

Gathering 2018

one

Yearbook



July 11-14,  
2018



Forest Grove  
Community Church,  
Saskatoon, SK



Canadian Conference  
of Mennonite Brethren Churches

[gathering.mennonitebrethren.ca](http://gathering.mennonitebrethren.ca)

# Gathering 2018 Yearbook

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## Minutes for the 2018 Annual General Meeting of CCMBC

Location: Forest Grove Community Church, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Wednesday, July 11, 2018 (7:00 pm – 9:00 pm)**

### **A: ONE in calling:**

1. Worship team led the delegates with *We Welcome You, Beautiful* and *What a Beautiful Name*
2. MC's for Gathering are Maureen Brown (Forest Grove) and Jeff Siemens (West Portal).
3. Speaker – Paul Dück (pronounced Dueck) a pastor and conference worker from Brazil brought greetings from the MB churches in Brazil. We were inspired by his faith story and challenged to become a conference that prays.
4. Scripture - Andrew Dyck recited the book of Ephesians from memory in a way that brought the scripture to life.
5. Bruce Enns as conference moderator and pastor of the host church challenged us with a word from the Lord. He highlighted the reports and proposals the delegates would hear over the next two days.
6. Delegates and guests took part in communion which was served by members of the Executive Board.
7. The evening came to a close after the MC's made a few comments, gave some announcements about tomorrow's events and read I Peter 5:10-11 as a benediction.

**Thursday, July 12, 2018 (8:30 am – 9:00 pm)**

### **B. ONE in Christ:**

1. Worship in song *In Christ alone*,
2. Ingrid Reichard and Paul Loewen, chair and vice-chair of National BFL highlighted Jesus' intent for communion. They invited the delegates to partake in communion as a symbol of being ONE in Christ. Paul prayed for the fellowship of communion and the members of BFL served the delegates.
3. Maureen and Jeff (MC hosts) welcomed the delegates and guests.
4. Speaker – Sarah Whyte (Pastor of Home Groups) at WMB was the first speaker of the day. Together with her husband and team of 10 others own a coffee shop. She is also a mother of 3.

Sarah preached from Ephesians 2:1-9. She pointed out that community requires the gospel and the gospel requires community. Sarah reminded us

that we cannot “Adult” our way into Salvation and the Kingdom. She encouraged the delegates to let down our walls to make way for unity. Community in the churches is not a program, it is the church that required the gospel. She also reminded those listening that we don’t get to sell the gospel short.

5. Bruce Enns called the meeting to order reviewing the rules of order in the convention booklet. Bruce highlighted that delegates are those who have a blue bar on their name tag. Bruce explained how red and green cards would be used for voting purposes.
6. Michael Dick, Assistant Moderator, presented the following motions
  - 6.1. Motion: to approve the following people as Ballot Team  
Janice Block (Forest Grove Community); Linda Funk (Bakerview MB); and Eugene Klassen (Highland Community).  
Moved, Seconded, Carried
  - 6.2. Motion to approve Jason Dyck, Elm Creek, as parliamentarian  
Moved, Seconded, Carried
  - 6.3. Motion: to approve agenda as presented with the addition of the minutes from Gathering 2016 and SGM November 2017  
Moved, Seconded, carried
  - 6.4. Motion: to accept of minutes from July 6-9, 2016  
Moved, Seconded, Carried
  - 6.5. Move to accept minutes from SGM, Nov 1, 2017 with correction to indicated Dave Esau being from Eagle Ridge instead of Maple Ridge.  
Moved, Seconded Carried.
  - 6.6. Board elections. The ballot was explained as there were 2 options available for voting. Delegates could either affirm all with one tick mark or select the candidates they support.  
Motion: it is moved that the candidates be approved to their positions as presented. Seconded. Voting is by ballot. Will be announced when counted.  
Questions – will their terms carry forward if the collaborative model comes into effect?  
A. Yes, they would serve as designated until our by-laws change.
  - 6.7. Motion: to make a typographical correction in the 1999 edition of the MB Confession of Faith Article 4 (Sin and Evil) and all related editions to remove the reference to Psalm 52:1-7 and replace it with Psalm 51:1-7. Discussion of the original intent.  
Moved. Seconded. Carried.
  - 6.8. Motion: to change the Confession of Faith title from “Confession of Faith of the U.S. and Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren

Churches” to “Confession of Faith of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches”.

Comment was made from Andrew Dyck stating that this Confession of Faith was published in 1999 by the General Conference of MB’s (i.e. including MB’s in Canada and the US). After the dissolution of the General Conference in 2002, the USMB and CCMBC conferences continued to use the same Confession of Faith. In 2014 the USMB delegates and in 2016 the CCMBC delegates voted to allow each conference to make changes to the Confession, independently of each other. Therefore, it is appropriate that we now title our Confession of Faith as per the motion.

Moved. Seconded. Carried.

6.9. That the CCMBC member representative vote in favour of the Legacy nomination as approved by the ballot. Explanation: this person is Matt Dyck whom you may have voted as vice moderator.

Moved. Seconded. Carried.

6.10. Motion: to approve revised Historical Commission Memo of Understanding. Explanation: This revision addresses the reality of a \$60,000 funding reduction and also at request of the U.S. to align with the practice of the USMB conference. The second change was from US dollars to Canadian dollars. As per Elton

Moved. Seconded. Carried

10:02 prayer: for Harvest Workers and Multiplying Leaders and Churches

#### Coffee Break

7. Ballot vote motion as mentioned in 6.6: Quorum- there are 165 registered delegates from 79 churches. **SC**

8. Ballot results. 143 ballots cast, with all nominees receiving 139 votes or more.

9. Presentation from Rob Thiessen, BC Conference Minister on the theme of Oneness. He addressed the topic of why bother being a part of a denomination. Using the text in John 17:11, 21, he challenged us that there is strength in unity. Rob used an illustration of how old trees in a forest knit their roots together for strength.

10. Elton introduced himself as the newly appointed CCMBC National Leader. Using an analogy of pot luck he described how the proposed collaborative model could work. Referenced Mark 6: where Jesus told the disciples to feed everyone and He told them to “*go and see*”. See what you have, what you can bring. Elton asked “what is your ‘pot luck’ dish” to shape the Mission. He showed a video.

11. Steve Berg responded with sharing the story of how the collaborative model emerged among leaders. Steve’s 18 months as interim executive director gave him the opportunity to “set the table” for the changes to take place. The video introduced the new way of thinking to move our denomination forward.

## Lunch Break

12. Break out sessions (notes taken separately) there were 3 sets of the same breakouts with a coffee break between.

Breakout Session #1

Elton Da Silva, CCMBC National Director introduced a video on the National Collaborative Model. If collaboration is to work well, we need to coordinate it, and we need to bring our best to the table. What has God already given you that you can bring to help shape His mission? Steve Berg joined him explained that the structure we have had has served us well for so long, but its become strained and the question started to arise, could there be a better way. He went over the journey through the past 18 months to introduce a video on how the National Collaborative Model would work. More discussion will be invited at Breakout Session #1

Breakout Session #2

Randy Friesen, General Director of MB Mission/C2CNetwork introduced Breakout Session #2. He gave an update on the merger and new structure of MB Mission and C2C Network. God has called them into a new wineskin that they tested with partners and received affirmation. The new name will be Multiply – together that the world may know. We are committed to the Canadian and US MB Conferences and working with them. We are committed to multiplying disciples and churches.

Breakout Session #3

Jim Davidson, Legacy CEO, explained that he has financial numbers and information for everyone as we are close to the execution stage of the Legacy Fund.

13. Experience Saskatchewan evening celebration

Phil Gunther, SKMB Director of Ministry introduced 2 videos to show God's work happening in the churches of Saskatchewan. Dallas Pelly shared his journey from his family of brokenness and residential school abuse to redemption and calling. A video introducing Willard Hasmatali (Riverhurst church) and the call to plant a church in Central Butte.

Larry Neufeld and Robyn Serez introduced the delegates to the prayer time and prayer walk planned at the park following the BBQ. They encouraged delegates to walk around the park, praying for the city, the province and the country.

Delegate were loaded onto busses to go to the BBQ dinner at Kinsmen Park. Delegates enjoyed a time of worship and heard from pastor Athanase Chiruzza (Mission Pentecostal church, Regina) . A choir from his church sang

worship songs in both English and their own language. We also heard from Kim Worthington, a YFC Saskatoon rep, chaplain to the local hockey team and a member of the Waldheim MB Church. Kim was involved in helping care for the Humboldt Hockey Team following their horrific bus crash. The delegates began the prayer walk through the park praying for the province of Saskatchewan.

**Friday, July 13, 2018 (8:30 am – 9:00 pm)**

**C. ONE in Ministry:**

1. Worship in Song
2. Communion led by Mark Wessner. Partner ministries (Schools, MWC, ICOMB, MCC, S1WM) served communion.
3. The MC, Maureen shared a short testimony about the MB church being a lighthouse in the community that brought her encounters with Jesus.
4. Mark Wessner, President of MB Seminary, brought greetings from the seminary and his home church, Central Heights. Reading from Ephesians 4:1-6 he challenged us to remember that Christ is the head of the body. He used the analogy of kids improving in their basketball skills and the differences between the levels of play from grade 3 to university. The question for churches and individuals was, “at what level is your church playing/What level are you playing at?”
5. Brad Trost MP for Saskatoon, brought greetings and prayed a prayer of blessing over the delegates.

Coffee Break

6. Paul Loewen introduced the topic of building community. Craig Thiessen, pastor of Ross Road Community church, spoke on learning how to build community. The ministry focus of **Building Community** is responsible for fostering our theological identity and relationships in order to nurture healthy accountability and partnerships on mission. Craig shared how the relationship made while in seminary and with provincial staff have helped him to connect.
7. Gerald Dyck, Interim Executive Director of Manitoba spoke on **Resourcing Ministry**. Resourcing ministry is responsible for offering resources and tools to churches and organizations to help them achieve their mission. He called on Denver Wilson, pastor at Mclvor church in Winnipeg to share how he and his boards were benefited by a resource called, “How Healthy Boards Govern”. Next, Jedediah Carpentier, pastor at Portage Ave Church shared how the MB provincial conference helped resource Portage Ave through a

process called, “Focused Ministry”. In preparation, the church committed to praying and listening for a month.

#### Business Session

8. Howie Wall, member of Executive Board, chair of CCMBC Finance Committee and CCMBC representative on the Legacy Board, presented the following motions.

##### 8.1 Motions to approve the Audited Financial Statements

###### 8.1.1 Audited Financial Pension Plan

Motion: that the 2017 audited financial statements of the Canadian MB Pension plan be approved as presented.

Moved. seconded, carried

###### 8.1.2 Consolidated Financial Statements

Motion: that the 2017 audited consolidated financial statements for CCMBC be approved as presented.

Moved. seconded, carried

###### 8.1.3. KPMG as auditors for CCMBC for 2018

Motion: that KMPG be appointed as auditors for CCMBC for fiscal year 2018

Moved. seconded, carried

8.1.4. Motion: that the CCMBC member representative vote in favour of KPMG being appointed as auditors for CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. for fiscal year 2018.

Moved. Seconded. Carried.

8.1.5 Motion: that the CCMBC member representative vote in favour of the Legacy 2019 budget as presented

Moved. Seconded. Carried.

##### 9. Partner report

9.1 Historical Commission, Jon Isaak reporting (Joint US and Canada) Jon explained the purpose of the Historical commission. They have 2 deliverables: archival and interpretive.

9.2 MCC Canada Director, Rick Cober Bauman, brought greeting to the delegates gathered. He told stories of the work being done at MCC and prayed for the delegates.

9.3 Gerald Hildebrand with Mennonite World Conference, brought greetings from the other executive members. MWC is a community of anabaptist related churches linked to one another.

10. Bruce clarified what the content and format of the third breakout session to take place next. MC's give some instruction

#### Lunch Break

11. Phil Gunther, SKMB director of ministry, and Alain Despres, Quebec Conference Minister, introduced **Multiplying Churches**. This service area is responsible for planting and multiplying disciple-making churches and for enabling missional opportunities. They spoke of multiplication being in the DNA of every church.

Phil introduced Regis, Moderator of the Mission Pentecostal Church. He thanks for the support from Parliament Community Church, the Saskatchewan and C2C for providing support and funds so the Pastor could concentrate of serving the Lord to their community.

12. Ed Willms, Ontario Executive Director, introduced the **developing leaders service**. He reflected on how 30 years ago Youth Mission International was started from a vision to do something to reach young adults. Presently an excess of 20,000 young adults have done short term mission over these years. We are constantly coming up against the problem of not having enough leaders. Ed interviewed Chris Stevens, pastor at Waterloo MB Church, about what he is seeing as the need in leadership development. Chris shared that theology shapes how people relate to ministry. He stated that you are not producing a disciple if you're not discipling and being shaped with anabaptist theology. MB Seminary is developing a partnership with Tyndale. ON has developed *Leaders Collective* where there are stages and a variety of ministries to learn from. C2C has become involved with *Leaders Collective* providing training and assessment. WMB is working alongside Kitchener MB Church to help revitalize their congregation.

#### Coffee Break

Breakout sessions – Stories of collaboration in motion

#### D. ONE in purpose evening service

1. Worshipped together in song

2. Maureen and Jeff introduced David Wiebe, recently retired Executive Director of ICOMB. David explained how he related to the leaders in the 21 countries that are members of the ICOMB family. He introduced Rudi Plett (by slide) as the next ICOMB leader. He thanked all the people that prayed for him and encouraged the delegates to pray for Rudi now. The mission of **ICOMB** is *Healthy Missional Conferences making Disciples*. He showed a video portraying the work of ICOMB. David introduced tonight's speaker, Emerson Cardoso and prayed for him.
  
3. **Speaker** Emerson Cardoso, Pastor of Campo Largo MB in Brazil and the president of COBIM, the MB Conference in Brazil. He addressed the Canadian Conference with Elton DaSilva translating into English. Emerson told the story of how the Brazilian Conference was formed from the German association and the Brazilian Conference. He explained how the Conference changed their structure to support the *Vines* of the church.  
 He talked about core values:
  - a) value #1 Jesus is the centre of our faith;
  - b) value #2 community is the centre of our life; value
  - c) Value #3 reconciliation is the centre of our work.

He described the difference between mission agency and conference work by comparing a jet fighter to a tank. He told of how they started to pray for Mozambique and as a result 161 churches were accepted into COBIM. He prophesied that this Conference will do great things if the church gets down on their knees. He prayed for us. Emerson shared that 5 days ago he had been in Mozambique with 4 pastors; they ate the same food, were bit by the same mosquitos and the 4 pastors got sick with malaria and he did not perhaps so he could come to Canada and give us this message.
  
4. Jeff closed with some responsive remarks and closed the day with a benediction from Hebrews.

### **Saturday, July 14, 2018 (8:30 am – 12:00 pm)**

#### **E.**

1. Welcome
2. Worshipped together in song.
3. **Speaker:** Randy Friesen prayed and thanked organizers of Gathering and expressed what a gift Bruce has been in leading our conference; the collaboration Steve modelled; and expressed delight in seeing Elton lead us from here.

Randy used an analogy from soccer/futeball for moving the ball into the opponent's end, while at the same time keeping the opponent's ball out of our own net. Offence and defence move up and down the field together. In this collaborative model we are closing the gaps and coming up with new plays in a responsive way. It is teams that win games. Randy referred to Ephesians 4 – one body, one spirit. He read I Cor 12:12-13 saying that communion brings us together like a team huddle. Do we recognize the ONE God? We need each other to have a team. Today is the day to step up and engage.

4. Communion served by Multiply (C2C/MB Mission) team
5. Maureen and Jeff reminded us that we may have differences but we all have the same Jesus.

6. Bruce and Michael started the business session

- 6.1. BFL is proposing to amend the Motion of the typographical error on the COF that was passed on Thursday. The BFL will delay any action and take the sentiments of what was originally intended back to study it further.

- 6.2. Bruce reminded the delegates that we are always living into our declaration that we are ONE. Bruce mentioned that things like structures can distract us, but they themselves are not the point. The Executive Board has been trying to find our way in the tension of coming without details vs. being criticized for coming with all the details, so it is not appearing to be asking for a “rubber stamp”. Bruce announced that we would like to have the threshold of the vote to be 2/3 of delegates present and we will declare the actual numbers. If the vote passes we will change the referendum process. Michael Dick shared with the delegates that a referendum in 1983 was sent to all churches each having one vote. Recommending a motion to be amended.

- 6.3. Motions presented:

- 6.3.1. Collaboration MOTIONS:

- 6.3.1.1. Motion: It is moved that CCMBC *implement* the Collaborative Model in partnership with the Provincial Conferences and MB ministry partners.

A time given for questions: The reassurance was given that the current Bylaws will still stay in place until they are legally changed by a delegate vote. In the meantime, we will function in a collaborate way seeking

the most input. One speaker commented that changing the structure does not automatically mean more in attendance. He also asked about approving the budget from Jan to April when provinces start to vote. Response: most budget items are fixed.

Q. If it was a no vote, what was the plan going forward as there are some very good ideas? A: Executive Board would have to make adjustments and bring that forward but we would still function as we were.

### 6.3.2. Recommending the motion to be amended.

Motion: It is moved as an amendment to the motion to replace the word *implement* with *develop*.

