

Highland Mennonite Brethren Church Ministry Manual Congregational Care Guidelines

At Highland Mennonite Brethren Church (“HMBC”), it is our desire to ensure that congregational care is provided not only to seniors or the bereaved, but to all members and adherents at significant milestones and as need arises.

Team Members

- The INreach Coordinator takes the lead in coming alongside the Lead Pastor in ensuring that congregational care is provided.
- The Lead Pastor is made aware of and comes alongside those in need of pastoral care.
- The Church Office notifies the congregation of bereavements, births, weddings and – depending on the wishes of the honoree - significant anniversaries and birthdays.
- The Treasurer sends a donation in the specified amounts to “The Gideons of Canada” (or another charity of the honoree’s choice) as required.
- Additional Team Members may also participate in providing congregational care, taking proximity and existing relationships into consideration.

Visitation

Seniors and others who for various reasons (infirmity, illness, etc.) are unable to attend worship services and church events periodically receive a visit from a congregational care team member. Visits may consist of

- words of encouragement and prayer;
- delivery of mail accumulating in mail folders; and/or
- communion, served upon request and at the Lead Pastor’s discretion.

Meals

Where a return home from hospital, or a chronic illness, or other life trauma creates a need for meals to be temporarily made/brought for an individual or family, the INreach Coordinator will ensure that this is organized by individuals willing to coordinate this ministry in each individual case. It will be publicized to the church body only with the express permission of the individual in need of assistance, and tailored to the individual's own needs, for the time deemed helpful.

Recognitions

- Anniversaries are recognized with an anniversary card - given privately and in person, signed as coming from the “INreach (caring) team at HMBC” - specifying a donation of \$1 per year of married life to “The Gideons of Canada” (or another charity) in recognition of the following milestone anniversaries: 50, 60, 70, 75 and up.
- Believers Baptisms are recognized with a baptism certificate.

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- Bereavements (loss of a spouse, parent, child, or sibling) are recognized with a sympathy card - given privately and in person, signed as coming from the “INreach (caring) team at HMBC” - specifying a donation of \$30 to “The Gideons of Canada” (or another charity of the bereaved’s choice) in memory of the deceased. The congregational caregiver is to speak words of encouragement and pray with the bereaved.
- Birthdays are recognized with a birthday card - given privately and in person, signed as coming from the “INreach (caring) team at HMBC” - specifying a donation of \$1 per year of age to “The Gideons of Canada” in recognition of the following milestone ages: 90, 95 and up.
- Engagements are recognized with a bridal shower within a reasonable time of the wedding date, adjusting the format according to the couple's preferences. Either one of the couple or their parents should presently or recently have attended HMBC and still be well-known to congregants.
- Births are recognized with a baby shower, if it’s the first baby born into a family after they started attending HMBC. The baby shower will take place within a reasonable time of the baby’s birth, adjusting the format according to the parents’ preferences. Either one of the baby’s parents should presently or recently have attended HMBC and still be well-known to congregants.
- High School Graduations are recognized publicly on a Sunday in June with the gift of a Bible for the graduate.
- Membership is recognized with a membership certificate.
- Parent & Child Dedications are recognized with a dedication certificate and a Children’s Bible.
- Weddings are recognized with a wedding card - given privately and in person, signed as coming from the “INreach (caring) team at HMBC” - and a book of daily devotions or Christian growth specific to marriage.