



Called & Commissioned

"GO AND BEAR FRUIT THAT WILL LAST" JOHN 15:16



BCMB CONVENTION 2023
NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
MISSION, BC | APRIL 28-29, 2023

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BCMB CONVENTION 2023



You did not choose me,

but I chose you and appointed you

so that you might go and bear fruit

—fruit that will last



John 15:16

I can't think of a better theme, nor a greater promise, for our churches to rally around.

Jesus' words give us confidence to press into the cultural moment we find ourselves living in; knowing that we have been called and sent by the Master, and that fruitful labours are promised to His children!

While the world around us seems to spiral more and more into disorder and chaos, and while we have our own personal, church, and denominational challenges, we anchor ourselves to the promises of our faithful God! He has promised us that as we abide in Him, we will bear much fruit!

Northview is pleased to host our sister churches this year as we refocus our vision and ministries around the goals of evangelism and discipleship. Our prayer (as hosts) has been that God will use these days together to be a catalyst for greater fruitfulness in ministry for all of us.

May God be pleased to meet with us in new and fresh ways; for the sake of the lost, for the Glory of God, and for the JOY of His people!

Pastor Mark Burch

Northview Community Church

1 Corinthians 15:58

CONVENTION 2023

Agenda

Friday, April 28, 2023

1:00 pm Pastor's Equipping Sessions with Iain Provan

Session 1

3:00 pm Coffee Break

3:30 pm Session 2

5:30 pm Celebration Dinner

7:00 pm Celebration Service

Worship, Churches Planting Churches Stories & Testimonies, Message from Iain Provan: Courageous Faith in our Secular Society

Saturday, April 29, 2023

8:00 am Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30 am Opening

Worship
Welcome & Greeting

Saturday, April 29, 2023 cont.

9:00 am **Conference Minister's Report | Q&A**

Director of Resource Ministries' Report | Q&A

Moderator's Report | Q&A

10:25 am **Coffee Break**

10:45 am **The Way Forward Presentation | Q&A**

11:45 am **2023 BCMB Budget Presentation | Q&A**

12:10 pm **Lunch**

1:10 pm **Ministry Reports | Q&A**

Bryan Born | Columbia Bible College

Mark Wessner | MB Seminary

Bruce Enns | Multiply

NOTE: PMC, Camps, and Church Planting will not present a verbal report. Please read their reports in this document. Time will be given at the end for Q&A.

2:10 pm **Financials | Q&A**

Curtis Braun | Loewen Kruse Chartered Professional Accountants

Q&A

PMC, Camps & Church Planting

[Vote on the Presented Recommendations](#)

3:05 pm **Canadian Conference | Q&A**

Elton DaSilva | CCMBC

Jason Krueger | Legacy

3:35 pm **Voting Results & Closing Remarks**

Willing Hands

RIVER OF LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

by Sandi Reutlinger

Lead Pastor, River of Life Community Church

Where is God working and moving here in the Shuswap? Looking around, I see evidence of God's mighty hand at work all over the place in different and unexpected ways. In our surrounding communities, God is working, accomplishing His purposes for more and more people to experience His life changing mercy and love. I see God's people, walking out their daily life as God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, loving God and loving the people around them in practical and powerful ways.

Here are a few of our God stories:

One day last year, an elderly lady who attends our church was shopping at a little strip mall up the road. She came across a woman who was in obvious distress and in need of some help. She didn't hesitate to offer a kind word, the use of her phone, and the opportunity to pray for peace and for God to work. Prayers were answered for this woman as she found support and encouragement through our church. Today, you wouldn't recognize her as the same person. She is maintaining sobriety, has found a depth of faith in Jesus she's never before experienced, and is surrounded by the family

of God. As we journey together, she is finding her identity and worth in Christ and sharing her faith with others.

Our Lego Club has 104 kids registered (who thankfully don't all show up at the same time!), but an average of 40-50 kids attend each week for a loud, fun, chaotic time of building Lego and community. Some of our seniors attend simply to sit and chat with the kids and the parents who stay. We alternate Wednesday nights between Lego Club and Jr. Youth and both are mostly attended by kids from the community. By the end of each night, we are thanking the Lord for questions asked and conversations had with kids and also their parents or caregivers. Some of these families are now attending Sundays too and two boys were baptized last summer.

On a Sunday morning during worship service, I noticed a grade six girl dancing to the music. She found Jesus last summer at Bible Camp and she now comes to church every Sunday with her friend and her friend's family. Later, after the service, she ate lunch with us at our monthly community "Soup Sunday". Her friend's family had to leave but there she was, sitting at a table with random older people from church. Did she even know them, I wondered? Then I saw that "Gramma Lori" was at her table too. She would know this 80-year-old lady from Lego Club as Lori comes each week to just be present,

“They had hearts desiring to give God glory and to help people find their hope in Jesus. They had eyes to see the opportunities before them and willing hands, feet, and mouths to do God’s work.”

talk to the kids and chat with the parents who stay for coffee. No wonder she felt comfortable to stay for lunch! Thank you Jesus, for camps and the amazing work they do with our kids!

We’ve had the privilege of praying for miracles and seeing God answer in unbelievable ways – often through using His people. Whether it is giving shelter, transportation, a helping hand, or passionate prayer, we want to see more and more of these stories! Stories like a cancerous tumour miraculously healed, affordable rent found, a pregnancy that should’ve ended yet resulted in a full-term healthy birth, a family restored, trauma healed, forgiveness given, and freedom from addictions found. There was also the answer to prayer that looked a bit different: Rather than a loved one healed, the mother’s fear and anxiety were released as the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding became a reality in her life.

What’s common about every story is that God’s people came alongside and allowed God to use them in mostly very ordinary ways. They had hearts desiring to give God glory and to help people find their hope in Jesus. They had eyes to see the opportunities before them and willing hands, feet, and mouths to do God’s work.

We’ve been praying for God to bring a wave of renewal and revival to British Columbia and beyond, and we believe our communities are experiencing a hunger and desire for Jesus that won’t stop any time soon.



Common Understandings

Jesus at the Centre of Everything

Colossians 1:17

We see ourselves first and foremost as followers of Jesus Christ. We are a people redeemed and justified by Christ's atoning death and victorious resurrection. We now seek to put His life and teaching at the centre of our lives as we:

- ▶ read the Bible, illuminated by Jesus' life and work
- ▶ discern our ethics through the lens of Jesus' example
- ▶ worship God, radiantly revealed in Jesus Christ
- ▶ experience community created by Jesus' indwelling Spirit
- ▶ live out God's gospel mission with Jesus' authority and power.

Preaching and Discipleship Shaped by Scripture

Psalms 119:105, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 4:2

God's Word, the Bible, is our functional and final authority for faith and life. We read, understand, and obey the Bible in the context of community. We value both the ministry of preaching and teaching the Scripture, as well as the participation of each member of the community as we search the Scriptures to discern God's will and leading together. Our churches place a high value on equipping people to think biblically about our world.

Community Formed by the Holy Spirit

John 16, 1 Corinthians 12, Galatians 5

Our common experience of the living Spirit of Jesus filling our lives, and our gatherings, generates the holy character of Jesus within us and motivates us to live lives of worship and mission. Our prayer life is an essential link by which the Lordship of Christ and leading of the Spirit is cultivated. The gifts and fruit of the Spirit at work in our lives build up the church, empower us in mission, and allow us to live in gracious accountability.

The statement below describes the ethos and priorities that we, as Mennonite Brethren churches in British Columbia, share and to which we aspire. It is intended to encourage, guide, and inspire one another to greater faithfulness and effectiveness, and promote understanding for those who are new to our fellowship.

Our Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith remains the authorized and comprehensive doctrinal foundation upon which these understandings are built.

A Church that is on Mission

Genesis 12:1-3, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8

God, who came into this world to seek and to save the lost and to set the captives free, is now sending His people out with the same mission. Through prayer we receive power and guidance to participate in God's redemptive mission. Both locally and globally, we empower and support one another to preach and live the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A Church that Reflects Jesus Transforming Life

1 Peter 2, John 13:14

Following Jesus means we practice justice, generosity, and peace-making in our relationships and in our community engagement. Our allegiance to the Kingdom of God commissions us to live selflessly, as visible reminders of God's love and goodness, and to seek the peace and well-being of our society. We glorify God by being creative and careful stewards of culture, by speaking prophetically against idolatry, and by enduring the persecution and sacrifice to which Christ calls us.

A Church that Serves in an Atmosphere of Cooperation and Accountability

Hebrews 10:25, Philippians 2:2

Our collective commitment is that each church will give expression to these common understandings in a culturally relevant manner and will seek to remain supportive and engaged with the wider Mennonite Brethren family and its ministries. Belonging to this family includes affirming our Confession of Faith, pastoral credentialing, and engaging Mennonite Brethren agencies and ministries with financial support and participation.



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:
 - ▶ Wait for acknowledgment by the moderator.
 - ▶ State your name, church, and the community you come from.
 - ▶ 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 three times on one issue. The mover of a motion may answer questions 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. For online delegates, the “Digital Voting Policy for Conventions of the Conference” will be followed. Additional instructions may be provided by the moderator regarding any other meeting procedures required by online delegates.
9. In general, Robert’s Rules of Order will be followed.

2023 CONVENTION *Recommendations*

1. That all ministry reports be approved.
2. The BCMB EB recommends the creation of a new staff position. This individual will lead our BCMB staff and churches toward evangelism, multiplication, and renewal.
3. That the 2023 Church Ministry contribution budget be set at \$1,656,000.
4. That an additional deployment of \$275,000 is approved to be added to the baseline BCMB budget for 2023 to launch The Way Forward initiatives. This amount would bring the total 2023 budget up to \$1,931,000, and is intended to cover both staffing costs (including the hire of an Executive Staff Lead), as well as investing in collaboration and resourcing.
5. That the 2024 Church Ministry contributions be set at \$1,950,000
6. That the audited financial statements, prepared by Loewen Kruse Chartered Accountants for the fiscal year 2022, be approved as presented.
7. That we appoint Loewen Kruse Chartered Accountants as the accounting firm to perform an audit of the financial records and prepare the financial statements for the year 2023.
8. That the nomination slate be affirmed and approved as presented.
9. That the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches supports the transfer of the property title of Highland Community Church to Highland Community Church society for Gospel use.



Moderator's

REPORT

by **Sharon Simpson**, Executive Board

In reading Colossians, we are reminded of Paul's heart for the Church. He asks God to give you, the Church, complete knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding (1:9). I echo this prayer for the churches of BCMB.

It has been a privilege to serve on the BCMB Executive Board (EB) since 2015 and as your Moderator since 2017. This convention marks the end of my six year tenure as Moderator. It has been a time of incredible challenge as well as reliance on God to give us endurance and patience, knowing that He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear One, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

This past year, the BCMB Executive Board asked the question, "What is next for our conference?"

The Church Planting Taskforce, who have cared for and resourced our church planters over the last several years, have now completed their term.

We began to ask God for a new vision of renewal, evangelism, and multiplication – one that could be shared by all of our churches in the province. This hope was sparked in 2021. A committee to support and equip churches in this area was added to our bylaws that were passed in 2022. This year, we will form that committee by voting in members to serve our churches as we join together to see people come to Christ.

In the spring of 2022, it became clear to the Executive Board that BCMB was in need of a change. For many years, our budget included a third executive staff member to share the work of leading and nurturing the camps and churches of our conference. This had not transpired, so we sought out a consultant who would be able to give us insight for moving forward as a healthy and growing conference.

We brought in Dr. Paul Borden in June to help us better understand the existing state of BCMB and to plan for the future. He spent time with the EB,



“It became clear to us that any changes must resonate with the pastors and leaders of our conference. Would there be a desire among us to embrace a shared vision for evangelism and deep change?”

pastors, and leaders, listening to their perspectives on our conference. From this, he wrote a report that shared his observations and recommendations. The Executive Board received the report and spent time with Dr. Borden in the fall of 2022. The report is sobering – a reality check into the state of BCMB as a conference. The EB shared personal conviction around the report and a desire to bring to our own lives and the churches the deep change that was addressed in the report. But how? It became clear to us that any changes must resonate with the pastors and leaders of our conference. Would there be a desire among us to embrace a shared vision for evangelism and deep change?

Next, we circulated this report among pastors and church leadership to discern together if it was helpful to inform us in moving forward. We held three sessions to discuss the report in January and March at Willingdon Church, North Langley Community Church, and Willow Park Church. It was also available via Zoom. 157 BCMB leaders attended. In each session, there was expectant energy in the room, shared passion, and shared agreement that we are in need of a change. Leaders shared how God spoke to them about their own lives through the report. They shared their concerns, their hurt through factions, and their hope for continued allegiance in the work of the gospel in our province.

These meetings were deeply encouraging as we heard the sharp thinking, wisdom, resilience, admonition, conviction, and passion for faithfulness and obedience expressed around the tables and together in discussion. In addition, many leaders reached out through email or phone calls to share their perspectives as we work and plan to move forward together. There were cautions with sincere eagerness to moving forward in an intentional way to see renewal and revival in our churches. How can we do this? By re-engaging the focus of sharing the gospel in each church context and by discipling those who come to Christ. Thank you, all, for your input. It was deeply meaningful to me, personally, to hear you express your thoughts, concerns, and hopes for the future of your churches and BCMB as a conference. It is clear that God is at work among us.

In theaters now, the movie *Jesus Revolution* is a timely example of the deep change that took place in Chuck Smith’s church in 1965 as he opened

the doors to hippies to find new life in Christ. The deep change that made people “gulp” is depicted as hippies filled the pews in the church. They were welcomed. The gospel was preached and thousands found freedom, forgiveness of their sins, and experienced the spiritual transformation symbolized through baptism – dead to sin, but alive in Christ! (Romans 6:11)

One of the challenges for each BCMB church is to take a look at their own growth through baptism and ask the penetrating question of what their focus is with respect to sharing Christ with those in their neighbourhood. This question is irrespective of the size of the church. Is your church actually growing? Are you seeing people who previously had no relationship with Christ come to understand how He came, not to judge and condemn, but to save them? (John 3:16)

In this cultural moment, we are experiencing intense antagonism towards the Church and to Christ. We are also seeing the greatest explosion of self-proclaimed “spiritual gurus” rising up on Instagram, Tik Tok, and other platforms to tell people how to find an abundant life. Jesus said that He came to give abundant life, that He is water that will never leave you thirsty. People are longing to find an answer.

More than transfer growth, we long to see growth through individuals finding Jesus and listening to His voice when He invites them to “follow me”. Our consultant’s report urges us to pray for renewal, to pray for people to find Christ – and to work in the harvest to reap a harvest – asking God for more than we could ever ask or imagine. What is more than you could ask for or imagine in your own church? What would church look like for your congregation if you were seeing an influx of people who were longing for a new life and finding it in Christ?



As a result of this report and subsequent conversations, we will bring a starting point to this new vision to the AGM in a presentation called, "The Way Forward". It comes from discerning the consultant's report, the stirring of the Holy Spirit among us through prayer and fasting, and the input of BCMB pastors and leaders through the listening sessions. It's not a strategy. It is a vision to step together in a clear direction – the refocusing of our collective energies on sharing the gospel in our unique contexts and seeing the transforming work of the Holy Spirit when He enters the life of an unbeliever. With this vision comes intention – the intention to examine our own lives, our church programs, and how we use our buildings and our finances in order to have a laser focus on the work of inviting others into new life in Christ. As this refocus takes root in our individual hearts and moves into the heart of our churches, we pray for and anticipate more than we could ask for or imagine – churches renewed together across our province, bringing new life and growth through new believers to our BCMB churches.

The Way Forward will need our shared resources in order to be successful – the resources of hiring a new senior leader who will be given the open door in our churches to enflame renewal in our own hearts and in the hearts of those we lead. We will need additional finances in order to bring pastors and leaders together in cohorts to be renewed by God's call and vision. We need the resource of time – freeing up pastors to join a cohort for intentional training, prayer, and renewal together.

The Way Forward will need our shared conviction that our calling as a conference is to invite people to follow Jesus – with our unity around this calling as central to our shared respect and care for each other. Jesus reminds us that the world will hate us

"I have great hope that we will rally around The Way Forward, allowing the Holy Spirit to stir within us and unleash us in ways that will bear lasting and eternal fruit together in our province."

(John 17) and calls us to unity together as a testimony to the world, seeking and longing to be a beacon of hope and light to those who do not, yet, know Him.

