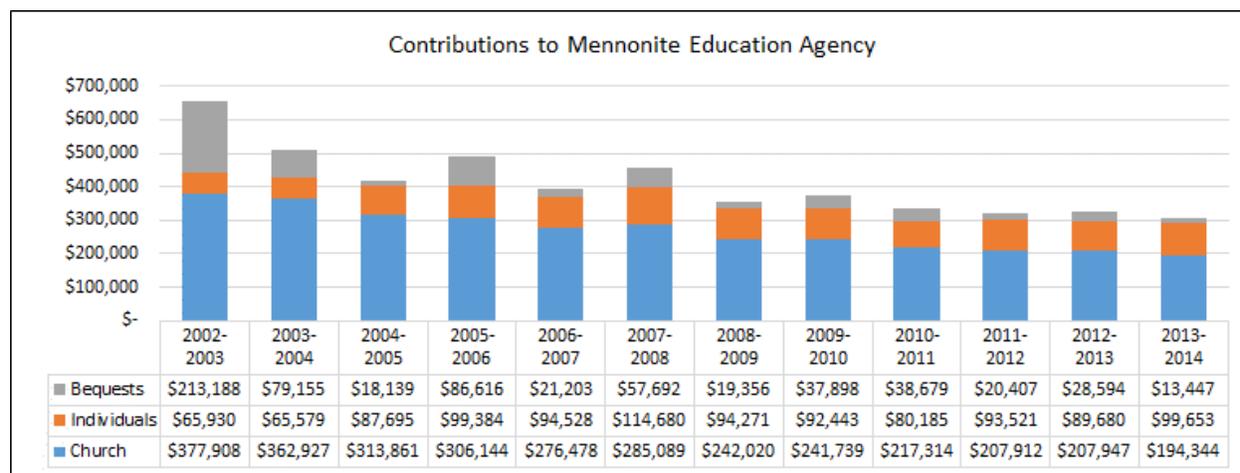


What is the financial health of the organization?

Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) is the connection point for Mennonite schools, early childhood through continuing education, to Mennonite Church USA. Currently, over 13,500 students are enrolled in MEA related institutions or schools. Many more lives are touched by the work of the institutions.

In spite of this, MEA is experiencing some financial challenges. Expenses for the 2014 fiscal year compared with the 2003 fiscal year (MEA's inception) have increased by \$100,500. The increase is due primarily to MEA assuming responsibilities for the pastoral theological training programs for the Iglesia Menonita Hispana (Hispanic Mennonite Church) in 2006 at the request of the broader church. However, the income side has proven even more challenging. For that same time period, contributions have decreased by \$349,600. The decrease has been primarily in church (congregational and conference) giving and in bequests. During that same period, individual giving has increased by \$33,700, but the increased has not been sufficient to offset the decline church support and bequests (\$383,300). (See chart below)



At the same time, MEA's Hispanic and Pastoral Leadership Education (HPLE) office provides Anabaptist theological education to Hispanic congregations through IBA (Instituto Bíblico Anabautista) and SeBAH (Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano). Demand continues to grow as these programs have recently become available in English. However, financial struggles continue. Support for the IBA and SeBAH programs continues to increase as awareness is raised for these programs. Since MEA assumed responsibility, individual and congregational contributions have increased from \$1,200 to \$68,500. However, the increase has not been large enough to cover program costs. Meanwhile, HPLE continues to train individuals that are presently ministering in congregational settings, planting new churches, and serving in many leadership capacities throughout Mennonite Church USA.

What challenges and opportunities have you faced/are you facing?

One of MEA most significant financial challenges is the decline in church giving. Church giving to MEA operations is the lowest it has been since MEA's inception in 2002-2003. Congregational giving in MEA's first fiscal year was \$378,000 compared with \$194,000 in 2013-2014; a decline of 49% (\$184,000).

As MEA seeks to meet financial needs, new opportunities are being explored. MEA is working to restructure its present revenue-creating programs. These programs include professional development and continuing education opportunities for Mennonite educators, boards and leadership through events, conferences, partnerships and operating the Mennonite Learning Network, an online classroom platform.

MEA's HPLE office also presents both challenges and opportunities. Enrollment in the HPLE programs continues to increase but due to a lack of adequate support staff and finances, HPLE cannot open new study centers as quickly as we would like nor can it promote the English IBA program adequately. As with most educational institutions or programs, tuition typically covers only part of the costs of education. Finding revenue sources to cover the gap between tuition and the cost of education continues to be a challenge. MEA is no longer in a financial position of being able to cover the annual operating deficits of the program.

MEA believes that with adequate support, we could have 300 Spanish and English IBA centers! As mentioned above, the opportunity to expand the IBA offerings in English as well as Spanish have been limited because of resources, both staff and financial.

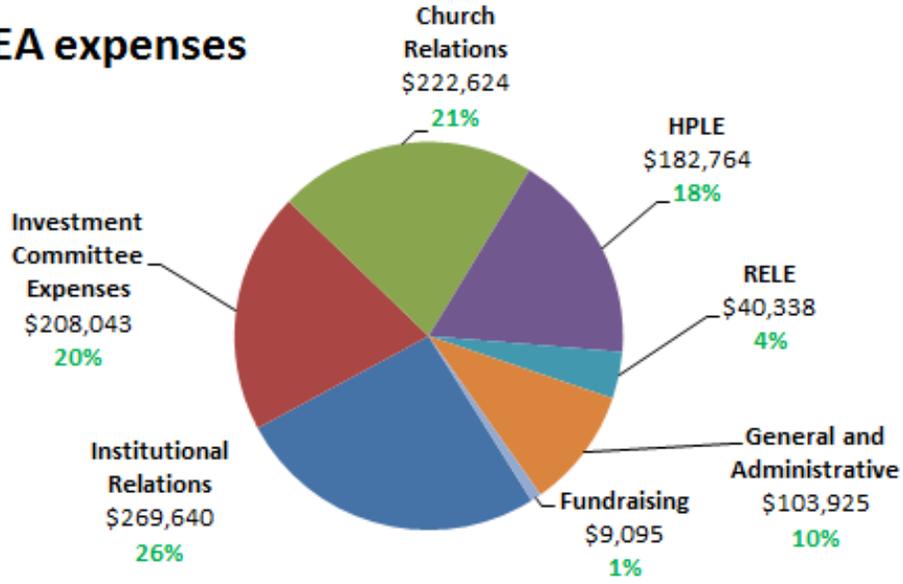
How are you supporting the priorities?

MEA's primary work of relating to the Mennonite institutions and the HPLE programs centers on leadership development. In addition MEA offers specific programs to assist in the development of leaders for these institutions. A few of these programs include, IBA, SeBAH, Racial/Ethnic Leadership Education, Mennonite Learning Network, Education Leaders Gathering, Mennonite Educators Conference, Anabaptist Leadership Institute, the collaborative MBA program, *Meno Acontecer*, the Mennonite World Conference education summit, and the consulting services offered by its staff across the church.

MEA also works significantly on undoing racism and advancing intercultural transformation. MEA's executive director, Carlos Romero, a certified administrator for the Intercultural Development Inventory, has provided training to educational institutions and other church agencies and related groups on the Intercultural Development Inventory. MEA also takes an active role in the leadership and facilitation of Hope for the Future conferences. In many of these programs, MEA staff partners with Mennonite Church USA Executive Board staff.

Stewardship (priority #4) is addressed through MEA's investment committee work with education-related endowments of Mennonite Church USA institution. The investment committee, partnering with Everence, incorporates stewardship investing as central to its work.

MEA expenses



MEA income

