

## **Canadian Mennonite University Report – 2003 Report**

Gerald Gerbrandt, President

Canadian Mennonite University now is in its fourth year of existence. The vision that developed in the 1990s for a cooperative effort in Mennonite higher education which serves church and society has taken huge strides forward. Here are a few of the achievements of this past year:

### **Leadership and Governance**

Some of the most significant progress took place in the area of governance. In June CMU moved from having three presidents – one each for CMBC, Concord and Menno Simons – to one president over all of CMU. I (Gerald Gerbrandt) took office on June 15. At my official installation Prof. Stanley Hauerwas challenged CMU to place Jesus Christ at the centre of all we do and think. In October CMU moved from a structure where the board of governors consisted of the three boards working together, to a single, integrated board. There is a conviction within the board that this will facilitate CMU moving forward with clear direction and purpose.

### **Mission Statement**

The commitment to move forward with clear purpose was represented by the board adopting a mission statement for CMU – “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 education, research and service CMU inspires and equips women and men for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.”

### **Enrolment**

Governance is important, but students are what CMU is about. The 2003-04 academic year began with a record enrolment, an 8% increase over last year. More than 1700 students are benefiting from the CMU experience, with 414 registered at the CMU Main Campus, 1163 taking at least one course through Menno Simons College at the University of Winnipeg, 100 involved in the CMU discipleship program now called Outtatown, and 41 registered for seminary studies.

### **Looking Ahead**

- Increasing student numbers for the future will require creative program development. At present CMU is investigating the following program possibilities: music therapy, communications and the media, leadership studies, a graduate program in conflict resolution and peacemaking, special summer programming
- A critical need at CMU is a new residence. CMU is actively inviting support for this project, with the goal of initiating construction in the summer of 2004.
- Menno Simons College has grown dramatically, and needs its own facilities.

### **Conclusion**

In 1 Peter 2:9 we read “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” CMU is committed to inviting and nurturing students into such a people, a church used by God to bring light into darkness. In keeping with that commitment we identify ourselves with the phrase “**CMU: A University of the Church for the World.**” May God be with you as together we inspire and equip people to be agents of God’s reconciliation in the world. If you have any questions or feedback, we appreciate hearing from you.