake this work."

LIEAB (La Iglesia Evangelica Anabautista de Bolivia) our Spanish speaking sister conference is doing well. For 2025 they helped most of their pastors upgrade their theological training, and in 2026 they are focusing on developing new leaders.

Associate Missionaries: We have 24 missionaries, 23 partially funded by EMMC, and 2 applications are in queue.

CONNECTION & EVENTS

The bi-annual Gathering was held in Spanish Lookout, Belize, March 21 to 23, with the theme of *What if?* The focus was on the Great Commission and making disciples for the work of ministry. The event included a leadership focus with workshops led by EMMC pastors and missionaries from seven different churches. Ike Unger, Lead Pastor from Deer Run Church, Leamington Ontario was the keynote speaker. The event was well attended and appreciated.

COMMUNICATIONS

We continue to tell our EMMC story through The Recorder, website, weekly Praise, Prayer & Pondering emails, Facebook, Instagram.

The Christmas Gift Catalogue gained interest as people continue to find meaningful projects that helped advance God's work in the EMMC.

We continue to receive requests for the Low German school curriculum originally developed in Bolivia. There is also strong and growing interest in the EQUIP discipleship resources, available in both English and Low German, which helps us stay connected with churches beyond EMMC. EQUIP orders have increased this year, coming not only from EMMC congregations but also from other churches. In 2025, orders were placed from across Canada—from Quebec to Alberta—as well as from the USA.

FINANCES

Financially, it looks like we will finish the year in the black. Thank you all for your partnership and generosity in 2025. The EMMC General Council approved a budget of \$1,052,303 for 2026-2027 which is an increase from 2025-2026. With inflation over the year and the addition of a church means that we rely more closely on our partners for your continued support. Thank you in advance for your generosity and encouragement.

CONCLUSION

God is at work and we want to be ready to join in His work. We look to our congregations and individuals to support important ministries with generous gifts. Your partnership enables EMMC to connect the churches and continue making disciples of Jesus.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:3-6