

PASTOR HERBERT BRANDT - Mennonite Brethren Church
1020 - No. 5 Road, Richmond

INTERVIEWED: February 12, 1975 T.37.2

Church completed December, 1972. Previously located at 585 Westminster Highway, Richmond - moved through need for expansion. Congregation there from September 1970 - December 1972. Prior to that, two ministries in Richmond-

- 1948 Mennonite Brethren on Mitchell Island - to 1964
- Same time, Cottage Missions on No. 1 Road asked Mennonite Brethren to take over work
- Extension work until building condemned 1965 into Westminster Highway building.

First Building - 585 Westminster Highway

Lot	\$ 3,750.00
Building	15,000.00
1970 Extension	10,000.00 - auditorium

- Builder: Peter Penner
- Flat, low building - 22' x 29' sanctuary. Nine or ten classrooms. Now used by Richmond Austrian Club.

Building - 1020 No. 5 Road

(See Dedication Service for Financial Report)

Building functional and modern. Architect - Mr. Rudy

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Reimer (Chilliwack). Constructed by congregation. Supervised by John Barga hiring one full time carpenter and others as needed.

Congregation

Approximately 170 on rolls. Many more attend services. Primarily of German-Dutch descent, middle-class background.

Upkeep

"Free-Will" offering and full participation of congregation.

Structure of Denominational levels

- Congregation
- Provincial conference
- Canadian conference
- General (North American) conference.
- World conference

Missionaries

In many countries - about 150 full-time at the present. Mission Board.

Church Extension Board

Makes funds available to worthwhile building project. No funds needed for the construction of the present structure. Almost 4 acres purchased for building and house.

Richmond

Comments on changes in Richmond

Role of Women

No ordination, but serve as deacons - some in administrative positions, most in educational ministries. Not regarded as fund raisers as this is responsibility of whole congregation.

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Very vital part of congregation -

- Christian Service Brigade
- Pioneer Girls Programs

Faith

- Belief in one God - Bible as final authority
- Church separate from State
- Non-resistance policy - do not take up arms and go to war
- Do not take an oath
- Baptism of Believers - age of awareness.

Special Events

- Christmas community banquet 1974 - Mayor, M.P. & M.L.A. other members of community
- Youth banquet inter-church
- Good Friday inter-church service over 600 people
- Music and drama presentations
- Gideons, Vancouver Bible College, Music Teachers hold functions.
- Family Life series of meetings held.

Other Ministers

- Mr. Bill Taves
- Mr. John Neufeld
- Mr. John C. Dick

Ordination & call to congregation

Does not need to have a formal training, but often is.
Called by congregation on a term-of-service basis.

Plans for future

Extensions to present building -

- larger sanctuary
- gymnasium
- educational centre

Aim to go out to growing community - evangelical in nature.

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Hierarchy of Church

- Outline of levels of authority and meetings of organizational groups
- No Bishops in church - no official title
- Moderators are elected for a term and so leadership not too heavy.