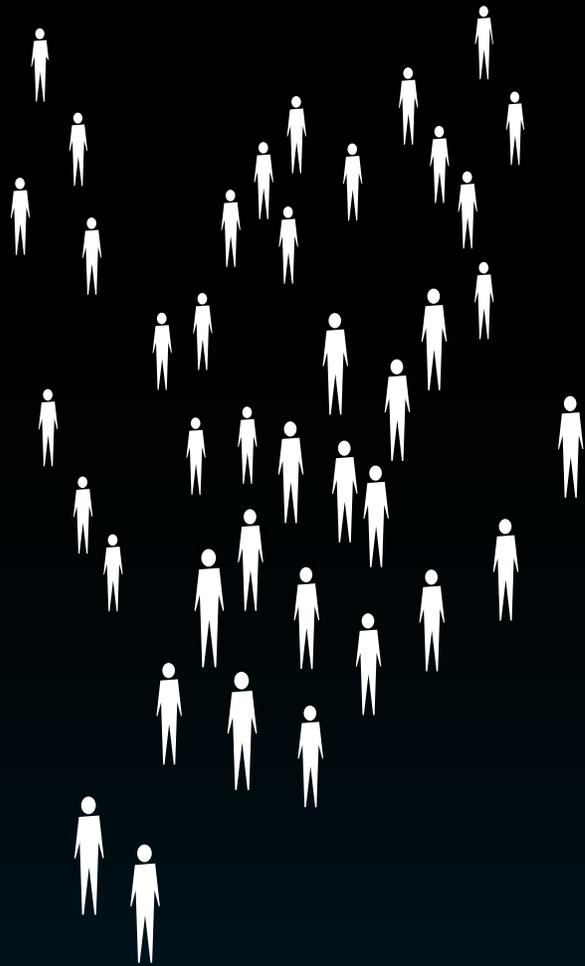


"YET PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS  
IS NOT SOMETHING I CAN BOAST ABOUT.  
I AM COMPELLED BY GOD TO DO IT.  
HOW TERRIBLE FOR ME IF I DIDN'T  
PREACH THE GOOD NEWS!"  
1 CORINTHIANS 9:16 (NLT)



# COMPELLED

## GATHERING 2016

JULY 6-9, 2016 / HILTON TORONTO AIRPORT HOTEL

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# YEARBOOK



CANADIAN CONFERENCE  
of Mennonite Brethren Churches

# Gathering 2016 Yearbook

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\*Please note, these reports were drawn from both the 2016 Ministry Book and the Gathering 2016 Event Book.

**Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches**  
**Minutes for Annual General Meeting, Gathering 2016**  
**July 6-9, 2016, Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel; Mississauga, Ontario**

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**Celebration Service – Wednesday July 6, 2016**

7:00 – 9:00pm

The evening opened in singing followed by a welcome from hosts Mandy Kasper and Ed Heinrichs. Ed Willms, Executive Director for Ontario, welcomed everyone to Toronto. Time was spent in worship, and then CCMBC Executive Director, Willy Reimer, introduced the theme for the weekend “Compelled” based on 1 Corinthians 9:16. Testimonies were given by Adam Greeley and Judy Harms-Wiebe followed by Vic Neufeld (North Kildonan MB) speaking on the theme, “Compelled by Christ’s Sacrifice”. The evening ended in communion.

**Business Session – Thursday July 7, 2016**

8:30am to 12 noon

- 1) Time was spent in worship followed by Janet Thiessen, North Langley church, speaking on “Compelled by the Call in Community”.
- 2) Willy Reimer presented his Executive Director report, reviewing the CCMBC Sandbox including the CCMBC Mission statement, Preferred Culture, Guiding Principles and Central Ministry Focus. Willy showed a video that gives an overview of the Ministry Model which includes 4 areas: Developing Leaders, Building Community, Resourcing Ministry, and Multiplying Churches. The ministry model was developed in cooperation with provincial Conference Ministers/Executive Directors who joined Willy onstage for introductions. Willy also acknowledged the contributions of CCMBC staff across Canada. He then closed in prayer for our churches and their need for workers to bring in the harvest of souls that God has prepared.
- 3) Business session was called to order at 10:05am by Harold Froese, CCMBC Moderator. Quorum was established at 136 delegates (100 needed). This year the “report card” is not looking good. Have we analyzed the information correctly to minimize the risks? Have we done enough to respond to the “report card”? Are we moving too fast / too slow to manage our financial situation? These questions will be discussed at the breakout sessions.
  - a. Introduction to business procedures (p.18 Gathering 2016 Event book). Questions are to be addressed in the breakout session to allow for sufficient time to address
  - b. Motions:
    - i. **Motion 2016-07-02:** To approve the agenda as presented. **S**
      1. It was moved that an amendment be made to the agenda regarding the acceptance of the Mission statement component of the Sandbox. To be added as business arising from the 2014 Minutes.
      2. **Motion 2016-07-01:** To amend the agenda to add approval of the Mission statement of CCMBC. **SC**

- ii. **Motion 2016-07-03:** To appoint the balloting team of Bertha Dyck, Norbert Bargaen and Jon Isaak. **SC.**
  - iii. **Motion 2016-07-04:** To approve the following as parliamentarians: Reg Toews, Michelle Knowles, and Jason Dyck. **SC**
  - iv. **Motion 2016-07-05:** To approve the minutes of Gathering 2014 as circulated. **SC**
  - v. **Motion 2016-07-06:** To approve the minutes of October 2015 Annual General meeting as circulated. **SC.**
  - vi. Business arising from minutes:
    - 1. **Motion 2016-07-07:** To affirm the mission statement for CCMBC as presented, as at the 2014 Gathering the mission statement was approved only “in principle”.  
**S.**
      - a. **Motion 2016-07-08:** To amend the motion on the floor to modify the mission statement of CCMBC (striking the word “to Multiply” and replace with “We are”). **S. Defeated**
      - b. Discussion:
        - The rationale given for the amendment was that there are 4 ministry areas and only “multiply” is mentioned in the Mission statement.
        - Several people spoke against the amendment with the theme being that multiply is central to what we do as a conference. An argument in favor of the amendment reasoned that the word “multiply” infers that we are serving ourselves and not being missional.
    - 2. **Action:** To refer the mission statement implications of the words “multiply” and “transformed” to BFL for definition.
  - vii. **Motion 2016-07-07:** To affirm the adoption of the mission statement for CCMBC as presented (p 7 – MB Churches of Canada 2016). **S. Carried with dissenting votes.** *Note: The approval of the mission statement completes the approval of the Sandbox model which was approved in principle at Gathering 2014.*
    - a. Discussion: The mission statement helps to affirm the intention of bylaws. The mission statement must affirm the intention of the CCMBC charter from 1946.
- 4) BFL Report (David Miller reporting) – BFL has the mandate to watch over the spiritual health of the conference. The BFL is made up of provincial conference ministers, members at large, CCMBC Executive Director, MBBS rep, and a C2C rep. The study conference on Human Sexuality in October 2015 was well received with a study guide prepared for the conference – churches are encouraged to use this guide for their own discussions. There was substantial input after the sessions and BFL was in discussion with respondents. The next study conference (Equip 2017 “Transforming Discipleship”) is scheduled for fall 2017 in BC.

- 5) ICOMB (David Wiebe reporting). David brought greetings from ICOMB (23 conferences / 490,000 members) of which CCMBC is an integral part. Our international MB community represents the love that we show by serving and praying for each other. The last ICOMB meeting was in Panama. Pray for Thailand 2017 mission and prayer consultation being planned. CCMBC's support of ICOMB is appreciated.

Ed Heinrichs led in Prayer before continuing with reporting.

- 6) C2C (Gord Fleming reporting) – C2C, the church planting arm of CCMBC, serves a variety of denominations (23) throughout Canada. The mandate is to serve Christ in Canada with a focus on MB church planting. We desire to communicate truth to each other. Gord invited questions on a one-to-one basis. Gord presented answers to the following questions which had arisen in conversations and at conventions:
- a. How do we protect the theological identity of the Canadian MB's if our church planting division is interdenominational? *All staff is MB. All MB church planters must be credentialed by provincial MB conferences and not by C2C. Church plants by other denominations must not conflict with MB church plants.*
  - b. How can we ensure that C2C will keep MB church planting as its primary focus? *All C2C staff is MB and MB church planting is C2C's highest priority. Church planters are recruited in prayer.*
  - c. Why are there not more MB Church plants? *C2C is praying for that, but C2C does not recruit. It responds to those who have been called. Churches need to recruit more church planters.*
  - d. Why are there not more female church planters in our network? *C2C does not recruit church planters. C2C responds to those who are called and assesses them. Females, when called, are responded to in the same manner as males.*
  - e. Can you ensure that Canada will not be diluted if C2C helps/serves in the USA? *Canadian C2C staff will remain as Canadian staff. US staff will be funded by the US.*
  - f. How much money is directed to other denominations from CCMBC? How are other denominations funding their church plants and supporting C2C. *There is a net income to CCMBC budget for C2C from donations including 15% overhead from other denomination church plants based on MB Mission guidelines.*
  - g. What if CCMBC adopted the same format of funding 15% to C2C? *CCMBC at this point is not actually giving 15%. C2C is partially funding MB church plants*
  - h. How do we plant more MB churches in Canada without increasing our church planting budget as a denomination? *Home churches need to be committed to planting churches – C2C will be a resource for them.*

Gord closed in prayer.

- 7) MB Mission (Randy Friesen reporting) – CCMBC churches were thanked for their contributions to the international ministry of MB Mission. Randy emphasized the harvest that needs workers where MB Mission is working with other denominations and mission organizations. Rev. 14:14-16. We need to look at one Lord of the harvest that helps us work collaboratively in local, provincial, national and global harvest fields. MB Mission is

working in countries where there is a cost for individuals to know and follow Jesus – they are sharing their faith more frequently than we are in Canada. We have the same Gospel. MB Mission is discerning how best to serve Mission USA to collaborate with them in planting churches in the USA. Is God inviting MB Mission to partner with both USA MBs and Canadian MBs in planting churches (particularly ethnic and from countries that are restricted to the proclamation of the Gospel) in their respective countries? The harvest is ripe globally – God is “not willing that any should perish”. Our churches are responding to refugee needs who also need the gospel. Randy related the story of a young man from a Muslim father & Mennonite mother who was converted to Islam. He married a nominal Christian woman who then engaged others to pray for her husband. He gave his life to Jesus after receiving a vision from the Lord. Prayer is solicited for workers going into Syrian refugee camps. We are a visible demonstration of God’s love to others. Samir Youssef (director of Oasis in N Africa – 27 years with MB Mission) shared how southern BC churches are working with Syrian refugees. The mission field is all around us, in our communities. Ed Heinrichs led delegates in corporate prayer to build His church.

- 8) Resourcing Churches CCMBC (Jim Davidson reporting) – Jim is the interim chief financial officer for CCMBC and a member of Forest Grove Community church, Saskatoon. CCMBC provides mortgages to pastors, loans to churches, pension administration, and payroll services to churches. CCMBC owns facilities to serve programs in various provinces. CCMBC has been blessed by individuals who have invested their funds with CCMBC. We need to grow our reserves which are practically depleted at this time. A survey was done in 2015 during the development of the Legacy Fund Inc. to ensure that the fund will meet the goals of investors. Jim related an experience involving two machines (one old / one new) from his previous experience in the pulp & paper industry. The mandate of CCMBC stewardship is to serve ministries of our MB churches. Our present financial system needs to be updated although it works fairly well to meet most ministry requirements. Legacy Fund was established to minimize non-compliance to regulatory requirements. Documents are being finalized after 18 months of work together with accountants, lawyers and government agencies. Legacy has been incorporated and filed for charitable status. Plans are to have Legacy fully operational by Jan 1, 2017. Legacy will provide support only to CCMBC financially and in services to the churches. Delegates were invited to attend the breakout sessions to find out more about finances.

The morning session was ended in prayer.

### **Experience Toronto – Thursday, July 7, 2016**

2:00-9:00pm

- 9) Four different busses went to different parts of Toronto for church visits, prayer walks and sightseeing. All busses ended up at St Paul’s Anglican Church in downtown Toronto for worship and prayer, led by Willy Reimer.

**Plenary Session - Friday, July 8, 2016**

8:30am-9:45am

- 1) Delegates began the day with worship led by Matt Unruh and prayer led by Willy Reimer. Delegates thanked organizers for events of Experience Ontario.
- 2) Mandy introduced Laurence East (lead pastor of Metro Community Church, Kelowna), speaker for the Plenary Session. Laurence used his home church community to speak about the theme, “Compelled by the Spirit to Obedience” Ed Heinrichs challenged us to put aside “niceness” and be “right for God”. Ed thanked Laurence and prayed for our obedience to God. Ed welcomed guests from USMB, EFC, etc., and outlined the location and times for the breakout sessions (50-min each) to follow.

**Breakout Sessions – Friday July 8, 2016**

9:45am – 12noon

- 3) Ministry Equipping Breakouts were held, 2 session of 50 minutes. Delegates chose 2 to attend. Options were:
  - L2L (Fishing with the Master)
  - C2C Ministry report
  - BFL update

**Business session – Friday July 8, 2016**

1:00 – 2:30pm

Ed Heinrichs prayed to open the afternoon session.

- 4) L2L report (Ron Toews) – Leading with a shoehorn (shoehorn is a tool to help us walk in our shoes). Leaders are like a shoehorn to help Christ’s church spread the Good News. Ron invited John Osmond, Cheryl Plett, and Ed Willms from ON to share their experiences using L2L services. L2L provides individualized assistance to leaders & churches. L2L can be contacted through Willy or provincial conference ministers.
- 5) MB Biblical Seminary (Bruce Guenther reporting) – MBBS seeks to fulfil the mission of “educating and equipping people to help lead the church in reaching Canada and the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ”. Past and present MBBS students (through video and live presentations) shared the value of their theological education. About 70% of MBBS students are part-time with 257 alumni. Bruce acknowledged the contribution of MBBS faculty and staff. MBBS Canada works in partnership with ACTS and CMU. MBBS is now offering a chaplaincy and spiritual care program. New partnerships include working with Manitoba churches, Northview Community church, Tyndale Seminary (Toronto). Ministry Lift helps churches in doing ministry though live-streaming seminars & workshops. Financial operations include 18% of MBBS budget from CCMBC. Vision 2020 has been

developed to increase the capacity of MBBS to serve the church better in various ways. Ron Penner (MBBS board chair) acknowledged the 15 directors on the MBBS board. Bruce Guenther was recognized for his significant contributions during his presidential leadership over the last 5 years, leading MBBS to accreditation and degree-granting status. Bruce is taking a 6-month sabbatical followed by a return to teaching in January 2017. Bruce was acknowledged by the Gathering 2016 delegates by a standing ovation. The incoming MBBS president, Mark Wessner (a seasoned pastor and teacher), is presently recovering from a concussion and plans to start his duties in August. Ron Penner presented greetings (in absentia) from Mark. Willy expressed his appreciation for Bruce and the board's leadership, and prayed for the continuing service of MBBS to the churches of CCMBC under the new leadership.

- 6) The business meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Harold Froese
- a. **Reg Toews, Parliamentarian's Point of Clarification:** In general, no additional items may be added to the agenda from the floor. CCMBC Operating Bylaws – Article 6; Section 3 states “The Executive Board shall give at least six (6) weeks’ notice of any annual or special Convention. Such notice shall stipulate the date, location and agenda of such Convention.” The additional item yesterday was seen as business arising from the minutes of the 2014 Convention and therefore deemed appropriate.
  - b. **Motion 2016-07-09:** To appoint the following as members of the Gathering 2016 Minutes-Review committee: Marilyn Hiebert, Janessa Giesbrecht, Marvin Dyck, Ingrid Reichard. **SC.**
  - c. Vic Martens (Nominations committee) presented the slate of nominees. There are still two vacancies for Member-at-large positions on the Executive board who will also serve on the Legacy Fund Inc. board. The following individuals were presented:
    - i. Harold Froese (Fort Garry MB, Winnipeg) – Moderator (2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term)
    - ii. Bruce Enns (Forest Grove Community, Saskatoon) – Assistant Moderator (two-year term)
    - iii. Marilyn Hiebert (Central Heights MB, Abbotsford) – Secretary (two-year term)
    - iv. Howie Wall (Forest Grove Community, Saskatoon) – MAL – (2<sup>nd</sup> four-year term)
    - v. Michael Dick (Bakerview MB, Abbotsford) – MAL (four-year term)
    - vi. David MacLean (Willow Park Community, Kelowna) – MAL (four-year term)
    - vii. Provincial moderator's / appointee ratification:
      1. Don Petker (BC)
      2. Matt Dyck (AB)
      3. Phil Gunther (SK)
      4. Ruth Schellenberg (MB)
      5. Karen West (ON)
      6. Zacharie Leclair (QC)

- viii. Nominating committee MAL
  - 1. Ralph Gliege, Living Hope / Forest Grove (4-yr term)
- ix. MB Biblical Seminary – CCMBC ratification
  - 1. Ron Penner, Northview MB (2<sup>nd</sup> 4-year term)
  - 2. Roger Braun, Broadway MB (2<sup>nd</sup> 4-year term)
  - 3. John Neufeld, Meeting Place (2<sup>nd</sup> 4-year term)
  - 4. Donna Vollett, Forest Grove Community (4-year term)
- x. MB Historical commission – CCMBC ratification
  - 1. J. Janzen, Highland Community, Abbotsford (2<sup>nd</sup> 4-year term)
- xi. MB Mission
  - 1. Shirley Falk, Faith River Community (4-yr term)
  - 2. Allan Dickens, Cariboo Bethel (2<sup>nd</sup> 4-yr term)
- xii. MCC Delegate Assembly – Ernie Schmidt, Highland Community (2<sup>nd</sup> 4-yr term)
- xiii. Board of Faith & Life
  - 1. Robyn Serez, Waterloo MB (4-yr term)
  - 2. Brent Hudson, The Journey Church, Moncton (4-yr term)
  - 3. Paul Lam, Burnaby Pacific Grace (2<sup>nd</sup> 4-yr term)

Ballots were handed out for voting, then collected by the ballot team to be counted. Results were made available on Saturday.

- d. **Motion 2016-07-10:** To approve the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws as presented. **S. Carried with some opposed.**

Discussion – Concern was expressed about reducing quorum to 30 for meetings which only approve audited financial statements, budget and auditors. It was suggested that a quorum of 75 would serve CCMBC better since the budget is an important document which funds ministry programs. A proposed amendment to this end was ruled as unfriendly and was referred to be added if the original motion was defeated.

- e. **Motion 2016-07-11:** To approve the MB Mission MOU as presented. **SC**

There was a question regarding why the MOU was presented at this Gathering?

Answer from Randy Friesen (MB Mission) was that the MOU has an expiry date and needs to be renewed.

- 7) MB Historical Commission (Jon Isaak reporting) – There are 4 centers of the MB Historical Commission (Hillsboro, Fresno, Abbotsford, Winnipeg) where historical documents are kept in archives. 2650 profiles of MB are printed annually for distribution. Funding is provided for study grants annually. An archival intern is funded to visit each of the four archives. The Katie Funk-Wiebe research grant supports writing related to MB history. Jon acknowledged the MB Historical staff and board members who serve the constituency.
- 8) MCC Canada (Don Peters reporting) gave greetings to CCMBC and referred to the MCC Canada report in the MB Churches of Canada publication (pg. 32). Don related two stories: a meeting in Lebanon with 15 Syrian women who begged that persons in need not be forgotten; the other one from a visit to the border country between Honduras and Guatemala – 80 women showed up for a meeting and said that no rain had fallen since March. The corn

that had germinated was dying due to lack of rain. There was limited drinking water. MCC is involved in these and other high profile and unknown disaster areas in the name of Christ.

### **Break-out session – July 8, 2016**

2:50-5:00 pm

9) Recommendation Processing breakouts were held (50-55 min each). Delegates chose 2 to attend. Choices were:

- C2C & MB Mission – Big Idea (Mississauga);
- Finance Update (Dundas),
- Communication plan (Vista).

Notes were taken at each session as feedback for the Executive Board in their deliberations.

### **Dinner and Celebration Service – July 8, 2016**

6:00 – 9:00pm

Following dinner, Matt Unruh and band led in a time of worship, followed by prayer.

Testimonies were given by Joel Francis and Janessa Giesbrecht. Ed Heinrichs introduced speaker Chris Stevens (Lead pastor, Waterloo MB) who spoke on the theme, “Compelled by the Call to Make Disciples”. People were invited to the front for a time of prayer.

### **Business Session – July 9, 2016**

8:00 am – 12 noon

1) The morning opened with worship and Phil Collins (Lead Pastor, Willow Park) speaking on the theme, “Compelled to Reach Canada” Willy thanked Phil and led in prayer for the decision-making session and for what God wants each of us to be and do. Prayer by delegates in groups was followed by Willy praying for renewal. Ed Heinrichs closed worship and teaching session in prayer. Ed thanked the logistics team (Michelle P, Steve, etc.) and the prayer team for their work planning Gathering 2016.

2) Decision making

- a. Presentation of election / affirmation results (Vic Martens reporting) – All individuals on ballot were approved (in excess of 97%) by delegates (129 voting). Harold led in prayer for those that were affirmed in their positions.

a. **Motion 2016-07-12:** To destroy ballots. **SC.**

Harold expressed his appreciation to delegates for their participation in breakout sessions and on the floor. Can we improve our “report card” in how we do kingdom business?

- b. C2C/MB Mission task force decision: Michael Dick presented the recommendations from the Executive board and commented on the rationale for the motions which was discussed in the breakout sessions.

a. **Motion 2016-07-13:** To affirm a task force to work with the MB Mission board to investigate options for C2C and MB Mission for church planting ministries locally, nationally and globally. **S. Carried with some opposing votes.**

## Discussion:

- Michael Dick clarified that the task force would be appointed by the Executive Board with representation from across Canada. It will include reps from the EB, C2C, MB Mission and one USMB rep will be invited as well. Communication will happen through the MB Herald and the website, and any significant steps to be taken would be brought back to the constituency.
- C: Practical stories that enhance the “why” are helpful as we move forward.
- C: It is a premature assignment since MB Mission needs to explain why they need to redefine their scope. A: Mission has become from everywhere to everywhere. Randy Friesen – the least reached have come here from other countries. Focusing on mission only outside of North America is a model that has passed. Some of the people coming to Canada are the best evangelists back to their own nations. Co-operative strategies linking us together seems to be a better way to do missions. Demographics of our Canadian MB churches are changing – we need to link loyalties of the older generation to MB Mission and the younger generation to C2C to reach Canada and the world. There are 7 regional leaders in MB Mission who are ICOMB leaders. Follow up comment: Encourage partnering with MCC as well.
- C: Affirmation for the EB listening during breakout sessions. It is a complex matter and the constituents are extending trust to the EB and outreach organizations.
- C: MB Mission board has limited authority. No one board has the authority to explore this on its own while the task force can. If we vote against the motion, we hamper our ability to proceed.
- A request was made for the task force to be intentional in inviting a wide range of opinions including gender balance.
- C: Provinces have been invited into the conversation and are receiving regular updates.
- Q: Is it minuted that the final decision will be brought back to the constituents? A: Yes.
- Q: Collaboration is supported. What is the purpose of the interim leadership team for C2C? Michael Dick: The interim leadership team for C2C and task force will be merged. Concern was expressed that the load would be too much for a combined team to do both.
- C: Concern about a conflict of interest for leader from C2C and MB Mission making decisions on the task force. Michael Dick: The leaders of C2C and MB Mission will be ex officio, but their input is valued. In camera sessions excluding ex officio members will be held at each meeting.

- b. **Motion 2016-07-14:** That C2C, in collaboration with MB Mission, be authorized to assist the USMB conference, as invited by USMB leadership, and be allowed to function interdenominationally in the USA as requested, without any negative impact on Canadian church planting ministries and budget. **S. Carried with opposing votes.**

Discussion:

- Concern about having “in collaboration with MB Mission” in the motion. Harold Froese: The request from USMB came through MB Mission. There are some legalities about operating in the US that MB Mission can help with.
  - Don Morris (USMB interim director) C2C is asked to assist as a resource for Mission USA to work alongside, not replace what is already being done.
  - Concern that interdenominational involvement in the USA is wide-ranging. Michael Dick: Denominations have US head offices in some cases. MB Mission is incorporated in the USA.
  - Comment: The two motions seem to be counter-productive. Michael Dick: The permission for C2C allows CCMBC to serve the USMB, and enhances the partnership with MB Mission.
  - Comment: This motion has findings that the task force should present. Michael Dick: The EB has reviewed steps and recommends this motion.
  - Question: How does this authorization compare to what is already happening? Michael Dick: The intent is to respond to invitations coming to us from the US. Len Penner: The US involvement has evolved from requests to C2C. We are able to resource churches through the C2C network. This is viewed as an interim step.
  - Willy Reimer: We intentionally work with MB Mission. We can work through the legal entity of MB Mission in the USA.
  - David Wiebe: Moved an amendment
    1. **Motion 2016-07-15:** To strike “in collaboration with MB Mission” to amend the motion. **S. Motion is defeated**  
 Discussion: Centered around the need for collaboration with MB Mission, the fact that the request came to C2C from USMB through MB Mission, and that legally we need MB Mission to do this. Other structures can be built but would take a long time. This would be a good test of what it looks like for mission to be local, national, global. Concern was expressed regarding lack of clarity of the vision.
- c. Financial decision making (Len Penner): Finances help to support ministry. Len expressed appreciation to Jim Davidson and Bertha Dyck with their staff for their work in finance for CCMBC. In 2012, direction was set to shift to increase the transparency and openness to the constituency, compliance with regulatory

agencies, better risk management and improve governance and accountability. How do we balance ministry with financial stewardship? Auditors were changed which resulted in improved accounting practices – a change in accounting resulted in a \$9 million write-down. We have \$110 million out in mortgages of which \$3.6 million was in doubtful accounts. Some of the land held has been sold off with some land being below our book value resulting in a write-down in assets. Plan return in the pension plan has been better than expected. How do we supply financial support to our ministries? Risk has been reduced. Howie Wall reported on the Stewardship fund. Working with regulators, lawyers and accountants is tedious and time consuming. Regulatory changes have resulted in the formation of Legacy Fund Inc. as a replacement for the Stewardship fund. Application for charitable status has been submitted. Howie presented the Legacy Fund Inc. bylaw which was developed by lawyers and modified by CCMBC staff. Changes to by-laws require 6-wk notice although suggestions for action are welcomed.

- i. **Motion 2016-07-16:** To approve the Legacy bylaw as presented. **SC**
- ii. The following action items were presented pertaining to the Legacy Fund Inc. for the Executive Board to consider and report back to delegates at the next AGM.

**Actions for the Executive Board to consider:**

1. Revise the initial "Whereas" clause in order to provide greater clarity regarding the specific purpose of the corporation
2. Include in the Bylaws a mandate to present the audited financial statements of Legacy Fund Inc. at the CCMBC annual general meeting.
3. Include in the Bylaws a mandate for the approval of the Legacy Fund Inc. annual budget at the CCMBC annual general meeting
4. Adjust the structural location of the Legacy corporation within CCMBC from being under the direct control of the Executive Board to being alongside the Executive Board, directly answerable to CCMBC at its AGM to avoid a potential conflict of interest on the part of the Executive Board and provide adequate protection for the interests of the depositors.

- d. Howie Wall presented the consolidated statements as well as the Pension fund. Pension plan legislation continues to change. The pension plan is doing well. The auditors have been helpful.
  - iii. **Motion 2016-07-17:** To approve the 2015 Consolidated Audited Financial Statements as presented. **SC**
    - 2. Discussion: There was a request for clarification of reserve status.
  - iv. **Motion 2016-07-18:** To approve the 2015 Pension Plan audited Financial Statements as presented. **SC**.
  - v. **Motion 2016-07-19:** To approve KPMG as auditors for 2016. **SC**
- e. **Motion 2016-07-20:** To approve the CCMBC 2017 Budget as presented. **S**.  
**Carried with amendment.**

**Amendment proposed to above motion:** that CCMBC take all necessary actions to achieve a balanced ministry budget (in accordance with designations p.21 of 2015 audited statements) by reducing expenses and/or increasing revenue. Progress is to be monitored by the Finance committee of the Executive Board, and that CCMBC direct the Stewardship fund (Legacy Fund Inc.) to take all necessary actions to replenish Investment reserves by annually directing:

- vi. All net capital gains
- vii. All profits from “for profit” companies
- viii. All net returns on impaired mortgages
- ix. 10% of net investment returns (beginning 2018)

and that after these annual provisions have been fulfilled each year, monies from Legacy may be transferred for ministry support. The annual provisions will continue to be applied until the Investment reserve reaches a level of 6% of total funds under deposit.

**Motion 2016-07-21:** To approve the amendment. SC

Discussion:

- Comment: The ministry side has had a loss of 3 million. This is a serious amount and needs to be corrected. The amendment to the motions is in the right direction but will take serious effort. Challenge to those on the ministry side to cooperate with the finance committee.
- Len Penner: The reason for the structure is so everyone understands what it will look like.
- Question regarding the current amount of reserves and what it should be. There is currently 2 million in reserves, should be 16 million. If this amendment is passed, we are looking at 1.1 to 1.2 million going into reserves each year.
- How does the speed of the decline compare to the recovery? With this amendment should get to 8-9 million by 2018.
- What red flags would go off if we aren't progressing as expected? 2 areas: doubtful accounts and writing down asset values. Steps are being taken to minimize risk – every mortgage is reviewed annually, we are actively working on selling land, down to 5 properties.
- Comment: We can't afford to lose investor confidence; reserves should be at 10-16%. Encourage a degree of urgency.
- Len Penner: 10-16% includes liquidity that has not been reported on here. Legacy has increased liquidity.
- What will be the impact of a reduced budget on ministry?
- Jim Davidson: Another million would have to be cut from the 2018 budget. One option is to cut; another is to look for increased revenue.
- Comment: Ministry side needs to be balanced.

- Len Penner: The finance committee has been working with the staff to reduce and balance. Expenses have already started to be reduced.
- Comment: We can go back to our churches and tell them that God is at work. Revenue can increase if churches invest in the conference.
- Comment: Will go home and ask church to give to CCMBC so ministry doesn't suffer.

f. **Motion 2016-07-22:** To approve the Ministry reports as presented. **SC**

g. **Motion 2016-07-23:** To adjourn the meeting. **SC**

Business part of the meeting was adjourned at 11:50am

- 3) Constituents prayed for Willy Reimer and Ron Toews. Willy is leaving on sabbatical shortly and Ron will be stepping in as ED during this time.
- 4) The morning was finished with worship and a commissioning word from Willy on the theme "Compelled to Go", Using the passage Matthew 28:18-20. We are commissioned in the authority of Christ and promised the presence of Christ.

Willy concluded Gathering 2016 with a closing prayer.

### Summary of Motions

**Motion 2016-07-02:** To approve the agenda as presented. **S**

1. It was moved that an amendment be made to the agenda regarding the acceptance of the Mission statement component of the Sandbox. To be added as business arising from the 2014 Minutes.
2. **Motion 2016-07-01:** To amend the agenda to add approval of the Mission statement of CCMBC. **SC**

**Motion 2016-07-03:** To appoint the balloting team of Bertha Dyck, Norbert Bargaen and Jon Isaak. **SC.**

**Motion 2016-07-04:** To approve the following as parliamentarians: Reg Toews, Michelle Knowles, and Jason Dyck. **SC**

**Motion 2016-07-05:** To approve the minutes of Gathering 2014 as circulated. **SC**

**Motion 2016-07-06:** To approve the minutes of October 2015 Annual General meeting as circulated. **SC.**

**Motion 2016-07-07:** To affirm the mission statement for CCMBC as presented, as at the 2014 Gathering the mission statement was approved only “in principle”.  
**S.**

- a. **Motion 2016-07-08:** To amend the motion on the floor to modify the mission statement of CCMBC (striking the word “to Multiply” and replace with “We are”). **S. Defeated**
  - ii. **Motion 2016-07-07:** To affirm the adoption of the mission statement for CCMBC as presented (p 7 – MB Churches of Canada 2016). **S. Carried with dissenting votes.** *Note: The approval of the mission statement completes the approval of the Sandbox model which was approved in principle at Gathering 2014.*

**Motion 2016-07-09:** To appoint the following as members of the Gathering 2016 Minutes-Review committee: Marilyn Hiebert, Janessa Giesbrecht, Marvin Dyck, Ingrid Reichard. **SC.**

**Motion 2016-07-10:** To approve the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws as presented. **S. Carried with some opposed.**

**Motion 2016-07-11:** To approve the MB Mission MOU as presented. **SC**

**Motion 2016-07-12:** To destroy ballots. **SC**

**Motion 2016-07-13:** To affirm a task force to work with the MB Mission board to investigate options for C2C and MB Mission for church planting ministries locally, nationally and globally. **S. Carried with some opposing votes.**

**Motion 2016-07-14:** That C2C, in collaboration with MB Mission, be authorized to assist the USMB conference, as invited by USMB leadership, and be allowed to function interdenominationally in the USA as requested, without any negative impact on Canadian church planting ministries and budget. **S. Carried with opposing votes.**

**Motion 2016-07-15:** To strike “in collaboration with MB Mission” to amend the motion. **S. Motion is defeated**

**Motion 2016-07-16:** To approve the Legacy bylaw as presented. **SC**

**Motion 2016-07-17:** To approve the 2015 Consolidated Audited Financial Statements as presented. **SC**

**Motion 2016-07-18:** To approve the 2015 Pension Plan audited Financial Statements as presented. **SC.**

**Motion 2016-07-19:** To approve KPMG as auditors for 2016. **SC**

**Motion 2016-07-20:** To approve the CCMBC 2017 Budget as presented. **S. Carried with amendment.**

**Amendment proposed to above motion:** that CCMBC take all necessary actions to achieve a balanced ministry budget (in accordance with designations p.21 of 2015 audited statements) by reducing expenses and/or increasing revenue. Progress is to be monitored by the Finance committee of the Executive Board, and that CCMBC direct the Stewardship fund (Legacy Fund Inc.) to take all necessary actions to replenish Investment reserves by annually directing:

- x. All net capital gains
- xi. All profits from “for profit” companies
- xii. All net returns on impaired mortgages
- xiii. 10% of net investment returns (beginning 2018)

and that after these annual provisions have been fulfilled each year, monies from Legacy may be transferred for ministry support. The annual provisions will continue to be applied until the Investment reserve reaches a level of 6% of total funds under deposit.

**Motion 2016-07-21:** To approve the amendment. **SC**

**Motion 2016-07-22:** To approve the Ministry reports as presented. **SC**

**Motion 2016-07-23:** To adjourn the meeting. **SC**

**Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches  
Minutes for Annual General Meeting, Study Conference 2015,  
October 21, 2015, Westwood Community Church; Winnipeg, Manitoba**

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Schedule: 1:30 Prayer & Worship – led by Willy Reimer / Worship team led by Sara Froese  
3:30 Start of AGM and Special Meeting

**AGM & Special Meeting - 3:30-5:00pm**

1. Harold Froese (Moderator) welcomed everyone and made some opening comments. Thanks to Willy Reimer (Executive Director) and the worship team for leading the prayer concert.
2. Meeting Called to Order at 3:32pm
  - a. Quorum was established with 158 delegates (minimum 100 required).
3. Introduction to Business Procedures – Vic Martens (Secretary) reviewed AGM Delegate Guidelines.
4. Approval of Parliamentarian & Ballot Team
  - a. **Motion 2015-10-01:** To approve Reg Toews (Greendale) as Parliamentarian, and Eric Friesen (North Kildonan) and Carl Heppner (Fort Garry) as Ballot team. **SC** (Bertha Dyck will supervise ballot count as required).
5. Approval of the Meeting Agenda
  - a. **Motion 2015-10-02:** To approve the meeting agenda as presented. **SC**
6. **Presentation of CCMBC 2014 financial statements, budget 2016 and Legacy Fund Inc. proposal.** Howie Wall (Member of Finance Committee) reviewed the financial story of CCMBC, highlighting decisions of 2012 and 2014 relating to ministry. Jim Davidson (interim CFO) presented the CCMBC Financial statements for 2014 (full statements available to delegates) and highlighted items.

Changes from 2013 to 2014 consolidated statement include:

- a. A decrease in the cash balance which was transferred to the investment account.
- b. Decrease in mortgages receivable due to KPMG review of questionable accounts.
- c. Revenue of capital gains due to sale of non-ministry properties.
- d. Expenditures for 2014 have been reduced from 2013

Pension fund changes from 2013 to 2014 include:

- a. Pension fund has outperformed other pension funds.

Stewardship fund is a subset of the consolidated statement and is the basis for the Legacy Fund Inc. statement.

- **Motion 2015-10-03:** To approve audited financial statements as presented. **SC**
  - To approve the 2014 audited Consolidated Financial Statements for CCMBC as presented.
  - To approve the 2014 audited Stewardship Division Financial Statements for CCMBC as presented.
  - To approve the 2014 audited Financial Statements of the Canadian MB Pension Plan as presented.

The finance committee would invite an individual who is a member / contributor of the pension plan, to serve as a non-voting member (observer) of the pension plan oversight committee, meeting in Abbotsford on January 26.

- **Motion 2015-10-04:** To appoint KPMG as CCMBC auditors for 2015 Fiscal Year. **SC**

Jim Davidson presented the budget narrative (p. 21 – AGM booklet). The 2016 budget strategy remains unchanged from 2015. Funds are limited so ministries are done as efficiently as possible. Budget is balanced without use of reserves other than restricted reserves. Highlights include:

- Allocated partner support dollars for MBBS and ETEM have been moved into L2L budget.
  - Integration of AB budget into ministry budget.
  - Changes to communications
  - Funding for Legacy transition
- **Motion 2015-10-05:** To approve the CCMBC Budget for 2016 as presented. **SC, a few opposing votes.**

Discussion:

Q: Partner support budget is decreased for ICOMB and MWC. Why? Is this a trend?

A: ICOMB has previously been primarily supported by CCMBC. Reducing support from CCMBC gives opportunity for other ICOMB conferences to step in. This change was made in relationship with David Wiebe (ICOMB Executive Director). Regarding MWC: 90k of last year's amount given to MWC was designated for the MWC Assembly that took place July 2015. Due to limited funds, all budget item lines have been reviewed.

Q: The funding of C2C has been increased in relation to other areas while the funding for the MB Herald has decreased. C2C funding is being used to provide services to other denominations. What funding is provided by these other denominations and who governs C2C?

A: Due to reorganization of the communication department, not all budget cuts in communications are related to the MB Herald. C2C raises 70% of their budget through fundraising and church plant donations which include donations from other

denominations. The 2016 budget also includes reduced funding to C2C from the conference. C2C is governed under the EB through the ED.

Q: What is the breakdown of expenses for C2C? A: It includes: staffing and office costs, church planter costs, programming, and revenue. Q: What does it cost to produce the MB Herald? A: \$190K production costs in 2015.

Q: C2C has revenues from registration. What is this?

A: These are from individuals who are paying for events – fluctuations result from changes from year to year.

Q: MBBS subsidy has been included in L2L budget as a line item – it should be a separate item.

A: MBBS & ETEM have been moved to a specific ministry area. Issue will be referred to Finance committee.

Q: How does the accountability for non-MB churches fit in the C2C budget?

A: Non-MB churches are accountable theologically to their own churches. Funding for overhead comes from C2C fundraising and other denominations who are using C2C resources. Much of the money in the C2C budget is flow-through.

C: We are benefitting more from C2C than CCMBC is contributing. We are raising the flag of Jesus, the kingdom is winning.

Q: Regarding C2C, clarity is requested for \$1.25 million from CCMBC budget and \$200k from other denominations.

A: Other denominations are requested to provide 15% of their church planting budget to cover C2C expenses. The only church plants directly funded by C2C are MB.

Q: Is there uncertainty in the budget due to Legacy being established? How do we plan for uncertainty?

A: Yes, there are unforeseen expenses and revenue fluctuations due to markets. We would like to get to the point of projecting out farther.

Q: Regarding fundraising in the C2C budget, are these portions what each province has agreed to raise?

A: Yes, there is a commitment from each of the provinces to support C2C.

Q: Regarding summarized budget and divisional breakdowns, under Provincial Conferences, what is undesignated funding, and under Communications, grants/subsidy? (pgs. 18-19)

A: Undesignated funding comes from the unified model where all AB funds are sent to CCMBC and CCMBC pays AB conference expenses. Regarding communications, there was previously a government grant given to MB Herald which is no longer available due to new regulations.

C: The reduction of MWC/ICOMB budget seems to denote less empathy to global issues. We need to lower the Canadian flag and raise the global flag.

Q: (non-budget Q) - C2C communications seem to place a strong emphasis on couples and on male roles in leadership. Is this reflective of the multi-denominational aspect of C2C?

A: C2C does not recruit church planters, we ask God to send workers and majority of church planters are couples but C2C reviews singles as well. Will try to be more careful of wording.

**Action: C2C to review its policy on communication.**

- Approval of CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. Two breakout sessions were held this AM to solicit questions and to provide answers prior to the AGM. There is a work plan to ensure that Legacy is aligned.
  - **Motion 2015-10-06:** To establish a wholly-owned entity called CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. to provide financial and other support to CCMBC and that the stewardship assets be moved to this entity. **SC**

Q: Governance structure proposed could provide a conflict between returns to investors and ministry.

A: The organization will have one shareholder (CCMBC). There will be a majority of Legacy board members from EB with external financial expertise to complete the board.

Q: Is there adherence to ethical and moral investment goals for Legacy?

A: There will be policies developed to mirror appropriate goals. Current investment and pension funds have ethical standards.

Howie Wall expressed thanks to the CCMBC finance team and the KPMG Auditors.

7. Closing Comments & Prayer – Harold Froese closed in prayer.

8. Approval to adjourn meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.

**Motion 2015-10-07:** To adjourn the meeting. **SC**

Announcement – Vic Martens, on behalf of Nominating Committee, is requesting nominations to be put forward to fill positions on CCMBC boards and committees

Announcements for Study Conference 2015

Note: For additional details of the motions and the related background, please review the documents available for download on the web site [www.mennonitebrethren.ca](http://www.mennonitebrethren.ca).

**Summary of Motions**

**Motion 2015-10-01:** To approve Reg Toews (Greendale) as Parliamentarian, and Eric Friesen (North Kildonan) and Carl Heppner (Fort Garry) as Ballot team. **SC**

**Motion 2015-10-02:** To approve the meeting agenda as presented. **SC**

**Motion 2015-10-03:** To approve audited financial statements as presented. **SC**

- To approve the 2014 audited Consolidated Financial Statements for CCMBC as presented.
- To approve the 2014 audited Stewardship Division Financial Statements for CCMBC as presented.
- To approve the 2014 audited Financial Statements of the Canadian MB Pension Plan as presented.

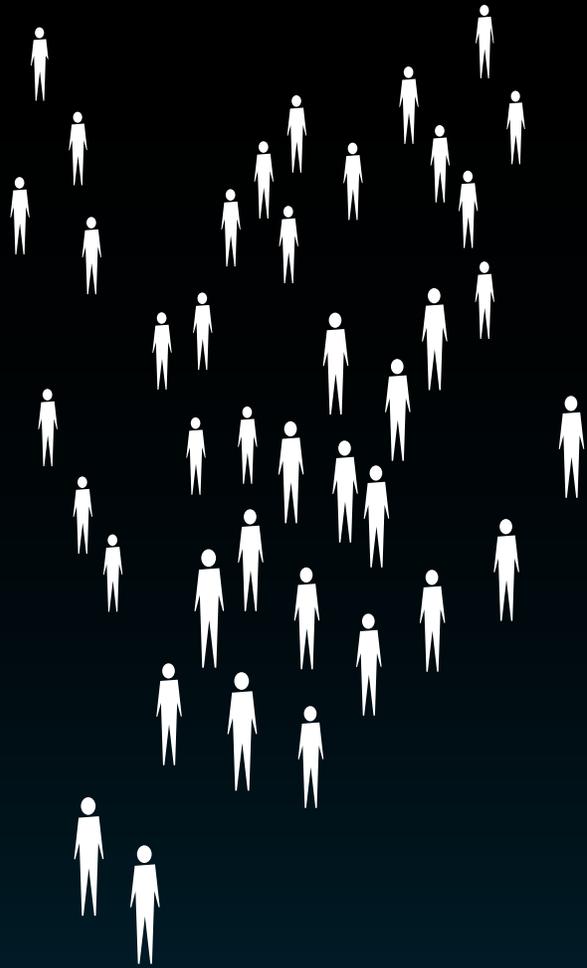
**Motion 2015-10-04:** To appoint KPMG as CCMBC auditors for 2015 Fiscal Year. **SC**

**Motion 2015-10-05:** To approve the CCMBC Budget for 2016 as presented. **SC, a few opposing votes.**

**Motion 2015-10-06:** To establish a wholly-owned entity called CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. to provide financial and other support to CCMBC and that the stewardship assets be moved to this entity. **SC**

**Motion 2015-10-07:** To adjourn the meeting. **SC**

"YET PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS  
IS NOT SOMETHING I CAN BOAST ABOUT.  
I AM COMPELLED BY GOD TO DO IT.  
HOW TERRIBLE FOR ME IF I DIDN'T  
PREACH THE GOOD NEWS!"  
1 CORINTHIANS 9:16 (NLT)



# C MPELLED

## GATHERING 2016

### EVENT BOOK

[Gathering2016.MennoniteBrethren.ca](http://Gathering2016.MennoniteBrethren.ca)



CANADIAN CONFERENCE  
of Mennonite Brethren Churches

# WELCOME TO GATHERING 2016!

Welcome to Toronto for Gathering 2016, the biennial mission conference for the Canadian Conference of MB Churches!

For the past two years we have been praying and planning for these days when MBs from across Canada would gather to worship our King and Savior Jesus Christ. We have several packed days of ministry, reporting and discerning prepared for you! I'm praying that your faith is built up, that your hearts are inspired and that you have a great sense of the mission Christ has called us to. I encourage you to meet people from other parts of the country that you don't know. To engage fully in conversations, breakouts, and the Experience Toronto tour. Ask God to reveal His leading for us over the next few days as we focus on our joint mission to reach Canada with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Willy Reimer, Executive Director,  
Canadian Conference of MB Churches

Welcome to Gathering 2016, the biennial convention of the Canadian Conference of MB Churches. Gathering is a great opportunity for us to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones. We will hear some great speakers and ministry stories about how God is at work among us. This will encourage and compel us to greater ministry as

God leads us. We will also have the opportunity to discuss business items, all of which support ministry. On behalf of the Executive Board, let me say that your participation and involvement in this community is highly valued. We would also like to thank the organizing team: it is a huge amount of work to put events like this together. Welcome to the great city of Toronto!

Harold Froese, Moderator,  
CCMBC Executive Board

Welcome to Ontario! We are thrilled that Gathering 2016 is taking place in our province. We are praying that each and everyone of you will be 'compelled' to preach and live out the Good News of Jesus Christ in ever-compelling ways as a result of our time together this week. I also hope that you leave encouraged by the stories you hear and the things you see God doing in and through MB churches and ministries in Ontario and across Canada. God is on the move and His Kingdom is indeed growing and multiplying in wonderful ways! There is much to celebrate.

Looking forward to a great time together this week!  
Blessings to you from the Ontario MB family.

Jeff Jantzi, Moderator,  
Ontario Conference of MB Churches

# EVENT INFORMATION

## The information desk is in the lobby.

There you can access information about Gathering 2016, tourist information about Toronto, hard copies of financial statements or first aid.

## Your nametag is your ticket.

It gives you access to all sessions, breakouts and meals. Please make sure to wear it at all times.

Exhibitors are located in the lobby. Please take a moment to visit each exhibitor to discover ways our ministry partners can support and resource you and your church.

Have a pressing question about the Canadian Conference and its ministries? Comments Cards will be available throughout Gathering 2016. To submit a question, complete a comment card and submit it at the information desk.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Please be advised that photographs taken during Gathering 2016 may be used in the *MB Herald*, CCMBC annual report, CCMBC pamphlets, or on our websites and social media pages.

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of emergency or should you need to reach event staff during your stay in Toronto, please contact Michelle Penner at #204-995-3018.



# SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

## Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches Annual General Meeting (AGM) July 6-9, 2016

### Thursday Decision Making Session

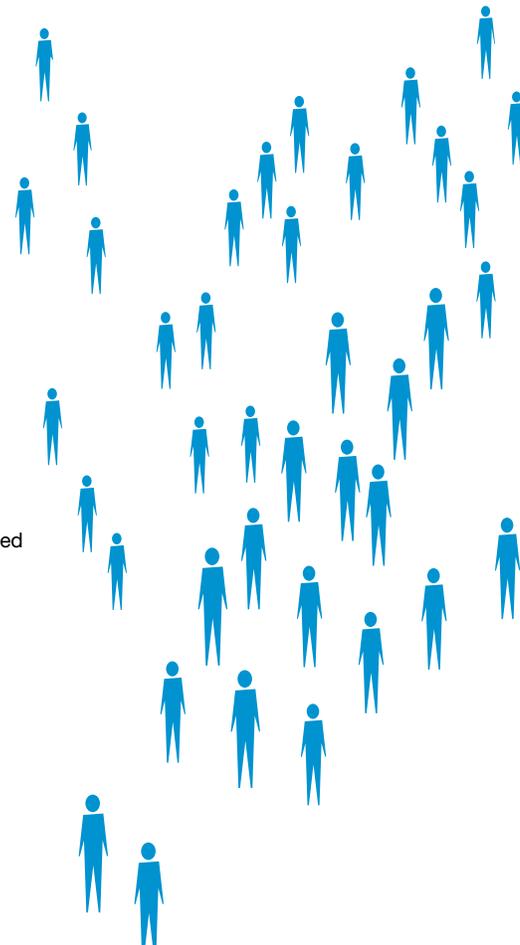
- a. Meeting officially called to order
- b. Motion to appoint ballot team & parliamentarian
- c. Motion to approve agenda as presented
- d. Motion to approve minutes of Gathering 2014 as presented
- e. Motion to approve minutes of October 2015 AGM as presented

### Friday Decision Making Session

- f. Elections and Affirmations by ballot:
  - i. Executive Board Member Positions
  - ii. Board of Faith and Life
  - iii. Nomination Committee
  - iv. MCC Representative
  - v. Historical Commission Board
  - vi. MBBS Board
  - vii. MB Mission Board
  - viii. MB Historical Commission Board
- g. Motion to approve CCMBC General Operating Bylaws as presented
- h. Motion to approve MB Mission MOU as presented

### Saturday Decision Making Session

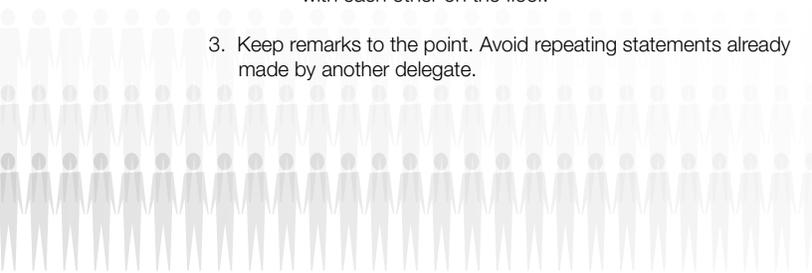
- i. Motion to destroy ballots (after presenting results)
- j. Motion to approve C2C and MB Mission task force
- k. Motion to approve C2C and MB Mission collaboration in the USA
- l. Motion to approve Legacy Bylaws as presented
- m. Motion to approve Audited Financial Statements as presented
- n. Motion to approve KPMG as Auditors
- o. Motion to approve CCMBC 2017 Budget as presented
- p. Motion to accept the Ministry Reports
- q. Motion to adjourn the meeting.



## RULES OF ORDER

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. We strive for unity and respect, involving participation of all assembled, as we deliberate decisions that shape the future of our conference.
2. Delegates should stand to speak at a nearby microphone. Please use the following protocol:
  - a. Wait for acknowledgement by the moderator.
  - b. State your name, church and community you come from.
  - c. Address the moderator. Delegates may not dialogue with each other on the floor.
3. Keep remarks to the point. Avoid repeating statements already made by another delegate.
4. Take care to confine remarks to the motion or resolution under discussion.
5. A delegate may speak to an issue more than once, unless there are other delegates who wish to address an issue. A delegate should not ask for the floor more than 3 times on one issue. The mover of a motion may answer questions to a motion as often as they are raised.
6. Individuals other than delegates may be permitted to speak, subject to the decision of the moderator. The assembled delegates may, by a simple majority vote, over-ride the decision of the chair.
7. Only delegates are permitted to vote.
8. In general, Roberts Rules of Order will be followed.



# Executive Director

## Looking Back – Looking Forward

The Mennonite Brethren story – from birth to the present – is the story of a renewal movement within the larger Mennonite tradition. As such, MBs have often self-identified as a Holy Spirit-led church, reaching outward to the watching world with Jesus' good news of God's salvation, deliverance and healing.

Because of our history, MBs can be thought of as a “blended family,” one that merges the Mennonite vision together with two particular evangelical visions, those of the German Baptists and the more charismatic-oriented Lutheran Pietists.

These two additives are most clearly seen in the church organizational structure and the practices of personal piety that MBs adopted early on in their development.<sup>1</sup>

**Mennonite with a (mostly) Baptist structure.** In the early years after their 1860 succession from the Mennonite Church, MBs were known as “jumpers” for their exuberant expressions of song, dance and emotion. A few key leaders brought experiential charismatic practices into the Russian Mennonite communities. After five years, the German Baptist preacher August Liebig was invited to resource the MBs and introduce “organizational order” to the fledgling MB movement, which still carried the traditional Mennonite *Aeltester* or bishop structure.

In addition to immersion baptism, several Baptist structures were added to the MB renewal movement:

- annual conventions with delegates representing congregations,
- a conference structure with committees, commissions and parliamentary procedures for processing resolutions, and
- a mission focus with ear-marked funding and budgetary priority

It was sometimes said that MB meant “Mostly Baptist.”

### **Mennonite with an emphasis on charismatic personal piety.**

The MB renewal movement adopted several charismatic features, as did other 19th-century Protestant denominations that were shaped by Lutheran pietistic reforms. The emphasis was on personal conversion experience, personal devotional Bible study, personal assurance of salvation, personal walk with Jesus, personal discernment of the Spirit's leading – the key words here are “personal” and “experience.”

There was steady traffic from Russia to Germany to learn new evangelistic methods – tent meetings, altar-call preaching, Bible school curriculum, prayer meetings, dispensational prophecy charts, gospel-revivalist songs, etc. Leaders brought these “charismatic” practices back to the Russian villages and then to the Americas with enthusiasm.

Because the MB church blended three theologies – Mennonite, charismatic and German Baptist – MBs resisted writing a definitive “theology” for themselves. The early MB leaders realized that since

theirs was a merger of three distinct theologies, not one of the theologies could be pressed for ultimate clarity, alignment or precision. If any of the three did so, it was sure to offend at least one of the other two.

This is why MBs have chosen to write Confessions of Faith and uphold the Bible as the final arbiter. Consider these examples:

- MBs confess that God is sovereign, but our confession does not delineate the exact relationship between God's sovereignty and human freedom.
- MBs confess that Jesus' work on the cross saves, but the confession does not spell out which theological atonement model is essential to MB theology.
- MBs confess the glorious hope of Jesus' return to judge at the end of time, but the confession does not insist on a particular dispensational or millennial theology, a particular understanding of the State of Israel or the post-mortem reality, etc.
- For MBs, these details have always been the domain of theology, not confession. When pressed for precision, we would say, “What does the Bible say?”

The “blended family” status explains why many from different Christian traditions have found a church home among MBs. The fact that MBs have historically not pressed for complete theological alignment makes us a hospitable option.

This is not because MBs are so smart, but simply because it would

<sup>1</sup>For more on this assessment of the MB story, see Jon Isaak, “Mennonite Brethren and Charismatic Renewal Movements,” *Direction* 44/2 (Fall 2015): 200-207.



be impossible to achieve complete theological alignment without doing damage to someone in the MB family. Such theological hospitality helps to explain why there are now some 22 denominations accessing assessment and coaching from the MB church planting network called C2C and another 12 denominations accessing leadership development resources from L2L.

### **Mission mindset.**

Rooted in our historic priorities, the Canadian Mennonite Brethren movement was birthed in mission. In 1883, at the USMB conference in Hamilton County, Neb., delegates expressed concern about the spiritual condition of the Mennonite church in Manitoba and wondered whether they had a responsibility to help. A motion was put forward that they send Heinrich Voth of Minnesota and David Dyck of Kansas to Manitoba to investigate the possibility of beginning a missionary work there. The result of this action was the birth of Winkler MB Church in 1888. From there, mission efforts were launched in Gretna and eventually Winnipeg.

Our historic commitment to mission motivated the CCMBC Executive Board in 2011 to commission a national office review that resulted in two significant decisions. 1) The EB received and approved the national office review report and its recommendations to move into a more intentionally integrated ministry model with provincial partners and churches. 2) The EB, along with provincial representatives, received and reviewed a document titled “Four messages from the heart of God” from our consultant. The document was presented for discernment to provincial leaders and the Board of Faith and Life. These MB leaders discerned that this “word” was to be received in all

seriousness as a leading from the Lord for CCMBC and our national work.

The word that CCMBC leaders discerned had four key messages:

1. This is a sacred moment in time.
2. We have a window of opportunity.
3. We will be held accountable by our children for what we do at this time in history.
4. If we lower the MB flag and raise the flag of Christ, God will work through the MBs to impact Canada for his glory.

The purpose of New Testament prophecy is for “strengthening, encouragement and comfort” (1 Cor. 14:3) and is to be discerned in community (1 Thess. 5:19-21). In January 2012 meeting, the EB together with provincial staff and

provincial representatives discerned God’s leading to begin to “behave as one team” for the sake of people who do not know Jesus and the benefit of the church.

The EB then instituted a process to discern a new mission, values, guiding principles and central ministry focus that has come to be known as the CCMBC “sandbox.”

The CCMBC mission, preferred culture and guiding principles provide a framework for CCMBC budget development. This means all budget decisions need to be tested against the CCMBC mission.

It is our conviction that the results of our central ministry focus – to “help to



# Executive Board

## Report

The Executive Board would like to thank you for your prayers and support as we discern God's future for us together. Your comments, suggestions and questions throughout the year are very helpful. We have tried to offer more opportunities for conversation through venues like breakout sessions when we meet together. These events have been well received and provide us with valuable input. We have also been meeting annually with representatives from our provincial partners to pray and discern together. Interacting at provincial events such as annual conventions is always a highlight. All of these events create great listening opportunities for us as an Executive Board. We are accountable to you as we work together with you to resource ministry, and we continue to be grateful for your input.

There are very good reports covering ministry areas in our booklet, and we encourage your comments and questions on any of the information. We will highlight a few areas of focus for us as an Executive Board.

### Financial Sustainability:

When we made the decision in 2012 to expand ministry, our churches asked good questions regarding longer term financial stability. Ministry opportunities continue to grow but at a faster rate than our finances can support at this time. Our reserves are primarily for managing risk factors within Legacy. Lower interest rates and a levelling off of donations also have financial impacts. Many of our churches and provinces are facing similar situations. As a result, we have cut expenses wherever possible

and put a much greater emphasis on financial sustainability. These decisions – regarding where and how much to reduce expenditures – are often challenging.

Legacy Fund Inc. work is continuing. Most of the work of deciding how to structure the fund and how it will work has been done. It took longer than we had hoped, but the transition to this new entity is going well. We are always mindful of the responsibility and the trust you have placed in us to manage the financial resources you provide to us.

### Communication:

At our October 2015 AGM in Winnipeg, we presented the results of our consultant's report regarding the *MB Herald*. It was very encouraging to us to hear of the significance of the *MB Herald* in peoples' lives over many years. Our members expressed a strong desire to keep publishing the *MB Herald* – with a goal of expanding its readership. The Executive Board wants to continue hearing how God is at work as we grow in our faith journey. We will be reporting on CCMBC's communication. We welcome your comments and questions.

### C2C-MB Mission-USMB Conversations:

It has been very encouraging to us to see how God has been moving us toward greater ministry collaboration with our provincial partners and agencies. We own MB Mission together with our sisters and brothers in the U.S., and the U.S. MB conference has requested assistance

with church planting. For the last year, we have been praying and discerning God's guidance for ministry in this area. The Executive Board has facilitated conversations with our provincial partners and breakouts at the 2015 AGM and 2016 provincial conventions. We have received strong affirmation for continuing collaborative ministry. Many of you have also encouraged us to "do this right" and to take the time required to do this well. As the next step in this process, we have included a report that will guide our conversation and decision making at Gathering 2016. We continue to ask for your guidance and prayers as we pursue this collaborative ministry opportunity.

We look forward to seeing you at Gathering 2016 in Toronto and discerning God's will together!

### Harold Froese

Moderator, CCMBC  
Executive Board



# Measurement Committee

## Report

In ministry, transparency and accountability are vital. Since Gathering 2012, the Measurement Committee has been working with conference staff to measure the outcomes of CCMBC initiatives. The goal is to increase transparency and accountability by reporting qualitative and quantitative metrics for all CCMBC ministries and partner agencies. Periodic reports are presented at Annual Gatherings, in the *MB Herald* and online.

In addition to accountability, measurement is also about ensuring ministry alignment with the goals defined in the Strategic Plan for the MB Churches of Canada. Working in partnership with the provincial conferences, a common ministry model has been implemented for use across Canada.

The ministry model defines what we do (Building Community, Developing Leaders, Multiplying Churches, Resourcing Ministry) and who we do it for (our beneficiaries). Having a common ministry model creates an opportunity to align our measurement and outcomes for greater ministry impact. As all provincial boards have

representatives on the national Executive Board, we have a leadership team that can build stronger and more effective ministry partnerships for the MB churches in Canada.

As the Executive Board continues to define strategic initiatives and goals for each ministry, the metrics are designed to look at our capacity for going forward as well the impact of the work completed. In each ministry area, it is important to track the progress towards strategic goals. The Executive Board is also responsible for identifying the critical success factors that monitor organizational health and effectiveness. These factors are part of the strategic planning document and are reviewed at each board meeting.

We seek to multiply Christ-centred churches to see Canada transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ. One key beneficiary of our initiatives is the local church. In 2015, we have created the Church Transformation Survey and 144 of our churches responded. The survey focuses on three areas: life transformation, church transformation and world transformation. The results of the first

survey have been widely shared in the *MB Herald* and online (see [www.mennonitebrethren.ca](http://www.mennonitebrethren.ca)).

Based on the helpful feedback received, we have adjusted the questions to increase clarity. The second round of data was collected in May/June of this year and will be available soon. We encourage churches to complete the survey because a high percentage of responses gives us more accurate results and comparability over time. Since it is an annual survey, we will be able to track trends that will hopefully show movement toward greater transformation within our churches. The transformation survey is the first component of our measurement strategy.

The second key component is the direct ministry reporting. The Measurement Committee provides these metrics to the Executive Board and makes presentations at provincial and nation conventions. Following the framework of the strategic plan, each ministry area reports key outcomes to the Executive Board. The following two tables show metrics for C2C and L2L:

| C2C Network Dashboard                       |      |      |      |      | Jan 1 - March 31, 2016 |      |      |     |     |     |          |      |       |
|---|------|------|------|------|------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Things We Measure                           | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | BC                     | Alta | Sask | Man | Ont | Que | Atlantic | Na'l | Total |
| Total Number of Churches in our Network     | 49   | 55   | 65   | 81   | 25                     | 13   | 4    | 7   | 14  | 15  | 8        |      | 86    |
| Total number of MB church plants in network | 42   | 39   | 41   | 40   | 12                     | 3    | 4    | 5   | 6   | 6   | 3        |      | 39    |
| New Church Plants launched                  | 1    | 12   | 5    | 15   | 1                      | 0    | 0    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0        |      | 1     |
| New MB churches launched                    | 1    | 8    | 3    | 3    | 1                      | 0    | 0    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0        |      | 1     |
| Number of MB church plants "graduated"      |      | 4    | 0    | 7    | 0                      | 0    | 0    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0        |      | 0     |
| Church plants that closed                   |      | 2    | 1    | 0    | 0                      | 0    | 0    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0        |      | 0     |
| Church Planting Apprentices                 | 8    | 16   | 17   | 22   | 6                      | 5    | 0    | 0   | 3   | 3   | 0        |      | 17    |
| Candidates that went through C2C assessment | 16   | 25   | 23   | 25   | 3                      | 1    | 0    | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0        |      | 5     |
| *C2C Training Events Held in Canada         | 6    | 15   | 28   | 59   | 0                      | 0    | 0    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0        |      | 0     |
| Number of Prayer Supporters                 | 304  | 716  | 1690 | 2271 | 476                    | 181  | 54   | 100 | 250 | 88  | 25       | 1097 | 2271  |
| Baptisms                                    |      |      |      | 271  | 53                     | 11   | 6    | 0   | 5   | 79  | 0        |      | 154   |

\* training events include larger quarterlies and cadres; some provinces host cadres in multiple cities



| <b>L2L Dashboard - May 24, 2016 (Cumulative 2014-16)</b> |  |                      |             |             |             |
|--|--|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>I2L Dashboard</b>                                     |  | <b>Total 2014-16</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2014</b> |
| <b>1</b>   | <b>Churches assessed and coached</b>                                 | 57                   | 4           | 25          | 28          |
|  | Coaches Assessed   | 1653                 | 246         | 780         | 627         |
| <b>2</b>   | <b>Clusters</b>  | 251                  | 41          | 74          | 136         |
| <b>3</b>   | <b>Coaches Trained</b>   | 386                  | 101         | 178         | 107         |
| <b>4</b>   | <b>Coach Trainers Trained</b>  | 21                   |             |             | 21          |
| <b>5</b>   | <b>Leaders Coached by I2L Team</b>                                   | 184                  | 83          | 46          | 55          |
| <b>6</b>   | <b>Communications</b>  | 33                   | 2           | 21          | 10          |
| <b>7</b>   | <b>Network Meetings (Presidents, Camping, Transitional Ministry)</b> | 14                   |             | 6           | 8           |
| <b>8</b>   | <b>Resource Library Items</b>  | 335                  | 12          | 150         | 173         |
| <b>9</b>   | <b>Leaders Developed</b>   |                      |             |             |             |
|  | APEX   | 152                  | 4           | 103         | 45          |
|  | Personal Focusing  | 627                  | 153         | 149         | 325         |
|  | Resonance  | 26                   | 26          |             |             |
|  | PSI  | 56                   | 4           | 52          |             |
| <b>10</b>  | <b>Active Leaders in I2L</b>   |                      | 184         |             |             |
| <b>11</b>  | <b>Leadership Training Matching Grant (LTMG)</b>                     | 63637.84             | \$10,534.13 | \$26,709.03 | \$26,394.68 |
| <b>12</b>  | <b>Go To Meetings Schedule</b>                                       | 791                  | 121         | 348         | 322         |
| <b>13</b>  | <b>Capacity Building and Rebranding</b>                              | 51                   |             | 51          |             |
| <b>14</b>  | <b>Denominations Served</b>  | 12                   |             |             |             |
| <b>15</b>  | <b>Transitional Pastors</b>  | 9                    |             |             |             |



The third component is more qualitative – the stories being shared of God working in and through the MB churches in Canada. These stories are published on the many different provincial and national websites (visit [mbchurches.ca](http://mbchurches.ca) for a list) and in the *MB Herald* (print and online) as well as in the *Witness* (MB Mission) and *In Touch* (MBBS) magazines. We are also increasing the use of video through GMMiTV. We hope these stories share the heart of the ministry which is not easily represented in surveys and metrics.

We recognize that quantitative and qualitative measures are imperfect indicators of ministry impact. Ministry teams place a high value on listening to God and obeying God’s direction (as reflected in the ministry “sandbox” presented at Gathering 2014 - see page 7). How we do ministry is just as important as what we do in ministry.

May God through his Spirit energize the work of our churches,

**Sam Reimer**  
Measurement Committee

**J.P. Hayashida**  
Director of Operations

# Board of Faith and Life

## Study Conference

The Board of Faith and Life held a study conference for all MB churches on “God, Sex and Church: A Theology of Healthy Sexuality,” Oct. 21–23 2015. Much planning and prayer went into the preparation for this event.

A major element in that preparatory work was the creation of the study guide, which remains a helpful resource for individuals and churches who want to engage questions about sexuality. (See [mennonitebethren.ca](http://mennonitebethren.ca)) In the guide, we extend this call to churches: “to continue to live according to biblical teachings by combining MB convictions about sexuality (as in the MB Confession of Faith) with a loving, hospitable response to people experiencing sexual brokenness and sexual sin” (study guide, p. 3). Later in the document, we restate the call “to a renewed commitment to be generous people of the Book, disavowing self-righteousness and judgmental religiosity. With both pastoral sensitivity and prophetic courage, the BFL affirms that Scripture will guide MB churches in faith and in practice; that the Spirit will lead in community discernment and that Jesus’

presence will enable the church to live out God’s vision for sexual

practice” (study guide, p. 6). This call was at the centre of BFL aspirations for this event.

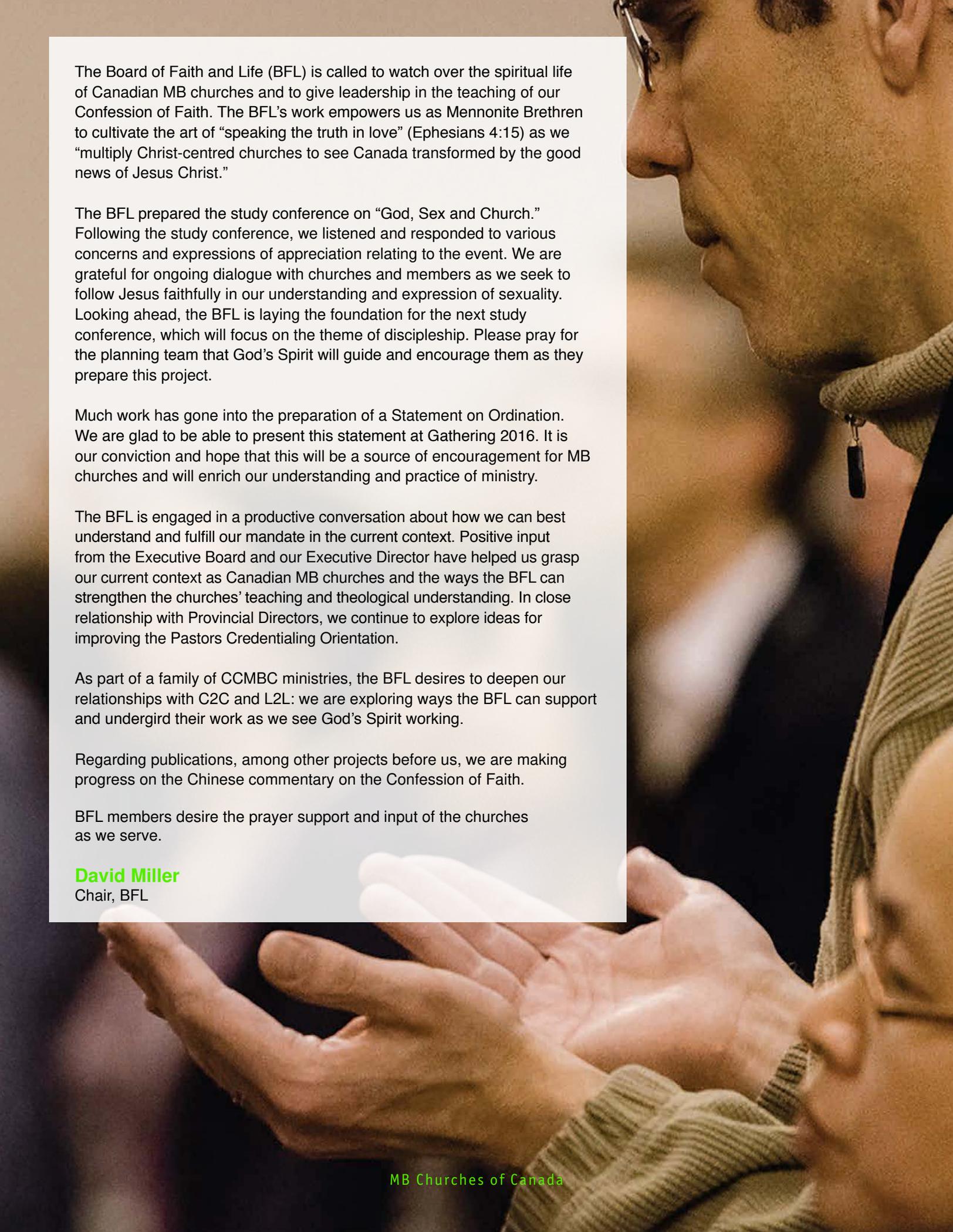
It was impressive to see so many people from so many churches gather to be a part of this conference. Westwood Community Church, Winnipeg, opened its doors and its heart to welcome the participants. This warm welcome, reflecting the Lord’s invitation to us to share and to learn together, was enriched by periods of turning to God in worship and in prayer. We listened to the stories of men and women who struggle in different areas of sexuality and who experience grace; as they walk with God, both the struggles and the grace continue to colour their lives. Seminars helped us grasp biblical teaching and challenged us to apply it in the life of the church.

As we experienced the conference, it became clear that participants carried a range of expectations for this time of study together. Some looked primarily for a deeper understanding of our theology of sexuality, rooted in biblical teaching and the MB Confession of Faith. Others, while affirming the importance of a biblical vision for sexuality, hoped to gain practical, pastoral wisdom for how to respond to specific needs in our churches and communities. In this large group, we encountered the challenges that can come with practicing a community hermeneutic.

The BFL recognizes that the aspirations set out for this study conference were not fully realized, and we have learned much from this experience. We fully support the statement on Marriage, Singleness and Family in our Confession of Faith. As we look ahead, in an attitude consistent with those aspirations, we seek to serve God and the Canadian MB churches as we lay the groundwork for the upcoming study conference on the theme of discipleship.

**David Miller**  
Chair, BFL





The Board of Faith and Life (BFL) is called to watch over the spiritual life of Canadian MB churches and to give leadership in the teaching of our Confession of Faith. The BFL's work empowers us as Mennonite Brethren to cultivate the art of "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15) as we "multiply Christ-centred churches to see Canada transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ."

The BFL prepared the study conference on "God, Sex and Church." Following the study conference, we listened and responded to various concerns and expressions of appreciation relating to the event. We are grateful for ongoing dialogue with churches and members as we seek to follow Jesus faithfully in our understanding and expression of sexuality. Looking ahead, the BFL is laying the foundation for the next study conference, which will focus on the theme of discipleship. Please pray for the planning team that God's Spirit will guide and encourage them as they prepare this project.

Much work has gone into the preparation of a Statement on Ordination. We are glad to be able to present this statement at Gathering 2016. It is our conviction and hope that this will be a source of encouragement for MB churches and will enrich our understanding and practice of ministry.

The BFL is engaged in a productive conversation about how we can best understand and fulfill our mandate in the current context. Positive input from the Executive Board and our Executive Director have helped us grasp our current context as Canadian MB churches and the ways the BFL can strengthen the churches' teaching and theological understanding. In close relationship with Provincial Directors, we continue to explore ideas for improving the Pastors Credentialing Orientation.

As part of a family of CCMBC ministries, the BFL desires to deepen our relationships with C2C and L2L: we are exploring ways the BFL can support and undergird their work as we see God's Spirit working.

Regarding publications, among other projects before us, we are making progress on the Chinese commentary on the Confession of Faith.

BFL members desire the prayer support and input of the churches as we serve.

**David Miller**  
Chair, BFL

# Communications

## Report

### What did we learn?

The results of the 2015 Communications survey revealed that having a shared sense of identity and community with other MBs across Canada is considered important to *MB Herald*-reading Mennonite Brethren, and the *MB Herald* is seen as helping foster that shared sense of identity. *MB Herald* readers have significant satisfaction with the content the publication provides.

6p Marketing, who conducted the survey on behalf of CCMBC, noted other key takeaways including:

- The *MB Herald's* content is seen as valuable to a wide range of age groups – the greater variation is in delivery method. There is potential to grow the *Herald* and reach more of the church body through a mix of print and online/digital content (Facebook, apps to customize content, emailed articles, re-postable social content)
- The most valuable types of content that readers are seeking include:
  - Stories on other Canadian MB churches (41%)
  - Theological discussions, explanations, applications (17%)
  - Personal testimonies (14%)
  - Reports on missions and outreach (11%)
- The *MB Herald* name is an asset for those that know it and not likely an obstacle for reaching a larger percentage of the church body.
- Readers value the *MB Herald* and have significant satisfaction with what it provides.

The communications team took these results seriously, beginning with how we communicated the survey findings by using a mix of print and digital mediums. Key objectives have been growing our delivery methods and creating a network of partnerships to extend our communication reach into the church. Our desire is to communicate both efficiently and effectively as we serve MB ministries across Canada.

The *MB Herald* will continue to play an important role in the CCMBC communication strategy. Coordinating the distribution of the *MB Herald* articles with our publication resources and delivery channels will extend the reach of the content. Our May/June issue of the *MB Herald* is just one example: our focus on refugees was not limited to the print magazine but developed across different media channels – to resource the many churches sponsoring refugee.

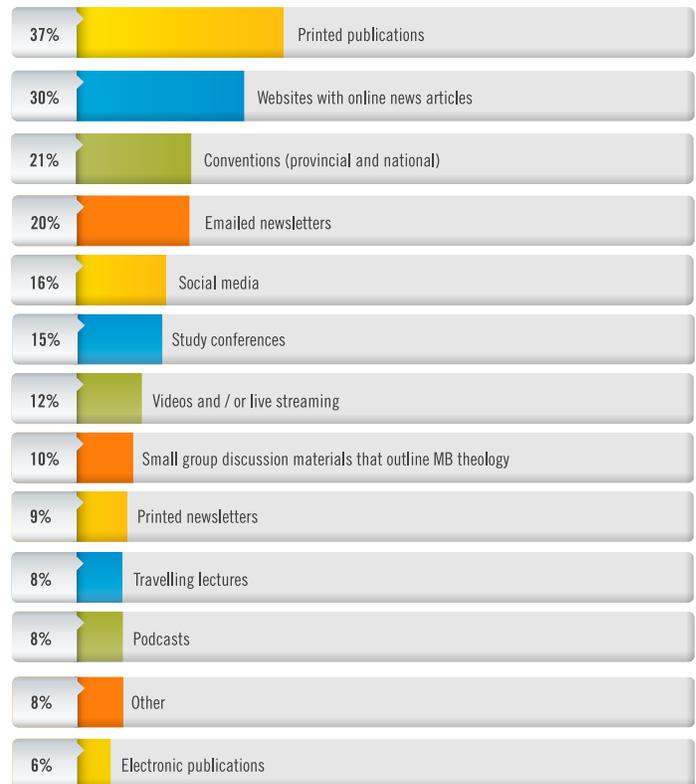
Because the *MB Herald* no longer receives a federal government publication grant, the magazine has moved from publishing monthly to every second month. Going forward, readers may be asked to confirm their desire to subscribe directly to the *MB Herald*, so that we may reapply for



Content Types Most Valuable to Herald Readers



Most Effective Mediums (to create a shared sense of MB identity)



Note: "%" refers to the percentage of readers that identified the medium as one of their top two mediums.

funding. We hope to encourage the growth of subscriptions to the *Herald*, both in print and online, over time.

**What next?**

In response to what we heard through the Communications survey, we have developed the following six themes:

- **Discipleship**
- **Community**
- **Communion/Worship**
- **Mission/Gospel**
- **Resourcing Ministry/News**
- **Theology**

Each of these six themes will take their turn shaping our communications for a two-month period throughout the year. They will appear through a variety of streams, including the *MB Herald*, videos, emails, websites and social media.

The survey also increased our awareness of how our communications can meet our constituency's functional and emotional needs. Care and consideration will be given to how we can incorporate the elements of functional and emotional needs within each two-month theme.

**Top functional needs identified:**

- A place where sensitive issues can be explored

- Theological clarification and explanations
- A counterbalance to secular messages
- A source of information
- Resources on being a disciple of Jesus
- Information on personal life events; for example, obituaries.

**Top emotional needs identified:**

- Feeling connected to the larger MB community in Canada
- A refreshing place to spend time reflecting on a topic
- A place to be inspired by the good work of other MBs
- Feeling strengthened to follow Jesus and not the world.

Finally, the survey indicated readers, especially those from the younger generations, valued the ability to interact and engage with content. In response to this, we will work toward higher levels of engagement by creating opportunities for response and conversation within a variety of distribution

methods. A follow-up survey will take place in 2017 to measure progress in the areas mentioned above.

We are thankful for the support from our MB churches across Canada. Your participation in the Communications survey and your ongoing feedback are helping our communications team. We look forward to serving with you in the mission to multiply Christ-centred churches to see Canada transformed by the goods news of Jesus Christ.



CCMBC Research Results - Brent Smith 6p Marketing - <http://bit.ly/Brent6p>

# LIST OF NOMINEES

## Executive Board Members & Related Positions

Moderator: Harold Froese, Fort Garry MB, Winnipeg (2nd term)

Assistant Moderator: to be announced

Secretary: Marilyn Hiebert – Central Heights MB, Abbotsford (1st term) – former CCMBC secretary, former BCMB administrator

Members-at-large:

Howie Wall, Forest Grove, Saskatoon (2nd term) – former university administrator

David MacLean, Willow Park Community, Kelowna (1st term) – WholeHearted Men (founder), sports marketing, B.Ed., B.P.E.

Michael Dick, Bakerview MB, Abbotsford (1st term) – former Bakerview pastor

Nominating Committee:

Ralph Gliege, Living Hope, Saskatoon (1st term) – retired SK conference minister

## Board of Faith & Life

Robyn Serez, Waterloo MB, Waterloo (1st term) – MB Mission short term coordinator, MTh

Paul Lam, Burnaby Pacific Grace, Burnaby (2nd term) – senior pastor, MDiv

Brent Hudson, The Journey Church, Moncton (Maritime) – teaching pastor, MDiv

## MB Biblical Seminary

Ron Penner, Northview, Abbotsford (2nd term) – former CBC president, Ed.D

John Neufeld, The Meeting Place, Winnipeg (2nd term) – pastor, MDiv

Roger Braun, Broadway MB, Chilliwack (2nd term)

Donna Vollett, Forest Grove, Saskatoon (1st term) – regional sales mgr – wealth mgt, B.S.H.E, CLU, CFP

## MB Mission

Shirley Falk, Faith River Community, Saskatoon (1st term) – International Student Ministry (IVCF)

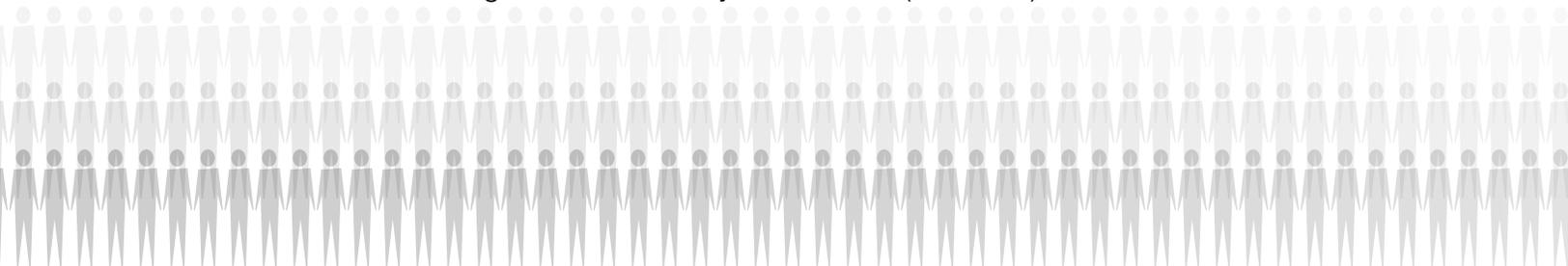
Allan Dickens, Cariboo Bethel, Williams Lake (2nd term) – dentist, DMD

## MB Historical Commission

J Janzen, Highland Community, Abbotsford (2nd term) – teaching elder, MCS

## MCC Delegate Assembly

Ernie Schmidt, Highland Community, Abbotsford (2nd term)





# ICOMB

## International Community of Mennonite Brethren

**ICOMB** is your international Mennonite Brethren family.

CCMBC is one of 21 national churches (about 3000 congregations; 470,000 members) that make up ICOMB.

### THANK YOU!

- For CCMBC's annual financial support.
- For Willy Reimer – representing CCMBC at ICOMB Summit
- For local churches who support ICOMB financially.
- For individuals who pray for our international family – and who support ICOMB financially.

ICOMB exists to facilitate relationships and ministries to enhance the witness and discipleship of its member national churches: **connect, strengthen and expand.**

### Connect

We meet annually at Summits to connect, train and consult on aspects of church life at the national level. In June 2016 we were in Panama. In 2017 we will be in Thailand.

Mission and prayer Consultation: In 2017, in Thailand, ICOMB will sponsor an invitation-based

consultation on mission – with MB Mission as a partner.

Fraternal visits by ICOMB leaders give opportunity to assess strengths and challenges of national churches. Each national church seeks to increase conference health and capacity to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

The ICOMB Update is emailed monthly in four languages to connect and inspire our members, and build our prayer team.

### Strengthen

The International Confession of Faith was accepted in 2006 and is now translated into more than a dozen languages.

We coach leaders of national churches on various issues and concerns.

The Global Scholarship Fund assists students in ICOMB national churches to access higher education.

ICOMB members operate hundreds of primary, secondary and Bible Schools. In the past 10 years 3 major consultations have enabled ICOMB to establish a long-term agenda to resource and partner more effectively with the church.

### Expand

ICOMB provides a pathway for new members to join. ICOMB welcomed Khmu Mission (Laos and Thailand) in 2012 and Lithuania in 2014.

### Your Opportunity

- Go to [www.icomb.org](http://www.icomb.org) for more information and to sign up for the monthly ICOMB Prayer Update.
- In it, you'll read stories and see pictures of the latest events in our national churches.
- "Like" ICOMB on Facebook.
- Contribute to ICOMB – as local congregations and as individuals.
  - \$1000 sends a national church delegate to Summit.
  - \$150 trains 50 teachers to use the new curriculum in DR Congo.
  - \$100 covers a month of coaching for 3 national leaders.

Invite Executive Director David Wiebe to your church to share stories about your global family in small groups and worship services: [davidw@icomb.org](mailto:davidw@icomb.org).



# Thoughts from David Wiebe About Unity

In Ephesians 4 Paul taught the church to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace "...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love." It was important to him!

Unity became critical to the Mexico MB conference – ICPM (Iglesias Cristiana de Paz en México). The pastor of their largest church had gotten into a year-long struggle with leaders of ICPM. At some point the church leaders emailed ICPM leaders to say if certain things were not addressed, they had decided to leave. ICPM leaders responded, "OK, go ahead." In a few short days, the church had been officially removed from Conference membership.

I was asked to resource the pastors' assembly on behalf of ICOMB to encourage and help them cast vision for the future without this robust congregation that had just been let go. I secured the assistance of Harold Ens, former MB Mission General Director – for translation and perspective.

Going in, however, I wanted to see if they could find a path back together. ICPM is a small conference of 10 churches. Losing a vital congregation with strong leadership development character, and

2 growing plants would severely undermine ICPM.

Besides, the separated congregation wanted to remain Mennonite Brethren, and had asked ICOMB if they could be members! So we'd have two member "conferences" in Mexico – presumably competing.

God was gracious. We asked a question: "Do you think you can stay together?" A three hour conversation ensued. Then someone asked another question: "Will the pastor cooperate with the restoration process?" After another two hours they had "left everything on the ice".

At the AGM the next morning, the pastor attended, and delegates

voted unanimously to reinstate the church into fellowship.

Since then, love has been restored, and another church was planted this past year.

In ICOMB we value unity because many national church members are small and fragile. With lack of community, our mission gets lost. But when we find resolution, we can stay on mission for His Kingdom.





**Mennonite  
Central  
Committee**

**MCC**

Mennonite Central Committee

During the past year, we've witnessed God's faithfulness in the worldwide ministry of Mennonite Central Committee.

This year, we've taken Hebrews 10:23–24 as our theme verse: "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds...."

We are extremely grateful for the support of all our church constituencies, including CCMBC. You give, serve, advocate and pray. Thank you.

Here are few ways MCC has worked toward our strategic goals over the past 12 months:

**1. Caring for the lives and futures of uprooted and other vulnerable people.**

Since the Syrian conflict began five years ago, MCC has spent about

\$34.6 million US in Syria, Iraq and neighbouring countries. It's the largest financial response in our history.

In Canada in 2015, we partnered with 130 churches and 88 community groups to bring more than 1,000 Syrian refugees to Canada.

**2. Providing water, food and shelter first in times of disaster, then education and ways to earn income.**

In Ethiopia, a country experiencing its worst drought in 30 years, MCC is working with subsistence farmers to improve soil fertility and diversify sources of income.

**3. Working with churches and communities to prevent violence and promote peace and justice.**

In Shamshabad, India, MCC supports the work of MB Centenary Bible College and its Center for Peace and

Conflict Resolution Studies, which reaches marginalized communities by organizing workshops, providing counselling teams, running an adult literacy program and more.

**4. Investing in opportunities for young people to serve in Canada, the U.S. and around the world.**

Joshua Nightingale, from Highland Community Church, Abbotsford, B.C., served with our SALT program in Serbia. "I have become keenly aware of how complex any conflict or situation is," says Joshua. "But I've also learned just how present God is in the faith community."

Thank you for your commitment to MCC's ministry! May we all continue to hold fast to our hope in Christ.

**Don Peters**

Executive Director,  
Mennonite Central Committee  
Canada



Ebou Kandolo (L) and Jacqueline Kando (R), farmers in Didyr, Burkina Faso, participate in a program supported by MCC through partner Office of Development of Evangelical Churches (ODE) to help women farmers adapt to climate change through conservation agriculture practices, seed production and off season vegetable production. (MCC Photo/James Souder)

**55  
countries**

**528  
partners**

**761  
projects**

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Mennonite  
Central  
Committee



# MWC

## Mennonite World Conference



**Mennonite  
World Conference**  
A Community of Anabaptist  
related Churches

### Giving Thanks: 2015 Highlights

- “Worship at the MWC Assembly this week is not simply a foretaste of heaven; it is the reality of heaven come down to earth” were the closing words from the newly appointed President of MWC, Nelson Kraybill. More than 8,450 registrants representing 77 countries “tasted this bit of heaven” as they participated in PA 2015, the MWC Assembly in Harrisburg, Pa, U.S.A., in July 2015.

### Looking Ahead: More Than Assemblies!

- MWC is our Anabaptist global church with more than 1.3 million believers in 102 national member churches, including the CCMBC. Learn more about this diverse Christ-centered faith community by signing up for the biannual magazine Courier and monthly online newsletter Info at [www.mwc-cmm.org/signup](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/signup).

in World Fellowship Sunday each year. Resource material at [www.mwc-cmm.org/wfs](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/wfs).

### Prayers of Gratitude and Intercession

- Praise God for the 2015 financial support of more than \$30,000 US from the Canadian MB conference and its churches toward the ongoing work of MWC. This total represents about 25 percent of the fair share membership assessment for the Canadian MB conference for 2015.
- Pray for the Anabaptist churches in places such as Ecuador and Nepal as they continue to recover from natural disasters. Pray for church leaders in Laos, Eritrea, Vietnam and elsewhere who face persecution.
- Pray for the MWC leadership including many global MB leaders such as César García, MWC General Secretary, Colombia; Darío Ramirez, Executive Committee, Paraguay; Alfred Neufeld, Faith and Life Chairperson, Paraguay; Francisca Ibanda, West Africa Representative, DR Congo; Rafael Zaracho, Secretary for Mission Commission, Paraguay; Harold Froese, Willy Reimer and Paul J. Loewen, General Council members representing CCMBC.
- Pray for and begin planning to attend Indonesia 2021, the next global Assembly of MWC!



MB GYS delegates from Germany, Canada, Paraguay, Chile and U.S.

- At Global Youth Summit (GYS), prior to the Assembly, more than 400 young adults shared how their gifts can be used for the Kingdom of God. “Our diverse gifts, identities, purposes and callings are held together within the global church community, supporting each other in the mission of Jesus Christ,” said MB GYS delegate Rianna Isaak.
- To view a highlight video of MWC during 2015 go to: [www.mwc-cmm.org/video/1618](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/video/1618).

As churches face persecution, natural disasters, political turmoil and conflict, the presence and identification with the global church is an essential means of support, identification and resources. MWC offers solidarity and prayer with our MB brothers and sisters in Panama and Colombia who are threatened by government-sanctioned violence.

- Invite your congregation to join Anabaptist churches around the globe in worship by participating

### Lynn Roth

North America Representative,  
MWC

# MB Historical Commission

## Report

Four archival centres—Fresno, Hillsboro, Abbotsford and Winnipeg—offer research and archiving services to MB churches, their leaders and their people, for the mission of God that we share. Each archive produces two “deliverables”: archival and interpretive resourcing.

### 1. Archival Resourcing

includes preserving and making accessible church records and resources (photos, minutes, reports, statistics, study papers, etc.). See [www.mbhistory.org](http://www.mbhistory.org) and follow link to the archive in your region. See also <https://archives.mhsc.ca> for an online photo database (MAID) from several Mennonite archives (new in 2015).

### 2. Interpretative Resourcing

includes offering analysis on questions of theology and history as requested by individuals, congregations and conference ministries. A sampling of projects and initiatives is listed below.

- **Profiles of Mennonite Faith** distributed to all MB churches.

These pamphlets feature stories of remarkable men and women who overcame great odds to share their faith in Jesus. See [www.mbhistory.org](http://www.mbhistory.org) for all profiles.

- **An Archival Internship**

awarded to Liz Wittrig in 2015 and to Andrew Brown in 2016. The internship involves exploration and project work at each of the four MB archival centres. See [www.mbhistory.org](http://www.mbhistory.org) for details.

- **The Katie Funk Wiebe**

**Research Grant** awarded to Rachel Twigg Boyce in 2015 for her project: The House Blend Story. See [www.mbhistory.org](http://www.mbhistory.org) for details.

- **The MB Studies Project**

**Grant** awarded to Andrew Dyck, Gil Dueck and Nina Schroeder in 2014; and to Anicka Fast, Harold Jantz and Jayaker Yennamalla in 2015. See [www.mbhistory.org](http://www.mbhistory.org) for details.

- **The J.B. Toews**

**Scholarships:** five \$1,000 scholarships given annually to students distinguishing themselves

in Anabaptist-Mennonite studies at MB-affiliated colleges (FPU, CMU, Tabor, CBC, ETEQ).

- **New Book! Daughters in the House of Jacob**

by Dorothy Peters with Christine Kampen, published in 2016. This memoir is about two MB women—a Bible professor and a pastor—and a surprising story of migration that traces their vocational calling across generations and gender, back to their Bible teaching-preaching grandfather Jacob and to their unforgettable great-grandmother Agatha. See [www.kindredproductions.com](http://www.kindredproductions.com) to purchase your copy. Special promotional price \$20.

- **MB Herald (1962–2015)** on **USB stick**, digitized and searchable, available for purchase (\$30); **Christian Leader (1937–2015)** on **USB stick**, digitized and searchable, available for purchase (\$25).

For more information on these services, contact:

[jon.isaak@mbchurches.ca](mailto:jon.isaak@mbchurches.ca)

MB Historical Commission board members: Dora Dueck (Winnipeg), Don Isaac, Chair (Hillsboro), J Janzen (Abbotsford), Patricia Loewen (Winnipeg), Julia Reimer (Fresno) and Valerie Rempel (Fresno). (2016)

Representatives of archival centres: Kevin Enns-Rempel and Hannah Keeney (Fresno), Peggy Goertzen (Hillsboro), Richard Thiessen (Abbotsford) and Jon Isaak, Executive Secretary (Winnipeg).

**Jon Isaak**

Executive Secretary

**MAKING HISTORY TOGETHER**





**Mennonite Brethren  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

Research and archiving service of the  
Mennonite Brethren Church in North America

- Preserving and maintaining historical records of churches, schools and people
- Assisting in research and writing on topics of historical and theological interest to MBs
- Publishing newsletters, *Profiles of Mennonite Faith*, and books
- Serving you with offices in Fresno, Hillsboro, Abbotsford, and Winnipeg

[www.mbhistory.org](http://www.mbhistory.org)





After the disciples had been fishing all night without a single bite, Jesus said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some” (John 21:6 NIV). The result was an overwhelming catch of 153 large fish, which led to the disciples’ recognizing Jesus was among them and then having breakfast with him. It also led Peter to a powerful encounter with Jesus that revived his zeal for the mission to which Christ had called him.

While it is easiest, when we are fearful, to go back to what we know, Jesus often calls us away from the familiar to a risk where only faith will do and to a Kingdom-sized mandate that entirely eclipses our own.

This describes well the ministry of L2L! Time and again L2L comes alongside to help leaders and churches “fish on the other side,” to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit in the empty places, and to recognize Jesus afresh and hear his call to mission.



Dave Jackson

In this report, we share some of our “fishing the other side” experiences we’ve had since Gathering 2014

– those times when leaders and churches met Jesus afresh and heard his [re-]call to mission.

