



CANADIAN MENNONITE
UNIVERSITY

Celebrate CMU25



Celebrate CMU25

Friday, September 19, 2025 | 7:00 PM | Marpeck Commons

Gathering

Welcome: Dr. Cheryl Pauls, President

Invocation: Rev. Elder Vince Solomon, Elder in Residence

* Staff and Faculty Singers: *The Gift*, Russell Wallace

Weaving CMU Together, through very short stories

Dr. Delmar Epp, Associate Professor of Psychology

Dr. Wendy Kroeker, Associate Professor
of Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies

Dr. Brian Froese, Professor of History

Charlie Peronto, Vice-President, Student Life and Campus Operations

Dr. Sunder John Boopalan, Associate Professor
of Biblical and Theological Studies

Dr. Stephanie Stobbe, Associate Professor
of Business and Conflict Resolution Studies

Dr. Paul Dyck, Professor of English

Dr. Paul Doerksen, Associate Professor
of Biblical and Theological Studies

Isaac Kuhl-Schlegel, Career and Work-integrated Learning Advisor

Dr. Sue Sorensen, Professor of English

Dr. Jonathan Dueck, Vice-President, Academic

Congregational Song

Summoned by the God who Made Us, VT1

Expect More

The Next 25: Sandy Koop Harder, Vice-President, External

Calling CMU Forward, Together

Lia Campbell-Enns, Student

(Mathematics and Peace and Conflict Transformation)

Cordella Friesen, CEO, YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg, CMU BA
(Political Studies, 2009)

Geoff Wichert, Chair, Board of Governors

Art DeFehr, OC, OM, Founding Board Member and Visionary

Honourable Renee Cable, Minister of Advanced Education and Training,
Province of Manitoba

Rev. Doug Klassen, Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Canada

Congregational Song

Rain Down, VT703

Prayer of Community Blessing

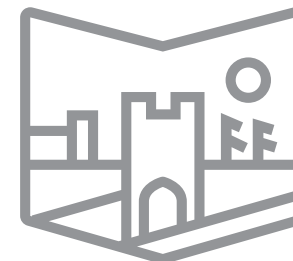
Invitation

Staff and Faculty Singers

Could it Be that God is Singing, VT42

Closing

Reception



*Conductor: Dr. Janet Brenneman, Academic Dean and Professor of Music; Piano: Dr. Anneli Loepp-Thiessen, Assistant Professor of Music; Composer Russell Wallace, a member of the Lil'wat Nation in BC, writes of *The Gift*: "This song is about a community coming together to prepare a feast - to celebrate "the gift" of traditions and the transmission of knowledge. A traditional song will have a certain name or title but it is the context in which it is sung that denotes the true meaning."

By giving today toward CMU25, you become a vital part of the story we are writing together.

Your gift:

- Supports the academic and co-curricular programs that shape the minds and hearts of students
- Sustains the day-to-day operations to keep the campus alive and thriving
- Helps ensure that tuition remains accessible for every student called to learn, serve, and lead.

Every contribution — whether a first-time gift, a monthly commitment, or a major gift — builds a foundation for learning, community, and growth that ripples outwards, touching countless lives.

Prayer of Community Blessing

*Dr. Andrew Dyck, Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality
and Pastoral Ministry*

Today, as always, we gather on holy ground:
welcomed by walls that shelter and embrace,
nourished at tables of plenty,
resting in God's care.

At this momentous milestone – CMU 25
and with neighbours near and far –
we give thanks.

Looking back

Michelle Nguyen, Director of Admissions

For those who first dreamed these walls into being,
who built and rebuilt,
and who trusted the Spirit's call.

For those who said "yes" to the unknown:

Thanks be to God.

Margaret Fast, visionary and longtime supporter

For students who blazed new trails,
who asked bold questions,
who filled these walls with life.

For those who trusted God's provision:

Thanks be to God.

Raya Cornelsen, CMU Council member, CMU BA (Mathematics), 2013

For those who have faithfully led and loved us,
offered their gifts and equipped us for vocation.