The Way Forward will need an approach, a perspective in each church's context. It is not a call to evangelism in the style or traditions that took place in the past. It is the discovery of how God is calling each church to share the Good News in today's culture with today's perspectives and concerns. We will need to follow Paul's example – becoming all things to all people so that by all possible means, some may be saved (1 Cor. 9:22). This means living an authentic life, a life where we do what is right, love being merciful, and walk humbly with the Lord who walks with us.

As you, the BCMB family of churches are entering this new time of collective mission, I am completing my last term as Moderator. Thank you for the trust that you have put in me and the BCMB EB over these years. It has been both a challenge and a privilege to serve with you in this role. I have great hope that, as a conference of churches, we will rally around The Way Forward, allowing the Holy Spirit to stir within us and unleash us in ways that will bear lasting and eternal fruit together in our province. And in all of this, may the peace of Christ rule in your heart, letting the richness of the message of Christ fill your lives (Col. 3:15, 16).

Conference Minister's REPORT

by Rob Thiessen

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last." John 15:16

In the hours before his crucifixion, Jesus undergirds His disciples for the challenges ahead by reassuring them that they have been chosen and commissioned to leave a lasting legacy – His lasting legacy.

Jesus speaks the same word to his people today. Coming out of COVID, a season where believers and especially leaders, have often felt discouraged and powerless, Jesus wants us to understand that we are not failures or victims. We are his chosen friends (v. 15) appointed to His good purposes.

As a community of churches, BCMB is also convinced that Jesus has chosen us and appointed us to bear lasting fruit. Together in 2023, we are purposing to align ourselves anew with that calling.

Through a prayerful process of discernment, we are recommending a path that will refocus our staff and resources on the renewal and revitalization of every BCMB church in Jesus and in His purpose of fruitfulness. An important step on this journey will be the decision to create a new staff leadership role at BCMB with this focus as the central mandate.

This recommendation, along with a vision and plan to foster renewal and vitality in every BCMB church, was part of a report submitted by Dr. Paul Borden on the invitation of our BCMB Executive Board. This report has been a catalyst for robust conversations about the future of our community of churches in BC. It is the intention of the Executive Board to focus the resources of BCMB toward the development of renewal cohorts where pastors commit together to learn and exercise the leadership habits that can encourage a new heart for prayer, evangelism, and wholistic discipleship in the congregations which they serve.



“Through a prayerful process of discernment, we are recommending a path that will refocus our staff and resources on the renewal and revitalization of every BCMB church in Jesus and in His purpose of fruitfulness.”

I am excited about this new chapter and believe it is of the Lord. I am trusting that God is already ahead of us on this path. With every church invited to join this renewal focus, new staff to support it, and an ongoing plan to nurture it, we will see an encouraging increase of lasting fruit.

Looking back on 2022, it is clear that God has never stopped bringing forth amazing fruit through our BCMB family.

- ▶ Creekside Fellowship in Dawson Creek is a new church plant nurtured by North Peace Church in Fort St. John and supported by Northview Community Church and others in the Lower Mainland. Pastor Dave Hildebrand reports that people are experiencing healing from addictions and both adults and young people are being baptized.
- ▶ Cedar Park Church in Ladner is experiencing a revitalized ministry with direct pastoral support from Church on Five. Leaders are stepping into their calling and attendance at worship services has been growing. We also praise God for the encouragement and support offered by Christ City Church and others.



Creekside Fellowship Sunday Worship Service



Praxis Church in Kelowna is exploring adding a third service to accommodate growth



Above photos: MainStreet Church in Chilliwack packs donated items for local schools



Metro Church in Kelowna

“These and so many other stories give witness that the BCMB family deeply desires to bear fruit in Christ.”

- ▶ The new Aldergrove Campus of North Langley Community Church is thriving with a weekly attendance of around 300.
- ▶ Metro Church reports that the city of Kelowna has opened a wide invitation to the church to help them address homelessness and the many challenges that go with it. Pastor Joel Feddersen shares that many people have returned to faith and many others are engaging with the church for the first time.
- ▶ Black Creek Community Church is experiencing a surge of ministry opportunities among children in the community. Over 40 girls participate in a “Gems” program, and a drop-in day for homeschooling families welcomes 70 people to the church. Not all are believers.
- ▶ South Abbotsford Church has commissioned youth pastor, Mike Olynyk, to pursue a growing neighbourhood fellowship he and his wife host in Willowbrook as a potential church plant. People are coming to know Christ!
- ▶ Christ City Church recently shared that a google search led a man with numerous health and identity challenges to wander into their church last fall. The man hadn’t been to church in 30 years and was predisposed to hate evangelical

Christians. He was warmly welcomed, and although identifying with the gay community for many years, he is finding a new family in the church, new life through repentance and faith in Jesus, and is planning to be baptized!

- ▶ Alpha courses continue to bear fruit. Stories of people far from God coming to know Jesus are a regular and expected part of this course. In 2022, BCMB churches hosted a total of 31 adult and 26 youth Alpha courses. The Spirit of God is using Alpha in our churches and around the world to bring people to Christ. If your church is not hosting Alpha, why not? The course is now available in Mandarin and totally free online. (alphacanada.org)
- ▶ Praxis Church in Kelowna reports 45 people participated in evangelism training this year. There were a dozen baptisms in 2022 and 15 more this Easter! Some of these new believers are former atheists and JWs. Pastor Josh Dool recently preached a series entitled "Doubting." The Lord is using these messages to bring people to Himself. Praxis is currently exploring adding a third service to accommodate the growth they are experiencing.
- ▶ Chilliwack churches like Main Street and Central continue to impact their communities through involvement in the local schools. Meals are served, teachers are supported, and student supplies are donated. These simple acts of kindness express the love of Christ and increase receptivity to the gospel message.

- ▶ Sardis Community Church has been greatly encouraged by a mother and daughter with a Muslim background that have come to faith in Jesus. They have shown great courage in being baptized and continue to inspire the church.
- ▶ Neighbourhood Church in Nanaimo along with other BC churches deeply appreciate the help and guidance that John and Jen Johnstone are offering as they explore reconciliation and relationship with First Nations communities.
- ▶ Pastor Brandt Vanroekel at Christ City Kits reports that his non-religious neighbours who recently accepted his invitation to attend church, are eagerly wanting to participate in a community group and learn to follow Jesus. Notable is the fact that Pastor Brandt has been preaching clear New Testament messages about sin and the need for salvation. The word of God preached faithfully with love and humility draws people to Jesus.

These and so many other stories give witness that the BCMB family deeply desires to bear fruit in Christ. Our Pastor to Pastor BCMB Podcast regularly features ministry stories from our churches as well as insightful conversations on issues that pertain to everyday ministry.

My prayer is that the commitments we make as a community this year will result in every church bearing even more fruit, and every leader finding new encouragement and equipping to live the purpose for which Jesus has chosen and appointed them.

Director of Resource Ministries'

REPORT

by Denis Federau

*"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
Lamentations 3:22-23.*

This AGM marks my seventh year serving our BCMB churches as the Director of Resource Ministries. As I look back on the past seven years and review the reports I've submitted for our AGM, I discovered a common theme: God's faithfulness to us.

2017: God is faithful to equip us for His good work

2018: God is faithful because He is constant

2019: God is faithful during our trials

2020: God is faithful through His majesty

2021: God is faithful by providing for our needs

2022: God is faithful through Jesus' love for us

Just as in years past, it has been my privilege and honour to serve our churches and come alongside our pastors this year, providing them with financial resources for the stewardship and management

of the gifts God has entrusted to their church; providing resources and relevant materials to assist them in navigating the ever-increasingly complex world of HR; assessing and integrating safety policies to mitigate liability in their ministries; ensuring adequate insurance coverage for their buildings and activities; clarifying and updating church governance and policies; providing resources related to CRA and tax issues; and, assisting during seasons of crisis, be they personal, in their leadership, or within the entire church body.

However, I would not have been able to provide many of the above mentioned resources without the work of our Stewardship Advisory Committee (SAC). Without this team, led by Selwyn Uittenbosch, my work would have been nearly impossible to achieve. While our SAC team is small, they lean in with full dedication, commitment, and an abundant and evident love for our BCMB churches. Their collective wisdom, knowledge, and seasoned insight is a vital resource for our churches.



“While our Stewardship Advisory Committee is small, they lean in with full dedication, commitment, and an abundant and evident love for our BCMB churches.”

Looking back at 2022, much of the energy in our office was focused on assisting churches to remain operational as they felt the impact of the downturn in our economy. The high interest rates coupled with exorbitant commodity costs have caused many of our churches to struggle to remain operationally viable.

Another area that demanded significant attention was in our bookkeeping department. Shortly after last year’s AGM, Sandra Schmidt felt led to seek employment elsewhere. We are deeply grateful for the hard work and dedication Sandra poured into our BCMB operations as she oversaw and managed our books during her time at BCMB! Her departure, however, forced us to find a suitable replacement





in a relatively short time. Thanks to the willingness and generosity of Carol Stewart, who is a valuable member of our Stewardship Advisory Committee, we were able to bridge the gap for this important position until Susan Schlaak joined our team in September. I want to acknowledge the hard work Carol undertook during the summertime to bring continuity to our operations. She also added clarity and streamlined many of our processes, updated our bookkeeping system, and introduced efficiencies as we prepared to welcome Susan. Thank you!

Working alongside our Governance Committee, we began the process of reviewing our new BCMB bylaws which were approved at last year's AGM. Our ongoing commitment and desire is to review our bylaws on a continual basis to keep them updated, aiming to make incremental and manageable rather than large-scale changes. While the Governance Committee organized and held a townhall meeting this past fall to review the first eight articles of our bylaws, we have pressed pause in the interim as the Executive Board discerns further changes that may come by implementing the recommendations from the Borden report.

In our national partnership with CCMBC, we continue to work alongside Elton DaSilva and the rest of the National Ministry Team (NMT) to make our Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP) operational. There are four areas of focus, which mirror the focal points within our BCMB operations: Spiritual Health, Mission, Leadership Development, and Organizational Health. We spent time last fall on bringing clarity in the area of mission and leadership development.

On a personal level, one of the highlights of this past year was visiting our pastors in northern BC and the

Okanagan and spending time in prayer with them. I visited our churches in Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Prince George, Vanderhoof, Prince Rupert, Penticton, and Kelowna.

“I have witnessed renewal and growth in many of our churches... I have seen our pastors give their best to the Lord and to their churches.”

Perhaps more than anyone else (other than Rob Thiessen) I have had the privilege to see first-hand how God works in and through our local churches to bring hope and salvation through the message of Jesus Christ into their communities. I have witnessed renewal and growth in many of our churches, through church planting, evangelism, and offering community-oriented programs. I have seen our pastors give their best to the Lord and to their churches.

However, I have also witnessed the struggles many of our church leaders and pastors are facing as they lead their congregations. And this is where my heart beats the strongest. My desire is to continue serving pastors, supporting them as they stand on the front lines, leading their congregations through the unrest and turbulence which seems to permeate our society.

I feel called to serve the Bride of Christ. The reason I went into ministry was to pour my gifts and passion into people's lives. I live to see our churches revitalized for the gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of His Holy Spirit. I can't think of a better place to do it than by serving our BCMB churches and pastors.

Pastoral Ministries Committee

REPORT

by The PMC Committee

Eldon Fehr, Trevor Stearns, Gary Simpson, Thaleia Sawatzky, Freddy Orozco, Craig Reimer, Rob Thiessen

Our theme as a BCMB Conference for 2022 was “Finding Fortitude Together.” The Lord reminded us all at Convention of the call to “contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints” (Jude 3). That theme and reminder were timely messages for the Pastoral Ministries Committee (PMC) as we carried a particularly heavy load last spring. At our Whistler convention, the painful story of a contentious church split over doctrinal issues was shared. The removal of Pastor Lee Kosa’s credentials as an MB pastor in early March 2022 were a part of that very difficult discernment process led by our committee.

Your PMC members found endurance and encouragement in your prayers and support as they carefully investigated, and then discerned appropriate disciplinary actions. The teamwork and leadership of our Executive Board and especially

our moderator, Sharon Simpson, were also deeply appreciated.

Now, with a year’s distance to reflect on those hard conversations and emotionally charged meetings, we are so grateful to report that Cedar Park Church is experiencing freedom in worship and unity as an MB church in full support of our Confession of Faith. The partnership and support offered by Christ City Church and Church on Five has been phenomenal.

Last fall, a formal partnership between Church on Five and Cedar Park was solidified. Pastors Rachel and Chris Wilson from Church on Five alternate preaching between the two locations. A committed team of Cedar Park elders have been confirmed. Giving is consistent and God is bringing new people to the church. Baptisms are planned for this spring and there is hope and faith for the future.

We hope this good news story will encourage you as it has us. These are difficult days where many believers are inclined to abandon the authority of

God's Word and accommodate the prevailing social norms on many issues. It is no small challenge for us as servants of Christ to hold fast to His Word with the love and grace that His Spirit desires.

2022 has also been a year where the evangelical church in Canada has been tragically reminded once again that we are not immune to the scandal of clergy sexual abuse. The arrest of several pastors at The Meeting House in Ontario is a warning sign that we must work diligently to support Christ-centered ministry and accountability among our BCMB pastors.

The Sacred Trust workshop for pastors is now available online at the BCMB website. Our PMC members help facilitate this vital workshop that helps inform pastors about clergy abuse so that they can protect their people and the ministry more effectively.

The work of credentialing pastors and supporting doctrinal integrity and ethical accountability continues for the PMC. We are grateful to report the following pastors who have been credentialed in the last year:

Ben Fredericksen

North Langley Community Church

Joshua Scott

Northview Community Church

Dolly Oliech

Northview Community Church

Andrew Gleddiesmith

Fraserview Church

“It is no small challenge for us as servants of Christ to hold fast to His Word with the love and grace that His Spirit desires.”

Kwok Chu Law

Richmond Pacific Grace Church

Rod Adrian

Central Heights Church

David Morelli

Central Heights Church

Nathan Archer

Central Heights Church

Sean Byun

Westside Church

The PMC is also delighted to affirm the ordination of two pastors:

Eliza Lai

Ben Tse

The PMC and Executive Board have also been involved in equipping pastors by sponsoring a full day seminar with Dr. Bruce Miller, author of “Leading a Church in a Time of Sexual Questioning”, and in bringing our retreat speaker, Dr. David Short, to the Pastor and Spouse Retreat in 2022. The testimony and teaching of David and Bron brought the encouragement and endurance which we desperately needed. We look forward to seeing what God will do in the year ahead.

Church Planting Taskforce REPORT

by The Church Planting Taskforce

Phil Collins, Denis Federau, Brett Landry, Lee Francois,
Willy Reimer, Joe Haynes, Mike Klassen & Rob Thiessen

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Romans 10:14-15

In the two preceding verses, Paul reminds the believers in Rome that there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, “...for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (vs. 13). So, the only way people can call on the name of Jesus is if they have heard it. This is the great commandment our Lord Jesus gave to us before ascending back to heaven after his resurrection. We are called to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:16-20).

The Church Planting Taskforce has the privilege of supporting BCMB churches who are raising up

church planters and church plants using a variety of models. We have been blessed to help these churches assess and support new churches from Dawson Creek to Kelowna to the Lower Mainland.

This year, new initiatives are being pursued in Surrey (through Christ City Church), in Victoria (through Beacon Church), and in Langley (through South Abbotsford Church). We believe that churches planting churches is the most viable and effective approach to church planting and so we are delighted to see each of these churches moving forward with a sense of ownership and calling to fulfil the great commission through church planting.

BCMB funding through the Church Planting Taskforce continues to support Creekside Fellowship in Dawson Creek, North Langley Community Church’s Aldergrove Campus, Praxis church in Kelowna, and Central Community’s Harrison Campus. Each of these churches are

thriving in their first years of ministry. They are baptizing new believers and already two of the churches (Praxis and Creekside) are facing space issues as they are outgrowing their facilities. The Harrison and Aldergrove campuses are utilizing Alpha and kids camps as ways to build relationships and share the good news of Jesus. Each of these churches are building a strong core of volunteers and leaders, and have a growing small group network where people can experience care, friendship, and accountability.

We also deeply appreciate Northview Church in Abbotsford in this regard. Northview continues to invest heavily in church planting through its church planters residency program, through providing funding for church plants (Praxis, Creekside, Tri

Cities, Midtown and others) and for its initiative in developing a Canada-wide network for churches planting churches (Churches Together).

This year we also praise God for the vitality of several churches which have graduated from our financial support. Midtown Church in Vancouver along with Christ City East Van and Christ City Kits are all continuing strong in reaching their communities with the gospel.