Seconded.

Discussion: it is unclear what is being implemented.

Using colored cards, a vote was called on the amendment to the motion. The motion was passed by majority of green cards with only a few red cards.

Carried.

Further discussion – encouragement that this proposal brings the seminary to the table and is fully supportive. Another encouragement based on message from last night showing seminary. Movement toward grass roots that can be celebrated. What happens depends on the posture of those in the group. Encourage others to mobilize each other and to encourage each other to go and participate. Suggested that there may be more than one solution and to find a way to do both by gathering together provincially and keep national gathering. Would like to see a way that more people find a way to communicate ideas that leadership has not had. Suggestion that at Provincial Conferences would want to see an event where there is a grass roots hospitality being practised. We are experiencing a shift at national convention. Thank you for bringing this in a way that is open and collaborative and that there could be an honoring of the leaders from the past. To some people this proposal is scary especially in Quebec that they may be forgotten. I affirm this direction and feel that God is in this. I affirm the work that has been done, reflecting leader's dreams about collaboration as far back as 2003. Willy thanked for the work and the effort gone to inviting others into the conversation. A question

was, does the Yes vote mean it will be developed as presented. The response is that it affirmed direction.

6.3.1.2. Delegates were asked to vote on the amended motion which says:

Motion: It is moved that CCMBC ~~implement~~ develop the Collaborative Model in partnership with the Provincial Conferences and MB ministry partners.

Seconded. Ballot committee will count.

The ballots were counted and the results are: 164 ballots cast, 4 no and 160 yes that represents 97.56%

#### Coffee Break

6.3.1.3. Paul Dück from Brazil was asked for his impressions of the discussion today. He reminded the people that when they used the vines and trellis model it would stay for the next 20 years and its like the GPS voice that says "recalculating". His prayer is that the MB conference will double in the next year.

6.3.2. Motion that a referendum be conducted to approve the 2019 CCMBC budget.

Motion: Based on the collaborative model being approved the Motion that Provincial delegates at 2019 Provincial conventions will vote in a referendum on the 2019 Budget.

Seconded

Discussion: Q asking for clarification of timeline and process and next steps.

The delegates will be registered according to the provincial bylaws.

Carried.

6.3.3. Motion to destroy ballots

Seconded. Carried.

7. Bruce took time to say thank you for some key national staff that are completing their work terms in the next months.

## F. ONE together:

1. Steve brought the closing address. He started with a thank you to Forest Grove - people that served us so well during this Gathering. He thanked Jeff and Maureen for hosting. Thanks to the worship team for leading worship with enthusiasm. Thanks to the speakers, to Andrew for the powerful

recitation, and named each speaker highlighting the gift they brought through their words.

2. Steve had Elton join him on stage along with the last 2 previous Executive Directors, Willy Reimer and David Wiebe. Steve showed a picture of the rose window (installed 1220) in a cathedral and explain the significance of the picture where men and women are standing on the shoulder of giants represented by the four apostles. The archbishop at the time said, “ as each of us stand on the shoulders of the leaders that went before.” He mentioned each former leader and expressed a personal comment to each of them, offering blessing and apology at the same time. We bless you Willy. And all the delegates responded with a standing ovation. Steve told the story of when he came originally to candidate at South Abbotsford 21 years ago where he was called to a meeting with Ike Bergen and Wally Unger and how they welcomed him into the MB family. He talked about the patriarch and how they served God with humility and we now commission you Elton for this work. David and Willy prayed a blessing over Elton surrounded them by a host of supportive leaders around him.
3. David presented Elton with an ICOMB T-shirt and welcomed him into the ICOMB family. Paul Winter ,C2C with a beaded indigenous bag representing the native band with sea, earth and sky coming together as a picture of reconciliation.
4. Steve encouraged the delegates to speak an AMEN to the Oneness we are celebrating. Paul in Ephesians 4:1 is urging the church to live a life worthy of the calling received. This invitation is not based on our deserving of God’s favour but is worthy of the calling. Unity in the spirit makes us worthy of the calling. How has this unity been won for us? We are unified by the Word. We are called to walk with every effort by being completely humble, patient and bearing with one another in love. True humility comes when we come on our knees and focus on Jesus. Jesus was willing to forbear in waiting for you to submit to him. Can you love the other person enough to wait for them on the journey? How do we lean into this yes? We want to begin this with a corporate response Steve said. Steve invited the current and newly elected Executive Board members to the stage to lead the way in being on our knees to ask for forgiveness and direction for the future. Many delegates joined at the front and where they were seated in this time of prayer.
5. Paul Lam shared this verse that the Lord impressed on his heart from 2 Chronicles 7:14 “if My people who are called by My name will humble

themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” Paul declared that from today, July 14, the Lord will heal this MB family if we humble ourselves and pray.

6. Prayer, benediction in closing

Motion to adjourn, Second, Carried

**Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches  
Special General Meeting Minutes  
November 1, 2017 (3:30pm-5pm)  
Northview Community Church, Abbotsford, BC**

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**1. Meeting called to order – welcome & introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm. Moderator Bruce Enns (SK) welcomed all to the Special General Meeting and provided an overview of the session. Moderator Enns advised that a quorum has been reached for this meeting. Michael Dick, Assistant Moderator for the Canadian Conference will be co-leading the meeting. Voting will take place simultaneously. Marilyn Hiebert, Executive Secretary will be presenting the motions.

**2. Motion to appoint ballot team & parliamentarian**

**Motion 2017-11-01:** It is moved that the following names be appointed as the ballot team: - Janessa Giesbrecht, Fort Garry MB - Jonathan Janzen, Highland Community - David Chow, Killarney Park - Konrad Loewen, Westside Community **SC**

**Motion 2017-11-02:** It is moved that the following names be appointed as the parliamentarians: - Vic Martens, Ross Road - Reg Toews, Greendale Church (working as transitional pastor) **SC**

**3. Motion to approve agenda as presented**

**Motion 2017-11-03:** It is moved that the agenda for the special general meeting be approved as presented. **SC**

**4. Elections by ballot:**

**a. Board of Faith and Life**

**Motion:** It is moved to approve the election of Ingrid Reichard (Glencairn, ON) to the Board of Faith and Life.

This motion will be brought to the summer Gathering 2018.

**b. Legacy Board**

**Motion 2017-11-04:** It is moved to approve the election of Dan Guggenheimer, Faith River Fellowship, SK to the Legacy Board. (performed by secret ballot)

**Dan is confirmed (announced at 4:20pm).**

**5. Motion to approve Legacy ballot result**

**Motion 2017-11-05:** It is moved that the CCMBC Member Representative vote in favor of the Legacy nominations as approved by the ballot. **SC**

Marilyn Hiebert, Executive Secretary has been appointed as the representative for CCMBC.

## 6. Motion to approve C2C and MB Mission Merger

Michael Dick reviewed the process that had taken place to arrive at the motion to approve the C2C and MB Mission Merger. A request was made to conduct this vote by secret ballot.

- Q Janette Giesbrecht (Fort Garry Wpg) – different cultures are merging. Will there be a means of updating as the bodies merge and as we figure out what that looks like? Is there a way for us to be informed as the process takes place?
- A Questions can be brought to the Gathering. Staff and the Executive Board are continually open to questions. The role of BFL will need to play a greater role as we go forward.
- Q Ed Goertzen (Maple Ridge Community) – how many churches are there in BC today?
- A 106.
- Q We have gained 6 churches in 17 years – Why are our goals not met with more churches? We are talking about merging two entities with work for the kingdom of God. What happened?
- A Rob Thiessen (BC- PCM) – we would love to see more churches planted and better growth. We need to look, pray, and seek the Lord for a fresh vision, and ask God to call out planters. Churches are looking at different ways of reaching out – Northview has multiple services, supported a church in Mission, etc. Some churches have shut down. A challenge speaks to our hearts for conviction. There is no simple answer.
- A Bruce Enns – Accountability needs to be with the conference and the local church – how are we doing with making disciples?
- Q Dave Esau – Maple Ridge – If the merger goes ahead as planned, how does that work with reps coming to our churches? Communication will be an important part.
- A There are leadership teams that are already existing with MB Mission reps, provincial and national reps. Their responsibility would include communication with the churches.
- Q Herb Neufeld (North Langley) – seems that accountability happens best when it is closer to home. Concern with the merger is that we are getting further away from the local church and members of our body. Consequently, the accountability is decreasing. C2C has become a Canadian umbrella. Often, we do not have reports closer to home. We are losing a sense of ownership, accountability and support. Formal organizations in merging has proved in many instances that it usually does not result in progressive growth.
- A Regarding financial support over the last number of years; There has been an overall growth to church planting. Accountability has been looked at. A closer development of a MB focused church development team connected to the provincial boards so that decisions around church planting, funding, etc. are made at the provincial body.
- Q John Redekop (Bakerview – Abbotsford) Probably everyone is supportive of MB Mission and C2C. We have had a lot of experience with the conference. I see some merit in the proposal but like Herb I see some difficulty. What do we gain and what do we lose, particularly when we get big. Complexities exist when organizations become national, international, interdenominational. They need a clear vision. Despite all our efforts there is confusion. Fundamental reservation is that there is virtue in diversification. When you bring things together you have greater difficulty with a bigger organization; i.e. the Gideon's, Wycliff – we have a clear vision. My fear is that when we combine ministries with the older generation who support in prayer and financially, people will look to foreign missions they understand. Merger may not be as successful in practice.
- A Diversity is important in the family. C2C and MB Mission are doing the same kind of work. The world is drastically changing – it is all church and mission work. This will help with clarity as there is purpose with this merger.

- R. Rob Thiessen (North Langley) – in favor of the motion. This is a partnership that makes sense. Do our churches know about C2C? C2C worked hard to connect with local churches; multiply conference, communication with churches, etc. Theological positions are being addressed. This has been well governed. Let's move forward.
- Q Dan (Fraserview in Richmond) – is it possible under Robert's rules for the delegation to ask for a special resolution for a motion such as this? We could ask for a higher than 51% so that we know that when we voted for this we got 75%. Move to make a motion that we make a resolution with a 75% so that the congregation of churches are clear that we want this.
- A. The Parliamentarians took a moment to respond to this question of a new motion.
- Q Ken Peters (Saanich) – C2C report – 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph – we celebrate disciples... through 114 church planters – is that 114 church planters couples or individuals?
- A 228 church planters including spouses.
- Q Ken - of those 114 how many would be MB?
- A Metric sheets are available at the back. Of the 89, 38 planters are MB,
- Q Ken – how many of these will plant MB churches as opposed to other denominations?
- A There are 8 at the moment.
- A Regarding the previous question about making a new motion: Reg – Parliamentarian response  
Suggestion that because this will be a secret ballot vote, the percentage be announced so we do not set a bar. If it is not high enough, please take it up with the Executive Board.
- Q Norm Funk (Vancouver) – speaking in affirmation – There was a church planted in 2005 and others that were all MB churches. These could not have been planted without the role of C2C. All churches are flourishing. Gord Fleming and Randy Friesen have been great to work with in planting churches and otherwise. He loves that we have fear and doubt.
- Q Chris Stevens (WMB Church) – celebrated 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church. MB Mission has been a crucial partner. Excited about what C2C will bring to the table. Excited to have expertise of MB Mission brought in with C2C to have one mission locally and globally.
- Q Mike Peninga (Kelowna) – blessed from working with C2C and MB Mission This generation sees church planting and missions as hand in hand. We are making disciples around the world.

The BFL distributed ballots for the vote.

**Motion 2017-11-06:** It is moved that that MB Mission assume responsibility for the mission and ministry of C2C network. This change would be effective January 1, 2018 if approved. **SC**

Vote was conducted by secret ballot

Result - 226 votes cast – 192 yes, 35 no, 85% in favor

## 7. Motion to approve the Audited Financial Statements as presented:

Howie Wall provided an overview of the financial statements. Copies of the financial statements were made available.

### a. CCMBC Pension Plan

**Motion 2017-11-07:** It is moved that the 2016 audited Financial Statements of the Canadian MB Pension Plan be approved as presented. **SC**

### b. CCMBC Consolidated Financials

**Motion 2017-11-08:** It is moved that the 2016 audited Consolidated Financial Statements for CCMBC be approved as presented. **SC**

### 8. Motion to approve KPMG as Auditors for CCMBC

**Motion 2017-11-09:** It is moved that KPMG be appointed as auditors for CCMBC for fiscal year 2017. **SC**

### 9. Motion to approve KPMG as Auditors for Legacy

**Motion 2017-11-10:** It is moved that the CCMBC Member Representative vote in favor of KPMG being appointed as auditors for CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. for fiscal year 2017. **SC**

Q John Redekop (Bakerview – Abbotsford) expressed concern that matters are done right with the voting. This is a matter of process. The question should be worded ‘Since you have cards now you can vote –not asking for ‘those in favor’.

### 10. Motion to approve 2018 CCMBC Budget

Howie Wall noted that the Board heard clearly regarding budget questions and concerns during the three breakouts held prior to this meeting. Jim Davidson presented an overview of the 2018 CCMBC Budget. They heard concerns regarding promoting leadership training. The Executive Board met at noon today and decided to commit that if during 2018 by the end of the year the church giving exceeds 1.2M in 2018 the first \$160,000 will be allocated to the seminary and to ETEQ on a pro-rated basis. If this is important we look to the churches to make this happen. If we had 5% from our churches we could commit to more ministry.

**Motion 2017-11-11:** It is moved that CCMBC 2018 budget be approved as presented. **SC** (a few opposed).

Q Cheryl Pauls – River East Wpg – There are many layers in this budget. Grateful for the clarity, transparency and the struggling in bringing this to us. Draw attention to the need to lament the loss of the vision and the calling of L2L and the people for who this is a loss of livelihood for a time. She talked about public honoring and thanking if it can be in worship in our time together and if not possible via the MB Herald.

A Some of that happened at the Executive Board Meeting at lunch yesterday. We heard their hearts and prayed with them.

Q Brad Sumner – Jericho Ridge (Langley) – Thanked the Board for their response to our feedback. One of the challenges embedded is that this commitment will not be implemented until Dec 31. This leaves schools in a precarious position. Could the team come back at the July meeting and perhaps give an idea of whether we might be on a trajectory to meet the offer?

A We will come back in July with how it is going.

Mark Wesner – Central Heights, MB Seminary – lots of people are feeling the pain. The impact on MB Seminary is that they can absorb probably \$100,000 reduction for the remainder of 2018 by using their own reserves. Anything beyond that will be difficult. There is now a heightened need for leadership development. We are currently operating at below par. Thanks for keeping the Leadership Matching Training Grant.

Q Kristen Corrigan – ETEQ – cuts came as a surprise, but God is calling us to something much greater. ETEQ is in a period of rapid growth. God is providing and will continue to provide. Calls us to a strong sense of being on our knees. We have a tremendous number of pastors and leaders retiring and do not see the number coming behind to take over our churches. Appreciate the tone of bringing this forward in July.

**11. Motion to approve 2018 Legacy Budget**

**Motion 2017-11-12:** It is moved that the CCMBC Member Representative vote in favor of the Legacy 2018 budget as presented. **SC**

**12. Motion to destroy ballots (after presenting results)**

**Motion 2017-11-13:** It is moved to destroy the ballots. **SC**

**13. Motion to end the adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm

**Motion 2017-11-14:** It is moved to adjourn the meeting. **SC**

*Summary of Motions:*

- a. Motion to appoint ballot team & parliamentarian*
- b. Motion to approve agenda as presented*
- c. Elections by ballot:*
  - i. Board of Faith and Life (Summer 2018 Gathering)*
  - ii. Legacy Board*
- d. Motion to approve Legacy ballot result*
- e. Motion to approve C2C and MB Mission Merger*
- f. Motion to approve the Audited Financial Statements as presented:*
  - i. CCMBC Pension Plan*
  - ii. CCMBC Consolidated Financials*
- g. Motion to approve KPMG as Auditors for CCMBC*
- h. Motion to approve KPMG as Auditors for Legacy*
- i. Motion to approve 2018 CCMBC Budget*
- j. Motion to approve 2018 Legacy Budget*
- k. Motion to destroy ballots (after presenting results)*
- l. Motion to end the adjourn.*

# Gathering 2018



July 11-14,  
2018



Forest Grove  
Community Church,  
Saskatoon, SK



Canadian Conference  
of Mennonite Brethren Churches



**Welcome to Gathering 2018,  
the biennial worship, fellowship,  
and business meeting of the MB  
churches from across Canada.**

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:1–6).

We are looking forward to spending the next few days together worshipping and responding to Ephesians’s call to oneness in the Spirit. The decisions we make during this time will shape a new way of thinking for the Mennonite Brethren in Canada. We pray that this opportunity to reflect together on our calling will both focus and inspire us as a family of churches.

