

A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains under a sky with soft, colorful clouds. The foreground is a lush green valley. The overall color palette is warm, with oranges, yellows, and greens, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

This one thing

/BCMB Convention 2024/

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner
worthy of the gospel of Christ. Philippians 1:27

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Whatever happens
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Philippians 1:27

Jesus offers us ongoing renewal, revival, and rejuvenation. What great promises these are for us to create a roadmap around!

In Ephesians 3:20, Paul writes that God is able to “do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us”. We are excited to see what God is doing amongst us and press into what God wants to do through us.

South Abbotsford Church is pleased to be hosting our sister churches as we unite around the renewal roadmap God has for us and the power that comes from what He wants to do. Collectively we can experience the work of the Spirit in immeasurably greater ways than on our own.

Therefore, we gather in anticipation of ‘whatever happens’ as it says in the theme verse for the Convention. Our prayer as host church is to see the fullness of Jesus expressed as we gather together. There is always great joy in God’s people spending time together, and pressing into more of Him. May you experience renewal and rejuvenation. God always has a fresh word as we anticipate what He is wanting to do in His church.



Jonathan Headley
Co-lead Pastor
South Abbotsford Church



Garth Borthistle
Co-lead Pastor
South Abbotsford Church

Agenda

/BCMB Convention 2024/

Friday, April 26, 2024

1:00 pm	Pastor's Equipping Sessions Session 1
3:00 pm	Coffee Break
3:30 pm	Session 2
5:30 pm	Celebration Dinner
7:00 pm	Celebration Service Worship, Testimonies, Message

Saturday, April 27, 2024

8:00 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:30 am	Opening Worship Welcome & Greeting
9:00 am	Conference Minister Report Moderator Report The Way Forward
10:00 am	Q&A

Saturday, April 27, 2024 cont.

10:15 am	Coffee Break
10:45 am	Director of Operations Report Financial Statements Curtis Braun Loewen Kruse Chartered Professional Accountants
	Stewardship Advisory Report & 2024 Budget Presentation
11:30 am	Q&A
11:50 am	Lunch
12:50 pm	Ministry Reports Q&A Freddy Orozco Pastoral Ministries Committee Phil Collins Renewal, Evangelism & Multiplication Bob Kroeker BCMB Camps Mark Wessner MB Seminary Steve Brown Columbia Bible College Bruce Enns Multiply
3:05 pm	Vote on the Presented Recommendations
3:10 pm	Canadian Conference Q&A Jason Krueger & Cam Stuart CCMBC & Legacy
3:30 pm	Voting Results & Closing Remarks

A branch with several green, elongated leaves is positioned on the left side of the image. Behind the white card, a brown, textured envelope is visible, partially obscured. The entire scene is set against a light, neutral background.

This one thing

/BCMB Convention 2024/

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.

Philippians 1:27

Introducing Living Hope Church

/BCMB Convention 2024/

by Senior Pastor, Philip Whealy
Living Hope Church, Kelowna

Following an extraordinary and clear call of God, my wife Rachel and I moved from the UK to Canada in 2018 with our three children, intending to blend entrepreneurship and ministry.

In November 2018, we (innocently) started a young adults Bible study in our home with one young lady, and when the numbers exceeded the capacity of our living room, we moved to a church hall on a Monday night. As time went on, it became clear that God was calling me to start a church, so I obeyed the Lord and stepped up.

We couldn't find a Sunday morning venue in Kelowna until September 2023, when we officially launched our first Sunday service. We call it a church 'start' as God truly started this from nothing, with no finances and no backing.

I was also credentialled with BCMB in September 2023, and the beating heart of the ministry is to fearlessly proclaim the unedited gospel of Christ, to pluck souls from hell, and grow them into powerful disciple-making disciples.

We have two elders so far and four deacons, two of whom (Jake and our son, Gideon) also preach. We now have a children's ministry and have just launched a youth group. We feel privileged that God has given us the opportunity to unashamedly preach His Word in Kelowna and we marvel at how faithful God has been to us.

We have an unshakeable faith that the gospel proclaimed in the power of the Holy Spirit is still the power of God for salvation, able to set any captive free, and that God's Word never returns to Him void, always accomplishing what He pleases.

We are proving God faithful over and over again (enraging Satan, judging by the opposition we face), seeing addicts, alcoholics, the sexually and emotionally broken, the spiritually abused, the weary older Christian, and everything in between, fully set free and thriving in God.

We see His life transforming power moving in precious people, and are overjoyed to witness the love of God, shed abroad in their hearts, then pour



out to the lost and hurting. We have an insatiable desire to see God form such a powerful group of Christians, on fire for God, that they spread His word across Kelowna, this province, and Canada, raising godly children, lighting up the marketplace, and starting churches.

Rachel and I met when we were 15 and 13 respectively (marrying at 21 and 19), and have been married nearly 34 years. Rachel leads our women's ministry, and our three children, Danielle (27), Gideon (26) married to Natasha, and Hannah (17), all help in the ministry with worship leading, social media, video production, and preaching/pastoral ministry.

I worked as a British medical lawyer for many years, and Rachel in finance. We moved full-time into ministry for a number of years in the UK, burned out, and went back into corporate life for 11 years until we felt the irresistible call of God to start Living Hope Church.

To God be all the glory, now and forever!

“The beating heart of the ministry is to fearlessly proclaim the unedited gospel of Christ, to pluck souls from hell, and grow them into powerful disciple-making disciples.”

Common Understandings

/BCMB Convention 2024/

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

Psalm 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.



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Rules of Order

/BCMB Convention 2024/

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. In general, Robert's Rules of Order will be followed.

Recommendations

/BCMB Convention 2024/

1. That all ministry reports be approved.
2. That the audited financial statements, prepared by Loewen Kruse Chartered Accountants for the fiscal year 2023, be approved as presented.
3. 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 2024.
4. That the 2024 BC Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches budget be set at \$1,950,000.
5. That the members of the BC Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches affirm and approve the nomination slate as presented.
6. That the members of the BC Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches support the transfer of property title of Pemberton Community Church Society to Pemberton Community Church for Gospel use.
7. That the members of the BC Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches close and release from membership, Jubilee MB Church.
8. That the members approve the application for recognition of Living Hope Full Gospel Ministries to be a Recognized Church within the BC Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches.

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Conference Minister Report

/BCMB Convention 2024/

by Rob Thiessen

At last year's Convention, our churches agreed to pursue and invest in a renewal strategy for the coming season. Finances were set aside and a new leadership search was initiated. The thrust of this new initiative was to launch and grow renewal cohorts where every BCMB church would have the opportunity to pursue renewal in their context with intentional guidance and mutual support.

The BCMB Executive Board search is still ongoing, but renewal is moving ahead. Forward movement toward province-wide renewal is evident through:

- **Churches planting churches**

- We have at least nine BCMB churches that are actively supporting other churches with various levels of oversight. These churches may have one or up to five sites. It is evident that this model of church multiplication provides optimal sustainability for new churches as well as leveraging precious Kingdom resources effectively.

- **Churches mobilized in evangelism through Alpha and other outreach efforts**
- The Covid years put many of us in survival mode and created a noticeable sense of apathy among many believers. At the same time, the pandemic heightened the wider population's hunger for security, meaning, and true community. Churches that keep the focus on mission, preach the gospel with clarity, and provide venues where seekers can encounter the love of Christ are seeing fruit.
- **Churches bearing witness to the gospel through active community service and engagement**
- Many BCMB churches have gained a wide reputation in their communities as places of help and goodwill. Others are seeing the opportunity and finding joy in serving their communities in the name of Christ. Our BCMB churches are meeting people's practical needs by resourcing schools in Chilliwack, providing affordable housing in Prince George, running prison and emergency responder chaplaincies, hosting soccer camps with indigenous youth, and providing grief care and recovery programs.



“Our BCMB churches are meeting people’s practical needs by resourcing schools in Chilliwack, providing affordable housing in Prince George, running prison and emergency responder chaplaincies, hosting soccer camps with indigenous youth, and providing grief care and recovery programs.”

- Multiple disciple-making strategies being deployed by churches in order to grow and multiply disciples
 - From traditional small group settings to discipleship triads, our churches are increasingly intentional about seeing people learn to walk with Christ and lead others to do the same. The variety of approaches is contextually necessary. Praise God for our large churches with strong pulpit ministries. Praise God for decentralized churches empowering individuals to be disciple-makers.
 - Churches engaged in global mission efforts through sending teams and supporting missionaries
 - Our BCMB churches continue to look beyond their own borders to the global mission. Our financial contribution to Multiply as well as the resurgence of churches sending their own teams out on mission is exciting.
 - Churches partnering together to help each other through various missional challenges
- The BCMB ‘Way Forward’ journey has provided an opportunity for us to reaffirm our willingness to partner together. Churches that have been experiencing sustained growth and health are indicating their willingness to partner with churches who are plateaued or in decline. The power of this kind of mutual encouragement has been on display across BC.
- » Discovery Church in Campbell River is supporting weekly ministry in Sayward and Prince Rupert.
 - » Many Island churches have been assisting Gateway Church in Pt Alberni with finances.
 - » Three GVRD churches are assisting Cedar Park through a season of crises.

Further evidence of God's work among us in the past year is on display at Columbia Bible College. At last year's Convention our churches heard a heartfelt call for prayer and support from outgoing President, Bryan Born. Our BCMB Executive Board engaged with CBC's board to reaffirm our commitment to see CBC thrive as a solidly evangelical Bible College committed to the authority of Scripture and to equipping young leaders for life and ministry. We praise God for progress and for His provision of a new President, Steve Brown, to lead the school into the coming season.

In the year ahead, BCMB is well positioned to serve our churches with the myriad of practical and logistical needs that arise. We are deeply thankful for Wanda Froese and her passion and skill for this area of ministry. We are excited to bring a church renewal plan and proposal to you at our 2024 Convention at South Abbotsford Church, where we will also explore a partnership with the City to City Network. Our Renewal, Evangelism and Multiplication team, along with our Executive Board, encourage you to be ready to discern and engage in the renewal journey as we take the next steps together.

“Let’s continue to engage in our partnership with one another and with our National Conference. This is where the Lord has placed us and it is still worthy of our energy and effort. ”

Please continue to pray for our BCMB churches and the search for a new Conference Minister. My term as Conference Minister will be completed in August. It has been a privilege to serve you all. We have been through some rough waters these past 12 years, but God has been faithful and His promises to us remain. Let's continue to engage in our partnership with one another and with our National Conference. This is where the Lord has placed us and it is still worthy of our energy and effort.

I conclude with our theme verse for 2024:

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.”
Philippians 1:27

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Moderator Report

/BCMB Convention 2024/

by Sandi Reutlinger, Executive Board

“Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.” Habakkuk 3:2

May we be found in awe of our glorious and gracious God, in awe of His character, and praying for a renewal of His mighty deeds. May we be found waiting in faith-filled joyfulness and able to sing along with Habakkuk that the Lord is our strength, enabling us to walk on high places. Imagine how bright the Light of the Lord will shine forth from on high! We place our trust in the Almighty, believing that He is sovereign, and can therefore pray that His will be done in His way, in His time, with His power, and for the glory of His great name. While we are in a season of transition, I fully believe that God is using this time to work all things together for good within individual lives, churches, and our Conference.

As we gather together at Convention this year, there is much to celebrate in our churches and communities. While I recognize that there are trials and troubles, in the midst of it all, God is working

for His good will and pleasure. Like the revelation in Habakkuk, all in an appointed time. Despite our own personal or church circumstances, be encouraged that the righteous hand of God will uphold and strengthen you.

There has been much discussion about our need to become more purposeful in our pursuit of revival in our churches and evangelism in our communities. Pastors and church leaders have expressed their hopes for the future of our MB churches and the transformative work of the gospel of Jesus needed in our neighbourhoods.