We are blessed as a BCMB family through our partnerships to be able to support multiplying churches and church planters' salaries with a combined total of \$254,000 for 2022. For this coming year, we have committed over \$220,000 through church planters' salary support so far.



Launch of Central Community Church, Harrison Campus

Across our BCMB community there are amazing stories of renewal and growth that are not directly connected with the work of the Church Planting Taskforce as a committee. A few examples that merit your prayers are the renewal of Cedar Park Church in Ladner and the ongoing rebuilding of the Lake Errock fellowship.

“We are praying that every church within our BCMB family would be revitalized in Christ and reenergized in reaching the lost of their communities with the gospel.”

Following the devastating division of Cedar Park Church last March, pastors from Christ City Church Vancouver as well as Church on Five in Richmond stepped in to provide preaching and leadership support. Since June, pastors Chris and Rachel Wilson have taken the majority of the preaching load and helped rebuild the trust and leadership of Cedar Park. Each week there is a vibrant group of over 75 people who gather to worship. God has brought new people from the community. Prayer is a regular part of the services and there are baptisms happening.

At Lake Errock Church pastoral leaders and volunteers from Central Community in Chilliwack continue to provide Sunday morning support as well as leading missional outreach in the community. A soccer camp for youth last summer was held in partnership with a local First Nation community. That event and others are helping to rebuild trust and relationship. Keep praying for the work in Lake Errock and at Cedar Park in Ladner.

Looking ahead, we are praying that every church within our BCMB family would be revitalized in Christ and reenergized in reaching the lost of their communities with the gospel. The Church Planting Taskforce will be renamed the Church Renewal, Evangelism & Multiplication Committee (CREM) with the mandate to support and equip pastors and their churches in evangelism. We will be delighted to continue to support and foster churches planting churches but we will also be broadening the mandate so that many more BCMB churches will be energized toward these goals.

We are so deeply grateful for the vision and faithful service of Mike Klassen, Brett Landry, Lee Francois, and Joe Haynes. Each of these taskforce members are supportive of the CREM initiative but they feel that their calling and joy is to remain focused on church planting in their contexts, and so they will not be continuing on with the new committee. We are grateful as well for the contribution of Willy Reimer and pray for God’s blessing on him as he and Gwen have moved back to Calgary.



BCMB BIBLE CAMP SOCIETY



BCMB Convention 2023

"...we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
His power, and the wonders He has done." Psalm 78:4

BOB | GARDOM | LIKELY | PINES | STILLWOOD



Summer Report

Last summer four of our five camps were able to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with **over 4,500 campers** across British Columbia. What a joy to hear and see campers having one of their best weeks of the summer at our camps. We know that the Gospel was very clearly portrayed and shared and that many campers came to know Jesus for the first time. From day campers to family campers to church campers to leadership training, God's hand was very evident throughout the summer.

Each one of our 4,500 campers comes with their own unique story...

- One of our campers out of the gate Sunday night said, "I'm not sure what I'm doing at a Bible camp. I don't believe in God." By the end of the week, he received Jesus as his Saviour.
- After a camper from a difficult background returned home, their mom sent us an email saying what a huge difference she noticed in her life. Her demeanour changed, she was helping others, and she was no longer focused on herself.
- A camper, who in the previous two summers didn't make it through an entire week due to anxiety, signed up as a CIT for the entire summer and no one, including his parents, expected him to make it. He made it! After returning home we received another email similar to the one above. He's different, no longer anxious or angry. Even his friends noticed a difference.
- A camper at our sister camp, after becoming a Christian and receiving a Bible asked for another one for his parents. This non-churched family is now attending church regularly!
- Camp Bob felt they had a summer of "manna" – from the perspective of God providing exactly what they needed when they needed it. Their head cook fell during Family Camp and broke her shoulder. One of their Family Camp campers volunteered the next day to cook the rest of the summer.

Endowment Fund

Our endowment fund continues to grow. As we mentioned last year, donations to our endowment fund will provide funds to enable each one of our five camps to reach its full ministry potential. Whether we're helping send children to camp, helping with insurance, capital projects, or debt, each donation will have a lasting impact on our ministry. And the exciting thing is that donations will last as long as we have Bible camps sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!



Camp Likely

Just a quick update from Camp Likely. We are very excited to introduce to you **Mariah Bouchard** as our new director. Mariah has a strong history with Camp Likely, she attended as a child, served on summer staff, and her parents were instrumental in helping start the camp. Mariah is also a teacher and resides in the town of Likely. Thanks for your prayers – they were answered!



Change

Our society has changed significantly since the early eighties when the Columbia Bible Camp staff picture below was taken. Pray with us as we bump up to an ever-changing culture that continues to put pressure on our young people to follow the world in which they live. Our challenge is to remain true to our confession of faith while serving guests, campers, staff and volunteers from all walks of life and faith. That's the challenge. The exciting part - we get to share the life-changing Good News of Jesus with a much greater variety of individuals, families, and campers, than ever before! Our prayer is that God gives us the strength to hold fast in these turbulent times.



Leadership Development

The most important thing we want to share with you is that ***we absolutely cannot do this ministry on our own*** nor do we want to minister on our own. We need our churches, individuals, and conference to lean in more than ever. Leadership development research continues to tell us that summer camp ministry is one of the strongest tools for developing leaders in our conference. As we explore what it means to be disciple-making churches, we feel that as your camps, we are well positioned to provide valuable resources as we journey together.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that guest groups would be moved by the Holy Spirit as they visit our camps.
- Pray for safety as we enter our busy season.
- Pray for our camp directors, that they would be strengthened and encouraged.
- Pray for wisdom as we navigate challenging times.

BCMB Camp Society Board Members

Bryan Penner - Chair 2026
Lorraine Dick - Vice Chair 2025
Stephanie Dick - 2025
Barry Falk - 2024
Megan Janz - 2025
Art Loewen - 2024
Hank McIver - 2025
Kate Reid - 2024
Bob Kroeker - Executive Director

Local Leadership Team Chairs

Curtis Scoville - Bob
Eric Wiens - Gardom
Elmer Thiessen - Likely
Owen Spisak - Pines
Colin Reimer - Stillwood

Camp Directors

Stephen & Andrea Jackson - Bob
Rikk Kieft - Gardom
Mariah Bouchard - Likely
Tim Metz - Pines
David Seeley - Stillwood



CBC 2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Be Known. Make a Difference.

Recent research into young adults indicates that identity formation, belonging to a community, and life purpose stand out as the top concerns.

CBC is uniquely equipped to meet students at their points of need, and help them find their way to Jesus.

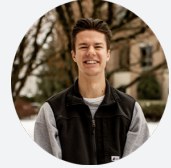
It is an awesome privilege to seek God together in his Word in order to find direction for life. The prophet Jeremiah challenged God's people: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls" (6:16).

As I near the conclusion of my 19 years of service at Columbia, I am reminded of God's faithful presence as experienced through the strong community of support we enjoy. Thank you BCMB for your prayers and encouragement through the years! I pray that our churches, conferences, camps, and college will remain in Christ, and stay faithful to His Word.

- Bryan Born

STUDENT STORY

COOPER PETERS
2ND YEAR, BIBLICAL STUDIES



"Ending up at Columbia was a journey of recognizing God's call for my life. I knew that I needed to explore the gifts that God had given me but I had no idea what they were or how to find a place that would allow me to practice them. That's when my mentor suggested I look at applying here, so I did.

Since being at CBC I have seen God moving and working in amazing ways. He has given me the opportunity to be tested, and from that, I have experienced both success and failure. I have come to know the love that Christ has for me more than I ever have before and this has resulted in so much growth.

I believe that God is calling me into the Capernwray Torchbearers ministry, where I can walk alongside young people in Christ, and he has used my classes, conversations, and experiences to illuminate this path."



THANK YOU BCMB!

We're so grateful for BCMB's faithful and generous investment in Columbia Bible College and for the dedicated service of BCMB representatives on our Board of Directors: Brad Willems, Christine Reimer, Graham Nickel, Harv Wiens, John Best, Kate Reid, Marcie Kroeker, and Scott Carpenter. We are so encouraged by the \$248,000 gift that BCMB donated to CBC in 2022.

Your generosity empowered us to continue to invest in the lives of Columbia's students.

2022-23 Enrollment Stats

170 Residents

137 Commuters

12 Offsite

Current Students: 319

NEWSWORTHY



After two years of planning and praying, we were finally able to move forward with our goal of transforming a very outdated and barely functioning campus coffee shop into an appealing campus gathering hub for students.

Connecting over Holy Grounds coffee since its renovation has become very popular as one of the most well-used student spaces on campus. We are grateful to the donors who helped make this project possible!



This past reading break (Feb. 19-25), 12 students and two leaders travelled down to Paradise, CA. Paradise had 95% of its town of 25,000 destroyed by a wildfire in 2018. There were also 85 fatalities. This has been considered to be the most destructive wildfire in California's history.

We were invited by Mennonite Disaster Service to assist in the rebuilding of homes and in turn provide encouragement and hope to the many residents that are still grieving over the loss of loved ones and their community. We are so thankful for this opportunity!



New Courses in 2022-2023:
 "Intercultural Fluency"
 "Effective Communication"
 "Philosophy of Ministry"
 "Decision Making & Vocation"

New Instructors in 2022-2023:
 Matt Ewert
 Jeff Peters
 Dorothy Gebert
 Toby Stahl
 Courtney Sukkau
 Jodi Enns

CBC has also begun a New Partnership with the North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies.



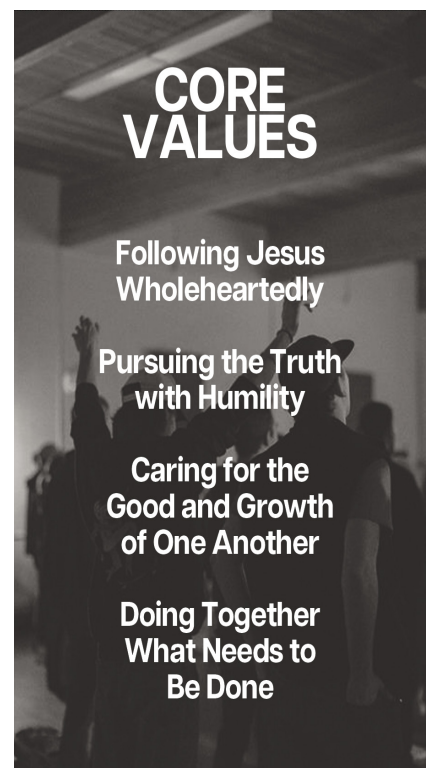
Over this past reading week (Feb 14-24), the Quest program sent a team to serve down in Costa Rica. Quest has a longstanding relationship with their contacts in Costa Rica and after not being able to travel there these past few years, it was a special trip returning to their community in Costa Rica.

The team served in many different capacities including manual labour and playing sports with locals. Thank you for praying over this team!

ENROLLMENT PUSH!

Columbia Admissions is excited to have the privilege of building a pipeline of future student through authentic connections. The admissions team is mapping out a plan to visit as many summer camps as possible with advisors as well as returning students. Youth groups are invited to have us join them for a night or to have their youth meet at CBC.

Our full-time rep has been on the road non-stop since November 2022 for the first time since early 2020. Our prayer is that many new students will join us with the mission to wholeheartedly follow Jesus.





I want you to be encouraged by knowing that your support of MB Seminary has tremendously impacted the lives and leadership of students and learners across the country! On their behalf, thank you.

I remember when I announced I was resigning from Westwood Church to become President of MB Seminary. Among all the conversations at church, there were stories of “you made a difference in my life” that had never been spoken to me. I had been at the church for ten years and had no idea about many of them, but hearing the stories greatly encouraged me!

Throughout the stories in this report, you will read about the difference you have made. You will read stories of the disciple-making heart of MB Seminary. You will be reminded of our passion for coming alongside the church and its local ministry. You will discover how theological training and leadership development have become widely accessible through teaching and mentoring on campus, online, and with our Teaching Church partners.

Most of all, I hope you are encouraged by knowing that God is at work across the country, calling and empowering his followers to serve others, articulate biblical truth, and pursue the mission he has called them to. As you and your churches partner with MB Seminary, it is exciting to see men and women be educated and equipped to help lead the church in reaching Canada and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ!



Mark Wessner, Ph.D. is President of MB Seminary and Associate Professor of Biblical Studies for Leadership.

Celebrating together all God has done

SHAPING LEADERS, CHANGING LIVES

Shaping Leaders

Dr. Randy Wolff



I love shaping leaders! Through our Teaching Church partnerships, we are able to come alongside local churches and help them equip their leaders to love God more deeply and serve Him more effectively. On May 28, 2022, we celebrated with sixteen graduate students and two continuing education students from Willingdon Church and North Langley Community Church as they received a Graduate or Continuing Education Certificate in Ministry Foundations. I had the privilege of teaching two of the four courses in the certificate. In the Missional Discipleship course, students developed a biblical framework for discipleship in their church, evaluated their church's disciple-making effectiveness, and then created a plan to strengthen their discipleship approach. [It was so gratifying to see these leaders come to a better understanding of God's heart for discipleship and to take steps to apply what they learned in their lives and ministries.](#) A huge bonus for me was that my oldest son, Caleb, was one of those leaders!

GRADUATE STUDIES



Nuilia Lima was born in Resende, Brazil, moving to Canada six years ago. She describes her vocation as “full-time mommy, full-time ministry”, explaining it this way, “what I mean by this is that I am available for Him in my everything.” Her ministry call has four dimensions: to create and shape in the midst of chaos; to build a flourishing community wherever she is; to bring light where darkness exists, and to enjoy a rhythm of work and Sabbath.

Nuilia started studying at MB Seminary in September 2022 and sent us her graduation picture to symbolize her desire to graduate from MB Seminary with her master’s degree. Speaking of her experience at seminary, she says, “**MB Seminary is impactful for me and the people around me. It is equipping me significantly to help people live their purpose, which I trust is part of the mission that God is calling me.**”

Sudianto Wijaya is a Professional Electrical Engineer working full-time in that field. He describes his ministry aspirations: “I love teaching others. Matthew 28:20 is the verse that motivates me: “... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...” He describes the impact of studying at MB Seminary this way: “I’m thankful to God. God has called me to join the courses at MB Seminary. **My spiritual life has grown significantly from taking the courses in the past 1.5 years. I can feel that I have a deeper relationship with God, Jesus and Holy Spirit.** From the courses at MB Seminary, I have the confidence to do the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) through volunteering as Discovery Class leader and Life Group leader at Willingdon Church.”



Nicole Yang is a Pastoral Intern at Willingdon Church and has been studying at MB Seminary since the fall of 2021. Asked about her ministry aspirations, she said, “A Turkey mission trip in 2015 was one of the turning points of my life. God has shaped my heart to love the lost, especially the 10/40 unreached people groups. I am passionate about sharing God’s love to fulfill the Great Commission locally, globally and cross-culturally. I want to be part of God’s wonderful invitation of making more disciples and pointing people to Jesus.”

She describes the impact of studying at MB Seminary this way: “**Being a student at MB Seminary has deepened my knowledge about God and has drawn me into a deeper love for the Lord. I have a heart posture to lean in to love Him fully.** Also, I’ve had the humbling realization of how much I don’t know and how much more I need to learn by depending on the Lord to be His vessel for His Kingdom. I’m so grateful for the opportunity to have godly professors who guide and journey with us and point us to King Jesus.”





Thinking Theologically

Dr. Brian Cooper

Years ago, I was taught that being faithful to Scripture meant making sure that my chosen theological system was anchored in an appropriate selection of proof texts. Since that time, I have become convinced that faithfulness to Scripture goes further than that. My approach to teaching students how to do theology is to read biblical texts in context and synthesize their collective witness. Theology is faithful to Scripture when it does justice to the whole of Scripture rather than imposing a theological agenda based on selected texts. My goal as a theologian is not to advance a particular human theological system. Rather, my goal is to help believers understand how biblical texts necessarily shape our understanding of what God is revealing, whether it suits my presuppositions or not.

When I teach, I am always aware that what I intend students to learn and what they actually learn may not be the same thing. In one course this fall, what I saw in the papers I read, and particularly in one student's paper, was that he was wrestling well with the issues that I was trying to emphasize about how to think theologically. Moreover, his email revealed to me that he was aware of the theological developments in his thinking.

I was encouraged, since this indicated that this student was willing to grapple with the implications of good theological method, even if they challenged his long-standing way of thinking.