In Christ,

**Bruce Enns**

CCMBC moderator

**Steve Berg**

CCMBC interim executive director

**Phil Gunther**

SKMB director of ministry

Welcome

Schedule

## Gathering 2018 Schedule

### Wednesday, July 11

- 5pm Registration and delegate sign-in opens
- 7pm Plenary Session #1 ONE in Calling  
– Speaker: Bruce Enns  
*(open to public)*
- 9pm Close

### Thursday, July 12

- 8:30am Plenary Session #2 ONE in Christ  
– Speaker: Sarah Whyte
- 10am Coffee Break
- 10:30am Business Session
- 12pm Lunch  
*You're invited to meet president Emerson Cardoso and Pastor Paul Dück of COBIM (Convenção Brasileira das Igrejas Evangélicas Irmãos Menonitas), the MB conference in Brazil.*
- 1:15pm Breakout Block #1
- 2:30pm Breakout Block #2
- 3:30pm Coffee Break
- 4pm Breakout Block #3
- 5pm Experience Saskatchewan
- 6:30pm BBQ Dinner at Kinsmen Park  
*(registered guests only)*
- 7:30pm Experience Saskatchewan  
*(open to public)*
- 9pm Buses depart

Informational Breakouts: #1-3  
*Informational breakouts will be business focused.*

- Collaborative Model & National Survey Results
- Legacy/Finance
- MB Mission and C2C Network

### Friday, July 13

- 8:30am Plenary Session #3 ONE in Ministry  
– Speaker: Mark Wessner
- 10am Coffee Break
- 10:30am Business Session
- 12pm Lunch  
*lunch with COBIM*
- 1:15pm Business Session
- 2pm Breakout Block #4
- 3pm Coffee Break
- 3:30pm Breakout Block #5
- 4:45pm Breakout Block #6
- 6pm Dinner
- 7:30pm Plenary Session #4 ONE in Purpose  
– Speaker: Emerson Cardoso  
*(open to public)*
- 9pm Close

Interactive Breakouts: #4-6  
*Interactive breakouts will be focused on sharing and Q&A.*

- National/Provincial
- MB Mission and C2C Network
- Schools

### Saturday, July 14

- 8:30am Plenary Session #5
- 9:25am Decision-making
- 10am Coffee Break
- 10:30am Decision-making
- 11:30am ONE Together  
– Speaker: Steve Berg
- 12pm Closing



Detailed, interactive and customizable agenda available on the Gathering 2018 app.



### Smile – you may be on camera.

You acknowledge that people are using video and photographic cameras at the event and that your image may be captured on video or in photographs, which may subsequently be used in CCMBC communications without your consent, and you release CCMBC from any legal liability for such filming, photographing, or distribution.

## Agenda for the 2018 Annual General Meeting of CCMBC

*Location: Forest Grove Community Church, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

### Wednesday, July 11, 2018 (7:00 – 9:00 pm)

- Welcome & Announcements
- ONE in Calling: worship, speaker, and communion

### Thursday, July 12, 2018 (8:30 am – 9:00 pm)

ONE in Christ: welcome, worship, speaker, communion

Meeting called to order

- Parliamentarian and Ballot Team
- Meeting agenda
- Board elections
- Confession of Faith revisions
- Historical Commission MOU

Discussion and breakout sessions  
Experience Saskatchewan evening celebration

### Friday, July 13, 2018 (8:30 am – 9:00 pm)

ONE in Ministry: welcome, worship, speaker, communion

*Motions presented:*  
Audited Financial Statements  
KPMG as auditors for CCMBC  
KPMG as auditors for Legacy  
Legacy 2019 Budget

Discussion and breakout sessions

ONE in Purpose evening service: worship, testimony, speaker

### Saturday, July 14, 2018 (8:30 am – 12:00 pm)

Welcome, worship, speaker, communion

*Motions presented:*  
Collaborative Model  
If yes vote then: Motion to use referendum to approve 2019 CCMBC budget  
If no vote then: Motion to approve 2019 CCMBC budget

ONE Together: speaker, closing, commissioning new national director, prayer

Motion to destroy ballots and adjourn

*Note: Business items are in red text.  
For additional details of the motions, please review the documents available for download at [gathering.mennonitebrethren.ca](http://gathering.mennonitebrethren.ca)*

## Rules of Order

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, override the decision of the chair.
7. Only delegates are permitted to vote.
8. In general, Robert's Rules of Order will be followed.

## Speaker Bios



**Steve Berg** has served the Canadian Conference of MB Churches as interim executive director since January 2017. His leadership roles have included executive minister of the B.C. Conference of MB Churches

and national director of government affairs with Power to Change. Steve studied at Tabor College, Bethel Seminary, and Regent College. With 44 years of pastoral experience, Steve is currently senior associate pastor at South Abbotsford (B.C.) Church, offering his gifts in preaching and leadership mentoring. Steve and Karen have 4 married children and 13 grandchildren.



**Sarah Whyte** is a disciple of Jesus; a wife, mother, and friend; and the pastor of home groups at WMB (Waterloo MB) Church. She lives in Waterloo, Ont., with her husband Bryant and 3 adorable sons. They live in

intentional community, seeking to be the love and light of Christ in their neighbourhood, where they are also proud owners of a local café. Sarah loves sharing the good news of God's Kingdom, inviting others into transformational community, and celebrating the freedom of Christ's love. She is also an avid reader, quick talker, and mediocre runner.



**Bruce Enns** is the moderator for the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. A pastor since 2000, Bruce is currently lead pastor at Forest Grove Community Church, Saskatoon, and site pastor

for FGCC's Attridge congregation. He studied and has degrees from Columbia Bible College, Trinity Western, and University of Saskatchewan. With a background in coaching and athletics, Bruce enjoys hockey and watersports, as well as woodworking. Bruce and Lisa have 4 daughters.



**Emerson Cardoso**

is president of Convenção Brasileira das Igrejas Evangélicas Irmãos Menonitas (COBIM), the MB conference in Brazil. Under his visionary leadership, COBIM has grown to 86

churches, 35 smaller congregations, and more than 12,000 members. The church he pastors outside Curitiba runs an orphanage; a drop-in centre for at-risk teens; a daycare for single, working mothers; and a temporary shelter for women fleeing abuse or otherwise in need of a place to stay. Emerson also serves as the secretary of the executive committee of the International Community of Mennonite Brethren (ICOMB).



**Mark Wessner** is the president and associate professor of biblical studies for leadership at MB Seminary in Langley, B.C. Prior to pastoring at Westwood Church in Prince George, B.C., he was a regional manager

of land development for the B.C. government. He holds a PhD in biblical Hebrew narratology from University of Pretoria, South Africa. Mark has taught at public, private, and Christian universities (both in the classroom and online), and served as a chaplain in hospital, prison, and university athletics contexts. Mark and Jennifer have 2 teenaged daughters.

## Delegate Qualifications

Each member church shall be entitled to be represented at any convention by delegates. In addition to sending one (1) pastor, each church may send one (1) delegate (pastor or church member) for every 25 members. Executive Board members for the Canadian conference have a vote at convention by virtue of their position as Executive Board members. Each delegate must be:

- 18 years of age or older
- a member in good standing
- approved as a delegate by the church



Moderator Report

**We'd never get distracted, would we?**

I confess that distraction comes easily for me, and I need things in my life to help me focus.

It is remarkably easy to get worked up about minor issues, to be tugged by comfortable preferences, and to get distracted by a myriad of really good endeavours. Reading between the lines of Ephesians 4:1–6, it seems the folks back in Ephesus had a proclivity for adventures in missing the point. Paul forcefully reminds them that we are called to stand shoulder to shoulder, united in one purpose to advance God's Kingdom. That's why I return again and again to the Great Commission (Matthew 28) and the Great Commandment (Matthew 22) – they give clarity and focus for us as the church.

Two of our enemy's most successful ploys are to have us think that we are alone and to become distracted with small issues, thereby missing the point. Our theme and text for this Gathering refute both these lies. We are not alone, and our unity matters. This is a key aspect of our witness as a church described in Jesus' prayer in John 17, and Paul's words to the church in Ephesus. The unity

that Christ has created matters, and that we are called to live into it matters.

And yet...it's easy for our focus to blur a bit with so many changes in the structures of our MB family. Our structures are not the point. They simply provide a means to Jesus' end goal of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. Incredibly, we are part of a work that has eternal significance and power in the heavenly realms. All our plans and actions should naturally lead us to our central ministry focus – helping multiply leaders and disciple-making churches.

Let's actively pray and live into this call to be "ONE" as we prepare our hearts for Gathering 2018 and what God has in store for us in the years to come. I find the opportunity for our conference to stay focused on our main calling to be incredibly motivating and inspiring. I hope you do too.

Blessings for the journey,  
**Bruce Enns**  
 CCMBC moderator and  
 Forest Grove Community  
 Church lead pastor



## Reason for Joy; Reason for Sadness

I have joy that God has given me the opportunity, for this interim season, to walk among us as the wonderful family of Canadian MB churches. Thank you for extending the respect and trust that has given me room to lead us in our mission.

These are some of my reasons for joy:

- I attended provincial conferences, visited churches, and met people who are passionate about making Christ known in Canada.
- I participated in several Pastors Credentialing Orientations, and was enriched by the MB Confession and encouraged by the many new leaders accepting the call of God.
- I prayed, discerned, and planned with the Executive Board, the Board of Faith and Life, and the senior leadership team. I saw their integrity and faithfulness in being good managers of our resources and good leaders in our opportunities.
- I looked the CCMBC team members in the eye, saw their dedication, and said thank you for the service they have given to Christ.
- I became one in heart and vision with the leaders of MB Mission, C2C Network, MB Seminary, regional colleges and universities, the International Community of Mennonite Brethren, MCC, Mennonite World Conference, the Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders, and so many more. What a joy to be inspired and strengthened by our partners in the mission of God.
- I worked with a phenomenal planning teams for EQUIP 2017 and GATHERING 2018 who pursued a new vision for bringing us together for inspiration and equipping.
- I linked arms with the senior leadership team in planning for financial sustainability

and preparing a substantially reduced 2018 budget.

- I sat with those who were personally impacted by the austerity of the 2018 budget and witnessed their tremendous sacrifices to make it work.
- I invited prayerful and discerning people to imagine a One Mission Partnership that provides a simpler and more effective structure for Resourcing Ministry, Developing Leaders, Multiplying Churches, and Building Community for the MB churches of Canada.
- I listened to those who, with love for Christ and passion for the mission of the church, see the things in our family that are incomplete, ineffective, or injurious, and call us to confession, correction, and change.
- I discerned with the Executive Board the calling of Elton DaSilva as the national director of MB churches in Canada.

But this is my reason for sadness. Despite the presence and proclamation of 37,000 MB believers – joined with tens of thousands more – many of the 37 million Canadians don't know Jesus. They are lost to the forgiving and transforming work of Christ. Does this sadden you?

Paul wrote, "I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race..." (Romans 9:2-3).

In the days to come, I pray that we will be saddened because of the many lost people in Canada and the world. Yet, I will pray with confidence that our sadness will be turned to joy by the multitudes of people who will come to know Jesus Christ, Saviour and Lord!

Grace and peace,  
**Steve Berg**  
CCMBC interim  
executive director



# National Director's Welcome

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Gathering 2018. For some of you, I am a familiar face that has been around conference work for the last decade. For others, I am a new and unrecognized face. So let me take this opportunity to introduce myself and to share some of my hopes for the upcoming stage of our national ministry.

I typically introduce myself by saying that I am proof God has a sense of humour. I was born in a tropical city called Belem in the north of Brazil. My city of origin reaches a temperature of 30-plus degrees, making it one of the hottest developed cities in the world. God, through his infinite wisdom, plucked me out of the heat and placed me in Winnipeg. (Add laughter here.) Being the son of missionary parents, I have had the privilege of observing the church in many different cultures and contexts. I carry with me a deep love for the local church. I know it is flawed and, at times, even broken, but it remains the bride of Christ. As I move into this new role, I will carry this understanding with me and will do all I can to resource the local church toward accomplishing Christ's mission for her.

Structures, systems, and organizations are necessary frameworks for accomplishing our mission, but it is our obedience to Christ that defines our success. At this Gathering, you will have an opportunity to vote on the proposed

Collaborative Model. This structural shift for our conference will require that all parts of the MB family join forces. Churches, provincial conferences, the national conference, and MB agencies have agreed to collaborate toward a collective mission. This in essence will begin to shape us to function as one. It is important for us to realize that the mission we agreed to undertake has many facets. It is local, national, and global in nature. I am excited to join you in serving the Lord to see Canada transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ.

As we begin this new phase in ministry, we are grateful to God for those who have laboured before us. We are also grateful for how God has resourced us through the gifts of many qualified servants. I want to especially thank Steve Berg for his humble and exemplary leadership during these last 18 months.

Thank you for your faithfulness in the way you serve your local church and our larger MB family. I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible, to hear your hopes and dreams for our family of churches.

Warm regards,  
**Elton DaSilva**  
 CCMB national director



● Board of Faith & Life Report

The Board of Faith and Life (BFL) ministers to the Mennonite Brethren churches of Canada in the service area of Building Community. Each time we gather as provincial and partner agency representatives, we are blessed with the work of understanding, articulating, and encouraging the unique beauty and strength of the Canadian Mennonite Brethren expression of faith in Christ.

The BFL contributes to the spiritual and theological health as well as the biblical and ethical integrity of our churches by:

1. Upholding the Confession of Faith
2. Running Pastors Credentialing Orientation events
3. Producing written resources such as the Pamphlet Series
4. Offering study and equipping events such as Equip.

The BFL works closely with the Executive Board to observe and to speak into the spiritual and ethical conduct of our leaders.

Some of the BFL's accomplishments of the past year include a record-attendance Equip Study Conference on Transforming Discipleship and the publication of a new, Canadian edition of *Family Matters* – a necessary read on the roots and culture of the Mennonite Brethren.

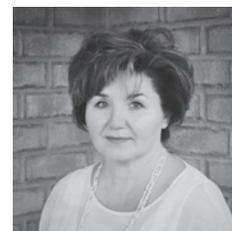
In addition, the BFL distributed a guide – in English, French, and forthcoming in Chinese – to the churches on the practice of ordination, published a pamphlet on the sanctity of life titled *Life Before Birth*, and wrote highlight commentaries in the *MB Herald* on our Confession of Faith articles. To resource our churches on the

human sexuality conversation, the BFL has started a resource list, available on the BFL website ([www.mennonitebrethren.ca/bfl-resources](http://www.mennonitebrethren.ca/bfl-resources)). In partnership with MB Seminary, we conducted a Pastors Credentialing Orientation in B.C. in May 2018.

The BFL has also made the significant decision to embark on the process of studying, teaching, and reviewing our Confession of Faith – to ensure it continues to be a relevant guide to our churches. Article 8, which discusses the theology and practice of baptism and its connection to church membership, will be the first article under review. By Gathering, the BFL will have designed the process by which our pastors, scholars, and other leaders will study, teach, review, and revise this article. We look forward to a deeply biblical and lively engagement with this article, which impacts the daily life of each of our churches.

The transitions at the national level and the development of the new Collaborative Model of leadership captured our attention around the board table in the past year. The BFL is encouraged by and in full support of the proposed model. We anticipate a day of Psalm 133 blessing as we pull together to accomplish the great reconciling mission our Lord Jesus gave his church.

Please pray for the BFL – for wisdom, courage, and creativity to carry out the task before us, and for God to continue to send quality men and women to serve on this board.



**Ingrid Reichard**  
Board of Faith and Life chair





## Greetings from your Global Mennonite Brethren Church!

Ephesians 1:22–23 teaches that God put “all things” under the feet of Christ and gave him as head over all things to “the church which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all” (ESV).

The idea of “the church” usually is limited to our own local churches, plus the “universal” church.

GOOD NEWS! There is such a thing as a “global church” for Mennonite Brethren. That’s ICOMB.

And we know what that looks like! Thailand 2017 – a Mission and Prayer Consultation held last March, assembled about 230 people from 36 countries. The majority attendance reflected the “majority world.” Our church is multicultural! Colourful! Inspirational! The 21 ICOMB members (national conferences) were there. So were leaders from emerging conferences. There are 20 more national conferences now at some stage on the membership pathway. God is growing our family!

ICOMB gives your local church and the Canadian MB church identity. You don’t stand alone; you are part of a larger whole. You have a family. And this gives a solid foundation for mission.

Through ICOMB, our mission is exponential. We rejoice when we hear about missionaries travelling cross-culturally to win others to Jesus. Do we rejoice also when we hear, for example, that the Paraguay Spanish conference has launched half of a planned 50 new churches to celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2021? This is our movement on mission!

Pray for **Rudi Plett** of Paraguay who replaced **David Wiebe** as ICOMB executive director on July 1, 2018.

*The road to our future runs through the international community!*



We were mesmerized by Safari Bahati Mutabasha’s story of radical forgiveness (of the killer of his father) and transformation (this man is now a pastor of one of 19 churches started by Safari in Malawi).



*Love your MB global family: Support ICOMB through your prayers and financial gifts.*

-  [www.icomb.org](http://www.icomb.org)
-  Like us on Facebook
-  Follow us on Twitter

We were blessed by dozens of Khmu Mission (Laotian) members singing, dancing, and leading us in worship.



People ask, “What’s the difference between ICOMB and MB Mission?” An ICOMB leader from the Global South said it well: MB Mission came from the North American church vision for mission. ICOMB came from a cry for a mother: it provides identity in a way that MB Mission can’t.