Collectively, support was given to pursue ‘The Way Forward’ and to clarify our focus on how to effectively carry out the Great Commission. This required looking at making essential changes to our staff and resource allocations. We had hoped that by this time we would be presenting our new Executive Director, but the right person has not yet been found. The search committee has been actively engaged in seeking someone to fill this role, working alongside the Board and consulting firm, Nelson and



“Continue to pray with us in unity for clear direction, as together, we seek the Lord for the renewal of our churches and evangelism of our communities.”

Kraft. The Executive Director position is a unique role which will require a catalytic leader who is able to equip and empower our churches to be both faithful and fruitful. We covet your prayers over this process as we seek God’s guidance for our future. Continue to pray with us in unity for clear direction, as together, we seek the Lord for the renewal of our churches and evangelism of our communities.

Our Conference Minister, Rob Thiessen, has held high the call for our BC churches to pray, to renew our hearts for fulfilling the Great Commission, and for holistic disciple-making. Rob will be retiring in August and we have greatly benefited from his grace-filled leadership and heart of love for God’s

people and each one of our churches. With gratitude, we thank Rob for his pastoral care and support of our leaders and churches and for the way he has continued to uphold our doctrinal beliefs and common understandings. The humility with which Rob continues to serve during this transitional time is a testament to his godly character. May God’s hand of favour rest upon both Rob and Janet and may the joy of the Lord be their strength as they continue serving God and His people.

We saw transition at the BCMB staff level this past year in the Director of Resource Ministries position. It is with heartfelt thanks that we extend appreciation to Denis Federau for his years of service in that role. It is our prayer that God will continue to bless Denis and Doris as they minister at Clearbrook MB Church.

The position of Director of Resource Ministries was renamed Director of Operations to better fit the various roles and duties entailed. In July, Wanda Froese was hired to fill this position and she has capably jumped in with both feet. Please extend a warm welcome to her if you haven’t personally met her yet. She is a great asset of knowledge and resources for our churches.

At the Executive Board level, we are grateful for the leadership of Matt Ewert, who served well as Moderator up until the end of January when he moved to Saskatoon, SK to pastor Forest Grove Community Church. We pray God’s blessing on Matt and Dawn as they serve in their new community.

When I stepped into the role of Moderator, it was with the confidence of knowing that our Executive

Board is made up of dedicated volunteers who have integrity and hearts filled with love for Jesus and His Church. Our desire as a Board is to serve our BC churches effectively in our unified pursuit of actively fulfilling the Great Commission, while living out our love for God and others.

Our different committees readily serve in diversified ways pertinent to each committee and I am grateful for the many volunteers who offer their time, talents, and energies to work on these committees.

The **Stewardship Advisory Committee** has the financial acumen to not only help our local churches process financial needs, but also to ensure that as a Conference, we are fiscally responsible and financially situated to best serve our churches, partner ministries, and national office with our contributions. Thank you to our churches and the many individuals who give financially to the Kingdom work BCMB and our partners engage in.

The **Governance Committee** continues to look at bylaw revisions and updates and ensures that we function within our constitution and good governance practices.

The **Nominations Committee** understands our need for compatible and committed people who are willing to step in and serve our churches.

The **Pastoral Ministries Committee** is essential to our Conference as a doctrinal resource and to give pastoral and doctrinal oversight. The work they have done for the credentialing, licensing, and ordination of pastors required many hours and prayers along with God-given discernment and wisdom.

The committee for **Renewal, Evangelism and Multiplication** has been hard at work over the past year to discern how to best move our churches forward without losing momentum, engage our leaders, and support campus ministries, churches



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Philippians 1:27

planting churches, and church renewal. They have a commitment to prioritize prayer, healthy leadership, and multiplication. The REM team is identifying renewal resources and revitalization themes that can contribute to the unique strategies needed for BCMB. As we wait upon the Lord for His perfect timing of the new hire for Executive Director, the REM team is committed to prayerfully uphold and work with our church leaders.

Our ministry partners, Columbia Bible College and BCMB Camps, are valuable to our Conference and we invite you to continue to uphold them in purposeful prayer. Your church's faithful financial contributions to BCMB ensures that we can collaboratively support our partners.

BCMB Camps continue to thrive and evangelize as well as engage in discipleship and leadership development. We celebrate with them that each one of the camps ended the year with a positive cash flow, and pray that the season ahead will be filled with the planting of seeds and the reaping of a great harvest of souls for Christ.

There is excitement around the future of CBC as theological alignment has been clarified, and God continues to work and move in the lives of staff and students. Bryan Born served the college proficiently in his term as President and we are grateful for the leadership he gave and the integrity with which he served. We welcome new President, Steve Brown, and pray that he will continue to have God's wisdom, revelation, and discernment along with a compelling vision for this next season of biblical training and developing leaders.

Our national partner, the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, has been in transition as well with Elton DaSilva moving over to become Global Director of the International Community

“BCMB wants to see the empowering, equipping, and multiplication of Christ-centered churches to bring the life-transforming power of the gospel of Jesus to everyone in BC and beyond.”

of Mennonite Brethren. Cam Stuart has taken on the role of National Director and will be utilizing refreshed office space in our BCMB offices. We are looking forward to working together with CCMB over the years ahead as they desire to help cultivate healthy disciple-making churches. The strategic plan (CUSP) defines priorities we all value for our churches regarding missional living, spiritual and organizational health, and leadership development within a disciple-making framework. The National Faith and Life Team is a valuable resource for spiritual direction in matters of ethics, theology, faith, and Christian living.

BCMB wants to see the empowering, equipping, and multiplication of Christ-centered churches to bring the life-transforming power of the gospel of Jesus to everyone in BC and beyond. We are focused on the commandment to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind, to love our neighbours as ourselves, and then to go and make disciples of all nations. We know that God's purposes will prevail and we are excited that He invites us into many opportunities to do Kingdom work.

May we be found working together, rejoicing in the Sovereign Lord who is our strength, that the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

Director of Operations Report

/BCMB Convention 2024/

by Wanda Froese

As the new Director of Operations at BCMB, the last half of 2023 was a joyful and rich time of learning and discovery for me. Efforts were concentrated on three areas: supporting BCMB's mission, stewarding our resources, and risk assessment and management for both our Conference and churches.

Firstly, however, I would like to thank Denis Federau for his guidance and encouragement as I became familiar with the ministry and scope of this position. His availability even after he was no longer "on duty" was invaluable in helping me make a smooth transition.

Supporting the Mission

We have made financial accountability a priority and have created policies and procedures that resonate with church needs. Lay-leaders and pastors have access to practical tools and guidelines to help them manage administrative hurdles, freeing them to concentrate on their mission.

During the third and fourth quarters of 2023, approximately half of our churches requested resources and church management assistance, as evidenced by 89 requests from 41 churches.

See Diagram 1 on page 25

This level of engagement has informed our strategy for developing further support materials and planning for seasonal needs.

Stewardship of Resources

Finances

Operational and administrative costs, such as keeping the office running, legal and accounting services, and governance expenses represented 34% of our 2023 spending, which comes in below the recommended 35% threshold.

Our Program Expense Ratio (measuring how much of BCMB's incoming funds are spent on our core mission) shows that 66% of BCMB spending is directed towards our key objectives.

See Diagram 2 on page 25

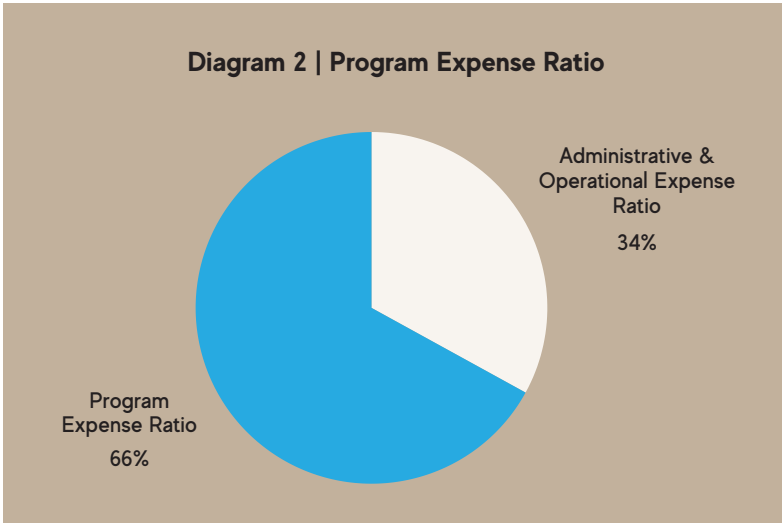
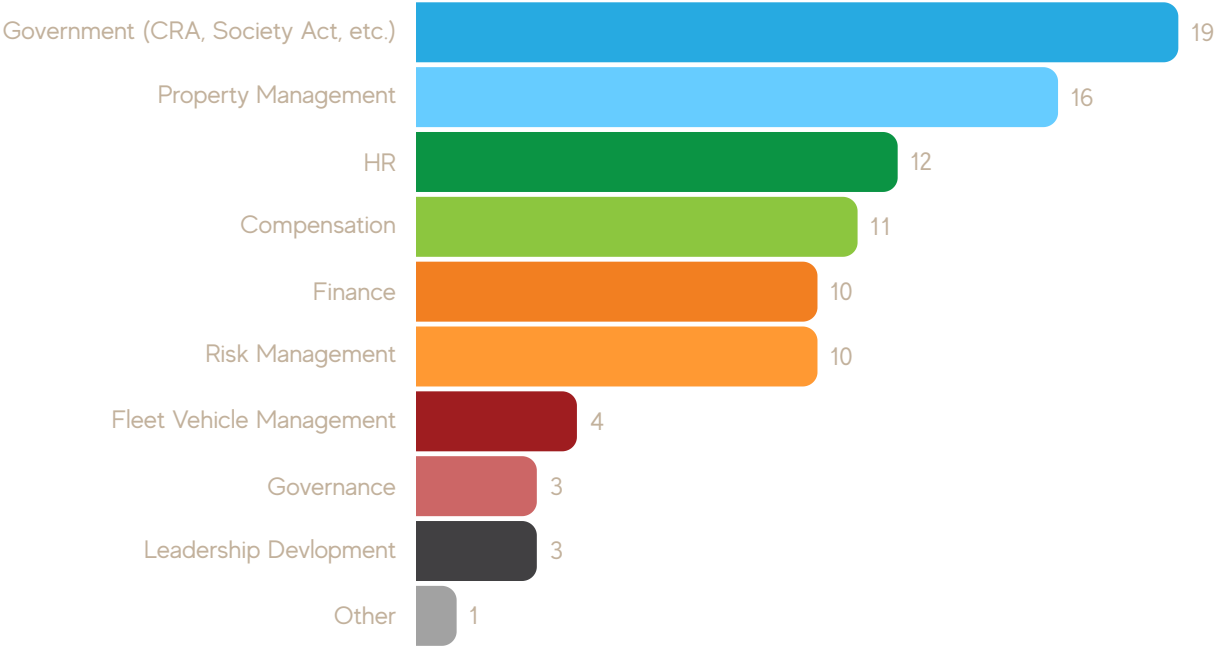


Diagram 1 | BCMB Requests Q3 & Q4 2023

BCMB received 89 requests from 41 churches for resources in the following areas:



This ratio reflects spending in areas that strengthen existing churches, support new churches (15% of our 2023 budget was allocated to church planting), organizing and supporting events such as Convention and the Pastor & Spouse Retreat, developing of The Way Forward Initiative, and financially supporting our partner organizations (CBC, BCMB Camps and CCMBC).

Our partner ministries receive 44% of church contributions. In 2023, funds available to support our partner ministries declined by 2.6%, which is a direct impact of church donations in 2023 falling short of \$1,650,000 by that same percentage.

See Diagram 3 below

Our giving deficit was offset by donations, estate gifts, and interest. Strict budgeting and cost-

saving efforts also led to spending \$100,000 less on operations and resulted in a small year-end surplus. Although the extra income has helped strengthen our finances, we need to ensure we do not become dependent on these occasional blessings.