CCMBC National Director 2023 Provincial Assembly Report

December 2022 marks four-and-half years since I started my National Director role with CCMBC. During these past years, we (the MB family) have experienced many upheavals and unexpected challenges. Through it all, God has been faithful. As I begin this new year, I do so with great expectations, knowing that yesterday's challenges strengthen our faith and dependence on God.

I want to highlight how every part of us is moving towards health and strength, allowing us to focus on developing new initiatives and re-engaging mission and disciple-making endeavours.

A year in review:

In many aspects, 2022 was a challenging year. It was somewhat apocalyptic, with wars, rumours of wars, pestilences, and fires (both physical and symbolic) burning around us. Church and industry had to rediscover what normal looks like causing fear and anxiety for many. For CCMBC, 2022 was a mixed bag of good and challenging situations. Here are a few of the highlights:

POSITIVE FINANCIAL POSITION:

As of this writing, a preliminary year-end financial statement indicates that CCMBC ended its fiscal year in a positive financial position, marking the fourth consecutive year that the national conference has managed to operate within the approved budget. Furthermore, this year will be the first time we allocate moderate funds toward developing the priority areas identified in our strategic plan. Complete audited financial statements will be available during our AGM in June.

THE SEMINARY ENDS ITS EXIGENCY AND LAUNCHES TEACHING CHURCHES:

2022 was a good year for our MB Seminary, and it is now operating with a model of financial sustainability. Furthermore, it has launched a program to bring seminary-level courses to the local church. For more information about teaching churches and a more in-depth look at the health and ministries of our MB Seminary, please refer to their report in your Assembly booklet.

MULTIPLY FULFILLS THE 18 RECOMMENDATIONS AND HIRES A NEW GENERAL DIRECTOR:

Our MB mission agency has worked diligently to complete and implement the 18 recommendations given to them by the board of the owner conferences through

a combined task force. We see significant progress and healing throughout Multiply and are encouraged and excited to work with our global mission agency to develop strategies for Canada and worldwide. We are also blessed to have found a new General Director. Bruce Enns has vast experience in the local church, conference work and global mission engagement.

CCMBC CALLS A NEW NFL DIRECTOR:

After an open search process, including input and discernment from all national agencies and provincial conferences, CCMBC called Ken Esau to National Faith and Life Director. Ken brings a wealth of theological, teaching and ministry experiences to this role and will work closely with national and provincial Faith and Life Teams.

THE MB HERALD CONTINUES TO GROW:

Our denominational magazine is experiencing slow but steady growth in subscriptions and a renewed interest from writers and contributors. I encourage you to subscribe to our monthly E-magazine and keep apprised of the stories and articles relevant to the national and global MB churches.

CCMBC LEGACY HIRES A NEW CFO:

We are pleased to see Legacy take significant strides as our national partner in organizational health. This partnership allows churches and pastors to pursue mortgages, utilize payroll and accounting services, join a national pension plan and participate in employee benefits. CCMBC Legacy has also hired Jim Bell as its new CFO. Jim replaced Bertha Dyck, who retired after 32 years of service. Jim brings a great deal of experience to the role, including the expertise acquired by being the CEO of two large not-for-profit organizations.

THE NMT SOLIDIFIES ITS WORK:

This past year, the National Ministry Team began creating tactical plans for each of the Priority areas approved in the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP). We hope to announce new ideas and programs in 2023.

THE NFLT SERVES THE CONFERENCE BY PROVIDING US WITH THEOLOGICAL CLARITY:

In keeping with its mandate, the National Faith and Life Team—in collaboration with Provincial Faith and Life Teams—created several new documents to

clarify our theological understandings and respond to common questions about our Confession of Faith. Valuable resources are being made available to our Canadian MB family such as “Loving Well our LGB Neighbours, Friends, and Family;” a new revised introduction to our Confession, explanatory notes for Article 1, and collaborative policies related to pastor credentialing and local church affiliation.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD UNDERGOES TRANSITION:

Due to personal reasons, Ron Penner resigned from his position as CCMBC Executive Board moderator. CCMBC is grateful for Ron’s diligent work and dedication to the mission of our family of churches. CCMBC has appointed Cam Stuart as interim Moderator as it pursues candidates for the role.

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES DEAL WITH THEOLOGICAL DISSONANCE:

Provincial conferences have experienced pressure from churches whose theological position is inconsistent with our articulated Confession of Faith, leading to the suspension, removal, or withdrawal of a few churches from active membership within our denomination.

Although pressures and challenges are constant, I hope that by providing you with a general overview of the current state, you sense that, as a whole, we are moving towards health and strength. All Glory be to the Lord for His unfailing grace. We are excited and anticipate a time of missional growth for us as we enter this new calendar year.

Lastly I want to draw your attention to a major change we are making to the National Assembly format. In response to feedback, we wish to strengthen engagement and bring people together in-person by splitting the event into two parts: a June 8 online AGM and a hybrid gathering in connection with the EQUIP Study Conference in Abbotsford, BC on October 28, 2023. We expect to bring news of exciting new programs to assist the local church in faithfully making disciples at both meetings. Please encourage your delegates to register early. More information on this two-part event is included on the next page.

Here are some national event dates to mark in your calendar:

May 9-14, 2023 – ICOMB meetings in Abbotsford, BC (Our international community of Mennonite Brethren will meet in Canada this year)

June 6-8, 2023 Pastors Credentialing Orientation (PCO) in Winnipeg. Visit pco.mennonitebrethren.ca (Part of the credentialing process for new pastors in our denomination)

June 8, 2023 - Online National AGM (For the approval of audited annual financial statements, annual reports, and election of board members) Visit na.mennonitebrethren.ca

October 26-28, 2023 – EQUIP, Abbotsford, BC.

October 28, 2023 – Hybrid National Assembly, Abbotsford, BC (New developments, new programs, approval of budget and major policy or Confession of Faith changes)



Elton Dasilva
National Director

NATIONAL MINISTRY TEAM

RICHARD LOUGHEED

AEFMQ Representative

RYAN JANTZI

ONMB Interim Executive Director

CAM PRIEBE

MBCM Provincial Director

PHIL GUNTHER

SKMB Director of Ministry

PAUL LOEWEN

ABMB Provincial Director

ROBERT THIESSEN

BCMB Conference Minister

DENIS FEDERAU

BCMB Director of Resource Ministries

BRUCE ENNS

Multiply General Director

MARK WESSNER

MB Seminary President

JASON KRUEGER

CCMBC Legacy Fund CEO

KEN ESAU

National Faith and Life Director

ELTON DASILVA

CCMBC National Director



CCMBC MAKES CHANGES TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FORMAT

The annual CCMBC National Assembly event will look different in 2023. Recently offered as a Thursday and Friday evening online workshop and worship gathering followed by a Saturday of online reporting and voting, it will now be broken into two events. The first will be a Zoom Annual General Meeting in the late Spring and the second will be a hybrid National Assembly in the Fall.

As a registered Canadian charity, CCMBC must hold an AGM and approve its financial statements within six months of its fiscal year-end (December 31). To ensure alignment with this requirement, CCMBC will invite delegates to an online AGM on Thursday, June 8, 2023, from 4-6 pm Pacific Daylight Time. This will involve the important work of reporting on the year, as well as approving financial statements and Board members.

Feedback gathered from our recent format of multi-day online National Assemblies showed a strong desire to return to some form of in-person meeting. As a result, CCMBC will host an in-person National Assembly on October 28, 2023 (8:30 am-Noon PDT) at Northview Community Church in Abbotsford, BC. (While in-person participation is preferred, delegates from across Canada unable to attend in-person will be able to participate online.)

The National Assembly will take place on the last day of the 2023 EQUIP Study Conference on the theme “Fire & Ashes: Why Church? Why MB?” The National Assembly will focus on larger themes related to the future direction of CCMBC especially in the four priority areas—spiritual health and theology, leadership development, mission, and organizational health.

“We encourage people to join us for both parts,” says national director Elton DaSilva. “It’s crucial that churches send delegates to speak on their behalf and shape the future of the MB Church in Canada. After all this time, being together as a family should motivate delegates to engage on a deeper level, to rekindle friendships and to strengthen relationships between churches from all over the country.”

PART ONE: CCMBC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: Thursday, June 8, 2023, 4-6 pm PDT

Where: Zoom meeting. A link will be provided upon registering.

What’s on the agenda?

Approval of audited financial statements, election of Board members, Conference and partner updates

Registration for June 8, 2023, AGM is now open.

[Delegates can register here](#)

[National Council delegates can register here](#)

[Guests can register here](#)

PART TWO: CCMBC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

When: Saturday, October 28, 2023, 8:30 am-12 pm PDT

Where: Northview Community Church, Abbotsford, BC (For those not able to be present in person, a Zoom link will be provided upon registering.)

What’s on the agenda?

Updates and conversations about CCMBC’s initiatives toward the four priority areas, as well as approval of the 2024 budget and any new policies (if necessary).

More information will be available on the National Assembly website, MB Herald social media, and email newsletter.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

[What is a delegate?](#)



National Faith & Life Director Report for 2023 Provincial Conventions

MANDATE

According to the new Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP), we as a Conference exist *“to cultivate a community and culture of healthy disciple-making churches and ministries, faithfully joining Jesus in his mission.”* The National Faith and Life Team (NFLT) exists to articulate and safeguard Mennonite Brethren theological convictions, produce theological and pastoral resources, and provide discernment and guidance on current issues. The National Faith and Life Team stewards the Confession of Faith on behalf of the Conference.

ACTIVITIES IN 2022

This has been my first full year in this role, half-time Interim Director from January to April, full-time Interim Director from May to October, and now full-time Director starting in November. I want to thank our former National Director, Ingrid Reichard, for her contributions during her time in this role. I also want to thank the NFLT, the CCMBC Executive Board, as well as the CCMBC Staff Team for their very gracious welcoming of me to this role. I have been so blessed and encouraged by these individuals who have become not only colleagues but family.

Some of the highlights of the year include:

- We produced a resource for the **2022 CCMBC Week of Prayer entitled “BLESS!”** (If you missed this resource, you can still access it on the CCMBC website and pray through it now in 2023).

- We produced a **Collaborative National Credentialing Policy** which means that our six provincial conferences will be much more unified around credentialing expectations and even the processes for reviewing credentialed leaders who appear to be moving away from the commitments associated with credentialing status. We also rewrote the policy related to candidates from whom the formal and academic structures of credentialing create an almost impossible barrier. This is now called the **Mentor-Based Credentialing Policy**.
- In light of the many questions surrounding the nature and use of our Confession of Faith that have been asked of us recently (e.g., what does it mean to “affirm” the Confession of Faith?; is the Confession of Faith prescriptive and normative—or something else?; are there “two tiers” in our Confession of Faith?; what happens when a church/leader moves away from affirming and supporting the MB Confession of Faith?; what does a “community hermeneutic” actually look like?; when would we seek to change the Confession of Faith?), we have approved a new **Introduction to the MB Confession of Faith**. This introduction will replace the existing “Nature and Function of the Confession.”
- We have had several requests to be involved in dispute resolution between credentialed holders or applicants for credentialing and their provincial MB conference credentialing bodies. As a result, we created the **NFLT Review Process Policy** to attempt to address these concerns. We have put significant effort into the implementation of this policy but feel that we as an NFLT do not have the resources and expertise to deal with some of these conflicts. We are undecided about whether we should offer ourselves for this purpose in the future.
- We are embarking on the replacement of the 1999/2000 supplementary resources (Commentary and Pastoral Application) for each of our 18 Articles. This year we approved in principle the **Explanatory Notes for Article 1**. We have posted them on our website and are inviting feedback before we give final approval.

While we celebrate these highlights from 2022, we continue to engage prayerfully and thoughtfully around the following:

- For 2023, we have decided to move from a Prayer Week to a Monthly Prayer Focus. Our monthly theme relates to “**Holy Spirit—Fill Us!**” Each prayer guide will be available monthly by email and through the *MB Herald*.
- We are excited to oversee the **Pastors Credentialing Orientation** June 6-8, 2023 in Winnipeg. This is always a wonderful time of getting to meet new church leaders and welcoming them into our family.
- We are also excited about the return of an in-person **Equip** conference to be held October 26-28, 2023 at Northview Church in Abbotsford. The theme is **Fire and Ashes: Why Church? Why MB?** We will be addressing key questions around whether the gathered local church body and a denominational national (and international) family are still worth all the effort in the midst of challenges both internal and external.
- We have been asked for a procedure policy related to affiliation, review, and even the ending of affiliation for local MB congregations—so we are working through a draft version of a **Collaborative National Church Affiliation and Review Policy**. It is helpful when we can have clear, open, and transparent policies around these questions that are consistent across our provincial MB conferences.
- We have also been asked for a procedure policy related to when and how the NFLT might embark on the review and possible amendment of an article in our MB Confession of Faith. We will be working through a draft version of a **CCMBC MB Confession of Faith Amendment Procedure Policy**.
- We are hoping to give final approval to updated and revised **Explanatory Notes** for Confession

of Faith Article 2: Revelation of God; Article 6: Nature of the Church; and Article 7: Mission of the Church. This is part of our ongoing project.

- We have been asked to provide resources related to Christians and **gender questions**, and **Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)**. At this point, we have not been able to respond fully to these requests but are recommending helpful resources available from others (e.g., the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Posture Shift, etc.). We are also exploring the implications of our **2006 Women in Ministry Resolution** in the light of diversity of views in our national family.

Besides all of these more formal involvements, I had the privilege this past year of verbally reporting to most of the provincial MB conventions in-person or online; attending the ICOMB meetings held in Curitiba, Brazil; attending the USMB pastors gathering and convention in Kansas City, MO; and representing CCMBC and the NFLT in various preaching, teaching, and board contexts.

The questions that we are facing within our national MB family are both urgent and significant ones affecting the very fabric of our unity. What does it look like to be a church family faithful to Jesus (and the character of Jesus as described in the fruit of the Spirit list from Galatians 5), scriptural teaching, and God’s Kingdom mission at this exact moment? We need God’s wisdom and your prayers for such a time as this. **May 2023 be a year where we—more than ever—worship King Jesus while we see, experience, and participate in God’s Kingdom work in the world!**

If you have suggestions, encouragements, or thoughts, feel free to email them to us at listeningwell@mbchurches.ca



Ken Esau

National Faith and Life Director

NATIONAL FAITH AND LIFE TEAM

RICHARD LOUGHEED
AEFMQ Representative
RYAN JANTZI
ONMB Interim Executive Director
KAREN WEST
ONMB Representative
JASON DYCK
MBCM Director of Church Ministries

WALTER FAST
MBCM Representative
PHIL GUNTHER
SKMB Director of Ministry
RICK SCHELLENBERG
SKMB Representative
PAUL LOEWEN
ABMB Provincial Director
LAURENCE HIEBERT
ABMB Conference Minister

ROBERT THIESSEN
BCMB Conference Minister
KRISTAL TOEWS
Member-at-Large
KEITH REED
MB Seminary Representative
DOUG HEIDEBRECHT
Multiply Representative
ELTON DASILVA
CCMBC National Director

BCMB Report

The call of Jesus to serve his mission continues to compel us: “Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest” (John 4:35 CEV). It is our joy as a mobilization team to serve and encourage the mission vision of the BCMB congregations. Here are some highlights from 2022.

UKRAINE:

We continue to do everything possible to support the MB pastors and leaders who serve their people either within Ukraine or in adjacent countries as refugees. In addition to highlighting our Urgent Relief Fund, we have been invited to specifically support the efforts of the MB Conference in Lithuania.

North Shore Pacific Grace MB Church organized a golf tournament that raised \$33,000 to benefit the Multiply Ukraine Relief Fund. We are deeply grateful for the many local churches and individuals who are praying and have given generously to the ongoing appeal for assistance. Please visit our website for the latest report:

multiply.net/ukraine-in-crisis



CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS:

We are grateful that the majority of BCMB churches are presently in partnerships with Multiply global workers, national partners, or ongoing ministry projects. In order to keep in touch with current praise reports and prayer needs, we publish a monthly BC Prayer Update. Has your church taken our Church Partnership Workshop? This interactive seminar explains our philosophy of mission and helps churches to clarify their calling (locally and globally) and to foster their understanding of healthy cross-cultural partnerships.

GLOBAL WORKERS:

BC has long-term global workers serving in ten countries, and we currently have one young adult in the FOCUS Internship Program (serving in Uganda). In May, pastors from three Vancouver Island churches gathered to commission a new long-term worker from one of their churches to serve an unreached people group that is concentrated in Toronto. We are actively recruiting new workers and are looking forward to meeting potential candidates from your church. Please join us in praying to the Lord of the harvest for more workers.