For those who have gone before,
and those whose spirits still guide us:

Thanks be to God.

Seeing the present

Asher Warkentin, student

In these walls we wander and settle,
question and discover.

And where we gather, we find:
that our understandings are deepened,
that our cups overflow,
that our Creator holds us near.

Thanks be to God.

Rev. Elder Vince Solomon

We witness partnerships of work and worship,
of thinking and doing,
of radical hospitality extended and received.

We answer the call to dialogue, learn, and rest;
to serve faithfully in all our vocations.

Thanks be to God.

Rev. Dr. Michael Pahl, Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Manitoba

We rejoice in generous gifts and persistent trust,
in new spaces of living and learning together,
in a vision for new ways of knowing and being.

We receive with gratitude and vision with boldness.

Thanks be to God.

Looking forward

Rev. Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt, President emeritus

With gratitude for the past and learning in the present,
we daringly dream of a bright future:

where all of creation is nourished and sustained,
where students venture to learn and lead,
where neighbours become treasured friends.

May we walk forward in wild hope, trusting God's abundant provision.

Thanks be to God.

SongFeast

Saturday, September 20, 2025 | 7:00 PM | Laudamus Auditorium

VT 22 *What Is This Place*

Welcome – Dr. Cheryl Pauls, President

Could it be that God is singing, and these notes are my reply?

VT 42 *Could It Be That God is Singing*

VT 882 *We Are People Who Must Sing You*

VT 594 *Over My Head*

Have you carried heavy silence, have you let old sorrows win?

Choir: *Precious Lord* – arr. A. Sevier

VT 821 *Psalm 126:5-6*

VT 712 *Beauty for Brokenness*

Oh, the spirit she was singing, even when we could not hear.

VT 376 *O Holy Spirit, Root of Life*

The Cloths of Heaven – W. B. Yeats

VT 422 *Called Or Not Called, God Is There*

May I too live bold resistance to injustice, hate, and force.

VT 1038 *Peace is not the product of terror or fear*

VT 808 *Between Darkness and Light*

VT 1037 *Love cannot remain by itself*

VT 288 *Love the Lord Your God*

Surely mercy has a cadence, I can feel it in my soul.

Invitation and Offering

Choir: *Here, O My Lord* – E. Daley

VT 166 *Your Love is Washing Over Me*

And if music is God breathing, take a holy breath and sing.

VT 994 *Gracious God, when there is nothing we can say...*

Choir: *Hallelujah* – arr. S. Kirchner

VT 810 *Go, My Friends, in Grace*

Blessing – Dr. Cheryl Pauls

Choir: *Celtic Prayer* – B. Peters

Participants: CMU Singers, Dr. Janet Brenneman, Dr. Paul Dyck, Dr. Anneli Loepp Thiessen, Beatrice Wichert, Alumni Choir with participants from '75, '84, '85, '86, '87, '95, '03, '04, '05, '06, '09, '14, '15, '16, '20, '21, '23, '24, '25

As we celebrate CMU25, we honour those whose guidance shapes the life and work of this university. CMU faculty inspire and equip students to discover and make knowledge, to develop critical, creative, constructive thinking, and to move forward as open, thoughtful, skilled persons of purpose and vocation. The board and council steward the CMU mission with wisdom and care. The Indigenous Council and surrounding church bodies bring enduring knowledge and guidance. Their engagement and insight sustain the CMU journey, reminding us that education is both a responsibility and a shared calling.