### Coaching leaders

Sometimes leaders do “fish all night” and seem to catch nothing. Where does a leader go to talk and process when they are facing difficult circumstances? When

they had many opportunities and need to discern a direction? When the mantle of leadership gets weighty and tiredness overwhelms? When navigating transitions gets complicated? L2L’s response to these interests is to both coach leaders and equip leaders to coach each other. By clicking the **Coach Me** link at [www.L2Lnet.org](http://www.L2Lnet.org) or simply contacting us, individuals are matched with a suitable trained coach to begin the journey of “fishing on the other side.” Through intentional conversations, the coach helps a leader listen to God and



Teresa Born

individualized discovery that leads to action. The goal of coaching is to help leaders listen to the Holy Spirit and take tangible steps

that help them move forward. Sometimes the outcome is improved relationships, or clarity around new ways of being on mission or leading more effectively. One person who engaged L2L for coaching said, “L2L helped me quiet all the divergent voices to focus on what God was saying to me about where he wanted me in ministry. I learned to develop a personal vision and stay true to the “sweet spot” where I experience the joy of making a maximum Kingdom-impact.”

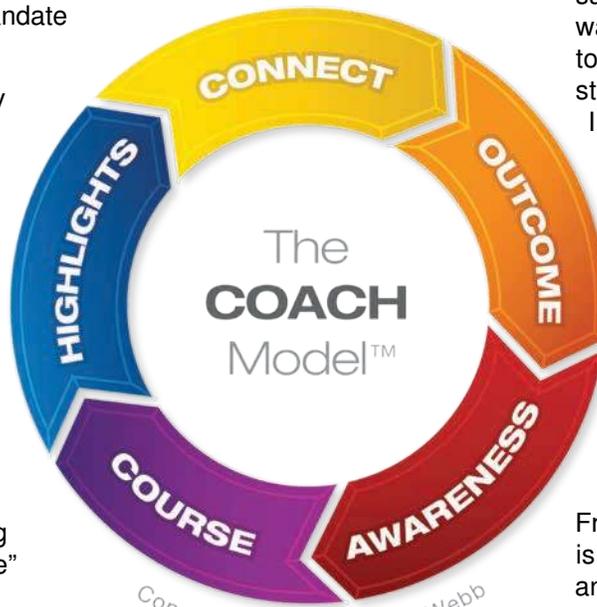
In an effort to raise the level of competency for our coaches and the quality of our coaching, L2L has moved toward equipping a smaller number of trainers but with more rigorous training and experience. This move has also enabled us to use existing training materials in multiple languages, including French, Spanish and German. This is crucial as we serve in Quebec and work with international ministry partners like MB Mission. It has also allowed us to offer flexible one-, two- or three-day coach training for leaders in the marketplace, in the church and on various boards.



Daniel Beutler

### Coaching churches

We agree with Ed Stetzer (in “Creating an



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gain clarity on their next steps in life and ministry. Over the past three years, we’ve equipped more than 400 leaders to begin using coaching skills in their everyday conversation. What has been confirmed time and time again over the last three years of coaching is that one size does not fit all. God’s people are on unique journeys. So we focus on facilitating



Assessment Culture,” *Christianity Today*): “Churches tend to be more hopeful than honest when they look at their situation. That can be good – we are a people of faith. However, bad information undermines good strategy. I believe that churches must have the right information to make the right decisions.”

To this end, L2L has developed a church assessment process that has helped nearly 60 churches with more than 1,525 respondents in the last two years. By clicking the **Coach Us** link at [www.L2Lnet.org](http://www.L2Lnet.org) or simply contacting us, churches are drawn into a process that helps them discover critical issues or interests that need to be addressed in order for the church to move forward on its mission.

Information, of course, does not transform. Clarity about where a local church is at on her missionary journey simply provides the starting point. Churches tend to respond in one of three ways to their assessment findings:

- “Thanks for helping us find clarity. We know what we need to do next.”
- “Thanks for helping us find clarity. Would you coach us to take our next steps?”
- “Thanks for helping us find clarity. Can you find us a transitional pastor who can help us take our next steps?”

### Helping churches navigate transitions

L2L has come to appreciate that there is a difference between interim pastors and transitional pastors. The former tend to keep things going until a new pastor arrives, whereas the latter is mandated to help a church address its critical issues and interests.

Churches typically hire a transitional pastor for 6, 12, or 18 months. Intentionality marks the transitional

process, so that a congregation can experience the full benefit of a pastoral transition. This ensures that the opportunity for change is not wasted. Eight mandates mark the ministry of a transitional pastor:

1. closure with the past so that it doesn't hinder what God is wanting to do in the future
2. relevant preaching and clear communication
3. short term administration
4. pastoral care
5. relational renewal
6. vision renewal
7. structural renewal
8. search process for a new pastor

Some 12 transitional pastors served Canadian MB churches over the past two years. The typical assignment ranges from six to eighteen months, is often demanding, and requires much wisdom from God. L2L seeks to actively coach transitional pastors in listening to the Holy Spirit as they do their important work on the frontlines.

More called and trained transitional pastors are needed. L2L partners with Cam Taylor, director of Transitional Leadership with Outreach Canada, and Randy Wolf, Professor of Leadership Studies with MBBS Canada, in training transitional leaders. We invite experienced pastors – who are known to be Spirit-filled and wise – to consider this important ministry opportunity.

### Transforming conflict

Sometimes, as Paul illustrates in Philippians 4:2–3, we find ourselves in conflict with one another as we contend for the gospel. L2L steps willingly into those places where individuals or churches are experiencing conflict. In a



unique way, conflict can create the conditions for people to regain a new impetus for mission. We serve in hope that conflicts won't be wasted, that the Holy Spirit will guide discoveries and enable individuals and churches to be renewed around the mandate Jesus has given to us.

### Facilitating attentiveness to God

God shapes leaders over a lifetime! When leaders understand that shaping, it allows them to minister with peace, passion and power. L2L hosts three different two–three-day spiritual discovery retreats:

- **CLARITY: why do I do what I do?** Best suited for people in the 18–45 age range, this seminar is devoted to clarifying one's biblical purpose, values and vision. A new young missionary who attended CLARITY said, “Those days really were such a huge help to me in clarifying my call... I now keep it before me always.”
- **APEX: what do I do and how do I do it?** This seminar, best suited for people in their 40s, 50s and 60s, clarifies one's major role. After attending APEX,



the Personal Style Indicator (PSI).

These fast-paced communication and learning tools help leaders and teams to understand themselves better – their personal style, leadership skills, learning styles, values and much more. Pastoral teams or elder/church boards often find that the more they know about themselves and each other, the better they are able collaborate and press into the mission of the church.

L2L staff also serve churches in developing staff and volunteer evaluations by designing appreciative inquiry surveys or templates that help a church or team of leaders to create an encouraging culture where expectations, support, and accountability are clarified.

### Learning in community @ [www.L2Lnet.org](http://www.L2Lnet.org)

Two additional well-used links on the L2L website are the Resource library and the GoToMeeting video conferencing platform. The Resource library has some 300 resources that leaders like you or churches like yours have put there. It is a place to both share and find teaching on spiritual renewal, theological enrichment and skills, as well as processes and templates. We seek to be a premier resource locator and provider, and any time we are asked to find or develop resources, we place them in the library, so that others with the same interest can also benefit.

The GoToMeeting (GTM) video conferencing platform is designed to foster face-to-face connection, without participants having to drive or fly anywhere; we call these online

communities “clusters.” This platform is free for L2L community members.

We have hosted more than 750 video conferences. Leaders are coached using GTM. Church and college boards use GTM for meetings, and leaders use GTM to connect with others across town or across Canada. Through GTM, churches keep in touch with their missionaries on the other side of the world. About 240 clusters have been created. Be our guest: create a new cluster and start connecting!

### Networking

Another kind of cluster is the networks that L2L has created. Transitional pastors, camping ministry directors/spouses and school presidents are examples. Often face to face, these networks result from our conviction that participants from similar ministries benefit from interacting, sharing and praying together. Some 14 network events have occurred in the last reporting period, including an annual camping ministry director and spouses retreat, which participants find invaluable.

Camping ministry is not, by mandate, L2L’s responsibility. Yet when one considers the massive amount of discipleship- and leadership development that occurs in the 11 MB camps spread across Canada, supporting these frontline missionaries in any way possible is crucial. Consider the cumulative 2015 Canadian numbers:

- 8,730 kid campers
- 2,972 decisions to follow Christ (1,106 new Christians)
- 1,357 campers claimed no church affiliation
- 881 staff
- 372 leaders in training

Please pray for and partner with your camp directors and spouses. They are your frontline missionaries!

a pastor in mid-ministry said, “I appreciated the strong emphasis on who we are, not just what we do. The retreat affirmed my central call and role in ministry.”

- **RESONANCE: what does finishing well look like for me?** L2L’s newest seminar is intended for people in the 50–75 age range to clarify their contribution. A retired teacher who attended RESONANCE wrote, “Thank you for a God-filled three days. You likely have some idea of how badly I needed this time.... I can finish well and at peace with him.”

More than 840 people have participated in these seminars in the last two years. We limit the number of participants in these seminars to about ten, so that relationships can flourish and discernment can happen in community. If these seminars pique your interest, invite us to your church or region.

### Developing effective teams

L2L staff are certified to offer a series of assessment tools like



## Equipping students funding

Through the Leadership Training Matching Grant (LTMG), from 2014–2016, L2L supported six students in the final two years of their BA programs and 30 MA or MDiv students, all at MB schools, in the amount of \$63,637.00. The purpose of the grant is to encourage people to enter ministry leadership training; to encourage churches to actively discern those with potential for pastoral ministry, cross-cultural ministry and/or professional Christian service and to remain connected to their students while they study and; to incentivize persistence through to graduation and into ministry. CCMBC partners with the student's local church, each providing 25 percent of tuition. Students are responsible for the remaining 50 percent of tuition.

## Developing disciples and leaders

According to the CCMBC 2015 Transformation Survey, half of CCMBC churches have an intentional discipleship process in place and believe it is working. And about one in four churches (28 percent) strategically identifies and develops future leaders. Since the local church is the litmus test of our current collective effectiveness, we must admit that we have more work to do.

L2L's prayer and ministry this year have been focused on depicting biblical disciple-making and leadership development pathways that can serve the local church well on her Christ-given mission. (Go to [www.L2Lnet.org](http://www.L2Lnet.org) to see one-page discipleship "bulletins" that L2L is developing for churches and adding to the Resource library.)

## Serving in partnership

L2L is largely staffed to support frontline ministry, not to be frontline ministers. L2L's engagement

with churches and leaders is sometimes initiated by conference ministers, as we seek to support them in their frontline ministry. Focused Ministry, an initiative of the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba, is a tangible example of how L2L serves in partnership with existing provincial ministries. Focused Ministry is a spiritual discernment process to help churches rediscover their mission. In defining their focus, churches are challenged to find spiritual clarity (what God is saying to the church), resource clarity (shifting existing resources or developing new ones), process clarity (breaking big projects into smaller steps that generate forward movement) and language clarity (effectively communicating change in ways that invites ownership). We also actively partner with C2C, BFL, MBBS and other denominations (11 in the last two years) as we are able.

The CCMBC Ministry Model has provided greater awareness of discipleship and leadership development initiatives underway in the respective provinces. Ontario, for example, is piloting an initiative called Leadership Collective, Manitoba has a new program called Elevation, Saskatchewan is focusing on a unique discipleship initiative that has emerged after the closure of Bethany College and Alberta will be focusing on SonLife as a discipleship catalyst. This fall, L2L is catalyzing several days of conversation and prayer with provincial conference ministers and designates around these initiatives in order for us all to give to and receive from each other.

## L2L staffing update: a Regional Associate in Quebec

In fall 2015, L2L was asked by the Quebec MB conference (AEFMQ),

"Will L2L coach AEFMQ to achieve its new vision?" Shortly after, the Spirit nudged L2L Associate Daniel Beutler and his wife Maureen to move to Quebec for 10 weeks to listen, learn and coach leaders and churches. Together, AEFMQ and L2L discerned a mission-fulfilling new opportunity. Jan. 1, 2016, Alain Després began his role as L2L Regional Associate in Quebec – to prepare the next generation of leaders for the local church and to coach churches to be on mission. Després, formerly a C2C mobilizer, continues to work closely with C2C in assessing church planters for Quebec and in incubator training. His bilingual capacity also allows him to minister in French and English. We give glory to God; having heard Jesus call us to "fish on the other side," we have been taken into new and fulfilling ministry and are better able to serve leaders and churches in Quebec.

I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the good and faithful work of my team. Thanks go to Dave Jackson, Teresa Born, Daniel Beutler and Alain Després. We desire to live out our identity in Christ and be in deep relationship with him, as we come



Ron Toews

alongside the body to multiply Christ-centred churches to see Canada transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ.

Fishing on the other side is

crucial, as Jesus takes us away from our comfort zones – to the risky places where only faith will do, and to a kingdom-sized mandate that entirely eclipses our own.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ron Toews**  
Director, L2L



Alain Després



**MB** BIBLICAL SEMINARY

# MBBS

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary

## Lifelong Learning for Lifelong Mission

Learners at MBBS Canada are transformed by God’s Spirit, educated through God’s Word and prepared for God’s mission in the world. Transformation is at the forefront of the student’s experience at seminary as they grow in their relationship with Jesus; they always leave different than when they began. Eugene H. Peterson writes about the seminary as a place for spiritual formation, insisting it is the Logos (Word) that forms the learner: “This is what the seminary is charged to do: honor and understand, teach and consider [the] Logos” (Subversive Spirituality, 57).

During the past five years, a foundation has been established at MBBS Canada to provide an environment for learner transformation for many years to come. The seminary is made up of a team of six faculty members on two campuses and a competent support staff. **The mission of the seminary is to educate and equip men and women to help lead the church to reach Canada and the world with the good news of Jesus Christ.** MBBS Canada is a centre for evangelical-Anabaptist learning and engagement, and serves to train men and women for professional ministry as well as marketplace leadership. With a vision to increase the capacity in the next five years to double the impact, MBBS is positioned not only to expand on this foundation, but also to deepen constituency engagement and customize training to meet the needs of the local church.

MBBS Canada enters a new chapter in the fall of 2016 as the first president of MBBS Canada, Bruce Guenther, transitions back to the classroom.

Bruce’s strategic and tireless work has been critical for the establishment of a Mennonite Brethren seminary in Canada. Some highlights during this period include: obtaining a provincial charter authorizing MBBS to grant degrees, building a faculty and staff team between Langley and Winnipeg, serving as the leader and spokesperson for B.C. theological schools in negotiating a quality assurance process with the government of the province of B.C., and providing significant leadership in redesigning the ACTS consortium in Langley. “Without Bruce’s sacrificial and strong leadership, it is doubtful we would be where we are today, a good seminary poised for expanded service to our churches,” says Board Chair Ron Penner.

During the January 2016 Week of Prayer, MB churches across Canada were called to prayer and fasting for a new president for Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary. On May 25, the MBBS Board of Directors appointed **Dr. Mark Wessner** as its next president, effective Aug. 8, 2016. Mark has been a pastor at Westwood MB Church in Prince George for ten years, the last six as lead pastor. Mark has been active in the life of the MB church, having served on the BCMB Conference committee responsible for licensing, credentialing and ordaining pastors, as well as on the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches Executive Board.

## Students

“The integration of seminary learning with ongoing ministry service in the church has been

outstanding, bringing added benefit to me and the church that I serve.”

**Darren Petker**, Associate Pastor at Ross Road Community Church Completed Master of Arts in Christian Studies in 2016 (Langley)



“Working on my masters degree program at CMU with MBBS has been a great experience so far. As a full-time pastor and student, I’m able to hold postures of learning and teaching simultaneously in a truly unique way.”

**Janessa Giesbrecht**, Youth Pastor at Fort Garry MB Church Currently enrolled in Certificate of Christian Studies (Winnipeg)



“My time at seminary was helpful at equipping me because most of what I do as a pastor comes down to interpreting Scripture and living it out. What we do and how we respond to situations needs to be shaped by our understanding of who God is, and how God is revealed to us through his Word.”

**Leonard Klassen**, Associate Pastor at King Road MB Church Completed Master of Arts in Christian Ministry 2003 (Langley)



## MBBS Financial Aid

MBBS students received more than \$50,000 from MBBS in 2015–16 through scholarships, bursaries and subsidies. MBBS students also



### Where Do MBBS Alumni Serve?

|                       | BC         | AB       | SK        | MB        | ON/QC     | INTL     | TOTAL      |
|-----------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Pastoral Ministry     | 88         | 3        | 6         | 25        | 3         | 3        | 128        |
| Conference Leaders    | 5          | 1        |           | 4         | 3         |          | 13         |
| Church Planting       | 2          |          | 1         | 2         |           |          | 5          |
| Global Missions       | 18         |          | 1         |           | 1         | 4        | 24         |
| Theological Education | 17         |          | 3         | 4         | 3         | 2        | 29         |
| Parachurch            | 8          | 1        |           |           | 1         |          | 10         |
| Chaplaincy            | 7          | 1        |           | 3         |           |          | 11         |
| Counsellor            | 34         |          |           | 2         | 1         |          | 37         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>179</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>257</b> |

receive financial aid from Canadian Mennonite University, ACTS Seminaries and the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches through the Leadership Training Matching Grant (LTMG) administered by Leaders2Learners (L2L). Thanks to generous donors, MBBS is making seminary education affordable!

### MBBS Vision 2020

MBBS has set a course to increase the capacity of the seminary to serve the church better. The focus of the Vision 2020 plan is to



### MinistryLift

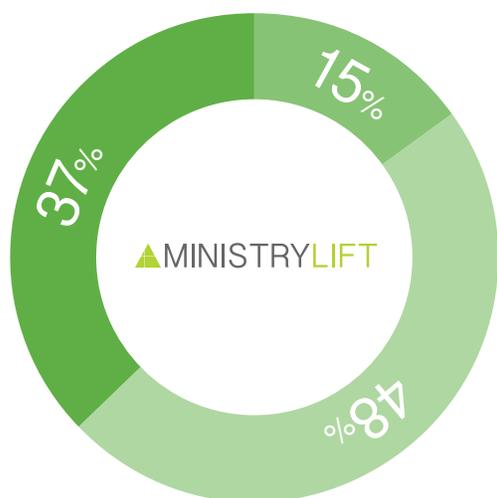
- become an influential Canadian centre of evangelical Anabaptist theological reflection for missional engagement,
- increase the number of mission accomplishing pastors and church leaders,
- provide continuing education for professional and non-professional ministry leaders,
- bring seminary education closer to students, and
- meet the demand for greater biblical, theological and missiological literacy in congregations.

Read more at [www.mbseminary.ca/InTouch](http://www.mbseminary.ca/InTouch)

### Finances

MBBS completed the 2015–2016 fiscal year with a balanced budget. We are grateful for the financial support of many churches, the Canadian conference, the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba and generous donors across Canada who have helped the seminary complete the last five fiscal years with a balanced budget.

Audited financial statements are submitted to the Canadian conference Executive Board and are available at [www.mbseminary.ca/finances](http://www.mbseminary.ca/finances).



- Training via live-stream: 15%
- Recorded online video-training: 48%
- Onsite Training: 37%

## MBBS Faculty



**Brian Cooper**,  
PhD – Associate Dean,  
Assistant Professor of  
Theology (Langley)



**Andrew Dyck**, PhD  
[Cand.] – Assistant  
Professor of Ministry  
Studies (Winnipeg)



**Pierre Gilbert**,  
PhD – Associate Dean,  
Associate Professor  
of Bible and Theology  
(Winnipeg)



**Bruce L. Guenther**,  
PhD – Associate Dean,  
Professor of Church  
History and Mennonite  
Studies (Langley)



**Mark Wessner**,  
PhD – President  
(Langley)



**Randy Wolff**, PhD –  
Director of MinistryLift,  
Assistant Professor of  
Practical Theology and  
Leadership Studies  
(Langley)



**Gloria Woodland**,  
DMin – Director of  
Chaplaincy Program,  
Assistant Professor  
of Chaplaincy and  
Spiritual Care (Langley)

## MBBS Campuses and Partnerships

MBBS partners with three other denominational seminaries to form a consortium called Associated Canadian Theological Schools (ACTS), located on the campus of Trinity Western University (TWU) in Langley, British Columbia. Fully accredited degrees are granted conjointly by MBBS and TWU.



MBBS is affiliated with the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM), located on the campus of Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Degrees are granted conjointly by MBBS and CMU.

MBBS is pursuing a seminary partnership option in Ontario in conjunction with the leaders of the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.

## MBBS Degree Programs

### Professional Ministry Diploma and Degree Programs

Diploma in Christian Studies (DCS) – 27 credit hours (Langley)

Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies (GCCS) – 24 credit hours (Winnipeg)

Master of Arts in Christian Studies (MACS) – 53 credit hours (Langley)

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) – 60 credit hours (Winnipeg)

Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) – 60 credit hours (Winnipeg)

Master of Divinity (MDiv) – 89 credit hours (Langley)

Doctor of Ministry (DMin) – 31 credit hours (Langley)

### Specialized Degree Programs

Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT) – 68 credit hours (Langley)

Master of Applied Linguistics and Exegesis (MALE) – 49 credit hours (Langley)

### Theological Research Degree Programs

Master of Theological Studies (MTS) – 50 credit hours (Langley)

Master of Theology (MTh) – 30 credit hours (Langley)

MBBS degree programs at ACTS Seminaries can be completed up to 2/3 by distance (both online and live-streaming options) and can be customized to give students the best range of possible outcomes. MBBS also offers two specializations at ACTS Seminaries in Apologetics and Chaplaincy, and a variety of certificates alongside the degree programs.



# ▲ MINISTRYLIFT

## MinistryLift

MinistryLift's mission is to help people love God more deeply and serve him more effectively. If you have a training need in your church, MinistryLift may be able to help. Over the past three years, MinistryLift has offered 250 workshops to people from more than 235 churches (including 65 MB churches) in 30 denominations. It may be possible for us to come to your church, or to provide training via live-streaming or to prepare a customized pre-recorded session. In fact, many of the MinistryLift workshops are available in the resources section of the MinistryLift website ([www.MinistryLift.ca](http://www.MinistryLift.ca)).

Over the past year, we have facilitated training sessions on discipleship, small group ministry, sharing your faith, children's ministry, parenting, leadership, youth ministry, coaching, building bridges with Muslims, leading change and managing conflict. We regularly develop new training content to meet the needs of churches and ministry leaders.

If you would like to explore how MinistryLift might assist your church, contact Keith Reed.



**Keith Reed** - Associate Director of MinistryLift [keithreed@mbseminary.ca](mailto:keithreed@mbseminary.ca)

## Communications and Development Staff



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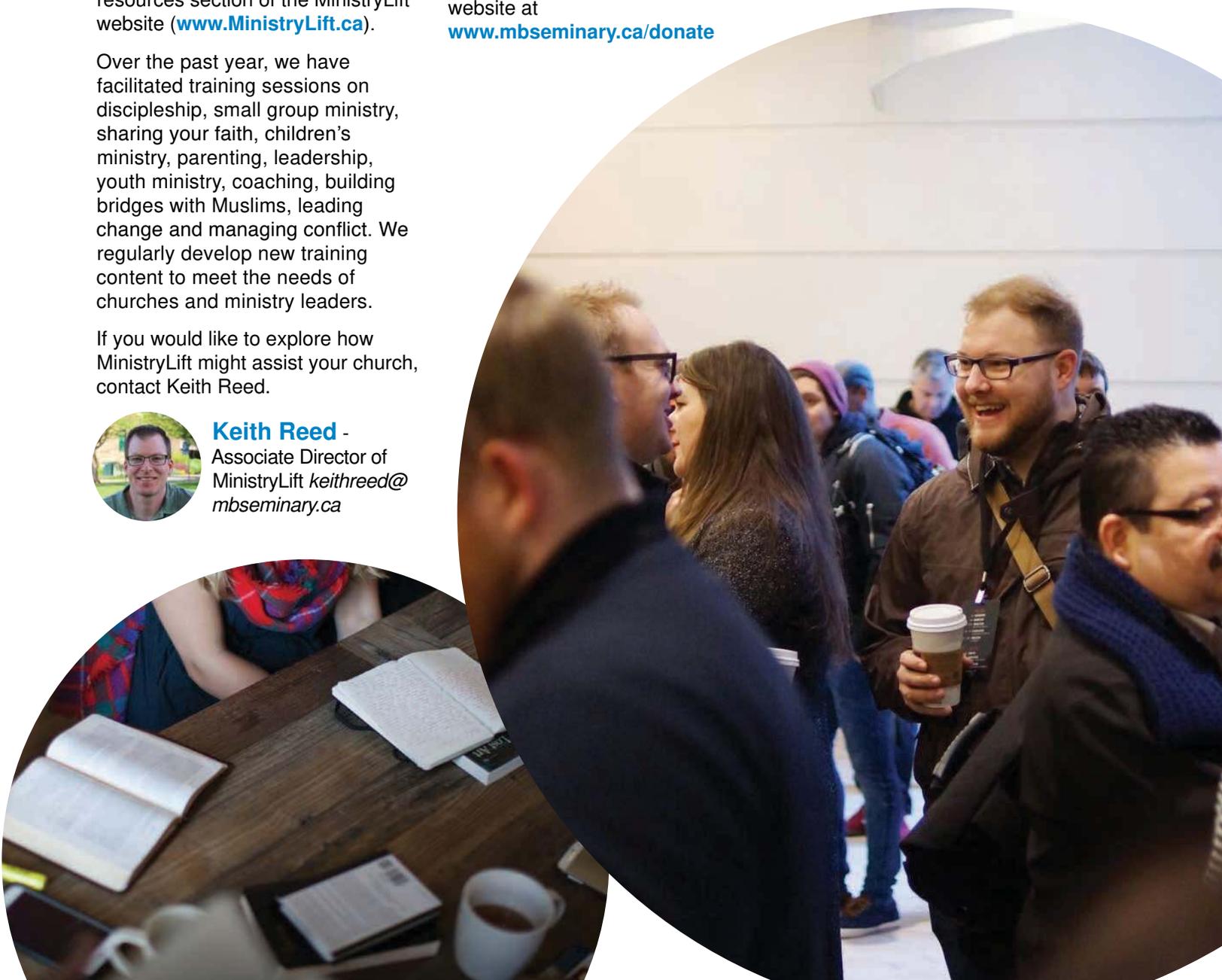
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# C2C

## C2C Network Canada

### C2C National Making Disciples through Multiplication

The outcome of C2C’s mission is more disciples added to the Kingdom. Many more people in Canada need to know about God’s love and forgiveness through Jesus.

One young woman in Regina said she lived a life of rebellion and did not feel as though she could ever be forgiven. She sought athletics and approval to fill an empty space in her soul. Through the ministry of Compass Church, an MB church plant in Regina, she realized that God loved her without having to earn his love: through Christ she was forgiven fully and loved deeply. She was baptized this past Easter Sunday. Jesus added

one more disciple from Canada to his followers.



That’s why C2C exists: to glorify God and make disciples by planting and multiplying gospel-centred churches and enabling new missional opportunities.

### More Mennonite Brethren Church Planting

C2C has met with some of the provincial conferences to discuss how we can plant more MB churches across our country. Starting with the Manitoba conference, we identified several action steps to encourage more MB activity. Bill Hogg, C2C Missiologist, and Elton DaSilva, Executive Director of the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba, are working on an evaluation tool for our MB churches to facilitate greater multiplication of disciples and churches.

You can help to encourage the planting of MB churches in three ways. The first one is prayer! In agreement with Jesus’ mandate in Luke 10:2, join us every day at 10:02 and specifically pray that the Lord would send MB church planters into our churches and out as church planters. Secondly, inspire young women and men from within your own church to consider and pursue church planting. Thirdly, become a

supporter or sending church of a church plant, and as a church body, communicate with them, pray for them and demonstrate love to them generously. When the church invests its treasure in mission, we raise up young leaders with hearts intent on multiplication (Luke 12:34).



### Midwifery and Denominations

Recently, in a conversation with another church planting network, they asked why we keep graduating churches out of our network when other networks maintain the church permanently. After explaining what God has called us to do, they exclaimed, “Oh, you are like midwives!”

The Multiply conference in Vancouver in March, with over 800 participants, sought to encourage existing churches to multiply, to inspire young leaders to consider church planting and to call all leaders and churches to pursue intentional multiplication of the gospel across Canada.



C2C serves as a midwife in the birthing of a new church. A midwife walks with the one giving birth prior to, during and after the child is born. A midwife empowers the expectant mother with choices and guides her with best practices based on experience, education and expertise in areas such as health and nutrition. C2C is involved heavily as the midwife to facilitate a healthy baby church. But a midwife doesn't hang around forever. The parents (denomination) take over and continue to give nurturing care to the child through healthy adulthood. This is how C2C partners with denominations to ensure a viable new church.

C2C works in this midwife role with more than 20 denominations because the goal is to make millions of disciples of Jesus Christ and it will take every evangelical denomination to accomplish this audacious goal. The planter's denomination sends the planter, interviews them for theological alignment, credentials and financially supports them. C2C is the midwife involved in the birthing process, and the denomination is the parent, who takes responsibility for their ongoing health and care. When the new church is ready to reproduce, C2C is available to reengage in a midwifery role.

C2C Network handed off seven MB church plants this year to their respective provincial conferences. One doesn't join C2C like a private club but as a short-term partner to enable a healthy birth.

Several denominations have selected C2C to exclusively serve as their midwife. They are committing a percentage of their budget to partner with us. Our Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith allows us to work across many denominations without threat or conflict.



### Preparing Church Planters

Church planters enter into a two-year intensive training called Incubator, where they learn with other church planters on topics including evangelism, preaching, mission, strategy, teamwork, conflict management, personal holiness and self-leadership. We now offer Incubator in seven cities across Canada: Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. We plan to add three more cities in the fall: Hamilton, Guelph and Halifax. Montreal began a French-speaking Incubator in January with an unprecedented 20 church planters.

We also began a beta year of Immerse, an accredited MDiv that will confer degrees jointly from MBBS and Northwest Baptist Seminary. We have three MB students in the program – learning in the context of their local church. This is a unique outcome-based education (OBE). OBE starts by developing a clear picture of what learners should ultimately be able to do successfully at the end of their educational experience. The student is then given curriculum, instruction, assessment and evaluation directly based on that desired outcome. Every course has a specific skill in mind that will be applicable in the local church. We are taking applications for the upcoming fall semester.

### Assessing the Situation

The Spirit of God spoke through the prophet to set aside Paul and Barnabas for a special work of planting churches in neighbouring countries (Acts 13:1–2). The church allocated a time of fasting and discernment, and then they laid hands on them and sent them to Cyprus. Scripture says, “Barnabas and Paul were sent out by the Holy Spirit” (Acts 13:4). This is accomplished through the discernment process of others.

We have record numbers attending our Assessment Centres. In late May, we held a separate Assessment Centre in Montreal, conducted in French, because we have had so many candidates from Quebec. Even when candidates receive a “not recommended” disposition, it is a positive experience for them. If a candidate is not suited for church planting, the assessment can prevent them from attempting something that could have adverse effects on their life, ministry and marriage. One candidate, after receiving a “not recommended” disposition, hugged the assessors, thanking them for their love, candor and care for him and his wife through the entire discernment process.

### Make Disciples of ALL Nations... in Canada

The nations of the world are coming into our neighbourhoods all across Canada. God is entrusting the nations to us in order to point them to the Redeemer. These new Canadians live next door, and we can't ignore them. Jesus came so that all nations would become future residents of a city whose designer and maker is God (Hebrews 11:10). People from every nation, every tribe, every people and every language will stand together before the Lamb of God, worshipping the one Saviour for all eternity; the one who secured our salvation (Revelation 7:9–10).

C2C is coming alongside new Canadians to assist them in starting new churches in their neighbourhoods. This will require contextualized approaches. We partner with existing churches to take the new congregations under their wing. This mentorship becomes a mission opportunity that was once only possible through overseas missions.

## The Numbers

1. How many churches in C2C Network? **86**
2. How many apprentices in C2C? **17**
3. How many MB churches in C2C Network? **39 (41%)**
4. How many MB churches graduated this year? **7**
5. How many C2C baptisms so far this spring? **271**
6. What percentage of C2C's budget is supplied by CCMBC? **23%**
7. What percentage was spent toward non-MB plants? **7%**
8. What percentage was received from non-MB sources? **8%**

## Prayer is the Ministry

Prayer is not only the key to ministry; it is the ministry. C2C currently has 2,271 prayer supporters. We also have many people who are praying at 10:02 am every day. Jesus was moved with compassion at the helpless crowd and at the immensity

of the need at hand. He said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2 ESV).

We are praying for many more leaders to make disciples in Canada and beyond. C2C exists to come alongside these harvest workers as they plant new churches from "sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth!" (Psalm 72:8 NIV).

**Gord Fleming**  
National Director



## British Columbia

On Easter – the celebration of new life – Jonathan and Lauren Headley publicly launched Jubilee Church in Maple Ridge, B.C., the newest church plant in our MB tribe. They planted out of Maple Ridge Community Church, a 30-year-old church that God has been stirring and inspiring over the past couple of years to multiply and reproduce. Maple Ridge sent the first fruits of their ministry to help launch Jubilee. It is exciting to see God faithfully fill the open seats left behind by those who launched with Jubilee. Jubilee is already experiencing Kingdom impact as people profess faith in Jesus for the first time. Many unchurched neighbours are gathering with Jonathan, Lauren and other Jubilee family members in response to Jubilee's invitation to check out this new church plant.

We are equipping two new MB churches to launch this fall. God

has been working in the hearts of MB church leaders to send out new church planters. North Langley Community Church is preparing Jeff and Michelle Renaud to plant the Willoughby campus of NLCC at Richard Bulpitt Elementary School in Langley. South Abbotsford Church is deploying Jon and Gabrielle Wiebe as they prepare to plant CityLife Church in the Cineplex Theater in the Highstreet Mall in Abbotsford.

We are witnessing God raising up two additional MB-credentialed apprentices who are part of our training cadre and who are getting ready to plant churches in the next 12–18 months. As a network, we work to equip and prepare planters/apprentices for the work of church multiplication and reproduction. These two apprentices are part of a larger group of candidates who

are learning the skills necessary for church planting.

Of all the provinces, B.C. has the greatest number of C2C churches (25), MB church plants (12) and C2C apprentices (6). C2C B.C. also has almost double the prayer supporters of any other province.

The Multiply conference in Vancouver in March, with over 800 participants, sought to encourage existing churches to multiply, to inspire young leaders to consider church planting and to call all leaders and churches to pursue intentional multiplication of the gospel across Canada.



## Alberta

C2C now works with 18 church planting couples in Alberta. Every one of them has a unique, God-formed story of faith, mission and inspiration.

Foothills Community Church in Pincher Creek, Alta., closed in 2014. Their final wish was that a new church would use the facility. At convention that year, attendees were asked to pray that God would send a planter to Pincher Creek (Luke 10:2). We waited and we believed. Then God answered by sending Chris and Gemma Ney. They stepped out in obedience and moved to Pincher Creek in September. It is absolutely amazing to watch Jesus bringing people to their core team. They will move a new MB family into the facility when they launch in early 2017.

Community Grace, an MB church in Calgary, had their official grand opening in April. Planters Elroy and Lynn Senneker and their team are reaching an area in desperate need of the gospel. The Senneker family desires your prayer for Lynn as she battles cancer.

Urban Grace, an MB church plant led by Trevor and Lesley Rysavy, recently changed locations due to explosive growth! God provided a location and 200 free parking stalls in the heart of downtown Calgary. This is an incredible opportunity to reach one of the most densely populated areas of Calgary.

Another MB plant, Manifest Church, led by Brad and Shauna Huebert, launched last March in the Coventry Hills area of NW Calgary.



God has been bringing unchurched people to meet Jesus for the first time. Manifest has celebrated some significant growth in the last few months.

## Saskatchewan



Recently, four church planting candidates from MB churches and two from other denominations contacted C2C – in rapid succession – with a passion to plant new churches in Saskatchewan. After a dry time when we saw few planters come forward in Saskatchewan, God is now answering our prayers “far more abundantly than all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20 ESV). This is incredibly exciting. Six couples are not enough to make disciples of all of the unchurched people of Saskatchewan, but it is a refreshing change in the storyline of this province. Thank you for praying with us.

Over the last few years, some established churches have been re-engaging with church planting and multiplication. The evangelistic posture in the Saskatchewan MB churches is growing and contagious. A year ago, C2C only had two church plants in Saskatchewan: Compass Church in Regina and Grace Fellowship in Saskatoon. They both planted new churches this year! We now have four churches in C2C Saskatchewan – all MB churches. The two mother churches baptized 23 individuals in the last 12 months, and they are discipling and training six more potential planters for future ministry. When we asked how these young congregations were able to plant this soon, the leaders replied, “This is who we are, and it is what we do.”

## Manitoba

Katherine was one of the more than 60 First Nations people baptized in the last two years through the ministry of Living Word Temple, Winnipeg, led by Paul Winter, Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba First Nations Director. A single mother of 11 children, Katherine came from a life of abuse. It was all she knew, and she had very little hope that things would change – until God miraculously transformed her life. She now participates in a weekly intern training and serves alongside Pastor Winter to provide pastoral care and outreach in the Turtle Island community. God is using her to bring the healing hope of Jesus into Winnipeg’s North End. She is now helping to open doors to people living in the First Nations community of Pukatawagan in northern Manitoba.

The challenge of discerning and mobilizing church planters is significant. We are making a concerted effort to pray for and call out church planters among MB Churches in Manitoba. Several Mennonite Brethren churches are now committed to or thinking about planting daughter churches.

Training has been taking place in multiple churches and regions. C2C Missiologist Bill Hogg led an excellent evangelism workshop entitled,

“Becoming Good News People.” Danny MacKay, serving as a C2C Mobilizer in Manitoba, has served our churches with very practical evangelism training.

Manitoba has five MB church plants and seven overall. In this province, the harvest is great and the workers are few. Pray that the Lord of the harvest would send workers into Manitoba’s field so that thousands can come to faith in Jesus.



## Ontario

In Ontario, C2C currently serves 16 church planting couples. Six church plants focus on reaching marginalized groups from among Canada's First Peoples, new Canadians and the urban poor. Other plants bring gospel hope to culturally, economically and socially diverse communities in Toronto, Ottawa and Guelph.

Rugged Tree is an MB ministry to First Nations. As they develop leaders, their vision is to have two

indigenous lay pastors in each of the communities where they're planting house churches.

Behta Darya Community Church is an MB church that recently became the third Punjabi ministry in North America to own a building. They will use this facility throughout the week as a ministry centre. Punjabis originate from the Punjab region in Pakistan and India. Behta Darya is located in an area where Punjabi is the primary language spoken by

13.3 percent of the population. One Punjabi lady wrote the following:

After nearly 40 years in Canada, we had never entered a church – perceiving Christianity was for westerners. However, my husband told me about worshipping Jesus “Punjabi style.” On Good Friday, I joined him and was overwhelmed by the message about Jesus in my own language. I returned for an evening service and was drawn in by a power I'd never experienced

## Quebec

The baptism of seventy people on one Sunday in one church in Quebec is extremely amazing. For many years, people have been praying for a faint glimmer of evangelistic hope in Quebec, considered the least-reached place in all of the Americas. On Easter, Le Chapelle, a C2C partner church, provided more than a glimmer with their substantial baptismal service. And they aren't the only source of hope in Quebec.

C2C is now working with 20 couples: 16 church planters and four apprenticeships, a 333 percent increase since 2012. Montreal is hosting the next C2C church planter Assessment Centre, where five out of the ten couples being assessed are from Quebec. We could have 25 C2C church planting couples in the next few months.

Our newest planter is a medical doctor who led so many people to

Christ that his discipleship group became a church of more than 80 people. The harvest in Quebec is ready more than ever – the result of years of your prayer for this province.



## Atlantic Canada

We could have 12 church plants in the Atlantic region by year's end – a 400 percent increase in fewer than two years! Six new church plants came under the C2C Network in Atlantic Canada this year. Another couple will be attending the Assessment Centre in Montreal in June, and five other Atlantic couples are preparing for the fall Assessment in Calgary.

Ben and Lisa Stevens lead The Pool (MB) Church in Moncton, N.B. The Pool is under C2C Network support,

and C2C serves on The Pool's leadership team, providing coaching, prayer, direction and funding. The Pool desires to reach the city of Moncton with the gospel of Jesus.

Adam and Suzanne Greeley moved the The Well's gatherings to a North Dartmouth, N.S., community centre where they have found great favour. This MB church plant has gained multiple new attenders – many of them unbelievers. The Well's community is coping with poverty, prostitution, sex trafficking and addictions. The Well is responding to neighbours' needs with the love and good news of Jesus.

Derrick and Claire Funk began leading Gateway Community (MB)

Church in Lower Sackville, N.S., a year ago. Since Gateway has come under the covering of the C2C Network, Derrick has received coaching. Gateway formed a new leadership team and is setting a new vision to more effectively reach the people in their neighbourhood with the gospel. Gateway has grown significantly in attendance, finances and discipleship under Derrick's leadership.

We are enlisting many more prayer supporters for Atlantic Canada. Will you be among those praying that more gospel-centred, Spirit-led, mission-focused churches will be planted so that many more people in this region may encounter Jesus Christ.





# MB Mission

Going to the least reached

Sean is one of our newest mission candidates. I recently heard his amazing story.

He was born in Laos during the Vietnam War, and both of his parents died tragically when he was a child. After enduring four years in a refugee camp, he finally escaped to the U.S.A. at the age of 14. There, as a lonely and hungry student, Sean was invited into the home of a Christian woman who cared for him and introduced him to Jesus. The investment that woman made in Sean life's completely changed him, offering him a home and church family that he had never known. Since then, Sean's life has been focused on sharing this gospel with Southeast Asians in America through church planting and a successful career in business. Now, Sean is sensing God's call to return to

Southeast Asia to help his people find hope in Christ. Just like his friend, P.K., who currently leads our work among the Khmu in Thailand, Sean connects living on mission in America with living on mission in Southeast Asia – it is one mission.

When we bring Jesus and his mission to the centre of our lives, it puts into perspective all of our other life decisions and investments.

Sean's refugee story from 30 years ago is being repeated today around the world. If someone had not become Jesus to Sean, he would not have been able to understand the gospel. Mission is a way of life that begins with how we respond to those around us each day, and it extends to our active prayers and support for gospel-focused efforts nationally and globally. Mission is local, national and global.

various church planting and discipleship training efforts together into an expanded definition of mission that is both "here" and "there." Sean's story, and others like it, remind us that God has brought the nations to our shores so they can receive the gospel and then take it back with them to their countries of origin. What stories is God writing today in the midst of the refugee crisis?

Our team in Germany is resourcing churches to respond to the flood of refugees who have recently arrived from some of the least-reached regions of the world like Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. We are hearing some very encouraging reports about many who are responding to the gospel as Christians serve them in practical ways, build relationships with them and testify to the love of Jesus.

Recently, our staff led a one-day discipleship conference for refugees in Germany. At the end of the day, people were given an opportunity to give their lives to Jesus. Among the many that responded was a young Yazidi man who asked for prayer for his 17 extended family members who have all been abducted by ISIS in Syria. After a time of fervent prayer for his family, an older woman from Iran, herself a new believer in Jesus, gave this young man a hug and let him know that he now had a new family in Christ!

We've been discerning with our national conference partners in the U.S. and Canada whether to bring our

The image of God's family is powerful. Paul, the apostle who also planted churches in the context of war, persecution and conflict, wrote to the church in Ephesus, "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that... Christ





may dwell in your hearts through faith” (Ephesians 3:14-17). Who we are and what we are called to do is directly impacted by who God is and what he does – we are his children.

*Who is God?* He is the Father of a global family that encompasses all nations and denominations. He loves the Yazidis as much as he loves the Germans or Americans. God is inviting all nations into his family through his Son, Jesus Christ.

*Who are we?* We are deeply loved by God and called to be his spiritual sons

and daughters with an inheritance that is eternal. Our mission is to be disciples of Christ who make disciples of all nations. This is not just for professional missionaries! This is the identity and purpose of every Christ follower in all ages and cultures. Through Christ, our heavenly Father invites us home. Once we have found our home in him, we are called to invite others to also find their home in God and in his family.

This compelling reality of the new family of God and our place in it must be stronger than our national and

denominational identities. In a time when many other voices are vying for our loyalty and attempting to define reality for us, we must remind ourselves of who we are and *whose* we are!

Today we are hearing stories from around the world that describe the one mission that God is calling each of us to embrace. Living on mission locally (loving our neighbor), nationally (reaching our communities and cities with the Gospel) and globally (supporting church planting among the least reached around the world) is the privilege of every Christ follower. As a Mennonite Brethren global family, we have the opportunity to live this message together with humility, courage and generosity!

**Randy Friesen**  
General Director

*one mission.*  
local national global

# British Columbia

The TREK-BC program just welcomed back 17 participants from their seven-month assignments in Thailand and the Philippines. All 17 were equipped to be lifelong disciple-makers.

Many of our TREK alumni have heard a call to long-term global service, including Tony and Sarah Brown (Abbotsford/Williams Lake) who are getting closer and closer to being deployed to Panama as part of their first-term apprenticeship with the FOCUS program. Call our office if you would like to hear

more about their assignment in Panama and about how your church could get involved in supporting them.

Our Oasis team is working hard to get the new Refugee and Immigrant Welcome Centre up and running in Surrey, B.C. Opportunities abound to serve this unique community of people with the love of Jesus and the hope of the gospel.

After a hugely successful first AWAKE weekend in B.C. in November 2015, with Yarrow MB hosting and eight other churches participating, we have planned two more of these weekend of mission and renewal, including one in August in Prince George (Westwood Church) and another in September in Abbotsford (Ross Road Community Church). Consider coming to Westwood or Ross Road or hosting an AWAKE weekend in your area. Call our office for details or visit [mbmission.org/AWAKE](http://mbmission.org/AWAKE).



# Central Canada

As apprentices in our FOCUS program, Jeremy and Adrienne Penner (Steinbach, Man.) are preparing to serve long-term in Thailand, where they will work among Burmese people. Call our office in Winnipeg if you would like to hear more about how your church could partner with them in serving the least reached in Southeast Asia.

Not sure what a global partnership looks like for your church? Consider taking part in the new "Partnership Postures Workshop." Lloyd Letkeman, Mission Mobilizer in Central Canada, has now hosted three of these workshops in the Winnipeg area and is planning more for the future. Call your local MB Mission office for locations, dates and more information.

Lots more going on in Central Canada! Other exciting developments include:

- 1) an increased focus on intercession for the nations and the opening of a Prayer Furnace in Winnipeg,
- 2) TREK teams having awesome experiences serving others on assignment in Panama, Central Asia and Japan,
- 3) SOAR participants in Saskatchewan and Winnipeg conquering fear and working toward friendship and reconciliation with local First Nations people,
- 4) the AWAKE weekend coming to Southern Alberta, bringing together churches from Lethbridge and Coaldale,
- 5) helping to start a centre in Winnipeg for third-culture care,

resourcing those who are returning from overseas. For more information about any of these developments, feel free to contact our office in Winnipeg.

[mbmission.org/GO](http://mbmission.org/GO).





In the summer of 2017, ACTION Basketball is back! If you know a young man or woman who loves Jesus and basketball and is over 17 years old, consider sending them to Thailand next summer.

## United States

Joanna Chapa (Texas) and Katie Mount (Kansas) were recently deployed to Peru and Thailand, respectively, as a part of their FOCUS Apprenticeship, which is the first term (three years) of their new role as long-term global workers. Both Joanna and Katie entered the apprenticeship program after several years of involvement in short-term mission programs like SOAR, ACTION and TREK.

In 2015, 73 young adults from the U.S. were involved in cross-cultural service overseas with MB Mission's short-term mission programs, ACTION and TREK. This year, 24 young adults are enrolled in the ACTION-USA. After one week of training in Kansas, teams will be serving in Thailand, Portugal, Central Asia, Peru and Germany.

For more information, check out [mbmission.org/ACTION](http://mbmission.org/ACTION).



Watch an inspiring video about a young leader from Kansas whose life was transformed during last year's ACTION Basketball in Thailand. See [mbmission.org/video/the-bigger-deal](http://mbmission.org/video/the-bigger-deal).



## Eastern Canada

Joanna Pharazyn (Woodstock, Ont.) is preparing for long-term service in Portugal through the FOCUS apprenticeship program. Call our office in Kitchener if you would like to hear more about how she will be involved in our long-term church-planting work in Portugal and how your church could get involved in supporting her.

Four different denominations took part recently in the second AWAKE weekend in Niagara, but the city of Niagara's ministerial, made up of at least 12 denominations, is considering making AWAKE a city-wide initiative! Look for an upcoming announcement about the first AWAKE weekend in Atlantic Canada! Stay in touch at [mbmission.org/AWAKE](http://mbmission.org/AWAKE)

ACTION-Ontario recently happened with its second largest participation ever, with 21 young adults going on five different international assignments! As well, SOAR-Montreal is back this July in partnership with the Christian Missionary Alliance. Please pray for the people of Montreal this summer during July 8–18.