MINISTRY IN BC

John and Jenn Johnstone: It was another great year of journeying on the road to conciliation. John and Jenn have begun to give more attention to invitations in indigenous communities. They are grateful for new personal connections which are developing from interest in prayer to interest in reading the Bible. They have been passionately speaking in churches, encouraging them to see the value of learning from and with indigenous communities. John and Jenn are actively growing their team of partners, so please visit here if you are interested: multiply.net/global-worker/john-johnstone

Passi family: We celebrated the arrival of Arun and Anjana and their two boys, Daniel and Joel. They have been sent by their local church network in South Asia to serve with Multiply among the South Asian (Punjabi) community in the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland of BC. Pray for them as they adapt to Canadian culture and serve every relationship given to them by Jesus. To support the Passis, visit: multiply.net/global-worker/arun-and-anjana

DISCIPLE MAKING INTERNATIONAL:

We sent two teams in 2022: one to Mexico City and the other to Colombia. The teams from North America were joined by others from Bible Colleges in Paraguay and together they served alongside local churches to share their faith and invite people to follow Christ.



The outreach team in Mexico

VISION TRIPS:

As travel is happening again, we want to invite your church to consider engaging more deeply with the global work of Multiply. We are organizing vision trips from North America, tailored to specific locations that will inspire your heart for mission.

LIGHTHOUSE COFFEE ROASTERS:

We are very excited to be providing outstanding coffee for more than twelve BCMB churches. Each year, that amounts to thousands of cups of coffee, inspiring hundreds of thousands of prayers for our team of entrepreneurs and disciplemakers in war-torn Myanmar. Give us a call if you would like to hear the story and have your congregation partner with this coffee-on-mission opportunity. lighthousecoffee.roasters.ca



Some of the Myanmar people behind Lighthouse Coffee: Sar Boh, Sein Moe, Lai Yar (left to right)

From your BC Mobilization Team:

Liz Nickel, John and Jenn Johnstone, and George Folz,
along with **Sam Dick** and **Greg Laing**, Regional Mobilizers

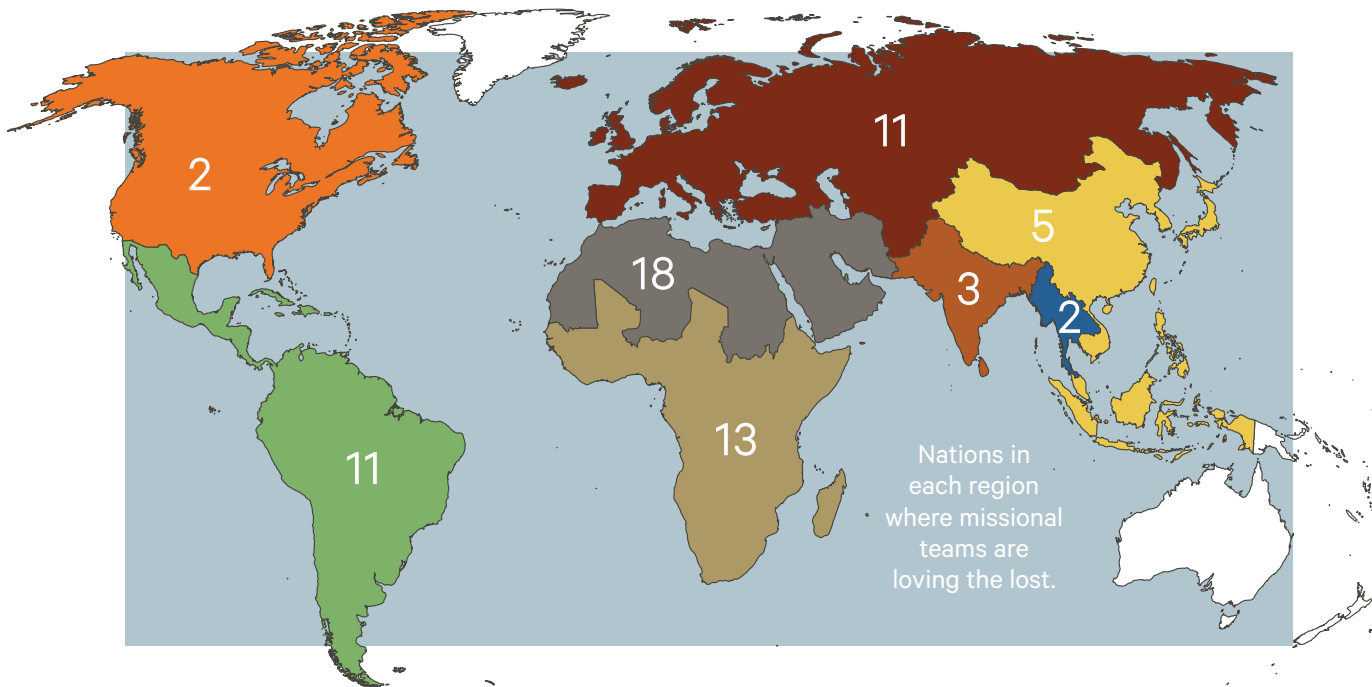
OUR FAMILY ON MISSION IN 2022

View online at
multiply.net/2022report



The Challenge: 10,000+ people groups lost without Jesus

The Hope: 1 God at work reconciling the world to himself through Jesus



65 nations where people are meeting Jesus through our network of **missional teams**, made up of:

- 10,000+ local disciples making disciples, planting churches and reaching nations
- 81 long-term global workers sent from North American churches
- 22 long-term global workers sent from MB conferences in other nations

290 churches in the U.S. and Canada supported these teams, participating in the sending of disciples on mission, developing missional leaders by strengthening mission partnerships

4,000+ households in the U.S. and Canada supported these teams through prayer and generous giving along with many members of our global MB family

Together that the world may know Jesus



300 - 32040 Downes Road, Abbotsford, BC V4X 1X5 Canada • 4867 E. Townsend Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727-5006 USA
1.866.964.7627 • multiply.net

Financial Overview



Fiscal Year in USD: June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022

We are thankful to God and to our donors that we ended the last two fiscal years with a strong surplus. Our Board of Directors has authorized us to invest \$550k of our accumulated reserves to further support our global ministry and improve our IT infrastructure. This investment will show up as a deficit in our next year's results.

Net Results

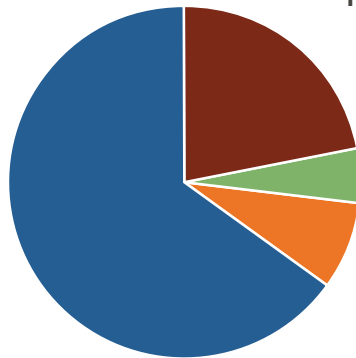
Fiscal Year	2022	2021
Revenue:	\$ 10,410,659	\$ 10,655,995
Expenses:	\$ 9,995,025	\$ 9,986,624
Net:	\$ 415,634	\$ 669,371

In addition to the net operating surplus shown here, our global workers and ministry projects have accumulated \$218k towards their reserves which are held separately on our balance sheet (previous year accumulation: \$391k).

How Your Gifts Were Put to Work

Missional Teams Loving the Lost | 65%

- Central & South America | 7%
- East Asia | 6%
- Europe & Central Asia | 13%
- Middle East & North Africa | 3%
- North America | 3%
(Indigenous & Immigrants)
- South Asia | 4%
- Southeast Asia | 19%
- Sub-Saharan Africa | 5%
- Worldwide Initiatives | 5%



22% | North American Church Engagement

- 17% | Facilitating MB Church Partnerships
- 5% | Mission Training Programs

5% | Human Resources

- Wellness, Equipping & Long-Term Training

8% | Administration

- Finance, IT, Legal & Governance

Our Generous Donors



For more info, contact our Director of Finance, Jeff Friesen at JeffF@multiply.net



CCMBC LEGACY FUND

Ministry-Focused Financial Services

1310 Taylor Ave
Winnipeg MB R3M 3Z6
ccmbclegacyfund.com



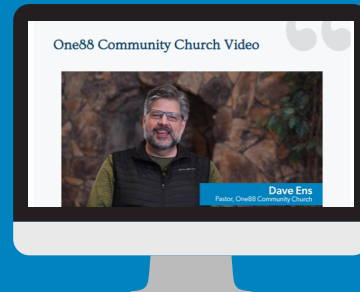
Who We Are

Legacy serves as a resource to our Canadian MB churches and our provincial and national conferences. We provide payroll and accounting services, administer CCMBC's health insurance plan and pension plan, and offer conference lending and investment services. Through our wholly owned subsidiary CCMBC Investments, investors purchase redeemable promissory notes through non-registered Cash Accounts, RRSP/RRIFs, and TFSAs, allowing us to provide secured mortgages to our churches and pastors, and other MB church-affiliated institutions such as schools and camps.

Celebration Stories

To view our celebration stories and videos, please visit:

ccmbclegacyfund.com/about/stories



Legacy Snapshot

LEGACY BY THE NUMBERS

GROUP INSURANCE PARTICIPANTS

1,137

PENSION PLAN PARTICIPANTS

1,543

INVESTOR ACCOUNTS

1,956

INVESTED IN PROMISSORY NOTES

\$158 MILLION

CHURCH AND PASTOR MORTGAGES

93

TOTAL MORTGAGES

\$76 MILLION

CHURCHES USING PAYROLL SERVICES

191

ORGANIZATIONS USING ACCOUNTING SERVICES

26

Greetings

to the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches from CCMBC Legacy Fund

We are grateful for the privilege to serve our churches, faithfully joining Jesus in his mission. As a national ministry partner, we take joy in the collaborative relationship shared with our provincial conferences. Our staff are dedicated to serving our churches as a trusted financial and administrative resource.

The uncertainty and stress of the global pandemic was disruptive for our churches, and inflation has further heightened financial pressures. Psalm 18 reminds us:

"The Lord is my rock... in whom I take refuge... my stronghold... I cried to my God for help... he heard my voice... he drew me out of deep waters... I will sing the praises of your name."

We draw encouragement from this passage and are thankful the Lord leads us during these uncertain times. This is a challenging time for our churches, conferences, and partner organizations to navigate financially. Our board and staff members understand the financial pressures our churches are facing, and we continue to make every effort to contain fee and rate increases.

May God richly bless each of you this year.

On behalf of the Legacy team,
Jason Krueger CEO



We're thankful for the many blessings of the past year and note the following events and initiatives:

We desire to be good stewards and value transparency. Our operational and investment policies/procedures were updated and are accessible on our website

We desire a clear relationship with our stakeholders. We completed our Memorandum of Understanding with CCMBC, which awaits delegate approval at our national AGM

We value strong leadership, good governance, and accountability. We were blessed to have Jim Bell succeed Bertha Dyck as CFO of Legacy and CCMBC, and we welcomed Cory Regier and Tim Doerksen to our boards

We value the wellbeing of MB employees. The Executive Board's Finance & Audit Committee approved the formation of a 12-member Pension Advisory Committee and commencement of a review of the CCMBC Pension Plan with the assistance of a third-party expert

We desire to serve as a dependable and timely resource to our constituents. We provided ad-hoc advice on finance and administrative matters

We trust the Lord to help us discern our long-range plans. We made significant advancement towards completion of our 5-year strategic plan

We value the engagement of our employees. We were certified as a "Best Christian Workplace"

INVESTING IN KINGDOM GROWTH TOGETHER

Stewardship Advisory Committee REPORT

by Selwyn Uittenbosch, Chair

The Stewardship Advisory Committee (SAC) is invited by the Executive Board (EB) to provide insight, research, and discernment on such matters as stewardship, insurance, mortgages, the budget, the monthly financial statements, and the annual audit, while recognizing that the responsibility for the final decision on each and every matter remains with the EB. It is a joyful collaboration.

Our BCMB Conference of Churches has seen its share of financial challenges these past few years. With uncertain finances, dramatic weather catastrophes, a volatile economy, and skyrocketing interest rates, it's not hard to imagine some of the discussions being held around leadership tables.

It is in this context that the SAC serves. We have had an invigorating year, rolling up our sleeves and engaging at a somewhat deeper level with the nuts and bolts of financial operations, even standing in the gap as needed.

In fulfilling its task, the SAC walks alongside the BCMB staff and Director of Resource Ministries, Denis Federau. As the finance staff experienced some natural turnover during 2022, the SAC actually seconded a member to fill in until such time as we

were all able to warmly welcome Susan Schlaak. We give thanks to God for His provision through Susan, and take joy in how she has handled day-to-day processing while designing and implementing a new general ledger and accounting software to streamline financial operations.

The SAC are the first to review the monthly financial statements and the listing of Ministry Contribution by Church, and appreciate the staff's diligent efforts to keep the expenses within the boundaries of the resources available at the time. BCMB closed the year with a modest \$59,000 before final adjustments.

New this year, the SAC initiated and resourced an Audit Committee of the Executive Board to increase transparency, reduce risk, and expand direct EB involvement in the financial operations of the conference. This committee oversaw the audit process, obtained first-hand feedback from the auditors in-camera, and reviewed the auditor's report to management. With a clean audit, the committee was pleased to recommend the approval of the Audited Non-Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes without reservation.

On the family front, it's nice to know that some churches are doing well. We rejoice with them. At the same time, other churches are working hard to balance the books. We have been in dialogue with the leadership of those churches and with Legacy as they inquire about refinancing their mortgages.

Overall, 21 of our churches have mortgages with Legacy. The SAC is very grateful for the strong and collaborative working relationship with Legacy, which has carried some of our churches through difficult seasons. What a blessing in times of challenge!

Often there are both direct and indirect implications on ministry that arise when a church has to make tough decisions to be able to pay the mortgage. Yearning to bless churches considering new capital investments, the SAC encourages leadership to evaluate a project's viability by using a couple layers of buffer, including an incremental 2% interest rate stress test and a 20-year amortization. In addition, there is huge value in starting to lay aside finances as early as three years in advance, and then closer to the time of making a decision, pursuing affirmation via a capital campaign with a goal to have 50% on hand before signing. High bars, yes. But we can attest that this discipline reaps a harvest.

In 2022 there were 85 churches that contributed financially to our work together. This past year about 20% saw their contributions decline from the prior year, while another 20% strengthened; the rest remained steady year over year.

Currently, two BCMB camps have mortgages through Legacy, backed by BCMB. We continue to support the BCMB Bible Camp Society's efforts to make this valuable ministry financially sustainable.

Overall, the conference directly contributes almost 60% of its revenue to support its partner ministries. Camps received 13%, CBC 16%, and

CCMBC 16% of ministry contributions received. However, the investment in church planting is not a direct percentage – rather all the commitments made to planters are being fully honoured, regardless of the level and timing of ministry contributions received by the conference.

Looking at the 2023 budget, you will note that it is very conservative, reflecting the giving trends observed over the last few years and structured to stay within those constraints. Planned giving to partner ministries for 2023 is budgeted at the same percentages as 2022, again with church planting set at the full amount committed to support the planters.

The conference is currently in dialogue across the province exploring the possibility of deep change. As it unfolds and begins to take shape, an incremental budget will be crafted to encompass the financial timing and impact of any anticipated changes. This incremental component will be over and above the baseline budget in place and presented for affirmation at the AGM. Ultimately, when the conference affirms any deep changes they will also vote on the corresponding incremental budget.

Looking to 2023, one of the areas the EB has asked the SAC to explore is the implications of each church becoming their own society. The purpose would be to align and manage potentially significant liability exposure. Then again, there has to be sufficient value in that to offset the costs and complexities involved.

Our SAC team will be down one member by April, as Don Pasuik completes his term. We are grateful for Don's wisdom and insights on the myriad of recommendations we explored. We are inspired by the love Don has for the churches. Don's departure leaves Doug Lang and Carol Stewart, whose faithful, capable service is so encouraging. We also have three open seats – perhaps one might be a good fit for you? We'd love to have you join the team!

