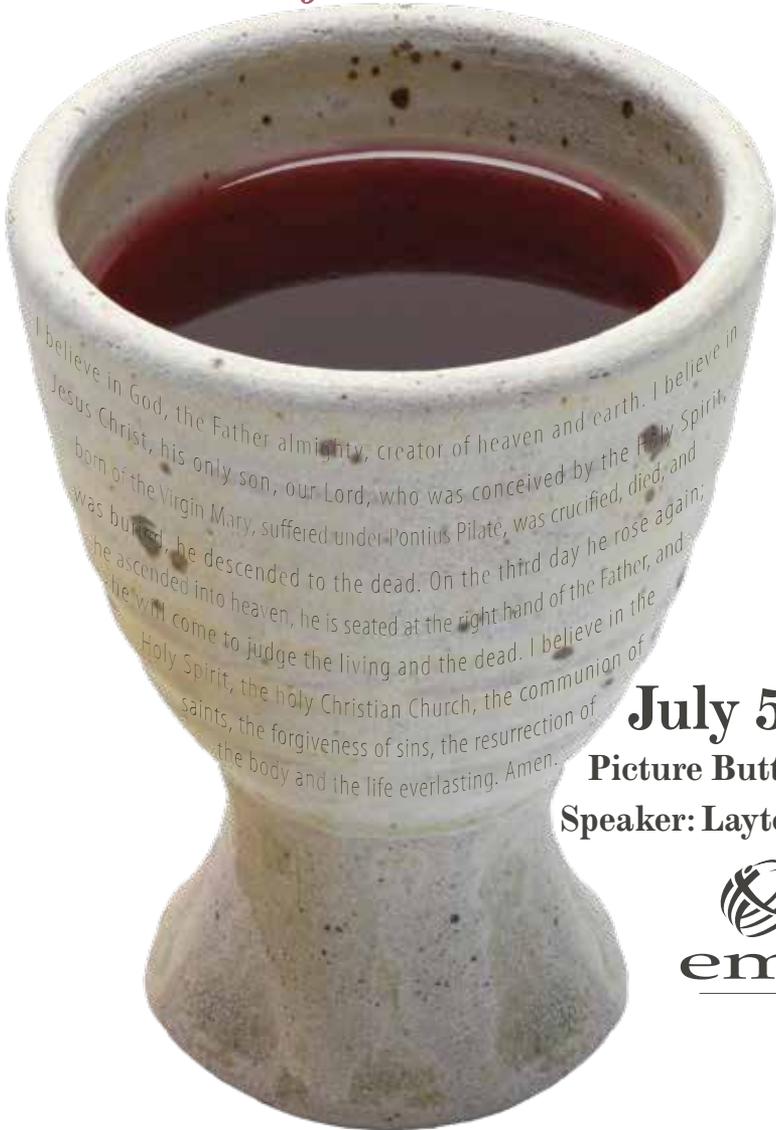


EMC Convention 2019

SIMPLY CHRISTIAN



an ancient faith to unite us now



July 5–7

Picture Butte, Alberta

Speaker: Layton Friesen



emc

Convention Speaker



Layton Friesen is our conference pastor. He was baptized in the Mennville EMC.

He lives in south Winnipeg with his wife Glenda and two young adult children. They love their community at the Fort Garry EMC.

In his short life he has gone to church with Creole people in Belize, Old Colony Mennonites in Texas, Christian Missionary Alliance folks in Vancouver, and Baptists in Toronto.

He recently spent five years reading and trying to understand Hans urs Von Balthasar, a Roman Catholic pastor. But something always brings him back to the EMC.

When he grows up he dreams of being a rancher in Alberta, the caretaker of a lighthouse, and a drummer in a '70s rock band.

Convention Schedule

Friday

- 8:30 Ministerial Registration:** Taber EMC, 5001 – 64 Ave
- 9:00 Ministerial Day:** *Pastoring Perplexed People: Ministry that Engages Doubters and Challenges the Church to Think*
- 10:10 Break**
- 12:00 Lunch:** Taber EMC
- 2:30 Break**
- 5:00 Supper:** Picture Butte Mennonite Church, 212029 Hwy 519
- 6:40 Registration for Children’s Program Begins:** Picture Butte Mennonite Church
- 7:00 Main Session:** Picture Butte Mennonite Church
- 9:00 Coffee Break**