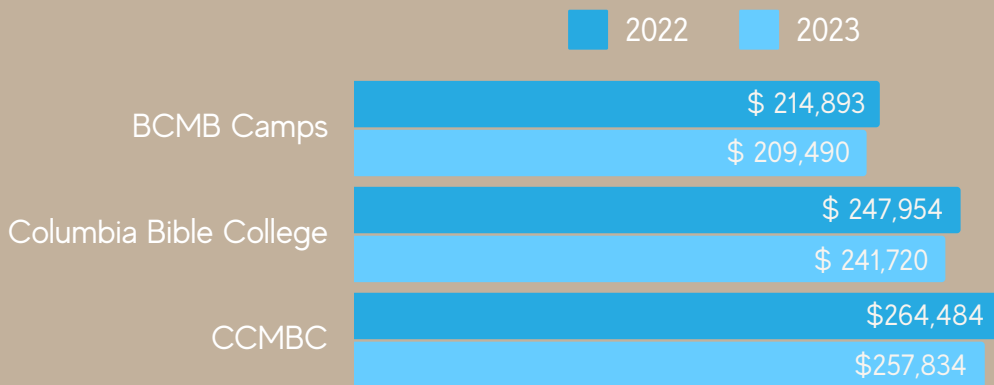
Volunteers

Our people (both staff and volunteers) are among our most valuable assets. The BCMB support staff are deeply dedicated to the Conference and their endeavours far surpass what their roles require. It is through their efforts that we have been able to significantly upgrade our office’s efficiency and organization.

On a personal note, I want to thank the Stewardship Advisory Committee for the support and guidance during my transition into this role. Their

Diagram 3 | Partner Ministry Giving 2022 & 2023

In 2023, funds available to support our partner ministries declined by 2.6%, which is a direct impact of church donations in 2023 falling short of \$1,650,000 by that same percentage.



rich knowledge, active involvement, and steady encouragement has been a foundation of support and technical expertise.

Risk Management

Careful attention to risk management not only secures our present, but also strategically safeguards our collective future.

- ▶ We significantly lowered our liability risk by removing BCMB Camps vehicles from our fleet insurance policy.
- ▶ We are assessing the quality of our insurance by reviewing coverage, service levels, and rates. The review and decision will be complete prior to our November 2024 renewal date.
- ▶ We've introduced an abuse prevention audit for churches under BCMB's insurance program, mandatory with each church's 2024 renewal. This manages non-compliance risks in abuse prevention that could invalidate our insurance.
- ▶ Human Resource challenges being faced by many of our churches are being addressed through a partnership with Spraggs Advisory Group. Churches are encouraged to register for assistance at the BCMB office.

Looking ahead to 2024

This spring, we will be experiencing changes to the support staff team at the BCMB office. We are saying goodbye to two valuable team members – Susan Schlaak (Bookkeeper) and Emma Van Kuik (Administrative Assistant) – who are moving on to new opportunities. They have left a lasting mark on our office environment and administrative processes, and for that we are deeply grateful.

Connie Dyck will be dividing her time between assisting the new National Director of CCMBC, while retaining half of her hours as Executive Assistant with BCMB. Filling the gap left by Emma and Susan, and covering a portion of Connie's current duties, Roxy Neufeld will be joining us as our new Office Administrator.

Goals for 2024

Our main goal for 2024 is to improve support for our churches and protection for our Conference, while diversifying and cutting administrative costs where possible.

This will be achieved through:

- ▶ 100% participation in the abuse prevention audit and 25% participation in the HR program
- ▶ Continuing to update our resource library and developing online equipping initiatives
- ▶ Reducing operational costs by renting our New Hazelton Church property (March 1), and sharing our office space with CCMBC (April 1)
- ▶ Establishing stronger internal controls and achieving cost-savings by outsourcing bookkeeping services to Legacy (March 1)

My personal goal, in this new journey I am on, is to be faithful to the calling on my life, relying on the Spirit to empower me to strengthen our churches and manage our resources.

As the parable of the talents in Matthew 25 reminds me, administration is a Kingdom building activity; the Master's "well-done, good and faithful servant" is our reward.

Stewardship Advisory Committee

/BCMB Convention 2024/

by Jonathan Giesbrecht

On behalf of the Stewardship Advisory Committee

In my first year as the chair of the Stewardship Advisory Committee, I have come to greatly appreciate how many people work quietly and productively behind the scenes for the betterment and well-being of the denomination.

The Stewardship Advisory Committee is made up of those individuals. Not only has Wanda Froese stepped in and effectively managed the BCMB office and administration, but the volunteers on the team, Carol Stewart and Doug Lang, have competently and professionally served our churches. I have grown to respect and admire them and am incredibly grateful for their service to the BCMB family.

This year, the committee has worked on refining, updating, and adding policies for the Executive Board, as well as reviewing insurance policies, and assisting our churches with compensation philosophy, budget crafting, financial review, mortgage review, and accounting best practices.

In reviewing the mandate of the committee, our team has created a skills matrix as we look to add to our number. Some areas we would like to increase our expertise in are investments, law, insurance, real estate management, fundraising, communications/marketing, and technology/IT. If you or someone you know has skills in any of these areas and a passion for the mission of our denomination, we would love to connect with you.

This year, we saw God provide for us again. Although church contributions were down slightly (by about \$40,000), we received two unexpected estate donations for over \$140,000. That, coupled with the sale of an empty building means that the denomination is in a healthy financial position. We are ready for a new executive leader to come in and take us where we believe the Lord is calling us: back to the Great Commission.

While our current cash flow is healthy, we need to highlight the fact that almost \$680,000 of



“I have come to greatly appreciate how many people work quietly and productively behind the scenes for the betterment and well-being of the denomination. The Stewardship Advisory Committee is made up of those individuals.”

funds received in 2023 came from estate gifts and property sales. These are not sustainable ways to build a balanced budget moving forward. If the denomination is going to thrive, we will need the buy-in from our churches, plain and simple.

Our overall church contributions went down last year and we can make assumptions as to why. It may be that we haven't found our leader to take us on The Way Forward Initiative and churches are "waiting to see what happens", or it may be that churches are facing budgetary challenges. We recognize both of these things are probable. I am very concerned, however, that if we feel called to a new way forward, that our churches commit to fund this way forward. Without the commitment of the churches, our efforts to see our MB communities revitalized and multiplying will fail.

In light of this, and due to the fact I am still very new in chairing this committee, I would personally like to have a conversation with church leaders in our

denomination, especially those who are not giving or giving minimal amounts. What would you need to see the denomination do for you to support it financially? What questions do you have that cause you, your board, or your leaders not to give to the denomination?

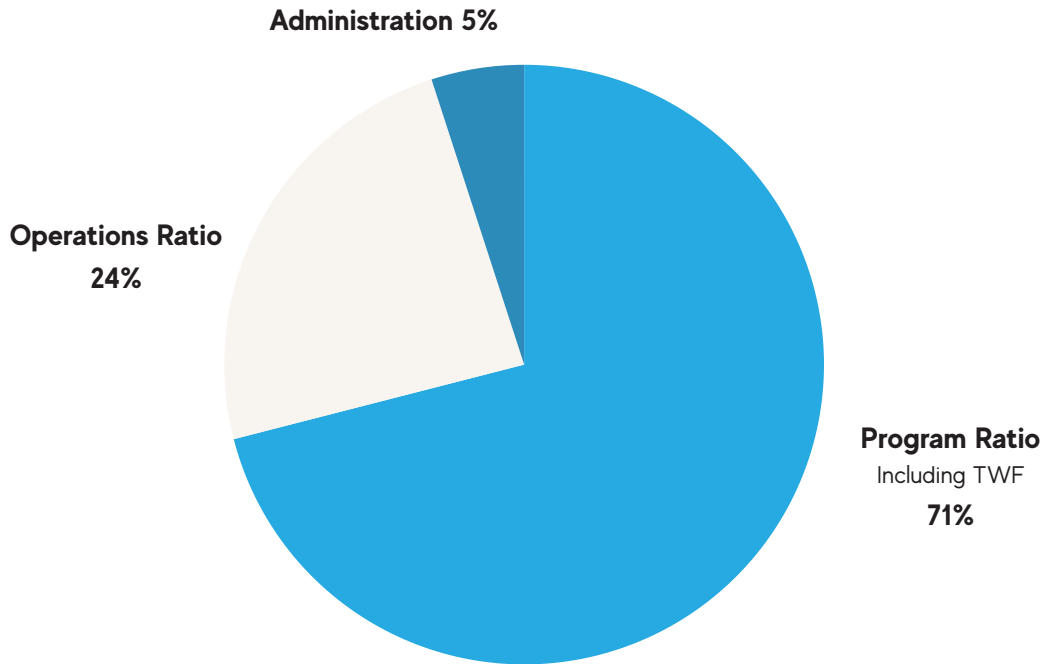
Pray for us that we would be faithful stewards of the funds God has provided and that He would give us a vision for Kingdom advancement. Pray that churches would be revitalized and new ones would be planted in communities that need a healthy body of believers, bringing the gospel to bear in every corner of our province.

Budget 2024

/BCMB Convention 2024/

Budget Item	2023 Total Expense	2023 Expense Budget	2024 Proposed Budget
Programs			
CCMBC Partnership (16%)	\$257,834	\$264,960	\$266,400
CBC Partnership (15%)	\$241,720	\$248,400	\$249,750
BCMB Bible Camp Society Partnership (13%)	\$209,490	\$215,280	\$216,450
Church Planting Subsidies	\$249,105	\$220,355	\$220,355
Church Support & Development	\$33,212	\$29,500	\$55,000
Ministry Expenses	\$35,977	\$16,900	\$25,000
Events & Workshops (Pastor & Spouse Retreat, Convention, Regional Meetings)	\$73,210	\$70,000	\$65,800
The Way Forward	\$38,522	\$275,000	\$285,000
Operations			
Compensation & Professional Development	\$378,611	\$388,700	\$373,745
Office Administration	\$64,990	\$62,799	\$87,300
Administration			
Professional Services	\$75,997	\$68,200	\$95,200
Board & Committee Expenses	\$4,445	\$8,400	\$10,000
EXPENSE BUDGET (NET)	\$1,663,113	\$1,868,494	\$1,950,000

Budget 2024 Expense Ratios



Income Expectations

	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Church Contributions	\$1,611,463	\$1,656,000	\$1,665,000
The Way Forward Funding (Proceeds from Keremeos Church Sale)	\$38,522	\$275,000	\$285,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,659,985	\$1,931,000	\$1,950,000

Pastoral Ministries Committee

/BCMB Convention 2024/

by Fredy Orozco
On behalf of the PMC

In 2023, our BCMB family began the search for a new Conference Minister. We also continued to discern ways in which our family needs to shift and grow to carry out effective ministry in this season. The Borden Report, which was released in the Fall of 2022, served as an important reminder that we exist to proclaim Christ and make disciples of all nations.

One of the key findings of the Borden Report was that the BCMB family requires pastors and church leaders with a strong passion for bold evangelism and deep discipleship to continue their ministry work. The PMC is uniquely positioned to observe both of these traits in new MB pastors, as we conduct interviews with pastors and their spouses, and see their individual character, convictions, and competencies.

The role of the PMC in our church family is not limited to credentialing but also includes equipping churches. We are excited to partner with Dr. George Guthrie from Regent College, who will

lead a summer sermon workshop this August. This workshop is an excellent resource for pastors to engage in deep study while in community and prepare a sermon series for the next ministry year.

Unfortunately, last year, our PMC team experienced a decline in numbers as several members stepped away for various reasons, such as ministry role changes, medical issues, fatigue, etc.