A few months ago, I joined MCC's first delegation to Aleppo, Syria, since violence erupted eight years ago. On a swerving taxi ride out of Damascus, after an aborted visit to our partner church – as windows rattled and doors slammed from exploding shells – I recommitted to MCC's efforts to not only respond with gospel love to the horrors caused by war, but to pray, act, and call for an end to the violence in Syria.

More than 65 million people are displaced globally, most because of violence. People are longing for the gospel of peace.

Here are snapshots from MCC's ministry this year:

- When conflict erupted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, millions were forced to flee. MCC partnered with MB Mission, the International Community of Mennonite Brethren (ICOMB), the MB Church of Congo (CEFMC), and other Anabaptist groups to distribute relief supplies – often in hard-to-reach areas – and to provide training in trauma healing.
- When flooding and landslides hit Peru, MCC collaborated with MB Mission, ICOMB, and Mennonite World Conference (MWC) to support the local MB church's response.
- MCC Canada launched an advocacy campaign on Palestine and Israel called A Cry for Home, in response to Christian Palestinians' call to brothers and sisters in Christ to advocate for a just peace for all in the Holy Land.
- MCC Canada stood with other Christian organizations in responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action #48 and #49, acknowledging the complex history and current relationships between MCC, as an institution and workers, and the Indigenous peoples of what we now call Canada.



*Photo: Rick Cober Bauman prays for peace during a recent MCC trip to Syria. (MCC photo/ Emily Loewen)*

- MCC continued to offer service and exchange opportunities for young people. "I came to know the mission of the church as something integral in a practical way," says Damaris Guaza Sandoval, a Colombian MB who served with the YAMEN program, bringing peace education to schoolchildren in Honduras. "I had always dreamed of bringing the love of God into action and, in Honduras, I was able to do it in a deep way."

Please pray:

- That God would give me strength and wisdom to lead well. Pray for Don Peters, who retired in September after 16 years as MCC Canada's longest-serving executive director.
- That God would fill MCC workers, including our more than 50 Canadian MBs, with peace, resilience, and joy. Ask God to send the right people, including youth, to serve with MCC.
- That God would bless all MCC supporters who give so generously and willingly. We thank the Lord for all of you!

In Christ's peace,

**Rick Cober Bauman**  
MCC Canada executive director



*Photo: Agnès Ntumba carries a sack of corn flour and oil she received during a food distribution in March 2018, with supplies provided by MCC and other Anabaptist organizations. Ntumba, her husband, and seven children have been displaced from their home by violence in the Kasai Province of DR Congo. (MCC photo/ Mulanda Jimmy Juma)*





*Mennonite World Conference (MWC) is called to be a communion of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service, and witness.*

presence and identification with the global Anabaptist church is an essential means of support, identity, and resources. For example, MWC walks with our MB brothers and sisters in Panama who struggle for traditional land rights, and those in Peru who experienced devastating flooding last year.



### Giving Thanks: 2017 Highlights

- In 2017 we began **Renewal 2027** – a ten-year series of annual events that commemorates the beginnings of the Anabaptist movement. At the first event in Augsburg, Germany, we explored how Scripture continues to be central in our global communion. In April 2018, we gathered in Kisumu, Kenya, under the theme, *The Holy Spirit Transforming Us*.
- Praise God for the 300 national church leaders from 56 countries that met face-to-face at the triennial Mennonite World Conference meetings of the Executive Committee and General Council; and the MWC commissions, committees, and networks, April 2018, in Nairobi, Kenya.
- To view a highlight video of MWC during 2017 go to: [mwc-cmm.org/video/2441](http://mwc-cmm.org/video/2441)

- Invite your congregation to join Anabaptist churches around the globe in worship by participating in **World Fellowship Sunday** and take up a **One Lunch Offering** to support the networks and resources of our global Anabaptist church family. Resource material: [www.mwc-cmm.org/wfs](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/wfs)

### Prayers of Gratitude and Intercession

### Getting Involved: More Than Assemblies!

- MWC is our Anabaptist global church with more than 1.4 million believers in 107 national member churches, including CCMBC and sixteen other MB national churches. Learn about your global Christ-centred faith community by requesting *Courier/Correo/Courrier* magazine and the monthly online newsletter *MWC Info*, and sign up for our **Prayer Network** at [www.mwc-cmm.org/signup](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/signup)
- As churches face persecution, natural disasters, political turmoil, and conflict, the

- Pray for the MWC leadership including many global MB leaders such as César García, MWC General Secretary (Colombia); Bill Braun, Executive Committee (USA); Francisca Ibanda, West Africa regional representative (DR Congo); Nuzuzi Mukawa, Faith and Life Commission (DR Congo); José Rutilio Rivas Dominguez, Mission Commission (Colombia); Juan Silverio Verón Aquino, Executive Committee (Paraguay); David Wiebe, Global Anabaptist Education Network (Canada); Rafael Zaracho, Mission Commission secretary (Paraguay).
- Pray for and begin planning to attend **Indonesia 2021**, the next global Assembly of MWC!

### Gerald Hildebrand

MWC North America representative




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

**Congreso Mundial Menonita**  
 Una Comunidad de Iglesias Anabaptistas

**Conférence Mennonite Mondiale**  
 Une Communauté d'Églises Anabaptistes

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 the link to the archive in your region. See also [archives.mhsc.ca](http://archives.mhsc.ca) for an online photo database from several Mennonite archives.
- 2. Interpretative resourcing** includes offering analysis on questions of theology and history as requested by individuals, congregations, and conference ministries.

Below are some of the projects and initiatives produced by the Historical Commission.

- **Profile on Mennonite Faith:** distributed to MB churches. These pamphlets feature stories of remarkable men and women who overcame great odds to share their faith in Jesus. Recent *Profiles* include Gregory Vins, Henry J. Schmidt, Fred Stoesz, and Katie Funk Wiebe. See [www.mbhistory.org](http://www.mbhistory.org) for all profiles.
- **Archival Internship:** awarded to Andrew Brown in 2016, Jordan Duerrstein in 2017, and Emma Sorensen in 2018. 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.

- **Katie Funk Wiebe Research Grant:** awarded to Doug Heidebrecht in 2016 for his project: *Sisters Leading Brothers? Mennonite Brethren and Women in Ministry Leadership*; and to Buduma Ramesh in 2017 for his project: *The “Bible Women” of India*. This grant supports projects featuring women. See [www.mbhistory.org](http://www.mbhistory.org) for details.
- **MB Studies Project Grant:** awarded to Andrew Dyck, Gil Dueck, and Nina Schroeder in 2014; to Anicka Fast, Harold Jantz, and Jayaker Yennamalla in 2015; and to Conrad Stoesz, Abe J. Dueck, Zacharie Leclair, and Stephanie Christianson in 2016. See [www.mbhistory.org](http://www.mbhistory.org) for details.
- **J.B. Toews Scholarships:** \$1,000 scholarships awarded to students distinguishing themselves in Anabaptist-Mennonite studies at MB affiliated colleges (FPU, CMU, TC, CBC, ETEQ).
- **Book Publications:** *It Happened in Moscow* (2013), *My Emigrant Father* (2015), and *Daughters in the House of Jacob* (2016). Each of these memoirs features MB individuals and their contributions. See [www.kindredproductions.com](http://www.kindredproductions.com) to purchase your copy.

For more information on these services, contact: [jon.isaak@mbchurches.ca](mailto:jon.isaak@mbchurches.ca)

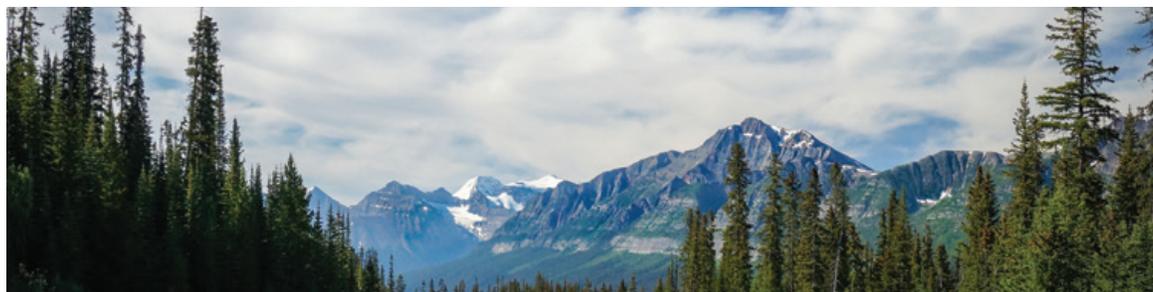
MB Historical Commission board members: **Dora Dueck** (Vancouver), **Don Isaac**, chair (Hillsboro), **J Janzen**, vice-chair (Abbotsford), **Patricia Loewen** (Winnipeg), **Julia Reimer** (Fresno), and **Valerie Rempel**, recording secretary (Fresno).

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**  
MBHC executive secretary (Winnipeg)



MB Historical Commission



MB Seminary



## Why seminary?

Here's why:

- "I loved this class. I was challenged to grow immensely in my personal and communal relationship with Christ, which had a direct impact on my vocational ministry."
- "I sincerely appreciated the practical nature of the course. What we were reading/discussing/ learning was almost always immediately practised together."
- "Studying through MB Seminary produced a deeper understanding of Scripture, richer experience of prayer, and a more focused sense of call. God used this diverse community of students and faculty to develop in me a much deeper appreciation for and commitment to the local church."

Wow! What a privilege it is to be part of a ministry that has this kind of impact on leaders throughout our country. For those of you who have supported the seminary through prayer, donations, sending students, and other ways: thank you!

### Looking ahead...

As MB Seminary continues to experience growth in enrollment and impact, through both graduate theological and ministry education (via ACTS, CMU, Tyndale) and leadership development (in local churches and through MinistryLift), we see three priority areas in the coming years:

- **Accessible and Distributed Education**
  - Enrollment in our classroom locations is approximately 100 students each year, and our faculty teach more than 300 students each year through our partnerships. Through growth in local church teaching

partnerships and through expansion into borderless education, we expect student enrollment to increase.

- **Ministry-Focused Theological Leadership**

- MB Seminary gauges success by the number and quality of people who are more effectively and enthusiastically serving in practical ministry because of their time together with us. Whether through Pastors Credentialing Orientation, weekend seminars, or graduate courses, our heart is to see Canada reached with and transformed by the good news of Jesus!

- **Sustainable Financial Framework**

- Tuition covers approximately one-third of the cost of education, and the remaining two-thirds must be received through individual, church, and conference investments. As we update our financial model, we continue to rely on financial donations from across the country.

## Why seminary?

Here's why:

- Imagine 250 churches, more than 550 pastors and 1,500 elders, and countless more ministry leaders educated and equipped to serve God and others in their own contexts! This is the heart of MB Seminary: to help educate and equip you to serve God wherever he has called you.

Thank you for being together in ministry with us!

**Mark Wessner**

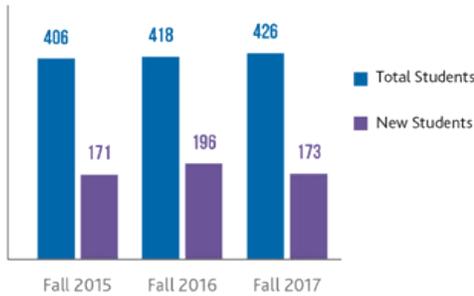
MB Seminary president





# HIGHLIGHTS: 2017-18

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT



## BEST CHRISTIAN WORKPLACES



Columbia was recognized as a 'Best Christian Workplace' for 2017, based on our 'Best Christian Workplaces' staff engagement survey results. We're excited to see that our efforts to create a supportive and inspiring workplace culture are bearing fruit.

## WE LAUNCHED 3 NEW PROGRAMS



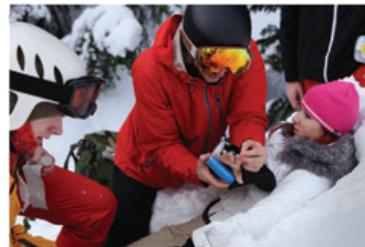
### DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A two-year program focused on developing faith, a Christ-centered approach to business, and core skills needed to succeed in the marketplace: accounting, economics, marketing, entrepreneurial operations, and more.



### DIPLOMA IN APPLIED LEADERSHIP

This two-year program equips students with leadership skills for ministry and the marketplace. Students may enter in their first year, or after completing Columbia One, Quest, or the new ERT program.



### EMERGENCY RESCUE TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATE

A one-year career-focused program that aims to develop a Christ-centered character and worldview along with the hard and soft skills needed to help people in crisis.

## COLUMBIA GRAD ATTRIBUTES

This year, we articulated a vision for Columbia grads: five key attributes we hope our students and alumni will embody. We'll use this document to guide our teaching, equipping, and discipleship.



INTEGRATED & MATURING DISCIPLES



CHRIST-CENTERED & CRITICAL THINKERS



CLEAR & AGILE COMMUNICATORS



ETHICAL & ENGAGED NEIGHBOURS



AUTHENTIC & TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS

See the full 'Graduate Attributes' document at [columbiabc.edu/grads](http://columbiabc.edu/grads)





**CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY**

CMU is entrusted with its mission by the church, formally by the collaboration of Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba and Mennonite Church Canada and extended through a wide ecumenical range of congregations who find resonance with our common commitments as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**PREPARING LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR LIFE**

Students in the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM) are engaged in, and preparing for, pastoral ministry, chaplaincy, missions, and other church related ministries.

CMU is pleased to hold an affiliation agreement with MB Seminary as we partner in offering MA degrees in Christian Ministry and in Theological Studies.

**Dr. Pierre Gilbert (Associate Professor of Bible and Theology, Associate Dean)**

*At the age of 15, I read John 3:16 and it transformed my life. Like so many others throughout history, I experienced God's love and the hope that is in Christ. Without Scripture, such hope would be hopelessly beyond our reach. My constant prayer is that students may see the beauty of Scripture and discover the love of the God it reveals.*

**Dr. Andrew Dyck (Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry)**

*I long to see ministry leaders grounded in prayer, and in studying and meditating on Scripture as they serve the church and the world, and invite people to know Jesus Christ. I'm delighted to walk alongside students in their journeys of discipleship as I teach ministry courses and pastoral care, preaching and evangelism, as well as courses on prayer, spiritual formation and Christian Spirituality.*



**2017-2018  
Fall/Winter Enrolment**

**Shaftesbury Campus  
735 Students (FTE 630)  
604 Undergraduate  
79 Graduate  
52 Outtown**

95 International students from 32 countries  
41% Mennonite (MC, MB, EMC... includes 90 from CCMBC)  
42% Ecumenically Diverse (Baptist and Pentecostal to Catholic and Orthodox...)  
17% Disclose no church connection

*\*FTE: Full-time equivalent students*

CMU education is about vocation in all senses of that word—**calling, character and career—and links the faith, convictions and passions of students with the needs and opportunities of church and society.** A core of Biblical and Theological Studies informs studies in Arts & Humanities, Sciences, Business, Communications & Media, Music, Peace & Conflict Transformation Studies and more. Students carry an imagination nurtured by the church into lives of service as pastors, teachers, business persons, social workers, doctors, farmers, lawyers... and much more.

- **CMU is a member of Universities Canada (UC)** Together with 97 other Canadian universities, UC membership assures students of high academic quality, ease of degree recognition for entrance into graduate and professional programs, and academic credit transfer across universities.
- **Biblical and Theological Studies (BTS) form part of the learning of ALL students** CMU undergraduate degree programs require a minimum of 18 credit hours of BTS. Matters of faith arise in all areas of study. Each year CMU offers approximately 70 Undergraduate and Graduate Courses related directly to faith formation and theological reflection.
- **A Practicum Requirement** (a supervised, learning opportunity

structured over an entire year or within an intensive block of time) is a graduation requirement for every student, regardless of program degree. Since 2000, CMU has partnered with over 500 community and church partners in supporting student practica.

• **Bachelor of Science: New Fall 2018** to ground students in scientific inquiry, spark their imagination and curiosity, and inspire both a passion for science and compassion for the world. CMU's BSc degree will reflect a distinct interdisciplinary commitment designed to encourage collaboration and interaction across disciplines.

The **Outtown Discipleship School** inspires students to 'Know God, Know Yourself, Know the World.' Through a year of travel, learning and service in Canada and abroad in South Africa or Guatemala, students are transformed by formative community, personal mentoring, exploring the world's beauty and brokenness, and growing their faith as followers of Jesus Christ.

*On Outtown we learned to live our lives in expectancy—with our hands open to receive new experiences, and to the perspectives of others. Living in expectancy, and adopting a posture of learning are vital for following the call of Jesus to walk in love. Olita E., April 2018*





ETEIQ is going boldly where few have gone before in the world of evangelical theological education offered in French.

With classes being offered 12 months a year, both at the graduate and undergraduate levels, we are praising God for the progress we are making in preparing men and women to serve him. ETEIQ is investing in a vibrant internship program; in fact, at the graduate level, more and more students are choosing the major in pastoral studies which includes a 10-month internship/field research component in churches in Montreal or elsewhere in Canada and overseas.

Danielle Lajeunesse is about to be our first graduate with her masters degree. Danielle's research has been an exploration of the role of spirituality when people are suffering illness, with particular emphasis on the comfort available through the Word of God and faith in Christ.