Finally, our staff in Kitchener, Ont., are involved in coordinating a unique program for young people in Central Asia. This special event in August will bring together Muslim and Christian youth for a one-week peace camp in the midst of the refugee crisis. Please pray for each of the participants – that the hope of the gospel will be proclaimed and young lives will be transformed.



# 2017

## BUDGET COMMENTARY

### PROCESS

The planning and development of the 2017 CCMBC budget has been revised to incorporate the impact of the CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. operating as a wholly owned entity of CCMBC for the 2017 calendar year. Two separate budgets have been prepared and reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Executive Board. We have also reviewed the processes and assumptions that are recorded below. As in prior years, we used historical information and trends, our leaders' input regarding the ministry opportunities we wish to pursue, and the guiding principles and assumption identified below.

The CCMBC ministry budget has been developed to fulfill the vision in the strategic plan and is based upon the ministry model framework and strategic priorities set by the board. The senior leadership team worked together to develop a budget that reflected the CCMBC mission expressed through each ministry area. As in prior years, we reviewed the historical ministry plans and related costs. In addition, the ministry leaders have looked at what new ministry opportunities CCMBC should undertake and what existing ministries should be expanded, maintained, reduced or eliminated. The funding of these ministries is derived from four sources: church donations in cash, cash provided by Legacy, non-cash services provided by Legacy, and designated funds/revenue raised by ministries.

We designed Legacy's operational strategy to include the direct costs of Resourcing Ministry. Legacy will continue to provide support to churches and Legacy will also support CCMBC's infrastructure in the areas of finance, communications, information technology, and property management. Legacy's tasks in support of CCMBC's infrastructure are listed as non-cash services, since the work is done within Legacy, but the costs must be shown in CCMBC's ministry budget.

### ASSUMPTIONS

1. Church donations to CCMBC have been reduced to \$1,400,000. In the past, the budget for church donations has been set at \$1,575,000, an amount that has not been attained. In 2015, donations were \$1,322,619.
2. Interest income included in the Legacy budget is based on the level of funds invested and at rates that have been projected by historic trends with the funds and discussions with our fund advisor. Considerations and assumptions have been made to determine the sensitivity resulting from changes in the deposit fund balances during the transition to Legacy.
3. Sales and other revenues have been determined by the various departments in respect to their ability to recover costs for services.

The budget of Legacy is based on historical stewardship information as well as the incremental costs and any savings that result from having the Resourcing Ministry and CCMBC infrastructure activities managed within Legacy. It is our mandate to be good stewards of all of the resources provided to us. As in the past, we will continue to look at processes that will allow us to be more efficient, and at the same time, provide a high level of service to all of the constituents of CCMBC.

As noted, the budgets for CCMBC and Legacy have been reviewed by members of the senior leadership team, the Finance Committee and the Executive Board. The Executive Board has determined that the maximum amount of cash funding Legacy will provide to CCMBC in 2017 is \$1,250,000.

### BUDGET COMMENTARY

The following commentary summarizes the strategic changes and assumptions from 2016 assumptions.

### STRATEGIC CHANGES

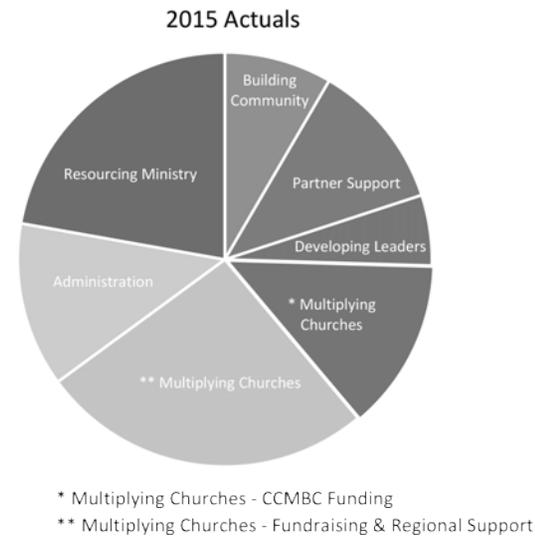
The following strategic changes have been incorporated into this budget:

1. The funding model for CCMBC has been revised to incorporate a pro ration approach to how each of the ministries are funded from the cash provided by church donations and Legacy. The current targets have been reviewed and approved by the Executive Board (Building Community 28%; Multiplying Churches 36%; Developing Leaders 36%).
2. The partner support costs for MBBS and ETEQ are included in the Developing Leaders ministry.
3. The 2017 budget includes cash provided by Legacy in the amount of \$1,250,000 and the provision for services provided by Legacy in the amount of \$2,300,000.
4. The Legacy budget includes one-time expenditures that we expect to incur during the transition phase to Legacy. These include consulting fees and costs for contractors to assist our depositors as we transition the deposit funds from CCMBC to Legacy.

Jim Davidson  
Chief Financial Officer

**Canadian Conference of MB Churches - 2015 Actual Budget Comparison by Ministry Area**

|  | 2015<br>Actual    | 2015<br>Budget    |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Funding</b>                             |                   |                   |
| Church Support                             | 1,322,619         | 1,575,000         |
| Donations/Grants/Flow Thru                 | 5,344,115         | 3,270,369         |
| Deposit Fund Interest                      | 9,460,391         | 11,367,580        |
| Other Revenue/Reserves                     | 3,978,417         | 782,548           |
| Operating Reserves                         | 507,492           | 1,248,595         |
|  | <u>20,613,034</u> | <u>18,244,092</u> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                            |                   |                   |
| Partner Support                            | 1,250,382         | 708,000           |
| Building Community (BFL,Exec,Prov.Conf.)   | 909,551           | 702,805           |
| Multiplying Churches (C2C)                 | 4,268,790         | 4,794,072         |
| Developing Leaders (L2L) (see table)       | 595,016           | 735,420           |
| Administration (Operations,HR,IT,Comm.)    | 1,390,341         | 2,376,815         |
| Resourcing Ministry (Financial Ministries) | 2,401,311         | 1,380,180         |
| Finance Interest Costs                     | 9,925,321         | 7,546,800         |
|  | <u>20,740,712</u> | <u>18,244,092</u> |
| Transfer to Reserve for Investment         | 181,315           |                   |
| <b>Excess of Revenue over Expenses</b>     | <u>53,637</u>     | <u>-</u>          |



**Church Planting Actual Expenditures 2012-2015 and 2016 & 2017 Budget Expenditures**

| YEAR               | BC        | AB      | SK      | MB      | ON      | QC      | ATL     | NATIONAL  | TOTAL            |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------------------|
| <b>2012</b>        | 1,490,383 | 34,280  | 131,512 | 245,662 | 211,630 | 135,975 | 2,078   | 1,330,624 | <b>3,582,144</b> |
| <b>2013</b>        | 1,661,708 | 276,000 | 257,500 | 248,000 | 515,000 | 364,650 | 100,000 | 1,083,000 | <b>4,505,858</b> |
| <b>2014</b>        | 1,255,690 | 334,476 | 228,849 | 299,491 | 614,666 | 340,908 | 130,348 | 1,110,416 | <b>4,314,844</b> |
| <b>2015</b>        | 1,041,650 | 324,662 | 147,559 | 286,615 | 439,065 | 388,884 | 231,772 | 1,408,583 | <b>4,268,790</b> |
| <b>Budget 2016</b> | 1,186,000 | 370,500 | 311,000 | 399,000 | 483,600 | 372,500 | 258,000 | 1,134,900 | <b>4,515,500</b> |
| <b>Budget 2017</b> | 1,177,930 | 340,294 | 305,090 | 470,114 | 386,004 | 461,940 | 249,660 | 1,117,984 | <b>4,509,016</b> |

**Proposed 2017 Budget for the MB Churches of Canada**

|   | 2014<br>Budget<br>Allocation | 2015<br>Budget<br>Allocation | 2016<br>Budget<br>Allocation | 2017<br>Budget<br>Proposed |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Funding</b>                            |                              |                              |                              |                            |
| Church Support in cash                    | 1,575,000                    | 1,575,000                    | 1,575,000                    | 1,400,000                  |
| Legacy Support in cash                    |                              |                              | 1,480,431                    | 1,250,000                  |
| Legacy Support in non-cash services       |                              |                              | 2,678,307                    | 2,300,000                  |
| Designated Donations / Ministry Revenue   |                              |                              | 3,791,595                    | 3,676,016                  |
|   |                              |                              | 9,525,333                    | 8,626,016                  |
| <b>Expenses</b>                           |                              |                              |                              |                            |
| Building Community                        | 918,275                      | 878,541                      | 928,031                      | 750,000                    |
| Multiplying Churches                      | 1,700,000                    | 1,450,000                    | 1,250,000                    | 940,000                    |
| Developing Leaders                        | 1,092,880                    | 984,420                      | 877,400                      | 960,000                    |
| Resourcing Ministry supported by Legacy   |                              |                              | 398,581                      | 400,000                    |
| CCMBC Administration supported by Legacy  |                              |                              | 1,847,185                    | 1,900,000                  |
| Legacy Administration (will move in 2017) |                              |                              | 432,541                      | -                          |
| Designated Donations / Ministry Revenue   |                              |                              | 3,791,595                    | 3,676,016                  |
|   |                              |                              | 9,525,333                    | 8,626,016                  |
| Balance                                   |                              |                              | -                            | -                          |

**Funding Definitions:**

**Church Support in Cash:** Cash donations received from churches to support the ministry in Canada.  
**Legacy Support in Cash:** Cash received/donated from the Legacy Fund Inc. to support the ministry in Canada.  
**Legacy Support in non-cash services:** This is the value of the services offered by Legacy on the behalf of CCMBC ministries. This is not cash, but items such as use of facilities, accounting services, computing systems, etc. which must be acknowledged by CCMBC as gifts received.  
**Designated Donations/Ministry Revenue:** Donations and other revenue that are received by CCMBC that has been designated and must be used for a specific purpose. For example, donations given to a C2C church plant or registration fees paid for Gathering are designated. The funds must be used for a specific ministry.

**Expense Definitions:**

**Resourcing Ministry supported by Legacy:** This is cost for the ministry work done for churches in mortgages, payroll, etc. by staff shared within Legacy and the expenses will be attributed back to CCMBC as non-cash services.  
**CCMBC Administration supported by Legacy:** This is the administration cost associated with CCMBC ministries for use of items such as use of facilities, accounting services, computing systems, etc. that are within Legacy. These costs are attributed back to CCMBC as non-cash services.  
**Legacy Administrations (will move in 2017):** This is the 2016 administration cost associated with the stewardship ministry that will move over to Legacy in 2017.

Note: The total of these expenses matches the Legacy Support in non-cash services.

| Partner Support Table:                |         |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                                       | 2016    | 2017    |
| <b>Developing Leaders Partners:</b>   |         |         |
| MBBS                                  | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| ETEQ                                  | 120,000 | 120,000 |
| ETEM rent subsidy                     | 96,000  | 96,000  |
| <b>Building Community Partners:</b>   |         |         |
| ICOMB                                 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| MWC                                   | 20,000  | 20,000  |
| EFC                                   | 8,000   | 8,000   |
| Historical Commission                 | 22,000  | 22,000  |
| Provincial Conferences                | 136,000 | 72,000  |
| Direction                             | 1,000   | 1,000   |
| <b>Multiplying Churches Partners:</b> |         |         |
| Provincial C2C Support                | 945,000 | 940,000 |

**Funding by Type**



**Ministry Expenses**



**Canadian Conference of MB Churches**

Summarized Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

|                                | at Dec 2015          | at Dec 2014          |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                  |                      |                      |
| Current assets                 | \$18,369,537         | \$9,631,478          |
| Mortgages and loans receivable | \$83,973,671         | \$81,346,675         |
| Land held for development      | \$12,859,708         | \$16,851,865         |
| Investments                    | \$152,738,725        | \$161,725,384        |
| Capital assets                 | 8,001,101            | 9,263,486            |
|                                | <u>\$275,942,742</u> | <u>\$278,818,888</u> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>             |                      |                      |
| Current liabilities            | \$2,679,001          | \$2,872,442          |
| Deposit liabilities (1)        | \$268,097,751        | \$267,991,168        |
| Deferred contributions (2)     | \$1,984,921          | \$739,276            |
|                                | <u>272,761,673</u>   | <u>271,602,886</u>   |
| <b>Net assets:</b>             |                      |                      |
| Internally restricted (3)      | 1,591,405            | 5,680,553            |
| Restricted for endowments      | 1,360,920            | 1,360,342            |
| Unrestricted                   | 228,744              | 175,107              |
|                                | <u>3,181,069</u>     | <u>7,216,002</u>     |
|                                | <u>\$275,942,742</u> | <u>\$278,818,888</u> |

|                                | at Dec 2015          | at Dec 2014          |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>(1) Deposit Liabilities</b> |                      |                      |
| Trust deposits                 | \$189,085,582        | \$190,250,330        |
| RRSP accounts                  | 54,277,389           | 57,191,865           |
| TFSA accounts                  | 24,734,780           | 20,548,973           |
|                                | <u>\$268,097,751</u> | <u>\$267,991,168</u> |

|                                   | at Dec 2015        | at Dec 2014      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>(2) Deferred contributions</b> |                    |                  |
| Emerging leaders                  | \$110,828          | \$157,200        |
| Centre for MB Studies             | 10,894             | 12,727           |
| C2C Network                       | 1,010,518          | -                |
| Church plants fund                | 563,587            | 171,916          |
| Other externally restricted       | 289,094            | 397,433          |
|                                   | <u>\$1,984,921</u> | <u>\$739,276</u> |

Summarized Consolidated Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

|  | January to December 2015 | January to December 2014 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>   |                          |                          |
| Church support   | \$1,322,619              | \$1,211,026              |
| Donations/Grants   | \$5,344,115              | \$2,609,100              |
| Sales  | 1,192,576                | 1,095,492                |
| Interest earned  | 9,432,015                | 9,935,153                |
| Gain on disposal of land and capital assets                      | 283,813                  | 6,387,019                |
| Gains on disposal of investments                                 | 2,684,131                | 145,664                  |
| Gain on contribution of capital asset                            | 0                        | 118,000                  |
| Other revenue  | 415,985                  | 474,916                  |
| Adj. for unrealized gains (losses) on investments                | (1,914,258)              | 546,474                  |
|  | <u>18,760,996</u>        | <u>22,522,844</u>        |
| <b>Expenses</b>  |                          |                          |
| Cost of sales  | 381,047                  | 414,477                  |
| Staffing   | 4,736,326                | 4,576,558                |
| Specific programming costs                                       | 4,669,495                | 2,823,061                |
| Support of outside agencies                                      | 1,369,068                | 1,573,742                |
| Facilities and office expenses                                   | 1,978,376                | 1,916,070                |
| Board costs and convention                                       | 193,884                  | 438,662                  |
| Public relation constns  | 94,832                   | 137,396                  |
| Interest cost  | 6,674,909                | 7,264,876                |
| Impairment of land held for development                          | 2,251,848                | 185,365                  |
| Allowance for credit losses                                      | 369,622                  | 3,335,447                |
|  | <u>22,719,407</u>        | <u>22,665,654</u>        |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures                 | (3,958,411)              | (142,810)                |
| Transfer from (to) net assets                                    | 4,012,048                | 147,328                  |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures after transfers | <u>\$53,637</u>          | <u>\$4,518</u>           |

|   | at Dec 2015        | at Dec 2014        |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>(3) Internally restricted net assets</b> |                    |                    |
| Reserve for investment                      | \$1,222,819        | \$4,551,500        |
| Operating reserve                           | 29,135             | 536,627            |
| Stabilization reserve                       | -                  | -                  |
| Tithe reserve                               | -                  | 77,100             |
| Transition reserve                          | -                  | -                  |
| Contingency                                 | 34,000             | 34,000             |
| Evangelism Capital                          | 219,982            | 386,982            |
| Atlantic Church Planting                    | 12,704             | 12,704             |
| Departmental reserves                       | 72,765             | 81,640             |
|   | <u>\$1,591,405</u> | <u>\$5,680,553</u> |

**Proposed 2017 Budget for the MB Churches of Canada**

|   | 2014<br>Budget<br>Allocation | 2015<br>Budget<br>Allocation | 2016<br>Budget<br>Allocation | 2017<br>Budget<br>Proposed |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Funding</b>                            |                              |                              |                              |                            |
| Church Support in cash                    | 1,575,000                    | 1,575,000                    | 1,575,000                    | 1,400,000                  |
| Legacy Support in cash                    |                              |                              | 1,480,431                    | 1,250,000                  |
| Legacy Support in non-cash services       |                              |                              | 2,678,307                    | 2,300,000                  |
| Designated Donations / Ministry Revenue   |                              |                              | 3,791,595                    | 3,676,016                  |
|   |                              |                              | 9,525,333                    | 8,626,016                  |
| <b>Expenses</b>                           |                              |                              |                              |                            |
| Building Community                        | 918,275                      | 878,541                      | 928,031                      | 750,000                    |
| Multiplying Churches                      | 1,700,000                    | 1,450,000                    | 1,250,000                    | 940,000                    |
| Developing Leaders                        | 1,092,880                    | 984,420                      | 877,400                      | 960,000                    |
| Resourcing Ministry supported by Legacy   |                              |                              | 398,581                      | 400,000                    |
| CCMBC Administration supported by Legacy  |                              |                              | 1,847,185                    | 1,900,000                  |
| Legacy Administration (will move in 2017) |                              |                              | 432,541                      | -                          |
| Designated Donations / Ministry Revenue   |                              |                              | 3,791,595                    | 3,676,016                  |
|   |                              |                              | 9,525,333                    | 8,626,016                  |
| Balance                                   |                              |                              | -                            | -                          |

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**Church Support in Cash:** Cash donations received from churches to support the ministry in Canada.

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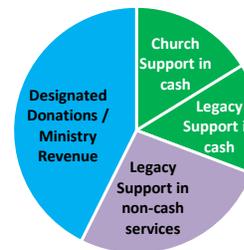
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Note: The total of these expenses matches the **Legacy Support in non-cash services**.

| Partner Support Table:                |         |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                                       | 2016    | 2017    |
| <b>Developing Leaders Partners:</b>   |         |         |
| MBBS                                  | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| ETEQ                                  | 120,000 | 120,000 |
| EEM rent subsidy                      | 96,000  | 96,000  |
| <b>Building Community Partners:</b>   |         |         |
| ICOMB                                 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| MWC                                   | 20,000  | 20,000  |
| EFC                                   | 8,000   | 8,000   |
| Historical Commission                 | 22,000  | 22,000  |
| Provincial Conferences                | 136,000 | 72,000  |
| Direction                             | 1,000   | 1,000   |
| <b>Multiplying Churches Partners:</b> |         |         |
| Provincial C2C Support                | 945,000 | 940,000 |

Funding by Type



Ministry Expenses



***Church Planting Actual Expenditures 2012-2015 and 2016 & 2017 Budget Expenditures***

| <b>YEAR</b>        | <b>BC</b>        | <b>AB</b>      | <b>SK</b>      | <b>MB</b>      | <b>ON</b>      | <b>QC</b>      | <b>ATL</b>     | <b>NATIONAL</b>  | <b>TOTAL</b>     |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>2010</b>        | <b>1,385,431</b> | <b>4,635</b>   | <b>94,104</b>  | <b>233,880</b> | <b>378,092</b> | <b>113,294</b> | <b>45,935</b>  | <b>684,325</b>   | <b>2,939,696</b> |
|                    |                  |                |                |                |                |                |                |                  |                  |
| <b>2011</b>        | <b>1,733,626</b> | <b>3,499</b>   | <b>119,915</b> | <b>238,978</b> | <b>309,637</b> | <b>136,294</b> | <b>31,087</b>  | <b>805,798</b>   | <b>3,378,834</b> |
|                    |                  |                |                |                |                |                |                |                  |                  |
| <b>2012</b>        | <b>1,490,383</b> | <b>34,280</b>  | <b>131,512</b> | <b>245,662</b> | <b>211,630</b> | <b>135,975</b> | <b>2,078</b>   | <b>1,330,624</b> | <b>3,582,144</b> |
|                    |                  |                |                |                |                |                |                |                  |                  |
| <b>2013</b>        | <b>1,661,708</b> | <b>276,000</b> | <b>257,500</b> | <b>248,000</b> | <b>515,000</b> | <b>364,650</b> | <b>100,000</b> | <b>1,083,000</b> | <b>4,505,858</b> |
|                    |                  |                |                |                |                |                |                |                  |                  |
| <b>2014</b>        | <b>1,255,690</b> | <b>334,476</b> | <b>228,849</b> | <b>299,491</b> | <b>614,666</b> | <b>340,908</b> | <b>130,348</b> | <b>1,110,416</b> | <b>4,314,844</b> |
|                    |                  |                |                |                |                |                |                |                  |                  |
| <b>2015</b>        | <b>1,041,650</b> | <b>324,662</b> | <b>147,559</b> | <b>286,615</b> | <b>439,065</b> | <b>388,884</b> | <b>231,772</b> | <b>1,408,583</b> | <b>4,268,790</b> |
|                    |                  |                |                |                |                |                |                |                  |                  |
| <b>Budget 2016</b> | <b>1,186,000</b> | <b>370,500</b> | <b>311,000</b> | <b>399,000</b> | <b>483,600</b> | <b>372,500</b> | <b>258,000</b> | <b>1,134,900</b> | <b>4,515,500</b> |
|                    |                  |                |                |                |                |                |                |                  |                  |
| <b>Budget 2017</b> | <b>1,177,930</b> | <b>340,294</b> | <b>305,090</b> | <b>470,114</b> | <b>386,004</b> | <b>461,940</b> | <b>249,660</b> | <b>1,117,984</b> | <b>4,509,016</b> |

# Financial Services

## Report

The CCMBC mission is “to multiply Christ-centred churches to see Canada transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ.” Each ministry works in partnership with our provincial Mennonite Brethren conferences. Resourcing Ministry is responsible for offering financial and administrative services, resources and tools to churches and organizations to help them achieve their mission. By offering the economies of scale achieved as a national organization, smaller churches, in particular, benefit from resources not otherwise available. The mark of our success is when *“Mennonite Brethren churches and partner ministries have access to services and resources in order to help them to achieve their mission.”*

### Organization

Our finance team in Winnipeg and Abbotsford continue to work on enhancing our policies on governance, risk evaluation, compliance and overall stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. Part of this process is to create more transparency to the constituents through communications, meetings at provincial conferences and generally making ourselves available to discuss the concerns that have been raised. These enhancements are ongoing and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

### Transition Update

The transition of the British Columbia C2C and Alberta MB conference financial operations to CCMBC is now complete. Our staff continue to grow in efficiency, allowing us to support these operations and

expand our services to new non-registered church plants and other segments of the Canadian conference that request our support.

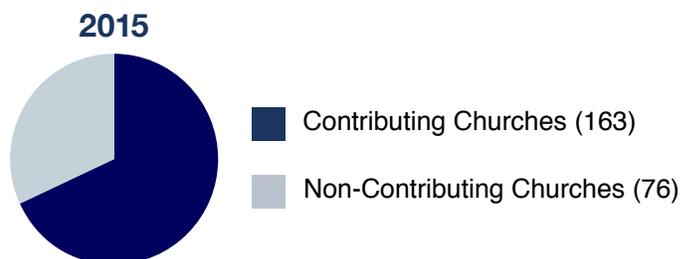
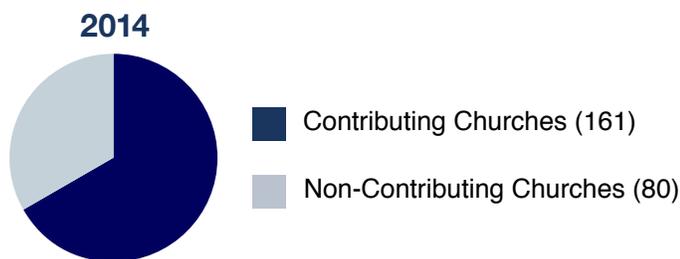
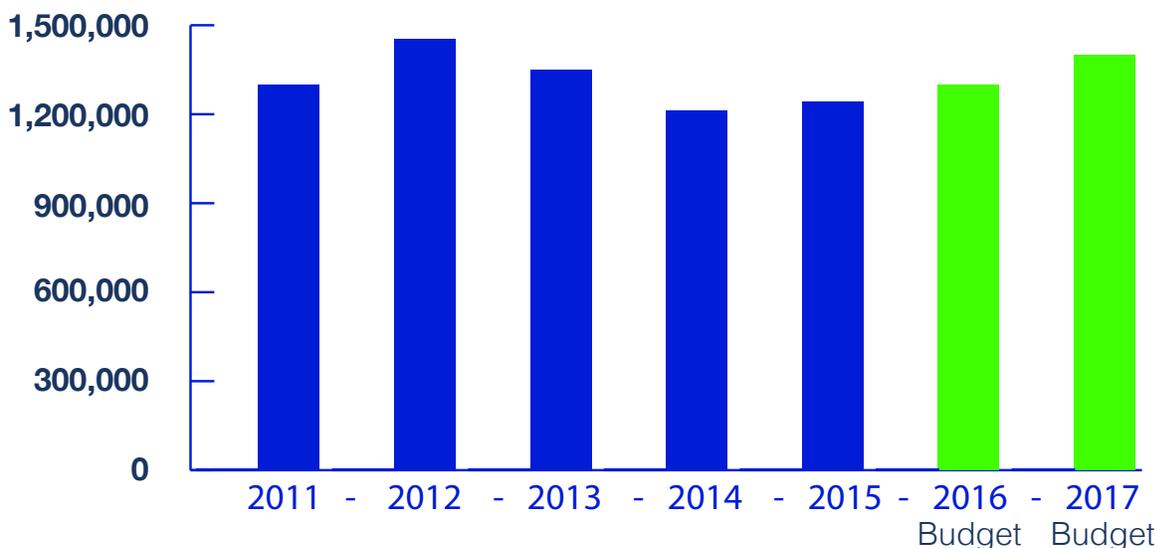
### Stewardship Update

Our deposit funds have remained stable with a slight increase over the prior year, and the split between the registered and non-registered funds remained constant. During 2015, two new bond funds were added to our investment portfolio and a lower performing mortgage fund was discontinued. The return on our investment funds has been lower than in the prior years, but they are still performing competitively compared to other investment opportunities with a similar risk profile. We have held meeting on a regular basis with our financial advisor and the investment fund managers. We work with these funds to ensure their investment practices are consistent with our investment objectives and our social responsibility vision.

The CCMBC mortgage ministry continues to grow. Regarding the approval and management of mortgages granted to churches, pastors and related organizations, we have been working hard to ensure CCMBC lending policies and processes reflect care and financial prudence. We have reviewed our mortgage portfolio to ensure that we are meeting the valuation guidelines we will be following when the mortgages are transferred to CCMBC Legacy Inc. As a result, we have established allowances for credit losses and increased our efforts to help accounts manage their debt, following sound financial principles.



### Church Giving



We continue to manage CCMBC land that is being held for investment. The CCMBC finance team has created good property management policies, which have led to increased efforts to liquidate these investments, resulting in both capital gains and some capital losses. We will continue our divestiture program with the objective to maximize the value to the conference.

The pension fund is reviewed quarterly to ensure that we are doing all we can to maximize the return for pension plan participants. These reviews have indicated that we are very competitive within our peer group pension funds.

**CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc.**  
We are continuing to develop the detailed work plan to have all of the legal and statutory requirements completed by the end of the third quarter of 2016. We have completed the bylaws and the application to CRA for charitable status. We have

received the prospectus template and will have the work plan and responsibilities set by the end of June. It is our objective to have the prospectus completed and submitted for approval by mid-October 2016.

We have completed an operational budget for CCMBC Legacy Inc. for 2017 and identified the cash that will be available for ministry as well as the valuation of the non-cash services that Legacy will provide. In addition, we are developing the transition work plan that will be required to finalize the separation of Legacy from CCMBC.

**2017 Budget Process**  
We have developed the inaugural budget process to take into account the first full year of operations of CCMBC Legacy Inc. The detailed operating budget for Legacy takes into account all of the costs and revenues of providing services and support to

CCMBC. The plan for 2017 is that Legacy will contribute \$1,250,000 to CCMBC in cash and \$2,300,000 in non-cash value of services and infrastructure support. The remaining surplus, in the amount of \$270,000, will be added to the Investment reserve

**Outlook**  
In January 2016, the Executive Board was advised that our projections for Church Contribution and Investment Income may not be achievable. Management committed to adjusting the 2016 budget to mitigate the identified shortfalls. This was reviewed and accepted by the Executive Board in May 2016. These cost savings were across the organization in ministry, administration and stewardship. An updated 2016 pro Forma outlook will be presented at the Gathering 2016 breakout sessions.

**Jim Davidson**  
Interim Chief Financial Officer

# Audit & Finance Committee

## Reports

Any financial report to our constituency needs to be grounded in the financial story that started at Gathering 2012, when the direction of our ministry was shaped. This refined direction of ministry began to shape the strategy to accomplish the mission. As an Audit and Finance Committee, our goal was to ensure financial oversight to our ministry teams as they resource ministry on the ground through our provincial conferences and churches.

Arising from Gathering 2012, three themes or promises have impacted the Audit and Finance Committee's activities, including our work with the auditors and the audit report:

- compliance with regulatory requirements,
- definition and assessment of risk in the organization and
- transparency in operations and financial affairs.

### Audit Committee Report

CCMBC has engaged KPMG to audit the financial affairs of the organization. This audit ensures compliance with the requirements for charitable organizations in Canada. It also assesses the internal controls in terms of KPMG responsibility for auditing and reporting of our financial statements. In addition, with the decision to move our Stewardship Fund to the Legacy Fund, we will be held to additional and more rigorous standards in our organization and financial affairs. Rather than delaying these changes until Legacy's initiation, we have chosen to apply this rigour to our financial statements now. KPMG has reviewed our financial affairs using the more rigorous framework.

Audits also look for and address risks related to the financial affairs of the organization. KPMG has articulated some of our specific risks in the audit notes.

Highlights for 2015:

- CCMBC departments and staff have hit the budgetary targets the AGM created and the recast budget the Executive Board articulated (net of approximately \$40,000 operational deficit).
  - This was done by management's aggressive control of expenses and
  - Specific, general and departmental fundraising initiatives. (For further details, please see note 16.)
- Impacts of the audit framework:
  - Annual review of mortgages to churches and individuals with a view of any repayment risk. (Outcome in 2015 is an increase in the Allowance of Impaired Mortgages of \$369,000.) Although management identified these throughout the year, the auditors finalized it in April (note 4).
  - Annual review of the current values of the land investments and the book values at which the land investments are held. (Outcome in 2015 is a decrease in value of land held of \$2,250,000.) The auditors requested valuation appraisals as part of the audit. Management and the audit committee discussed these appraisals in April/May (note 6). In addition, there was a loss in our sales of land against the values at which they were held in our financial statements of \$1,900,000.
  - Adjustments for unrealized gains (losses) and gains on capital





investments have to do with realigning of the Stewardship/ Legacy Investments in terms of risk assessment and diversification of our investments. (Outcome of both aspects of realignment is \$760,000 increase.)

The net effect of the various elements is a loss of \$3,950,000, which was offset by using the reserves to manage the shortfall.

### **Pension Plan**

The pension plan continues to be healthy, increasing in value in 2015 by \$4,330,000 as a result of contributions by members and churches. In addition, the investments (realized and unrealized) returned \$4,900,000. The incurred costs of \$115,000 were paid by monies from within the pension plan. These costs are only a portion of the costs for administrating the details of the plan. These additional administrative costs fall under the Finance budget and therefore are supported by Legacy earnings. We have reported these within the operating costs of CCMBC.

## **Finance Committee Report**

### **Financial Results**

The audit committee report and Jim Davidson's report provide all the

detail of our financial performance for the year ending Dec. 31, 2015. Our summary is that the loss incurred is very disappointing and has not allowed us to replenish our reserves as we had planned. The significant shortfall is due to our choosing to implement a more rigorous accounting of our mortgages and land held for development. Going forward, our staff is committed to managing a budget that minimizes the risk of further shortfalls and that returns earnings back to reserves. The challenge is to manage this with minimal impact on ministry – a difficult but doable task.

### **Pension Plan**

Our pension plan has approximately 1,000 employees enrolled, and the funds are managed by RBC Dominion Securities. Our fund manager, who led us through an annual review of our investment policy, is responsible for ensuring we are compliant. At the end of 2015, the plan had net assets available for benefits of \$75,086,148; it continues to do well. Our pension plan is positioned for continued success as we fulfill our responsibility to be good employers.

### **Investments**

The existing Stewardship Fund has continued to provide funds for church and pastor mortgages. The funds are received from depositors

and held in mortgages and investments. This area has received significant attention from our CFO and the Finance Committee as we transition to CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. The change will ensure long-term compliance, improved governance and transparency. The transition of the deposits is expected in early 2017.

### **Properties**

We had committed in 2014 to dispose of the land that was being held for development and not required for future church building sites. When we started the process, we identified 11 properties that should be sold. At the time of this report, we have sold six. The remaining properties are actively being marketed.

As an Audit and Finance Committee, we sincerely thank our financial staff and their teams. Jim, Bertha, Norbert and Willy have done an outstanding job, keeping all functions operating at the same time as managing through a transition. We also want to thank all of you in our constituency. You continue to support us by asking good questions, challenging our thinking and passing along encouragement.

**Howie Wall**, (Chair of Audit)  
**Harold Froese, Len Penner**  
 (Chair of Finance)  
 Audit and Finance Committee

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## Victor Neufeld:

serves as the lead pastor at North Kildonan MB Church in Winnipeg. NKMB's mission is to Meet God, Love God, Serve God. This church is a people on a journey toward God through the starting point Jesus Christ. Being on a journey implies movement and movement necessitates change. The body of believers at NKMB are dreaming of great things to come as they are faithful and obedient to the call of God in their lives. Victor and his wife Elaine live in Winnipeg.

## Janet Thiessen

is currently an associate pastor of leadership, teaching and team-building at North Langley Community Church in Langley, B.C. A graduate of ACTS Seminary in 2004, Janet is passionate about the mission of Jesus through the local church. She and her husband Rob are parents to four adult children and four grandchildren. Janet can often be found in her garden, reading a book or skiing with her family.

## Laurence East

is a Jesus-follower and community leader with a passionate heart. Laurence is the planter and lead pastor of Metro Community Church, Kelwona, B.C., which describes themselves as a group of people from all walks of life learning to live together. At the heart of Metro Community are those most vulnerable in society, the homeless, excluded and addicted. Metro is a place where the stranger is the treasured guest. Laurence and his wife Sarah have three amazing children.

## Chris Stevens

is a passionate follower of the person and ways of Jesus. He is currently lead pastor and teacher at Waterloo (Ontario) MB Church. Here his teaching ministry takes the form of sharing from his life experience in the business world, federal government, counseling experience, theological training, and deep love for Christ. Chris has a BA in commerce and psychology, a Bachelor of Religious Education in theology and some masters-level courses in finance. Chris and his wife Adrienne are the proud parents of two daughters.

## Phil Collins

is the senior pastor at Willow Park Church, Kelowna, B.C. He is a well-known national evangelist and church leader from United Kingdom. Phil loves preaching, prayer and meeting people. A long distance runner, he says his greatest achievement was a 42-mile mountain marathon. Phil is married to Michelle and they have four great kids.

# SCHEDULE

## WEDNESDAY, July 6

7:00 - 9:00 pm **Celebration Service** (open to the public)  
 Worship through song – Matt Unruh  
 “Compelled by Christ’s Sacrifice” – Victor Neufeld  
 Testimonies

## THURSDAY, July 7

8:30 - 10:00 am **Plenary & Business Session**  
 Worship through song – Matt Unruh  
 Service Area Reports – Building Community,  
 Multiplying Churches & Resourcing Ministry  
 “Compelled by the Call in Community”  
 – Janet Thiessen

10:00 - 10:30 am **Break**

10:30 - 12:00 pm **Plenary & Business Session cont’d**

12:30 - 1:30 pm **Lunch** (onsite)

2:00 - 9:00 pm **Experience Toronto**  
 Bus tours into Toronto for sightseeing, prayer walks,  
 church visits, supper (on own)

## FRIDAY, July 8

8:30 - 9:45 am **Plenary Session**  
 Worship through song – Matt Unruh  
 “Compelled by the Spirit to Obedience not Comfort”  
 – Laurence East

9:30 - 9:45 am **Break**

9:45 - 10:45 am **Ministry Equipping Breakouts**  
 Fishing with the Master – Mississauga Ballroom  
 C2C Ministry Report – Dundas Meeting Room  
 Board of Faith & Life Update – Vista Meeting Room

11:00 - 12:00 pm **Ministry Equipping Breakouts** (repeated)

12:00 - 1:00 pm **Lunch** (onsite)

1:00 - 2:30 pm **Business Session**  
 Developing Leaders  
 Business Reporting

2:45 - 3:45 pm **Recommendation Processing  
 Breakouts**  
 C2C & MB Mission – A “Big Idea” – Mississauga Ballroom  
 Finance Update – Dundas Meeting Room  
 Communication Plan – Vista Meeting Room

4:00 - 5:00 pm **Recommendation Processing  
 Breakouts** (repeated)

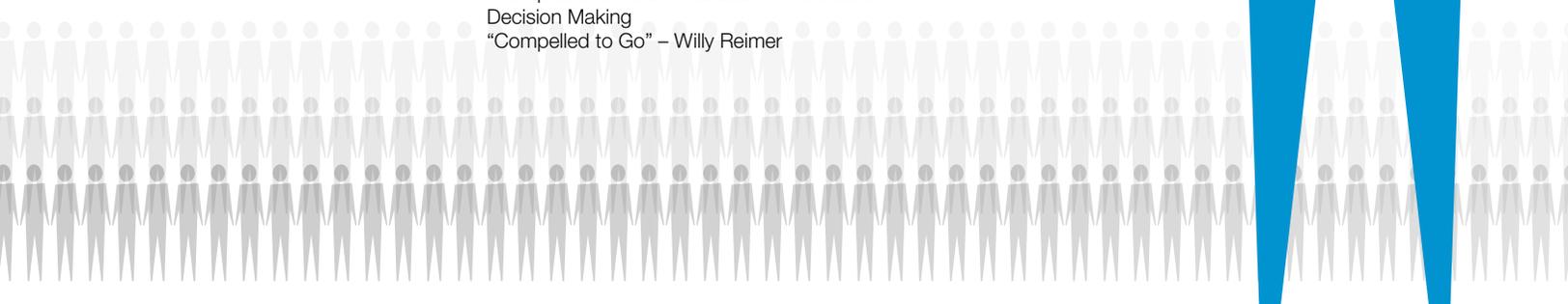
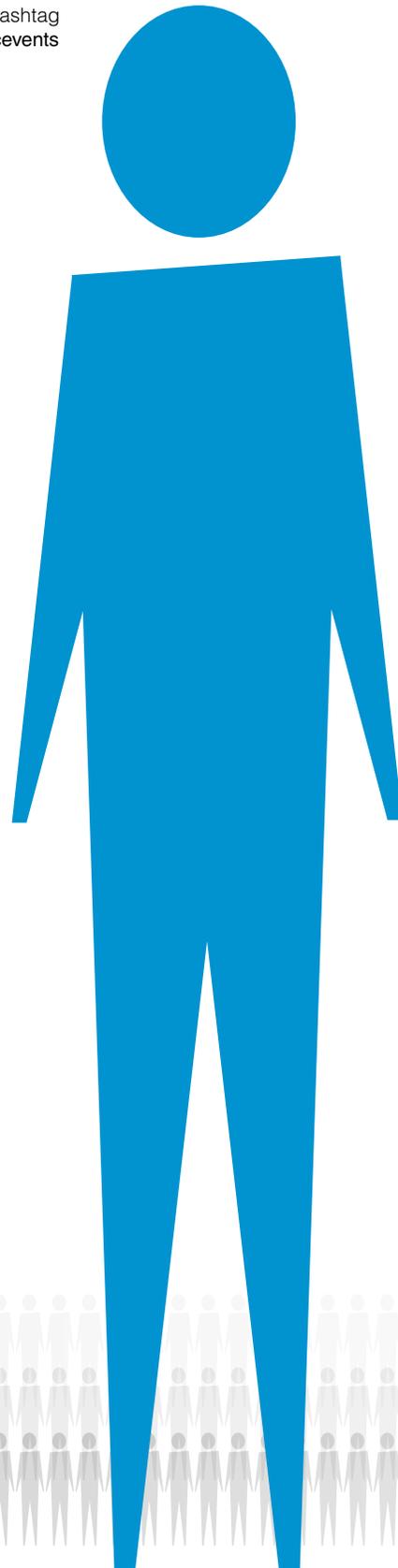
6:00 - 9:00 pm **Dinner & Celebration Service**  
 Worship through song – Matt Unruh  
 “Compelled by the Call to Make Disciples”  
 – Chris Stevens  
 Testimonies

## SATURDAY, July 9

8:00 - 12:00pm **Plenary Session**  
 Worship through song – Tom Loewen  
 “Compelled to Reach Canada” – Phil Collins  
 Decision Making  
 “Compelled to Go” – Willy Reimer

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Canadian Conference of  
Mennonite Brethren Churches

# COMING EVENTS



## National Events

### Multiply 2017

February 8-9, 2017

Westside Church, Vancouver BC

[multiplyconference.ca](http://multiplyconference.ca)

### Pastors Credentialing Orientation (PCO)

in Ontario

February 2017

in Winnipeg

June 2017

### Equip 2017

(formerly Study Conference)

Theme: Transforming Discipleship

Fall 2017

Lower Mainland, B.C.

## Provincial Events

### Ontario Conference of MB Churches' Convention 2017

February 24-25, 2017

### Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba Assembly 2017

March 3-4, 2017

### Saskatchewan Conference of MB Churches' Convention 2017

March 10-11, 2017

### Alberta Conference of MB Churches' Convention 2017

April 21-22, 2017

### B.C. Conference of MB Churches' Convention 2017

April 28-29, 2017

Consolidated Financial Statements of

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE  
MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF  
NORTH AMERICA**

Year ended December 31, 2015

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA**

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Year ended December 31, 2015

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015, the consolidated statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

*Opinion*

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America as at December 31, 2015 and its consolidated results of operations and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*Other Matters*

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the consolidated financial statements taken as a whole. The supplementary information included in Schedule - Church Ministry Division is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the consolidated financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the consolidated financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a horizontal line that starts under the 'K' and ends under the 'P'.

Chartered Professional Accountants

May 10, 2016

Winnipeg, Canada

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

### Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

|   | 2015           | 2014           |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Assets</b>   |                |                |
| Current assets:   |                |                |
| Cash (note 3)   | \$ 16,576,807  | \$ 7,943,121   |
| Accounts receivable                                       | 898,299        | 750,355        |
| Inventories   | 18,354         | 23,418         |
| Prepaid expenses  | 126,077        | 164,584        |
| Mortgages and loans receivable (notes 4 and 10)           | 750,000        | 750,000        |
|   | 18,369,537     | 9,631,478      |
| Mortgages and loans receivable (notes 4 and 10)           | 83,973,671     | 81,346,675     |
| Land held for development (note 6)                        | 12,859,708     | 16,851,865     |
| Investments (note 5)                                      | 152,738,725    | 161,725,384    |
| Capital assets (note 7)                                   | 8,001,101      | 9,263,486      |
|   | \$ 275,942,742 | \$ 278,818,888 |
| <b>Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Net Assets</b> |                |                |
| Current liabilities:                                      |                |                |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 9)         | \$ 2,679,001   | \$ 2,811,942   |
| Deferred revenue  | -              | 60,500         |
|   | 2,679,001      | 2,872,442      |
| Deposit liabilities:                                      |                |                |
| Trust deposits  | 189,085,582    | 190,250,330    |
| Registered Retirement Savings Plan accounts (note 10)     | 54,277,389     | 57,191,865     |
| Tax Free Savings Accounts (note 10)                       | 24,734,780     | 20,548,973     |
|   | 268,097,751    | 267,991,168    |
| Deferred contributions:                                   |                |                |
| Expenses of future periods (note 11)                      | 1,984,921      | 739,276        |
| Net assets:   |                |                |
| Internally restricted (note 12)                           | 1,591,405      | 5,680,553      |
| Restricted for endowments (note 12)                       | 1,360,920      | 1,360,342      |
| Unrestricted  | 228,744        | 175,107        |
|   | 3,181,069      | 7,216,002      |
| Commitments (note 13)                                     |                |                |
|   | \$ 275,942,742 | \$ 278,818,888 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

On behalf of the Governing Board:

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Consolidated Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

|  | 2015                  | 2014                |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Revenue:</b>  |                       |                     |
| Contributions  | \$ 6,666,734          | \$ 3,820,126        |
| Sales  | 1,192,576             | 1,095,492           |
| Interest earned  | 9,432,015             | 9,935,153           |
| Rental income  | 397,946               | 361,012             |
| Gain on disposal of land held for development<br>and capital assets (note 6) | 283,813               | 6,387,019           |
| Gains on disposal of investments   | 2,684,131             | 145,664             |
| Gain on contribution of capital asset  | -                     | 118,000             |
| Other revenue  | 18,039                | 113,904             |
| Adjustment for unrealized gains (losses) on investments                      | (1,914,258)           | 546,474             |
|  | 18,760,996            | 22,522,844          |
| <b>Expenditures:</b>   |                       |                     |
| Cost of sales  | 381,047               | 414,477             |
| Staffing   | 4,736,326             | 4,576,558           |
| Specific programming costs   | 4,669,495             | 2,823,061           |
| Support of outside agencies  | 1,369,068             | 1,573,742           |
| Office expenses  | 1,978,376             | 1,916,070           |
| Board costs and convention   | 193,884               | 438,662             |
| Public relation costs  | 94,832                | 137,396             |
| Interest   | 6,674,909             | 7,264,876           |
| Impairment of land held for development (note 6)                             | 2,251,848             | 185,365             |
| Allowance for credit losses (note 4)   | 369,622               | 3,335,447           |
|  | 22,719,407            | 22,665,654          |
| <b>Deficiency of revenue over expenditures</b>                               | <b>\$ (3,958,411)</b> | <b>\$ (142,810)</b> |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

### Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

|  | Unrestricted      | Internally<br>restricted | Restricted for<br>endowments | 2015<br>Total       | 2014<br>Total       |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Balance, beginning of<br>year                                | \$ 175,107        | \$ 5,680,553             | \$ 1,360,342                 | \$ 7,216,002        | \$ 7,856,272        |
| Endowment contributions                                      | -                 | -                        | -                            | -                   | 1,550               |
| Reinvested earnings<br>during the year                       | -                 | -                        | 578                          | 578                 | 1,742               |
| Transfer of endowments                                       | -                 | -                        | -                            | -                   | (377,887)           |
| Deficiency of revenue<br>over expenditures                   | (3,958,411)       | -                        | -                            | (3,958,411)         | (142,810)           |
| Net transfer from Tithe<br>Reserve (note 12)                 | -                 | (77,100)                 | -                            | (77,100)            | (122,865)           |
| Net transfer to<br>(from) internally<br>restricted (note 12) | 4,012,048         | (4,012,048)              | -                            | -                   | -                   |
| <b>Balance, end of year</b>                                  | <b>\$ 228,744</b> | <b>\$ 1,591,405</b>      | <b>\$ 1,360,920</b>          | <b>\$ 3,181,069</b> | <b>\$ 7,216,002</b> |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

### Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

|   | 2015           | 2014         |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>                                  |                |              |
| Deficiency of revenue over expenditures                                       | \$ (3,958,411) | \$ (142,810) |
| Adjustments for:  |                |              |
| Amortization  | 366,867        | 545,585      |
| Unrealized losses (gains) on investments                                      | 1,914,258      | (546,474)    |
| Gain on disposal of land held for development<br>and capital assets           | (283,813)      | (6,387,019)  |
| Gain on contribution of capital asset   | –              | (118,000)    |
| Write down of capital asset   | 82,000         | –            |
| Allowance for credit losses   | 369,622        | 3,335,447    |
| Impairment of land held for development                                       | 2,251,848      | 185,365      |
| Change in non-cash operating working capital:                                 |                |              |
| Donated securities  | –              | 46,411       |
| Accounts receivable   | (147,944)      | (74,642)     |
| Inventories   | 5,064          | 11,303       |
| Prepaid expenses  | 38,507         | (82,269)     |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities                                      | (132,941)      | (392,010)    |
| Deferred revenue  | (60,500)       | (14,500)     |
| Net change in deferred contributions related<br>to expenses of future periods | 1,245,645      | (39,345)     |
|   | 1,690,202      | (3,672,958)  |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>                                  |                |              |
| Change in trust deposits, net   | (1,164,748)    | (2,582,956)  |
| Change in RRSP accounts, net  | (2,914,476)    | 879,624      |
| Change in tax free savings accounts, net                                      | 4,185,807      | 3,337,363    |
| Endowments  | 578            | (374,595)    |
|   | 107,161        | 1,259,436    |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>                                  |                |              |
| Purchase of capital assets  | (39,703)       | (491,905)    |
| Proceeds on disposal of capital assets  | 841,952        | –            |
| Expenditures on land held for development                                     | (163,844)      | (297,221)    |
| Net proceeds on disposal of land held for development                         | 2,199,235      | 8,401,237    |
| Change in investments, net  | 7,072,401      | (28,198,256) |
| Change in mortgages and loans receivables, net                                | (2,996,618)    | 2,193,373    |
| Net transfer from Tithe Reserve (note 12)                                     | (77,100)       | (122,865)    |
|   | 6,836,323      | (18,515,637) |
| Increase (decrease) in cash   | 8,633,686      | (20,929,159) |
| Cash, beginning of year   | 7,943,121      | 28,872,280   |
| Cash, end of year   | \$ 16,576,807  | \$ 7,943,121 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2015

---

**1. Nature of organization:**

The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America (the Conference) was incorporated by an Act of the Parliament of Canada on November 25, 1945. These consolidated financial statements present the national activities of the Conference including CCMB Holdings Inc. which is a for-profit incorporated entity that owns all of the shares in the following for-profit entities:

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| CP Printing Solutions                                     | Deer River Properties Inc. |
| Crossfield Highways Development Inc.<br>0927018 B.C. Ltd. | 6448497 Manitoba Ltd.      |

The Conference provides financial services to Mennonite Brethren supported missions, institutions, local churches and their members. These services include administration of funds on deposit (in the form of deposits, annuities, Tax Free Savings Accounts (T.F.S.A.'s) and Registered Retirement Savings Plan accounts (RRSP's) and provision of loans to Church organizations, pastors, and conference employees. In addition, the Conference administers endowment funds which generate earnings to fund various programs of the Conference.