However, God is faithful and with the leadership of Rob Thiessen, our soon-to-be-retired Conference Minister, we were able to continue the important work of credentialing BCMB pastors. We are looking forward to onboarding a few new members onto this committee after the 2024 Convention and trust that God will continue to empower us for service to our broader MB family.

We need faithful men and women to boldly proclaim Christ and make disciples, and for this reason, we are thankful to God that we have credentialled 15 pastors in the past year.



“We need faithful men and women to boldly proclaim Christ and make disciples, and for this reason, we are thankful to God that we have credentialed 15 pastors in the past year.”

MB Pastors Credentialed in 2023

Cliff Ursel

Westside Church

Phil Whealy

Living Hope Church

Nick Toews

Willow Park

Jenny Toews

Willow Park

Zac Pearson

Willow Park

Richard Young

Willingdon Church

Levi Friesen

Northview Community Church

Ray Harms-Wiebe

Willingdon Church

Theresa Liu

Richmond Chinese MB Church

Ariel Bowers

Eagle Ridge Bible Fellowship

Devan Scollon

Kelowna Gospel Fellowship

Chrystal Laforest

Northview Community Church

Steve Warkentin

Armstrong Bible Chapel

Jono Caramay

Willingdon Church

Additionally, we were delighted to affirm the ordination of one pastor:

Justun Chan

South Vancouver

Pacific Grace MB Church

Renewal, Evangelism & Multiplication

/BCMB Convention 2024/

The Renewal, Evangelism and Multiplication (REM) team has been preparing and praying for the BCMB renewal focus that we are all eager for. We anticipate clarity and momentum as we discern a renewal process together at the Convention.

But the past year has not simply been one of waiting. God has been wonderfully at work across the province bringing the REM team among our churches.

The legacy and momentum of the “C2C” years continue among us as churches actively plant churches and find mutual support and encouragement. The REM team has also come alongside churches providing prayer, discernment, and financial support in the following ventures.

Christ City Church, Surrey

Pastor Daniel Golan launched services in 2023 at Serpentine Heights Elementary School and has seen steady growth. The church is associated with three other churches in the Christ City network and receives much encouragement and support from them. This Easter, the Christ City churches celebrated 14 baptisms.

Central Community Church, Harrison

Praise God for the renewal of the Harrison church facilitated by the leadership and support of Central Community Church, Chilliwack. Harrison is an expanding bedroom community and under pastor Jeremy’s leadership, many new families and singles are being reached. The Harrison campus also partners with the Lake Errock campus to reach the people along the north side of the river.

Meadows Church, Langley

God has uniquely led South Abbotsford youth pastor, Mike Olynyk, and his family to reach their neighbours in Willoughby. It’s an amazing story of people coming to Christ through kids ministry in the middle of Covid. The church is growing and finding support and encouragement from South Abbotsford Church as well as Jericho Ridge, NLCC, and BCMB.

North Langley Community Church, Aldergrove Campus

Pastor Kevin Schultz was sent out from NLCC to plant a campus in Aldergrove. No one expected that God had prepared a large church building for them in advance! This campus is about 1.5 years old



Mike & Kim Olynyk
Meadows Church, Langley



Kevin & Christina Schultz
NLCC, Aldergrove Campus

and is already over 300 people. Praise God for the renewed faith of many. Alpha courses are being offered and people are being baptized. Listen to the story on the BCMB Pastor to Pastor Podcast!

Creekside Church, Dawson Creek

A few years ago, this church with a dozen people was on the verge of closure. Today, they have a thriving congregation and will be launching a young adult ministry this spring! Pastor Dave Hildebrandt has been equipping the church and training believers in the Word and sound doctrine. Creekside is poised to appoint three elders as the church moves toward independence. Praise God for the oversight of North Peace Church and the support of Northview in this ministry.

Praxis Church, Kelowna

With support and oversight from Northview church, Praxis has experienced explosive growth in the downtown area of Kelowna. Space issues have been challenging for the church, but Pastor Josh continues to be overwhelmed with God's provision.

“In 2024, the REM team is praying that the renewal of evangelism and mission will result in a great multiplication of disciples and churches in the years to come.”

House For All Nations & Arabic Evangelical Church

BCMB continues in a modest financial partnership with these two ministries that serve minority ethnic communities in our midst. We praise God for pastors like Obadiah Kim and Reda Hana who serve faithfully and sacrificially. Canadian immigration is increasing exponentially, and there is a great opportunity for us to bring the gospel.

In 2024, the REM team is praying that the renewal of evangelism and mission in our churches will result in a great multiplication of disciples and churches in the years to come. As more churches experience renewal, they will join the already growing number of churches that see church planting as part of the ministry that God has called them to.

Toward that end, we invite our pastors to engage with the renewal strategy being presented at Convention at South Abbotsford Church. We believe that the City-to-City Global Network, with its roots at Redeemer Church NYC and the teaching ministry of Timothy Keller, will prove a great resource for us. We expect to learn about church renewal from others, not so that we can imitate or recreate their experiences, but so we can discern wisely what the Spirit might be teaching us in our

“Pray that God would convict us where apathy or fear has diminished our enthusiasm for the gospel. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel for His glory.”

context. None of our BCMB churches have “arrived” and all of us need more and more of God’s grace. Please consider what He might be saying to you and your church in this regard.

The REM team invites the BCMB family to join us in praying regularly for our churches and pastors across the province. Pray that God would convict us where apathy or fear has diminished our enthusiasm for the gospel. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel for His glory in the years to come.



BCMB CONVENTION REPORT 2024

BCMB CAMPS



BCMB BIBLE CAMP SOCIETY

BOB | GARDOM | LIKELY | PINES | STILLWOOD

Turning a Corner!

In many ways, it feels like we've turned a very positive corner. We were close to pre-Covid numbers during summer camp and had hundreds of campers come to know Jesus for the very first time! All our camps finished the year with a positive cash flow, and we are already ahead of last year when it comes to summer registration, staff, and volunteer recruitment. God is good - all the time! We are very thankful to our BCMB Conference and the many, many, strong supporters of our camping ministry. Know that you are an integral part of our mission. **Thanks so much for your encouragement!**



Each year our camps get together for a few days in person to encourage each other, to challenge each other, and to support each other. Rikk from Gardom will often phrase it as "iron sharpening iron" as we work together on best practices which in turn allow us to reach our goal of sharing the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ to every one of our campers. As we began our time together sharing highlights from last summer, very quickly a theme of changed lives emerged as we worked our way around the circle. A camper who received a lot of "visitation" during the week is now baptized and serving God. Staff who we weren't sure were ready to lead, showed up in summer and knocked it out of the park. Campers who complained about chapel and the music at the beginning of the week were raising their hands and singing as loud as they could on Thursday! It is so good to be part of this **vibrant ministry**.



One of our **core values** is working with our BCMB churches. We want to help your church kids invite their friends to experience this life-changing environment. We want to work with your youth and young adults, teaching them valuable life and leadership skills. As awesome as summer camp is we need to partner with our churches to provide support, encouragement, and teaching, to the young people of our province throughout the year.

Camp Likely is in the early stages of looking into a new dining/kitchen facility. One of the first steps is to see if BC Forestry will allow that type of building on our leased land. Last year we mentioned our new director Mariah attends Likely Chapel. We're now seeing renewed support coming out of the town of Likely.

Gardom is hard at work (fundraising) for some much-needed staff housing. They have a site picked out as well as the building and are roughly 2/3 of the way to their fundraising goal.

Stillwood has been blessed to be able to finish many costly repairs and maintenance in the last year thanks in large part to generous donors. The Maple Lodge deck received a total facelift/repair. The dining room has new flooring, and the sports dome has a new roof. Next up is a costly water tower repair which is scheduled for this spring.



We are very excited to share with you that our Endowment Fund **continues to grow** and we will be drawing on the interest already this year to help our camps help their campers! How exciting is that? Our current balance is **just under half a million dollars** which includes the first \$200K of a **five-year million dollar pledge**. The best thing about donating to the Endowment Fund? Besides helping our camps, of course, your donation will last for as long as we have camps reaching children with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Consider how you can help us reach more children in B.C.

Arthur Loewen

We would like to take a moment to celebrate our outgoing Board member – Arthur Loewen. Art has been involved in our BCMB camping ministry as far back as 1959 when he helped as a volunteer in the early building at Columbia Bible Camp (now Stillwood) while he was still in high school. For over sixty-five years Art has been serving and has some great stories to tell! In 1960 Art was a cabin leader at Columbia Bible Camp and while Art was getting his teacher's degree, he often volunteered his trucking company to haul gear and campers! Well before the time of risk management, Art would take campers out to Chilliwack Lake in the open back of his truck. He remembers driving over a large rock once causing a camper to make an unexpected trip from a front corner position to a back corner position!

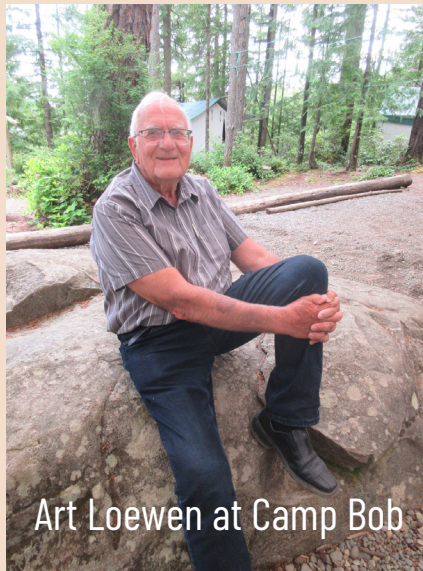
In 1969 Art joined the BCMB Camping Board and has been serving ever since, including time on the Fellowship of Christian Camps in BC Board. Art along with his wife Lois, ran a marriage retreat at Columbia Bible Camp in the early 70s, and Art was instrumental in starting the BC Camping Association/FCC annual retreat. Art is currently sitting on our Board until his term ends in May and is the Board liaison to our Camp Likely Local Leadership Team.

One of many stories Art likes to share is of a non-church camper who became a Christian at camp and told her mom that she wanted to attend church. Mom initially dropped her off and then decided that she should attend to see what was going on, and you guessed it, ended up becoming a Christian. The camper wanted to become baptized and said, "I want Dad to come!" Dad came and again, you guessed it, ended up coming to know Jesus. **Thousands of campers have come to know Jesus throughout Art's time in BCMB Camp leadership.**

Art has been a personal encouragement to me and his passion for camp is contagious. I remember when I was a Program Director at Columbia Bible Camp and later Stillwood, Art would come up to camp, sit under the trees to see what was going on and give me an encouraging word. Art, we wish you and Lois God's richest blessing as you continue to serve Him. I, for one, will still be stopping by for a visit!

On behalf of all our BCMB Camps Family

Bob Kroeker - Executive Director



Art Loewen at Camp Bob

BCMB Camp Society Board Members

Bryan Penner - Chair 2026
Lorraine Dick - Secretary 2025
Tim Derksen - Treasurer 2027
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
Kerry Aylard - 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



2023 MB SEMINARY REPORT

When reading the Genesis story of Joseph, it might be tempting to chalk up his success in distributing food to the famine-ravaged country to the fact that he was merely responding to the divine dream given to Pharaoh. But that would sell Joseph short. The dream simply revealed that famine was coming.

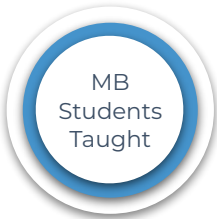
It was up to Joseph to figure out how to plan for the famine and manage the country's response when it came. In other words, the success of the mission was achieved through Joseph's strategic planning and execution.



The same reality is true for MB Seminary. Having a mission and sense of calling is great, but in and of themselves, they are insufficient. Like any ministry, MB Seminary needs to plan and execute.