As of September 2018, we will be offering our first-ever courses in English toward a Certificat en études pastorales (minor in pastoral studies) of 30 credits granted by Université Laval. We will be partnering with the Anglophone evangelical communities and calling upon their best English-speaking teachers to join our team. We believe this program will help our existing students enrich their capacity to study in English, and it is our prayer that it will attract students from outside Quebec as well.

In February, our third annual day retreat for students, spouses, and personnel went off campus for the first time. We were "stopped in our tracks" by the God who insists upon being the One who calls, leads, and provides for us in our mission. It was a needed spiritual rest for many and a time to connect with each other in a non-classroom setting. Our new school chaplains, Ruth Labeth and Barry Whatley, led the day as they continue to ensure that at ETEIQ, spiritual development and academic endeavours go hand-in-hand.

ETEIQ's first-ever Fête des Vocations (job or career fair) was held on campus on March 22. The day brought together 18 leaders from 4 church families, as well as chaplaincy ministries, to connect with students. One pastor who has been in Montreal for almost 30 years visited the school for the first time and said, "I've been dreaming for years of seeing church families gather together in a spirit of Kingdom partnerships. Today the dream became a reality."

The only strain continues to be financial. I have often heard the saying, "If you build it, they will come." Well, we built excellent programs. Our faculty and staff are second to none. With God's grace, the students have come. But the finances have not kept up. Please pray for urgently needed funds to cover essential operational and programmatic requirements and for long-term financial stability.





## THINK DIFFERENTLY

In Yosemite National Park, there is a rock face called El Capitan that is known to be the most challenging vertical climb in the world. In the past few decades, climbers have improved their ascent times from weeks to days. But last year, a climber named Alex Honnold free climbed El Cap by himself in 3 hours and 56 minutes. The climbing world was stunned. No one had ever conceived of doing something like that before. From weeks to days to hours – it required someone to think differently.

We are climbing a sheer rock face called “reaching the world for Jesus.” Are we getting closer to our goal? Are we being called to think differently?

As we’ve been praying into how we need to respond to the challenge of global mission, God has been faithful to lead us into four new approaches to mission.

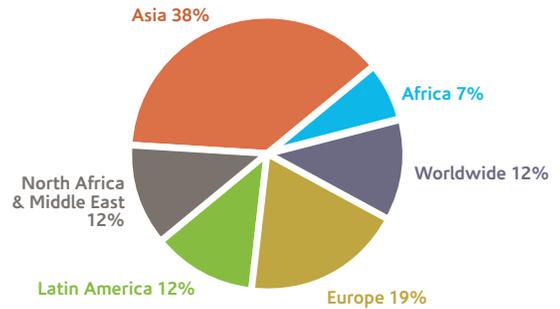
- One Body.** Not many bodies or ministries roped together, but one body, the body of Christ. We need to think differently about our identity in Christ and our interdependence in the church.
- One Head.** His name is Jesus. He is not just our Saviour; he is the Lord of the harvest and our mission leader today. We need to listen for his voice and embrace his ways.
- One Spirit.** The church was born at Pentecost when they called out to God for the “gift of the Father.” We don’t need a better missional strategy, we need the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- One Mission.** God’s mission is most fully expressed in Christ’s incarnational life, death, resurrection, and restoration of all things. We need to embrace his mission.

We want to see the global church mobilized into global mission. We want to see Christ followers from everywhere responding to global needs, whether in the war-torn Middle East, the mega-cities of Asia, or in rural Canada. We want to see more of God’s servants engaged globally as church planters and community changers, so that the gospel of Christ will continue to bring transformation and hope. Together, let’s think differently as we work with the global church to embrace One Mission – local, national and global.

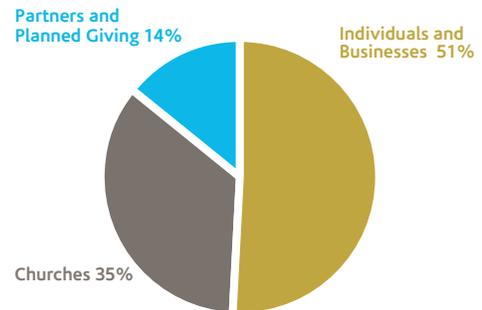
### Randy Friesen

MB Mission and C2C Network general director

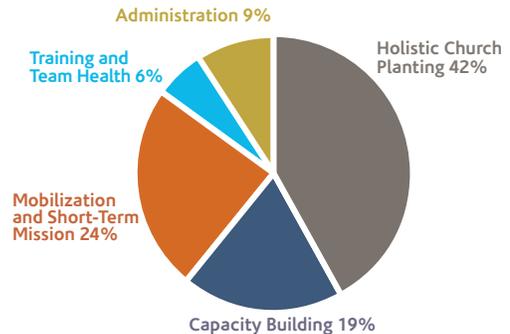
## Overseas Expenditures: US\$6,153,055



## Donation Sources:



## Total Expenditures: US\$10,262,045



- 17 church planting networks supported in partnership outside of North America
- 1069 short-term mission workers sent on assignments
- 123 international workers engaged in evangelism and church planting
- 106 global workers focused on supporting church planting movements
- 39 countries where we are currently working
- 40,000 people being reached with media in least reached regions of the world

## Church Planting in Southeast Asia

Bounmee was invited to baptize ten new believers in a small Khmu village, but when he arrived, there were police everywhere.

When the police found out that Bounmee was there for the baptism, they took him to speak with the mayor and the chief of the village. They questioned him at length and Bounmee defended himself, saying that it wasn't against the law to be a Christian or to gather for worship.

Frustrated, the chief of police slammed his fist on the table and said, "Listen! Just tell us everything you know about Jesus right now – and don't leave anything out!"

Shocked, Bounmee proceeded to share the gospel in detail with everyone in the room. At the end, one of

the officials said, "This doesn't sound like something we should be opposing. It sounds really good!"

Bounmee invited them to join him at the river for the baptism, saying, "Come and see for yourselves that we aren't stirring up any kind of rebellion against the government."

So all of the officials and the whole village followed Bounmee down to the river. He explained baptism to everyone and then baptized the ten. But once he was finished, there were more people who had joined the line and were ready to declare their allegiance to Christ.

That day, Bounmee baptized fifty-eight people.

"So the churches were strengthened in their faith and grew daily in numbers" (Acts 16:5).

### Bob Davis

MB Mission worker



MB Mission & C2C





	Total MB churches in network	MB baptisms
BC	41	11
AB	10	4
SK	24	5
MB	103	11
ON	1	4
QC	4	3
Atlantic	3	1



## C2C Local/National Church Planting

We have the joy and privilege to walk with young people that you have raised up in your churches, and to continue that journey with them as they begin the work of impacting a neighbourhood with the gospel for Jesus.

One church-planting apprentice recently shared that he'd been living in his neighbourhood for several years but hadn't yet told any of his neighbours about Jesus. One family was preparing to move to another city, so he took the step of sharing Jesus with them. After he did, they said, "We wish you'd told us this sooner, because we've

been searching for God for two years!" He was deeply impacted by that experience and came away with a new understanding of faithfulness to Jesus and obedience to his call to make disciples.

At another church plant, two new believers were being baptized and the church planter asked if anyone else wanted to declare their faith in Jesus and be baptized. That day, eight people responded! This is why we are engaged in mission – to see lost people reached with the Good News that Jesus saves!

While we continue to see many people come to faith in Jesus and be baptized in our churches, we know that if we are going to reach Canada with Jesus, we need to see more multiplication. Will you join us in praying that Canada will be reached for Jesus?

**Ron Leonard**  
regional director

C2C Network Metrics	Historical Data					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of Churches in network	49	55	65	81	93	108
Number of MB church plants in network	42	39	41	40	42	52
New Church Plants launched					14	8
New MB churches launched	1	12	5	15	4	5
Number of MB church plants "graduated"	4	0	7	1	4	
Church plants that closed	1	2	1	0	0	1
C2C Training Events Held	6	15	28	59	84	110
Number of Prayer Supporters	304	716	1690	2271	3165	2879
Baptisms					702	652
MB Baptisms						186
Number of Denominational Partners						31

## Financial Ministry

The CCMBC mission is “to multiply Christ-centred churches to see Canada transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ.” As part of our four core service areas, Resourcing Ministry carries out our mission by providing financial and administrative services, resources and tools to churches and organizations to help them achieve their mission. Nationally, we offer services to churches by offering economies of scale, which smaller churches in particular may benefit from.

God has provided us with capable people who faithfully carry out this mission on a daily basis. We are currently providing payroll services to 187 churches and organizations within the MB family and accounting services to seven registered churches, three provincial conferences, and sixteen MB church plants that have not obtained charitable status yet. We have had the opportunity to visit the staff of numerous churches regarding the group benefits and pension plans. Over the last few years, numerous churches that don’t have brokerage accounts have taken advantage of the Gift of Securities service we provide when they have donors wanting to donate publicly traded securities.

The mortgage ministry has been the focus of Stewardship Ministries and will continue to be the focus of CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. (Legacy). We are grateful for the deposits in both the registered and non-registered funds, which make the mortgage ministry possible.

### Stewardship Transition to Legacy

A desire to do things right rather than do things fast led us to explore various alternatives for the structure and management of the funds entrusted to us, slowing down the implementation of Legacy, which was initially expected in 2016. Effective January 1, 2018, Legacy began operations with the transition of staff in the areas of finance, information technology, infrastructure management, and the administration of the mortgage ministry. We continue to work with our legal and accounting consultants toward registration with the Securities Commission and the legal transfer of Stewardship assets and liabilities.

### Financial Reporting for 2017

With the delay in transitioning to Legacy, the 2017 audited financial statements were still prepared on a consolidated basis. The “2017 Actual to Budget Comparison by Ministry Area” report, however, has the Ministry Division and the Stewardship Division results reported separately to align with the budget approved for CCMBC at the 2016 AGM.

Updates on the status of the Legacy transition and the 2018 financial outlook will be provided in the breakout session.

It is our earnest desire to continue to support the MB churches through this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bertha Dyck**

chief financial officer



# 2017 Consolidated Statement



#MBGATHERING2018

## Canadian Conference of MB Churches

### Summarized Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	at Dec 2017	at Dec 2016
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets	\$21,165,774	\$12,246,711
Mortgages and loans receivable	\$77,172,815	\$76,994,149
Land held for development	\$7,349,879	\$10,598,911
Investments	\$116,339,633	\$158,231,827
Capital assets	4,572,882	5,290,257
	<u>\$226,600,983</u>	<u>\$263,361,855</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current liabilities	\$2,145,818	\$3,439,106
Deposit liabilities (1)	\$218,869,195	\$254,260,254
Deferred contributions (2)	\$1,540,577	\$1,607,356
	<u>222,555,590</u>	<u>259,306,716</u>
<b>Net assets:</b>		
Internally restricted (3)	2,440,237	2,441,461
Restricted for endowments	1,362,630	1,361,764
Unrestricted	242,526	251,914
	<u>4,045,393</u>	<u>4,055,139</u>
	<u>\$226,600,983</u>	<u>\$263,361,855</u>

	at Dec 2017	at Dec 2016
<b>(1) Deposit Liabilities</b>		
Trust deposits	\$138,748,064	\$174,180,702
RRSP accounts	51,333,276	52,957,788
TFSA accounts	28,787,855	27,121,764
	<u>\$218,869,195</u>	<u>\$254,260,254</u>

	at Dec 2017	at Dec 2016
<b>(2) Deferred contributions</b>		
Emerging leaders	\$46,759	\$95,228
Centre for MB Studies	19,419	10,894
C2C Network	968,931	914,465
Church plants fund	357,693	393,291
Other externally restricted	147,775	193,478
	<u>\$1,540,577</u>	<u>\$1,607,356</u>

### Summarized Consolidated Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

	January to December 2017	January to December 2016
<b>Revenue</b>		
Church support	\$1,344,630	\$1,343,041
Donations/Grants	\$6,086,760	\$5,999,715
Sales	1,093,962	1,279,279
Interest earned	8,200,753	10,458,648
Gain on disposal of land and capital assets	985,335	351,647
Gains on disposal of investments	-436,418	-62,887
Gain on contribution of capital asset	0	0
Other revenue	303,196	396,325
Adj. for unrealized gains (losses) on investments	1,216,182	1,183,909
	<u>18,794,400</u>	<u>20,949,677</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Cost of sales	355,376	431,797
Staffing	4,371,256	4,756,720
Specific programming costs	4,573,791	5,272,193
Support of outside agencies	1,382,711	1,566,468
Facilities and office expenses	2,127,422	1,728,901
Board costs and convention	252,262	213,634
Public relation constns	128,934	90,445
Interest cost	5,373,604	6,018,134
Impairment of land held for development	239,656	100,000
Allowance for credit losses	0	-101,841
	<u>18,805,012</u>	<u>20,076,451</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	-10,612	873,226
Transfer from (to) net assets	0	-850,056
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures after transfers	<u>(\$10,612)</u>	<u>\$23,170</u>

	at Dec 2017	at Dec 2016
<b>(3) Internally restricted net assets</b>		
Reserve for investment	\$2,377,102	\$2,309,140
Operating reserve	29,135	29,135
Contingency	34,000	34,000
Evangelism Capital	-	56,482
Atlantic Church Planting	-	12,704
	<u>\$2,440,237</u>	<u>\$2,441,461</u>

Full audited statement available at [www.mennonitebrethren.ca](http://www.mennonitebrethren.ca) or by contacting the conference office.

# ● 2017 Actuals



## Canadian Conference of MB Churches - 2017 Actual to Budget Comparison by Ministry Area

Ministry Division	2017 Actual	2017 Budget *
<b>Funding</b>		
Church Support	\$ 1,219,552	\$ 1,400,000
Legacy Support in cash	1,250,000	1,250,000
Legacy Support in non-cash services	1,168,319	2,300,000
Designated Donations / Ministry Revenue	6,506,866	3,676,016
	<u>10,144,737</u>	<u>8,626,016</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Building Community	643,294	750,000
Multiplying Churches (CCMBC Funding)	705,000	940,000
Developing leaders	862,213	960,000
Communications	405,327	400,000
CCMBC Administration supported by Legacy	1,168,319	1,900,000
Designated Donations / Ministry Revenue	6,439,158	3,676,016
	<u>10,223,311</u>	<u>8,626,016</u>
Transfer from Reserve	69,186	
<b>Surplus/(Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses</b>	<u>\$ (9,388)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Stewardship Division (Legacy)	2017 Actual	2017 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>		
Grants and donations	\$ 132,250	\$ 126,000
Interest Revenue	10,029,370	11,995,873
Facilities & Property Management Revenue	255,498	38,020
Other Revenue	145,613	73,127
	<u>10,562,731</u>	<u>12,233,020</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Interest Cost	5,335,907	5,739,100
Financial Administration	1,249,449	2,735,806
Facilities & Property Management	963,734	198,525
Information Technology	206,025	139,864
CCMBC Administration supported by Legacy	1,168,319	1,900,000
	<u>8,923,434</u>	<u>10,713,295</u>
Cash Transfer to CCMBC	1,250,000	1,250,000
Transfer to Reserve	389,297	269,725
<b>Surplus/(Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

\* Approved at Gathering 2016

# ● Legacy Budget

#MBGATHERING2018

## CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. 2019 Proposed Budget

	2019 Proposed Budget	2018 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>		
Grants and donations	\$ 179,600	\$ 184,000
Interest Revenue	4,033,720	4,508,183
Facilities Rental Revenue	742,100	525,000
Payroll Services	112,600	112,600
Accounting Services	228,700	226,140
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>5,296,720</b>	<b>5,555,923</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Registered Funds Interest	1,925,500	2,174,069
Non-Registered (MB Family) Interest	595,800	482,600
Financial Administration	645,500	794,519
Payroll Services Costs	121,000	120,000
Accounting Services Costs	321,200	383,880
Facilities	1,052,200	935,855
Property Management	421,500	414,000
Information Technology	171,400	251,000
Contingency	42,620	-
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>5,296,720</b>	<b>5,555,923</b>
<b>Net operating surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

<b>MB Ministry Subsidies</b>			
	Services	Facilities	Total
CMBS	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Communications		20,000	20,000
Alberta	-	30,000	30,000
Manitoba	-	30,000	30,000
Ontario	-	12,000	12,000
ETEQ	-	120,000	120,000
MB Church Plants	73,000	-	73,000
C2C	-	134,100	134,100
MB Mission	-	20,000	20,000
	<b>\$ 73,000</b>	<b>\$ 416,100</b>	<b>\$ 489,100</b>

Note: MB Family refers to MB churches, agencies, and provincial conferences

## Proposal for a MB Church Referendum to Approve the 2019 CCMBC Budget

**THIS DOCUMENT WILL ONLY BE PRESENTED IF THE COLLABORATIVE MODEL IS AFFIRMED.**

**PURPOSE OF HOLDING A REFERENDUM:**

- The collaborative model uses a single stream of church funding to the provincial conferences which work together to create a collective national impact. The provincial conferences will provide funds to the national conference to complete the tasks that are required at a national level. Using this approach, the national budget requires a coordinated development effort by all six provinces. The 2019 national budget will not be ready until the end of 2018.
- Rather than hosting a national Special General Meeting of all churches in early 2019, a referendum is being proposed to allow the churches to vote on the 2019 budget. As described below, the referendum voting will be held at provincial conventions to allow discussion of the budget with other churches. By using a referendum in this way, it is also possible to emulate how future budgets will be processed under the new collaborative model.

**THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM QUESTION:**

*Our church is in favour of the 2019 CCMBC budget as presented by CCMBC\*.*

**OVERVIEW OF THE DECISION BEING MADE:**

- *\*The 2019 CCMBC budget will be provided to all churches by email and will be available for download from the mennonitebrethren.ca website on or before January 31, 2019.*
- If the majority vote is YES, then the 2019 CCMBC budget is approved.
- If the majority vote is NO, then a Special General Meeting must be called to present and approve a different CCMBC budget for 2019.

**THE PROPOSED VOTING PROCESS:**

- The referendum votes will be cast by MB churches during the provincial conventions hosted from February through April of 2019. A national conference representative will be present at each provincial convention to explain the national budget and answer any questions.
- One referendum ballot will be distributed to each church (not delegate) that attends the provincial conference convention. The ballot will be given to the specific delegate selected by the church as part of the convention registration process.
- At the time the question is called to approve the 2019 CCMBC budget at the provincial convention, the ballot will be considered “cast” once it is completed by the selected church delegate and given to the provincial moderator or other board member of the provincial conference.
- The provincial boards will provide the totals (yes and no) to the national conference for final tallying once all provincial conventions have been held. The church votes are tallied to create a national outcome. (Voting is not calculated by province.)
- The provincial boards may also forward any convention minutes regarding the budget so that churches in other provinces may be aware of any discussions that have occurred. A space for church comments may also be included on the ballots.
- (Note: The four churches that are not a member of a provincial conference may cast their ballots directly with CCMBC using email correspondence.)

## Proposal for a MB Church Referendum to Approve the 2019 CCMBC Budget

### **CHURCH VOTING AT CONVENTIONS:**

- Each church will designate a single church delegate who will receive its church ballot upon registration at the provincial convention. It is the responsibility of this selected church delegate to cast the vote on behalf of their church.
- Each church will discern its own method of casting the ballot on behalf of the church. For example, the church may decide to host a meeting of its members, or the church's board may decide on behalf of the church, or the church may decide to wait until the convention and let its group of convention delegates discern how to vote on the budget.

### **THE RESULTS:**

- A simple majority of the total votes cast by the member churches will be required for a positive affirmation of the 2019 CCMBC budget.
- Once the result of the vote has been determined, notification will be emailed to all churches and the result will be posted on the mennonitebrethren.ca website.
- If the vote is NO and the budget is defeated, the CCMBC Executive Board will call a Special General Meeting and submit a new budget to be approved by the churches. The process will follow the procedures as described in the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws.

### **OTHER NOTES:**

- Using this process, the outcome for the CCMBC 2019 budget will not be known until the end of April (after the last convention).
- Currently, the provincial budgets operate from January through April (depending on the timing of their conventions) without affirmed budgets. The national budget will need to operate in a similar fashion to the provinces in the early months of 2019.
- Coordinating the provincial and national budgets is important because the provincial budgets will include items which work towards a collective national impact. Having the provincial and national budgets presented together at the provincial conventions should help churches to see the coordination and alignment between the budgets.
- The single stream is an important part of the new model. Starting in January, churches will be asked to add their support for the national conference to their provincial conference contribution to create the single donation stream to the province.
- IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT CHURCHES MAINTAIN THEIR CURRENT LEVELS OF SUPPORT FOR BOTH THE PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES IN ORDER FOR MINISTRY TO CONTINUE. As the 2019 provincial and national budgets are presented together, the justification for maintaining this level of support will be much clearer. If churches reduce their total support to the conferences, it becomes harder for the provinces to complete the task of collaborating for greater collective impact across Canada.
- The premise behind the 2019 budgets and collaborative model has not been to eliminate the national conference. (If the national conference was eliminated, then it would make sense for churches to change their level of funding.) The goal is to improve service delivery starting with the provinces as the primary coordinator and to ask the provinces to be the primary steward of resources. This idea was supported by the results of 2017 conference survey.
- As provincial and national leaders work together to develop the 2019 budgets and service delivery plan, more resources should be deployed through the provincial conferences.

## Gathering 2018 Notice of Motions

---

Date: July 11-14, 2018

Location: Forest Grove Community Church, Saskatoon

### Summary of Motions:

- a. Meeting called to order
- b. Motion to appoint ballot team and parliamentary team
- c. Motion to approve agenda
- d. Board elections by ballot (includes CCMBC Executive Board, Board of Faith and Life, Nominations Committee, Historical Commission, MB Seminary Board, MB Mission Board, MCC Representative, Legacy Board)
- e. Motion to approve revisions to the Confession of Faith
- f. Motion to approve revised Historical Commission Memo of Understanding
- g. Motion to approve the Audited Financial Statements:
  - i. CCMBC Pension Plan
  - ii. CCMBC Consolidated Financial Statements
- h. Motion to approve KPMG as Auditors for CCMBC
- i. Motion to approve KPMG as Auditors for Legacy
- j. Motion to approve 2019 Legacy Budget
- k. Motion to approve the Collaborative Model

Depending on the result of the Collaborative Model motion (k), either motion (l) or (m) will be presented:

- l. Motion to approve 2019 CCMBC Budget; OR
- m. Motion to approve the use of a referendum to approve the 2019 CCMBC budget

And to close the meeting, the following motions will be presented:

- n. Motion to destroy ballots (after presenting results)
- o. Motion to adjourn.

Also, please review page 4 of the detailed Notice of Motions (available online on the Gathering 2018 website and through the Gathering 2018 app) for an explanation of the CCMBC Member Representative.



Bios of Nominees



**Steve Berg**  
**Nomination: Executive Board, member-at-large**

Steve Berg has served the Canadian Conference of MB Churches as interim executive director since January 2017. His leadership roles have included executive minister of the B.C. Conference of MB Churches and national director of government affairs with Power to Change. Steve studied at Tabor College, Bethel Seminary, and Regent College. With 44 years of pastoral experience, Steve is currently senior associate pastor at South Abbotsford (B.C.) Church, offering his gifts in preaching and leadership mentoring. Steve and Karen have 4 married children and 13 grandchildren.



**Kerry Dyck**  
**Nomination: Executive Board, member-at-large**

Kerry Dyck has spent the last 20 years at River West Christian Church, 17 as lead pastor. This spring, he resigned, effective June 30. He and Sandy are praying about their next ministry assignment. Originally from Saskatoon, Kerry attended the University of Saskatchewan where he completed his BEd. After living and serving in Dartmouth, N.S., for several years, he attended MB Biblical Seminary in Fresno, Cal., earning an MDiv. Upon his graduation, Kerry and Sandy served in Waterloo, Ont., before settling in Edmonton. They have 2 married children, another child in university, and 1 delightful granddaughter.



**Matt Dyck**  
**Nomination: Executive Board, assistant moderator**

Matt Dyck grew up in Killarney, Manitoba, where he was baptized into Lakeview Community Church. He attended Bethany College, Hepburn, Sask., graduating with a BA in pastoral ministry. After marrying Lisa, in his fourth year at Bethany, he interned at SunWest Christian Fellowship, Calgary. That was 14 years ago and, having filled various roles and completed an MA in Christian studies, he now ministers as lead pastor at SunWest. During his time as moderator of the Alberta Conference of MB Churches, he also served on CCMB's Executive Board. Matt looks forward to building up the family of MB churches in Canada as we follow the trajectory of the Lord's leading. Matt and Lisa have 3 very active boys who seem to fill any empty calendar space.



**Christopher Koop**  
**Nomination: Historical Commission, Canadian member**

Christopher Koop grew up in the Niagara region, where his Mennonite Brethren/Anabaptist roots shaped his early interest in political theology. After completing his undergraduate

degree in historical studies, Christopher pursued further academic work in political theory (MA, Brock) and Western religious thought (PhD, McMaster). He recently graduated from the education program at Brock University and has joined the District School Board of Niagara as an elementary school teacher. Christopher and his wife Brittany are members of Grantham MB Church in St. Catharines, Ont.



**Ingrid Reichard**  
**Nomination: Board of Faith and Life, chair**

Ingrid Reichard is currently pastor of development at Glencairn MB Church in Kitchener, Ont. Ingrid's studies at Heritage Seminary and at McMaster Divinity College centred on biblical studies with a focus on the Old Testament. Ingrid has a DMin in spiritual formation from Tyndale Seminary, where she also trained as a spiritual director in the evangelical tradition. Ingrid has served the MB family as chair of the Ontario Board of Faith and Life (BFL), vice-chair of the national BFL, and a member of the Ontario and national Executive Boards. She is currently the vice-chair of MB Seminary board as well as chair of the national BFL – appointed in November 2017 to complete David Miller's term. Ingrid and Scott have been married 29 years and have 2 adult sons who serve alongside them at Glencairn.



**Sam Reimer**  
**Nomination: Executive Board, member-at-large**

Sam Reimer is professor of sociology at Crandall University and a long-time member of River of Life MB Church in Moncton, N.B. He served on the leadership team at River of Life for nearly 20 years and on the MB Executive Board 2008–16. Sam's research is on evangelical churches in Canada, Great Britain, and the U.S., and he hopes his understanding of evangelicalism and the broader culture will be helpful for the board. Sam is married to Mary Beth, and has 3 grown children.



**Cam Stuart**  
**Nomination: Executive Board, member-at-large**

Cam Stuart is the lead pastor at Sardis Community Church in Chilliwack, B.C. Cam has been in pastoral ministry for 24 years as a youth pastor, associate pastor, and lead pastor. All his pastoral experience has been with the Mennonite Brethren. He has served the MB denomination in a variety of roles. He sat on the national board of Christian Education, the Banff National Youth Convention committee, and most recently, on the pastoral ministry committee of the B.C. Conference of MB Churches. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing, fly fishing, camping, and hiking with his wife Michelle.

**Save the Date**

**EQUIP**

**STUDY CONFERENCE**

**2019**

**October 23-25, 2019**

**WMB Church, Waterloo, Ontario**

Consolidated Financial Statements of

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

Year ended December 31, 2017

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

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Year ended December 31, 2017

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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, 2017, 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, including the Schedule - Church Ministry Division.

### *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, 2017, 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.

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 long, horizontal, slightly curved line that underlines the text.

Chartered Professional Accountants

May 3, 2018

Winnipeg, Canada

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

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017	2016
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash (note 3)	\$ 16,393,744	\$ 7,836,042
Accounts receivable (note 15)	1,321,525	1,143,142
Inventories	21,271	19,945
Prepaid expenses	97,661	76,226
Mortgages and loans receivable (notes 4 and 11)	—	750,000
Assets held for sale (note 8)	3,331,573	2,421,356
	21,165,774	12,246,711
Mortgages and loans receivable (notes 4 and 11)	77,172,815	76,994,149
Land held for development (notes 6 and 8)	7,349,879	10,598,911
Investments (note 5)	116,339,633	158,231,827
Capital assets (notes 7 and 8)	4,572,882	5,290,257
	\$ 226,600,983	\$ 263,361,855

## Liabilities, Deferred Contributions and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 10)	\$ 2,145,818	\$ 3,439,106
	2,145,818	3,439,106
Deposit liabilities:		
Trust deposits	138,748,064	174,180,702
Registered Retirement Savings Plan accounts (note 11)	51,333,276	52,957,788
Tax Free Savings Accounts (note 11)	28,787,855	27,121,764
	218,869,195	254,260,254
Deferred contributions:		
Expenses of future periods (note 12)	1,540,577	1,607,356
Net assets:		
Internally restricted (note 13)	2,440,237	2,441,461
Restricted for endowments (note 13)	1,362,630	1,361,764
Unrestricted	242,526	251,914
	4,045,393	4,055,139
Commitments (note 14)		
Subsequent events (note 8)		
	\$ 226,600,983	\$ 263,361,855

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, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017	2016
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Contributions	\$ 7,431,390	\$ 7,342,756
Sales	1,093,962	1,279,279
Interest earned	8,200,753	10,458,648
Rental income	296,074	370,359
Net gains on disposal of land held for development and capital assets (notes 6 and 7)	985,335	351,647
Loss on disposal of investments	(436,418)	(62,887)
Other revenue	7,122	25,966
Adjustment for unrealized gains on investments	1,216,182	1,183,909
	18,794,400	20,949,677
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Cost of sales	355,376	431,797
Staffing	4,371,256	4,756,720
Specific programming costs	4,573,791	5,272,193
Support of outside agencies	1,382,711	1,566,468
Office expenses	2,127,422	1,728,901
Board costs and convention	252,262	213,634
Public relation costs	128,934	90,445
Interest	5,373,604	6,018,134
Impairment of land held for development (note 6)	239,656	100,000
Allowance (recovery) for credit losses (note 4)	-	(101,841)
	18,805,012	20,076,451
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures</b>	<b>\$ (10,612)</b>	<b>\$ 873,226</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, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	Unrestricted	Internally restricted	Restricted for endowments	2017 Total	2016 Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 251,914	\$ 2,441,461	\$ 1,361,764	\$ 4,055,139	\$ 3,181,069
Reinvested earnings during the year	—	—	866	866	844
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(10,612)	—	—	(10,612)	873,226
Net transfer to (from) internally restricted (note 13)	1,224	(1,224)	—	—	—
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 242,526</b>	<b>\$ 2,440,237</b>	<b>\$ 1,362,630</b>	<b>\$ 4,045,393</b>	<b>\$ 4,055,139</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, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017	2016
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ (10,612)	\$ 873,226
Adjustments for:		
Amortization	560,435	438,777
Unrealized gains on investments	(1,216,182)	(1,183,909)
Net gains on disposal of land held for development and capital assets	(985,335)	(351,647)
Allowance (recovery) for credit losses	-	(101,841)
Impairment of land held for development	239,656	100,000
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(178,383)	(244,843)
Inventories	(1,326)	(1,591)
Prepaid expenses	(21,435)	49,851
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(1,293,288)	760,105
Net change in deferred contributions related to expenses of future periods	(66,779)	(377,565)
	(2,973,249)	(39,437)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>		
Change in trust deposits, net	(35,432,638)	(14,904,880)
Change in RRSP accounts, net	(1,624,512)	(1,319,601)
Change in tax free savings accounts, net	1,666,091	2,386,984
Endowments	866	844
	(35,390,193)	(13,836,653)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	(227,708)	(185,289)
Proceeds on disposal of capital assets	3,542,999	36,000
Expenditures on land held for development	(73,857)	(100,958)
Net proceeds on disposal of land held for development	-	2,613,402
Change in investments, net	43,108,376	(4,309,193)
Change in mortgages and loans receivables, net	571,334	7,081,363
	46,921,144	5,135,325
Increase (decrease) in cash	8,557,702	(8,740,765)
Cash, beginning of year	7,836,042	16,576,807
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 16,393,744</b>	<b>\$ 7,836,042</b>

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, 2017

---

## 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 entities:

CP Printing Solutions	Deer River Properties Inc.
Crossfield Highways Development Inc. 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, 2017

---

### 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

The current year's income has been charged with an amount of \$560,435 (2016 - \$438,777) reflecting the current year's amortization which is included in office expenses in the consolidated statement of operations.

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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

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**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) Assets held for sale:**

Long-lived assets are classified by the Conference as an asset held for sale at the point in time when the asset is available for immediate sale, management has committed to a plan to sell the asset and is actively locating a buyer for the asset at a sales price that is reasonable in relation to the current fair value of the asset, and the sale is probable and expected to be completed within a one-year period.

Assets to be disposed of are separately presented on the consolidated statement of financial position and reported at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell, and are no longer depreciated. The asset and liabilities of a disposal group classified as held for sale are presented separately in the appropriate asset and liability sections of the consolidated statement of financial position.

**(g) 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.

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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

---

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

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.

**(h) 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.

**(i) Inventories:**

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

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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

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

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.

**(k) 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.

**(l) 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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

### 3. Cash:

	2017		2016	
General funds	\$	11,853,527	\$	5,945,349
RRSP Trust		4,540,217		1,890,693
	\$	16,393,744	\$	7,836,042

### 4. Mortgages and loans receivable:

	2017		2016	
	Principal	Accrued interest	Principal	Accrued interest
General funds	\$ 16,959,203	\$ 52,325	\$ 4,717,245	\$ 33,263
RRSP Trust	63,471,100	100,359	76,241,093	162,720
Allowance for credit losses	(3,410,172)	-	(3,410,172)	-
	77,020,131	152,684	77,548,166	195,983
	\$ 77,172,815		\$ 77,744,149	

During the year ended December 31, 2013, a loan receivable was entered into as partial consideration for the sale of land held for development. The loan receivable was repayable \$750,000 annually and matured 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.

During the year ended December 31, 2016 a recovery of \$101,841 was recognized in allowance (recovery) for credit losses in the consolidated statement of operations and \$300,000 of the allowance for credit losses was written off.

### 5. Investments:

	2017		2016	
	Cost	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value
Mortgage funds	\$ 48,077,310	\$ 51,461,019	\$ 106,108,591	\$ 105,651,977
Bond funds	61,903,283	61,130,913	47,020,861	48,820,661
Corporate bonds	3,791,657	3,747,701	3,751,174	3,759,189
	\$ 113,772,250	\$ 116,339,633	\$ 156,880,626	\$ 158,231,827

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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

### 5. Investments (continued):

The par value of the corporate bonds at December 31, 2017 was \$3,654,000 (2016 - \$3,633,000). The Corporate bonds have interest rates ranging from 3.35 percent to 4.5 percent (2016 - 2.99 percent to 4.50 percent) and mature between March 15, 2023 and August 11, 2026 (2016 - between March 15, 2023 and March 2, 2026).