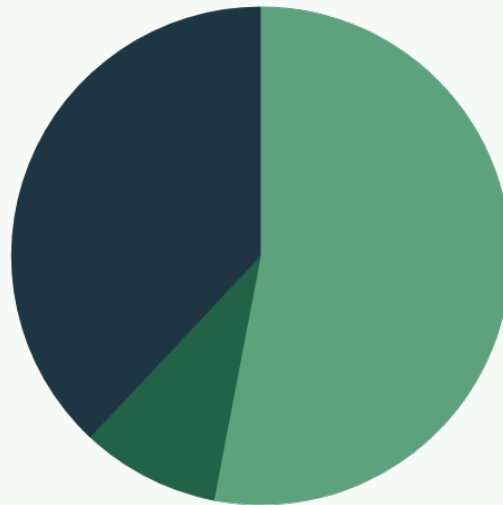
2023

BCMB Budget

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
REVENUE			
Ministry Commitments from Churches	\$1,656,000	\$1,653,026	\$1,656,000
Events	\$70,500	\$87,094	95,000
Other Income	-	\$134,785	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,726,500	\$ 1,874,905	\$ 1,751,000
EXPENSES			
Partner Ministry Subsidies			
Church Planting Subsidy	\$286,000	\$239,328	\$220,355
CBC Subsidy	\$248,400	\$247,954	\$248,400
BCMB Bible Camp Society Subsidy	\$215,280	\$214,893	\$215,280
CCMBC Subsidy	\$264,960	\$264,484	\$264,960
Events			
AGM Costs	\$20,000	\$31,260	\$25,000
Pastor & Spouse Retreat	\$87,000	\$113,150	\$120,000
Workshops & Seminars (Training & Dev)	\$16,550	\$22,888	\$20,000
Administration & Office Expenses			
Compensation	\$352,796	\$347,449	\$380,000
Board & Staff Expenses	\$53,440	\$33,570	\$34,000
Office	\$45,851	\$51,340	\$46,000
Accounting, IT, MBCCA Consultant	\$49,432	\$67,235	\$60,000
Legal	\$27,600	\$32,290	\$38,000
Church Related Costs	\$24,000	\$78,378	\$16,500
Other Non Ministry Expenses	-	\$67,291	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,691,310	\$1,811,510	\$1,688,495
NET SURPLUS	\$35,190	\$63,395	\$62,505

2022 Actual Expenses

Administration & Office
38%



Partner Ministry Subsidies
53%

Events 9%

Proposed Incremental Budget for The Way Forward

	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
REVENUE			
Designated Ministry Commitment			
Church Contributions	\$90,000	\$185,000	\$285,000
Proceeds from Keremeos	\$185,000	\$100,000	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$275,000	\$285,000	\$285,000
EXPENSES			
Leadership Cost			
Compensation & Benefits	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000
Collaboration & Resourcing			
Travel, cohorts, materials, meetings, printing & communication	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$115,000
Development Costs			
	\$30,000	\$15,000	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$275,000	\$285,000	\$285,000
NET SURPLUS	-	-	-

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of The B.C. Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches

Report on the Non-consolidated Financial Statements

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the non-consolidated financial statements of The B.C. Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches (the "Conference"), which comprise the non-consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2022, and the non-consolidated statements of changes in fund balances, operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the non-consolidated financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying non-consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the non-consolidated financial position of the Conference as at December 31, 2022, and the non-consolidated results of its operations and non-consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Under ASNPO, camp properties (*Note 2*) should be presented at their carrying value (ie: historical cost adjusted for amortization and impairment) on the non-consolidated statement of financial position. Due to the lack of information available to The B.C. Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches about the carrying values of the properties, camp properties are presented at the values published by BC Assessment and adjusted annually for changes in the assessed value. This is a departure from ASNPO and our audit opinion on the non-consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 was modified with respect to this matter. As the carrying value is not supported by sufficient appropriate audit evidence, it is considered impracticable to quantify the financial effects of this misstatement.

Similarly, church properties (*Note 5*) should be presented at their carrying value (ie: historical cost adjusted for amortization and impairment) on the non-consolidated statement of financial position. Due to the lack of information available to The B.C. Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches, the carrying values of the properties could not be supported by sufficient appropriate audit evidence and therefore the amount of any misstatement for the properties is not determinable on the non-consolidated statements of financial position and changes in fund balances. Our audit opinion on the non-consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 was modified with respect to this matter. Our audit opinion for the year ended December 31, 2021 was modified accordingly.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Non-consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Conference in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the non-consolidated financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Non-consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the non-consolidated financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of non-consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the non-consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Conference's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Conference or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Conference's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Non-consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the non-consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these non-consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the non-consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Conference's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Conference's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the non-consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Conference to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the non-consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the non-consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The B.C. Conference of the Mennonite Brethren
Churches *(continued)*

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Societies Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, the accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting the non-consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-profit Organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Burnaby, British Columbia
February 27, 2023

Chartered Professional Accountants

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BROTHER CHURCHES
Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2022

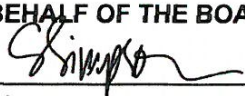
	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds (Note 17)	2022	2021 (Note 2, 16)
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 284,655	\$ 462,387	\$ 747,042	\$ 693,248
Accounts receivable	19,186	-	19,186	7,054
Prepaid expenses	97,990	-	97,990	56,815
Current portion of loan receivable	-	-	-	3,280
	401,831	462,387	864,218	760,397
LOAN RECEIVABLE	-	-	-	9,840
CAPITAL ASSETS	2,877	-	2,877	6,500
CHURCH PROPERTY HELD FOR SALE (Note 5)	112,534	-	112,534	-
CHURCH PROPERTIES (Note 5)	66,650	-	66,650	394,980
CAMP PROPERTIES (Notes 2, 3)	-	21,769,000	21,769,000	19,574,000
	\$ 583,892	\$ 22,231,387	\$ 22,815,279	\$ 20,745,717
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
CURRENT				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 42,082	\$ -	\$ 42,082	\$ 12,503
Due to related parties (Note 4)	96,928	-	96,928	44,410
Deferred revenue	37,445	-	37,445	34,552
Deferred contributions (Note 6)	1,841	-	1,841	34,796
	178,296	-	178,296	126,261
FUND BALANCES				
Unrestricted	405,596	-	405,596	557,756
Internally restricted (Note 17)	-	22,122,073	22,122,073	19,947,073
Externally restricted (Note 17)	-	109,314	109,314	114,627
	405,596	22,231,387	22,636,983	20,619,456
	\$ 583,892	\$ 22,231,387	\$ 22,815,279	\$ 20,745,717

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES (Note 10)

LEASE COMMITMENT (Note 11)

FUNDS HELD IN TRUST (Note 12)

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



 Director



 Director

See notes to financial statements

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Non-Consolidated Statement of Changes in Fund Balances
Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds (Note 17)	2022	2021 (Note 2)
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING OF YEAR				
As previously reported	\$ 557,756	\$ 13,711,634	\$ 14,269,390	\$ 1,149,484
Change in accounting policy for camp properties (Note 2)	-	6,350,066	6,350,066	-
As restated	557,756	20,061,700	20,619,456	1,149,484
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	63,636	(25,313)	38,323	(104,028)
Transfer of camp properties	-	-	-	16,488,000
Camp properties annual assessed value adjustment	-	2,195,000	2,195,000	3,086,000
Transfer of church properties (Note 5)	(215,796)	-	(215,796)	-
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR				
	\$ 405,596	\$ 22,231,387	\$ 22,636,983	\$ 20,619,456

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Non-Consolidated Statement of Operations
Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds (Note 17)	2022	2021 (Note 2, 16)
REVENUE				
Ministry commitment from churches	\$ 1,653,026	\$ -	\$ 1,653,026	\$ 1,670,956
Event income	87,094	-	87,094	1,600
Recoveries	70,011	-	70,011	56,331
Donations	63,741	-	63,741	10,519
MBCC Association donations	-	9,616	9,616	4,540
Interest income	680	2,078	2,758	1,594
Miscellaneous income	353	-	353	717
	<u>1,874,905</u>	<u>11,694</u>	<u>1,886,599</u>	<u>1,746,257</u>
EXPENSES				
Ministry partnerships (Note 7)	966,659	-	966,659	1,181,304
Wages and benefits	347,449	-	347,449	348,387
Administration (Note 8)	173,717	-	173,717	142,808
Event expenses	144,407	-	144,407	18,251
Donations	39,531	23,195	62,726	22,068
Church media licenses	48,372	-	48,372	46,514
Training and development	35,059	-	35,059	42,120
Ministry expenses	22,958	4,625	27,583	20,224
Other facilities administration	16,877	-	16,877	15,727
Board and committee expenses	9,887	-	9,887	867
MBCC Association/Esperanza	-	9,187	9,187	2,940
Amortization	3,624	-	3,624	7,400
Memberships and licenses	2,729	-	2,729	1,675
	<u>1,811,269</u>	<u>37,007</u>	<u>1,848,276</u>	<u>1,850,285</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 63,636	\$ (25,313)	\$ 38,323	\$ (104,028)

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Non-Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended December 31, 2022

	2022	2021 <i>(Note 2)</i>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ 38,323	\$ (104,028)
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization	3,624	7,400
	<u>41,947</u>	<u>(96,628)</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(12,132)	(4,640)
Prepaid expenses	(41,175)	5,000
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	29,578	(3,413)
Due to related parties	52,518	59,965
Deferred revenue	2,893	3,836
Deferred contributions	(32,955)	32,955
	<u>(1,273)</u>	<u>93,703</u>
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	<u>40,674</u>	<u>(2,925)</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of capital assets	-	(3,152)
Increase (decrease) in loan receivable	13,120	(13,120)
Cash flow from (used by) investing activities	<u>13,120</u>	<u>(16,272)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW	53,794	(19,197)
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year	<u>693,248</u>	<u>712,445</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	\$ 747,042	\$ 693,248
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS CONSIST OF:		
Unrestricted cash	\$ 276,060	\$ 170,346
Unrestricted cash deposits with another organization	6,754	406
Internally restricted cash	353,073	373,073
Externally restricted cash	1,841	34,796
Externally restricted cash deposits with another organization	109,314	114,627
	<u>\$ 747,042</u>	<u>\$ 693,248</u>

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2022

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The B.C. Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches (the "Conference") exists to join God in building healthy churches that transform communities with His love and truth. The Conference operates programs and ministries to assist its local member churches.

The Conference is incorporated under the Societies Act of British Columbia and is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and as such is exempt from income taxes.

2. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

The Conference has changed its accounting policy with respect to the accounting for camp properties. Previously, the properties were recorded at their estimated carrying values on initial transfer from the camps and depreciated over their estimated useful lives. The Conference has determined that the financial statements will be more understandable if the camp properties are carried at their fair market value as determined by using the BC Assessment assessed values. This represents a departure from accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

To account for this change in the prior year, church properties increased by \$6,350,066, the original transfer in fund balances to record the camp assets increased by \$2,809,946, amortization expense decreased by \$454,120, and the annual market revaluation of camp properties increased by \$3,086,000.

To account for this change in the current year, opening camp properties increased by \$6,350,066 and the opening internally restricted camp capital assets fund balance increased by \$6,350,066.

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The non-consolidated financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

The Conference does not prepare consolidated financial statements for its controlled entity, Columbia Bible College (*Note 4*).

These non-consolidated financial statements present only the financial position, changes in fund balances, results of operations and changes in cash flows for the Conference. Individual member churches and camps within the Conference account for their own financial position, changes in fund balances, results of operations and change in cash flows, as well as any assets that may be on title with the Conference, but for which the churches and camps have beneficial ownership.

Fund Accounting

The Conference follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

The Operating Fund accounts for the operations, administration and capital assets of the Conference and reports its unrestricted resources.

The Restricted Funds account for funds externally restricted by contributors to be used for specific ministries and funds internally restricted by the Board of Directors for designated purposes.

(continues)

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2022

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Revenue Recognition

Externally restricted contributions related to general operations are recognized as revenue of the Operating Fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Externally restricted amounts can only be used for purposes designated by the contributor. All other externally restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the Operating Fund when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Recoveries are recognized as revenue when invoiced which typically coincides with payment by the Conference of the related expense to be recovered. Recoveries pertaining to annual group licenses are recognized over the term of the license. Any amounts received in advance are reflected in deferred revenue on the Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

Event income is recognized as revenue when the events are held.

Financial Instruments

All financial instruments are initially recorded at their fair market value. Publicly traded financial instruments quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value with any unrealized gains or losses and transaction costs recognized in net excess of revenue over expenses. All other financial instruments are adjusted for any transaction costs incurred on acquisition and are subsequently measured at their amortized cost. Financial instrument impairments and impairment reversals are recognized when incurred in net excess of revenue over expenses.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, cash balances with banks, and cash deposits with another organization. Any term deposits or similar contractual instruments that are cashable and a maturity term of three months or less are classified as cash equivalents.

Capital Assets and Amortization

Capital assets purchased are stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Capital assets contributed are recorded at the fair value as of the date of receipt. Amortization is provided at the straight-line method, as follows:

Equipment and furniture	4 years
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The Conference regularly reviews its capital assets to remove those no longer in use. Fully amortized capital assets are removed from the financial statements.

Capital assets acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are used in operations.

(continues)

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2022

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (*continued*)

Camp Properties

Camp properties, which include land and buildings, are initially recorded at the most recent BC Assessment values at the time of the transfer. Subsequently, camp properties are revalued annually to the BC Assessment values that are released during the fiscal year. This adjustment is reflected in the Statement of Changes in Fund Balances. At December 31, 2022 the properties of three camps are held (2021 - three camps) and the total assessed value is \$21,769,000 (2021 - \$19,574,000). This policy is not compliant with ASNPO which requires such assets to be recorded at their cost values and subsequently adjusted for amortization and impairments. The camp land and buildings are held for leasing purposes to BCMB Bible Camp Society (related by significant influence).

The land and building for two of the camp properties with an assessed value of \$18,252,000 (2021 - \$16,448,000) are encumbered by mortgages between CCMBC Investments Ltd. and the camps operating the premises with a value of \$1,956,481 as at December 31, 2022. The Conference acts as guarantor on the loans as disclosed in *Note 10*.

One of the camp properties with an assessed value of \$3,517,000 (2021 - \$3,126,000) has external restrictions on its use as set by the Columbia Shuswap Regional District that limits the Conference's ability to sub-divide the property, requires the use of the property to be for a private educational facility, and limits the maximum capacity.

One of the camp properties with an assessed value of \$14,241,000 (2021 - \$12,694,000) has external restrictions on its use as set by the Fraser Valley Regional District that limits the Conference's ability to sub-divide the property, requires the property to be used as a church camp, recreational, cultural, charitable or farming institution, limits the maximum capacity, and limits the building size and floor area.

During 2021, the Conference signed lease agreements with BCMB Bible Camp Society (the "Tenant") to lease five parcels of land to the Tenant for the camp properties located at Gardom Lake Bible Camp, Stillwood Camp and Conference Centre, and The Pines Bible Camp Association (collectively, the "Camps"). The term of the agreements is for two years ending on December 31, 2022. During the current year, the leases at all locations were extended an additional year until December 31, 2023.

Contributed Services and Materials

Volunteers assist the Conference in carrying out its ministry, programs and operations. Due to the difficulty in determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

Contributed materials or gifts-in-kind are only recognized when their fair value is reasonably determinable, with such items recorded at fair value on the date of the contribution. During the year, the Conference received non-cash gifts-in-kind of \$NIL (2021 - \$NIL non-cash gifts-in-kind).

(*continues*)

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2022

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Defined Contribution Plan

The Conference participates in the Canadian Mennonite Brethren Pension Plan administered by the Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America, which is a defined contribution plan related to future employee benefits. The Society is only responsible for payments as specified under the plan agreement. The contribution amounts are determined based upon employee services rendered during the year. Contributions made by the Conference for the year amounted to \$14,539 (2021 - \$14,782).

Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from these estimates. Material uncertainties involving management estimates include the determination of the carrying values of the camp properties *(Note 2,3)* and closed church properties *(Note 5)*.

4. RELATED PARTIES

The following is a summary of amounts due from related parties:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
The Pines Bible Camp Association <i>(related by significant influence)</i>	\$ 162,645	\$ 162,645
Allowance for uncollectible loan	<u>(162,645)</u>	<u>(162,645)</u>
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The amounts due from related parties are unsecured, non-interest bearing and without any specific repayment terms.

During a previous year, an allowance was established for the \$162,645 balance due from The Pines Bible Camp Association due to uncertainty regarding the collectability of the balance. The amount has not been fully written off as there is an expectation of collection at a later date when the camp becomes financially stable.