Looking back at 2023, it is exciting to see how MB Seminary's mission has been operationalized! Three highlights are:

- We launched a new multi-year Teaching Church partnership in Manitoba with Steinbach MB Church.
- Through the ACTS World Campus - built and managed by MB Seminary - we developed four new online courses (Gospel of John, Exposition of Psalms, Theory and Practice of Spiritual Leadership, and Global Theologies).
- We incorporated church-based small group training into the Understanding Ministry for MAiD graduate course to make the content available to churches and leaders across the country.



For 2024, we look forward to the launch of a Teaching Church partnership with Waterloo MB Church, the expansion of MB Seminary Online, the operationalization of the Leadership FrontCounter, and much more!

For those of you who pray for MB Seminary - thank you! For those of you who financially support MB Seminary - thank you! For those of you who send students or partner with MB Seminary - thank you!

It is exciting to further the mission of MB Seminary together!



THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE



New students get your first
two courses **TUITION FREE**



mbseminary.ca/go



GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

DR. STEVE A. BROWN PRESIDENT

My heart is full. I am in my early weeks as the new President of Columbia Bible College. Every day I meet students who are leaning wholeheartedly into Jesus.

Day in and day out, in the learning environment of our classrooms, in the rich community of our campus, and in service opportunities with churches and in the community, our students are seeking and learning to live and serve with Jesus at the centre.

As we navigate increasingly chaotic, complex and changing times, please know you play a key part in helping Columbia make an incredibly strategic and important contribution in shaping and developing the next generation of leaders and everyday disciples.

Your faithful prayers are pointing students to Jesus. Your generous support is shaping the next generation to serve Jesus in the church and community for a lifetime. Your partnership is having a ripple effect over decades through thousands of alumni.

It is a joy to partner with BCMB! God is at work! May He do more than we can ask or imagine!

2023-24 Enrollment Stats

143 Residents

123 Commuters

16 Offsite

Current Students: 282

Bonus: 25 Interns active in our community!!



NEWSWORTHY

PROGRAM NAME CHANGE PSYCHOLOGY

We are delighted to announce that beginning September 2024, our major in Counselling will be changed to a major in Psychology. This is a name change only, as the program itself has not changed. We believe this name change more accurately describes our program and has more currency with other schools that have similar programs, which will increase student recruitment success and provide better employment pathways after graduation. Our students have responded unanimously positive to this change!

THANK YOU BCMB!

We are 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: Alex Dixon, Brad Willems, Christine Reimer, Dave Currie, Graham Nickel, Harv Wiens, Kate Reid, and Marcie Kroeker. We are deeply appreciative of the nearly \$250,000 gift that BCMB donated to CBC in 2023. Your generosity empowered us to continue to fulfill the mission of Columbia.

STUDENT STORY

RYKIA GUENTHER 4TH YEAR, INTERCULTURAL STUDIES



I came to Columbia to gain a foundation for my faith, but what I unexpectedly found was a calling in life and a deep conviction to share the love of Christ with others. Originally, I had wanted to only complete one year at CBC and then move on to university, but I ended up staying for five years! My time here has challenged me to become responsible for strengthening my relationship to Jesus. Most prominently I found this to be true in my 10-month cross-cultural internship in Nairobi, Kenya during my third year at Columbia.



As I practically put to use the intercultural studies skills I had learned in class, I was challenged to learn a new way to practice my faith. I could no longer operate as if I could make my own joy, but I had to come to terms with the

fact that I needed God to provide for me my joy and strength. The opportunity Columbia gave me through my internship was an important step in my growth, providing foundations in my walk with God, and equipped with the truth of the gospel.



I came to Columbia with little direction, but now as a graduating student I am confidently leaving feeling equipped and called toward full-time ministry.

Columbia has been an amazing experience that has given me a joy and a hope for what else is to come.

BE KNOWN. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

JEFF PETERS FACULTY & DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS



Rykia's story is special, but not unique. Through the many conversations that I have with students on our campus, a common thread is the space and time that Columbia affords our students, your children, to learn and experience God's love for them and for the world. There is something beautiful about not only witnessing, but participating with young adults as they wrestle with meaningful questions and learn to trust God through the process.

My name is Jeff Peters and I have the privilege of teaching in the area of Bible and theology, overseeing the Columbia Internship program, and also serving in church relations. It would be a pleasure to get to know you personally and to understand your love and passion for your school. I want to be a constant reminder to you, in your churches and in your homes, that Columbia Bible College is a space where God changes the lives of young people, and some of us older people as well. Please continue to pray that our students will be known by God, and through this experience be equipped to make a difference in our world!

BCMB CONVENTION REPORT 2024

Report from Western Canada Mobilization Team

Thank you for another year of living out the mission to which Jesus has called us. We are humbled and excited that the majority of BCMB churches are presently in partnerships with Multiply global workers, national partners, or ministry projects. In order to keep in touch with current praise reports and prayer needs, we publish a monthly BC Prayer Update.

Missionary Update

Some have asked, “Is Multiply still sending long-term missionaries?” Not only is the answer “yes!” but we invite you to join us to pray for more labourers as well as introduce us to people who are exploring their calling.

People and places are always developing: We have long-term workers from BC serving in South Asia, Thailand, Japan, France, Central Europe and remotely with Bible translation work. We are presently deploying a new family to Uganda and redeploying a single worker to East Asia.



Ministry in Canada Reaching South Asians: Arun and Anjuna Passi are now into their 3rd year, having left their home in Punjab as missionaries to Abbotsford. They are building relationships through hospitality and hosting dinners in their home. This summer they are planning to facilitate a practical hands-on exposure experience (mini-SOAR) to their South Asian community with several churches.

Reaching Little Tibet in Toronto:

We have deployed two BC workers to serve this least-reached people group with hopes that the gospel will be spread through familial connections to places that are difficult to send traditional missionaries.

The Impact Award: This unique award continues to help churches develop a mission-sending culture for first-year university students. **Churches apply** for \$2000 of direct funding intended to be used as a missionary stipend for students in their first year of university. There have been nine award winners from Western Canada this year.

Mission Training Programs

- **Disciple Making International (DMI):** Three teams from BC have served since the last Convention (Mexico, Colombia, and the Philippines).
- **SOAR Okanagan (August 6-9, 2024):** This summer, we are collaborating with Kelowna Gospel Fellowship to host SOAR Okanagan. We already have four church youth groups from Kelowna and we invite any church in BC to join us on this dynamic four-day SOAR program as they are equipped in practical service to experience God’s heart for the people of that great city.

Training for your local church

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. We also provide training for deeper cross-cultural understanding, prayer, evangelism, mission, vision clarity, and more.

Respectfully submitted,

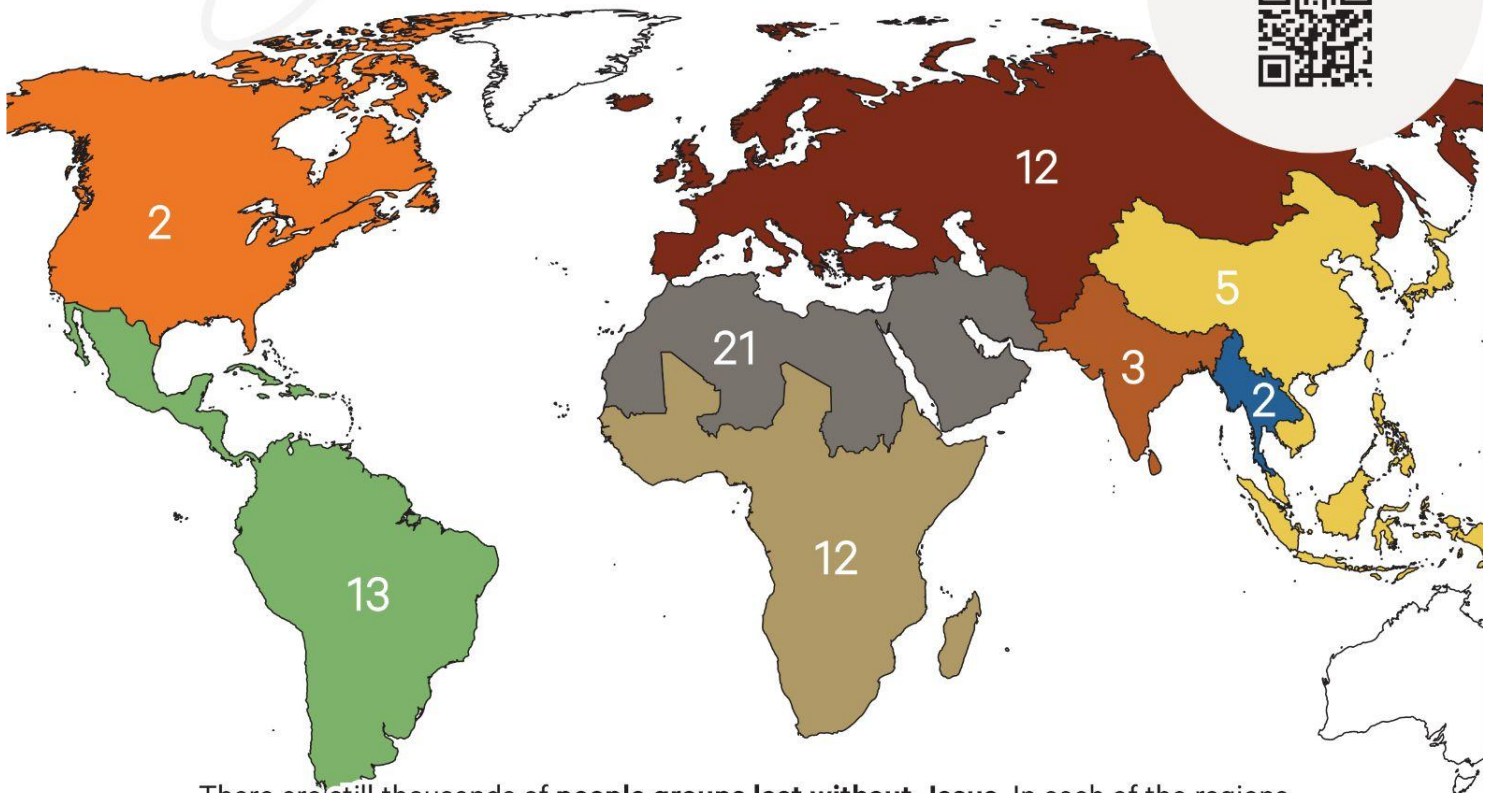
Sam Dick, Greg Laing, Liz Nickel, John and Jenn Johnstone and George Folz

Our Family ON MISSION IN 2023

God is on a Mission. Jesus sends disciples, empowered by the Spirit, on God's mission to love, reconcile, and transform people of all nations.

Joining God's Mission. Together, we send disciples to make disciples who make disciples, that the world may know Jesus.

View online at
multiply.net/report



There are still thousands of **people groups lost without Jesus**. In each of the regions we serve, our network supports teams that are dedicated to loving specific groups of people. The three categories below make up our strategic focus.

SENDING OUT MISSIONARIES

In 2023, **285 MB churches** in the U.S. and Canada were involved in supporting these teams and **79 long-term workers**, sent from North America, served on teams around the world.

PARTNERING WITH NATIONALS

In 2023, we continued to encourage nationals in **70 nations**, walking closely with them and connecting them with North American prayer, giving, and missionaries where needed.

HELPING DISCIPLES MULTIPLY

In 2023, **668 everyday disciples** participated in **13 Mission Training Programs** based in North America, and thousands more in our global network participated in similar training worldwide.

Financial Overview



Fiscal Year in \$USD: June 2022 - May 2023

For this fiscal year, our Board of Directors authorized us to invest \$550k from our accumulated reserves to further support our expanding global ministry and the IT systems that support it. Our total usage of reserves was \$448k. This anticipated deficit was further offset by better than expected results in our Operating Fund, resulting in a smaller deficit of only \$275K. Last year's comparative numbers reflect significant cost reductions due to COVID as well as unexpected one-time revenues.