The Conference consists of two divisions being the Stewardship Division which includes CCMB Holdings Inc. and the Church Ministry Division.

**2. Significant accounting policies:****(a) Basis of accounting:**

The financial statements have been prepared using Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

These consolidated financial statements also do not reflect the assets, liabilities, revenue, expenses and cash flows of the various colleges funded by the Conference nor do they reflect the activities of the separately incorporated provincial conferences, individual congregations and MB Mission.

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

---

### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

#### (b) Revenue recognition:

The Conference follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions other than endowment contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recognized. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in endowment net assets. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Interest on marketable securities is recorded as income on an accrual basis, using the effective interest method. Rental revenue includes recovery of common area maintenance costs and is recognized on an accrual basis over the term which it applies.

Sales revenue is recognized when the order is shipped or picked up by the customer.

#### (c) Land held for development:

Purchased land held for development is recorded at cost. Costs that are directly attributable to development of the land are capitalized, provided that the carrying value does not exceed net realizable value.

#### (d) Capital assets:

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution. Repairs and maintenance costs are charged to expense. Betterments which extend the estimated life of an asset are capitalized.

The Conference amortizes its capital assets as follows:

| Asset              | Rate                        |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Buildings          | 30 years straight-line      |
| Computer equipment | 3.3 - 5 years straight-line |
| Office equipment   | 5 - 10 years straight-line  |
| Parking lot        | 15 years straight-line      |

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The current year's income has been charged with an amount of \$366,867 (2014 - \$545,585) reflecting the current year's amortization which is included in office expenses in the statement of operations.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

---

**2. Significant accounting policies (continued):**

## (e) Impairment of long-lived assets:

Long-lived assets, including capital assets subject to amortization and land held for development, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability is measured by a comparison of the asset's carrying amount to the estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its estimated future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized for the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset. When quoted market prices are not available, the Conference uses the expected future cash flows discounted at a rate commensurate with the risks associated with the recovery of the asset as an estimate of fair value.

## (f) Mortgages and loans receivable:

Loans are initially measured at fair value plus incremental direct transaction costs. Loans are subsequently re-measured at their amortized cost, net of allowance for credit losses, using the effective interest method.

Interest income is accounted for on the accrual basis, except on loans classified as impaired. A loan is classified as impaired when, in management's opinion, there has been deterioration in credit quality to the extent that there is no longer reasonable assurance as to the timely collection of the full amount of principal and interest.

When a loan is classified as impaired, accrual of interest on the loan ceases and the carrying amount of the loan is reduced to its estimated realizable amount. Estimated realizable amounts are measured by discounting the expected future cash flows, if they can be reasonably estimated, using the effective interest rate inherent in the loan. When the amounts and timing of cash flows cannot be reasonably estimated, the carrying amount of the loan is reduced to its estimated net realizable value based on either:

- (i) the fair value of any security underlying the loan, net of expected costs of realization, or,
- (ii) observable market prices for the loan.

As long as the loan remains classified as impaired, payments received will be credited to the carrying value of the loan. A loan will be returned to accrual status only when the timely collection of both principal and interest is reasonably assured and all arrears payments of principal and interest are brought current.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

---

**2. Significant accounting policies (continued):**

## (g) Allowance for credit losses:

The Conference maintains an allowance for credit losses which, in management's opinion, is adequate to absorb all credit related losses in its portfolio. The allowance for credit losses consists of specific provisions, being provisions against specific credit exposures determined on an item-by-item basis, and a general provision for losses which have occurred, but where such losses cannot be determined on an item-by-item basis.

In assessing existing credit losses, management must rely on estimates and exercise judgment regarding matters for which the ultimate outcome is unknown. Changes in circumstances may cause future assessments of credit risk to be significantly different than current assessments and may require an increase or decrease in the allowance for credit losses.

## (h) Inventories:

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined on the first-in, first-out basis.

## (i) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Freestanding derivative instruments that are not in a qualifying hedging relationship and equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. The Conference has elected to carry its investments at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs, which are amortized using the straight-line method.

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, the Conference determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount the Conference expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future period, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial carrying value.

#### (j) Contributed services:

Volunteers are an integral part of the activities of the Conference. Contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements because of the difficulty in determining their fair value.

#### (k) Use of estimates:

The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenditures during the reporting period. Significant items subject to estimates and assumptions include the allowance for credit losses and the carrying amounts of capital assets and land held for development. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

### 3. Cash:

|               | 2015                 | 2014                |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| General funds | \$ 13,346,572        | \$ 7,061,572        |
| RRSP Trust    | 3,230,235            | 881,549             |
|               | <b>\$ 16,576,807</b> | <b>\$ 7,943,121</b> |

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

#### 4. Mortgages and loans receivable:

|                             | 2015          |                  | 2014          |                  |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
|                             | Principal     | Accrued interest | Principal     | Accrued interest |
| General funds               | \$ 13,256,779 | \$ 51,328        | \$ 14,446,988 | \$ 56,213        |
| RRSP Trust                  | 75,109,764    | 117,813          | 70,907,451    | 128,414          |
| Allowance for credit losses | (3,812,013)   | -                | (3,442,391)   | -                |
|                             | 84,554,530    | 169,141          | 81,912,048    | 184,627          |
|                             | \$ 84,723,671 |                  | \$ 82,096,675 |                  |

During the year ended December 31, 2013, a loan receivable was entered into as partial consideration for the sale of land held for development (note 6). The loan receivable is repayable \$750,000 annually and matures on March 31, 2017. All other mortgages and loans receivable are callable on demand and are open to prepayment. Mortgages are secured by a first charge mortgage on the applicable property.

#### 5. Investments:

|                 | 2015           |                | 2014           |                |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                 | Cost           | Fair Value     | Cost           | Fair Value     |
| Mortgage funds  | \$ 104,401,935 | \$ 104,311,667 | \$ 21,000,000  | \$ 20,937,000  |
| Mortgages       | -              | -              | 88,670,186     | 90,125,394     |
| Bond funds      | 44,000,000     | 44,696,240     | -              | -              |
| Corporate bonds | 3,749,567      | 3,730,818      | 49,529,305     | 50,662,990     |
|                 | \$ 152,151,502 | \$ 152,738,725 | \$ 159,199,491 | \$ 161,725,384 |

The par value of the corporate bonds at December 31, 2015 was \$3,679,000 (2014 - \$50,650,748). The Corporate bonds have interest rates ranging from 2.96 percent to 4.08 percent (2014 - 1.50 percent to 10.50 percent) and mature between February 22, 2016 and June 9, 2025 (2014 - between February 1, 2015 and August 1, 2029).

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

### 5. Investments (continued):

Maturities and interest rates of the corporate bonds:

| December 31, 2015 |                |                 |                  |              |  | Weighted<br>average<br>yield |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|--|------------------------------|
| Under<br>one year | 1 - 5<br>years | 6 - 10<br>years | Over 10<br>years | Total        |  |                              |
| \$ 1,796,908      | \$ -           | \$ 1,933,910    | \$ -             | \$ 3,730,818 |  | 3.35%                        |

| December 31, 2014 |                |                 |                  |               |  | Weighted<br>average<br>yield |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|--|------------------------------|
| Under<br>one year | 1 - 5<br>years | 6 - 10<br>years | Over 10<br>years | Total         |  |                              |
| \$ 2,201,089      | \$ 38,816,880  | \$ 9,361,508    | \$ 283,513       | \$ 50,662,990 |  | 3.69%                        |

### 6. Land held for development:

|                             | 2015                 | 2014                 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Balance, beginning of year  | \$ 16,851,865        | \$ 18,754,227        |
| Additions                   | 163,844              | 297,221              |
| Disposals                   | (1,904,153)          | (2,014,218)          |
| Impairment                  | (2,251,848)          | (185,365)            |
| <b>Balance, end of year</b> | <b>\$ 12,859,708</b> | <b>\$ 16,851,865</b> |

During the year ended December 31, 2015, the Conference disposed of certain land held for development for net cash consideration of \$2,199,235 (2014 - \$8,401,237). The Conference recognized a gain on sale of \$295,082 (2014 - \$6,387,019) which is included in gains on disposal of land for development in the statement of operations.

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

### 7. Capital assets:

|                    |                      |                             | 2015                | 2014                |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                    | Cost                 | Accumulated<br>amortization | Net book<br>value   | Net book<br>value   |
| Land               | \$ 2,451,477         | \$ —                        | \$ 2,451,477        | \$ 2,933,410        |
| Buildings          | 7,120,245            | 2,093,499                   | 5,026,746           | 5,719,113           |
| Computer equipment | 693,438              | 594,203                     | 99,235              | 118,948             |
| Office equipment   | 1,286,974            | 960,969                     | 326,005             | 379,118             |
| Parking lot        | 226,875              | 129,237                     | 97,638              | 112,897             |
|                    | <b>\$ 11,779,009</b> | <b>\$ 3,777,908</b>         | <b>\$ 8,001,101</b> | <b>\$ 9,263,486</b> |

### 8. Line of credit:

The Conference has a line of credit with the Bank of Montreal for use by the Conference and its divisions in the aggregate amount of \$2,750,000, bearing interest at prime and is secured by certain corporate bonds held by the Conference with a fair value of \$3,730,818 (2014 - \$3,777,843). As at December 31, 2015, the line of credit amount was unutilized (2014 - nil).

### 9. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities is \$16,839 (2014 - \$109,079) for government remittances.

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

### 10. Registered Retirement Savings Plan and Tax Free Savings Accounts:

The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America - Stewardship Division has an RRSP Trust and T.F.S.A. Trust for members of Canadian Conference churches. Funds are directed to first mortgages. Interest on member savings is calculated every six months and is credited to each account on June 30 and December 31. Members' accounts are administered by Canadian Western Trust and the Conference. At December 31, 2015, there were 998 RRSP accounts, 378 R.R.I.F. accounts and 908 T.F.S.A. accounts (2014 - 1,007 RRSP accounts, 485 R.R.I.F. accounts and 924 T.F.S.A. accounts).

|   | 2015                 | 2014                 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assets:</b>                          |                      |                      |
| Cash                                    | \$ 3,230,235         | \$ 881,549           |
| Outstanding transfers and distributions | 5,729,879            | 8,400,426            |
| Loans receivable                        | 70,052,055           | 68,458,863           |
|   | <b>\$ 79,012,169</b> | <b>\$ 77,740,838</b> |
| <b>Liabilities:</b>                     |                      |                      |
| Accounts payable                        | \$ -                 | \$ 2,231             |
| RRSP certificates                       | 54,277,389           | 57,189,634           |
| RRSP total                              | 54,277,389           | 57,191,865           |
| TFSA certificates                       | 24,734,780           | 20,548,973           |
|   | <b>\$ 79,012,169</b> | <b>\$ 77,740,838</b> |

All trust deposits, RRSP Trust and T.F.S.A. funds are due on demand and bear interest at variable rates of interest which are determined at July 1 and December 31 of each year. At December 31, 2015, the interest rate applicable to trust deposits is 2.25 percent (2014 - 2.50 percent) and for RRSP Trust and T.F.S.A. funds is 2.50 percent (2014 - 2.75 percent).

### 11. Deferred contributions related to expenses of future periods:

Deferred contributions related to expenses of future periods are externally restricted contributions that have been received and relate to expenses to be incurred in subsequent years. Changes in deferred contributions related to expenses of future periods are as follows:

|   | 2015                | 2014              |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| Balance, beginning of period                    | \$ 739,276          | \$ 778,621        |
| Less amount recognized as revenue in the period | (309,346)           | (566,312)         |
| Add amount received relating to future periods  | 1,554,991           | 526,967           |
| Balance, end of period                          | <b>\$ 1,984,921</b> | <b>\$ 739,276</b> |

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

### 11. Deferred contributions related to expenses of future periods (continued):

As at December 31, 2015, deferred contributions related to expenses of future periods consists of the following:

|                                       | 2015                | 2014              |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Emerging leaders                      | \$ 110,828          | \$ 157,200        |
| Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies | 10,894              | 12,727            |
| Non-registered church plants          | 563,587             | 171,916           |
| Canadian Mennonite University         | –                   | 500               |
| Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary  | 353                 | 292               |
| United Bible Society                  | 55,706              | 42,773            |
| Birch Bay Bible Community Church      | 16,000              | 3,000             |
| C2C Network                           | 1,010,518           | –                 |
| Other externally restricted           | 217,035             | 350,868           |
|                                       | <b>\$ 1,984,921</b> | <b>\$ 739,276</b> |

### 12. Restrictions on net assets:

All of the net assets restricted for endowment purposes are subject to externally imposed restrictions stipulating that the principal be maintained intact. Investment income earned on endowments is externally restricted for specific purposes.

At December 31, net assets restricted for endowments consists of the following:

|                               | 2015                | 2014                |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| CMU Endowment                 | \$ 205,077          | \$ 205,077          |
| Manitoba Conference Endowment | 73,797              | 73,797              |
| Evangelism Endowment          | 158,803             | 158,803             |
| Family Endowment              | 923,243             | 922,665             |
|                               | <b>\$ 1,360,920</b> | <b>\$ 1,360,342</b> |

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

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**12. Restrictions on net assets (continued):**

Internally restricted funds of the Conference include the following specific reserves:

(i) Reserve for investment:

This reserve provides for fluctuations in the market value of investments. Gains and losses on disposal of investments, unrealized gains and losses on investments, plus a surplus distribution are credited or charged to this account. For the year ended December 31, 2015, unrealized losses on investments of \$1,914,258 (2014 - unrealized gains of \$546,474 on investments) were recorded against the reserve for investment. Additionally, for the year ended December 31, 2015, \$1,414,423 was transferred from the reserve for investment to consolidated unrestricted net assets to fund the unanticipated deficit in operations. For the year ended December 31, 2014, \$1,305,685 was transferred to the reserve for investment from the excess of revenue over expenditures of the Stewardship Division.

(ii) Operating Reserve:

This reserve is held for use by the Conference to fund new initiatives and unanticipated deficits in operations. For the year ended December 31, 2015, \$507,492 was transferred from the operating reserve to consolidated unrestricted net assets to fund the budgeted deficit in operations of the Church Ministry Division and nil was transferred to the operating reserve from the remaining internally restricted net assets. For the year ended December 31, 2014, \$811,320 was transferred from the operating reserve to consolidated unrestricted net assets to fund the unanticipated deficit in operations of the Church Ministry Division and \$29,135 was transferred to the operating reserve from the remaining internally restricted net assets.

(iii) Stabilization Reserve:

The purpose of the Stabilization Reserve is to fund deficits in operations resulting from market or other circumstances and to allow for normal cash flow fluctuations. Transfers to the reserve are made upon approval of the board of directors. For the year ended December 31, 2015, the board of directors approved a transfer of nil (2014 - \$940,315) from the stabilization reserve to consolidated unrestricted net assets to fund the budgeted deficit in operations of the Church Ministry Division.

(iv) Tithe Reserve:

The purpose of the Tithe Reserve is to fund sister conferences. Transfers to the reserve are made upon approval of the board of directors. For the year ended December 31, 2015, the board of directors approved a transfer of \$77,100 (2014 - \$150,000) to the International Community of Mennonite Brethren (ICOMB) of which nil (2014 - \$27,135) remains in a trust deposit account for use by ICOMB at December 31, 2015.

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

### 12. Restrictions on net assets (continued):

The remaining internally restricted net assets are amounts restricted for specified purposes and are not available for other purposes without approval from the board of directors. For the year ended December 31, 2015 a total of \$175,875 (2014 - \$220,717) was transferred from the remaining internally restricted net assets to fund the deficit in operations of the Church Ministry Division and nil (2014 - \$29,135) was transferred to the operating reserve.

|                          | 2015                | 2014                |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Reserve for investment   | \$ 1,222,819        | \$ 4,551,500        |
| Operating Reserve        | 29,135              | 536,627             |
| Tithe Reserve            | —                   | 77,100              |
| Leadership Development   | 1,553               | 1,553               |
| Convention               | 55,485              | 64,360              |
| Retreat                  | 15,727              | 15,727              |
| Evangelism Capital       | 219,982             | 386,982             |
| Atlantic Church Planting | 12,704              | 12,704              |
| Contingency              | 34,000              | 34,000              |
|                          | <b>\$ 1,591,405</b> | <b>\$ 5,680,553</b> |

### 13. Commitments:

Individual and church loans:

The Conference has made commitments to individuals and churches for loans that have not been disbursed by December 31, 2015 in the approximate amount of \$7,400,000 (2014 - \$12,509,000).

Lease commitments:

The Conference leases office space under long-term leases. The future minimum payments required under these leases are:

|      |            |
|------|------------|
| 2016 | \$ 185,556 |
| 2017 | 148,395    |
| 2018 | 56,615     |

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

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**14. Employee pension plan:**

The Conference is a participant of a money purchase pension plan. Members of the plan include employees of the Conference and related organizations. The cost of funding the plan is shared by employee and employer. The rate of employer contributions to the fund in 2015 was 5 percent (2014 - 5 percent) of the employee salaries. The pension expense for the year ended December 31, 2015 was \$163,232 (2014 - \$159,245).

**15. Financial risks:****(a) Currency risk:**

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of the Conference holding investments denominated in United States dollars (USD) and holding cash denominated in USD. Fluctuations in the relative values of the Canadian dollar against USD can result in a positive or a negative impact on the fair value of the investments and cash. The Conference manages its investment portfolio to earn investment income and invests according to a Statement of Investment Policy approved by The Board and monitored by investment managers. The Conference currently holds USD and manages this cash for the purposes of achieving foreign exchange gains and meeting the cash requirements of the Conference. This cash management approach exposes the Conference to changes in exchange rates which can affect the fund balances.

**(b) Interest rate risk:**

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a finance instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Conference is exposed to interest rate risk on its investments in corporate bonds, bond mutual funds and investments in mortgages. Further details about the fixed rate investments are included in note 5. The Conference manages its investment portfolio to earn investment income and invests according to a Statement of Investment Policy approved by The Board and monitored by investment managers. The Conference is not involved in any hedging relationships through its operations and does not hold or use any derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

**(c) Liquidity risk:**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Conference will encounter difficulty in meeting financial obligations as they become due, and arises from the Conference's management of working capital. The Conference's policy is to ensure that it will have sufficient cash to allow it to meet its liabilities when they become due.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

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**15. Financial risks (continued):**

## (d) Credit risk:

Credit risk is the risk that a party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge the obligation. The Conference is exposed to credit risk arising from its mortgages and loans receivable and investments corporate bonds, bond funds, mortgages and mortgage funds. In order to reduce its credit risk, the Conference reviews loan applications before extending credit. Investments are monitored by investment managers. An allowance for credit losses is established based upon factors surrounding the credit risk of specific accounts. The Conference has a significant number of corporate bonds, bond funds, mortgages and mortgage fund investments which minimizes concentration of credit risk.

There have been no changes to the Conference's financial instrument risk exposure from the prior year.

**16. Comparative information:**

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the financial statement presentation adopted in the current year.

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

Schedule - Church Ministry Division

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

|  | 2015<br>Budget<br>(Unaudited) | 2015<br>Actual | 2014<br>Actual |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Revenue:</b>  |                               |                |                |
| Contributions  | \$ 4,874,383                  | \$ 6,652,909   | \$ 3,818,687   |
| Sales  | 527,607                       | 750,288        | 632,678        |
|  | 5,401,990                     | 7,403,197      | 4,451,365      |
| <b>Expenditures:</b>   |                               |                |                |
| Cost of sales  | 128,758                       | 93,172         | 100,471        |
| Staffing   | 3,931,852                     | 3,919,286      | 3,247,857      |
| Specific programming costs   | 2,752,620                     | 4,019,489      | 2,286,614      |
| Support of outside agencies  | 711,885                       | 1,369,068      | 1,573,742      |
| Office expenses  | 664,260                       | 831,048        | 596,705        |
| Board costs and convention   | 134,403                       | 129,723        | 202,033        |
| Public relation costs  | 89,041                        | 94,863         | 119,910        |
| Interest   | 21,503                        | 22,486         | 23,804         |
|  | 8,434,322                     | 10,479,135     | 8,151,136      |
| Deficiency of revenue over expenditures<br>for the year before allocations | (3,032,332)                   | (3,075,938)    | (3,699,771)    |
| Unrestricted fund balance, beginning of year                               |                               | 175,107        | 170,589        |
| Allocation of funds from Stewardship Division                              |                               | 2,953,700      | 3,483,572      |
| Transfer from other internally restricted net assets                       |                               | 175,875        | 220,717        |
| Unrestricted fund balance, end of year                                     |                               | \$ 228,744     | \$ 175,107     |

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the \$2,953,700 allocation of funds from Stewardship Division consists of a \$2,446,208 representing a transfer from Stewardship Division and a transfer from the operating reserve of \$507,492 (note 12). Additionally, as disclosed in note 12, \$175,875 was transferred from other internally restricted net assets of the Church Ministry Division in the year ended December 31, 2015 resulting in a change in the consolidated unrestricted fund balance of \$53,637.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, the \$3,483,551 allocation of funds from Stewardship Division consists of \$1,731,937 representing a portion of the excess of revenue over expenditures in the Stewardship Division, a transfer from the Stabilization Reserve of \$940,315 (note 12) and a transfer from the operating reserve of \$811,320 (note 12). Additionally, as disclosed in note 12, \$220,717 was transferred from other internally restricted net assets of the Church Ministry Division in the year ended December 31, 2014 resulting in a change in the consolidated unrestricted fund balance of \$4,518.

Consolidated Financial Statements of

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE  
MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF  
NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP  
DIVISION**

Year ended December 31, 2015

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

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Year ended December 31, 2015

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America - Stewardship Division

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America - Stewardship Division, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015, the consolidated statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



*Opinion*

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America - Stewardship Division as at December 31, 2015 and its consolidated results of operations and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*KPMG LLP*

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Chartered Professional Accountants

May 10, 2016

Winnipeg, Canada

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

|   | 2015           | 2014           |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                                   |                |                |
| Current assets:                                 |                |                |
| Cash (note 3)                                   | \$ 12,330,345  | \$ 4,409,705   |
| Accounts receivable                             | 376,623        | 480,850        |
| Inventories                                     | 18,243         | 18,243         |
| Prepaid expenses                                | 25,040         | 21,453         |
| Mortgages and loans receivable (notes 4 and 10) | 750,000        | 750,000        |
|   | 13,500,251     | 5,680,251      |
| Mortgages and loans receivable (notes 4 and 10) | 83,973,671     | 81,346,675     |
| Land held for development (note 6)              | 12,859,708     | 16,851,865     |
| Investments (note 5)                            | 152,738,725    | 161,725,384    |
| Capital assets (note 7)                         | 8,001,101      | 9,263,486      |
|   | \$ 271,073,456 | \$ 274,867,661 |

### Liabilities and Net Assets

|   |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Current liabilities:                                  |                |                |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities              | \$ 362,831     | \$ 350,924     |
| Deposit liabilities:                                  |                |                |
| Trust deposits  | 189,085,582    | 190,250,330    |
| Registered Retirement Savings Plan accounts (note 10) | 54,277,389     | 57,191,865     |
| Tax Free Savings Accounts (note 10)                   | 24,734,780     | 20,548,973     |
|   | 268,097,751    | 267,991,168    |
| Net assets:   |                |                |
| Internally restricted (note 11)                       | 1,251,954      | 5,165,227      |
| Restricted for endowments (note 11)                   | 1,360,920      | 1,360,342      |
|   | 2,612,874      | 6,525,569      |
| Commitments (note 12)                                 |                |                |
|   | \$ 271,073,456 | \$ 274,867,661 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

On behalf of the Governing Board:

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Consolidated Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

|  | 2015                | 2014                |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Revenue:</b>  |                     |                     |
| Sales  | \$ 469,113          | \$ 464,253          |
| Interest earned  | 9,419,015           | 9,935,153           |
| Rental income  | 397,946             | 361,012             |
| Gain on disposal of land held for development and<br>capital assets (note 6) | 283,813             | 6,387,019           |
| Gains on disposal of investments   | 2,684,131           | 145,664             |
| Gain on contribution of capital asset  | -                   | 118,000             |
| Other revenue  | 18,039              | 113,904             |
| Adjustment for unrealized gains (losses) on investments                      | (1,914,258)         | 546,474             |
|  | <u>11,357,799</u>   | <u>18,071,479</u>   |
| <b>Expenditures:</b>   |                     |                     |
| Cost of sales  | 287,875             | 314,006             |
| Operating costs  | 2,678,504           | 3,450,874           |
| Interest   | 6,652,423           | 7,228,826           |
| Impairment of land held for development (note 6)                             | 2,251,848           | 185,365             |
| Allowance for credit losses (note 4)   | 369,622             | 3,335,447           |
|  | <u>12,240,272</u>   | <u>14,514,518</u>   |
| <b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures</b>                      | <b>\$ (882,473)</b> | <b>\$ 3,556,961</b> |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

|   | Unrestricted | Internally<br>restricted | Restricted for<br>endowments | 2015<br>Total       | 2014<br>Total       |
|---|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Balance, beginning of<br>year                         | \$ -         | \$ 5,165,227             | \$ 1,360,342                 | \$ 6,525,569        | \$ 6,920,505        |
| Endowment contributions                               | -            | -                        | -                            | -                   | 1,550               |
| Reinvested earnings<br>during the period              | -            | -                        | 578                          | 578                 | 1,742               |
| Transfer of endowments                                | -            | -                        | -                            | -                   | (377,887)           |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue<br>over expenditures   | (882,473)    | -                        | -                            | (882,473)           | 3,556,961           |
| Transfer from (to) internally<br>restricted (note 11) | 3,836,173    | (3,836,173)              | -                            | -                   | -                   |
| Net transfer from Tithe<br>Reserve (note 11)          | -            | (77,100)                 | -                            | (77,100)            | (122,865)           |
| Transfer from Church Ministry<br>Division (note 11)   | -            | -                        | -                            | -                   | 29,135              |
| Transfer to Church Ministry<br>Division (note 9)      | (2,953,700)  | -                        | -                            | (2,953,700)         | (3,483,572)         |
| <b>Balance, end of year</b>                           | <b>\$ -</b>  | <b>\$ 1,251,954</b>      | <b>\$ 1,360,920</b>          | <b>\$ 2,612,874</b> | <b>\$ 6,525,569</b> |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

|   | 2015                 | 2014                |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>                        |                      |                     |
| Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures                    | \$ (882,473)         | \$ 3,556,961        |
| Adjustments for:  |                      |                     |
| Amortization  | 366,867              | 545,585             |
| Unrealized losses (gains) on investments                            | 1,914,258            | (546,474)           |
| Gain on disposal of land held for development<br>and capital assets | (283,813)            | (6,387,019)         |
| Write down of capital asset   | 82,000               | -                   |
| Gain on contribution of capital asset                               | -                    | (118,000)           |
| Allowance for credit losses   | 369,622              | 3,335,447           |
| Impairment of land held for development                             | 2,251,848            | 185,365             |
| Change in non-cash operating working capital:                       |                      |                     |
| Accounts receivable   | 104,227              | (149,498)           |
| Prepaid expenses  | (3,587)              | 6,485               |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities                            | 11,907               | (105,944)           |
|   | <u>3,930,856</u>     | <u>322,908</u>      |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>                        |                      |                     |
| Change in trust deposits, net                                       | (1,164,748)          | (2,582,956)         |
| Change in RRSP accounts, net  | (2,914,476)          | 879,624             |
| Change in Tax Free Savings Accounts, net                            | 4,185,807            | 3,337,363           |
| Endowments  | 578                  | (374,595)           |
| Net transfer to Church Ministry Division (notes 9 and 11)           | (2,953,700)          | (3,454,437)         |
|   | <u>(2,846,539)</u>   | <u>(2,195,001)</u>  |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>                        |                      |                     |
| Purchase of capital assets  | (39,703)             | (491,905)           |
| Proceeds on disposal of capital assets                              | 841,952              | -                   |
| Expenditures on land held for development                           | (163,844)            | (297,221)           |
| Net proceeds on disposal of land held for development               | 2,199,235            | 8,401,237           |
| Change in investments, net  | 7,072,401            | (28,198,256)        |
| Change in mortgages and loans receivables, net                      | (2,996,618)          | 2,193,373           |
| Net transfer from Tithe Reserve (note 11)                           | (77,100)             | (122,865)           |
|   | <u>6,836,323</u>     | <u>(18,515,637)</u> |
| Increase (decrease) in cash   | 7,920,640            | (20,387,730)        |
| Cash, beginning of year   | 4,409,705            | 24,797,435          |
| <b>Cash, end of year</b>  | <b>\$ 12,330,345</b> | <b>\$ 4,409,705</b> |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2015

---

**1. Nature of Organization:**

The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America (the Conference) was incorporated by an Act of the Parliament of Canada on November 25, 1945. These consolidated financial statements present the financial position and results of the Stewardship Division (the Division), a division of the Conference, and its wholly owned subsidiary, CCMBC Holdings Inc. As such, these financial statements do not include all assets, liabilities, revenue and expenditures of The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America. CCMBC Holdings Inc. is a for-profit incorporated entity that owns all of the shares in the following for-profit entities:

|                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| CP Printing Solutions                | Deer River Properties Inc. |
| Crossfield Highways Development Inc. | 6448497 Manitoba Ltd.      |
| 0927018 B.C. Ltd.                    |                            |

The Division provides financial services to Mennonite Brethren supported missions, institutions, local churches and their members. These services include administration of funds on deposit (in the form of deposits, annuities, Tax Free Savings Accounts (T.F.S.A.'s) and Registered Retirement Savings Plan accounts (RRSP's) and provision of loans to Church organizations, pastors, and conference employees. In addition, the Division administers endowment funds which generate earnings to fund various programs of the Conference.

The Conference consists of two divisions being the Stewardship Division which includes CCMBC Holdings Inc. and the Church Ministry Division.

**2. Significant accounting policies:****(a) Basis of accounting:**

The financial statements have been prepared using Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

---

### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

#### (b) Revenue recognition:

The Division follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions other than endowment contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recognized. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in endowment net assets. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Interest on marketable securities is recorded as income on an accrual basis, using the effective interest method. Rental revenue includes recovery of common area maintenance costs and is recognized on an accrual basis over the term which it applies.

Sales revenue is recognized when the order is shipped or picked up by the customer.

#### (c) Land held for development:

Purchased land held for development is recorded at cost. Costs that are directly attributable to development of the land are capitalized, provided that the carrying value does not exceed net realizable value.

#### (d) Capital assets:

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution. Repairs and maintenance costs are charged to expense. Betterments which extend the estimated life of an asset are capitalized.

The Division amortizes its capital assets as follows:

| Asset              | Rate                        |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Buildings          | 30 years straight-line      |
| Computer equipment | 3.3 - 5 years straight-line |
| Office equipment   | 5 - 10 years straight-line  |
| Parking lot        | 15 years straight-line      |

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The current year's income has been charged with an amount of \$366,867 (2014 - \$545,585) reflecting the current year's amortization which is included in operating expenses in the statement of operations.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

---

**2. Significant accounting policies (continued):**

## (e) Impairment of long-lived assets:

Long-lived assets, including capital assets subject to amortization and land held for development, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability is measured by a comparison of the asset's carrying amount to the estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its estimated future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized for the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset. When quoted market prices are not available, the Division uses the expected future cash flows discounted at a rate commensurate with the risks associated with the recovery of the asset as an estimate of fair value.

## (f) Mortgages and loans receivable:

Loans are initially measured at fair value plus incremental direct transaction costs. Loans are subsequently re-measured at their amortized cost, net of allowance for credit losses, using the effective interest method.

Interest income is accounted for on the accrual basis, except on loans classified as impaired. A loan is classified as impaired when, in management's opinion, there has been deterioration in credit quality to the extent that there is no longer reasonable assurance as to the timely collection of the full amount of principal and interest.

When a loan is classified as impaired, accrual of interest on the loan ceases and the carrying amount of the loan is reduced to its estimated realizable amount. Estimated realizable amounts are measured by discounting the expected future cash flows, if they can be reasonably estimated, using the effective interest rate inherent in the loan. When the amounts and timing of cash flows cannot be reasonably estimated, the carrying amount of the loan is reduced to its estimated net realizable value based on either:

- (i) the fair value of any security underlying the loan, net of expected costs of realization, or,
- (ii) observable market prices for the loan.

As long as the loan remains classified as impaired, payments received will be credited to the carrying value of the loan. A loan will be returned to accrual status only when the timely collection of both principal and interest is reasonably assured and all arrears payments of principal and interest are brought current.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

---

**2. Significant accounting policies (continued):**

## (g) Allowance for credit losses:

The Division maintains an allowance for credit losses which, in management's opinion, is adequate to absorb all credit related losses in its portfolio. The allowance for credit losses consists of specific provisions, being provisions against specific credit exposures determined on an item-by-item basis, and a general provision for losses which have occurred, but where such losses cannot be determined on an item-by-item basis.

In assessing existing credit losses, management must rely on estimates and exercise judgment regarding matters for which the ultimate outcome is unknown. Changes in circumstances may cause future assessments of credit risk to be significantly different than current assessments and may require an increase or decrease in the allowance for credit losses.

## (h) Inventories:

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined on the first-in, first-out basis.

## (i) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Freestanding derivative instruments that are not in a qualifying hedging relationship and equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. The Division has elected to carry its investments at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs, which are amortized using the straight-line method.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

---

**2. Significant accounting policies (continued):**

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, the Division determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount the Division expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future period, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial carrying value.

**(j) Related party transactions:**

Monetary related party transactions and non-monetary related party transactions that have commercial substance are measured at the exchange amount when they are in the normal course of business, excepting when the transaction is an exchange of a product or property held for sale in the normal course of operations. Where the transaction is not in the normal course of operations, it is measured at the exchange amount when there is a substantive change in the ownership of the item transferred and there is independent evidence of the exchange amount. All other related party transactions are measured at the carrying amount.

**(k) Use of estimates:**

The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenditures during the reporting period. Significant items subject to estimates and assumptions include the allowance for credit losses and the carrying amounts of capital assets and land held for development. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

### 3. Cash:

|               | 2015          | 2014         |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| General funds | \$ 9,100,110  | \$ 3,528,161 |
| RRSP Trust    | 3,230,235     | 881,544      |
|               | \$ 12,330,345 | \$ 4,409,705 |

### 4. Mortgages and loans receivable:

|                             | 2015          |                  | 2014          |                  |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
|                             | Principal     | Accrued interest | Principal     | Accrued interest |
| General funds               | \$ 13,256,779 | \$ 51,328        | \$ 14,446,988 | \$ 56,213        |
| RRSP Trust                  | 75,109,764    | 117,813          | 70,907,451    | 128,414          |
| Allowance for credit losses | (3,812,013)   | -                | (3,442,391)   | -                |
|                             | 84,554,530    | 169,141          | 81,912,048    | 184,627          |
|                             | \$ 84,723,671 |                  | \$ 82,096,675 |                  |

During the year ended December 31, 2013, a loan receivable was entered into as partial consideration for the sale of land held for development (note 6). The loan receivable is repayable \$750,000 annually and matures on March 31, 2017. All other mortgages and loans receivable are callable on demand and are open to prepayment. Mortgages are secured by a first charge mortgage on the applicable property.

### 5. Investments:

|                 | 2015           |                | 2014           |                |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                 | Cost           | Fair Value     | Cost           | Fair Value     |
| Mortgage funds  | \$ 104,401,935 | \$ 104,311,667 | \$ 21,000,000  | \$ 20,937,000  |
| Mortgages       | -              | -              | 88,670,186     | 90,125,394     |
| Bond funds      | 44,000,000     | 44,696,240     | -              | -              |
| Corporate bonds | 3,749,567      | 3,730,818      | 49,529,305     | 50,662,990     |
|                 | \$ 152,151,502 | \$ 152,738,725 | \$ 159,199,491 | \$ 161,725,384 |

The par value of the corporate bonds at December 31, 2015 was \$3,679,000 (2014 - \$50,650,748). The Corporate bonds have interest rates ranging from 2.96 percent to 4.08 percent (2014 - 1.50 percent to 10.50 percent) and mature between February 22, 2016 and June 9, 2025 (2014 - February 1, 2015 and August 1, 2029).

## THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

### 5. Investments (continued):

Maturities and interest rates of the corporate bonds:

| December 31, 2015 |                |                 |                  |              |  | Weighted<br>average<br>yield |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|--|------------------------------|
| Under<br>one year | 1 - 5<br>years | 6 - 10<br>years | Over 10<br>years | Total        |  |                              |
| \$ 1,796,908      | \$ -           | \$ 1,933,910    | \$ -             | \$ 3,730,818 |  | 3.35%                        |

| December 31, 2014 |                |                 |                  |               |  | Weighted<br>average<br>yield |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|--|------------------------------|
| Under<br>one year | 1 - 5<br>years | 6 - 10<br>years | Over 10<br>years | Total         |  |                              |
| \$ 2,201,089      | \$ 38,816,880  | \$ 9,361,508    | \$ 283,513       | \$ 50,662,990 |  | 3.69%                        |

### 6. Land held for development:

|                            | 2015          | 2014          |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 16,851,865 | \$ 18,754,227 |
| Additions                  | 163,844       | 297,221       |
| Disposals                  | (1,904,153)   | (2,014,218)   |
| Impairment                 | (2,251,848)   | (185,365)     |
| Balance, end of year       | \$ 12,859,708 | \$ 16,851,865 |

During the year ended December 31, 2015, the Conference disposed of certain land held for development for net cash consideration of \$2,199,235 (2014 - \$8,401,237). The Conference recognized a gain on sale of \$295,082 (2014 - \$6,387,019) which is included in gains on disposal of land for development in the statement of operations.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

**7. Capital assets:**

|                    |                      |                          | 2015                | 2014                |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                    | Cost                 | Accumulated amortization | Net book value      | Net book value      |
| Land               | \$ 2,451,477         | \$ —                     | \$ 2,451,477        | \$ 2,933,410        |
| Buildings          | 7,120,245            | 2,093,499                | 5,026,746           | 5,719,113           |
| Computer equipment | 693,438              | 594,203                  | 99,235              | 118,948             |
| Office equipment   | 1,286,974            | 960,969                  | 326,005             | 379,118             |
| Parking lot        | 226,875              | 129,237                  | 97,638              | 112,897             |
|                    | <b>\$ 11,779,009</b> | <b>\$ 3,777,908</b>      | <b>\$ 8,001,101</b> | <b>\$ 9,263,486</b> |

**8. Line of credit:**

The Conference has a line of credit with the Bank of Montreal for use by the Conference and its divisions in the aggregate amount of \$2,750,000, bearing interest at prime and is secured by certain corporate bonds held by the Division with a fair value of \$3,730,818 (2014 - \$3,777,843). As at December 31, 2015, the line of credit amount was unutilized (2014 - nil).

**9. Related party transactions:**

Contributions transferred to the Church Ministry Division for the period ended December 31, 2015 were \$2,953,700 (2014 - \$3,483,572).

**10. Registered Retirement Savings Plan and Tax Free Savings Accounts:**

The Division has an RRSP Trust and T.F.S.A. Trust for members of Canadian Conference churches. Funds are directed to first mortgages. Interest on member savings is calculated every six months and is credited to each account on June 30 and December 31. Members' accounts are administered by Canadian Western Trust and the Division. At December 31, 2015, there were 998 RRSP accounts, 378 R.R.I.F. accounts and 908 T.F.S.A. accounts (2014 - 1,007 RRSP accounts, 485 R.R.I.F. accounts and 924 T.F.S.A. accounts).

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

**10. Registered Retirement Savings Plan and Tax Free Savings Accounts (continued):**

|   | 2015                 | 2014                 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assets:</b>                          |                      |                      |
| Cash                                    | \$ 3,230,235         | \$ 881,549           |
| Outstanding transfers and distributions | 5,729,879            | 8,400,426            |
| Loans receivable                        | 70,052,055           | 68,458,863           |
|   | <b>\$ 79,012,169</b> | <b>\$ 77,740,838</b> |
| <b>Liabilities:</b>                     |                      |                      |
| Accounts payable                        | \$ -                 | \$ 2,231             |
| RRSP certificates                       | 54,277,389           | 57,189,634           |
| RRSP total                              | 54,277,389           | 57,191,865           |
| TFSA certificates                       | 24,734,780           | 20,548,973           |
|   | <b>\$ 79,012,169</b> | <b>\$ 77,740,838</b> |

All trust deposits, RRSP Trust and T.F.S.A. funds are due on demand and bear interest at variable rates of interest which are determined at July 1 and December 31 of each year. At December 31, 2015, the interest rate applicable to trust deposits is 2.25 percent (2014 - 2.50 percent) and for RRSP Trust and T.F.S.A. funds is 2.50 percent (2014 - 2.75 percent).

**11. Restrictions on net assets:**

All of the net assets restricted for endowment purposes are subject to externally imposed restrictions stipulating that the principal be maintained intact. Investment income earned on endowments is externally restricted for specific purposes.

At December 31, net assets restricted for endowments consists of the following:

|                               | 2015                | 2014                |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| CMU Endowment                 | \$ 205,077          | \$ 205,077          |
| Manitoba Conference Endowment | 73,797              | 73,797              |
| Evangelism Endowment          | 158,803             | 158,803             |
| Family Endowment              | 923,243             | 922,665             |
|                               | <b>\$ 1,360,920</b> | <b>\$ 1,360,342</b> |

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

---

**11. Restrictions on net assets (continued):**

Internally restricted funds of the Division include the following specific reserves:

(i) Reserve for investment:

This reserve provides for fluctuations in the market value of investments. Gains and losses on disposal of investments, unrealized gains and losses on investments, plus a surplus distribution are credited or charged to this account. For the year ended December 31, 2015, unrealized losses on investments of \$1,914,258 (2014 - unrealized gains of \$546,474 on investments) were recorded against the reserve for investment. Additionally, for the year ended December 31, 2015, \$1,414,423 was transferred from the reserve for investment to unrestricted net assets to fund the unanticipated deficit in operations. For the year ended December 31, 2014, \$1,305,685 was transferred to the reserve for investment from the excess of revenue over expenditures of the Stewardship Division.

(ii) Operating Reserve:

This reserve is held for use by the Division to fund new initiatives and unanticipated deficits in operations. For the year ended December 31, 2015, \$507,492 was transferred from the operating reserve to unrestricted net assets to fund the budgeted deficit in operations of the Church Ministry Division and nil was transferred to the operating reserve from the internally restricted net assets of the Church Ministry Division. For the year ended December 31, 2014, \$811,320 was transferred from the operating reserve to unrestricted net assets to fund the unanticipated deficit in operations of the Church Ministry Division and \$29,135 was transferred to the operating reserve from the internally restricted net assets of the Church Ministry Division.

(iii) Stabilization Reserve:

The purpose of the Stabilization Reserve is to fund deficits in operations resulting from market or other circumstances and to allow for normal cash flow fluctuations. Transfers to the reserve are made upon approval of the board of directors. For the year ended December 31, 2015, the board of directors approved a transfer of nil (2014 - \$940,315) from the stabilization reserve to unrestricted net assets to fund the budgeted deficit in operations of the Church Ministry Division.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

**11. Restrictions on net assets (continued):**

(iv) Tithe Reserve:

The purpose of the Tithe Reserve is to fund sister conferences. Transfers to the reserve are made upon approval of the board of directors. For the year ended December 31, 2015, the board of directors approved a transfer of \$77,100 (2014 - \$150,000) to the International Community of Mennonite Brethren (ICOMB) of which nil (2014 - \$27,135) remains in a trust deposit account for use by ICOMB at December 31, 2015.

|                        | 2015                | 2014                |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Reserve for investment | \$ 1,222,819        | \$ 4,551,500        |
| Operating Reserve      | 29,135              | 536,627             |
| Tithe Reserve          | -                   | 77,100              |
|                        | <b>\$ 1,251,954</b> | <b>\$ 5,165,227</b> |

**12. Commitments:**

Individual and church loans:

The Division has made commitments to individuals and churches for loans that have not been disbursed by December 31, 2015 in the approximate amount of \$7,400,000 (2014 - \$12,509,000).

Lease commitments:

The Division leases office space under long-term leases. The future minimum payments required under these leases are:

|      |            |
|------|------------|
| 2016 | \$ 185,556 |
| 2017 | 148,395    |
| 2018 | 56,615     |

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

---

**13. Employee pension plan:**

The Division is a participant of a money purchase pension plan. Members of the plan include employees of the Division and related organizations. The cost of funding the plan is shared by employee and employer. The rate of employer contributions to the fund in 2015 was 5 percent (2014 - 5 percent) of the employee salaries. The pension expense for the year ended December 31, 2015 was \$26,841 (2014 - \$40,275).

**14. Financial risks:****(a) Currency risk:**

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of the Division holding investments denominated in United States dollars (USD) and holding cash denominated in USD. Fluctuations in the relative values of the Canadian dollar against USD can result in a positive or a negative impact on the fair value of the investments and cash. The Division manages its investment portfolio to earn investment income and invests according to a Statement of Investment Policy approved by The Board and monitored by investment managers. The Division currently holds USD and manages this cash for the purposes of achieving foreign exchange gains and meeting the cash requirements of the Division. This cash management approach exposes the Division to changes in exchange rates which can affect the fund balances.

**(b) Interest rate risk:**

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a finance instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Division is exposed to interest rate risk on its investments in corporate bonds, bond funds, mortgages and mortgage funds. Further details about the fixed rate investments are included in note 5. The Division manages its investment portfolio to earn investment income and invests according to a Statement of Investment Policy approved by The Board and monitored by investment managers. The Division is not involved in any hedging relationships through its operations and does not hold or use any derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

**(c) Liquidity risk:**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Division will encounter difficulty in meeting financial obligations as they become due, and arises from the Division's management of working capital. The Division's policy is to ensure that it will have sufficient cash to allow it to meet its liabilities when they become due.

**THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN  
CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA - STEWARDSHIP DIVISION**

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

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**14. Financial risks (continued):**

## (d) Credit risk:

Credit risk is the risk that a party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge the obligation. The Division is exposed to credit risk arising from its mortgages and loans receivable and investments corporate bonds, bond funds, mortgages and mortgage funds. In order to reduce its credit risk, the Division reviews loan applications before extending credit. Investments are monitored by investment managers. An allowance for credit losses is established based upon factors surrounding the credit risk of specific accounts. The Division has a significant number of corporate bonds, bond funds, mortgages and mortgage fund investments which minimizes concentration of credit risk.

There have been no changes to the Division's financial instrument risk exposure from the prior year.

**15. Comparative information:**

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the financial statement presentation adopted in the current year.

Financial Statements of

**CANADIAN MENNONITE  
BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

Year ended December 31, 2015

**CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

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Year ended December 31, 2015

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Trustees of the Canadian Mennonite Brethren Pension Plan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Canadian Mennonite Brethren Pension Plan, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015, the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



*Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Canadian Mennonite Brethren Pension Plan as at December 31, 2015, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans.