(continues)

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2022

4. RELATED PARTIES *(continued)*

The following is a summary of amounts due to related parties:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
BCMB Bible Camp Society <i>(related by significant influence)</i>	\$ 30,730	\$ -
Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America <i>(related by common membership)</i>	31,021	44,410
Columbia Bible College <i>(controlled organization)</i>	<u>35,177</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 96,928</u>	<u>\$ 44,410</u>

The Conference has significant influence over the following not-for-profit organizations: Campfire Ministries, Gardom Lake Bible Camp, BCMB Bible Camp Society, Stillwood Camp and Conference Centre, and The Pines Bible Camp Association. All these camps are registered charities under the Income Tax Act and as such are exempt from income taxes.

Columbia Bible College (the "College") is a controlled organization that is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and as such is exempt from income taxes. The College is incorporated under the Columbia Bible College Act, S.B.C. 1987.

The purpose of the College is to provide post-secondary education to students from Canada and other parts of the world. The Conference has the authority to elect a majority of the directors of the College.

The relevant financial information provided by the College is audited by another firm of Chartered Professional Accountants and reported separately up to and including April 30, 2022. The College utilized the deferral method of accounting for contributions, rather than the restricted fund method used by the Conference. The College reported \$2,541,585 of restricted assets at April 30, 2022 (2021 - \$2,987,100).

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Total Assets	\$ 13,229,025	\$ 13,698,653
Total Liabilities	8,956,176	9,685,046
Net Assets	4,272,849	4,013,607
Revenue	7,107,105	7,265,669
Expenses	6,898,781	6,617,841
Cash flow from (used by)		
Operating Activities	(143,177)	553,563
Financing Activities	119,727	47,611
Investing Activities	(424,238)	(53,902)

The restricted assets of the College are as follows:

Deferred operating contributions	-	165,147
Scholarship endowment principal	1,413,351	1,293,624
Deferred revenue	444,245	522,091
Internally restricted - capital reserve	683,989	1,006,238

(continues)

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2022

4. RELATED PARTIES *(continued)*

The following is a summary of the Conference's related party revenue (expense) transactions:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u> <i>(Note 16)</i>
BCMB Bible Camp Society <i>(significantly influenced organization)</i>		
Ministry partnerships - subsidies	\$ (214,893)	\$ (255,013)
Designated donations	(258)	(22,068)
	<u>(215,151)</u>	<u>(277,081)</u>
Columbia Bible College <i>(controlled organization)</i>		
Recoveries	101	403
Ministry partnerships - subsidies	(247,954)	(275,200)
Administration	(34,847)	(33,109)
Event expenses	(3,800)	-
Designated donations	(2,938)	-
Training and development	(500)	-
	<u>(289,938)</u>	<u>(307,906)</u>
Gardom Lake Bible Camp <i>(significantly influenced organization)</i>		
Recoveries	-	161
	<u>-</u>	<u>161</u>
Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America <i>(related by common membership)</i>		
Ministry partnerships - church planting subsidies	22,861	(305,272)
Ministry partnerships - national ministry subsidies	(264,484)	(335,591)
Administration	(663)	-
	<u>(242,286)</u>	<u>(640,863)</u>
	<u>\$ (747,375)</u>	<u>\$ (1,225,689)</u>

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.

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2022

5. CHURCH PROPERTIES

When a member church ceases activity, the beneficial ownership of the related property reverts to the Conference. During the year, no churches ceased activity. The Conference currently holds title to two (2021 - four) churches for which no member congregation maintains beneficial ownership. The properties are held by the Conference for future congregations and were recorded as a direct increase to the Operating Fund balance in prior years. During the year, two church properties with a historical cost of \$215,796 were removed from the Conference's records as they became occupied by member congregations.

Although Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations require such assets to be recorded at carrying value, the Conference has been unable to determine the carrying value of the churches at the time the member churches ceased activity. The assets have been included based on available historical cost information totaling \$179,184 (2021 - \$394,980). The difference between the historical cost and the current carrying value of the two church properties is not determinable as of the report date.

Further, one of the above-noted church properties with a historical cost of \$112,534 is classified as held for sale on the Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position. The property is expected to be sold within the next 12 months due to an inability to find a member congregation plant to operate the property. Any sale proceeds will be directed for use in other ministry areas at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

6. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

Certain funds have been received that were designated and deferred, but not yet disbursed for the following projects, missions, and ministries:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Indigenous relations	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Scholarships	841	841
Abbotsford flood relief	-	30,345
Donation for 2022 operations	-	2,610
	<u>\$ 1,841</u>	<u>\$ 34,796</u>

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2022

7. MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

The following is a breakdown of the ministry partnership expenses of the Conference:

	2022	2021 <i>(Note 16)</i>
Church plants	\$ 239,328	\$ 315,500
Columbia Bible College	247,954	275,200
National ministry	264,484	335,591
Camps	214,893	255,013
	\$ 966,659	\$ 1,181,304

Included in the 2021 Camps figure is an additional one-off subsidy of \$45,813 relating to subsidies for the 2020 fiscal year but paid in 2021.

8. ADMINISTRATION

The following is a breakout of the administrative expenses of the Conference:

	2022	2021
Accounting	\$ 34,800	\$ 17,381
Legal fees - Conference	32,290	28,448
Rent	30,635	29,911
Legal fees - Member churches	24,136	6,456
Computer and software	19,745	13,258
Insurance	9,764	8,190
Telephone	4,982	4,870
Website	4,979	4,718
Office	4,206	2,198
Printing and postage	2,793	3,635
Bank charges and interest	1,634	1,525
Advertising and promotion	1,587	2,593
Maintenance	1,445	1,325
Miscellaneous	721	-
Legal settlement	-	18,300
	\$ 173,717	\$ 142,808

9. CREDIT FACILITIES

The Conference has unsecured credit facilities with Royal Bank in the form of three credit cards with combined credit limit of \$130,000. The credit facilities bear interest at 19.99% per annum on overdue balances. The outstanding balances of the credit facilities as at December 31, 2022 was \$29,262 and is included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2022

10. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Conference is liable with respect to mortgages for member churches and camps operating under its Society, loaned from CCMBC Investments Ltd. in the amount of \$21,038,170 (2021 - \$20,973,021), further broken down into \$19,081,689 (2021 - \$19,006,217) in church loans and \$1,956,481 (2021 - \$1,966,804) in camp loans. The purpose of the loans are to allow the member churches and camps to acquire land and buildings and for church and camp building construction. The mortgages are secured by properties in which the Conference has title.

Except as explained below, none of the loans are in default and management of the Conference is of the opinion that the risk to the Conference that it would be required to pay these mortgages in the event of churches defaulting on their payments is mitigated by the fair value of the collateral being in excess of the outstanding mortgages.

The property held for the Pines Bible Camp (the "Camp") has a market value that exceeds the mortgage amount. Specifically, as at the most recent appraisal date of December 31, 2014 the property had an appraised value of \$1,735,000 whereas the mortgage on the property was \$1,031,095 as at December 31, 2022 (2021 - \$1,020,433). The Camp is in arrears in its payments to the mortgagee, CCMBC Investments Ltd.

The Conference is currently named in one legal matter relating to a dispute a member church is involved in regarding a photocopier lease. The outcome and contingent loss on this matter is not determinable at this time.

11. LEASE COMMITMENT

The Conference has an operating lease with respect to its premises with Columbia Bible College, a related party, which expires on December 31, 2023. The Conference also holds an option to renew this lease for an additional three years at a renegotiated rate.

Future minimum lease payments over the term of the lease are as follows:

2023	<u>\$ 31,944</u>
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12. FUNDS HELD IN TRUST

The Conference holds funds in trust for several member churches. They are solely the property of the churches and do not accrue in whole or part to the Conference. As at December 31, 2022, the Conference held \$6,485,589 of cash deposits in trust from member churches (2021 - \$6,333,956 cash deposits).

13. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Conference is dependent on contributions from its member churches to fund a significant portion of its operations. During the year, the Conference received contributions equal to 28% of its Operating Fund revenue from three member churches (2021 - 29% from three member churches), and as such is economically dependent on these organizations for its ongoing operations.

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2022

14. REMUNERATION DISCLOSURE

In accordance with the Societies Act of British Columbia, the Society discloses that the three highest paid individuals and persons under a contract for services that each exceeded \$75,000 of annual remuneration were paid a total sum of \$317,257.

15. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT RISKS

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The Conference is exposed to credit risk for its cash and cash equivalents. Exposures to credit risk are as follows:

- Cash held at year-end exceeds the amounts covered by the Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation, serving to increase credit risk. The Conference mitigates this risk by depositing its cash with a large, high quality financial institution.
 - The cash equivalents are cash deposits held with CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc., which is not a financial institution. The deposits are not government guaranteed or insured by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, therefore any financial difficulties encountered by the CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. could adversely affect the collectability and valuation of the deposits.
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16. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation. Specifically, ministry commitment from churches and ministry partnerships expense has been presented at gross on the Non-Consolidated Statement of Operations and camp properties have been presented separately from capital assets on the Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2022

17. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening Balance (Note 2)	Revenue	Expenses	Interfund Transfers	Camp properties annual assessed value adjustment	Closing Balance
Internally restricted funds consist of:						
Camp capital assets	\$ 19,574,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,195,000	\$ 21,769,000
Contingency reserve	250,000	-	-	-	-	250,000
BCMB church planting	102,073	-	-	-	-	102,073
BCMB Ministry growth	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Leadership development	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-
	<u>19,947,073</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,195,000</u>	<u>22,122,073</u>
Externally restricted funds consist of:						
MBCC Association	96,622	11,449	7,469	-	-	100,602
Esperanza Multicultural Church	10,185	245	1,718	-	-	8,712
Church planting	4,625	-	4,625	-	-	-
Chaplaincy trust	2,937	-	2,937	-	-	-
Camps bursary	258	-	258	-	-	-
	<u>114,627</u>	<u>11,694</u>	<u>17,007</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,314</u>
	<u>\$ 20,061,700</u>	<u>\$ 11,694</u>	<u>\$ 37,007</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,195,000</u>	<u>\$ 22,231,387</u>

BCMB Convention Minutes 2022

Saturday, 30 April 2022 – 8:30 am - 4:30 pm



1. Welcome & Greeting – Sharon Simpson:

Thanks for the Worship Team and Brian Buhler for the Pastor's Equipping portion of our gathering. Welcome to all the delegates. We look forward to the joy of meeting in person.

2. Rules of Order, Parliamentarian: Lorraine Dyck. Online procedures outlined by Carson Samson.

3. Minute Review and Agenda with the change to: move resolution #1 to the end with #s 2-5. **M/S/C.**

4. Presentation of Bylaws: Denis Federau - Thanks to the Governance Committee, Executive Board and legal counsel. Summary of BC Society law changes in 05/21 which decided no more than one vote per member (church) and no unincorporated members. This affects how we function. The 16 incorporated churches voted to preserve our bylaws and enable us to have an AGM. The bylaws presented change the nomenclature but not the essence.

Recommendation 6: SS - That the BCMB bylaws be approved as presented.

M/S

Q&A

Q: Levi Simpson KGF: A clarification on members and when representation ends. Society's Act allows recommendations from the floor with a 75% majority, why don't we?

A: DF: We are a conference of churches, not individuals so in all cases a member refers to a church. Although the society act allows recommendations from the floor, it doesn't mean the society has to allow them.

Q: In between AGM and special meetings, what is a member?

A: Congregational delegates are those members who can cast votes legally. After the AGM, only pastors and moderators can cast votes legally because as BCMB, our interactions are with the pastors/moderators and not congregants.

Q: With the add-in of pastors and moderators, the 1:25 ratio means small churches have a larger ratio. Do we not need clarity regarding nominations procedure as it appears that Committees are self-perpetuating?

A: Every January, the Conference office sends out an email to the churches, stating vacancies and welcomes them to nominate.

C: John Redekop, Bakerview Church: Concern over wording of: naming of bylaws on Title Page and Table of Contents, Bylaw #7 and the word “affiliate”, Bylaw 22-3.1 the word “members”. Opposed to Bylaw 12.5 that guests are invited by only the Ex. Board and that no motions are taken from the floor.

A: Thank you for your observations.

Q: Brad Sumner, Jericho Ridge: What were the considerations/changes made to address concerns about consolidation of power at the Executive Board?

A: DF: The Governance Committee made recommendations from Town Hall discussions that went to the Executive Board for considerations, and we softened language pertaining to Executive Board to be more collaborative.

Q: Re: Nominees to the PMC: Do the PMC members need to be credential holders?

A: Rob Thiessen: PMC is vetting specifically for Credentialing so it stands to reason that the members be credentialed and the one being credentialed would want to know those vetting them are also credentialed. Within the PMC there are a wide variety of giftings and backgrounds.

C: Bruce Gunther, Bakerview: Bylaws 3.2 /12.1 are a two-tiered system of membership which restricts how the Church membership is represented and should remain all year long. The Bylaws reflect an unhealthy centralization of power. There is insufficient accountability as the Executive Board is the only body which permits what occurs at an AGM, and still functions as a self-perpetuating board. How can churches comment on the nominees prior to names being brought forward? The Town Hall suggestions have not been taken seriously.

A: DF: For delegates to remain active after the AGM would not be how we have historically engaged with our churches. Delegates can engage directly with Conference at convention. The Nomination sheet has those up for re-election and that’s how you speak to it.

Q: Ken Peters, Saanich Community: Bylaw 19.2.2 regarding doctrinal soundness, is such weight-bearing reflected in the discernment at the nominating committee? Who can discern doctrinal soundness? Are the Executive Board members made aware of this responsibility and tutored?

There is no reference to National Faith and Life Team, Pastoral Ministries Committee or consultation with teaching institutions.

Re bylaw #20: Is the Executive Committee acting on behalf of the Executive Board? Is there a functional oversight that the chair of the PMC is not on the Executive Committee?

A: DF: Our Confession of Faith is our doctrinal soundness and by defacto, includes NFLT.

The Executive Board is aware of the weightiness and takes that call extremely seriously and humbly.

The PMC Chair does not function on their own but serves as an advisor to the Executive Board and is not endowed with making decisions on behalf of the board or conference.

C: KP - It should be reflected in the bylaws that the PMC be included in theological soundness decisions.

Q: Chris Hall, Killarney Park: Is the “highlighting” of changes a comparison between current and draft bylaws and why are they filed 03/22 but dated 02/22?

A: DF: The filing of current bylaws is from the 16 incorporated churches when they met. Highlighting changes were done in the town hall meetings and since changes had not been made since 2008 we wanted them to reflect how we currently operate.

C: Lorne Welwood: Today’s choice is this: defeat the motion and be left with the bylaws registered in March passed only by the 16 churches that are legal society members or to pass these, which would be approved by all churches represented today and bring us more into line with how we actually function. Bylaws are the skeleton: they don’t contain each and every procedure and should be often reviewed.

Q: Mark Burch, Northview: Bylaw #23: Why have those three names (Renewal, Evangelism and Multiplication) in the title been combined rather than it being called Church Planting? When was this decision processed and who brought it forward?

A: DF: The idea came from Executive Board as an all-encompassing name. Although we don’t have the REM Committee populated, we want to have sub-committees to cover these areas. Church Planting task force wants to focus on Church Planting.

RT: We want to align with the National CUSP (Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan), have a missions orientated task force and REM is an aspirational goal to address how renewal fuels church planting etc. while recognizing a wider mandate.

RT: Our EB doesn't feel that we are operating with centralized control and we want our documents to reflect cooperation. There are constant interactions between groups, e.g.: PMC attend board meetings, the director of NFLT sits on the PMC and we have had a huge amount of collaboration this past year.

SS: The practice of EB is collaborative, PMC chair, CP task force, and there is a spot on the board for all of the voting representatives of our partners. REM was named because during our strategic planning we recognized that we need to involve all of our churches and the intent was not to take away from CP goals. The bylaws describe how we function and move forward beyond 2008.

Q: James Toews, Neighbourhood Church: Why did the group of 16 churches pass the bylaws and which bylaws are we passing today, 2008 or 2022?

A: DF: if those 16 churches had refused to vote for the bylaws, we couldn't have had an AGM. The only changes those 16 churches approved was for us to be able to operate the way we are already.

SS: Our legal counsel said this was the only way we could have an AGM. We have the commitment of the Governance Committee to continue to work and once this foundational piece passes, we can move forward and then make more changes. The two town halls grappled with many issues and we hear your concerns and are wanting to be held responsible.

DF: We have the Governance Committee commitment to review and update the bylaws and engage with the churches.