Faculty

Dr. Jobb Arnold, Associate Professor of Psychology and Conflict Resolution Studies

David Balzer, Associate Professor of Communications and Media

Dr. Sunder John Boopalan, Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies

Dr. Janet Brenneman, Academic Dean; Professor of Music

Dr. John Brubacher, Associate Professor of Biology

Dr. Jerry Buckland, Professor of Economics and International Development Studies

Dr. Heather Campbell-Enns, Canada Research Chair in Families and Aging; Associate Professor of Psychology

Dawson Doucet, Laboratory Steward
Lee-Anne Dowsett, Associate Professor of Music Therapy

Dr. Jonathan Dueck, Vice-President Academic; Associate Professor of Social Science and of Writing

Dr. Kelly Dueck, Assistant Professor of Business

Dr. Jodi Dueck-Read, Director of the Research Office; Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies

Dr. Andrew Dyck, Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry; P.M. Friesen Co-Chair in Biblical and Theological Studies

Dr. Paul Dyck, Professor of English

Dr. Delmar Epp, Associate Professor of Psychology

Dr. Brian Froese, Professor of History

Dr. Victor Froese, Library Director

Dr. Paul G. Doerksen, Associate Professor of Theology and Anabaptist Studies; P.M. Friesen Co-Chair in Biblical and Theological Studies

Dr. Travis Goron, Assistant Professor of Biology

Dr. Christopher Huebner, Professor of Philosophy and Theology

Dr. Christine Kampen Robinson, Teaching Assistant Professor of Experiential Learning

Dr. Sheila Klassen-Wiebe, Associate Professor of New Testament

Dr. Karl Koop, Professor of History and Theology

Dr. Rachel Krause, Associate Professor of Biology

Dr. Wendy Kroeker, Associate Professor of Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies

Kenton Lobe, Teaching Assistant
Professor of Environmental Studies
Dr. Anneli Loepp Thiessen, Assistant
Professor of Music
Lynda Loewen, Teaching Assistant
Professor of Psychology
Dr. Christine Longhurst, Assistant
Professor of Music and Worship
Dr. James Magnus-Johnston, Assistant
Professor of Business and Political
Studies
Dr. Craig Martin, Assistant Professor
of Business
Justin Neufeld, Teaching Assistant
Professor of Philosophy
Dr. Juan Nicolas Malagon Quintero,
Assistant Professor of Biology
Opeyemi Ogunyomi, Teaching
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Dr. Felicia Owadara, Assistant
Professor of Social Work
Dr. Cheryl Pauls, President
Dr. Matthew Pauls, Assistant Professor
of Music
Wenyu Qian, Teaching Lecturer and
Lab Steward
Kathryn Reeves, Lab Steward
Dr. Ruth Rempel, Associate Professor
of History
Karen Ridd, Teaching Associate
Professor of Conflict Resolution
Studies
Dr. Timothy Rogalsky, Associate
Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Alexander Sawatsky, Professor of
Social Work
Dr. Jonathan Sears, Associate
Professor of Political Studies
Dr. Anna Snyder, Associate Professor
of Conflict Resolution Studies
Dr. Sue Sorensen, Professor of English
Dr. Stephanie Stobbe, Associate
Professor of Business and Conflict
Resolution Studies
Conrad Stoesz, Archivist, Mennonite
Heritage Archives

Dr. Raymond Vander Zaag, Associate
Professor of International
Development Studies
Dr. Candice Viddal, Associate
Professor of Chemistry and Physics
Buetta Warkentin, Associate Professor
of Social Work
Neil Weisensel, Associate Professor
of Music
Dr. Natalia Wiederkehr, Post-doctoral
Researcher
Michelle Yaciuk, Associate Professor
of Music Therapy

Emeritus Faculty *(CMU era)*

Irmgard Baerg
Dr. Dietrich Bartel
Dr. John Derksen (d. 2024)
Dr. Gerry Ediger
Dr. Lois Edmund
Dr. Dan Epp-Tiessen
Dr. Irma Fast Dueck
Paul Friesen
Dr. Neil Funk-Unrau
Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt
Dr. Pierre Gilbert
Dr. Titus Guenther
Dr. Harry Huebner
Dr. Gordon Matties
Bernie Neufeld
Dr. Paul Redekop
Henriette Schellenberg
Rudy Schellenberg
Dr. George Shillington
Dr. Gordon Zerbe