Saturday

- 8:30 Conference Council Registration:** Coaldale Mennonite Church, 2316 17th St
- 9:00 Conference Council**
- 10:30 Break**
- 12:30 Lunch:** Coaldale Mennonite Church
- 1:00 Youth Event:** meet at Picture Butte Mennonite Church
- 1:30 Workshop #1:** Coaldale Mennonite Church
- 2:45 Break**
- 3:15 Workshop #2:** Coaldale Mennonite Church
- 5:00 Supper:** Picture Butte Mennonite Church
- 6:40 Registration for Children’s Program Begins**
- 7:00 Main Session:** Picture Butte Mennonite Church
- 9:00 Talent Show and Coffee Break:** Picture Butte Mennonite Church

Sunday

- 9:40 Registration for Children’s Program Begins**
- 10:00 Main Session:** Picture Butte Mennonite Church
- 12:00 Lunch:** Picture Butte Mennonite Church

Ministerial

Friday, July 5, 2019

- Location:** Taber EMC, Taber, Alberta
- Who Should Attend?** Pastors, ministers, youth and associate pastors, deacons, elders, missionaries, church planters and spouses of all the above. Retired leadership people are also most welcome.
- Chair:** Richard Klassen, Board of Leadership and Outreach Chair
- Theme:** *Pastoring Perplexed People: Ministry that Engages Doubters and Challenges the Church to Think*
- Presenter:** *Paul Buller*, author, entrepreneur and speaker

AGENDA

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Welcome: Richard Klassen (chair, BLO)
- 9:10 Opening Devotional: Jim Crawford (pastor, Taber EMC)
- 9:20 Session 1: *Apologetics and the Broader Christian Culture*
Discussion
- 10:10 Coffee
- 10:30 Session 2: *Fundamental Cultural Change*
Discussion
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Worship
- 1:15 Session 3: *A Practical Plan and Some Resources*
Discussion
- 2:05 Vote on Proposal for Ordination Revision
- 2:30 Coffee
- 3:00 Sharing Stories of Ministry and Prayer
- 4:00 Adjournment

Notes

Conference Council Saturday, July 6, 2019

**Coaldale Mennonite Church, Coaldale, Alberta
9 a.m. (registration at 8:30 a.m.)**

AGENDA

Chair: Barry Plett, Moderator

- 9:00 Welcome and Opening
- 9:20 Conference Council Minutes of November 24, 2018
- 9:25 Elections – Nominating Committee
- 9:35 General Board
 - a. Moderator's Report
 - b. Executive Director's Report
 - c. Receive Coaldale Mennonite Church into EMC
- 10:00 Mennonite Disaster Service
- 10:05 Board of Church Ministries
- 10:20 Discussion
- 10:30 Break
- 10:50 Election Report
- 10:55 Board of Leadership and Outreach
 - Church Planting Task Force
- 11:30 Board of Trustees
- 11:45 Board of Missions
- 12:15 Discussion
- 12:30 Adjournment for Lunch Break

Block 1 – 1:30 p.m.

Caring for Kids with Special Needs: Supporting and including people with special needs and their families

How we treat vulnerable people in our society says a lot about who we are as individuals and as a church. Kids with special needs are some of the most vulnerable around us. This workshop aims to challenge us in how we treat those with special needs as well as encourage and equip families and churches to better support individuals who are affected.

Ron Wiebe is an Assistant Principal at Two Hills Mennonite School as well as the Coordinator of Student Supports. He enjoys the challenge of matching exceptional needs with the right supports. Through interactions with students who have special needs and their parents, he has gained a deep level of respect for people who live with and interact with people with disabilities on a daily basis.



What's in Your Suitcase? Healthy multicultural conflict

God has brought us together in the EMC. We love each other but sometimes we don't get along. Culture is helpful for packing meaning and values into our lives. Like a suitcase. But our suitcases are packed differently and that means conflict will happen. With awareness and tools we can have healthy conflict and resolution in our conference. Come and hear stories, questions and sharing from folks of different cultures in Region 2. Let's begin an ongoing conversation of what is needed to have a healthy, multi-cultural conference that works together with respect.

Chris Hughes will moderate a panel of couples representing the three main cultural groups in Region 2. Chris is: in Christ, husband to Rachel, father to Joshua and Martha, and Associate Pastor at Abbeydale Christian Fellowship.



Block 1 – 1:30 p.m.

Reaching out to Gen Z

Generation Z, those born between 1995 and 2005, are the first generation to grow up not knowing life without social media. They're also a generation filled with anxiety and hopelessness, asking questions about the meaning and purpose of their lives. We will talk about how to build trusting relationships within this virtual reality that surrounds us and examine how the person of Jesus in the Gospels meets their needs, giving them significance and purpose.



