

Why change?

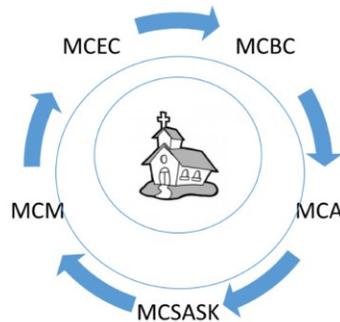
We live in a world that has changed dramatically in recent decades. The instant information of the internet brings events from around the world closer to home, even as we place greater emphasis on local relationships. Social media has changed the way people connect with each other. An increasingly secular society has meant a shift in the place of the church and less knowledge of its stories of faith. In the face of these and other changes, old ways of being church need to shift, as do our structures.

At the core, our convictions remain the same:
(from Palmer Becker's *What Is an Anabaptist Christian?*)

1. **Jesus** is the centre of our faith
2. **Community** is the centre of our lives
3. **Reconciliation** is the centre of our work

What changes?

- Local congregations are at the centre.
- Area Churches support congregations.
- Area Churches covenant together to form the National Church (MC Canada).



As congregations and Area Churches covenanting together, we comprise the national church – MC Canada.

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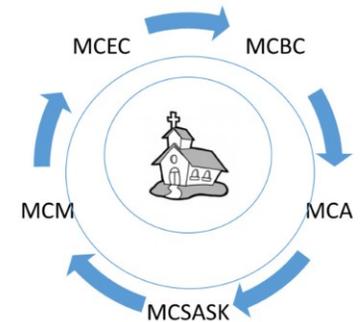
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What does this mean for my congregation?

- Decision-making and responsibility shifts from the National Church to Area Churches.
- Congregations will be members of their Area Churches only.
- All funding flows through the Area Churches, shifting resources closer to congregations.
- Area Churches will give direction to the National Church

Area Churches will focus on:

- Mission formation
- Support of Pastoral Leadership
- Congregational health
- Worship
- Fellowship



The **Area Churches** will be the link from congregations to the **National Church**. A Joint Council will respond to shared national priorities (e.g. Canada and International Witness, voice to powers, national advocacy) identified by the Area Churches and oversee MC Canada Executive Staff.

- The National Church becomes a voice of the Area Churches, collectively
- Area Churches (but not individual congregations) will be members of MC Canada
- MC Canada is accountable to Area Churches



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