Maturities and interest rates of the corporate bonds:

December 31, 2017							Weighted average yield
Under one year	1 - 5 years	6 - 10 years	Over 10 years	Total			
\$	-	\$	-	\$ 3,747,701	-	\$ 3,747,701	3.69%

December 31, 2016							Weighted average yield
Under one year	1 - 5 years	6 - 10 years	Over 10 years	Total			
\$	-	\$	-	\$ 3,759,189	-	\$ 3,759,189	3.55%

### 6. Land held for development:

	2017	2016
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 10,598,911	\$ 12,859,708
Additions	73,857	100,958
Disposals	-	(2,261,755)
Transferred to assets held for sale (note 8)	(3,083,233)	-
Impairment	(239,656)	(100,000)
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 7,349,879</b>	<b>\$ 10,598,911</b>

During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Conference disposed of certain land held for development for net cash consideration of \$2,613,402. The Conference recognized a gain on sale of \$351,647 which was included in net gain on disposal of land held for development and capital assets in the consolidated statement of operations.

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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

### 7. Capital assets:

			2017	2016
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Land	\$ 1,109,453	\$ –	\$ 1,109,453	\$ 1,109,453
Buildings	5,133,291	1,966,331	3,166,960	3,748,165
Computer equipment	621,654	556,612	65,042	94,357
Office equipment	1,217,694	1,004,017	213,677	314,038
Parking lot	95,410	77,660	17,750	24,244
	<b>\$ 8,177,502</b>	<b>\$ 3,604,620</b>	<b>\$ 4,572,882</b>	<b>\$ 5,290,257</b>

During the year ended December 31, 2017, the Conference disposed of certain land, buildings, and parking lot for net cash consideration of \$3,542,999. The Conference recognized a net gain on sale of \$985,335.

Capital assets with a net book value of \$248,340 (2016 - \$2,421,356) were transferred to assets held for sale (note 8) during the year ended December 31, 2017.

### 8. Assets held for sale:

Assets held for sale are comprised of capital assets, including buildings and land held for development.

	2017	2016
Balance, beginning of period	\$ 2,421,356	\$ –
Less: capital assets sold (note 7)	(2,421,356)	–
Add: amounts transferred to assets held for sale:		
Land held for development (note 6)	3,083,233	–
Capital assets (note 7)	248,340	2,421,356
<b>Balance, end of period</b>	<b>\$ 3,331,573</b>	<b>\$ 2,421,356</b>

Subsequent to December 31, 2017, the Conference disposed of a building with a net book value of \$248,340 at December 31, 2017 for cash consideration of \$259,660 and certain land held for development with a book value of \$1,075,323 at December 31, 2017 for cash consideration of \$1,355,000.

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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

### 9. 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 \$3,747,701 (2016 - \$3,759,189). As at December 31, 2017, the line of credit amount was unutilized (2016 - nil).

### 10. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities is \$2,677 (2016 - \$109,641) for government remittances.

### 11. 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, 2017, there were 880 RRSP accounts, 388 R.R.I.F. accounts and 815 T.F.S.A. accounts (2016 - 944 RRSP accounts, 388 R.R.I.F. accounts and 880 T.F.S.A. accounts).

	2017	2016
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash	\$ 4,540,217	\$ 1,890,693
Outstanding transfers and distributions	11,602,389	5,643,345
Mortgages and loans receivable	63,978,525	72,545,514
	\$ 80,121,131	\$ 80,079,552
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ 1,422
RRSP certificates	51,333,276	52,956,366
RRSP total	51,333,276	52,957,788
T.F.S.A. certificates	28,787,855	27,121,764
	\$ 80,121,131	\$ 80,079,552

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, 2017, the interest rate applicable to trust deposits is 2.00 percent (2016 - 2.00 percent) and for RRSP Trust and T.F.S.A. funds is 2.50 percent (2016 - 2.50 percent).

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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

### 12. 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:

	2017	2016
Balance, beginning of period	\$ 1,607,356	\$ 1,984,921
Less amount recognized as revenue in the period	(858,028)	(804,339)
Add amount received relating to future periods	791,249	426,774
<b>Balance, end of period</b>	<b>\$ 1,540,577</b>	<b>\$ 1,607,356</b>

As at December 31, 2017, deferred contributions related to expenses of future periods consists of the following:

	2017	2016
Emerging leaders	\$ 46,759	\$ 95,228
Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies	19,419	10,894
Non-registered church plants	357,693	393,291
Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary	373	–
United Bible Society	81,596	62,138
Birch Bay Bible Community Church	300	4,000
C2C Network	968,931	914,465
Other externally restricted	65,506	127,340
	<b>\$ 1,540,577</b>	<b>\$ 1,607,356</b>

Subsequent to December 31, 2017, pursuant to a Management and Agency agreement, deferred contributions related to expenses of future periods related to C2C Network were transferred to MB Mission.

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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

### 13. 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:

	2017	2016
CMU Endowment	\$ 205,077	\$ 205,077
Manitoba Conference Endowment	73,797	73,797
Evangelism Endowment	158,803	158,803
Family Endowment	924,953	924,087
	<u>\$ 1,362,630</u>	<u>\$ 1,361,764</u>

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

(i) Reserve for investment:

For the year ended December 31, 2017, amounts relating to gains and losses on disposal of investments and net gains on land held for development and capital assets plus a surplus distribution were credited or charged to this reserve. For the year ended December 31, 2017, net gains on disposal of land held for development and capital assets of \$985,335 and loss on disposal of investments of \$436,418 were recorded in the reserve for investment. Additionally, for the year ended December 31, 2017, \$480,955 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, 2016, amounts relating to gains and losses on investments and land held for development, amounts relating to credit losses allowed for or recovered, plus a surplus distribution were credited or charged to this reserve. For the year ended December 31, 2016, net gains on disposal of land held for development of \$351,647, losses on disposal of investments of \$62,887, impairment of land held for development of \$100,000 and recovery for credit losses of \$101,841 were recorded in the reserve for investment. Additionally, for the year ended December 31, 2016, \$795,720 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.

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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

### 13. 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, 2017 a total of \$69,186 (2016 - \$236,265) was transferred from the remaining internally restricted net assets to fund the deficit in operations of the Church Ministry Division.

	2017	2016
Reserve for investment	\$ 2,377,102	\$ 2,309,140
Operating Reserve	29,135	29,135
Evangelism Capital	–	56,482
Atlantic Church Planting	–	12,704
Contingency	34,000	34,000
	\$ 2,440,237	\$ 2,441,461

### 14. Commitments:

Individual and church loans:

The Conference has made commitments to individuals and churches for loans that have not been disbursed by December 31, 2017 in the approximate amount of \$9,245,300 (2016 - \$13,443,000).

Lease commitments:

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

2018	\$	201,840
2019		116,067
2020		118,400
2021		19,800

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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

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### 15. Related party balances:

Included in accounts receivable is \$522,022 (2016 - \$382,356) owed from CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc., an entity under common control. This amount is unsecured, due on demand, and there are no specified terms of repayment.

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

### 16. 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 2017 was 5 percent (2016 - 5 percent) of the employee salaries. The pension expense for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$152,948 (2016 - \$163,164).

### 17. 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 financial 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.

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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

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

## (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.

## (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 in 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 exposures from the prior year.

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

Schedule - Church Ministry Division

Year ended December 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Contributions	\$ 5,515,746	\$ 7,423,208	\$ 7,271,231
Sales	453,952	633,896	759,001
	<u>5,969,698</u>	<u>8,057,104</u>	<u>8,030,232</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Cost of sales	49,440	56,931	139,361
Staffing	2,783,377	2,777,299	3,109,962
Specific programming costs	4,014,565	4,161,605	4,619,378
Support of outside agencies	1,313,571	1,378,355	1,457,235
Office expenses	39,208	55,963	55,972
Board costs and convention	144,714	146,101	124,692
Public relation costs	65,162	120,367	72,148
Interest	5,114	10,301	9,032
Administrative expenses	1,591,200	1,847,075	1,707,976
	<u>10,006,351</u>	<u>10,553,997</u>	<u>11,295,756</u>
Deficiency of revenue over expenditures for the year before allocations	(4,036,653)	(2,496,893)	(3,265,524)
Unrestricted fund balance, beginning of year		251,914	228,744
Allocation of funds from Stewardship Division		2,418,319	3,052,429
Transfer from other internally restricted net assets		69,186	236,265
<b>Unrestricted fund balance, end of year</b>		<b>\$ 242,526</b>	<b>\$ 251,914</b>

For the year ended December 31, 2017, the \$2,418,319 allocation of funds from Stewardship Division represents a portion of the excess of revenue over expenditures in the Stewardship Division. Additionally, as disclosed in note 13, \$69,186 was transferred from other internally restricted net assets of the Church Ministry Division in the year ended December 31, 2017 resulting in a decrease to the consolidated unrestricted fund balance of \$9,388.

For the year ended December 31, 2016, the \$3,052,429 allocation of funds from Stewardship Division represents a portion of the excess of revenue over expenses in the Stewardship Division. Additionally, as disclosed in note 13, \$236,265 was transferred from other internally restricted net assets of the Church Ministry Division in the year ended December 31, 2016 resulting in an increase to the consolidated unrestricted fund balance of \$23,170.

Administrative expenses include staffing and other expenses related to administration including finance, human resources, information technology, facilities and other administrative costs that have been allocated to the Church Ministry Division.

Financial Statements of

**CANADIAN MENNONITE  
BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

Year ended December 31, 2017

**CANADIAN MENNONITE BROTHERS PENSION PLAN**

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Year ended December 31, 2017

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Trustees of 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, 2017, 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, 2017, 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 3, 2018

Winnipeg, Canada

## CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN

### Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017	2016
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 2,772,702	\$ 2,565,962
Mutual funds	9,004,576	8,515,858
Fixed income and related securities	23,483,602	28,306,989
Preferred shares	8,249,308	—
Canadian equity and related securities	10,485,287	10,973,663
U.S. equity and related securities	16,166,257	15,443,458
International equity and related securities	15,130,016	13,760,687
	<u>85,291,748</u>	<u>79,566,617</u>
<b>Net assets available for benefits</b>	<b>\$ 85,291,748</b>	<b>\$ 79,566,617</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, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017	2016
Increase in net assets:		
Contributions:		
Employer	\$ 2,248,419	\$ 2,109,478
Employees	2,248,419	2,109,478
Employee voluntary	52,823	1,445,630
Investment income (note 3)	1,813,125	1,822,919
Realized investment gains, net of realized losses	2,820,583	2,082,357
Unrealized investment gains, net of unrealized losses	1,307,528	435,427
	<u>10,490,897</u>	<u>10,005,289</u>
Decrease in net assets:		
Retirement withdrawals	4,559,808	5,140,621
Death withdrawals	—	183,031
Terminations	82,434	82,414
Trustee fees	123,524	118,754
	<u>4,765,766</u>	<u>5,524,820</u>
Increase in net assets available for benefits	5,725,131	4,480,469
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year	79,566,617	75,086,148
<b>Net assets available for benefits, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 85,291,748</b>	<b>\$ 79,566,617</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2017

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## 1. Description of the Plan:

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, 2017

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## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (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 investments 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 not elected to carry any such financial instruments 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, 2017

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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 equities and preferred shares 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, 2017

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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 BRETHREN PENSION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

### 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:

	2017	2016
Mutual funds	\$ 15,667	\$ 13,689
Fixed income and related securities	469,512	740,440
Canadian equity and related securities	605,794	356,860
U.S. equity and related securities	372,856	273,605
International equity and related securities	349,296	438,325
	<b>\$ 1,813,125</b>	<b>\$ 1,822,919</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, 2017

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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, international equity and related securities and preferred shares.

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, 2017, 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 \$1,029,000 (2016 - \$1,220,000).

## CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

### 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, 2017	Actual currency exposure	%
Canadian	\$ 51,593,806	60.49
U.S. dollar	33,697,942	39.51
	\$ 85,291,748	100.00

As at December 31, 2016	Actual currency exposure	%
Canadian	\$ 48,373,633	60.80
U.S. dollar	31,192,984	39.20
	\$ 79,566,617	100.00

A 10 percent increase or decrease in exchange rates at December 31, 2017, with all other variables held constant, would have resulted in a change in unrealized gains (losses) of approximately \$3,370,000 (2016 - \$3,119,000).

#### (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, 2016

#### 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 2017, 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 \$4,178,000 (2016 - \$4,018,000).

##### (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	2017		2016	
	Carrying value	Coupon rate	Carrying value	Coupon rate
AAA	\$ 10,569,836	2.24%	\$ 4,673,387	2.44%
AA	7,689,643	2.00%	7,356,978	1.97%
A	1,917,541	2.25%	12,952,695	2.69%
BBB	3,306,582	3.05%	3,323,929	3.30%
	\$ 23,483,602		\$ 28,306,989	

## CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

#### 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 2017 or 2016.

##### (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:

	2017	2016
Less than one year	\$ 876,635	\$ 1,391,321
One to five years	8,470,386	21,871,300
After five years	14,136,581	5,044,368
<b>Total fair value</b>	<b>\$ 23,483,602</b>	<b>\$ 28,306,989</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, 2017	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 2,772,702	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 2,772,702
Mutual funds	2,016,225	–	6,988,351	9,004,576
Fixed income and related securities	–	23,483,602	–	23,483,602
Preferred shares	8,249,308	–	–	8,249,308
Canadian equity and related securities	10,485,287	–	–	10,485,287
U.S. equity and related securities	16,166,257	–	–	16,166,257
International equity and related securities	15,130,016	–	–	15,130,016
	<b>\$ 54,819,795</b>	<b>\$ 23,483,602</b>	<b>\$ 6,988,351</b>	<b>\$ 85,291,748</b>

## CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

### 5. Disclosures relating to fair value measurements (continued):

December 31, 2016	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 2,565,962	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 2,565,962
Mutual funds	1,863,156	–	6,652,702	8,515,858
Fixed income and related securities	–	28,306,989	–	28,306,989
Canadian equity and related securities	10,973,663	–	–	10,973,663
U.S. equity and related securities	15,443,458	–	–	15,443,458
International equity and related securities	13,760,687	–	–	13,760,687
	\$ 44,606,926	\$ 28,306,989	\$ 6,652,702	\$ 79,566,617

During the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, there were no transfers between levels.

#### Level 3 fair values

The fair value of the mutual funds is determined based on the underlying net asset values of the mutual funds. The following table presents the reconciliation of the Plan's mutual funds measured at fair value using unobservable inputs (Level 3):

Contingent consideration	2017	2016
Balance, beginning of period	\$ 6,652,702	\$ 5,283,685
Unrealized gains	335,649	1,369,017
Balance, end of period	\$ 6,988,351	\$ 6,652,702

## **CANADIAN MENNONITE BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2017

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### **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 2016**

#### **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 a designate from each province, region or area listed in Appendix B hereto attached; 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. 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. (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 through written or electronic means to Member Churches.

**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) MB Mission;
- (2) Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission.

The basic documents for each are as follow:

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding Regarding MB Mission
- (2) Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission

### **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, July, 2016.

## **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**
- 8. Christian Baptism**
- 9. Lord's Supper**
- 10. Discipleship**
- 11. Marriage, Singleness, and Family**
- 12. Society and State**
- 13. Love and Nonresistance**
- 14. Sanctity of Human Life**
- 15. Stewardship**
- 16. Work, Rest and the Lord's Day**
- 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 Sandbox

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### 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.



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Commission members will serve four-year terms. Any limit on the number of consecutive terms served by a member will be determined by the respective national conferences. Terms will be staggered in order to allow for continuity and balance of membership.

The Commission will organize itself by selecting a Chair, Associate Chair and Recording Secretary from among its elected and appointed members. The Chair and Associate Chair will come from different national conferences and the nationality of the persons filling these roles will normally alternate between the two conferences.

An Executive Secretary will be selected by the Historical Commission and be employed by a legal entity (e.g., a Mennonite Brethren school, Conference or congregation). The Historical Commission will reimburse the legal entity for the employee's salary and benefits, according to the funding arrangement made between the Historical Commission and the legal entity.

In addition, one representative from each of the regional archival centers (currently located in Hillsboro, Fresno, Winnipeg and Abbotsford) shall sit on the Commission as ex officio members.

Representatives of historical committees from other Mennonite Brethren national conferences may be invited to participate with the Commission as liaison members. In the future, consideration may be given to formally adding additional member conferences to the Commission and/or evolving the Commission into an ICOMB-based agency.

#### **FUNDING**

Each national conference shall provide the Commission with an annual grant (currently \$12,000 USD from the US Conference and \$13,000 CAD from the Canadian Conference). Periodic review of this amount will take place with the leadership boards of the national conferences. The Commission's budget and financial statement will be provided annually to the leadership boards of the US and Canadian Conferences.

Additional funding for the work of the Commission will continue to be provided by the Cloud of Witnesses Endowment, which is held by Mennonite Brethren Foundation; and by the Historical Commission Endowment, which is held by the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.