Gerald Reimer is married to Sandy and together they are raising three Gen Z kids. He has served in his role as Director of Youth and Discipleship at the EMC Office for 20 years. A three-month backpacking trip through Central and South America in his early 20s ignited his love for Jesus and tacos and his nervousness with scorpions and border crossings.

Anxiety: What it is and how to manage it

Is anxiety affecting you, interfering with your life, or limiting your potential? If you or a loved one suffer from anxiety, this workshop is for you. In this workshop, you will learn about some of the most common anxiety disorders and some strategies to help cope with anxiety.

Brenda J. Davis (BSc. MA. R. Psych.), pictured right, is a Registered Psychologist in good standing with the College of Alberta Psychologists.



Jaclyn van Hierden (BA, MA [Counselling Psychology], MA [Human Services]), pictured left, is an Associate Member of the Professional Association of Christian Counsellors & Psychotherapists.

Block 2 – 3:15 p.m.

Recognizing Abuse

Abuse is very common and can be very difficult at times to recognize. This workshop will address different types of abuse (sexual, emotional, physical, mental and financial) and different categories of abuse (domestic abuse, child abuse and elder abuse). You will learn how to recognize abuse, some of the early warning signs of abuse, the cycle of abuse, and some of the contributing factors to staying in an abusive relationship.

Brenda J. Davis (BSc. MA. R. Psych.) is a Registered Psychologist in good standing with the College of Alberta Psychologists.

Jaelyn van Hierden (BA, MA [Counselling Psychology], MA [Human Services]) is an Associate Member of the Professional Association of Christian Counsellors & Psychotherapists.

The Role of the Holy Spirit and Prayer in Church Growth

The Meserete Kristos Church (MKC) was a relatively small church of 5,000 when the Communist government closed the doors of churches and forced them to meet in small cell groups. In the span of 12 years, the MKC grew tenfold to about 50,000 believers. Church leaders attribute this growth to the ministry of the Holy Spirit and dedication to prayer. Dr. Yemiru will share testimonies and practical examples of the MKC experience that will inform and inspire those who attend.



Dr. Yemiru Tilahun is a recently credentialed EMC minister who has been hired quarter time by EMC to assist church plants to reach Ethiopian communities in Canada. He is from the Meserete Kristos Church (MKC) in Ethiopia, a Mennonite Church of over 500,000 people. He and his wife and children live in Addis Ababa where he co-pastors a local church.

Block 2 – 3:15 p.m.

God and Suffering

Why suffering exists in a world supposedly governed by a sovereign, loving, God is a persistent challenge for most people. Journey through a cardiac arrest, an implanted heart pump, and a heart transplant, to reflect on and dissect the subject of suffering from one family's perspective.



*Paul Buller is an engineer and entrepreneur by day and an armchair theologian and philosopher by night. A husband and father of two, Paul enjoys not only contemplating life's biggest issues, but writing about them through his blog (paulkbuller.wordpress.com) and through multiple self-published books, including *Suffering, the Heart of the Matter*.*

Healthy Fighting: Do the lessons learned during childhood sibling rivalry offer insight into the extending of grace when facing adult theological differences?

Brothers Barry and Darren Plett don't always agree! In this workshop they expose how dealing with conflict as siblings, in the context of a healthy family environment, have helped to guide them through the larger and more complex theological disagreements they face while pastoring and doing church leadership side by side in the EMC.

Barry Plett and Darren Plett grew up on a family dairy farm in Blumenort, Manitoba.



Even though both of them loved farm life they both sensed a calling to full-time ministry. Barry and his wife Norine have spent 26 years pastoring in their home church of Blumenort, first as youth pastor and now as senior pastor for the past 18 years. Darren and his wife Pearl have been lead pastor couple of the Pleasant Valley church near Rosenort for the past 21 years.

Kid's Program during inspirational sessions

Children's programming will be in a large tent on the church yard during all inspirational sessions.

No programming for ages 1-3. There will be a nursery available for parents.

Ages 4-5: games and crafts.

K-grade 6: Lego and let God!



Youth Event Saturday, July 6, 2019

All youth: Join us for an afternoon of activities!

Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Picture Butte Mennonite Church.

Bring sports clothes and a baseball glove. If you don't have a glove, we may be able to supply one. We will have supper together and join the rest of the convention participants for the evening session at 7:00.

Cost: none.