Net Results

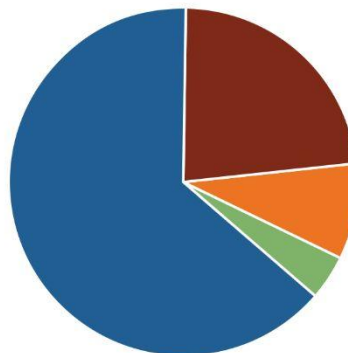
Fiscal Year Ended:	May 31, 2023	May 31, 2022
Revenue:	\$ 10,553,563	\$ 10,410,659
Expenses:	\$ 10,828,328	\$ 9,995,026
Net:	\$ (274,764)	\$ 415,633

In addition to the net results shown here, our global workers and ministry projects have deployed \$593k of their restricted reserves which are held separately on our balance sheet. Combined, these projects have \$3.7M of reserves.

How Your Gifts Were Put to Work

Missional Teams Loving the Lost | 64%

- Central & South America | 9%
- East Asia | 7%
- Europe & Central Asia | 14%
- Middle East & North Africa | 3%
- North America | 3%
(Indigenous & Immigrants)
- South Asia | 3%
- Southeast Asia | 15%
- Sub-Saharan Africa | 5%
- Worldwide Initiatives | 5%



23% | North American Church Engagement

- 18% | Facilitating MB Church Partnerships
- 5% | Mission Training Programs
(Includes Short-Term Mission Programs)

9% | Administration

Finance, IT, Legal & Governance

4% | Human Resources

Wellness, Equipping & Long-Term Training

Our Generous Donors



This financial summary represents the work of Multiply Network funded by US and Canadian churches and donors. For more info, contact our Director of Finance, Jeff Friesen at JeffF@multiply.net



PREACHING

WORKSHOP & RETREAT

FEATURING

DR. GEORGE GUTHRIE

AUG 5 - 9, 2024
VERNON, BC

**REGISTER
TODAY!**



2024 INTERIM NATIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT

It is my privilege to serve as CCMBC's Interim National Director. At the October 2023 National Assembly, we thanked Elton DaSilva for serving our family of churches faithfully for five years and blessed him in his new role as Global Director of ICOMB (International Community of Mennonite Brethren). We look forward to welcoming Cam Stuart as CCMBC's National Director on April 1, 2024. Cam comes into this role with over three decades of MB pastoral leadership and several years of service on our Executive Board. He is passionate about our national vision, our ministries, and our collaboration model involving the six provincial conferences and three member agencies. We thank God for Cam and other leaders stepping into new roles in our MB family across Canada.

Our MB family continues to engage in difficult conversations. Reflecting upon this, I am reminded of two impactful books. In *Canoeing the Mountains* (2015), the author explores the kind of Christian leadership required "to navigate the uncharted territory of our rapidly changing cultural landscape." In *Mission Drift* (2014), the authors describe the critical need for organizational leaders to remain "mission true" by exhibiting an intentional, long-term commitment to Christ and the gospel to avoid drifting off course. As leaders who help navigate difficult conversations, we must remember we are serving Jesus, no matter our discomfort (Colossians 3:23-24). We must glorify God in all we say and do, exercise faith (Hebrews 11:6), love sincerely (Romans 12:9), be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), and offer ourselves as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1).

2023 in Review

CCMBC's mission is "To cultivate a community and culture of healthy disciple-making churches and ministries, faithfully joining Jesus in his mission." Our Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP) is the shared roadmap for how we believe God has called us to work together toward the fulfillment of CCMBC's mission. We desire to work collaboratively with our six provincial conference partners (viz., AEFMQ, ONMB, MBCM,

SKMB, ABMB, BCMB) and three member organizations (viz., Legacy, MB Seminary, Multiply), moving together in the same direction. We continue to fine-tune our working relationships with our partners and believe this collaborative model is the best path to fulfilling the mission God has called us to. Within the CUSP, there are four strategic priority areas:

The National Faith & Life Team has responsibility for **Spiritual Health** (for an update in this area, see the National Faith & Life Director Report).

The National Ministry Team is working together with MB Seminary in **Leadership Development**. The goal here is to encourage greater ministry effectiveness for existing MB credentialed leaders through the provision and tracking of high-quality ongoing professional development. There is a clear need for the identification, development, and equipping of new disciple-making leaders able to step into existing and anticipated leadership openings in the coming years.

The National Ministry Team is working together with Multiply in **Mission** with the hope that each of our MB churches across Canada can be a "healthy, disciple-making church." This requires a multidimensional approach that embraces evangelism, ongoing disciple-making, and overall church health.

Finally, the National Ministry Team has **Organizational Health** as a strategic priority. The goal is that each provincial conference, each member agency, and each local church would continue to grow toward organizational health by having clear policies, effective conflict resolution methods, skilled HR staff people, and access to outside assistance when best practice requires it. CCMBC and Legacy are working toward this as well by approving a new CCMBC Employee Manual and by moving toward the approval of a new Governance Manual.

In terms of specific CCMBC responsibilities, we hosted our Annual General Meeting on June 8 (via Zoom), and our National Assembly on October 28 in conjunction with Equip 2023. Senior CCMBC employees were present at the ICOMB Summit in May, CanAm meetings

in October, Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders (CCAL) meetings, and meetings of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC). We continue to provide communications for our Canadian MB family through our website, social media, and the *MB Herald Digest*.

Financial Update

Our seventh organizational value states “We steward resources on God’s behalf” which means that we value responsibility, competence, integrity, accountability, and transparency. We anticipate reporting a small surplus for 2023 in part because of a generous one-time estate gift. We continue to progress towards the full repayment of our related party obligation to Legacy that resulted from the restructuring that was required of us five years ago. We continue working with our provincial conference partners to find the best funding model for our collaborative efforts.

Looking forward in 2024

While we are thankful for all the positive steps in 2023, we know that we are just beginning to see the fruit of our work together in the four strategic priority areas. We invite you to pray for us and all our partners as we serve together. We invite you to a renewed commitment to your local church that it would be a healthy disciple-making church. We invite you to pray that God would raise new leaders within our MB family who would lead faithfully in this direction as well.

On a personal note, I am thankful for the significant efforts of our Executive Board, the National Ministry Team, the National Faith & Life Team, the directors, and employees of MB Seminary and Multiply, and our provincial partners. I thank the dedicated employees of CCMBC and Legacy for their steadfast commitment to serving our constituents. Through this, we celebrate the signs of God’s faithfulness in our MB family. I offer my prayers for God’s richest blessings upon all of you in 2024.



Jason Krueger

Interim National Director



NATIONAL FAITH & LIFE DIRECTOR REPORT FOR 2024 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 2023

This has been a very full year for me, but I experienced it with much joy because of the excellent National Faith and Life Team members, CCMBC Staff, and those on the National Ministry Team and Executive Board. It feels like all of these individuals are one big team serving the church together. It is a privilege to be part of this with them. I’m thankful also to have worked closely with Elton DaSilva, Carson Samson, Liam Bull, and Kara Friesen. Both Elton and Kara have moved on to other ministries and I wish them God’s very best there. They will both be missed. I am thankful to have Jason Krueger in the Interim National Director role and for Cam Stuart who will be stepping in soon as our new National Director. I look forward to what God has for us together!

Some of the NFLT highlights for 2023 include:

- We produced a monthly “Moments in Prayer” resource that revolved around prayers on the topic of “**Holy Spirit—Fill us!**”
- We approved the **Collaborative National Church Affiliation and Review Policy** that assists our provincial conference families with clear and shared mutual expectations between local churches and their provincial/national conference. It also provides clarity around processes if these relationships break down.
- We approved the **CCMBC MB Confession of Faith Amendment Procedure Policy** that gives direction related to why and how the Confession of Faith might be amended. It is important that this process is clear to everyone in our family.
- We gave final approval to the “**Introduction to the MB Confession of Faith (2023)**” which provides greater clarity around the purpose of the CoF and what “affirming” it involves.
- We gave final approval to **Article 1: God (Explanatory Notes)** and **Article 2: Revelation of God (Explanatory Notes)** as part of our Confession of Faith Resources Revision Project.
- We gave final approval to the “**Revised Credentialing Questionnaire**” which requires all prospective leaders seeking credentialing from their provincial MB conference to interact more intentionally with our MB Confession of Faith.
- We expanded on some earlier revision work done by Andrew Dyck to the Liturgical Readings and approved 18 **Responsive Worship Readings** that correlate with each of the 18 articles in our CoF.
- We created a draft document called “**Defining a Healthy Church**” to encourage discussion around what a healthy local church looks like (and ultimately how we can measure that and seek ways of increasing church health).
- We partnered with MB Seminary and MBCM to oversee the **Pastors Credentialing Orientation** June 6-8, 2023 at The Meeting Place (Winnipeg) with 30 registrants (26 regular and 4 “Alumni”).
- We oversaw Equip 2023 (Oct 26-28) at Northview Church (Abbotsford) on the theme **Fire and Ashes: Why Church? Why MB? (A Family Conversation)**. We had about 220 registrants from across Canada, with many extra drop-in attendees for the evening sessions. Equip 2023 concluded with the National Assembly on Saturday morning.
- Besides all of these more formal NFLT involvements, I had the privilege of being the main writer for the newly developed **Q&R Corner** in the *MB Herald Digest* which began in April 2023. It provides an opportunity to respond to questions that individuals from across the country have on topics of relevance. I also had the privilege of presenting on “**Fire & Ashes: Why Church?**” at Equip 2023 (video recordings of most of the Equip plenary presentations are available at [Vimeo.com/showcase/10775956](https://vimeo.com/showcase/10775956)).

While we celebrate all the highlights from 2023 (and thank God for so many answered prayers!), we continue to engage around the following items for 2024:

- We want to increase our commitment to prayer, so we have introduced a monthly prayer guide as part of our **2024 Contending in Prayer** series. The monthly guide will be sent out to all of our MB Herald Digest subscribers via email, as well as published in the *MB Herald Digest*.
- We are hoping to give significant effort to our **Confession of Faith Resource Revision Project** this year by processing the following: Revised Explanatory Notes for Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9; Living the Confession (FAQs) for Articles 6 and 7. This is a very ambitious timeline.
- We are hoping to have an “approved in principle” DRAFT of a **“Loving Well our Trans Neighbours, Friends, and Family”** document to assist local churches. We covet your prayers and wisdom for this since no matter what, it will be controversial.
- **We have been asked to work on other resources in response to these questions:**
 1. What should be our response to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) legislation, and individuals in our churches wanting to access MAiD?
 2. What should be our response to the Israel-Gaza War?
 3. Should we update our resources on divorce and how we respond to divorce within our church families?
 4. Should we be clarifying our Women in Ministry Leadership decisions from 2006 and seeking adherence to these decisions across Canada?
- We will be working with MB Seminary and BCMB in hosting the **Pastoral Credentialing Orientation (PCO)** (May 28-30, 2024) in the Fraser Valley of BC.
- We will be doing preliminary planning for **Equip 2025**.

We have many “gratitude prayers” for what God has done over this past year—in the midst of both the joys and the sorrows. We want to walk into this year with trust, faith, and hope because we worship King Jesus who is bringing his Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven! We want to be filled with the Holy Spirit as we contend in prayer, live out God’s Kingdom both individually and corporately, and invite people from all nations to become disciples of Jesus and part of the body of Christ! And may we see more of God’s peace on earth become a reality within our own communities and around the world!
May 2024 be such a year!

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

2023 NATIONAL FAITH AND LIFE TEAM

- RICHARD LOUGHEED
AEFMQ Designate
- RYAN JANTZI
ONMB Interim Executive Director
- KAREN WEST
ONMB Representative
- CONNIE MAIER
Member-at-Large, ONMB
- 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 Representative
- ROBERT THIESSEN
BCMB Conference Minister
- KRISTAL TOEWS
Member-at-Large, BCMB
- KEITH REED
MB Seminary Representative
- DOUG HEIDEBRECHT
Multiply Representative
- ELTON DASILVA
CCMBC National Director



THIS ONE THING



CCMBC LEGACY FUND

Ministry-Focused Financial Services

Dear BC Conference of MB Churches,

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the privilege of partnering with each one of you in the common mission that binds us together. As we reflect on the past year, we are continually inspired by the impactful stories of God at work through your congregations, reinforcing our commitment to providing ministry-focused financial services to facilitate Kingdom growth.