#### **REVIEW**

The agreements set forth in this memorandum of understanding and the relationships established herein will be reviewed by the national conferences at least every four years to determine whether any changes are desired.

## **Historical Commission MOU Commentary**

The Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Conference of MB Churches (USMB) and Canadian Conference of MB Churches regarding the Historical Commission has been updated to reflect new funding levels. In the previous MOU, the funding level was set at \$17,000 USD. At the request of the USMB Conference, its funding level was reduced to \$12,000 USD. The Canadian MB Conference contribution of \$13,000 CAD is now stated in Canadian dollars to simplify budgeting.

Changes to the MOU were originally discussed at the binational leadership meetings in the fall of 2017, and the MOU has been processed by both conferences' executive boards. It is now being presented at the national conventions of both the U.S. and Canadian conferences for final ratification.

## Collaborative Model Summary

**MOTION:**

*It is moved that CCMBC implement the Collaborative Model in partnership with the Provincial conferences and MB ministry partners.*

**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLABORATIVE MODEL:**

- Please watch the video at: [www.bit.ly/together-as-one](http://www.bit.ly/together-as-one)
- Visit: [www.mennonitebrethren.ca/intro-to-the-new-collaborative-model/](http://www.mennonitebrethren.ca/intro-to-the-new-collaborative-model/)
  - Please read: Collective\_Impact.pdf
  - Please read: Collective\_Impact\_Summary.pdf
- If you have any detailed questions that you would like answered before Gathering, please email [model@mbchurches.ca](mailto:model@mbchurches.ca).

**WHAT IS MEANT BY THE “COLLABORATIVE MODEL”?**

- a) All six provincial conferences, the national conference and MB ministry partners (MB Seminary, MB Mission and C2C) agree to work together to create a collective impact in Canada.
- b) The six Provincial Directors, the National Director, and a leader from the MB Seminary, MB Mission and C2C will form a new National Ministry Team who will meet regularly. This team will work to strengthen the ministry partnerships.
- c) The provincial conferences will coordinate and deliver services as described by the services model. The national conference will focus on a national denominational role.
- d) A single stream of conference support will be given by the churches to their provincial conferences who will then fund the national conference to complete the tasks that are required at a national level. The two conference giving streams are being combined into one stream with the goal that the total giving by the churches to conference ministry will remain the same.
- e) The national budget will be presented at each provincial convention. (See: *Motion (m) – Approval of a Referendum for the 2019 CCMBC Budget.*) The six provincial budgets and national budget will be developed at the same time, led by the work of the National Ministry Team.
- f) The members of the provincial boards will form a National Assembly which will replace church delegates attending the Annual General Meeting (Gathering) of the national conference. The goal of bringing together all the provincial boards is to align decision making nationally. The details of the National Assembly’s voting structure will be determined as part of the next steps.
- g) Provincial Faith and Life teams will form a National Faith and Life team. A national staff member will be employed to help resource the National Faith and Life team. The national study conferences (EQUIP) will continue to play an important role for gathering the MB family together as part of Building Community.
- h) Members of the National Assembly will form the Assembly Executive. Churches will continue to elect the officers (Moderator, Vice-oderator, Secretary) of the Assembly Executive.

**IF THE COLLABORATIVE MODEL IS APPROVED, WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?**

- i. In the fall of 2018, each province will continue to use their own meeting format (clusters, regional meetings, etc.) to process church feedback regarding the Collaborative Model. In particular, the design of the National Assembly will be discussed.
- ii. Starting January 2019, churches will be asked to combine their provincial and national conference support and send both to the provincial conference office.

### Collaborative Model Summary

- iii. At the spring 2019 provincial conventions, the CCMBC 2019 budget will be presented to churches for approval. The initial plans for the National Assembly will also be presented for processing with churches.
- iv. A Special General Meeting (SGM) will be held in June 2019 to discuss the proposed National Assembly design and required revisions to the CCMBC General Operating Bylaw, but they will not be voted on. The CCMBC 2018 financial statements and auditor could be approved at this meeting, but no other motions will be processed. (Required quorum for this meeting is 30 delegates.)
- v. In fall of 2019, a Special General Meeting will be held at the EQUIP 2019 study conference to approve the revised General Operating Bylaws as it relates to the National Assembly. (Required quorum for this meeting is 100 delegates.)
- vi. In 2020, the Collaborative Model will function under the revised CCMBC bylaws.

The timeline for processing the Collaborative Model with churches will be over two years and will have included two sets of provincial conventions (2018, 2019), a national gathering, two Special General Meetings as well as regional meetings hosted by the provincial conferences. All of the “straw votes” held at the 2018 provincial conventions were supportive of the model.

Note: With the introduction of the Collaborative Model, it is not necessary to change any of the provincial conference bylaws since the membership and voting pertains to matters of the national conference.

**Annual Statistical Survey Report for 2017: Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches**

<b>Survey submissions 2017</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)	20	3	80	44	23	11	21	202
total # of churches (Note 3)	20	4	100	44	31	12	32	243
survey return rate in %	100	75	80	100	74	92	66	83
<b>Number of Churches 2017</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 2017 (Note 3)	20	4	100	44	31	12	32	243
total # of churches 2016 (Note 4)	21	4	104	42	32	12	32	247
change in %	-4.8	0.0	-3.8	4.8	-3.1	0.0	0.0	-1.6
<b>Average weekly attendance 2017</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	2,599	160	23,196	6,593	4,781	947	3,102	41,378
total # for all churches 2017 (Note 5)	2,599	205	29,445	6,593	5,173	997	3,850	48,862
total # for all churches 2016 (Note 4)	2,731	217	27,944	7,239	5,291	906	3,597	47,925
change in %	-4.8	-5.5	5.4	-8.9	-2.2	10.0	7.0	2.0
<b>Membership as of Dec 31, 2017</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	1,967	n/a	16,233	6,541	3,696	539	2,521	31,497
total # for all churches 2017 (Note 5)	1,967	n/a	20,036	6,541	3,847	539	3,236	36,166
total # for all churches 2016 (Note 4)	1,995	n/a	20,202	6,657	3,770	372	3,280	36,276
change in %	-1.4	n/a	-0.8	-1.7	2.0	44.9	-1.3	-0.3

\*\*\*\*\*

**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:** Using information from the 2017 Directory of Mennonite Brethren Churches in Canada or actual 2017 numbers.

**Note 4:** Based on the results of the 2016 Statistical Survey Report. See Gathering 2018 Yearbook.

**Note 5:** Based on survey responses, telephone calls, and estimates supplied by Provincial Conference Ministers' office.

**Note 6:** Only attendance numbers are available for the churches in the Atlantic Provinces (AP).

**Annual Statistical Survey Report for 2016: Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches**

<b>Survey submissions 2016</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	2	75	29	21	10	0	153
total # of churches (Note 3)	21	4	104	42	32	12	33	248
survey return rate in %	76	50	72	69	66	83	0	62
<b>Number of Churches 2016</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>AP</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>MB</b>	<b>ON</b>	<b>PQ</b>	<b>SK (Note 7)</b>	<b>Total</b>
total # of churches 2016 (Note 3)	21	4	104	42	32	12	33	248
total # of churches 2015 (Note 4)	20	4	106	40	32	13	34	249
change in %	5.0	0.0	-1.9	5.0	0.0	-7.7	-2.9	-0.4
<b>Average weekly attendance 2016</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	2,231	97	20,974	5,892	4,684	679	0	34,557
total # for all churches 2016 (Note 5)	2,731	217	27,944	7,239	5,291	906	3,597	47,925
total # for all churches 2015 (Note 4)	2,587	190	29,716	7,369	5,438	898	3,597	49,795
change in %	5.6	14.2	-6.0	-1.8	-2.7	0.9	0.0	-3.8
<b>Membership as of Dec 31, 2016</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	1,895	n/a	16,243	5,479	3,481	372	0	27,470
total # for all churches 2016 (Note 5)	1,995	n/a	20,202	6,657	3,770	372	3,280	36,276
total # for all churches 2015 (Note 4)	2,031	n/a	20,994	6,455	3,837	528	3,280	37,125
change in %	-1.8	n/a	-3.8	3.1	-1.7	-29.5	0.0	-2.3

\*\*\*\*\*

**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:** Using information from the 2016 Directory of Mennonite Brethren Churches in U.S. and Canada.

**Note 4:** Based on the results of the 2015 Statistical Survey Report. See Gathering 2016 Yearbook.

**Note 5:** Based on survey responses and estimates supplied by Provincial Conference Ministers' office.

**Note 6:** Only attendance numbers are available for the churches in the Atlantic Provinces (AP).

**Note 7:** The 2016 statistical survey for SKMB churches was not conducted. The 2016 numbers in this column are the same as 2015.

## Gathering 2018 Yearbook

# Event Statistics

Number of Registrants	236
Number of Canadian MB churches represented	67
Province of Registrants:	
BC	58
AB	16
SK	78
MB	60
ON	17
QC	4
NB	0
NS	0
International Registrants:	
Brazil	2
Thailand	1

## List of Exhibitors

- CCMBC
- CCMBC Legacy Fund
- C2C Network
- CMU
- Columbia Bible College
- Encompass
- ETEQ
- Horizon College & Seminary
- ICOMB
- MB Mission
- MB Seminary
- MCC Canada
- Mennonite Disaster Service
- MWC
- Square One World Media
- Steinbach Bible College

Nominee Roster for Gathering 2018

Board Position	Incumbent	Prov	Ending Term	Eligible	Nominee	Prov	Ending Term	Eligible ;
<b>Executive Board – Elected at Gathering</b>								
<b><u>Executive Committee – 2-year terms – Two term limit</u></b>								
Moderator	Bruce Enns	SK	2018	Y	Bruce Enns	SK	2020	N
Assistant Moderator	Michael Dick	BC	2018	Y	Matt Dyck	AB (Mod)	2020	Y
Secretary	Marilyn Hiebert	BC	2018	Y	vacant		2020	Y
<b><u>Members at large – 6 positions – 4-year terms – Two term limit</u></b>								
Member at large	David MacLean	BC	resigned	Y	Steve Berg	BC	2020	Y
Member at large,	Vacant					NB	2022	Y
Member at large	Howie Wall	SK	2020	N				
Member at large,	vacant				Cam Stuart	BC	2022	Y
Member at large	Karen G Pankratz	MB	2018	Y	Karen G Pankratz	MB	2022	N
Member at large	Michael Dick	BC	2020	Y				
Member at Large	<u>Vacant</u>				Kerry Dyck	AB	2022	Y
<b><u>Provincial Moderators on Executive Board ex officio</u></b>								
Exec BD	Matt Ewert	BC	ex off		Sharon Simpson	BC	appointed	
Exec BD	Matt Dyck	AB	ex off		Matt Dyck	AB	appointed	
Exec BD	Tony Martens	SK	ex off		Tony Martens	SK	appointed	
Exec BD	Ruth Schellenberg	MB	ex off		Abe Klassen	MB	appointed	
Exec BD	Karen West	ON	ex off		Karen West	ON	appointed	
Exec BD	Zacharie Leclair	QC	ex off		Richard Lougheed	QC	appointed	
<b><u>Legacy Board - 2 of 5 elected of which 3 are members of CCMBC Exec Board</u></b>								
Independent Member - Dan Guggenheimer Elected Nov 2017								
Independent Member - vacant								
<b><u>Nominating Committee – 2 positions elected at Gathering – 4-year terms – Two term limit</u></b>								
Chair: Board Secretary								
Canadian Member	Ike Bergen	BC	2018	Y	Ike Bergen	BC	2022	N
Canadian Member	Ralph Gliege	SK	2020	Y				
All Prov Moderators								
<b><u>MB Mission Board – 4 elected/affirmed at Gathering – 4-year terms – Two term limit – terms staggered</u></b>								
Appointed	Ed Heinrichs	ON	2020	N				
Appointed	Bruce Enns	SK	2018	N				
Member at large	Shirley Falk	SK	2020	Y				

Member at large	Allan Dickens	BC	2020	N				
Member at large	David Marshall	BC	2018	Y	David Marshall	BC	2022	N
Member at large	Rick Reimer	BC	2018	Y	Rick Reimer	BC	2022	N
Executive Board Rep								

**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**

Member at large	Roger Braun	BC	2020	N				
Member at large	Donna Vollet	SK	2020	Y				
Member at large	Robert Dyck	BC	2018	Y	Robert Dyck	BC	2022	N
Member at large	John Neufeld	MB	2020	N				
Appointed EB rep	Mark Wessner	BC	Now staff		appointed			
CCMBC Exec Director	Steve Berg	BC	Appointee		appointed			
BFL Rep	Rob Thiessen	BC						

**Historical Commission – 3 elected/affirmed at Gathering – 4 year terms – Two term limit plus an HC appointed member**

Appointed member	J. Janzen	BC						
Canadian Member	Dora Dueck	MB	2018	N	Chris Koop	ON	2022	y
Canadian Member	Patricia Janzen-Loewen	MB	2018	Y	Patricia Janzen-Loewen	MB	2022	N

**Board of Faith and Life – 3 MAL positions elected at Gathering – 4 year terms – Two term limit**

Member at large	Robyn Serez	ON	2020	Y				
Member at large	Ingrid Reichard, Chair (finished D Miller term)	ON	2018	Y	Ingrid Reichard	ON	2022	Y
Member at large	Paul Lam	BC	2020	N				

**BFL Provincial Reps elected in their provinces; Conf Ministers ex officio on BFL**

Provincial Rep	Laurence Hiebert	AB	2018	Y				
Provincial Rep	Christine Longhurst	MB	2020	N				
Provincial Rep	Ben Kramer	SK	2020	Y				
Provincial Rep	Alain Despres	QC	2020	Y				
Provincial Rep	vacant	BC	2018	N				
Provincial Rep	vacant	ON	2020	Y				
Area Rep	Brent Hudson	NB	2020					
Conference Minister	Rob Thiessen	BC						
Conference Minister	Paul Loewen	AB						
Conference Minister	Phil Gunther	SK						
Conference Minister	Elton De Silva	MB						
Conference Minister	Ed Willms	ON						
Conference Minister	Alain Despres	QC						

Seminary Rep	Andrew Dyck	MB			
C2C Rep	Bill Hogg	BC			
MB Mission Rep	Doug Heidebrecht	BC			
<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	vacant

# 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

**Steve Berg (Interim Executive Director) - 2018**

Abbotsford, BC

**Michael Dick (Assistant Moderator) - 2020**

Abbotsford, BC

**Marilyn Hiebert (Secretary) - 2018**

Abbotsford, BC

**Karen Grace-Pankratz (MAL) - 2018**

Winnipeg, MB

**Howie Wall (MAL) - 2020**

Saskatoon, SK

**Sharon Simpson (BC Moderator)**

Abbotsford, BC

**Matt Dyck (Alberta Moderator)**

Calgary, AB

**Tony Martens (Saskatchewan Moderator)**

Dalmeny, SK

**Abe Klassen (Manitoba Representative)**

Niverville, MB

**Karen West (Ontario Representative)**

Waterloo, ON

**Richard Lougheed (Quebec Representative)**

Montreal, QC

**Ingrid Reichard (BFL rep – chair)**

Waterloo, ON

**Paul Lam (BFL rep)**

Surrey, BC

## **Executive Staff**

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

Abbotsford, BC

**Gord Fleming (C2C Network/Multiply CEO)**

Abbotsford, BC

**Bertha Dyck (Legacy CFO)**

Winnipeg, MB

**Norbert Bargaen (HR Director)**

Winnipeg, MB

**Steve Berg (Interim Executive Director)**

Abbotsford, BC

**Niki Liable (Executive Assistant)**

Abbotsford, BC

## **Finance / Audit Committee**

**Howie Wall (Audit Chair)**

Saskatoon, SK

**Tony Martens**

Dalmeny, SK

**Michael Dick**

Abbotsford, BC

## **Legacy Board**

**Howie Wall (chair)**

Saskatoon, SK

**Tony Martens**

Dalmeny, SK

**Michael Dick**

Abbotsford, BC

**Dan Guggenheimer**

### Governance Committee

**Cam Stuart**

Abbotsford, BC

**Kerry Dyck**

Abbotsford BC

### Personnel Compensation Committee

**Karen Grace-Pankratz (Chair)**

Winnipeg, MB

**Sam Reimer**

Moncton, NB

**Matt Dyck**

Calgary, AB

### MBBS Board Representative

**Rob Thiessen (BFL rep to MBBS)**

Abbotsford, BC

### MB Mission Board - Canadian Members

**Randy Friesen (General Director, MB Mission)**

Abbotsford, BC

**Ed Heinrichs - 2020**

Virgil, ON

**Bruce Enns - 2018**

Saskatoon, SK

**Shirley Falk (MAL) - 2020**

Winnipeg, MB

**Allan Dickens (MAL) - 2020**

Williams Lake, BC

**David Marshall (MAL) – 2018**

Surrey, BC

**Rick Reimer (MAL) - 2018**

Surrey, BC

**Historical Commission - Canadian Members**

**J Janzen**

Abbotsford, BC

**Dora Dueck - 2018**

Winnipeg, MB

**Patricia Janzen Loewen – 2018**

Winnipeg, MB