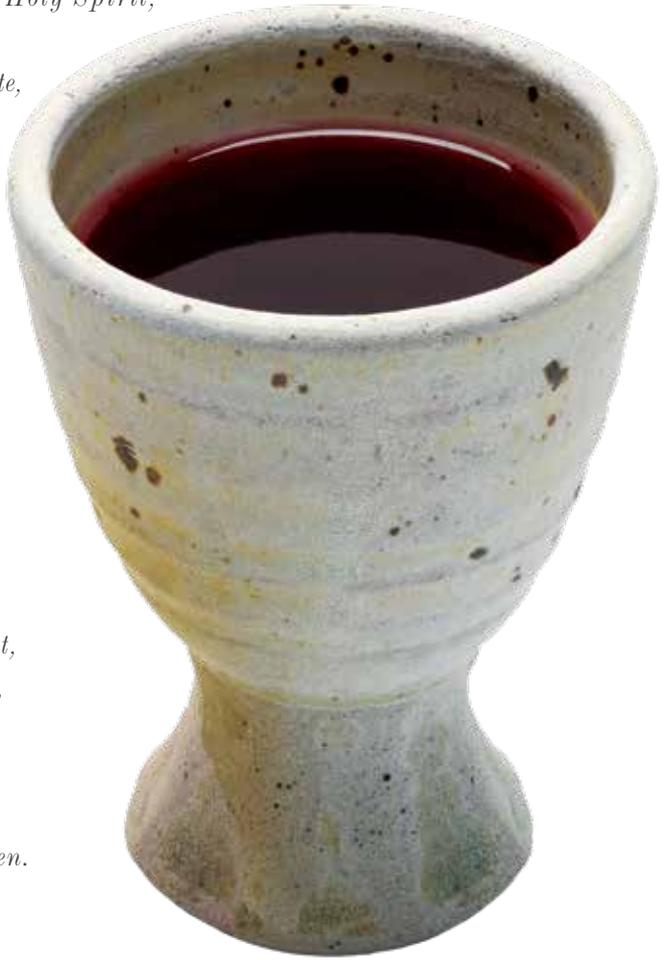
The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died,
and was buried,
he descended to the dead.*

*On the third day
he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand
of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.*



Main Session I

Friday, July 5 at 7 p.m.

Invitation to Worship

Welcome and Prayer of Invocation

Congregational Singing

Regional Feature

Scripture Reading – 2 Timothy 1:3–14

Message: Layton Friesen

Simply Christian: Forged for Life in Heaven

Offering for Convention Expenses

Offertory

God at Work

Prayer

Congregational Song

Announcements

Benediction

Notes

What areas of the Church's historic faith do I need to understand better? What areas of theology do I need to learn more about?

Regional Feature

Testimony of Peter Goertzen and special number by Abe and Lisa Friesen family: Peter will share his testimony. He believed that staying faithful to the church where he was baptized and regularly attending church service was all that was required for salvation. Through reading the Bible he became a true believer in Jesus Christ and is not just a church-goer any longer but serves and uses his gifts in the Kingdom of God. Abe and Lisa serve with the whole family as worship team in the Picture Butte Mennonite Church. They came to the Lord a few years ago as their youngest son was battling with cancer.



Phil and Ellen Koop Aviation (Ethnos 360 Aviation)

Phil and Ellen serve as the Executive Director and in the communications department of the Ethnos 360 flight program based in McNeal, Arizona. The Koops are passionate about missions and in their context to see aviation excellency as it serves the Ethnos 360 community, both missionaries and the tribal peoples they work with. Phil and Ellen's interest and gift set ensures that the pilots and their families are well prepared in each area of their lives.



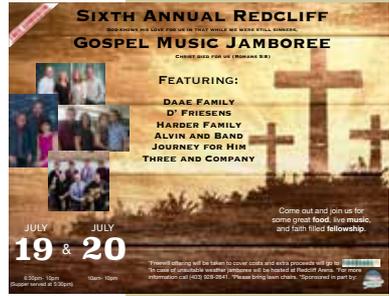
Offering Project Convention Expenses

The offering will help to cover the costs of Convention for honorariums, childcare activities, tent rental, media, meals and the many miscellaneous costs associated with an event like this. See p. 20 for information on donation options.



Regional Feature

The Redcliff Gospel Music Jamboree is celebrating six years this summer. Abe and Anna Bueckert cast a vision six years ago to reach out to the Mennonites and the surrounding community through Gospel music. The Jamboree grows each year, not only in size but non-believers who get the opportunity to hear the Gospel message. Gospel Light Fellowship currently sees this event as their greatest outreach year after year. Abe Penner currently serves as chair and visionary for the event.