Board and Council

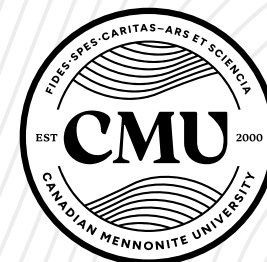
Board members in bold text

David Balzer (faculty appointee)
Heather Block, Winnipeg, MB
Ben Borne, Saskatoon, SK
Janelle Braun, Winnipeg, MB
Raya Cornelsen, Winnipeg, MB
Gordon Daman, Niverville, MB
Art DeFehr (honorary member),
Winnipeg, MB
Corinna Dick (student appointee)
Jason Dyck (MBCM), Winnipeg, MB
Veronica Dyck (MCBC),
Abbotsford, BC
Cordella Friesen, Winnipeg, MB
Leona Friesen, Winnipeg, MB
Markus Goertzen, Steinbach, MB
Karen Grace Pankratz,
Winnipeg, MB
Bruce Guenther, Winnipeg, MB
Les Klassen Hamm, Saskatoon, SK
Gode Katembo, Winnipeg MB
Kris Kornelsen, Winnipeg, MB
Nicole Lysack, Winnipeg, MB
Marvin Marciel, Winnipeg, MB
Kyle Mason, Winnipeg, MB
Arisnel Mesidor, Winnipeg, MB
Janessa Nayler-Giesbrecht,
Winnipeg, MB
Adelia Neufeld Wiens, Winnipeg, MB
John Neufeld, Winnipeg, MB
Paul Neufeldt, Coaldale, AB
Fred Pauls, Winnipeg, MB
Jami Reimer, Winnipeg, MB
Len Rempel, Saskatoon, SK
Tamara Roehr, Winnipeg, MB
Dennis Schellenberg, Winnipeg, MB
Trudy Schroeder, Winnipeg, MB
Dylan Tarnowsky, Kitchener, ON
Heather Unger, Winnipeg, MB

Tim Wenger, Winnipeg, MB
Geoff Wichert, Chair, Toronto, ON
Michael Wilson, Winnipeg, MB
Ben Wride, Flin Flon, MB
Kenny Wollman, MacGregor, MB
Reece Zablocki, Calgary, AB

CMU Indigenous Council

Ben Borne, Co-Chair
Heather Block, Co-Chair
Elder Reverend Vince Solomon,
Norway House Cree Nation
Kelly Selkirk, Fisher River Cree Nation
Adrian Jacobs, Cayuga Nation of the
Six Nations Haudenosaunee
Kyle Mason, Peguis First Nation
Jaymie Menzies, Métis Nation
Christy Andersen,
Pinaymootang First Nation



A very short history of Canadian Mennonite University

Canadian Mennonite University stands in the Anabaptist faith tradition, whose education legacy in Canada reaches back over a century. In 1923, 21,000 Mennonites — known as Ruszländer — fled violent upheaval in the Soviet Union and joined earlier Mennonite settlers, the Kanadier, who had come at the invitation of the Canadian government in 1874. CMU is beneficiary of the dozens of secondary and post-secondary schools these Mennonites founded across the prairies, which continuously evolved into fewer, more substantive institutions. Less sectarian over time, Mennonite peoples gradually integrated into Canadian society and earned the respect of surrounding communities and governments for economic, humanitarian, and cultural contributions to society at large; along the way Mennonite communities have become attentive to their complicity within Canadian society's assimilationist regime of settler colonialism.

The university itself opened its doors in 2000, formed of a merger of three Mennonite colleges: Canadian Mennonite Bible College (founded 1947), Mennonite Brethren Bible College — later Concord College (founded 1944/1992), and Menno Simons College (founded 1989). Initially known as the Mennonite College Federation, the new institution was established by a public act of the Province of Manitoba just when the Province sought a buyer to revitalize a heritage education building. Today, CMU offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in diverse fields of

Arts, Science, Music, Communications, Business Administration, Theology, Peacebuilding, Social Work, and Education. CMU is a member of Universities Canada, receives research funding from SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR, and holds a Canada Research Chair.