*KPMG LLP*

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Chartered Professional Accountants

May 26, 2016

Winnipeg, Canada

**CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

|   | 2015                 | 2014                 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                               |                      |                      |
| Cash and short-term investments             | \$ 2,353,425         | \$ 3,669,798         |
| Mutual funds                                | 6,550,514            | 2,670,167            |
| Fixed income and related securities         | 26,741,765           | 26,115,881           |
| Canadian equity and related securities      | 9,194,857            | 13,725,438           |
| U.S. equity and related securities          | 15,645,336           | 14,944,393           |
| International equity and related securities | 14,600,251           | 10,530,871           |
|   | <u>75,086,148</u>    | <u>71,656,548</u>    |
| <b>Net assets available for benefits</b>    | <b>\$ 75,086,148</b> | <b>\$ 71,656,548</b> |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

**CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

|   | 2015          | 2014          |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Increase in net assets:                               |               |               |
| Contributions:  |               |               |
| Employer  | \$ 2,021,924  | \$ 1,960,747  |
| Employees   | 2,021,924     | 1,960,747     |
| Employee voluntary                                    | 290,662       | 24,185        |
| Transfers and adjustments                             | -             | (21,387)      |
| Investment income (note 3)                            | 1,880,000     | 1,768,725     |
| Realized investment gains, net of realized losses     | 3,504,771     | 5,007,419     |
| Unrealized investment gains, net of unrealized losses | (480,760)     | (568,886)     |
|   | 9,238,521     | 10,131,550    |
| Decrease in net assets:                               |               |               |
| Retirement withdrawals                                | 5,565,917     | 4,237,199     |
| Death withdrawals                                     | -             | 278,605       |
| Terminations  | 127,734       | 83,299        |
| Trustee fees  | 115,270       | 113,428       |
|   | 5,808,921     | 4,712,531     |
| Increase in net assets available for benefits         | 3,429,600     | 5,419,019     |
| Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year  | 71,656,548    | 66,237,529    |
| Net assets available for benefits, end of year        | \$ 75,086,148 | \$ 71,656,548 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2015

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## 1. Description of the Plan:

The Canadian Mennonite Brethren Pension Plan (the Plan) is an employer pension plan which provides pensions for the employees of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (the Conference) and other Mennonite Brethren employers. The Plan is a defined contribution pension plan which is financed by contributions by the employers and employees. The Plan is registered under the *Pension Benefits Act* of British Columbia, registration #0561175.

These financial statements reflect only the assets and liabilities under the administration for the Trustees of the Pension Plan on behalf of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. The term "net assets", as used throughout these financial statements, refers to net assets available for benefits.

The funding policy, in accordance with the Plan is that employees must contribute 5 percent of their earnings to the Plan, with the balance of the funding coming from employers matching employees' contributions.

The Plan is fully vested upon receipt of the first contribution.

Withdrawal or transfers of the balance of the member's account are available when a member ceases to be employed by the employer.

The Plan is a registered pension plan as defined by the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) and is not subject to income taxes.

## 2. Significant accounting policies:

### (a) Basis of presentation:

These financial statements are prepared using Canadian accounting standards for pension plans. For accounting policies that do not relate to the Plan's investment portfolio, the Plan has elected to apply Canadian accounting standards for private enterprises.

A statement of changes in pension obligations has not been provided since the changes in the pension obligation for the year is equal to the change in net assets available for benefits that year.

**CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

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**2. Significant accounting policies:****(b) Financial instruments:**

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Freestanding derivative instruments that are not in a qualifying hedging relationship and equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. The Plan has elected to carry its investments at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs, which are amortized using the straight-line method.

**(c) Fair value measurement:**

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction on the measurement date.

The Plan uses closing market price for fair value measurement. When available, the Plan measures the fair value of an instrument using quoted prices in an active market for that instrument. A market is regarded as active if quoted prices are readily and regularly available and represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

If a market for a financial instrument is not active, then the Plan establishes fair value using a valuation technique. Valuation techniques include using recent arm's length transactions between knowledgeable, willing parties (if available), reference to the current fair value of other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analyses and option pricing models.

**CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

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**2. Significant accounting policies (continued):**

The Plan has categorized its assets and liabilities that are carried at fair value on a recurring basis, based on the priority of the inputs to the valuation techniques used to measure fair value, into a three level fair value hierarchy. Financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value are categorized as follows:

Level 1: Fair value is based on unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in an active market.

Level 2: Fair value is based on quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, valuation that is based on significant observable inputs or inputs that are derived principally for or corroborated with observable market data through correlation or other means.

Level 3: Fair value is based on valuation techniques that require one or more significant unobservable inputs or the use of broker quotes. These unobservable inputs reflect the Plan's assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the assets or liabilities.

All changes in fair value, other than interest and dividend income, are recognized in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits within unrealized and realized investment gains and losses.

Fair values of investments are determined as follows:

Bonds and equities are valued at year-end closing market prices.

Since money market instruments are primarily comprised of Canada treasury bills, government and corporate short-term notes, their carrying value approximates fair value given the nature of these investments.

Mutual funds are valued at the unit values supplied by the fund administrator, which represents the Plan's proportionate share of underlying net assets at fair values determined using year-end closing market prices.

**CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

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**2. Significant accounting policies (continued):**

Investments in derivative financial instruments, being forward foreign exchange contracts, are valued at year end quoted market prices where available. Where quoted prices are not available, values are determined using pricing models, which taken into account current market and contractual prices of the underlying instruments, as well as time value and yield curve or volatility factors underlying the positions.

Alternative investments are recorded at fair value determined by the external manager. A number of valuation methodologies are considered in arriving at the fair value of unquoted investments, including internal or external valuation models, which may include discounted cash flow analyses. The most appropriate methodology to determine fair value is chosen on an investment by investment basis. Any control, size, liquidity or other discounts or premiums on the investment are considered by the external manager in their determination of fair value.

**(d) Foreign currency translation:**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into Canadian dollars at the exchange rate at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are retranslated into Canadian dollars at the exchange rate at that date.

Foreign currency differences arising on retranslation are recognized in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits within unrealized investment gains and losses.

**(e) Investment transactions and income recognition:****(i) Investment transactions:**

Investment transactions are accounted for on a trade date basis.

**(ii) Income recognition:**

Investment income has been accrued as reported by the issuer of the pooled funds and bonds. Dividend income from publicly traded securities is recorded as of the ex-dividend date. Interest income has been accrued as earned.

**CANADIAN MENNONITE BROTHERS PENSION PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

**2. Significant accounting policies (continued):**

## (f) Contributions:

Employee and employer contributions are recognized on an accrual basis.

## (g) Benefits:

Benefit payments to members, termination refunds to former members, and transfer payments to other plans are recorded in the period in which they are paid or payable. Any benefit payment accruals not paid are reflected in accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

## (h) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**3. Investment income:**

|   | 2015                | 2014                |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mutual funds                                | \$ 8,365            | \$ 28,862           |
| Fixed income and related securities         | 726,154             | 666,762             |
| Canadian equity and related securities      | 379,158             | 466,323             |
| U.S. equity and related securities          | 296,585             | 322,886             |
| International equity and related securities | 469,738             | 283,892             |
|   | <b>\$ 1,880,000</b> | <b>\$ 1,768,725</b> |

**4. Risk management:**

The Plan is exposed to a variety of financial risks as a result of its investment activities and has policies and procedures that govern the management of market, credit and liquidity risk. The Finance Committee establishes a target asset mix among interest bearing instruments and Canadian and foreign equities to ensure diversification across asset classes. This strategy is provided to the investment managers who implements and monitors it to ensure the policies are met.

## CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

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#### 4. Risk management (continued):

The Board of Directors through the Finance Committee, a permanent sub-committee of the Board, has overall responsibility for the Plan including the establishment and review of the Plan's risk management objectives and policies. The Board has appointed RBC Dominion Securities to manage the ongoing investment operations of the Plan in keeping with the agreed upon Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (the SIPP) and as required by the law. The Finance Committee receives regular reports from RBC Dominion Securities through which it reviews the market values of the Plan assets.

The principal financial instruments used by the Plan, from which financial instrument risk arises are as follows:

- (i) cash, short-term investments and mutual funds; and
- (ii) investments in fixed income and related securities, Canadian equity and related securities, U.S. equity and related securities, and international equity and related securities.

There have been no substantive changes in the Plan's exposure to financial instrument risks, its objectives, policies and processes for managing those risks or methods used to measure them from previous periods.

##### (a) Market risk:

##### (i) Interest rate risk:

Interest rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect future cash flows or fair values of financial instruments. Interest rate risk arises when the Plan invests in interest-bearing financial assets. The Plan is exposed to the risk that the value of such financial assets will fluctuate due to changes in the prevailing levels of market interest rates. The Plan's exposure to interest rate risk is concentrated in its investments in fixed income funds and a money market mutual fund. To manage the Plan's interest rate risk, appropriate guidelines on the weighting and duration for fixed income investments are set by the Finance Committee and monitored by the investment manager. As at December 31, 2015, if the prevailing interest rates were raised or lowered by 100 basis points, with all other factors held constant, net assets would likely have decreased or increased, respectively, by approximately \$924,000 (2014 - \$1,393,500).

**CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

**4. Risk management (continued):**

## (ii) Foreign currency risk:

Currency risk is the risk that fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of the Plan investing in foreign currencies and converting non-Canadian earnings at different points in time at different foreign exchange levels. The Plan currently holds foreign equities. This investment approach exposes the Plan to changes in exchange rates which can affect the net assets available for benefits. The Plan does not hedge foreign currency risk.

The Plan's exposure to foreign currencies to the Canadian dollar is shown below:

| As at December 31, 2015 | Actual currency<br>exposure | %      |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Canadian                | \$ 43,860,919               | 58.41  |
| U.S. dollar             | 31,225,229                  | 41.59  |
|                         | \$ 75,086,148               | 100.00 |

| As at December 31, 2014 | Actual currency<br>exposure | %      |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Canadian                | \$ 44,846,363               | 62.59  |
| U.S. dollar             | 26,810,185                  | 37.41  |
|                         | \$ 71,656,548               | 100.00 |

A 10 percent increase or decrease in exchange rates at December 31, 2015, with all other variables held constant, would have resulted in a change in unrealized gains (losses) of approximately \$3,123,000 (2014 - \$2,681,000).

## (iii) Other price risk:

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk). The Plan is subject to equity price risk due to daily changes in the market values of its equity portfolio.

**CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

**4. Risk management (continued):**

Equity price risk is managed by investment policy guidelines that provide for prudent investment in equity markets within defined limits. The Plan does not use derivative instruments to reduce its exposure to equity price risk.

As at December 31 2015, a decline of 10 percent in equity values, with all other variables held constant, would have impacted the Plan's equity investments by an approximate unrealized loss of \$3,944,000 (2014 - \$3,920,000).

**(b) Credit risk:**

The Plan is exposed to credit risk through its investment in fixed income securities, which is the risk that a counterparty will be unable to pay amounts in full when due. All transactions in listed securities are settled upon delivery using approved investment managers. The risk of default is considered minimal, as delivery of securities sold is only made once the investment manager has received payment. Payment is made on a purchase once the securities have been received by the investment manager. The trade will fail if either party fails to meet its obligation. The Plan utilized multiple counterparties and those that have a high credit rating in order to minimize credit risk.

Unless otherwise authorized by the Board, the asset mix of the fund must at all times be in accordance with the Plan's SIPP. In addition, all investments are required to be maintained within legal limitations for employee pension plans registered under the *British Columbia Pension Benefits Act* and the Pension Benefits Standards Regulations (1985) Canada, and in such a manner as is necessary to avoid any penalty under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). These measures mitigate the risk of credit default. The Finance Committee reviews investment reports with the investment advisor to monitor exposure to risk.

The breakdown of the Plan's fixed income portfolio by credit ratings from various rating agencies is presented below:

| Credit rating | 2015                 |             | 2014                 |             |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
|               | Carrying value       | Coupon rate | Carrying value       | Coupon rate |
| AAA           | \$ 3,118,903         | 3.43%       | \$ 2,523,706         | 3.17%       |
| AA            | 3,566,963            | 2.83%       | 9,214,526            | 3.16%       |
| A             | 17,054,049           | 3.34%       | 11,739,531           | 3.86%       |
| BBB           | 3,001,850            | 3.17%       | 2,638,118            | 3.77%       |
|               | <b>\$ 26,741,765</b> |             | <b>\$ 26,115,881</b> |             |

**CANADIAN MENNONITE BROTHERS PENSION PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

**4. Risk management (continued):**

Credit risk associated with contributions receivable is minimized due to their nature. No provision for doubtful contributions has been recorded in either 2015 or 2014.

## (c) Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Plan will encounter difficulty in meeting financial obligations as they come due. The Plan may be subject to liquidity constraints because of insufficient volume in the markets for the securities of the Plan or the securities may be subject to legal or contractual restrictions on their resale. Liquidity risk is managed by investing the majority of the Plan's assets in investments that are traded in an active market and can be readily disposed.

The table below summarizes the fair value by the earliest contractual maturity of the Plan's fixed income investments:

|                         | 2015                 | 2014                 |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Less than one year      | \$ 1,350,388         | \$ 1,121,316         |
| One to five years       | 18,332,735           | 14,957,511           |
| After five years        | 7,058,642            | 10,037,054           |
| <b>Total fair value</b> | <b>\$ 26,741,765</b> | <b>\$ 26,115,881</b> |

**5. Disclosures relating to fair value measurements:**

The following table summarizes the fair value measurements recognized in the statement of financial position categorized by fair value hierarchy:

| December 31, 2015                           | Level 1              | Level 2              | Level 3     | Total                |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Cash and short-term investments             | \$ 2,353,425         | \$ —                 | \$ —        | \$ 2,353,425         |
| Mutual funds                                | 1,266,828            | 5,283,686            | —           | 6,550,514            |
| Fixed income and related securities         | —                    | 26,741,765           | —           | 26,741,765           |
| Canadian equity and related securities      | 9,194,857            | —                    | —           | 9,194,857            |
| U.S. equity and related securities          | 15,645,336           | —                    | —           | 15,645,336           |
| International equity and related securities | 14,600,251           | —                    | —           | 14,600,251           |
|   | <b>\$ 43,060,697</b> | <b>\$ 32,025,451</b> | <b>\$ —</b> | <b>\$ 75,086,148</b> |

**CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2015

**5. Disclosures relating to fair value measurements (continued):**

| December 31, 2014                           | Level 1       | Level 2       | Level 3 | Total         |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| Cash and short-term investments             | \$ 3,669,798  | \$ –          | \$ –    | \$ 3,669,798  |
| Mutual funds                                | 2,670,167     | –             | –       | 2,670,167     |
| Fixed income and related securities         | –             | 26,115,881    | –       | 26,115,881    |
| Canadian equity and related securities      | 13,725,438    | –             | –       | 13,725,438    |
| U.S. equity and related securities          | 14,944,393    | –             | –       | 14,944,393    |
| International equity and related securities | 10,530,871    | –             | –       | 10,530,871    |
|   | \$ 45,540,667 | \$ 26,115,881 | \$ –    | \$ 71,656,548 |

During the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, there were no transfers between levels.

**6. Capital management:**

The capital of the Plan is represented by net assets available for benefits. There have been no changes in what the Plan considers to be its capital since the previous period. The Plan fulfils its objectives by adhering to specific investment policies outlined in the SIPP which is reviewed annually by the Finance Committee.

The Plan's investment positions expose it to a variety of risks which are discussed in note 4. The Plan manages net assets by engaging knowledgeable investment managers who are charged with the responsibility of investing existing funds and new funds (current year's employee and employer contributions) in accordance with the approved SIPP.

As a defined contribution pension plan, the Plan's operations are reliant on revenues generated annually. The Plan has accumulated net assets available for benefits over its history. A portion of the net assets available for benefits is retained as working capital which may be required from time to time due to timing days in receiving its primary revenues. The remaining balance in net assets available for benefits is available for the use of the Plan and is allocated between each of the pension plan members.

## **Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches**

### **General Operating Bylaw**

#### **Approved at Gathering 2014**

#### **Preamble**

Whereas the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches is incorporated by an Act of the Senate of Canada, assented to as Bill G6 on November 22, 1945 for the following objects:

- (1) to promote, maintain, superintend and carry on, in any and all parts of Canada, in accordance with the doctrinal laws, constitution, acts and rulings of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches of any or all of the work of that body;
- (2) to organize, maintain and carry on, in any and all parts of Canada, charities and missions, and to erect, maintain and conduct therein churches, schools, camps, colleges, orphanages, hospitals, and homes for the aged;
- (3) to advance in other lawful ways education, religion, charity and benevolence;
- (4) to administer in Canada the property, business and other temporal affairs of the Corporation and
- (5) to organize and carry on, in any and all parts of Canada, in furtherance of the lawful objects of the Conference, and not otherwise, the business of printing and publishing;

And, whereas it is considered expedient to enact a general operating bylaw relating generally to the conduct and the affairs of the Conference, be it therefore enacted as a bylaw of the Conference as follows:

#### **Article 1 Interpretations**

- 1.1 In this bylaw and all other bylaws and resolutions of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches unless the context otherwise requires it, the singular includes the plural; and the masculine gender includes the feminine;
- 1.2 Terms defined in the Charter have the same meanings in this bylaw;
- 1.3 “Board of Faith and Life” means the board pursuant to Article 11 of this bylaw established by the Conference to oversee the doctrinal and spiritual aspects of the Conference;
- 1.4 “Charter” means the Act of the Senate of Canada, assented to as Bill G6 on November 22, 1945 and any subsequent amendments or acts enacted in substitution therefor, from time to time;
- 1.5 “Committee” means any committee established by the Conference or the Executive Board pursuant to Article 10;
- 1.6 “Conference” means the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches;

1.7 “Confession of Faith” means the document annexed hereto as Appendix A, as same may be amended from time to time in accordance with Article 15;

1.8 “Convention” means a duly called meeting at which Member Churches are represented by authorized delegates;

1.9 “Delegate” means an authorized representative of a Member Church who is a Voting Member of the Conference;

1.10 “Executive Board” means the board of directors of the Conference;

1.11 “Executive Officer” means any person who holds one of the offices enumerated in Article 7;

1.12 “Member Church” means a local Christian congregation in Canada which is in agreement with the Confession of Faith and has been duly received into membership by a provincial conference or, upon recommendation of the Executive Board, by the Conference.

1.13 “Designate”, as related to a provincial representative attending a board meeting, is appointed by the provincial board for a specified term of service to replace the Moderator (or equivalent) at board meetings.

1.14 “Alternate”, as related to a provincial representative attending a board meeting, is an observer sent from that province for a meeting when the Moderator or designate is not available.

## **Article 2 Confession of Faith**

The Confession of Faith shall be the statement guiding the faith and practice of the Conference.

## **Article 3 The Conference in Perspective**

### **Section 1 Nationally**

The Conference is and shall at all times remain a Canadian charitable organization within the meaning thereof in the Income Tax Act (Canada). Its Member Churches are local congregations which, as a condition of membership in the Conference, shall also be and remain Canadian charitable organizations.

### **Section 2 Provincially**

A listing of provincial conferences is attached as Appendix B.

### **Section 3 Internationally**

Internationally the Conference relates to and cooperates with similar (parallel) national bodies of Mennonite Brethren churches in other countries which are part of ICOMB to foster fellowship and to engage in joint ministries in the pursuit of its objects.

## **Article 4 The Canadian Conference in Relation to its Member Churches**

**Section 1 Admission as a Member Church**

Where provincial conferences exist (Appendix B), churches are admitted to the national conference membership by action of their respective provincial conference. Any church that is accepted as a member in a provincial conference becomes at the same time a member in the Conference. Any Member Church established in a location outside of a provincial conference can become a member of the Conference upon the recommendation of the Executive Board.

**Section 2 Process for Cessation of Membership**

Any Member Church may by its own choice, or for cause, by action of its respective provincial Conference in consultation with the Executive Board, cease to be a member of the Conference provincially and therefore also nationally. Any church established in a location outside of a provincial conference is subject to the Conference and the Executive Board in the cessation process.

**Section 3 Local Congregations**

The Member Churches are local congregations consisting of baptized, Christian believers who are joined in a community of faith for mutual edification, outreach, and who subscribe to the Confession of Faith.

**Section 4 Member Church Participation**

Whereas each Member Church is free to manage its local affairs, Member Churches relate to each other and cooperate with one another by joining and supporting their respective provincial conference and the Conference for mutual encouragement and increased effectiveness in service and witness in Canada and globally.

**Section 5 Assistance when Needed**

When a Member Church is unable to resolve an issue which is harmful to its life and witness, the Conference has the right and the duty to offer its assistance in resolving the difficulty, upon request from or in consultation with the respective provincial conference.

**Section 6 Suspension of a Member Church**

The Conference may withdraw the privilege of membership from any Member Church which ceases to be substantially in harmony with the Confession of Faith.

**Section 7 Membership in the Member Church**

The regulation of membership of individuals in Member Churches is the responsibility of the Member Church. Guidelines shall be maintained by the Conference to assist Member Churches and to promote consistency of practice.

**Section 8 No Proprietary Rights**

Membership in a Member Church creates no proprietary rights in any of the tangible assets thereof. Termination of membership, for whatever reason, requires no accounting by the Member Church to the departing member with respect to such assets.

**Article 5 The Authority and Accountability Structures within the Conference****Section 1 The Conference as Part of the Body of Christ**

The Conference is the national entity of a community of Christian believers known as the Mennonite Brethren denomination in Canada. In partnership with fellow believers in other communities, the

Conference is organized and works under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to take the gospel into all the world starting in our neighbourhoods, and beyond that, to our respective provinces, to our nation and to the ends of the earth.

### **Section 2 The Source of Legal Authority**

The Conference receives its legal authority to exist and to operate from section 4 of its Charter, which empowers the membership of the Conference to establish the Executive Board to govern and direct the affairs of the Conference. The Executive Board receives its authority to govern from, and is accountable to, the Conference.

### **Section 3 The Will of the Conference**

The will of the Conference shall be expressed by resolutions adopted at its Conventions. The Executive Board shall govern and direct the affairs of the Conference between Conventions in accordance with the will of the Conference.

### **Section 4 Plebiscites and Referenda**

The Conference in Convention is empowered to decide all matters corporately affecting the Member Churches. Plebiscites and referenda may be used only if authorized by a two-thirds majority vote at a Convention.

## **Article 6 Conventions of the Conference**

### **Section 1 Authority to Convene a Convention**

As stated in Section 4 of its Charter, the Conference shall hold annual Conventions for inspiration, reporting, direction-setting and decision-making, at such time and place as may be decided by the Executive Board.

### **Section 2 Special Conventions**

Subject to notice as hereafter provided, the Conference may call a special Convention at any time by decision of the Executive Board.

### **Section 3 Date, Location and Agenda of Conventions**

The Executive Board shall give at least six (6) weeks notice of any annual or special Convention. Such notice shall stipulate the date, location and agenda with associated documents of such Convention. Notice shall be deemed to have been sufficiently given if sent by electronic means or ordinary mail to the Member Churches, or if given by announcement in the Conference periodical publications distributed to the members of Member Churches.

### **Section 4 Church Representation at Convention**

Each Member Church shall be entitled to be represented at any Convention by delegates. Each delegate must be 18 years of age or older, must be a member in good standing, and shall be approved as a delegate by the church membership or governing board of the church. The maximum number of delegates is one (1) pastoral delegate per church and one (1) other delegate for every twenty-five (25) members or fraction thereof of that Member Church. Executive Board members have a vote at Convention by virtue of their position as Executive Board members.

### **Section 5 Voting**

Each delegate to a Convention shall have one vote, which must be cast in person. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

### **Section 6 Quorum at Convention**

A quorum for any Convention shall consist of not less than one hundred (100) delegates registered at commencement thereof, in the absence of which no binding decisions can be made. Thereafter the delegates present in person shall be deemed to constitute a quorum. The quorum shall be reduced to thirty (30) if the agenda is limited to the appointment of an auditor, approval of annual budget, and the receiving and approving of the financial statements.

### **Section 7 Role of Delegates**

The role of the delegates at a Convention, in addition to those which are delineated by the Charter or by virtue of law, shall be as follows:

- (1) To elect those members of the Executive Board, the Board of Faith and Life and the Nominating Committee prescribed by the governing documents; and to elect the moderator, assistant moderator and secretary.
- (2) To receive reports from the Executive Board, the Board of Faith and Life, the Nominating Committee and the external Auditor.
- (3) To hold the reporting boards/committee(s) accountable for their actions;
- (4) To provide policy direction; and
- (5) To approve amendments to the governing documents.

## **Article 7 The Executive Board**

### **Section 1 The Composition and Election**

As stated in Section 4 of the charter, the Executive Board consists of not less than eleven and not more than fifteen members.

The Executive Board shall be composed of the following voting members:

- (1) the moderator of the Conference, who shall chair Conventions of the Conference and meetings of the Executive Board, except if and when prevented or excused, and shall act as formal representative of the Conference;
- (2) the assistant moderator of the Conference, who shall assist the Moderator and act in the capacity of Moderator in the absence of the incumbent;
- (3) the secretary of the Conference, who shall oversee and be responsible for the recording of minutes of Conventions and of meetings of the Executive Board, and shall carry out such other duties customarily the responsibility of secretaries of corporate bodies;
- (4) the moderators (or their equivalents) or ~~their designates a designate~~ from each province, region or area listed in Appendix B hereto attached; ~~designates alternates~~ will not have voting rights
- (5) additional members-at-large as required elected at an annual Convention.

In addition, the Executive Board includes the following non-voting members:

- (1) the Executive Director;
- (2) two members of the Board of Faith and Life appointed by the said Board from its membership.

The Executive Director, as an ex-officio, non-voting board member, has the right to speak to any issue. Attendance by other executive staff members is by specific invitation.

In compliance with the Charter, all board members chosen by provincial conferences or who may be members by virtue of office shall be subject to a vote of ratification at the annual Convention. All board members must receive affirmation by at least two thirds of the delegates voting at the convention.

The officers shall be the moderator, assistant moderator, secretary and Executive Director.

## **Section 2 Term of Office**

- (1) The term of office of each elected member-at-large (see section 1.1,2,3,5) is four (4) years. Members will be eligible for a second four (4) year term. Terms of elected members shall be staggered. Vacancies occurring between Conventions shall be filled, if necessary, by appointment of the Executive Board.
- (2) The term of office of moderator, assistant moderator and secretary shall be two (2) ~~years~~ ~~years within their four-year elected term~~. The moderator, assistant moderator and secretary may not serve in the same position for more than two consecutive, full terms.
- (3) In special circumstances, this provision may be set aside by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present and voting at a delegate Convention.
- (4) Vacancies occurring among elected members-at-large and office holders such as moderator, assistant moderator and secretary, shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Board for the unexpired portion of the term of office. When a provincial moderator or his designate must be replaced, the respective province shall make the appointment.
- (5) Newly elected provincial representatives and members elected at large shall take office upon adjournment of the annual Convention.
- (6) The term of office of any member of the Executive Board may be suspended for misconduct upon resolution of at least two-thirds of its voting members. Any such suspension shall continue until the next following annual Convention, at which further disposition of the case, including termination, may be made by the Convention.

## **Section 3 Responsibility**

The Executive Board shall through prayerful discernment seek God's leading to provide leadership in promoting vision, strategic planning, determination of the mission, enunciation of the values, overseeing financial and operational matters, setting of goals and evaluation of results in matters relating to the extension of the kingdom of God through the Member Churches.

## **Section 4 Specific Duties and Functions**

The Executive Board as the board of directors of the Conference shall govern and oversee the affairs and assets of the Conference as required by the Charter and by virtue of law. Without restriction, this shall include the following:

- (1) select and engage an Executive Director to implement the goals and policies of the Canadian Conference;

- (2) delegate management authority and responsibility to the Executive Director;
- (3) approve the Strategic Plan and priorities;
- (4) monitor performance and measure strategic outcomes;
- (5) oversee financial and operational matters, assume fiduciary responsibility for the conference, seek financial solvency and integrity;
- (6) represent the Conference externally;
- (7) foster inter-church relations and contacts with other church-related agencies;
- (8) consult with member churches in the process of strategic planning;
- (9) provide a forum for dialogue related to matters of congregational polity;
- (10) design governance structure and processes;
- (11) meet at least three (3) times per year;
- (12) maintain a current Governance Manual;
- (13) be accountable to the Conference at its Conventions;
- (14) engage consultants, appoint commissions and create advisory and ad hoc committees as required;
- (15) appoint a parliamentarian to serve during a Convention for the purpose of ensuring that decisions are in compliance with the Conference's governing documents and that transactions are conducted according to commonly accepted rules of parliamentary procedure;
- (16) evaluate and improve itself as the governing board; and
- (17) appoint the following committees: Finance, Audit Review, Governance and others.

## **Article 8 Board and Committee Polity**

### **Section 1 Board and Committee Integrity**

A board or committee can express its will only when it is in session either in one location or in a teleconference. A board or committee cannot function as such except in meetings duly called and convened, and then only after roll call and before adjournment.

### **Section 2 Board and Committee Solidarity**

Individual members have no authority to speak for or act on behalf of the board or committee except when such authority has been officially delegated. Members must take care not to commit or to appear to commit the board or committee to any stand, in private or public statements, which the board or committee as a whole may be unwilling to take.

### **Section 3 Protection of Directors and Officers**

Every board and committee member of the Conference and any other person, including every employee, who has undertaken or is about to undertake any liability on behalf of the Conference, and their respective heirs, executors, administrators and assigns respectively, shall at all times be indemnified and saved harmless, out of the funds of the Conference from and against:

- (1) All costs, charges and expenses which such a board or committee member or other person sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceeding which is brought by or prosecuted against him/her for,

or in respect of any act, deed, matter or thing whatsoever made, done or permitted by him/her in or about the execution of the duties of his/her office, except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by his/her own wilful neglect or deliberate illegal acts; and

(2) All other costs, charges and expenses, which he sustains or incurs, in or about or in relation to the affairs thereof except such costs, charges and expenses as are occasioned by his/her own wilful neglect or deliberate illegal acts.

### **Article 9 Executive Director**

The Executive Board shall employ an Executive Director, who shall be accountable to the Executive Board for the management of the affairs of the Conference, including the following:

- (1) To develop the staff infrastructure to fulfil the values, goals and mission of the Conference;
- (2) To act as the team leader of the executive staff, providing direction in line with the vision and strategic plans of the Conference;
- (3) To present to the Executive Board tactical and financial plans that comply with the strategic plan;
- (4) To provide pastoral counsel where needed or requested by provincial conferences;
- (5) To plan public events such as gatherings, study conferences, and pastors' orientation;
- (6) To represent the Conference as appropriate.

### **Article 10 The Additional Conference Board and Committee**

The Conference shall maintain the Board of Faith and Life and Nominating Committee.

### **Article 11 Board of Faith and Life**

#### **Section 1 Composition**

The Board shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) three (3) members elected by the Conference at the Convention;
- (2) one (1) member elected by each of the organizations listed in Appendix B hereto;
- (3) conference ministers elected or appointed by the organizations listed in Appendix B hereto.
- (4) the executive director as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

#### **Section 2 Duties and Functions**

The specific duties of the Board of Faith and Life include:

- (1) To initiate the appropriate action or serve as a resource in issues of faith and life through consultation, teaching, and publishing;
- (2) To be responsible for promoting the Conference's peace witness in Member Churches and Canada;
- (3) To plan study conferences in consultation with the Executive Board;

- (4) To appoint two of its members to the Executive Board to monitor the actions taken at an Executive Board meeting for their ethical soundness and biblical correctness and to report their findings to the Convention;
- (5) To report the plans and activities of the Board to the Executive Board;
- (6) To be accountable to the Conference at its Convention;
- (7) To undertake such other duties as Conventions may from time to time assign to this Board.

## **Article 12 Nominating Committee**

### **Section 1 Composition**

The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) the Secretary of the Conference who shall normally act as nominating committee chair;
- (2) the moderators, or their equivalents, or others designated by each of the organizations listed in Appendix B hereto;
- (3) two (2) members elected by a Convention.
- (4) the Executive Director as ex officio member

### **Section 2 Duties**

The Committee shall nominate persons for election by Conventions of the Conference as required from time to time. In furtherance of its function, this Committee shall assess the skills required for elective or appointed positions and shall maintain a database of the elected and appointed incumbents and their respective terms of office.

## **Article 13 Audit Review Committee**

### **Section 1 Appointment and Composition**

At its first meeting after each annual meeting, the Board shall appoint the Audit Review Committee, including the chairperson. This committee shall consist of not less than three (3) and not more than five (5) members, the majority of which shall be Executive Board members.

### **Section 2 General Role**

The Audit Review Committee's role is to act on behalf of the Board and oversee qualitative aspects of financial reporting, processes for the management of financial risk, control and audit functions, and compliance with policy and significant applicable legal, ethical and regulatory requirements.

### **Section 3 Specific Responsibilities**

Without limiting the general responsibility, the committee will do at least the following:

- (1) To recommend to the Executive Board the appointment of an independent public auditor;
- (2) To meet at least twice annually, unless otherwise directed by the Executive Board, plan and review the annual audit with the external auditor, negotiate the remuneration to be paid to the external auditor for the ensuing year, and report to the Executive Board on the audit, and any management or audit comments by the external auditor, when the audited financial statements are presented;

(3) To assure itself and the Executive Board that the Conference's financial policies, functions, and responsibilities are in compliance with the highest standards of integrity and in accordance with applicable laws.

## **Article 14 The Finance Committee**

### **Section 1 Appointment and Composition**

At its first meeting after each annual meeting, the Board shall appoint the Finance Committee, including the chairperson. This committee shall consist of not less than three (3) and not more than five (5) members, the majority of which shall be Executive Board members.

### **Section 2 General Role**

The role of the Finance Committee is to advise the Board on all financial matters, including investments, affecting the Conference and to approve on behalf of the Board those financial strategies, contracts and agreements delegated to it under board Policy.

### **Section 3 Specific Responsibilities**

Without limiting the general responsibility the committee will also carry out the following functions:

- (1) recommend investment policies and direction to the Executive Board;
- (2) give advice as requested by staff;
- (3) monitor the financial limitations and expectations policies; and
- (4) provide the Executive Board with progress reports and results of the investment portfolio in a timely manner but in any event not less than annually.

## **Article 15 Amending the Confession of Faith**

The Confession of Faith has been developed by the Conference in collaboration with the United States Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. ~~Amendments thereto shall be made only if that body and the Conference both agree~~ (See Appendix F: Memorandum of Understanding taken from the book entitled 86th Convention of the General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, July 25-27, 2002, pages 88 and 89). Following a decision in 2014 by the US MB Conference, separate Confessions of Faith documents will now be maintained for Canada and the USA. (Appendix F is now modified to remove reciprocal approval.) The Conference's confession remains the July 1999 version. Amendments thereto may be made by the Canadian Conference.

### **Section 1**

Notice of motion to amend the Confession of Faith may be given at any Convention or by publication through written or electronic means to all Member Churches.

### **Section 2**

Sponsorship of a motion to amend the Confession of Faith may be initiated by either the Board of Faith and Life or the Executive Board.

### **Section 3**

Notice of motion to amend the Confession must be presented to all Member Churches three months before the Convention at which it is to be voted on. The notice of motion will include all details of the amendments to the Confession of Faith.

#### **Section 4**

A two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a Convention shall be required to carry an amendment.

### **Article 16 Amending the General Operating Bylaw**

#### **Section 1**

Notice of motion to amend the Bylaw may be given at any Convention or by publication ~~in the~~through written or electronic means ~~Conference to Member Churches.~~ ~~periodical publications.~~

#### **Section 2**

Sponsorship of a motion to amend the Bylaw may be initiated by the Executive Board, by any Member Church or by a group of at least 50 individuals who are members in good standing of Member Churches and who have signed a document to that effect.

#### **Section 3**

Notice of motion to amend the Bylaw must be presented to all Member Churches three months before the Convention at which it is to be voted on. The notice of motion will disclose the movers of the motion.

#### **Section 4**

A two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a Convention shall be required to carry an amendment.

### **Article 17 Separately Organized Ministries**

The Conference is active in several joint ministries that are operated by boards with representation from both the US Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Conference. The representation by the Conference to these boards is by appointment from within the Executive Board as further specified in Article 7, Section 1. Accountability to the Conference is through communication and coordination with the Executive Board and by reports to the Conference at the annual Convention. The joint ministries are

- (1) ~~Mennonite Brethren Mission and Service International (now renamed as MB Mission);~~
- (2) Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission.

The basic documents for each are ~~attached as appendices C and D,~~ as follow:

- (1) ~~Appendix C: Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Mission and Service International (now renamed as MB Mission) taken from the book entitled 86th Convention of the Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, July 25-27, 2002, pages 91-93.~~

(2) ~~Appendix D: Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission, *ibid*, pages 47-48.~~

### **Article 18 Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Conference shall terminate on the 31st day of December in each year or on such other date as the Executive Board may from time to time by resolution determine.

### **Article 19 Appointment of Auditor by Members**

The annual Convention shall appoint an auditor to audit the books of the Conference. The term of office shall be until the next annual Convention. Any interim vacancy in the office of the auditor may be filled by the Executive Board. The remuneration of the auditor shall be fixed by the Convention or by the Executive Board, if authorized to do so by the Convention.

### **Article 20 Notice**

#### **Section 1 Method of Notice**

Except where otherwise provided in this Bylaw, notice shall be validly given if given by telephone, or if in writing, by prepaid letter post, by facsimile, by email, or by other electronic method, addressed to the person for whom it is intended at the last address shown on the Conference's records.

#### **Section 2 Omissions and Errors**

The accidental omission to give notice of any meeting or the non-receipt of any such notice by anyone in a board or committee, or any error in any notice not affecting its substance does not invalidate any resolution passed or any proceedings taken at the meeting. Any Executive Board member, committee member or the Auditor may at any time waive his/her having to receive notice of any meeting and may ratify and approve any or all proceedings taken thereat.

### **Article 21 Dissolution**

Upon dissolution of the Conference, and after the payment of all debts and liabilities, its remaining property shall be distributed to one or more charitable organizations which are registered as such within the meaning of subsection 248 (1) of the Income Tax Act and which have objects similar to those of the Conference.

### **Article 22 Effective Date**

This Bylaw shall come into force when enacted by the Conference at its Convention, June, 2014.

## **Appendix A – Confession of Faith of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, 1999 Edition**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Mennonite Brethren Church is rooted in the evangelical Anabaptist sixteenth-century Reformation, a movement that sought to recapture the faith and life of the New Testament church. The Mennonite Brethren Church was born as a renewal movement in Russia on 1860. World mission efforts and widespread migrations have produced a movement that circles the globe. The Mennonite Brethren Church emphasized the centrality of biblical authority, articulating confessions of faith in order to connect scriptural teaching with contemporary discipleship. With Menno Simons, we hold central the biblical statement, “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ” (1Cor.3:11).

The 1999 North American confession is a complete revision of earlier Mennonite Brethren confessions of faith. The 1902 confession, adopted in Russia and North America, was revised in 1975. The 1999 confession was written and adopted by the North American Mennonite Brethren Church for use in the United States and Canada. The framers of the present confession gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective. The present confession is the result of a decade-long process of writing, consulting Mennonite Brethren congregations and sister national conferences, revising, and final approval at the General Conference meeting in Wichita, Kansas, in July 1999. It was submitted to the International Committee of Mennonite Brethren meeting in Buhler, Kansas, in July 1999 for final acceptance.

The Bible is our written authority. As Anabaptists, we believe that authoritative interpretation of the Bible is the result of corporate reflection under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This confession is the result of such a process and not only describes how the Mennonite Brethren Church in Canada and the United States interprets the Bible for our context but is also an authoritative guide for biblical interpretation, theological identity, and ethical practice.

The reader should be alert to the following literary conventions adopted for this confession. Scripture references are listed at the conclusion of each article. These references are not meant to be exhaustive nor do they serve primarily as proof-texts for the articles. Pronouns referring to God are uniformly upper case to remind the reader that the use of the masculine pronoun is a convention of human language. God is neither male nor female; human male and female, are created in the image of God. A more complete commentary and pastoral application of this confession is available from Kindred Productions. A liturgical version of this confession, *Confessing Together*, is also commended for use in congregational worship.

*Herb Koop, Moderator, General Conference of MB Churches in North America*  
*Lynn Jost, Chair, Confession of Faith Task Force and the Board of Faith and Life*  
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## ARTICLES

1. **God**
2. **Revelation of God**
3. **Creation and Humanity**
4. **Sin and Evil**
5. **Salvation**
6. **Nature of the Church**
7. **Mission of the Church**
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15. **Stewardship**
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17. **Christianity and Other Faiths**
18. **Christ's Final Triumph**

### 1. GOD

We believe in the one, true, living God, Creator of heaven and earth. God is almighty in power, perfect in wisdom, righteous in judgment, overflowing in steadfast love. God is the Sovereign who rules over all things visible and invisible, the Shepherd who rescues the lost and helpless. God is a refuge and fortress for those in need. God is a consuming fire, perfect in holiness, yet slow to anger and abounding in tender mercy. God comforts like a loving mother, trains and disciplines like a caring father, and persists in covenant love like a faithful husband. We confess God as eternal Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### GOD THE FATHER

God the Father is the source of all life. In him we live and move and have our being. The Father seeks those who will worship him in spirit and in truth and hears the prayers of all who call on him. In the fullness of time, the Father sent the Son for the salvation of the world. Through Jesus Christ the Father adopts all who respond in faith to the gospel, forgiving those who repent of their sin and entering into a new covenant with them. God gives the Counselor – the Holy Spirit – to all his children. God's creative and redemptive love sustains this world until the end of the age.

#### GOD THE SON

The Son, through whom all things were created and who holds all things together, is the image of the invisible God. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, Jesus took on human nature to redeem this fallen world. He revealed the fullness of God through his obedient and sinless life. Through word and deed Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, bringing good news to the poor, release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind. Christ triumphed over sin through his death and resurrection and was exalted as Lord of creation and the church. The Saviour of the world invites all to be reconciled to God, offering peace to those far and near, and calling them to follow him in the way of the cross.

Until the Lord Jesus returns in glory, he intercedes for believers, acts as their advocate, and calls them to be his witnesses.

## **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit, the Counselor, is the creative power, presence and wisdom of God. The Spirit convicts people of sin, gives them new life, and guides them into all truth. By the Spirit believers are baptized into one body. The indwelling Spirit testifies that they are God's children, distributes gifts for ministry, empowers for witness, and produces the fruit of righteousness. As Comforter, the Holy Spirit helps God's children in their weakness, intercedes for them according to God's will and assures them of eternal life.

Genesis 1; Exodus 15:2-3; 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 6:4-6; Psalm 8; 23; 139; Isaiah 55:8-9; 66:12-13; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hosea 11:1-4; Matthew 1:18-25; 5-7; 28:18-20; Mark 8:34-38; Luke 4:18-19; John 1:1-18; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; Romans 8:1-17; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 13; 15:3-8; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:16-21; 13:14; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 1:15-2:22; 3:14-21; Philippians 2:6-11; Colossians 1:15-20; 1 Timothy 6:15-16; 2 Timothy 2:11-13; Hebrews 12:7-11; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 1 John 2:2; Revelation 5:5-6, 9-10

## **2. REVELATION OF GOD**

### **GOD'S SELF-REVELATION**

We believe that God has made himself known to all people. God's power and nature have always been evident in creation. The Old Testament reveals God as the one who established a covenant relationship with Israel to make known to all people the eternal plan of salvation. God revealed himself supremely in Jesus Christ, as recorded in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit continues to make God known to individuals and the church; this revelation is always consistent with the Scriptures.

### **THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD**

We believe that the entire Bible was inspired by God through the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit guides the community of faith in the interpretation of Scripture. The person, teaching and life of Jesus Christ bring continuity and clarity to both the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament bears witness to Christ, and Christ is the one whom the New Testament proclaims. We accept the Bible as the infallible Word of God and the authoritative guide for faith and practice.

Genesis 9:1-17; 12:1-3; Exodus 6:2-8; Psalm 19:1-11; 119; Matthew 5:17-18; Luke 24:27, 44-47; John 1:16-18; 16:13; Acts 8:34-35; Romans 1:18-21; Hebrews 1:1-2; Colossians 1:15-23; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:16-21

## **3. CREATION AND HUMANITY**

### **CREATION**

We believe that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and they were very good. All of creation expresses God's sovereign will and design but remains distinct from the Creator. The universe

belongs to God, who takes care and delight in sustaining it. Creation declares God's wisdom and power, calling all to worship him.

## **HUMANITY**

Humans, the crowning act of creation, were designed to live in fellowship with God and in mutually helpful relationships with each other. God created them male and female in his own image. The Creator gave them the mandate to rule and care for creation as a sacred trust and the freedom to obey or disobey him. Through the wilful disobedience of Adam and Eve, sin entered the world. As a result, human nature is distorted and people are alienated from God and creation. Creation is under the bondage of decay. Humans and all creation long to be set free.

## **THE NEW CREATION**

Sin, guilt, or death will not prevail. God will create a new heaven and a new earth in which there will be no evil, suffering, and death. The first signs of this new creation are already present in those who accept God's forgiveness through Christ. In Christ all things are being reconciled and created anew.

Genesis 1-3; Psalm 8:6; 19:1-6; 24:1-2; 89:11; 95:5; 104; Proverbs 8:22-31; Isaiah 40:12-31; 44:24; John 1:1-4, 10; 17:5; Romans 1:19-20; 5:17, 21 6:4; 8:18-25; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 15:20-27; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:6; 5:16-19; Galatians 3:28; 6:15; Ephesians 1:4, 9-10; 2:11-22; 4:24; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 11:3; Revelation 4:8-11; 21:1-5; 22:13

## **4. SIN AND EVIL**

### **SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

We believe that the first humans yielded to the tempter, Satan, and fell into sin. Since then, all people disobey God and choose to sin, falling short of the glory of God. As a result, sin and evil have gained a hold in the world, disrupting God's purposes for the created order and alienating humans from God and therefore from creation, each other and themselves. Human sinfulness results in physical and spiritual death. Because all have sinned, all face eternal separation from God.

### **PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS**

Sin is a power that enslaves humanity. Satan, the adversary, seeks to rule creation and uses sin to corrupt human nature with pride and selfishness. In sin people turn from God, exchanging the truth about God for a lie, worshipping and serving the creature rather than the Creator. Sin opens individuals and groups to the bondage of demonic principalities and powers. These powers also work through political, economic, social and even religious systems to turn people away from holiness, justice and righteousness. Whether in word, deed, thought or attitude, all humans are under the domination of sin and, on their own, are unable to overcome its power.

Genesis 3; 6:11-12; Psalm 14:1-3; 36:1-4; 52:1-7; 58:1-5; 82; Isaiah 53:6; Ezekiel 16:49-50; Amos 2:4-8; Mark 7:20-23; John 8:34, 44; Romans 1:21-32; 3:9-18, 23; 5:12-14, 18-19; 6:23; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 2:1-3; 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 1:8-10; Revelation 12:9

## **5. SALVATION**

### **GOD'S INITIATIVE**

We believe that God is at work to accomplish deliverance, healing, redemption, and restoration in a world dominated by sin. From the beginning, God's purpose has been to create for himself a people, to dwell among them and to bless them. Creation and all of humanity are without hope of salvation except through God's love and grace. God's love is fully demonstrated in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **GOD'S PLAN**

Throughout history, God has acted mightily to deliver people from bondage and draw them into a covenant relationship. Through the prophets God prepared the way of salvation until finally God reconciled the world to himself by the atoning blood of Jesus. As people place their trust in Christ, they are saved by grace through faith, not of their own doing, but as a gift of God. God forgives them, delivers them from sin's bondage, makes them new creatures in Christ, empowers them by the Holy Spirit and seals them for eternal life. When sin and death are finally abolished and the redeemed are gathered in the new heaven and the new earth, God will have completed the plan of salvation.

### **HUMANITY'S RESPONSE**

Though Jesus entered a world ruled by sin, he chose not to submit to its allure and broke its domination. Through his obedient life, his death on the cross and his glorious resurrection, Christ triumphed over Satan and the powers of sin and death, opening the way for all people to follow. Convicted by the Holy Spirit, people turn from sin, entrust their lives to God, confess Jesus Christ as Lord, and join the family of God. All who receive Christ are born again, have peace with God, and are called to love one another and live at peace with their neighbour. Those whom God is saving no longer live for themselves, for they have been set free from sin and called to newness of life.