Translating God's Word Tiffany

Tiffany has always had an interest and aptitude for other languages. Combine that interest with a love for God's Word, and it seems natural that she would dedicate herself to translating the Bible for a people group who speak a minority language in South East Asia. It is difficult and challenging work, with many obstacles logistically, physically and spiritually, but the rewards of people hearing God's Word in their own language make it all worthwhile!

Offering Project Steinbach Bible College

SBC is an evangelical Anabaptist college empowering servant leaders to follow Jesus, serve the church, and engage the world. See p. 20 for information on donation options.



Regional Feature

The Coaldale Mennonite Church celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2018. Through the anniversary celebration their vision emerged: to be *Rooted in Jesus; Growing in Grace; Connected in Community; Branching into the World*. CMC has been without conference affiliation for the past 20 years. After searching, they have come to the understanding that the EMC most closely matches their spiritual values and understanding. Following a vote at Conference Council, the Coaldale Church will be welcomed into the EMC as a provisional member.



Dr. Yemiru Tilahun Mintesenot Ethiopian church planting

Dr. Yemiru Tilahun Mintesenot is a recently credentialed EMC Minister who has been hired by the Church Planting Task Force for a quarter time position. He will serve as coach for two Ethiopian church plants he organized in Toronto and Edmonton, and he will work in outreach to Ethiopian and Eritrean communities in Canada. He is from the Meserete Kristos Church (MKC) in Ethiopia, a Mennonite Church of over 500,000 people. He, with his wife and four youngest children live in Addis Ababa where he co-pastors a local church. His oldest daughter is studying in the U.S.



Offering Project Missions

Sunday morning the offerings will be designated to missions. The goal is to raise \$20,000 for four projects. See page 20 for descriptions and for information on donation options.



Convention Missions Projects

Bolivia: Radio Follow-up

\$5,000

Benny and Ester Fehr direct the radio ministries for MEM (a ministry to Low German Mennonites) in San Jose, Bolivia. Follow-up is a key component of radio ministry. This project will allow Benny and Ester to receive onsite orientation from a couple with substantial experience in this area.

Expansion Exposure Trip

\$5,000

An exposure trip is being planned in order to dialogue with mission agencies and missionaries who work with the migrant population in Europe. This is an area of potential mission involvement for EMC Missions.

AIMM: Siamou Translation Project

\$5,000

The Evangelical Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso is continuing the ministry of translation of the New Testament into the Siamou language. This work was started and partially completed with Paul and Lois Thiessen. The translation project will need ongoing funds for completion of the New Testament.

Church Planting

\$5,000

Many Ethiopians from the Meserete Kristos church have immigrated to Canada and begun meeting in Edmonton and Toronto. The Church Planting Task Force is coming alongside. The funds raised will help with start-up costs such as meeting space rental.

All EMC projects are approved by governing boards. In the event that a project is fully funded or cannot be carried out for any reason, the Evangelical Mennonite Conference boards may apply designated donations to another approved project.

How to Donate:

- Cheques should be made out to EMC using the envelope provided. Debit or credit cards can be used at the registration desk.
- Offerings can be designated as desired among SBC, Convention expenses, and missions.

Thank You to the Churches of Region 2

Convention Co-Chairs

- Chris Hughes
- Abe Penner
- Isaak Unger

Session Chair

- Abe Bueckert

Music

- Abe Penner
- Corny Loewen's Group
- Chito Friesen's Family
- Arthur Friesen's Family

Media Team

- Benjamin Esau – Production Manager
- Aaron Mann – Audio Technician
- Nick Esau – Audio Technician
- John Enns – Video Technician
- Amy Block – Video Technician
- Christina Carpenter – Video Technician

Children's Ministry

- Susy Fast
- Bill and Trudy Klassen
- Corny and Justina Neufeld

Youth Activities

- Emily and Abe Klassen
- Frank and Eveline Bueckert

Medical Services

- Lydia Zentner

Facilities/Ushering

- Frank Martens, Facilities
- Cornie Loewen, Head Usher

Prayer Ministry

- Jason Plett

Workshops

- Paul Buller
- Brenda J. Davis, Jaclyn van Hierden
- Chris Hughes, with panel
- Barry Plett, Darren Plett
- Gerald Reimer
- Dr Yemiru Tilahun
- Ronald Wiebe