CMU was called into being not to replicate dominant models of higher education, but to offer an alternative — one shaped by practices of peace-justice, hospitality, dialogue, and a deep integration of all manner of life, community, faith, and the intellect. A big part of what CMU teaches is how it teaches — with habits of thinking and doing, by making things — new knowledge — in relationship with others across fields of study, and through cultivating vocation for public and personal good.

Over the years the range of students seeking such an education has diversified greatly. CMU provides a welcoming learning community for students from many faiths and none even as the university sustains close relationships with its founding Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren and many other church and community bodies. Located in Winnipeg on Treaty 1 Territory, CMU strives not only to be a “faith-based” institution but, in the words of President Cheryl Pauls, one that is “love-bound” and “hope-drawn”: oriented toward the beauty and pain of reality, honouring the stories through which it is continually learning, and willing to take action into the future with open hands.

CMU: Whole person education for the whole of life

Integrating mind, spirit, and heart

At CMU, education is more than acquiring knowledge — it's about cultivating wisdom. Here, intellectual growth is woven together with spiritual reflection, moral courage, and emotional insight. Students are challenged to ask not only what they want to do, but who they want to become.

A shared academic foundation

Through the curricular commons — a set of intentionally designed courses spanning many fields of study — students engage big questions with peers from other programs, connect classroom learning to practical issues, and hone the skills to analyze complex problems and step forward with courage.

Work-integrated learning

Stepping beyond the classroom, students gain hands-on experience, clarify their career paths, build a network of connections, and prepare to make a meaningful impact through work-integrated learning placements tailored to their goals and supported by the CMU Centre for Career and Vocation.

Cross-program integration

From business to biology to biblical studies and beyond, CMU bridges learning across program areas, preparing students to tackle today's most pressing issues.

A culture of conversation

CMU is a place where ideas are explored in community. Students meet classmates and professors with perspectives different from their own, and practice the art of dialogue — with humility, curiosity, and respect.

A commitment to peace and justice

Rooted in a faith tradition that seeks ever new forms of reconciliation and thoughtful action, students are invited to put peace and justice into practice, locally and globally.

CMU: A legacy in action

Over the past 25 years, and for decades before that, CMU has lived at the intersection of church, community, and public life. Thousands of graduates now live and work in 78 countries, carrying with them not only knowledge and skill but also a deep sense of responsibility for the common good. CMU alumni have also made their mark close to home, contributing to Manitoba's economic growth and social vitality, strengthening local organizations and faith communities.

CMU education was made possible by the generosity of over 10,000 donors and hundreds of congregations, investing more than \$100 million in education, scholarships, and facilities,

mirrored by government investments. These resources ripple outward in the form of healthier communities, stronger organizations, and more just societies. With over 2,000 experiential learning placements and hundreds of funded faculty research projects, CMU has been both a training and a testing ground for ideas that matter — to lives and livelihoods, to communities, and to making change for the betterment of all.

CMU alumni and supporters give living witness to education that equips people to engage the pressing challenges of our time with imagination, courage, and care.

Over 15,000 alumni
(CMU and colleges)

GIVING
Since 2000

10,000+ donors

\$108.6M
in donations and earnings
(total)

PROPERTY/CAPITAL
Since 2000

193,000
square feet of space
transformed

\$26.4M
raised for capital projects

BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS
Since 2000

210
donor-initiated scholarships
and bursaries

\$11,764,164
of scholarships and
bursaries

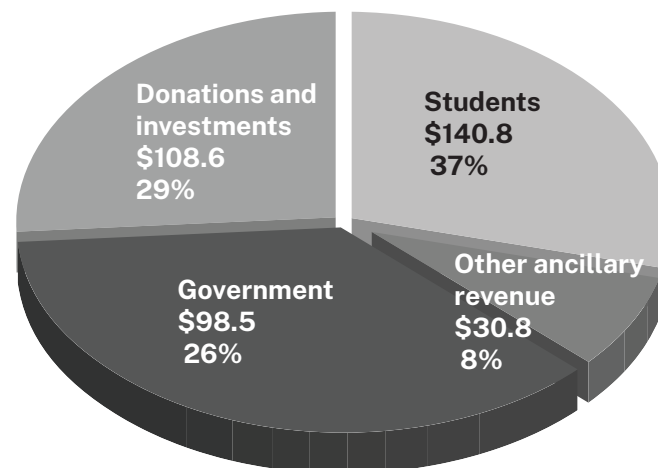
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
Since 2000