Did you know?!

Legacy offers investment accounts for MB Churches. Our accounts are not locked-in, with no terms and no fees. Here are some ways your church could use a Legacy Account:

- A place to set aside unused operating funds until they are needed
- Save for a building or renovation project
- Hold restricted funds

Contact legacy@mbchurches.ca or call 1-888-669-6575 for more information.

Our unique position allows us to serve Mennonite Brethren Churches across Canada in various ways



Administrative Support

We assist in relieving the administrative burden by offering expertise in payroll administration and bookkeeping.



Group Benefits

We provide economies of scale through a group health benefits package and pension plan available to all MB Church pastors and staff members.



Financial Assistance

We offer mortgage loans to churches, camps, schools, and pastors to support the purchase, maintenance, or renovation of their meeting spaces.

Help spread the word!



Investments from individuals are the backbone of what allows us to offer loans to churches and pastors and provide churches with financial services. Yet, so many people attending our MB Churches have no idea that we offer an investment program! Help us spread the word to your congregation.

Use the QR code for access to resources write to us at legacy@mbchurches.ca, or call 1-888-669-6575 with questions or other ideas on how to partner together.

Achievements over the past year



Strategic Planning

Progressed with strategic plan objectives, establishing a clear identity aligned with our mission and values.



Pension Plan Review

Worked with CCMB's Finance & Audit Committee towards redesigning the current pension plan to better meet the needs of our plan members.



Cybersecurity

Strengthened our cybersecurity measures to ensure the safety of financial information.



New Loans

Successfully offered three new pastor loans and five new church loans to support various initiatives.



Financial Flexibility

Decoupled the interest rate paid on our investor notes from the Bank of Canada overnight rate, allowing us more freedom in responding to current market conditions and the needs of both our investors and loan holders.

Anticipated initiatives for the coming year

Enhanced Pension Plan Options

We plan to launch new pension plan options for pastors and retirees, providing the ability to individualize investment strategies and decumulation options.



Technological Advancements

Initiating a new investments/loans and accounting software to provide online access to account balances and statements for investors and loan holders.



Increased Support

Expanding support to provincial conferences and churches through enhanced training, workshops, and hands-on assistance with Legacy-related issues.



We look forward to another year of growth, collaboration, and service as we invest in Kingdom growth together. Your ongoing support and partnership enable us to make a meaningful impact, and we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you for your trust and partnership.
Jason Krueger, CEO

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2023



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 ("BCMB"), which comprise the non-consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, 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 BCMB as at December 31, 2023, 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 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 BCMB about the carrying values of the properties, camp properties are originally measured at the values published by BC Assessment and remeasured annually for changes in the assessed value. Both the original measurement and subsequent measurement policies constitute a departure from ASNPO. As the carrying value is not supported by sufficient appropriate audit evidence, it is considered impracticable to quantify the financial effects of this misstatement. Our audit opinion for the year ended December 31, 2022 was also modified accordingly.

Similarly, church properties (*Note 4*) should be presented at their carrying value on the non-consolidated statement of financial position. Due to the lack of information available to BCMB, 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 for the year ended December 31, 2022 was also 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 BCMB 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 BCMB'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 BCMB or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing BCMB'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:

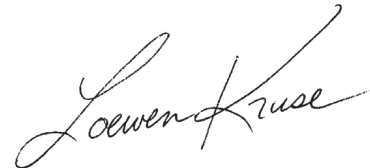
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the non-consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk 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 BCMB'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 BCMB'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 BCMB 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.

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 26, 2024



Chartered Professional Accountants

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2023

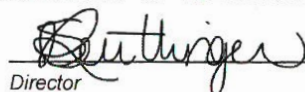
	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds (Note 16)	2023	2022
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 355,164	\$ 1,079,437	\$ 1,434,601	\$ 747,042
Accounts receivable	6,842	-	6,842	17,222
Recoverable from government authorities - GST	4,570	-	4,570	1,964
Prepaid expenses	80,790	-	80,790	97,990
	447,366	1,079,437	1,526,803	864,218
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 3)	4,403	-	4,403	2,877
CHURCH PROPERTY HELD FOR SALE (Note 4)	-	-	-	112,534
CHURCH PROPERTIES (Note 4)	66,650	-	66,650	66,650
CAMP PROPERTIES (Note 5)	-	21,913,000	21,913,000	21,769,000
	\$ 518,419	\$ 22,992,437	\$ 23,510,856	\$ 22,815,279
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
CURRENT				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 46,215	\$ -	\$ 46,215	\$ 42,082
Due to related parties (Note 6)	103,716	-	103,716	96,928
Deferred revenue	41,875	-	41,875	37,445
Deferred contributions	-	-	-	1,841
	191,806	-	191,806	178,296
FUND BALANCES				
Unrestricted	326,613	-	326,613	405,596
Internally restricted (Note 16)	-	22,885,001	22,885,001	22,122,073
Externally restricted (Note 16)	-	107,436	107,436	109,314
	326,613	22,992,437	23,319,050	22,636,983
	\$ 518,419	\$ 22,992,437	\$ 23,510,856	\$ 22,815,279

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES (Note 9)

LEASE COMMITMENT (Note 10)

FUNDS HELD IN TRUST (Note 11)

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD


 Director


 Director

See notes to non-consolidated financial statements

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Non-Consolidated Statement of Changes in Fund Balances
Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds (Note 16)	2023	2022
FUND BALANCES - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 405,596	\$ 22,231,387	\$ 22,636,983	\$ 20,619,456
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	578,568	(40,501)	538,067	38,323
Camp properties annual assessed value adjustment	-	144,000	144,000	2,195,000
Transfer of church properties	-	-	-	(215,796)
Interfund transfers (Note 7)	(657,551)	657,551	-	-
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	\$ 326,613	\$ 22,992,437	\$ 23,319,050	\$ 22,636,983

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Non-Consolidated Statement of Operations
Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds (Note 16)	2023	2022 (Note 15)
REVENUE				
Church contributions	\$ 1,611,463	\$ -	\$ 1,611,463	\$ 1,653,026
Estate gifts	141,500	-	141,500	5,114
Recoveries	74,854	-	74,854	70,011
Event income	74,525	-	74,525	87,094
Interest income	11,605	4,075	15,680	2,758
MB Chinese Church Association	-	11,396	11,396	9,616
Donations	8,974	-	8,974	58,627
Miscellaneous income	1,906	-	1,906	353
	<u>1,924,827</u>	<u>15,471</u>	<u>1,940,298</u>	<u>1,886,599</u>
EXPENSES				
Ministry partnerships				
Cdn Conf of MB Churches	257,834	-	257,834	264,484
Columbia Bible College	241,720	-	241,720	247,954
BCMB Bible Camp Society	209,490	-	209,490	214,893
Total ministry partnerships	709,044	-	709,044	727,331
Wages and benefits	378,611	-	378,611	347,449
Church planting	249,105	-	249,105	239,328
Events	147,779	-	147,779	153,984
Professional services	75,997	-	75,997	73,881
Recoverable costs	71,515	-	71,515	75,481
Administration	64,990	-	64,990	76,350
The Way Forward	-	38,522	38,522	-
Ministry	35,977	-	35,977	27,583
Church support and development	33,212	-	33,212	35,950
MB Chinese Church Association / Esperanza	-	17,450	17,450	9,187
Board governance	4,445	-	4,445	9,887
Donations	-	-	-	62,727
Other facilities administration	-	-	-	9,138
	<u>1,770,675</u>	<u>55,972</u>	<u>1,826,647</u>	<u>1,848,276</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	154,152	(40,501)	113,651	38,323
GAIN ON SALE OF PROPERTY	424,416	-	424,416	-
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ 578,568</u>	<u>\$ (40,501)</u>	<u>\$ 538,067</u>	<u>\$ 38,323</u>

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Non-Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 538,067	\$ 38,323
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization	2,213	3,624
Gain on sale of property	(424,416)	-
	<u>115,864</u>	<u>41,947</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	10,380	(13,001)
Recoverable from government authorities - GST	(2,606)	869
Prepaid expenses	17,200	(41,175)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4,133	29,578
Due to related parties	6,788	52,518
Deferred revenue	4,430	2,893
Deferred contributions	(1,841)	(32,955)
	<u>38,484</u>	<u>(1,273)</u>
Cash flow from operating activities	<u>154,348</u>	<u>40,674</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of capital assets	(3,739)	-
Decrease in loan receivable	-	13,120
Proceeds from sale of church property held for sale	536,950	-
Cash flow from investing activities	<u>533,211</u>	<u>13,120</u>
INCREASE IN CASH FLOW	687,559	53,794
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year	<u>747,042</u>	<u>693,248</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	\$ 1,434,601	\$ 747,042
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS CONSIST OF:		
Unrestricted cash	\$ 355,164	\$ 276,060
Unrestricted cash deposits with another organization	-	6,754
Internally restricted cash	510,777	353,073
Internally restricted cash deposits with another organization	461,224	-
Externally restricted cash	-	1,841
Externally restricted cash deposits with another organization	107,436	109,314
	<u>\$ 1,434,601</u>	<u>\$ 747,042</u>

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2023

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

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

BCMB 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. 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 (ASNPO).

BCMB does not prepare consolidated financial statements for its controlled entity, Columbia Bible College (*Note 6*).

These non-consolidated financial statements present only the financial position, changes in fund balances, results of operations and changes in cash flows for BCMB. Individual member churches and camps within BCMB 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 BCMB, but for which the churches and camps are the authorized users.

Fund Accounting

BCMB follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

The Operating Fund accounts for the operations, administration and capital assets of BCMB 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, 2023

2. 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 and estate gifts 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 BCMB 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 financial institutions, and cash deposits with another organization. Any term deposits or similar contractual instruments that are cashable and have 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:

Furniture and equipment	4 years
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BCMB 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.

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2023

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

Camp Properties

Camp properties, which include land and buildings held for leasing purposes to BCMB Bible Camp Society (related by significant influence), 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 Non-Consolidated Statement of Changes in Fund Balances as a direct increase (decrease) to fund balances. 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.

Contributed Services and Materials

Volunteers assist BCMB 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, BCMB received non-cash gifts-in-kind of \$NIL (2022 - \$NIL).

Defined Contribution Plan

BCMB 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. BCMB 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 BCMB for the year amounted to \$15,235 (2022 - \$14,539).

Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with ASNPO 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 5*) and closed church properties (*Note 4*).

3. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2023 Net book value	2022 Net book value
Furniture and equipment	\$ 10,815	\$ 6,412	\$ 4,403	\$ 2,877

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2023

4. CHURCH PROPERTIES

BCMB currently holds title to one (2022 - two) church property for which no member congregation currently occupies. The property is held by BCMB for a future congregation and was recorded as a direct increase to the Operating Fund balance in the year in which the member church ceased operating.

Although ASNPO require such assets to be recorded at carrying value, BCMB has been unable to determine the carrying value of the church at the time the member church ceased activity. The assets have been included based on available historical cost information totaling \$66,650 (2022 - \$179,184). The difference between the historical cost and the current carrying value of the church property is not determinable as of the report date.

Further, in the prior year one of the above-noted church properties with a historical cost of \$112,534 was classified as held for sale on the Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position and it was sold in the current year.

5. CAMP PROPERTIES

At December 31, 2023 the properties of three camps are held (2022 - three camps) and the total assessed value is \$21,913,000 (2022 - \$21,769,000).