Exodus 6:1-8; 15:2; 20:2; Psalm 68:19-20; Isaiah 43:1; Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 10:45; John 1:12; 3:1-21; 13:34-35; 16:8-11; Romans 3:24-26; 5:8; 12-21; 8:18-25; 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Ephesians 1:5-10, 13-14; 2:8-9; Colossians 1:13-14; 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:12; 5:7-9; 9:15-28; 11:6; 1 John 4:7-11; Revelation 5:9-10; 21:1-4

## **6. NATURE OF THE CHURCH**

### **CALLED BY GOD**

We believe the church is the people called by God through Jesus Christ. People who respond in faith are united with the local congregation by the public confession of baptism. Church members commit themselves to follow Christ in a life of discipleship and witness as empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**BODY OF CHRIST**

The church is one body of believers, male and female, from every nation, race and class. The head of this body is Christ. The church, united by the one Spirit, makes Christ visible in the world. The church exists as local bodies of believers and as a worldwide community of faith.

**WORSHIP**

The church is nourished and renewed as God's people gather regularly to glorify God. The early church gathered on the first day of the week to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The worshipping community celebrates God's faithfulness and grace, reaffirms its faithfulness to God, builds up the members of the body, and seeks God's will for its life and mission. As the church observes baptism, and the Lord's Supper, it proclaims the good news of salvation.

**FELLOWSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The church is a covenant community in which members are mutually accountable in matters of faith and life. They love, care, and pray for each other, share each other's joys and burdens, and admonish and correct one another. They share material resources as there is need. Local congregations follow the New Testament example by seeking the counsel of the wider church on matters that affect its common witness and mission. Congregations work together in a spirit of love, mutual submission, and interdependence.

The New Testament guides the practice of redemptive church discipline. The church is responsible to correct members who continue to sin. Congregations forgive and restore those who repent but formally exclude those who disregard discipline.

**GIFTS FOR MINISTRY**

Through the Holy Spirit, God gives gifts to each member for the well-being of the whole body. These gifts are to be exercised in God's service to build up the church and to minister in the world. God calls people to equip the church for ministry. Leaders are to model Christ in their personal, family, and church life. The church is to discern leaders prayerfully and to affirm, support, and correct them in a spirit of love.

Matthew 16:13-20; 18:15-20; John 13:1-20; 17:1-26; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 37-47; 11:1-18; 15:1-35; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; 12-14; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11; Galatians 3:26-28; 6:1-5; Ephesians 1:18-23; 2:11-22; 4:4-6; 4:11-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9; 1 Peter 2:9-12; 5:1-4.

**7. MISSION OF THE CHURCH****THE GREAT COMMISSION AND THE GREAT COMMANDMENT**

We believe the good news of God's salvation in Jesus Christ is for all people. Christ commands the church to make disciples of all nations by calling people to repent and by baptizing and teaching them to obey Jesus. Jesus teaches that disciples are to love God and neighbour by telling the good news and by performing acts of love and compassion.

**THE WITNESS**

The Holy Spirit empowers every Christian to witness to God's salvation. The church as a body witnesses to God's reign in the world. By its life as a redeemed and separated community, the church reveals God's saving purposes to the world.

Matthew 5:13-16; 22:34-40; 28:18-20; Mark 1:15; 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-37; 24:45-49; John 20:21-23; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16-18; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Ephesians 3:10-11

**8. CHRISTIAN BAPTISM****CONFESSION**

We believe that when people receive God's gift of salvation, they are to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Baptism is a sign of having been cleansed from sin. It is a covenant with the church to walk in the way of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**MEANING**

Baptism by water is a public sign that a person has repented of sins, received forgiveness of sins, died with Christ to sin, been raised to newness of life, and received the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a sign of the believer's incorporation into the body of Christ as expressed in the local church. Baptism is also a pledge to serve Christ according to the gifts given to each person.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Baptism is for those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and commit themselves to follow Christ in obedience as members of the local church. Baptism is for those who understand its meaning, are able to be accountable to Christ and the church, and voluntarily request it on the basis of their faith response to Jesus Christ.

**PRACTICE**

We practice water baptism by immersion administered by the local church. Local congregations may receive into membership those who have been baptized by another mode on their confession of faith. Persons who claim baptism as infants and wish to become members of a Mennonite Brethren congregation are to receive baptism on their confession of faith.

Matthew 3:13-17; 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:2-6; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 2:12-13; Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 4:4-6

**9. LORD'S SUPPER****MEANING**

The church observes the Lord's Supper, as instituted by Christ. The Lord's Supper points to Christ, whose body was broken for us and whose blood was shed to assure salvation for believers and to establish the new covenant. Through the supper, the church identifies with the life of Christ given for the

redemption of humanity and proclaims the Lord's death until he comes. The supper expresses the fellowship and unity of all believers with Christ and embodies remembrance, celebration, and praise, strengthening believers for true discipleship and service.

### **PRACTICE AND PARTICIPATION**

In preparation for the fellowship of the Lord's Supper, all believers should examine themselves. All those who understand the supper's meaning, confess Jesus Christ as Lord in word and life, are accountable to their congregation, and are living in right relationship with God and others are invited to participate in the Lord's Supper. The normal pattern in the New Testament was that baptism preceded participation in the Lord's Supper.

Matthew 26:26-30; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-32

## **10. DISCIPLESHIP**

### **FOLLOWING JESUS**

We believe that Jesus calls people who have experienced the joy of new birth to follow him as disciples. By calling his followers to take up the cross, Christ invites them to reject the godless values of the world and offer themselves to God in a life of service. The Holy Spirit, who lives in every Christian, empowers believers to overcome the acts and attitudes of the sinful nature. Filled with love and gratitude, disciples delight to obey God.

### **UNITED IN A DISTINCT COMMUNITY**

Christians enjoy fellowship with God and other believers. At baptism believers join the local church, commit to build up the body of Christ and witness to the good news of the Christian hope. In community members grow in maturity as they demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit, use their spiritual gifts, and practice mutual accountability in the disciplines of the Christian life. Christians confess sin, repent, and experience God's grace in the life of the Christian community.

### **DEMONSTRATING TRUE FAITH**

Jesus teaches that discipleship is the way of self-denial and promises blessing for those who suffer for righteousness. Disciples are to resist worldly values and systems, the sinful nature, and the devil. Disciples give generously and reject materialism, which makes a god out of wealth. Disciples treat others with compassion and gentleness and reject violence as a response to injustice. Disciples speak honestly to build others up and reject dishonest, vulgar, and careless talk; they seek to avoid lawsuits to resolve personal grievances, especially with other believers. Disciples maintain sexual purity and marital faithfulness and reject immoral premarital and extramarital relationships and all homosexual practices. To be a disciple means to be true to Jesus in everyday life.

Psalm 1; 119; Amos 5:24; Matthew 5-7; 18:15-20; Mark 8:34-38; John 8:31-32; 13:34-35; 15:14-15; Acts 2:41-47; Romans 1:24-32; 8:1-30; 12; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 11:1; 12:1-13; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 2:20; 5:16-26; 6:1-2; Ephesians 4:11-12, 15-16; 5:1, 18; Philippians 2:6-8; Colossians 3:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 5:17; 1 Timothy 1:9-11; 2:1-8; 4:6-8; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 12:1-3; 13:4-5; James 1:22-27; 4:7; 1 Peter 2:20-25; 3:15; 5:8-9; 1 John 1:3; 6-9; 2:15-17

## **11. MARRIAGE, SINGLENESS AND FAMILY**

We believe that marriage and the family are instituted by God. The church blesses both marriage and singleness and encourages families to grow in love.

### **MARRIAGE**

Marriage is a covenant relationship intended to unite a man and a woman for life. At creation, God designed marriage for companionship, sexual union, and the birth and nurture of children. Sexual intimacy rightfully takes place only within marriage. Marriage is to be characterized by mutual love, faithfulness, and submission. A believer should not marry an unbeliever.

The community of faith blesses and nurtures marriage relationships and makes every effort to bring reconciliation to troubled marriages. Human sinfulness, however, may sometimes lead to divorce, a violation of God's intention for marriage. With truth and compassion, the family of God offers hope and healing while continually upholding the biblical ideal of marital faithfulness.

### **SINGLENESS**

Singleness is honoured equally with marriage and is sometimes even preferred. The church is to bless, respect, and fully include those who are single. Those who remain single may find unique opportunities to advance the kingdom of God. God calls all people, single and married, to live sexually pure lives.

### **FAMILY**

God intends family relationships at all stages of life to be characterized by love. Children are a gift from God. Godly parents instruct and nurture their children in the faith. Parents are to discipline their children wisely and lovingly, not provoking them to anger. Children are to honour and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-24; 5:1-2; 12:1-3; Exodus 22:16-17; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Deuteronomy 6:4; 24:1-4; Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 31; Matthew 5:32; 10:34-39; 19:3-12; 22:23-33; Mark 3:31-35; 7:9-13; 10:6-11; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:2-3; 14:12; 1 Corinthians 7:8-40; 2 Corinthians 6:14-15; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; 5:3-16; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7

## **12. SOCIETY AND STATE**

### **THE STATE AS INSTITUTED BY GOD**

We believe that God instituted the state to promote the well-being of all people. Christians cooperate with others in society to defend the weak, care for the poor, and promote justice, righteousness, and truth. Believers witness against corruption, discrimination, and injustice, exercise social responsibility, pay taxes, and obey all laws that do not conflict with the Word of God.

God has given governments authority to maintain law and order and to punish wrongdoers. Followers of Christ respect and pray for those in authority so that peaceful order may prevail. We deplore the loss of life in the exercise of state-sanctioned violence.

## **CHRISTIAN ALLEGIANCE IN SOCIETY**

The primary allegiance of all Christians is to Christ's kingdom, not the state or society. Because their citizenship is in heaven, Christians are called to resist the idolatrous temptation to give to the state the devotion that is owed to God. As ambassadors for Christ, Christians act as agents of reconciliation and seek the well-being of all peoples.

Because Christ forbids the swearing of oaths, we simply affirm the truth in legal transactions. Believers do not participate in secret societies that demand the swearing of oaths or otherwise conflict with a Christian's allegiance to Christ and the church. At all times, believers are called to live as faithful witnesses in the world, rejecting pressures that threaten to compromise Christian integrity.

Exodus 20:13, 16; Leviticus 19:11; Psalm 82:3-4; Jeremiah 29:7; Daniel 2:21; 3:17-18; 4:17; Matthew 5:13-16, 33-37; 6:33; 17:24-27; 22:17-21; John 15:19; 17:14-18; Acts 5:29; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:6-13; Philippians 1:27; 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Titus 3:1-2; James 5:12; 1 Peter 2:13-17

## **13. LOVE AND NONRESISTANCE**

### **GOD'S COMMUNITY OF PEACE**

We believe that God in Christ reconciles people to himself and to one another, making peace through the cross. The church is a fellowship of redeemed people living by love. Our bond with other believers of Jesus transcends all racial, social, and national barriers.

### **CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKING**

Believers seek to be agents of reconciliation in all relationships, to practice love of enemies as taught by Christ, and to be peacemakers in all situations. We view violence in its many different forms as contradictory to the new nature of the Christian. We believe that the evil and inhumane nature of violence is contrary to the gospel of love and peace. In times of national conscription or war, we believe we are called to give alternative service where possible. Alleviating suffering, reducing strife, and promoting justice are ways of demonstrating Christ's love.

Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 5:17-28, 38-48; Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-10; 1 Peter 2:19-23

## **14. THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE**

We believe that all human life belongs to God. Each person is created in the image of God and ought to be celebrated and nurtured. Because God is Creator and the Author and Giver of life, we oppose all actions and attitudes that devalue human life. The unborn, disabled, poor, aging, and dying are particularly vulnerable to such injustices. Christ calls the people of all nations to care for the defenceless.

God highly values human life. Ultimate decisions regarding life and death belong to God. Hence, we hold that procedures designed to take life, including abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide, are an affront to God's sovereignty. We esteem the life-sustaining findings of medical science, but recognize that there are limits to the value of seeking to prolong life indefinitely. In all complex ethical decisions

regarding life and death, we seek to offer hope, healing, support, and counsel in the context of the Christian community.

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; Exodus 20:13; Job 31:15; Psalm 139:13-16; Amos 1-2; Matthew 6:25-27; 25:31-46; John 10:11

## **15. STEWARDSHIP**

### **GOD'S CREATION MANDATE**

We believe the universe and everything in it belong to God the Creator. God has entrusted the care of the earth to all people, who are responsible for managing its resources. Good stewardship uses the earth's abundance to meet human need, but resists the unjust exploitation of the earth and its peoples. All God's gifts are to be received with thanksgiving and used responsibly.

### **RESPONSIBLE LIVING**

To confess Jesus as Lord transforms values. Jesus warns that we cannot serve both God and wealth. Preoccupation with money and possessions, self-indulgent living, and eagerness to accumulate wealth for personal advantage are not in keeping with the teachings of Scripture.

### **GENEROUS GIVING**

The Bible teaches cheerful, sacrificial, and proportional giving through the church in grateful response to God's goodness. Christians do not claim any of their possessions as their own, but manage all their resources, including money, time, abilities, and influence, in generous ways that give glory to God. They do not despise the poor but practice mutual aid within the church and share what they have with others in need. God's people seek to embrace a lifestyle of simplicity and contentment.

Genesis 1:28; Leviticus 25; Deuteronomy 15:7-11; Psalm 24:1; 115:16; Proverbs 14:31; Amos 6:4-7; Malachi 3:6-10; Matthew 6:19-34; 25:14-30; Luke 6:38; 12:13-21; Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37; 1 Corinthians 4:7; 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 6:7; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19; James 2:1-7, 15-16; 5:1-6; 1 John 3:16-18; Jude 11

## **16. WORK, REST AND THE LORD'S DAY**

We believe that God's act of creation is the model for human activity. While sin has corrupted work and rest, redeemed people are called to restore labour and rest to their proper place.

### **WORK**

As creatures made in the image of God, Christians imitate the Creator by working faithfully as they are able. They are to use their abilities and resources to glorify God and to serve others. Because they bear the name of Christ, all believers are called to work honestly and diligently and to treat others with respect and dignity.

**REST**

As God rested on the seventh day, people are called to observe regular times of rest. Rest is an act of thankfulness for what God has provided. Rest is also an act of trust, reminding humans that it is not their work but God who sustains them. Finally, rest is an act of hope, anticipating the future rest assured by the resurrection of Jesus.

**THE LORD'S DAY**

Following the New Testament example, believers gather to commemorate the resurrection of Christ on the first day of the week. On the Lord's Day, believers joyfully devote themselves to worship, instruction in the Word, prayer, breaking of bread, fellowship and service. They limit their labour to work of necessity and deeds of mercy.

Genesis 1:26-2:3, 15; 3:14-19; Exodus 20:8-11; Leviticus 25:1-7; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 46:10; 95:6-11; Ecclesiastes 3:13; Mark 2:23-3:6; Luke 24:1-36; Acts 2:42-47; 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 2:16-17; 3:22-4:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10; Hebrews 4:1-10; 10:23-25; Revelation 1:10

**17. CHRISTIANITY AND OTHER FAITHS****JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY**

We believe that the saving grace of God in Jesus is the only means of reconciling humanity with God. Although salvation is available to all, only those who put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ have the assurance of eternal life.

**GOD'S UNIVERSAL WITNESS**

God has not left anyone without a witness to the Creator's goodness and power. Due to human rebellion, people have chosen to suppress the truth. While elements of truth may be found in other religions, Scripture warns against false teachings. Christians treat people of other faiths and philosophies with respect, but lovingly and urgently proclaim Christ as the only way of salvation for all peoples.

**SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**

God loves the world and does not want anyone to perish. In sovereign grace, God may communicate with people in ways that are beyond human comprehension. The Bible teaches that those who reject the gospel are under divine judgment; the eternal destiny of those who have never heard the gospel is in God's hands. Our task is to proclaim Christ as the only way of salvation to all people in all cultures. The Judge of all the earth will do what is just.

Genesis 18:25; Psalm 19:2-4; Ecclesiastes 3:11; Isaiah 46:1-10; 55:8-9; Ezekiel 33:1-20; Jonah 1-4; Matthew 8:5-13; 25:31-46; 28:18-20; Mark 7:24-30; Luke 9:51-56; 12:47-48; John 1:12; 3:16, 36; 4:8-42; 12:12-26; 14:6; Acts 1:8; 4:12; 10:1-8, 34-36; 14:16-17; 17:22-31; Romans 1:18-24; 2:1-16; 10:9-21; 11:33-35; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 12:3; 1 Timothy 2:4-5; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 20:15

## **18. CHRIST'S FINAL TRIUMPH**

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will return visibly and triumphantly at the end of the present age. The church must always be prepared to meet the Lord, living in expectation of his imminent return.

### **THE LAST DAYS**

In these last days, between the first and second coming of Christ, the church carries out its mission in the world. Believers often endure suffering and persecution because of their witness to Christ. In spite of opposition by evil powers, the church is assured of the final victory of Christ's kingdom. These last days come to an end with Christ's return.

### **DEATH**

Since Christ destroyed the power of death through his resurrection, believers need not be afraid of death, the last enemy. Christ's followers go to be with the Lord when they die. When Christ returns, they will be raised and receive new bodies. Believers who are alive at Christ's coming will be transformed and will also receive new and glorious bodies, fit for life in God's eternal kingdom.

### **JUDGMENT**

When Christ returns, he will destroy all evil powers, including the Antichrist. Satan and all those who have rejected Christ will be condemned to eternal punishment in hell, forever separated from the presence of God. Believers must appear before the judgment seat of Christ to have their lives examined and their labours rewarded. By God's grace, they will enter into the joy of God's eternal reign.

### **THE NEW CREATION**

All God's children will be united with Christ when he appears and will reign with him in glory. Pain, sorrow, and death will be abolished and the redeemed will be gathered into the new heaven and new earth, where together with the angels they will worship God forever. God will make all things new and God will be all in all. This is the blessed hope of all believers.

Matthew 24:29-31; 25:13; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 16:9; 23:43; John 14:1-3; Acts 2:17; Romans 8:18-22; 1 Corinthians 3:13-15; 15:26; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-11; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12; 2:1-12; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:2; 9:26-28; 1 Peter 1:20; 4:7; 1 John 2:18; 3:2-3; Revelation 19:17-21; 20:7-15; 21-22

**Appendix B – Listing of Provincial Conferences**

The following provincial conferences are recognized by the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches:

- AEFMQ, L'Association des Églises des frères mennonites du Québec
- OCMB, Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
- MBCM, Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba
- SKMB, Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
- ABMB, Alberta Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
- BCMB, British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

## **CCMBC Bylaw Commentary – Summary of Changes and Rationale**

### **Article 1 Interpretations**

- Definitions of the Designate and Alternate are clarified as used in Article 7 Section 1.

### **Article 6 Conventions of the Conference**

#### **Section 3 Date, Location and Agenda of Conventions**

- Documents are to be uploaded at the time of the announcement to ensure all churches have sufficient opportunity to review the content so that they can make decisions about attending the meeting.
- Notice has been updated to reflect current technologies where mail and periodical publications are not the only means of communications to churches.

#### **Section 6 Quorum at Convention**

- Recent practice has been to approve 1 year budgets instead of approving 2 year budgets in Gathering years. Typically, a small “convention” is held right before the Study Conference. The sentence for a reduced quorum allowed for a smaller convention where the business is limited to the auditor and financial statements and no other business. By adding annual budgets to this sentence, it simply allows 3 tasks to be performed with a smaller quorum for non-Gathering years in case there were no Study Conference. If any other business is required at a convention, a full quorum of 100 is required.

### **Article 7 The Executive Board**

#### **Section 1 The Composition and Election**

- An amendment has been made which allows a province to send either a Moderator or a designate from their provincial board who may vote at meetings. An alternate is currently not allowed to vote. (Also see definitions Article 1.)
- For clarity, the level of affirmation required for the vote of ratification of board members has been specified.
- Banking and securities requirements note that the officers be clearly stated in the bylaws. A statement has been added for clarity.

#### **Section 2 Term of Office**

- Clarification of the terms of moderator, assistant moderator and secretary have been made.

### **Article 15 Amending the Confession of Faith**

- Adjustments to the bylaws are needed to allow for the fact that there are separate confessions in Canada and USA. The proposed amending process has been patterned after the process to amend these bylaws in Article 16.

### **Article 16 Amending the General Operating Bylaw**

#### **Section 1**

- Notice has been updated to reflect current technologies where periodical publications are not the only means of communications to churches.

### **Article 17 Separately Organized Ministries**

- References to appendices have been removed since these documents are maintained separately and the language has been updated.

## Mission

***“to multiply Christ-centered churches  
to see Canada transformed by the  
good news of Jesus Christ”***

## Central Ministry Focus

***“helping multiply leaders and disciple-making churches”***

## Preferred Culture

Preferred culture is what we are committed to creating in order maximize ministry impact and achieve the organizational goals. It helps discern who are the right people to serve in the organization. It also describes our inter-personal behaviour as we serve together.

We are a Christ-centered transformational community:

- ***Risk-taking Spirit led planning***
  - *We will bathe the planning and budgeting process in prayer so that we express the Spirit's leading in all we do.*
- ***Sacrificial generosity***
  - *We will serve with generosity for the benefit of our ministry partners to enhance the effectiveness of the local church and give glory to God.*
- ***Interdependence and cooperation***
  - *We will work together to maximize the effectiveness of all conference ministries to multiply Christ-centered churches.*
- ***Speaking truth in love***
  - *We will honour each other by speaking truth with grace and compassion in order to bring out the best in each other.*
- ***Prayer permeated***
  - *We will bathe all CCMBC ministries in prayer, rise up prayer teams and seek to develop a culture of prayer.*
- ***Story-telling and celebration***
  - *We will communicate the stories of God's work across Canada to build the church, develop partnership and inspire people.*

## CCMBC Sandbox

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### Guiding Principles

Guiding principles are the non-negotiable that apply to the whole organization. They are things, which we must have absolute alignment by everyone on the team in order to execute well. They help define how we do what we do and inform our decision-making process.

- **We are Bible-based and Spirit-led.**
  - We accept the Bible as the infallible Word of God and the authoritative guide for faith and practice.
  - We will intentionally listen for the guiding of the Holy Spirit with the intent of ministering in obedience to God's leading. To be Spirit led is to be open to moving in new ways. It is timely action rooted in the timeless Word of God, which leads to new and creative thinking and methodologies.
- **We are Gospel-focused and Kingdom-oriented.**
  - We believe in the transforming power of the Gospel to bring new life to Canadians.
  - We believe in humanity's need to hear, receive and respond to the gospel message.
  - We believe the in breaking Kingdom of God was initiated by Jesus Christ and will be fully realized at His return. God's in breaking Kingdom transforms lives, society, structures and communities.
  - We believe Kingdom ministry is done holistically, it is the whole Gospel for the whole person exhibited by "being, telling and doing" the good news of Jesus Christ.
- **We empower and resource for fruitful multiplying ministry.**
  - We will focus on being a multiplier for ministry. We do not do the ministry for the local church; we enhance what the local churches do.
  - We will evaluate the work we do for fruitfulness and makes changes to the effectiveness of our ministries. We will identify benchmarks and report on benchmarks.
  - We will make every effort to minister with excellence, giving our best to maximize the gifts and resources God has given us for the benefit of the church and the glory of God.
- **We are a learning community.**
  - We believe that the Holy Spirit continues to reveal God's heart, creativity and methods to his people therefore we will pursue new ways of fulfilling God's call to develop, resource and empower ministry leaders for multiplying Christ-centered churches.
  - We believe that God speaks through his people therefore we will intentionally discern the leading of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God in community.
- **We are partnership oriented**
  - We will partner with churches, provincial conferences, MBBS, MB Mission and like-minded ministries and leaders who also desire to multiply Christ-centered churches.

**BY-LAW NO. 1**  
**OF**  
**CCMBC LEGACY FUND INC.**

Enacted on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

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**BY-LAW NO. 1**

OF

**CCMBC LEGACY FUND INC.**(hereinafter referred to as the "**Corporation**")

Being a By-law of the Corporation enacted on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

**WHEREAS:**

- A. The Corporation is incorporated under the Act for the purpose of advancing religion, education, charity and benevolence by promoting, maintaining, superintending and carrying on in accordance with the doctrinal laws, constitution, acts and rulings of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches any or all the work of that body, and by providing funding and financing to congregations and other religious organizations, institutions, missions, ministries, schools and colleges, including their ministerial and pastoral staff, who are members of or who are affiliated with or whose tenets and doctrines are supported by the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches for the acquisition of land, buildings and equipment and the construction, renovation and maintenance of buildings and facilities; and
- B. It is considered expedient to enact a by-law relating generally to the conduct and affairs of the Corporation, including borrowing;

**NOW THEREFORE** be it therefore enacted as a By-law of the Corporation as follows:**INTERPRETATION**

1. Definitions. In this By-law, unless the context otherwise specifies or requires:
  - (a) "**Act**" means the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*, S.C. 2009, c. 23, including the Regulations made pursuant to the Act, as from time to time amended and every statute that may be substituted therefor and, in the case of such substitution, any references in the By-laws of the Corporation to provisions of the Act shall be read as references to the substituted provisions therefor in the new statute or statutes;
  - (b) "**Articles**" means the original or restated articles of incorporation or articles of amendment, amalgamation, continuance, reorganization, arrangement or revival of the Corporation;
  - (c) "**board**" means the board of directors of the Corporation and "**director**" means a member of the board;
  - (d) "**By-laws**" or "**By-law**" means any By-law of the Corporation from time to time in force and effect;
  - (e) "**Conference**" means the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches;

- (f) **“Conference Executive Board”** means the board of directors of the Conference;
- (g) **“Conference Members”** means the member churches constituting the members of the Conference from time to time;
- (h) **“Executive of the Conference”** means the Moderator, the Vice-Moderator and the Secretary of the Conference Executive Board;
- (i) **“Governance Manual”** means the board’s governing document outlining governance policies as approved by the board, as amended from time to time;
- (j) **“Member”** means the sole member of the Corporation, being the Conference;
- (k) **“Member Representative”** means the individual who is appointed from time to time by the Conference Executive Board from amongst its members to represent the Member at meetings and to exercise on behalf of the Member all the powers of the Member, subject always to the Act and these By-laws;
- (l) **“Nominating Committee”** means the nominating committee of the Conference from time to time;
- (m) **“PCEO”** means the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation;
- (n) **“Regulations”** means the regulations made under the Act as from time to time amended and every regulation that may be substituted therefor and, in the case of such substitution, any references in the By-laws of the Corporation to provisions of the regulations shall be read as references to the substituted provisions therefor in the new regulations; and
- (o) **“TCFO”** means the Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation.

2. Interpretation. Unless the context otherwise requires, this By-law shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the following:

- (a) all terms contained herein and which are defined in the Act or the Regulations shall have the meanings given to such terms in the Act or such Regulations;
- (b) words importing the singular number only shall include the plural and vice versa; and the word “person” shall include individuals, bodies corporate, corporations, companies, partnerships, syndicates, trusts and any number or aggregate of persons; and
- (c) the headings used in the By-laws are inserted for reference purposes only and are not to be considered or taken into account in construing the terms or provisions thereof or to be deemed in any way to clarify, modify or explain the effect of any such terms or provisions.

3. Invalidity of any Provisions of this By-law. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this By-law shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions of this By-law.

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

4. **Confession of Faith.** The Confession of Faith of the Conference, as amended from time to time, shall be the statement guiding the faith and practice of the Corporation.

### **HEAD OFFICE**

5. **Head Office.** The head office of the Corporation shall be in the City of Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba, or at such other place as the board shall decide.

### **SEAL**

6. **Seal.** The Corporation may have a corporate seal in the form approved from time to time by the board. If a corporate seal is approved by the board, the Secretary of the Corporation shall be the custodian of the corporate seal.

### **DIRECTORS**

7. **Duties and Number.** The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a board of directors consisting of **FIVE (5)** directors, at least two of whom are “independent” as determined in accordance with the Act and National Instrument 52-110 *Audit Committees* as may be amended or replaced from time to time.

8. **Composition and Observers.**

- (a) *Composition of the Board.* Unless otherwise required by applicable securities laws, the board shall be composed of the following:
- (i) three (3) persons who are members of the Conference Executive Board; and
  - (ii) two (2) persons who are not members of the Conference Executive Board,
- as elected under sub-paragraphs 10(a) and 10(b).
- (b) *Observers.* In addition to the above directors of the Corporation, the board of directors of the Corporation may approve other persons to attend at meetings of the board of directors of the Corporation as non-voting observers only, such observers to initially consist of the following:
- (i) the PCEO;
  - (ii) the TCFO;
  - (iii) the Executive Director of the Conference;
  - (iv) the Chief Financial Officer of the Conference; and
  - (v) members of the Conference Executive Board.

The directors of the Corporation shall be entitled to establish rules relating to the nature and extent of the involvement and participation of those persons having observer status as above. Unless otherwise provided for, observer status does not allow for participation in discussions unless authorized by the Board.

9. First Directors/Interim Board. The applicants for incorporation shall become the first directors of the Corporation whose term of office on the board of directors shall continue until their successors are elected at the first meeting of the Member. The first directors shall be entitled to be members of the Corporation but only while they are first directors. The board of directors elected at the first meeting of the Member following incorporation shall replace the provisional directors named in the Articles. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this By-law, at the first meeting of the Member, the Member may elect an interim board comprising of not fewer than three (3) directors, and which may include one or more of the provisional directors, to constitute the board until such time as directors are elected by the Member pursuant to paragraph 10. Any vacancies occurring on the interim board may be filled by the Member.

10. Election and Term. Subject to the provisions of this By-law:

- (a) candidates for election as directors under sub-paragraph 8(a)(i) from time to time shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Member by ordinary resolution at each annual meeting at which an election of directors is required or at any special meeting of the Member called for such purpose.
- (b) candidates for election as directors under sub-paragraph 8(a)(ii) from time to time shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee, affirmed by ordinary resolution of the Conference Members at each annual meeting or at a special meeting of Conference Members at which such affirmation of the candidates is required and then elected by the Member by ordinary resolution at each annual meeting at which an election of directors is required or at any special meeting of the Member called for such purpose.
- (c) each person elected under sub-paragraph 10(a) shall remain as a director of the Corporation for the remainder of his or her term as a member of the Conference Executive Board and shall be eligible for a second term of four (4) years (or such other term as equates to his or her second term as a member of the Conference Executive Board or as may be determined by the Nominating Committee under sub-paragraph (d) for the purpose of staggering terms) if he or she continues for such term as a member of the Conference Executive Board.
- (d) terms of directors will typically be for four (4) years but in order to allow for a staggering of terms may be for less than four (4) years as determined by the Nominating Committee.
- (e) subject to sub-paragraph (f), directors whose terms have expired shall be eligible for re-election.
- (f) persons may serve as directors of the Corporation for a maximum of eight (8) consecutive years.

11. Director Vacancies. The office of a director shall automatically be vacated:

- (a) if the director becomes bankrupt or suspends payment of debts generally or compounds with creditors or makes an authorized assignment or is declared insolvent;
- (b) if the director is found to be a mentally incompetent person or becomes of unsound mind;
- (c) if the director by notice in writing to the Corporation resigns his or her office, which resignation shall be effective at the time it is received by the Secretary of the Corporation or the PCEO or at the time specified in the notice, whichever is later;
- (d) if the director elected pursuant to sub-paragraph 10(a) ceases to be a member of the Conference Executive Board;
- (e) if the director is elected to the board as an independent director and subsequently ceases to qualify as such;
- (f) if at a general or special meeting of the Member, a resolution is passed by a majority of the votes cast by the Member at the general or special meeting removing the director before the expiration of the director's term of office; or
- (g) if the director dies.

12. Filling Vacancies. A vacancy occurring in the board of directors shall be filled as follows:

- (a) if the vacancy occurs as a result of the removal of any director by the Member in accordance with sub-paragraph 11(f) above, then subject to the provisions of sub-paragraphs 8(a)(i) and (ii) hereof relating to the filling of the vacancy by a person who qualifies for election under those sub-paragraphs, it may be filled by a person nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by vote of the Member at a meeting duly called for such purpose and any director so elected shall hold office, in the case of a director elected to satisfy the requirements of sub-paragraph 8(a)(i), until the next annual meeting of the Member at which directors are elected or at any special meeting of the Member called for such purpose and, in the case of a director elected to satisfy the requirements of sub-paragraph 8(a)(ii), until the next annual meeting or special meeting of Conference Members at which affirmation of candidates for directors is required under sub-paragraph 10(b);
- (b) any other vacancy on the board of directors may be filled by the directors then in office, provided there is a quorum and subject to the provisions of sub-paragraphs 8(a)(i) and (ii) hereof relating to the filling of the vacancy by a person who qualifies for election under those sub-paragraphs and has been nominated by the Nominating Committee. If there is not a quorum of directors, the remaining directors shall forthwith call a meeting of the Member to fill the vacancy, and, in default or if there are no directors then in office, the meeting may be called by the Member. The vacancy shall then be filled by a person nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Member at such meeting. Any director so elected under this sub-paragraph shall hold office, in the case of a director elected to satisfy the requirements of sub-paragraph 8(a)(i), until the next annual meeting of the Member at which directors are elected or at any special meeting

of the Member called for such purpose and, in the case of a director elected to satisfy the requirements of sub-paragraph 8(a)(ii), until the next annual meeting or special meeting of Conference Members at which affirmation of candidates for directors is required under sub-paragraph 10(b); and

- (c) otherwise such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of sub-paragraphs 10(a) and 10(b), as applicable.

13. Audit Committee. The board of directors shall establish an audit committee comprised of two (2) independent board members and one additional board member. A quorum at any meeting of the audit committee shall be at least two (2) directors.

14. Other Committees. The board of directors may from time to time appoint any other committee or committees, as it deems necessary or appropriate for such purposes and with such powers as the board shall see fit. Any such committee may formulate its own rules of procedure, subject to such regulations or directions as the board may from time to time make. Any committee member may be removed by resolution of the board of directors. The board of directors may fix any remuneration for committee members who are not also directors of the Corporation.

15. Remuneration of Directors. The directors shall serve as such without remuneration and no director shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from occupying the position of director; provided that a director may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred by the director in the performance of the director's duties. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any director, other than an independent director, from serving the Corporation as an officer or in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefor.

#### **MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS**

16. Place of Meeting. Meetings of the board of directors may be held at any place within or outside Canada.

17. Notice. A meeting of directors may be convened by the Chairperson of the board, the Vice-Chairperson of the board, the PCEO or any two directors at any time. The Secretary or the PCEO, when directed or authorized by any of such officers or any two directors, shall convene a meeting of directors. Notice of any meeting that is provided electronically shall be served in the manner specified in paragraph 65 of this By-law not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting is to take place. Notice of any such meeting that is sent by mail shall be served in the manner specified in paragraph 65 of this By-law not less than fourteen (14) days (exclusive of the day on which the notice is delivered or sent but inclusive of the date for which the notice is given) before the meeting is to take place.

A director may in any manner and at any time waive notice of a meeting of directors and attendance of a director at a meeting of directors shall constitute a waiver of notice of the meeting except where a director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the grounds that the meeting is not lawfully called.

Meetings of directors may be held at any time without notice if all the directors are present (except where a director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of

any business on the grounds that the meeting is not lawfully called) or if all of the absent directors waive notice before or after the date of such meeting.

If the first meeting of the board of directors following the election of directors by the Member is held immediately thereafter, then for such meeting or for a meeting of the board of directors at which a director is appointed to fill a vacancy in the board, no notice shall be necessary to the newly elected or appointed directors or director in order to legally constitute the meeting, provided that a quorum of the directors is present.

18. Error or Omission in Giving Notice. No error or accidental omission in giving notice of any meeting of directors shall invalidate such meeting or make void any proceedings taken at such meeting.

19. Adjournment. Any meeting of directors may be adjourned from time to time by the chairperson of the meeting, with the consent of the meeting, to a fixed time and place. Notice of any adjourned meeting of directors is not required to be given if the time and place of the adjourned meeting is announced at the original meeting. Any adjourned meeting shall be duly constituted if held in accordance with the terms of the adjournment and a quorum is present thereat. The directors who formed a quorum at the original meeting are not required to form the quorum at the adjourned meeting. If there is not a quorum present at the adjourned meeting, the original meeting shall be deemed to have terminated forthwith after its adjournment. Any business may be brought before or dealt with at any adjourned meeting which might have been brought before or dealt with at the original meeting in accordance with the notice calling the same.

20. Regular Meetings. The board of directors may appoint a day or days in any month or months for regular meetings of the board of directors at a place or hour to be named by the board of directors and a copy of any resolution of the board of directors fixing the place and time of regular meetings of the board of directors shall be sent to each director forthwith after being passed, but no other notice shall be required for any such regular meetings.

21. Minimum Number of Meetings Per Year. The board of directors shall hold a minimum of four (4) meetings per year, at least two (2) of which shall be attended in person by at least three (3) of the directors.

22. Quorum. A majority of the directors shall form a quorum for the transaction of business and, notwithstanding any vacancy among the directors, a quorum of directors may exercise all the powers of directors.

23. Voting at Meetings of Directors.

- (a) Each director is authorized to exercise one (1) vote.
- (b) At all meetings of the board, every question shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast on the question.
- (c) In case of an equality of votes, the chairperson of the meeting shall not have a second or casting vote.

24. Meetings by Telephone or Other Electronic Means. The directors of the Corporation may meet by teleconference or other electronic means ("**Electronic Means**") that permits each director to communicate adequately with each other, provided that:

- (a) A director wishing to attend a meeting by Electronic Means shall notify the Chairperson of the board no later than 48 hours before the scheduled start of the board meeting.
- (b) The board must consent to a director(s) participating by Electronic Means.
- (c) A director participating by Electronic Means may do so by telephone, computer, video conferencing, or any other method of communication that allows for simultaneous communication.
- (d) The Chairperson is delegated to supervise and coordinate electronic participation by directors pursuant to this paragraph 24.
- (e) A director participating via Electronic Means pursuant to this paragraph 24 is considered present at the board meeting for all purposes including for purposes of establishing quorum and may vote at the board meeting on any matter.
- (f) Where at least one (1) director is participating by Electronic Means pursuant to this paragraph 24, all votes of the board will be taken by roll call.

25. Resolution in Lieu of Meeting. A resolution in writing, signed by all the directors entitled to vote on that resolution at a meeting of directors or of a committee of directors, is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of directors or committee of directors. A copy of every such resolution shall be kept with the minutes of the meetings of directors.

#### **POWERS OF DIRECTORS**

26. Administer Affairs. The board of directors of the Corporation shall administer the affairs of the Corporation in all things and make or cause to be made for the Corporation, in its name, any kind of contract which the Corporation may lawfully enter into and, save as hereinafter provided, generally, may exercise all such other powers and do all such other acts and things as the Corporation is by its Articles or otherwise authorized to exercise and do.

27. Expenditures. The board of directors shall have power to authorize expenditures on behalf of the Corporation from time to time for the purpose of furthering the objects of the Corporation. The board of directors shall have the power to enter into a trust arrangement with a trust company or other financial institution for the purpose of creating a trust fund in which the capital and interest may be made available for the benefit of promoting the interests of the Corporation in accordance with such terms as the board of directors may prescribe.

28. Borrowing Power. The board of directors of the Corporation may, without authorization of the Member, from time to time:

- (a) borrow money on the credit of the Corporation;
- (b) limit or increase the amount to be borrowed;

- (c) issue, reissue, sell, pledge or hypothecate debt obligations (including debt securities, bonds, debentures, debenture stock, notes or other like liabilities whether secured or unsecured) of the Corporation;
- (d) give a guarantee on behalf of the Corporation;
- (e) charge, mortgage, hypothecate, pledge or otherwise create a security interest in all or part of any currently owned or subsequently acquired real or personal, movable or immovable property of the Corporation, including book debts, rights, powers and undertakings, to secure any debt obligations or any money borrowed, or other debt or liability, including a guarantee, of the Corporation; and
- (f) delegate the powers conferred on the directors under this paragraph to such officer or officers of the Corporation and to such extent and in such manner as the directors shall determine.

The powers hereby conferred shall be deemed to be in supplement of and not in substitution for any powers to borrow money for the purposes of the Corporation possessed by its directors or officers independently of this By-law.

29. Fund Raising. The board of directors shall take such steps as they may deem requisite to enable the Corporation to acquire, accept, solicit or receive legacies, gifts, grants, settlements, bequests, endowments and donations of any kind whatsoever for the purpose of furthering the objects of the Corporation.

30. Agents and Employees. The board of directors may appoint such agents and engage such contractors and employees (and may delegate this function to any officer or officers of the Corporation) as it shall deem necessary from time to time and such persons shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed at the time of such appointment. The remuneration of officers, agents, employees, contractors and committee members shall, subject to the other provisions of this By-law, be fixed by the board of directors by resolution provided that the board of directors may delegate this function to an officer or officers of the Corporation and provided further that all such actions shall be in compliance with the Governance Manual.

31. Appointment of Officers.

- (a) The board of directors shall annually or more often as may be required, appoint a Chairperson of the board and a Secretary from among its members and may annually or more often as may be required, appoint a Vice-Chairperson of the board from among its members.
- (b) The board of directors may annually or more often as may be required appoint a PCEO who shall not be a director of the Corporation.
- (c) The board of directors may from time to time appoint such other officers and agents as it shall deem necessary who shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the board of directors.

- (d) Two or more of the aforesaid offices of those officers and agents appointed under subparagraph (c) above may be held by the same person.
- (e) The board may from time to time and subject to the Act vary, add to or limit the powers and duties of any officer.

32. Vacancies of Officers. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each incumbent officer shall continue in office until the earlier of:

- (a) that officer's resignation, which resignation shall be effective at the time the written resignation is received by the Secretary or the PCEO of the Corporation or at the time specified in the resignation, whichever is later;
- (b) the appointment of a successor;
- (c) that officer ceasing to be a director (if a necessary qualification of appointment);
- (d) the meeting at which the directors annually appoint the officers of the Corporation;
- (e) that officer's removal; or
- (f) that officer's death.

If the office of any officer of the Corporation shall be or become vacant, the directors may, by resolution, appoint a person to fill such vacancy.

33. Remuneration of Officers. The remuneration of all officers appointed by the board of directors shall be determined from time to time by resolution of the board of directors except that no officer who is also a director shall be entitled to receive remuneration for acting as such. All officers shall be entitled to be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of the officer's duties.

34. Removal of Officers. Officers shall be subject to removal by resolution of the board of directors at any time, with or without cause.

35. Duties of Officers May be Delegated. In case of the absence or inability to act of any officer of the Corporation or for any other reason that the board of directors may deem sufficient, the board of directors may delegate all or any of the powers of any such officer to any other officer or to any director for the time being.

36. Powers and Duties of Officers. All officers shall sign such contracts, documents or instruments in writing as require their respective signatures and shall respectively have and perform all powers and duties incident to their respective offices and as may be outlined in the Governance Manual and such other powers and duties respectively as may from time to time be assigned to them by the board of directors. The duties of the officers as appointed by the board of directors shall include:

- (a) *Chairperson of the Board.* The Chairperson of the board shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the board of directors, committees of directors, if any, and the Member.
- (b) *Vice-Chairperson of the Board.* If the Chairperson of the board is absent or is unable or refuses to act, the Vice-Chairperson of the board, if any, shall, when

present, preside at all meetings of the board of directors, committees of directors, if any, and the Member.

- (c) *Secretary.* The Secretary shall give or cause to be given notices for all meetings of the board or committees of directors, if any, and the Member when directed to do so and have charge of the corporate seal of the Corporation, the minute books of the Corporation and of the documents and registers referred to in Section 21 of the Act.
- (d) *President and Chief Executive Officer.* The board of directors may appoint a PCEO, who shall not be a director of the Corporation, and may delegate to that person full power to manage and direct the business and affairs of the Corporation and to employ and discharge agents and employees of the Corporation, including the TCFO. The PCEO shall supervise the day to day operations and administration of the Corporation. The PCEO shall conform to all lawful orders given by the board of directors of the Corporation and shall at all reasonable times give to the directors or any of them all information they may require regarding the affairs of the Corporation.
- (e) *Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer.* The PCEO shall be charged with hiring the TCFO, who shall not be a director of the Corporation, subject to the prior approval by the board of directors of the proposed candidate. The TCFO shall have general authority to exercise all the powers necessary for a treasurer and chief financial officer of the Corporation and shall perform such other duties and have such other powers as may be prescribed by the board or the Bylaws, all in accordance with basic policies as established by and subject to the oversight of the board and the PCEO. Further, the TCFO shall keep or shall cause to be kept an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements of the Corporation in proper books of account, and shall deposit or shall cause to be deposited all monies or other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Corporation in such bank or banks as may be designated from time to time by the board of directors. The TCFO shall disburse or cause to be disbursed the funds of the Corporation under the direction of the board of directors, receiving proper vouchers thereof and render to the board of directors at its regular meeting or whenever required, an account of all of his transactions as TCFO, and of the financial position of the Corporation. In the absence of a TCFO, the board may appoint an interim TCFO or assign all or some of the foregoing responsibilities to the PCEO who may delegate them to other officers, agents or staff of the Corporation.

#### **FOR THE PROTECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

37. For the Protection of Directors and Officers. Except as otherwise provided in the Act, no director or officer for the time being of the Corporation shall be liable for the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of any other director or officer or employee or for any loss, damage or expense happening to the Corporation through the insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired by the Corporation or for or on behalf of the Corporation or for the insufficiency or deficiency of any security in or upon which any of the moneys of or belonging to the Corporation shall be placed out or invested or for any loss or damage arising from the bankruptcy, insolvency or tortious act of any person including any person with whom or which any moneys, securities or effects shall be lodged or deposited or for any loss, conversion, misapplication or misappropriation of or any damage resulting from any dealings with any moneys, securities or other assets belonging to the Corporation or for any other loss,

damage or misfortune whatever which may happen in the execution of the duties of the director's or officer's respective office or trust or in relation thereto unless the same shall happen by or through the director's or officer's own willful neglect or default.

#### **INDEMNITIES TO DIRECTORS AND OTHERS**

38. Indemnities to Directors, Officers and Others. Every director or officer of the Corporation or other person who has undertaken or is about to undertake any liability on behalf of the Corporation or any corporation controlled by it and their heirs, executors and administrators, and estate and effects, respectively, shall from time to time and at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the Corporation, from and against,

- (a) all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever which such director, officer or other person sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceeding that is brought, commenced or prosecuted against the director, officer or other person for or in respect of any act, deed matter of thing whatever, made, done or permitted by them, in or about the execution of the duties of such office or in respect of any such liability; and
- (b) all other costs, charges and expenses which the director, officer or other person sustains or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs thereof,

except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by their own willful neglect or default.

The Corporation shall also indemnify any such person in such other circumstances as the Act or law permit or require. Nothing in this By-law shall limit the right of any person entitled to indemnity to claim indemnity apart from the provisions of this By-law to the extent permitted by the Act or law.

#### **INTERESTED DIRECTOR CONTRACTS**

39. Conflict of Interest. A director who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a contract or proposed contract with the Corporation shall make the disclosure required by the Act and, except as provided by the Act, no such director shall vote on any resolution to approve any such contract. In supplement of and not by way of limitation upon any rights conferred upon directors by Section 141 of the Act and specifically subject to the provisions contained in that section, it is declared that no director shall be disqualified by any such office from, or vacate any such office by reason of, holding any office or place of profit under the Corporation or under any corporation in which the Corporation shall be a shareholder or by reason of being otherwise in any way directly or indirectly interested or contracting with the Corporation as vendor, purchaser or otherwise or being concerned in any contract or arrangement made or proposed to be entered into with the Corporation in which the director is in any way directly or indirectly interested as vendor, purchaser or otherwise. Subject to compliance with the Act, no contract or arrangement entered into by or on behalf of the Corporation in which any director shall be in any way directly or indirectly interested shall be avoided or voidable and no director shall be liable to account to the Corporation, the Member or any of the directors for any profit realized by or from any such contract or arrangement by reason of any fiduciary relationship.

40. Submission of Contracts or Transactions to Member for Approval. The board of directors in its discretion may submit any contract, act or transaction with the Corporation for approval or ratification at any annual meeting of the Member or at any general or special meeting of the Member

called for the purpose of considering the same and, subject to the provisions of Section 141 of the Act, any such contract, act or transaction that shall be approved or ratified or confirmed by a resolution passed by a majority of the votes cast at any such meeting (unless any different or additional requirement is imposed by the Act, the Articles or the By-laws) shall be as valid and as binding upon the Corporation and upon the Member as though it had been approved, ratified or confirmed by the Member.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

41. **Entitlement.** Membership in the Corporation shall be available only to the Conference.
42. **Termination of Membership.** Subject to the Articles and paragraph 43 below, the membership of the Member lapses and ceases to exist if the Corporation is wound up, liquidated or dissolved pursuant to paragraph 72.
43. **Effect of Termination of Membership.** Subject to the Articles and any entitlement of the Member as a “qualified donee” under the Articles to the remaining money and property of the Corporation, upon any termination of membership of the Member the rights of the Member, including any rights in the property of the Corporation, automatically cease to exist.
44. **Membership Transferability.** A membership may only be transferred to the Corporation. Pursuant to Section 197(1) (Fundamental Change) of the Act, a special resolution of the Member is required to make any amendment to add, change or delete this paragraph of the By-laws.
45. **Membership Dues.** There shall be no dues payable by the Member for membership in the Corporation.
46. **Member Representative.** For the purposes of subsections 154(6) and (7) of the Act, the Conference Executive Board shall designate from among its members from time to time the individual authorized by the Member as its Member Representative to represent the Member at meetings and to exercise on behalf of the Member all powers of the Member. The Conference Executive Board shall give notice in writing to the board of the full name and address of the Member Representative, the term of his or her appointment and the termination of such appointment.