100% of students
have work-
integrated
placements

1,154 Work-integrated
learning partners

Total 25 Years' Funding

Dollar figures in millions.



RESEARCH
Hundreds of externally
funded research projects

- SSHRC
- NSERC
- CIHR
- Canada Research Chair
- Research Manitoba

FAITH COMMUNITIES
Students from

1,100 congregations
113 denominations

These resources ripple outward in the form of healthier communities, stronger organizations, and more just societies.

CMU through the years

**1870s
1920s**

..... **Mennonites come to Canada** with a vision for education, starting high schools and post-secondary schools

1940s

..... **Mennonites build academically oriented Bible colleges:**
• Mennonite Brethren Bible College
• Canadian Mennonite Bible College

1988

..... **Menno Simons College** opens at University of Winnipeg

1998

..... **The Government of Manitoba** establishes the Mennonite College Federation with a public Act with university status and considerable latitude of program potential

CMU
2000

..... **The property at 500 Shaftesbury Blvd.** (now known as Assiniboine Castle) is purchased and restored
The name **Canadian Mennonite University** is announced

..... **CMU founding areas** of Bible and Theology, music, conflict resolution and international development provide a foundation for new academic development in the arts, humanities, and social sciences

..... **Three main locations** of activity include main campus on Shaftesbury Blvd., Menno Simons College programming at UW, and Outtatown

2003

..... **The university moves** to a unified governance and administrative structure, and appoints **Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt** as its first president

2005

..... **CMU opens Concord Hall**, a new energy efficient student residence
Bachelor of Music Therapy is launched

2007

..... **Communications and Media** major is launched
Science offerings expand significantly

2008

..... Acceptance into **Universities Canada** membership

2009

..... **Science laboratory** is built

2010

..... **Major in Business and Organization Administration** is launched

2011

..... **Redekop School of Business** is launched along with a **Bachelor of Business Administration**

2012

..... **Dr. Cheryl Pauls** is appointed CMU President

2014

..... **Marpeck Commons** is built — home to CMU Library, CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre, folio café, and public and student spaces
Skywalk connects Marpeck Commons to South Hall

2018

..... **Bachelor of Science** is launched

2020

..... **Outtatown Discipleship School** program ends

2023

..... **Bachelor of Social Work** is launched

2025

..... **Bachelor of Education** is launched
Poettcker Hall Residence is renewed



Purpose

From the Canadian Mennonite University Act:

To further the intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical and social development of, and a community spirit among, its students, graduates and staff for the betterment of society, consistent with a Christian perspective rooted in the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition.

Mission

Canadian Mennonite University is an innovative Christian university, rooted in the Anabaptist faith tradition, moved and transformed by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Through teaching, research, and service
CMU inspires and equips for lives of service,
leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.

Commitments

From the flow of this mission, four commitments colour the university's work across all of its programs and activities:

Educating for Peace – Justice
Learning through Thinking and Doing
Welcoming Generous Hospitality... Radical Dialogue
Modeling Invitational Community

Major Fall Events

Oct 21-22 J.J. Thiessen Lectures:
"A Sacred Way of Life:
Theology as a guide to
spirituality"

Nov 29 Christmas at CMU:
All are warmly invited

Discover Days:
For prospective students

Oct 24

Nov 20-22

Feb 19

Cheer on the Blazers!
Schedule: blazers.cmu.ca



CANADIAN MENNONITE
UNIVERSITY