Promotional Videos

- Isaak Unger

Talent Show MC

- David Zentner

Accommodations

- Judy Wiebe
- Anna Klassen

Translators

- Pastor Ben Dyck (Low German)
- Omar Vallanueva (Spanish)

Food Services

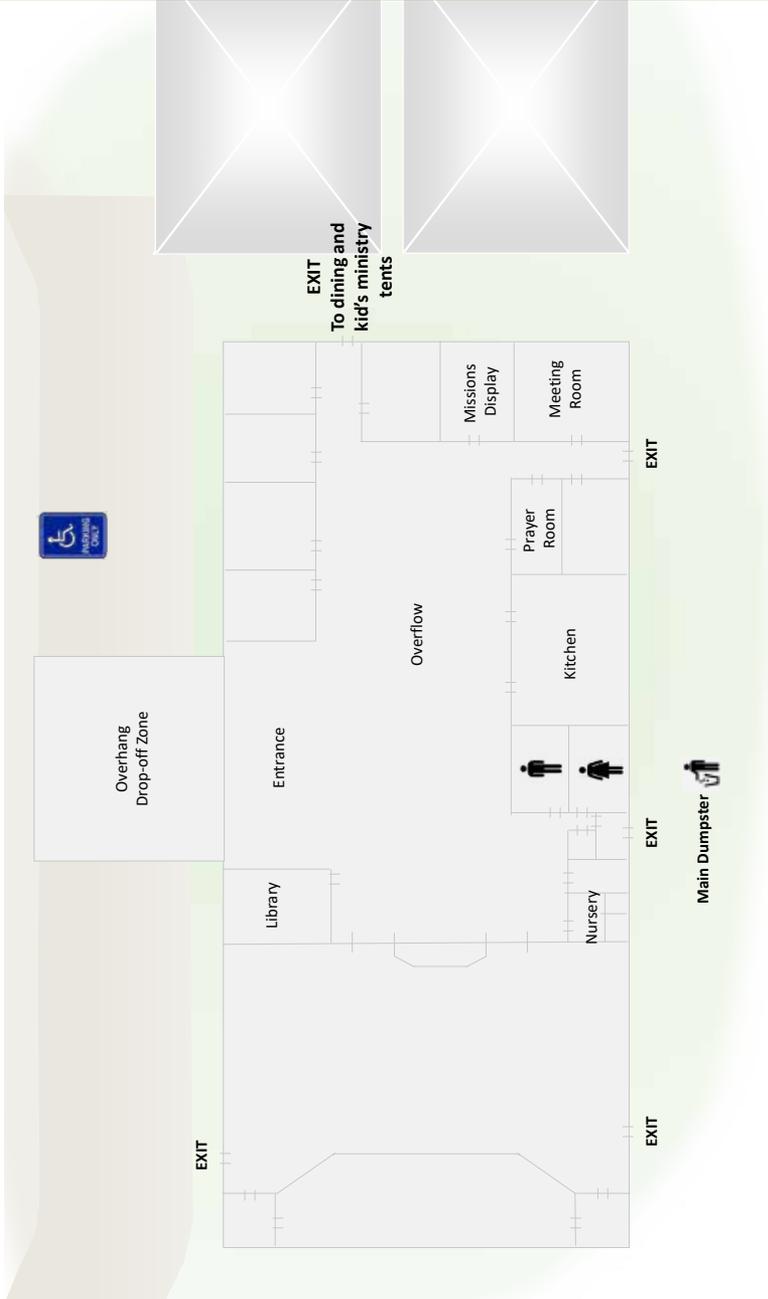
- Helena Wiebe and Picture Butte Food Services
- Teresa Thiessen and Greta Knelsen and Gospel Light Fellowship
- Ricardo Medina and Iglesia Emanuel Food Services
- David and Pamela Quinn and Coaldale Food Services
- Katherine Martens and Taber Food Services
- Caba Catering
- Sandra Friesen and Abbeydale Food Services

Thank you to the many additional volunteers who dedicated time and resources. May the Lord richly bless you!

Coaldale Map



Picture Butte Menn. Ch. Map





Emergency Cell Numbers

Lydia Zentner, Medical	403-470-5714
Chris Hughes, Convention Co-Chair	403-869-4975
Isaak Unger, Convention Co-Chair	403-502-3616
Frank Martens, Picture Butte Point Person	403-915-5758
Cornie Loewen, Head Usher	
Tim Dyck, EMC Executive Director	204-392-5684
Erica Fehr, Convention Liaison	204-371-7593