#### **MEMBER'S MEETINGS**

47. **Time and Place of Meetings.** Subject to compliance with Section 159 of the Act, the annual meeting of the Member shall be held on such day in each year and at such time as the directors may determine at any place within Canada or, if the Member so agrees, outside Canada.
48. **Persons Entitled to be Present at Member's Meetings.** The only persons entitled to be present at a meeting of the Member shall be the Member Representative, the directors, the observers entitled to be present at directors' meetings, and the public accountant of the Corporation and such other persons who are entitled or required under any provision of the Act, Articles or By-laws of the Corporation to be present at the meeting. Any other person may be admitted only on the invitation of the chair of the meeting or by resolution of the Member. The Corporation shall recognize the Member Representative authorized by the Member to represent the Member at meetings. The Member Representative may exercise on behalf of the Member all the powers of the Member.

49. Annual Meetings. At every annual meeting, in addition to any other business that may be transacted, the report of the directors, the financial statements and the report of the auditors shall be presented and the directors shall be elected and auditors appointed for the ensuing year. The Member may consider and transact any business, either special or general, at any meeting of the Member.

50. Special Meetings. Other meetings of the Member may be convened by order of the Chairperson of the board, the Vice-Chairperson of the board, the PCEO or by the board of directors at any date and time and at any place within Canada or, if the Member so agrees, outside Canada. The board of directors shall call a special meeting of the Member on written requisition of the Member. If the board of directors does not call a meeting within twenty-one (21) days of receiving the requisition, the Member may call the meeting.

51. Notice. Subject to applicable securities laws, notice of any annual or special meeting of the Member shall be provided to the Member by any of the following means:

- (a) by mail, courier or personal delivery to the Member addressed to the Executive of the Conference, during a period of twenty-one (21) to sixty (60) days before the day on which the meeting is to be held; or
- (b) by telephonic, electronic or other communication facility to the Member addressed to the Executive of the Conference during a period of twenty-one (21) to thirty-five (35) days before the day on which the meeting is to be held.

Notice of any meeting where special business will be transacted should contain sufficient information to permit the Member to form a reasoned judgment on the decision to be taken. If the Corporation is a reporting issuer (as defined in applicable securities laws), the Corporation shall comply with the notice requirements for reporting issuers set out in such applicable securities laws.

Pursuant to Subsection 197(1) (Fundamental Changes) of the Act, a special resolution of the Member approved by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast on that resolution is required to make any amendments to the By-laws of the Corporation to change the manner of giving notice to the Member entitled to vote at a meeting of the Member.

52. Waiver of Notice. The Member, the Member Representative and any other person entitled to attend a meeting of the Member may in any manner waive notice of a meeting of the Member and attendance of any such person at a meeting of the Member shall constitute a waiver of notice of the meeting except where such person attends a meeting for the express purposes of objecting to the transaction of any business on the grounds that the meeting is not lawfully called.

53. Quorum. The Member present as represented by the Member Representative constitutes the meeting. No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless the requisite quorum be present at the time of the transaction of such business.

54. Chairperson of the Meeting. In the event that the Chairperson of the board and the Vice-Chairperson of the board are absent, the Member Representative may choose another director as chairperson of the meeting and if no director is present or if all the directors present decline to take the chair then the Member Representative may act as the chairperson.

55. Adjournment. The chairperson of any meeting of the Member may with the consent of the meeting adjourn the same from time to time to a fixed time and place and no notice of such adjournment need be given to the Member. Any business may be brought before or dealt with at any adjourned meeting which might have been brought before or dealt with at the original meeting in accordance with the notice calling the same.

56. Meetings by Teleconference or Other Electronic Means. If the Member consents (either at a meeting of the Member by simple resolution or by consent signed by the Member), a meeting of the Member of the Corporation may be held by teleconference or other electronic means that permits the Member Representative and each other person at the meeting to communicate adequately with each other.

57. Voting of the Member. At all meetings of the Member, every question shall be determined by the Member on a show of hands by a majority of votes unless otherwise specifically provided by the Act or by these By-laws.

58. Proxies. Votes at meetings of the Member must be given personally by the Member Representative and may not be given by proxy.

59. Resolution in Lieu of Meeting. Except where a written statement is submitted by a director under subsection 131(1) of the Act or by a public accountant under subsection 187(4) of the Act or where otherwise required by applicable securities laws,

- (a) a resolution in writing signed by the Member is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Member; and
- (b) a resolution dealing with all matters required by the Act to be dealt with at a meeting of the Member, and signed by the Member, satisfies all the requirements of the Act relating to meetings of the Member.

A copy of every resolution referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above shall be kept with the minutes of the meetings of the Member.

#### **CUSTODY AND VOTING SHARES AND SECURITIES**

60. Voting Shares and Securities. All of the shares or other securities carrying voting rights of any company or corporation held from time to time by the Corporation may be voted at any and all meetings of shareholders, bondholders, debenture holders or holders of other securities (as the case may be) of such company or corporation and in such manner and by such person or persons as the board of directors of the Corporation shall from time to time determine. The duly authorized signing officers of the Corporation may also from time to time execute and deliver for and on behalf of the Corporation proxies and/or arrange for the issuance of voting certificates and/or other evidence of the right to vote in such names as they may determine without the necessity of a resolution or other action by the board of directors.

61. Custody of Securities. All shares and securities owned by the Corporation shall be lodged (in the name of the Corporation) with a chartered bank or a trust company or in a safety deposit box or, if so authorized by resolution of the board of directors, with such other depositories or in such other manner as may be determined from time to time by the board of directors.

All share certificates, bonds, debentures, notes or other obligations belonging to the Corporation may be issued or held in the name of a nominee or nominees of the Corporation (and if issued or held in the names of more than one nominee shall be held in the names of the nominees jointly with the right of survivorship) and shall be endorsed in blank with endorsement guaranteed in order to enable transfer to be completed and registration to be effected.

#### **EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS**

62. Execution of Instruments. Contracts, documents or any instrument in writing requiring the signature of the Corporation may be signed by:

- (a) any one of the Chairperson of the board, the Vice-Chairperson of the board or the PCEO, together with any one of the Secretary or the TCFO;
- (b) any two directors; or
- (c) any one of the aforementioned officers together with any one director;

and all contracts, documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon the Corporation without any further authorization or formality. The board of directors shall have power from time to time by resolution to appoint any officer or officers or any person or persons on behalf of the Corporation either to sign contracts, documents and instruments in writing generally or to sign specific contracts, documents or instruments in writing.

The term "contracts, documents or instrument in writing" as used in this By-law shall include but not be limited to deeds, mortgages, hypothecs, charges, conveyances, transfers and assignments of property real or personal, immovable or movable, agreements, releases, receipts and discharges for the payment of money or other obligations, conveyances, transfers and assignments of shares, share warrants, stocks, bonds, debentures or other securities and all paper writings.

The seal of the Corporation when required may be affixed to any instruments in writing signed as aforesaid or by any officer or officers appointed by resolution of the board of directors.

Any signing officer may certify a copy of any instrument, resolution, By-law or other document of the Corporation to be a true copy thereof.

#### **CHEQUES, DRAFTS, NOTES, ETC.**

63. Cheques, Drafts, Notes, Etc. All cheques, drafts or orders for the payment of money and all promissory notes and acceptances and bills of exchange shall be signed by such officer or officers or person or persons, whether or not officers of the Corporation, and in such manner as the board of directors may from time to time designate by resolution.

#### **BANKING ARRANGEMENTS**

64. Banking Arrangements. The banking business of the Corporation shall be transacted at such bank, trust company, credit union or other firm or corporation carrying on a banking business in Canada or elsewhere as the board of directors may designate, appoint or authorize from time to time by resolution. The banking business or any part of it shall be transacted by an officer or officers of the

Corporation and/or other persons as the board of directors may by resolution from time to time designate, direct or authorize.

### **NOTICES**

65. Service. Subject to paragraph 51 of this By-law regarding notices to the Member of any annual or special meetings of the Member, any notice or other document required by the Act, the Regulations, the Articles or the By-laws to be sent to the Member or any director, officer or to the auditor shall be:

- (a) delivered personally,
- (b) sent by prepaid mail, or
- (c) sent by electronic means such as e-mail or facsimile,

at such person's latest address as shown in the records of the Corporation and to the auditor at its business address, or if no address be given therein then to the last address of such Member or director or officer known to the Secretary or the PCEO; provided always that notice may be waived or the time for the notice may be waived or abridged at any time with the consent in writing of the person entitled thereto.

66. Signature to Notices. The signature of any director or officer of the Corporation to any notice or document to be given by the Corporation may be written, stamped, typewritten or printed or partly written, stamped, typewritten or printed.

67. Computation of Time. Where a given number of days' notice or notice extending over a period is required to be given under the By-laws or Articles of the Corporation, the day of service or posting of the notice shall not, unless it is otherwise provided, be counted in such number of days or other period.

68. Proof of Service. With respect to every notice or other document sent by mail, it shall be sufficient to prove that the envelope or wrapper containing the notice or other document was properly addressed as provided in paragraph 65 of this By-law and mailed at a post office or mail box. With respect to any notice or other document sent by electronic means, it shall be sufficient to produce the electronic confirmation that the notice or other document was sent electronically. A certificate of an officer of the Corporation in office at the time of the making of the certificate as to facts in relation to the sending or delivery of any notice or other document to the Member or any director, officer or auditor or publication of any notice or other document shall be conclusive evidence thereof and shall be binding on the Member and every director, officer or auditor of the Corporation as the case may be.

69. Rules and Regulations. The board of directors may prescribe such rules and regulations not inconsistent with the By-laws relating to the management and operation of the Corporation and other matters provided for in these By-laws as they may deem expedient, provided that such rules and regulations shall have force and effect only until the next annual meeting of the Member when they shall be confirmed and, in default of confirmation at such annual meeting of the Member, shall at and from that time cease to have force and effect.

**BY-LAWS**

70. By-laws. The board of directors may from time to time enact By-laws relating in any way to the Corporation or to the conduct of its affairs, including, but not limited to, By-laws providing for applications for supplementary Articles, and may from time to time by By-law amend, repeal or re-enact the By-laws but no By-law shall be effective until first approved by the Conference Executive Board and then sanctioned by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the Conference Members at a meeting of the Conference Members, including their annual general meeting, duly called for the purpose of considering same. The Member Representative shall cause the Member to pass such resolutions or complete such other formalities as may be required under the Act or these By-laws to give effect to the foregoing.

**AUDITORS**

71. Auditors. The Member shall at each annual meeting appoint an auditor to audit the accounts of the Corporation for report to the Member who shall hold office until the next following annual meeting; provided, however, that the directors may fill any casual vacancy in the office of the auditor. The remuneration of the auditor shall be fixed by the board of directors.

**DISSOLUTION**

72. Dissolution. The Corporation may be liquidated, dissolved or wound up by a special resolution of the Conference Members passed by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the Conference Members at a meeting of the Conference Members, including their annual general meeting, duly called for the purpose of considering the liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the Corporation. The Member Representative shall cause the Member to pass such resolutions or complete such other formalities as may be required under the Act or these By-laws to give effect to any such special resolution of the Conference Members so passed.

**FINANCIAL YEAR**

73. Financial Year. The financial year of the Corporation shall terminate on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December in each year or on such other date as the directors may from time to time by resolution determine.

ENACTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

WITNESS the seal of the Corporation.

**CCMBC LEGACY FUND INC.**

Per: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director

Per: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director

# MB MISSION/C2C

## A “BIG IDEA”

Mission has historically been at the heart of the Mennonite Brethren churches of Canada. This “Big Idea” conversation is driven by the desire to continue and expand the missionary focus of Canadian MB churches to maximize our collective missionary impact locally, provincially, nationally and globally.

### CCMBC Mission

we exist to multiply Christ-centered churches to see Canada transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ.

Over the past 5 years, we have experienced significant growth in our church planting ministry through C2C, where this ministry is now a sought after church planting partner. C2C has a proven track record of planting churches effectively in Canada.

### MB Mission’s Vision

Holistic church planting that transforms communities among the least reached.

We are blessed to have an international missions’ organization that for many years has been seen as “best in class” in reaching the least reached around the world.

Canadian MB churches are blessed to have 2 mission agencies in MB Mission and C2C. Both mission agencies are working well and are being sought out by MB churches and other denominations for help in fulfilling the mission to reach people with the good news of Jesus Christ. The CCMBC Executive Board believes we have an opportunity and a need to strengthen the move of mission to the center of church and conference ministry planning to reach more people locally, nationally and globally.

The ministry landscapes are changing as requests for church planting resources are coming from other geographies; the USMB Conference is an example. Urban church plants in international mission settings see the need for C2C’s ministry resources to support their church planting efforts. In Canada, our growing cross cultural context may be best served through the knowledge and experience of MB Mission. Using the unique strengths of both ministries in a combined effort will result in reaching more people with the good news of Jesus Christ.

### Opportunity/Value Proposition

The ministry opportunities at hand have caused the Executive Board to ask several questions. What is the most effective way to reach more people? Are there ways to organize ourselves that will create a multiplication effect in our churches and ministries? Is this the time to make a structural change? Is there a synergy that comes with combining the strengths of both ministries?

It is with this background that the CCMBC Executive Board is recommending that we move to bring the operations of MB Mission and C2C closer together. Our ability to most effectively reach more people would be significantly enhanced if these 2 ministries were working as one reaching across the local, national and global landscape.

### Changing Environment

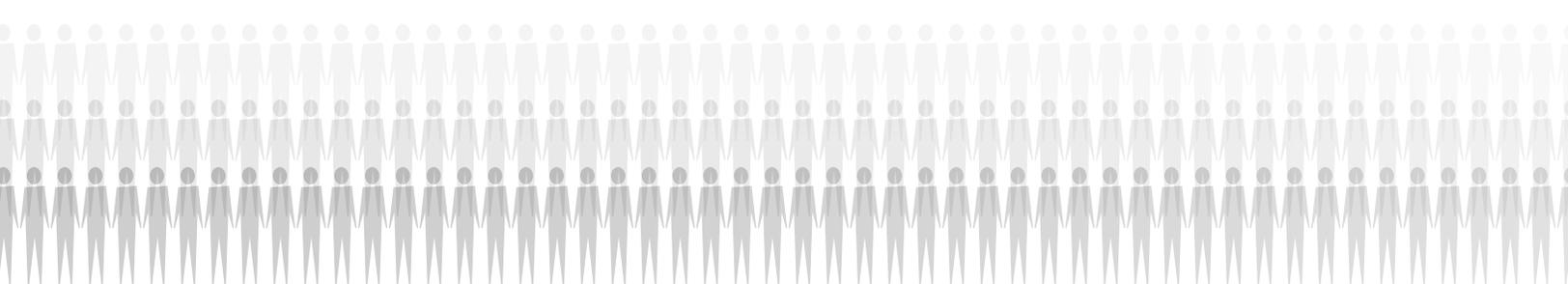
Currently C2C is the largest interdenominational church planting network in Canada. C2C is working with 22 denominations and continues to receive requests from other denominations. Some denominations have closed their church planting “departments” and are using C2C as their sole church planting resource. Requests are also coming from international church groups requesting C2C to help train their planters and church planting leaders.

MB Mission is emphasizing a new mission reality that mission is “from everywhere to everywhere” because the world has become a global village. People are moving everywhere. The refugee crisis is bringing the least reached people groups into our back yards. We believe conference ministries need to help churches increasingly develop mission at the center of their ministry.

The growing cultural diversity in Canada has increased the demand for support from individuals and churches looking for help to reach new Canadians. The unique challenges of dealing with these groups is often best understood from a global mission perspective.

The reality of tighter financial times – CCMBC has exhausted its reserves in ramping up C2C, in addition church giving is relatively flat (slight increase in 2015), provinces are struggling to grow their financial contributions but personal and church contributions to mission agencies is increasing.

CCMBC has struggled to provide optimum oversight for C2C with the current accountability and slow decision making process. It has been difficult for both parties to feel that their needs, interests and responsibilities are being well served given the ministry needs and opportunities at hand.



## MB MISSION

Long history (115 years) of global mission creating great trust in our constituency.

Long history of partnering with other denominations in the global mission field

Strong developed governance structure

Strong donor development process and systems

Strong financial systems and personnel

Well-developed presence in local churches

Nimble structure with the freedom to respond to new mission opportunities.

Well-developed prayer culture essential for making strategic decisions in uncertain times.

Track record of working with young people in Canada for renewal and mission

MB Mission brings strength to new immigrant church planting in Canada

## C2C

Well-developed systems for assessing, training and developing planters

Well respected across Canada

Nimble and entrepreneurial

High trust with donors who are investing significantly in church planting

Strong interdenominational support across Canada

Providing inspiration and equipping for established churches

Improved "success" rate over previous planting efforts

Growing prayer base

Growing interdenominational financial support base

C2C brings best practices to urban planting

Strong interdenominational platform to develop a national prayer movement

The goal of this process is to bring the best of C2C and MB Mission together to create a mission agency that serves our Mennonite Brethren mission mandate with greater efficiency, productivity, transformative results and practical impact.

## Immediate CCMBC Executive Board Action Steps

It has become very obvious that God is doing a new thing in Canada as denominations work together through C2C to create a church planting movement. The pace of change and growth of C2C has been a challenge for the Executive Board and staff to manage. C2C's denominational partnerships have never been officially approved by the Board, so the Board took what it saw as the necessary step of approving and blessing C2C as an interdenominational church planting network.

The Board also agreed to appoint an interim Leadership Team for C2C. The team shall provide leadership support in developing and promoting vision and in setting goals for the C2C Network. The main focus of the team is supporting and advising C2C leadership in strategic planning; ensuring good organizational structure and financial processes are in place and adhered to. The team is to ensure the creation of an appropriate strategic and annual plan and monitor the outcomes, measuring results and performance.

## Recommendations for Gathering 2016

The vision to create a new mission agency by bringing together MB Mission and C2C is, at its core, a desire to enhance mission effectiveness in the lives of individuals and through our churches locally, nationally and globally. As a means of moving toward the fulfillment of that vision, the CCMBC Executive Board is bringing the following recommendations to Gathering:

1. It is moved that a task force be affirmed to work with the MB Mission board to investigate options for C2C and MB Mission for church planting ministries locally, nationally and globally. The task force mandate is to create a structure that will effectively oversee all church planting – local, national and global – integrating and creating synergies between the strengths of each organization.
2. It is moved that C2C, in collaboration with MB Mission, be authorized to assist the USMB Conference, and be allowed to function interdenominationally in the USA as requested, without any negative impact on Canadian church planting ministries and budget. "Big Idea" team: Michael Dick, Randy Friesen, Gord Fleming, Len Penner, Willy Reimer on behalf of the CCMBC Executive Board.



God has brought a greater degree of collaboration to the ministries of all our organizations. Increasingly denominations, networks and churches are working together, aligned by the centrality of the gospel to fulfill God's purpose for the church. This includes ministries such as MB Mission and C2C.

For the past year, staff and leaders of CCMBC, MB Mission, USMB and C2C have been praying and wondering if God is doing a new thing, preparing us to fulfill his purposes among us. There has been a great deal of prayer, thought, dreaming, and conversation by all groups involved. We have been searching for direction that is genuinely Spirit lead, increases missional effectiveness in all spheres of ministry (local, national, global), multiplies the impact of ministry resources, and removes barriers to engage in ministry opportunities the Lord seems to be presenting to us.

The USMB conference has been undergoing a ministry review in the last several years. Last June, they requested help from us, using C2C, to expand their church planting ministry. This has led to numerous conversations within and between our organizations.

At CCMBC, we have discussed this at Executive board meetings, had breakout conversations at last year's AGM, and have also met with our provincial partners this past January. This process will likely take some time and, at this point, we do not know exactly where God is leading our conversations.

We have asked Randy Friesen (MB Mission), Gord Fleming (C2C), Willy Reimer (CCMBC Executive Director), Michael Dick (BC moderator & Executive Board member) and Len Penner (assistant moderator CCMBC Executive Board) to lead us in this conversation.

We have now provided reports and held meetings across Canada which has led the CCMBC Executive Board to bring forward two motions for discernment and processing. Refer to items (j) and (k) in the list of motions.

We continue to ask for your continued prayer support for this process as God leads us in future ministry.

Thank you!

Harold Froese

Moderator, CCMBC Executive Board

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING****MB Mission****PREAMBLE**

This Memorandum is entered into between The United States Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches (“the U.S. Conference”) and the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (“the Canadian Conference”) in order to set forth their agreement regarding the ongoing operation of Mennonite Brethren global mission.

In 1900, the Mennonite Brethren Churches of the United States and Canada joined together to form The American Mennonite Brethren Mission Union, the predecessor to the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches. As stated in the Charter, the purposes for which the original corporation was formed were:

- A. “To bring and to preach through missionaries, the gospel to all nations without the gospel of Christ in home and foreign lands.
- B. To release the nations from idolatry and sins, to bring them to the obedience of faith in Christ and to the fellowship of the Son of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- C. To employ, send and support the necessary missionaries, assistancies (sic) and deaconesses according to the rules in the by-laws.
- D. To accumulate a fund by collections and accepting donations.
- E. To own real estate, to open mission stations, to enact, furnish and maintain the necessary buildings.”

Over the past 100 years, global mission has continued to be a central focus of the Mennonite Brethren churches of North America. As the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches divests itself of its ministries, it is appropriate that the Mennonite Brethren vision for global mission be carried on by the churches with which it began. Accordingly, The United States Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches covenant together as partners in the continuation and furtherance of global mission through the structure outlined herein.

By entering into this agreement, the U.S. and Canadian Conferences express their mutual desire that the global mission mandate which has played such a integral role in their history, continue to be given significant priority, and that MB Mission be viewed by the partnering national conferences and their member churches as the primary channel for carrying out the mandate of global mission.

Memo of Understanding regarding MB Mission

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In addition, it is the hope and desire of the U.S. and Canadian Conferences that in the future additional Mennonite Brethren conferences may be added as full partners in the global mission activities of MB Mission.

**LEGAL STATUS**

- Global mission will be operated by a non-profit religious corporation known as MB Mission. Organization as a corporation will allow MB Mission to carry out its mission mandate more efficiently.
- MB Mission is incorporated in the state California in the United States for the purposes of conducting charitable operations within United States.
- MB Mission is registered as a federal corporation in Canada for the purposes of conducting charitable operations within Canada.
- Incorporating in both the United States and Canada allows for missionaries to be deployed from both countries and allows MB Mission to operate under the unique legal requirements governing overseas work of each country.
- The American and Canadian MB Mission corporations operate under a unified board, i.e. the same board members are elected to serve on the boards of both corporations.
- The MB Mission corporation will be responsible for all of its own liabilities. To the extent either national conference is exposed to liability by virtue of the structure created herein, the national conferences pledge to deal equitably with each other to insure that any such liabilities are not borne by one conference alone.
- There are several countries in which a legal entity has been created in accordance with the respective country's corporate law in order to properly hold assets related to the mission operations being conducted by MB Mission in that country. The Board of Directors of MB Mission will monitor and determine whether any changes need to be made in order to bring these assets within the control of MB Mission.

**OWNERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

- The MB Mission corporation will be owned jointly by The United States Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.
- The MB Mission corporation will be governed in accordance with the Bylaws attached hereto which are expressly approved by the partnering national conferences.

Memo of Understanding regarding MB Mission

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**ACCOUNTABILITY**

MB Mission will be accountable to the partnering national conferences in the following ways:

- The Bylaws of MB Mission will provide that the partnering national conferences shall elect a majority of the members of the MB Mission Board of Directors.
- The MB Mission Board of Directors will provide full reports to the partnering national conferences at their conventions.
- The Bylaws will provide that the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the MB Mission corporation can only be amended by action of the partnering national conferences.
- MB Mission will review its constituency relations function in order to assure adequate communication and relationship with the partnering national conferences, the district and provincial conferences, as well as the individual churches which make up those conferences.

**OPERATIONS**

- With its own corporate identities, MB Mission will conduct its own operations in the United States and Canada, including receipting of contributions, payroll, employment matters, etc.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

- The Board of Directors of MB Mission will be responsible for the financial management of the MB Mission, including establishing MB Mission's annual budget.
- The current policy of no deficit spending will continue and will only be altered with the approval of the partnering national conferences.

**ASSET OWNERSHIP**

- MB Mission will own all of its physical assets in Canada and the United States. Any such assets being held by another entity for the benefit of MB Mission will be transferred to the MB Mission corporation.

Memo of Understanding regarding MB Mission

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- In the United States, operating and/or reserve funds currently held by MB Mission or other entities on behalf of MB Mission will be transferred to the MB Mission corporation.
- In the Canada, operating and/or reserve funds currently held by the Canadian Conference or other entities on behalf of MB Mission will be transferred to the MB Mission corporation.
- All missions endowments and other planned gifts currently owned by the Canadian and U.S. Conferences, or related entities, for the benefit of MB Mission, will remain with them for the same purpose, with earnings transferred quarterly to the MB Mission corporation.

**FUNDING**

- The funding of MB Mission's programs will continue as currently practiced, with open access for MB Mission to all participating conference churches and their members in order to solicit financial support. Additional funding may come from grants, estates, interest earnings, etc.
- Any change in the "norm" or "levy" suggested to local churches for funding MB Mission's operations must be approved by the national conferences and the national conferences will assist MB Mission in communicating the suggested funding level to the local churches.

**PROGRAM POLICIES**

The national conferences endorse the current program policies and procedures contained in the "MB Mission Strategic Plan ", including the following considerations:

- That MB Mission is committed to assisting and encouraging local Mennonite Brethren churches in carrying out their mission mandate.
- That MB Mission is committed to facilitate the sending of missionary personnel from its local partner churches.
- That MB Mission is committed to multiplying disciples and missional leaders for church planting.
- That MB Mission funding will continue to come primarily from the churches of the partnering conferences.
- That any modifications to the "MB Mission Strategic Plan" and/or significant new

Memo of Understanding regarding MB Mission

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directions, will be processed by the Board of Directors of MB Mission with the partnering conference representatives prior to implementation.

December 1, 2015

approved by the Canadian and US MB Conferences

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Name and Title

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Name and Title

## **MB Mission MOU Commentary – Summary of Changes and Rationale**

The Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the USMB Conference and Canadian MB Conference regarding MB Mission has been updated to reflect the current structure and binational operations of the MB Mission organization as it exists today.

Changes to the MOU were originally discussed at the binational leadership meetings in December 2015, and the MOU has been processed by both conference executive boards. It is now being presented at the national conventions of both the USA and Canadian conferences for final ratification.

Following is a summary of the changes (from the original 2000 version) that were made to bring the document into its current form:

1. The name “MBMSI” has been replaced with “MB Mission” throughout the document.
2. It is noted that MB Mission is now incorporated in Canada, as well as the USA, and no longer has to “operate under the legal umbrella” of CCMBC. (MB Mission also has its own charities registration.)
3. Description of the location of the management centre has been removed.
4. References to the Global Mission Guidelines were updated to reference the MB Mission Strategic Plan.

Final Note: The bylaws of both the Canadian and USA corporations have been ratified by both countries at their respective national conventions.

**Annual Statistical Survey Report for 2015: Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches**

| <b>Survey submissions 2015</b> (Note 1) | <b>AB</b> | <b>AP</b>          | <b>BC</b> | <b>MB</b> | <b>ON</b> | <b>PQ</b> | <b>SK</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| # of surveys submitted (Note 2)         | 16        | 4                  | 84        | 23        | 23        | 10        | 34        | 194          |
| total # of churches (Note 3)            | 20        | 4                  | 106       | 40        | 32        | 13        | 34        | 249          |
| survey return rate in %                 | 80        | 100                | 79        | 58        | 72        | 77        | 100       | 78           |
| <b>Number of Churches 2015</b>          | <b>AB</b> | <b>AP</b>          | <b>BC</b> | <b>MB</b> | <b>ON</b> | <b>PQ</b> | <b>SK</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| total # of churches 2015 (Note 3)       | 20        | 4                  | 106       | 40        | 32        | 13        | 34        | 249          |
| total # of churches 2014 (Note 4)       | 20        | 4                  | 106       | 40        | 31        | 13        | 31        | 245          |
| change in %                             | 0.0       | 0.0                | 0.0       | 0.0       | 3.2       | 0.0       | 9.7       | 1.6          |
| <b>Average weekly attendance 2015</b>   | <b>AB</b> | <b>AP</b>          | <b>BC</b> | <b>MB</b> | <b>ON</b> | <b>PQ</b> | <b>SK</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| # from survey submissions               | 2,098     | 190                | 26,508    | 4,482     | 5,008     | 646       | 3,597     | 42,529       |
| total # for all churches 2015 (Note 5)  | 2,587     | 190                | 29,716    | 7,369     | 5,438     | 898       | 3,597     | 49,795       |
| total # for all churches 2014 (Note 4)  | 2,595     | 165                | 29,613    | 7,693     | 5,467     | 843       | 3,314     | 49,690       |
| change in %                             | -0.3      | 15.2               | 0.3       | -4.2      | -0.5      | 6.5       | 8.5       | 0.211        |
| <b>Membership as of Dec 31, 2015</b>    | <b>AB</b> | <b>AP (Note 6)</b> | <b>BC</b> | <b>MB</b> | <b>ON</b> | <b>PQ</b> | <b>SK</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| # from survey submissions               | 1,634     | n/a                | 19,360    | 4,177     | 3,686     | 439       | 3,280     | 32,576       |
| total # for all churches 2015 (Note 5)  | 2,031     | n/a                | 20,994    | 6,455     | 3,837     | 528       | 3,280     | 37,125       |
| total # for all churches 2014 (Note 4)  | 2,015     | n/a                | 20,295    | 6,433     | 3,901     | 551       | 3,244     | 36,439       |
| change in %                             | 0.8       | n/a                | 3.4       | 0.3       | -1.6      | -4.2      | 1.1       | 1.88         |

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**Note 1:** The survey queried 5 areas: average weekly attendance; membership; baptisms; participation in Sunday School, Youth Programs, and mid-week activities; and contact information for leadership. Complete survey results are on file at the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Winnipeg.

**Note 2:** Based on survey responses returned by individual churches to the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Winnipeg.

**Note 3:** Based on entries in the 2015/2016 Directory of Mennonite Brethren Churches in U.S. and Canada, published by Kindred Productions.

**Note 4:** Based on the results of the 2014 Statistical Survey Report. See Gathering 2016 Yearbook.

**Note 5:** Based on survey responses and estimates supplied by Provincial Conference Ministers.

**Note 6:** Only attendance numbers are available for the churches in the Atlantic Provinces (AP).

**Annual Statistical Survey Report for 2014: Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches**

| <b>Survey submissions 2014</b> (Note 1) | <b>AB</b> | <b>AP</b>          | <b>BC</b> | <b>MB</b> | <b>ON</b> | <b>PQ</b> | <b>SK</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| # of surveys submitted (Note 2)         | 16        | 4                  | 91        | 34        | 27        | 12        | 32        | 216          |
| total # of churches (Note 3)            | 20        | 4                  | 106       | 40        | 31        | 13        | 31        | 245          |
| survey return rate in %                 | 80        | 100                | 86        | 85        | 87        | 92        | 103       | 88           |
| <b>Number of Churches 2014</b>          | <b>AB</b> | <b>AP</b>          | <b>BC</b> | <b>MB</b> | <b>ON</b> | <b>PQ</b> | <b>SK</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| total # of churches 2014 (Note 3)       | 20        | 4                  | 106       | 40        | 31        | 13        | 31        | 245          |
| total # of churches 2013 (Note 4)       | 21        | 4                  | 106       | 40        | 33        | 15        | 33        | 252          |
| change in %                             | -4.8      | 0.0                | 0.0       | 0.0       | -6.1      | -13.3     | -6.1      | -2.8         |
| <b>Average weekly attendance 2014</b>   | <b>AB</b> | <b>AP</b>          | <b>BC</b> | <b>MB</b> | <b>ON</b> | <b>PQ</b> | <b>SK</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| # from survey submissions               | 2,200     | 165                | 27,791    | 7,377     | 5,217     | 768       | 3,272     | 46,790       |
| total # for all churches 2014 (Note 5)  | 2,595     | 165                | 29,613    | 7,693     | 5,467     | 843       | 3,314     | 49,690       |
| total # for all churches 2013 (Note 4)  | 2,613     | 170                | 29,661    | 7,522     | 5,447     | 804       | 3,695     | 49,912       |
| change in %                             | -0.7      | -2.9               | -0.2      | 2.3       | 0.4       | 4.9       | -10.3     | -0.4         |
| <b>Membership as of Dec 31, 2014</b>    | <b>AB</b> | <b>AP</b> (Note 6) | <b>BC</b> | <b>MB</b> | <b>ON</b> | <b>PQ</b> | <b>SK</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| # from survey submissions               | 1,694     | n/a                | 19,377    | 6,330     | 3,811     | 497       | 3,175     | 34,884       |
| total # for all churches 2014 (Note 5)  | 2,015     | n/a                | 20,295    | 6,433     | 3,901     | 551       | 3,244     | 36,439       |
| total # for all churches 2013 (Note 4)  | 2,040     | n/a                | 20,805    | 6,342     | 4,094     | 738       | 3,141     | 37,160       |
| change in %                             | -1.2      | n/a                | -2.5      | 1.4       | -4.7      | -25.3     | 3.3       | -1.9         |

\*\*\*\*\*

**Note 1:** The survey queried 5 areas: average weekly attendance; membership; baptisms; participation in Sunday School, Youth Programs, and mid-week activities; and contact information for leadership. Complete survey results are on file at the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Winnipeg.

**Note 2:** Based on survey responses returned by individual churches to the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Winnipeg.

**Note 3:** Based on entries in the 2015/2016 Directory of Mennonite Brethren Churches in U.S. and Canada, published by Kindred Productions.

**Note 4:** Based on the results of the 2013 Statistical Survey Report. See Gathering 2014 Yearbook.

**Note 5:** Based on survey responses and estimates supplied by Provincial Conference Ministers.

**Note 6:** Only attendance numbers are available for the churches in the Atlantic Provinces (AP).

## Gathering 2016 Yearbook

# Event Statistics

|  |    |     |
|--|----|-----|
|  |    |     |
| <b>Number of Registrants:</b>                      |    | 197 |
| <b>Number of Canadian MB Churches Represented:</b> |    | 69  |
| <b>Province of Registrants:</b>                    |    |     |
|  | BC | 61  |
|  | AB | 16  |
|  | SK | 9   |
|  | MB | 47  |
|  | ON | 52  |
|  | QC | 6   |
|  | NB | 2   |
|  | NS | 1   |
| <b>International Registrants:</b>                  |    |     |
|  | US | 3   |

## List of Exhibitors

CCMBC  
 ICOMB  
 Kindred Productions  
 Historical Commission  
 MB Mission  
 MBBS Canada

CMU/Outtatown  
 Columbia Bible College  
 ETEM  
 Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
 International Justice Mission Canada  
 Mennonite Central Committee  
 Mennonite Disaster Service  
 Mennonite World Conference  
 NCOL Ministries  
 Plan to Protect  
 Square One World Media

| Board Position   | Incumbent                | Prov | Ending Term | Eligible | Nominee           | Prov | Ending Term | Eligible | Notes |
|--|--------------------------|------|-------------|----------|-------------------|------|-------------|----------|-------|
| <b>Executive Board – Elected at Gathering</b>  |                          |      |             |          |                   |      |             |          |       |
| <b><u>Executive Committee – 2 year terms – Two term limit</u></b>  |                          |      |             |          |                   |      |             |          |       |
| Moderator  | Harold Froese            | MB   | 2016        | Y        | Harold Froese     | MB   | 2018        | N        |       |
| Assistant Moderator  | Len Penner               | MB   | 2016        | N        | Bruce Enns        | SK   | 2018        | Y        |       |
| Secretary  | Vic Martens              | BC   | 2016        | N        | Marilyn Hiebert   | BC   | 2018        | Y        |       |
| <b><u>Members at large – 6 positions – 4 year terms – Two term limit</u></b>                                       |                          |      |             |          |                   |      |             |          |       |
| Member at large  | Vacancy                  |      |             |          | David MacLean     | BC   | 2020        | Y        |       |
| Member at large, Legacy Board  | Mark Wessner (resigned)  | BC   | 2018        | Y        | vacant            |      | 2018        | Y        |       |
| Member at large  | Howie Wall               | SK   | 2016        | Y        | Howie Wall        | SK   | 2020        | N        |       |
| Member at large, Legacy Board  | Sam Reimer               | NB   | 2016        | N        | vacant            |      | 2020        | Y        |       |
| Member at large  | Karen G Pankratz         | MB   | 2018        | Y        | Karen G Pankratz  |      | 2018        | Y        |       |
| Member at large, Legacy Board  | Gerald Peters - resigned | ON   | 2016        | N        | Michael Dick      | BC   | 2020        | Y        |       |
| <b><u>Provincial Moderators on Executive Board <i>ex officio</i></u></b>   |                          |      |             |          |                   |      |             |          |       |
| Exec BD  | Michael Dick             | BC   | ex off      |          | Don Petker        | BC   |             |          |       |
| Exec BD  | Kerry Dyck               | AB   | ex off      |          | Matt Dyck         | AB   |             |          |       |
| Exec BD  | Phil Gunther             | SK   | ex off      |          | Tony Martens      | SK   |             |          |       |
| Exec BD  | Gerald Dyck              | MB   | ex off      |          | Ruth Schellenberg | MB   |             |          |       |
| Exec BD  | Karen West               | ON   | ex off      |          | Karen West        | ON   | appointed   |          |       |
| Exec BD  |                          | QC   | ex off      |          | Zacharie Leclair  | QC   | appointed   |          |       |
| <b><u>Legacy Board - 2 of 5 elected of which 3 are members of CCMBC Exec Board</u></b>                             |                          |      |             |          |                   |      |             |          |       |
| Member at Large  |                          |      |             |          |                   |      | 2021        | Y        |       |
| Member at Large  |                          |      |             |          |                   |      | 2021        | Y        |       |
| <b><u>Nominating Committee – 2 positions elected at Gathering – 4 year terms – Two term limit</u></b>              |                          |      |             |          |                   |      |             |          |       |
| Chair: Board Secretary   | Vic Martens              | BC   | 2016        | N        | Marilyn Hiebert   | BC   | 2018        | Y        |       |
| Canadian Member  | Ike Bergen               | BC   | 2018        | Y        | Ike Bergen        | BC   | 2018        | Y        |       |
| Canadian Member  | Vacancy                  |      |             |          | Ralph Gliege      | SK   | 2020        | Y        |       |
| <b><u>MB Mission Board – 4 elected/affirmed at Gathering – 4 year terms – Two term limit – terms staggered</u></b> |                          |      |             |          |                   |      |             |          |       |
|  | Beatrice Pauls           | MB   | 2016        |          | Ed Heinrichs      | ON   | 2020        |          |       |

|  |                        |    |      |          |               |      |      |   |
|--|------------------------|----|------|----------|---------------|------|------|---|
| EB appointees  | Bruce Enns             | SK | 2018 |          |               |      |      |   |
|  | Ed Heinrichs           | ON | 2016 | Y        | Shirley Falk  | SK   | 2020 | Y |
|  | Allan Dickens          | BC | 2016 | Y        | Allan Dickens | BC   | 2020 | N |
|  | David Marshall         | BC | 2018 | N        |               |      |      |   |
|  | Rick Reimer            | BC | 2018 | N        |               |      |      |   |
| Executive Board Rep  | Willy Reimer           |    |      |          |               |      |      |   |
| <b><u>MBBS Board – 6 Elected/affirmed at Gathering – 4 year terms – Two term limit – 7<sup>th</sup> position is Exec. Board MAL appointed to MBBS</u></b>        |                        |    |      |          |               |      |      |   |
| CCMBC Member   | Roger Braun            | BC | 2016 | Y        | Roger Braun   | BC   | 2020 | N |
| CCMBC Member   | James Toews            | BC | 2016 | N        | Donna Vollet  | SK   | 2020 | Y |
| CCMBC Member   | Robert Dyck            | BC | 2018 | Y        |               |      |      |   |
| CCMBC Member   | John Neufeld           | MB | 2016 | Y        | John Neufeld  | MB   | 2020 | N |
| CCMBC Member   | Ron Penner             | BC | 2016 | Y        | Ron Penner    | BC   | 2020 | N |
| CCMBC Staff Rep  | Ron Toews              | BC |      |          |               |      |      |   |
| Executive Board Rep  | Mark Wessner           | BC | 2018 |          |               |      |      |   |
| BFL Rep  | Rob Thiessen           | BC |      |          |               |      |      |   |
| <b><u>Historical Commission – 2 elected/affirmed at Gathering – 4 year terms – Two term limit – 3<sup>rd</sup> position appointed upon HC recommendation</u></b> |                        |    |      |          |               |      |      |   |
| Canadian Member  | J. Janzen              | BC | 2016 | Y        | J. Janzen     | 2020 | BC   | N |
| Canadian Member  | Dora Dueck             | MB | 2018 | Y        |               |      |      |   |
| Canadian Member  | Patricia Janzen-Loewen | MB | 2018 | Y        |               |      |      |   |
| <b><u>Board of Faith and Life – 3 MAL positions elected at Gathering – 4 year terms – Two term limit</u></b>   |                        |    |      |          |               |      |      |   |
| Member at large  | Vacancy                |    |      |          | Robyn Serez   | ON   | 2020 | Y |
| Member at large  | Vacancy                |    |      |          |               |      |      |   |
| Member at large  | Paul Lam               | BC | 2016 | Y        | Paul Lam      | BC   | 2020 | N |
| <b><u>BFL Provincial Reps elected in their provinces; Conf Ministers ex officio on BFL</u></b>   |                        |    |      |          |               |      |      |   |
| Provincial Rep   | Laurence Hiebert       | AB | 2018 | Y        |               |      |      |   |
| Provincial Rep   | Paul Doerksen          | MB | 2016 | N        |               |      |      |   |
| Provincial Rep   | Ben Kramer             | SK | 2020 | Y        |               |      |      |   |
| Provincial Rep   | David Miller (chair)   | QC | 2020 | Y        |               |      |      |   |
| Provincial Rep   | Brian Cooper           | BC | 2018 | N        |               |      |      |   |
| Provincial Rep   | Richard Martens        | ON | 2020 | Y        |               |      |      |   |
| Area Rep   | Brent Hudson           | NB | 2020 |          |               |      |      |   |
| Conference Minister  | Rob Thiessen           | BC |      |          |               |      |      |   |
| Conference Minister  | Paul Loewen            | AB |      |          |               |      |      |   |
| Conference Minister  |                        | SK |      |          |               |      |      |   |
| Conference Minister  | Keith Poysti           | MB | 2016 | retiring |               |      |      |   |

|  |                 |    |      |   |               |    |      |   |
|--|-----------------|----|------|---|---------------|----|------|---|
| Conference Minister  | Ed Willms       | ON |      |   |               |    |      |   |
| Conference Minister  |                 | QC |      |   |               |    |      |   |
| Seminary Rep   | Andrew Dyck     |    |      |   |               |    |      |   |
| <b><u>MCC Representatives – 2 positions Delegate Assembly – 1 position Resource Pool – 4 year terms – Two term limit</u></b> |                 |    |      |   |               |    |      |   |
| Delegate Assembly  | ED or Moderator |    |      |   |               |    |      |   |
| Delegate Assembly  | Ernie Schmidt   | BC | 2016 | Y | Ernie Schmidt | BC | 2020 | N |



## Agenda for the 2016 Annual General Meeting of CCMBC

Wednesday 6 July, 2016 (7:00 – 9:00 pm)

Welcome & Announcements

Worship & Stories & Communion

Thursday 7 July, 2016 (8:30 am – 8:30 pm)

Meeting Called to Order

Introduction to Business Procedures

Motion to approve: Parliamentarian & Ballot Team

Meeting Agenda

Gathering 2014 & October 2015 AGM Minutes Worship & Stories &

Ministry Reporting

Experience Toronto Ministry Tour

Friday 8 July, 2016 (8:30 am – 8:30 pm)

Worship & Stories & Ministry Reporting Ministry

Equipping Breakout Sessions

Elections and Affirmations by ballot

Motion to approve: CCMBC Bylaws revisions

MB Mission MOU revisions

Processing Recommendations Breakouts Evening

Celebration Service

Saturday 8 July, 2016 (8:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Worship & Stories

Motion to approve: destruction of ballots

C2C and MB Mission task force

C2C and MB Mission collaboration in the

USA CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. Bylaws

Audited Financial Statements

KPMG as Auditor

CCMBC Budget for 2017

Acceptance of Reports

Closing Comments & Prayer

Motion to End Meeting

Location: Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel, Toronto Ontario

Note: Business items are in red text. For additional details of the motions, please review the documents available for download on the web site [www.mennonitebrethren.ca](http://www.mennonitebrethren.ca).

# CCMBC Boards, Committees and Appointees

## Executive Board

To contact the Executive Board please email [mbboard@mbchurches.ca](mailto:mbboard@mbchurches.ca)

**Bruce Enns (Moderator) - 2018**

Saskatoon, SK

**Michael Dick (Assistant Moderator) - 2020**

Abbotsford, BC

**Marilyn Hiebert (Secretary) - 2018**

Abbotsford, BC

**Karen Grace-Pankratz (MAL) - 2018**

Winnipeg, MB

**David MacLean (MAL) - 2020**

Kelowna, BC

**Howie Wall (MAL) - 2020**

Saskatoon, SK

**Don Petker (BC Moderator)**

Abbotsford, BC

**Matt Dyck (Alberta Moderator)**

Calgary, AB

**Tony Martens (Saskatchewan Moderator)**

Dalmeny, SK

**Ruth Schellenberg (Manitoba Moderator)**

Winnipeg, MB

**Karen West (Ontario Representative)**

Waterloo, ON

**Zacharie Leclair (Quebec Representative)**

Lorraine, QC

**Paul Loewen (Interim Vice-chair – BFL)**

Calgary, AB

**Paul Lam (BFL rep)**

Surrey, BC

## **Executive Staff**

**J.P. Hayashida (Director of Operations)**

Abbotsford, BC

**Gord Fleming (C2C Network National Director)**

Abbotsford, BC

**Jim Davidson (Interim CFO)**

Saskatoon, SK

**Ron Toews (Interim ED, Director of L2L)**

Abbotsford, BC

**Norbert Bargaen (HR Director)**

Winnipeg, MB

**Rebecca Boschman (Executive Assistant)**

Calgary, AB

## **Finance / Audit Committee**

**Harold Froese - 2013**

Winnipeg, MB

**Howie Wall (Audit Chair) - 2015**

Saskatoon, SK

**Len Penner (Finance Chair) - 2015**

Winnipeg, MB

## **Governance Committee**

**Marilyn Hiebert (Chair) - 2018**

Abbotsford, BC

**Frank Luellau (consultant for Governance)**

**Michael Dick**

Abbotsford BC

### **Personnel Compensation Committee**

**Karen Grace-Pankratz (Chair) - 2015**

Winnipeg, MB

**Len Penner - 2015**

Winnipeg, MB

**Mike Maschek**

White Rock, BC

### **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee consists of the Executive Board Secretary, the provincial conference moderators, and 2 members at large.

**Marilyn Hiebert (Secretary) - 2018**

Abbotsford, BC

**Ike Bergen (MAL) - 2018**

Abbotsford, BC

**Ralph Gliege**

Saskatoon, SK

### **Measurement Committee**

**BFL Representative - Vacancy**

**Rich Janzen**

Waterloo, ON

### **MBBS Board Representative**

**Rob Thiessen (BFL rep to MBBS)**

Abbotsford, BC

### **MB Mission Board - Canadian Members**

**Randy Friesen (General Director, MB Mission)**

Abbotsford, BC

**Bruce Enns - 2018**

Saskatoon, SK

**Shirley Falk - 2020**

Winnipeg, MB

**David Marshall – 2018**

Surrey, BC

**Rick Reimer - 2018**

Surrey, BC

**Ed Heinrichs - 2020**

Virgil, ON

**Allan Dickens - 2020**

Williams Lake, BC

**Historical Commission - Canadian Members**

**Dora Dueck - 2018**

Winnipeg, MB

**Patricia Janzen Loewen – 2018**

Winnipeg, MB

**J Janzen**

Abbotsford, BC