Motion passed with more than 75%

Conference Minister's Report: Rob Thiessen

This past year the focus was to bring alignment with the national CUSP to have our ministry model include:

1. Spiritual Health and Theology: Confessional integrity of our churches and leaders, equipping to respond biblically and missionally, supporting pastors responding to pandemic restrictions and church polarization;
2. Leadership Development: Ascent leadership out of Westwood, informal gatherings, MBBS teaching partnerships with churches, Island Prayer Gatherings, supporting churches in transition;

3. Mission: Church Planting Task Force participation with Dawson Creek, Harrison, Aldergrove Campus of NLCC, Central Abbotsford Church, Northview Campus, rebuild of Cedar Park, visitation and prayer;
4. Organizational Health: During pandemic, to equip incoming pastors with Sacred Trust workshop, podcasts, and assist church leadership teams. Goals for this next year include: To hire a staff to oversee multiplication, renewal and evangelism, more engagement on social media, provide theological resources to engage Biblical issues, exhort every church leadership to engage and affirm the COF, confirm clergy malpractice policies and guidelines, and clarify policies for those departing from the COF.

Director of Resource Ministries' Report - Denis Federau

Great joy to connect with churches and pastors and to help provide the right resources to help churches function and proclaim the Good News. Highlighted the *Harnessing Conflict for Change* seminar.

Q&A from CM and DR reports:

Q: Brian Martin, Discovery: Thank you for the zoom events, will hybrid events become the norm?

A: RT – Yes, when possible.

Moderator's Report: Sharon Simpson

This past year was marked by the challenges of Covid, rapid cultural changes happening and the re-engagement with the COF as a set of convictions on how we live our lives. As vice-moderator on the Canadian Conference it is has been a privilege to serve and represent BC.

Although BCMB has been unable to meet our full financial commitments to our partners, we strongly believe in their ministries and want to sustain them. We want to support our next generations to be brought forward to effective ministry and help mentor young people and also women in ministry.

Regarding Cedar Park Church: In June of last year after Artisan Church requested to leave the Conference, we debriefed Artisan's departure with an elder from Artisan, revisiting congregational letters with Larry Schram, Western Canadian Baptist Regional Minister. There were many practicalities/logistics worked through and action points as a result of the debrief.

Last year at the AGM, the moderator of CPC said she did not align with the COF which then began a deeper conversation with CPC. During the summer CPC put in place a new interim moderator. There were concerns from church members, EB and PMC as to the teachings and resources being in alignment with our COF.

Pastor Lee Kosa met with the PMC in December. Later, all 20 members of the EB and PMC signed, in unity and clarity, a letter addressing observations and asking for alignment with our COF. The concerns of the congregation were growing and we did call a special congregational meeting to answer questions. This was a difficult meeting for both those who didn't uphold the COF and for those who were wanting to align with it.

Hans and Anna Krueger, CPC: They've been members for more than 30 years. Hans, who has been a former moderator and assistant moderator shared some background:

- In June, 2019 a gay pride flag was hung up at church. Board members met with Lee Kosa but Hans Krueger, on a working vacation, as assistant moderator was not invited. The outcome was contentious. The Moderator and Hans Krueger met with Lee Kosa to ask for clarification and requested sections of the COF be published for the church. Lee Kosa declined as he felt it would be harmful.
- When Covid hit, conversations were hard to have and it was difficult to know who was still a part of church. Some congregants began to ask the Conference for help.
- On March 31st all three pastors and all elders except one resigned. We looked to the Conference for help. Wanted to still have services.
- In April, Hans Krueger met with Lee Kosa to ask for the opportunity to navigate a peaceful parting. No meetings requested with the Executive Board happened. HK then met with individuals.

Thank you to the Conference for the tremendous amount of work.

SS: PMC did revoke Lee Kosa's credentials and we did receive a petition from those upset about that. Love runs deep through CPC and the whole process has been hurtful for both individuals and the congregation. Services are still continuing: anyone is welcome. Thank you to the other churches helping out.

Q&A:

Q: Curtis Scofield, Black Creek Community: Where can we look for best practices/nature and function?

A: SS - We have been bringing educational environments where we can have those conversations on how to practically live our faith while still love well such as Posture shift, podcasts, etc.

RT: There have been lots of resources provided.

C: James Toews, Neighbourhood: On April 3, he, Janet Toews and Danny Unrau attended the meeting with Conference personnel at CPC as witnesses on the invitation of some of the members at CPC. James' observation: there were two solitudes at work with two differing narratives. His appeal was for BCMB to listen to the other narrative.

A: SS - Spoke with Frank Sawatsky who holds a differing view, it was reasonable, beneficial and we are open to having those conversations. Our intent was not harm yet the EB and PMC felt our calling and mandate as to how to also represent the other 96 churches.

C: Brett Landry, Christ City: I'm grateful for the role you've played in leading, and for consistently upholding the teaching of scripture.

C: RT: We sought to engage and listen to the pastor and as a licensed teacher there is accountability as a steward of the congregation. Redemptive conversations would be our goal. If you, as a leader, are questioning the COF, don't drag your congregation into it. Have courage in your convictions. We've had two study conferences on sexuality with open conversation. The groundswell of opinion in our society-at-large is strong and if the leader is not convicted then it is a foregone conclusion.

Recommendation 7: That the British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches release Heritage Mountain Community Church from membership. **M/S/C.**

Q&A

Q: Mark Burch, Northview: Could you clarify why Heritage is being released?

A: RT: The church felt a greater alignment to identify with a Western Baptist group. There were no assets.

Recommendation 8: That the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches release Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship from membership. **M/S/C.**

C: Kevin Hiebert from Point Grey: We've been glad to be part of BCMB as a lay-led church over the last 36 years. We looked at the Bylaws of having a designated credentialed pastor and decided to remain a member of the Mennonite Church Canada. Excited to announce the development of land across from UBC/Regent and the building of new student housing to serve students.

Recommendation 9: That the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches affirm and approve the nomination slate as presented.

SS: thanks to all who serve and are letting their names stand to serve and for the work done on these committees. **M/S/C.**

Recommendation 10: That the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches supports the transfer of the property title of Hyde Creek Church to Northview Community Church for Gospel use. **M/S/C.**

C: DF: Clarified that these titles have actually already been transferred so the motion was just for ratification.

C: Mark Burch, Northview: Hyde Creek has been planted and now called Tri-City Society.

C: Dave Esau, Eagle Ridge: Most building titles are owned by the Conference unless churches are their own society.

C: SS: It was decided over 20 years ago to allow churches to have their own society for liability reasons. This whole process needs to be explored by all of our churches.

C: Mark Burch, Northview: Tri-City is independent and if Tri-City dissolves, assets will go back to Northview for a different church plant.

C: Lorne Welwood: Becoming a society and holding your own title are related but different and unincorporated churches can't hold a title.

Recommendation 11: That the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches supports the transfer of the property title of Lake Errock Church to Central Community Church for Gospel use. **M/S/C.**

Recommendation 12: That the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches supports the transfer of the property title of Jericho Ridge to Jericho Ridge Community Church for Gospel use. **M/S/C.**

C: Brad Sumner, Jericho Ridge – Expressed gratitude to Legacy for their partnership and support but noted the challenges of variable interest rates vs

fixed rates which are only available if JRCC becomes its own society. So becoming a society is a financial decision that will allow them to act on their mortgage and potentially save significant money in the current mortgage market.

CCMBC Presentation:

CCMBC Legacy Fund - Jason Krueger: President

Thank-you to Bertha Dyck for her service at CCMBC. Excited for the future rather than looking backwards in ministry. Prayers that there would be unity and love. Shared stories of healing and unity amongst boards, provincial conferences, leaders, and ministry partners with new policies put into place, building trust, restoration and reconciliation.

National Faith and Life Team - Ken Esau: Interim Director of NFLT

How are we as a denomination defining our relationship with shared convictions, relationships, and value? The task of the NFLT is to steward and safeguard our COF on behalf of the Conference. Introduction of the 17-member team. Our mandate is to nurture spiritual health and theology with a posture of humility and conviction.

CCMBC - Elton DaSilva: National Director

Review of 2021 with new bylaws, re: collaborative model, CUSP for common mission and agenda, and financial reform.

Ahead: operationalizing the CUSP, provincial ministry team for the four priority areas, presenting a reduced 2022 budget, managing the collaborative approach with National Council and national town halls and an in-person Equip Study Conference.

Elton brought thanks to BC for the service of gifted leaders who are helping CCMBC. Our call is to rediscover what it means to be on mission with Jesus, to sacrificially give and go and serve, and to re-awaken to God's presence because Canada needs Jesus now more than ever.

SS: Thank you to the staff and workers at CCMB at all levels.

Ministry Reports:

Columbia Bible College - Bryan Born: President

I've been reflecting on John 21 and the reinstatement of Peter: although disconnected through the pandemic, we want to feed our sheep. We've been

celebrating: in-person graduation, spiritual growth in the students, serving the community. Programmatic developments for fall 2022 are all undergirded with a firm Biblical foundation including the revised Applied Leadership degree and new courses, the 3rd and 4th year retreats and summer Day camps. New tagline: “Be Known. Make a Difference”. Helping students know their identity and purpose in Christ. Pray for enrollment, faithfulness, sustainability.

Issued an invitation to answer the question “What does BCMB want from/for Columbia for the next decades?”

MB Seminary - Mark Wessner: President

I’m here to give thanks for the amazing things God is doing! MB Seminary restructured financially and has a balanced budget. We’re excited about the launch of Teaching Church Initiative with onsite teaching in partnership with the church for graduation credits and certificates in addition to collaboration with educational partners to train and equip.

Pastoral Ministries Committee - Eldon Fehr: Chair

I give thanks for having a good team who are willing to contend for the faith. Jude 1:8 says, “⁸ In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings.” Our mandate is to serve the Executive Board by providing theological watch care. Drift in theological alignment begins with rejecting authority: the authority of scripture and then of leaders. When not in alignment with the scriptures, there is to be conversation, exhortation and then discipline. When trained by discipline, it produces the fruit of righteousness.

BCMB Bible Camp Society - Bob Kroeker: Director

It is a privilege to work with the five camps and their teams and we thank you for your support. There’s excitement to have kids back at overnight camps this summer where the kids will hear and experience the life-changing Good News of Jesus and where staff members get valuable leadership training.

Multiply - Vic Wiens: Interim General Director

We have confident hope, endurance and encouragement given from God. We’re thankful for the many workers and national partners. We’re hopeful for new workers to answer the Macedonian call to come over and help. We’re engaged with Ukraine urgent relief through the Ukraine MB and their network. We’re excited about growth in India and the Indore Training Centre. Vic spoke of Multiply’s work in BC to serve the South Asian ministry in the Lower Mainland by bringing in a missionary couple from India to work here.

Multiply - Greg Laing: Mission Mobilizer, Western Canada

We offer thanksgiving to God for support and that the Kingdom of God is advancing and also for the ability to adapt. A missionary has been sent from Toronto to work with the Tibetan people there. Short-term Missions are being re-envisioned.

Mennonite Central Committee BC - Wayne Bremner: Executive Director

Over half of the BCMB churches partner with MCC in some way and the MCC ethos is to work with and through the church, locally and across the world: e.g. Ukraine, local flood relief, Ethiopia famine. Future challenges will be the backlog of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

Church Planting Committee - Phil Collins: Chair

Phil stressed the importance of Camps. Reminder that God answers prayer. All of the church plants are encouraging. Pray that we see a greater release of financial resources. Pray for a full-time staff member to work with Church Planting. Pray the CP task force, the new staff member and our churches find the right strategy for Church planting in the future.

SS: With the merger of C2C with Multiply and then the de-merger, it left BCMB wondering how to move forward and the CP task force has taken up the mantle.

Q&A

Q: Brad Sumner, Jericho Ridge: Thank you for the process of sharing what you learned as you debriefed BCMB's interactions with Artisan. Can you report on process and people outcomes regarding CPC? The PMC holds credentialed accountable, the Executive Board is to hold churches accountable and so it is the delegates that holds the Board and staff accountable. The danger is that as we contend for the Faith, we become contentious. What did we learn and how are we caring for those impacted?

A: SS: What happened at CPC is different than what happened at Artisan. So, a generalized set of processes and what we write will be published. The bylaws were clear. Challenges: It took a long time for the church to come to the full knowledge that BCMB is the title-owner to the building so when that became clear, different proposals were brought forward and BCMB was/is open to them. By the nature of giving credentials, revoking them is then an obvious possibility.

RT: A written set of processes won't smooth out the contentions but we are striving to be peaceful.

Ken Esau: The goal of the NFLT is to create policy that is open and transparent in regards to Credentialing with probationary credentials, a process to revoke and review procedure.

SS: It has been a difficult time after Ingrid Reichard stepped away and CCMBC could not afford a full-time director of the NFLT. People weren't available and it extended the time line.

C: James Toews, Neighbourhood: It is aggrieved parties who ask for witnesses. I'm speaking for 190 people from CPC who begged the Conference to back off and let CPC work things out by themselves so they are angry because they are wounded and the Conference would not listen.

A: SS: The response to the letter received was worked on over 12 times to be the best response we could give. We spoke with the author of the petition and came to a reasonable conclusion. Many on the non-affirming side are hurting as well.

C: Mark Burch, Northview: Our COF is built on many apostolic confessions, church history, creeds and centuries of work. Pastors go into this job agreeing to uphold the confessions and credentials given. This is our COF agreed upon at this time.

C: SS: These have been difficult conversations but we have our confession and bylaws and are confident we are upholding both.

Financials:

SS: There is thoughtfulness to how we are managing our finances and what is projected to come in. The Stewardship Advisory Committee is doing a great job looking at this. We believe this budget will be helpful for us, our ministry partners and the CCMBC.

Curtis Braun - Loewen Kruse Chartered Professional Accountants

We can present an unqualified, clean report but which included two qualified items regarding non-operational items: properties returned back to the Conference: Stillwood, Gardom Lake Bible Camp and Pines who previously had no lease agreements with the Conference but now do so for operational purposes, nothing changes but for accounting purposes, the assets are transferred over.

There is financial health of good current assets to current liabilities ratio.

Pre- vs post-pandemic. Cash and equivalents end-of-year show the financial viability of the Conference and faithfulness of those giving.

Q&A

Q: David Esau, Eagle Ridge: A question of economic dependence when 29% of the operating fund is from 3 churches: is this a concern?

A: DF: This shows the large churches are leaning in and supporting and we are grateful for that. Not all churches can give as much, and if your church is struggling, we ask you give us a call and have a conversation.

2022 Budget:

Selwyn Uittenbosch: Expressed appreciation to Sandra as Bookkeeper and Curtis Scofield for his service with the SAC. Thank you, churches, for your consistent giving. SAC and BCMB are wanting to best serve the churches. The Budget doesn't contain any big changes this year in order to keep it sustainable.

DF: \$1,656,000.00 - budget reduced by 78.8% to start where we ended last year. Engaged with the churches as to what they need and want. SAC wants to be diligent and God-honouring in how the funds are used.

68% of the funds flow through to four priority areas: Church Planting, CBC, Camps, CCMBC whose percentages have all been reduced except Camps. We need to reflect the reality we live in.

Q&A

Q: Brian Martin, Discovery: There is an increase in developing leaders so what are you planning?

A: DF: The last two years we weren't able to visit so there's increased travel spending to visit this year.

A: RT: Also, the figure involves Posture Shift and other in-person learning opportunities.

C: SS: This budget isn't reflective of ministry and isn't our goal. We want to spend money on what God has called us to do. We want our ministry partners to know what to expect but we pray that there will be monies over and above.

We require a sacred understanding of money given, releasing fears of the future or our own wants and giving it to God for His use.

Recommendation 1: That all ministry reports be approved. **M/S/C.**

Recommendation 2: That the 2022 BCMB budget be set at \$1,656,000.00.

M/S/C.

Recommendation 3: That the 2023 BCMB budget be set at \$1,820,000.00.
DF: This is approximately a 10% increase. **M/S/C.**

Recommendation 4: That the audited financial statements, prepared by Loewen Kruse Chartered Accountants for the fiscal year 2021, be approved as presented. **M/S/C.**

Recommendation 5: That we appoint Loewen Kruse Chartered Accountants as the accounting firm to perform an audit of the financial records and prepare the financial statements for the year 2022. **M/S/C.**

Motion to destroy the ballots **M/S/C.**

Motion to close the meeting.

RT closed in prayer.



CCMBC
CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF
MENNONITE BROTHERS CHURCHES

CCEFM
CONFÉRENCE DES ÉGLISE
DES FRÈRES MENNONITES

AGM **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

June 8, 2023 | Virtual Meeting October 28, 2023 | Hybrid Meeting