Previously, BCMB 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"). Subsequent to the year end, the leases at all locations were extended an additional three years until December 31, 2026.

The land and building for two of the camp properties with an assessed value of \$18,318,000 (2022 - \$18,252,000) are encumbered by mortgages between CCMBC Investments Ltd. and the camps operating the premises with a loan value of \$1,943,397 as at December 31, 2023. BCMB acts as guarantor on the loans as disclosed in Note 9.

One of the camp properties with an assessed value of \$3,595,000 (2022 - \$3,517,000) has external restrictions on its use as set by the Columbia Shuswap Regional District that limits BCMB'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 \$14,006,000 (2022 - \$14,241,000) has external restrictions on its use as set by the Fraser Valley Regional District that limits BCMB'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.

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2023

6. RELATED PARTIES

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

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</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 entire 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.

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

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
BCMB Bible Camp Society (<i>related by significant influence</i>)	\$ 33,075	\$ 30,730
Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America (<i>related by common membership</i>)	34,810	31,021
Columbia Bible College (<i>controlled organization</i>)	<u>35,831</u>	<u>35,177</u>
	<u>\$ 103,716</u>	<u>\$ 96,928</u>

BCMB 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.

The purpose of the College is to provide post-secondary education to students from Canada and other parts of the world. BCMB 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, 2023. The College utilized the deferral method of accounting for contributions, rather than the restricted fund method used by BCMB. The College reported \$2,329,261 of restricted assets at April 30, 2023 (2022 - \$2,541,585).

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCHES

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2023

6. RELATED PARTIES *(continued)*

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total Assets	\$ 12,415,003	\$ 13,229,025
Total Liabilities	8,633,713	8,956,176
Net Assets	3,781,290	4,272,849
Revenue	6,681,246	7,107,105
Expenses	7,202,994	6,967,590
Cash flow from (used by)		
Operating Activities	(612,813)	(143,177)
Financing Activities	30,189	119,727
Investing Activities	(148,880)	(424,238)
The restricted assets of the College are as follows:		
Scholarship endowment principal	1,443,540	1,413,351
Deferred revenue	447,421	444,245
Internally restricted - capital reserve	438,300	683,989

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

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
BCMB Bible Camp Society <i>(significantly influenced organization)</i>		
Ministry partnerships	\$ (209,490)	\$ (214,893)
Designated donations	-	(258)
	<u>(209,490)</u>	<u>(215,151)</u>
Columbia Bible College <i>(controlled organization)</i>		
Ministry partnerships	(241,720)	(247,954)
Administration	(32,114)	(34,847)
Scholarships	(4,776)	-
Event expenses	-	(3,800)
Designated donations	-	(2,938)
Training and development	-	(500)
Recoveries	-	101
	<u>(278,610)</u>	<u>(289,938)</u>
Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America <i>(related by common membership)</i>		
Ministry partnerships	(257,834)	(264,484)
Administration	-	(663)
Ministry partnerships - church planting subsidies	-	22,861
	<u>(257,834)</u>	<u>(242,286)</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, 2023

7. INTERFUND TRANSFERS

During the year, \$536,950 was transferred from the Operating Fund to the Internally Restricted The Way Forward Fund to fund related program expenses.

During the year, \$141,500 was transferred from the Operating Fund to the Internally Restricted Estate Gifts Fund per the Estate Gift Distribution Policy.

During the year, \$101 was transferred from the Operating Fund to the Externally Restricted Esperanza Multicultural Church Fund to cover the deficit.

During the year, \$20,000 was transferred from the Internally Restricted BCMB Church Planting Fund and \$1,000 was transferred from the Internally Restricted BCMB Ministry Growth Fund to the Operating Fund to fund related expenses recognized in the Operating Fund this year.

8. CREDIT FACILITIES

BCMB has unsecured credit card facilities with the Royal Bank of Canada with a credit limit of \$130,000. The credit facilities bear interest at 19.99% per annum on overdue balances.

9. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

BCMB is a guarantor with respect to mortgages for member churches and camps operating under its Society, loaned from CCMBC Investments Ltd. in the amount of \$22,299,489 (2022 - \$21,038,170), further broken down into \$20,356,092 (2022 - \$19,081,689) in church loans and \$1,943,397 (2022 - \$1,956,481) in camp loans. The purpose of the loans is 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 BCMB has title.

None of the loans are in default and management is of the opinion that the risk to BCMB 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 as at year-end being in excess of the outstanding mortgages.

10. LEASE COMMITMENT

Subsequent to year end, BCMB entered into an operating lease with respect to its premises with Columbia Bible College, a related party, which expires on December 31, 2025. BCMB also holds an option to renew this lease for an additional two years at a renegotiated rate.

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

2024	\$	32,184
2025		33,483
		<hr/>
	\$	65,667

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2023

11. FUNDS HELD IN TRUST

BCMB 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 BCMB. As at December 31, 2023, BCMB held \$6,859,064 (2022 - \$6,485,589) of cash deposits in trust from member churches.

12. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

BCMB is dependent on contributions from its member churches to fund a significant portion of its operations. During the year, BCMB received contributions equal to 32% of its Operating Fund revenue from three member churches (2022 - 28% from three member churches), and as such is economically dependent on these organizations for its ongoing operations.

13. REMUNERATION DISCLOSURE

In accordance with the Societies Act of British Columbia, BCMB discloses that there was one individual or person under a contract for services that exceeded \$75,000 of annual remuneration who was paid a total sum of \$110,784.

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT RISKS

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. BCMB 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. BCMB 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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15. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation. Specifically, the revenue and expense groupings have been changed to match the new presentation format of the Non-Consolidated Statement of Operations.

THE B.C. CONFERENCE OF THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2023

16. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Opening Balance	Revenue	Expenses	Interfund Transfers	Camp properties annual assessed value adjustment (Note 2)	Closing Balance
Internally restricted funds consist of:						
Camp capital assets	\$ 21,769,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 144,000	\$ 21,913,000
The Way Forward	-	-	38,522	536,950	-	498,428
Contingency reserve	250,000	-	-	-	-	250,000
Estate funds	-	-	-	141,500	-	141,500
BCMB church planting	102,073	-	-	(20,000)	-	82,073
BCMB Ministry growth	1,000	-	-	(1,000)	-	-
	<u>22,122,073</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,522</u>	<u>657,450</u>	<u>144,000</u>	<u>22,885,001</u>

Externally restricted funds consist of:

MB Chinese Church Association	100,602	15,298	8,464	-	-	107,436
Esperanza Multicultural Church	8,712	173	8,986	101	-	-
	<u>109,314</u>	<u>15,471</u>	<u>17,450</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107,436</u>
	<u>\$ 22,231,387</u>	<u>\$ 15,471</u>	<u>\$ 55,972</u>	<u>\$ 657,551</u>	<u>\$ 144,000</u>	<u>\$ 22,992,437</u>

1. Worship, Welcome & Greetings - Rob and Sharon opened the meeting.
Prayer with Lorraine Dick.

2. Rules of order, minute review committee, parliamentarian - Ron van Akker
Minutes from 2022 accepted. *M/S/C*

3. Conference Minister Report - Rob Thiessen
Spoke to the importance of the Great Commission focus and expressed hope for the future. This next year will be a transitional role as we look for and hire a new, forward-looking leader. Rob's role has been as a shepherd, conference pastor. Reaffirmed the commitment to uphold and work with the local churches and the fruit coming from the ministry of the churches. Call to pray for the Executive Committee as they discern and call the new leader.

Q&A – None.

4. Director of Resource Ministries Report - Denis Federau
Acknowledgment of the committees with gratitude - Stewardship Advisory, Governance, Nominations - and the important role they play.
Denis' role resourcing the churches with HR, legal and governance is a way of serving the churches to further the kingdom.

Q&A -

Q: SS - Can you speak to the churches struggling with high mortgage rates?

A: DF - There are about 2 dozen churches in this position. Thanks to Legacy for their help and resources.

5. Moderator Report - Sharon Simpson
The Paul Borden report was personally convicting and the catalyst to pray for a soft heart and to once again have the love and courage to help people find Jesus.
Highlighted the Camps Society and the need to steward well. Spoke about representing BC at the CCMBC level as well as the work done in regards to Multiply. BC can have confidence in the work being done at the national level. Mentioned the difficulties around Cedar Park Church and appreciation for the faithful work of those involved and how it is now thriving. Gave clarification on CBC, the call for biblical orthodoxy and practical steps for vitality and

sustainability. BCMB is in an enviable position of theological alignment, and we are ready to move forward to make decisions for future generations.

Q&A -

S: Barbara Armstrong, Cedar Park Church - Appreciation for umbrella of the Conference and the work done by Sharon, Ken and others. God is in control of His churches and is not letting them die when they want to live.

S: Cam Stuart, Arnold Community Church - Affirmation and thanks for Sharon's leadership.

S: Hans and Anna Krueger, Cedar Park Church - Appreciation and gratitude expressed.

S: SS: Thankful to have been able to serve, extended the call to step into more service, and press into God's call.

6. The Way Forward:

Green Paper Presentation by SS/GN: Slides outlining the following: the need for a sense of urgency, the recommendation that through greater focus and deep change, BCMB clarify its focus and mission on the Great Commission and that we make essential changes to our staff and resource allocations.

Graham Nickel spoke about the 3 town halls held previously and about the affirmations and concerns expressed. Reviewed the Lord's call and invitation to us and the decisions needed to achieve this.

Some FAQs answered: staffing, organizational chart, camps, CBC, accountability/metrics, timeline/process for hiring.

Q&A -

Q: Shawn Klassen, KGF - Shouldn't the job description be defined before the new leader is hired?

A: GN - First we want to ensure the churches do affirm this new position and then the job description will be finalized.

A: SS - A draft job description also ensures the tasks will be divided up in accordance with the staff team so that the new lead can focus on the mandate.

A: Bryan Penner, Board Chair of BCMB Camps Society - As a partner organization they are excited about working together in a supportive way towards evangelism and into closer relationship with MB churches.

A: SS - We are having the conversation to being open to what it looks like to invite other churches/denominations into partnering with our camps.

Q: Mark Burch, Northview - The 2-year budgets laid out don't indicate a change towards camps and CBC, is that due to timeline? What about CCMBC and one stream funding being re-evaluated?

A: SS - We haven't had the complex conversation to change the funding model. We do think there could be more funds allocated to camps and CBC, but they depend on us financially and so all aspects need to be addressed. What we 'budget' is not what our partner agencies receive. We funnel through to them based on what we receive. With CCMBC, both sides acknowledge it's not an effective model and it would be our goal to support them well.

Q: Curtis Scoville, Black Creek - Does the Executive Board have a written vision and mission statement to guide their relationship with the new lead.

A: SS - Not formalized at this time and if the churches give the go ahead it's a great idea.

A: RT - The vision/mission statement we currently have isn't being changed and what is being articulated for the new hire is what is recommended on the slide.

A: SS - There is a draft version of a job description which describes the mandate.

Q: Norm Funk, Midtown - Do camps give a breakdown of operations and how the funding is being used.

A: SS - No, the Society has that information, and the individual camps should give that to the churches.

A: DF - Camps Society AGM presents a budget for overall operations and then individual camps are responsible for their own funds.

S: GN - The CBC Board is supportive of The Way Forward especially to the clear theological call and evangelistic focus.

Q: Matt Glezos, Tri City Church - Is the Exec Board thinking about changing the relationship with CBC, Camps and seminary as the report suggested?

A: SS - While we released the full report, the Exec Board didn't embrace every piece of it and what we are presenting reflects that. Our priority is a leader and that needs to be the focus before we begin to look at other things.

Q: Matt Glezos - After hiring the new position then discernment as to our position towards the camps/CBC? Is the Board undecided or do you hold a firm decision?

A: SS - Practicalities aren't decided but our partnership with camps/CBC is valued.

Q: Matt Glezos - The report said we shouldn't continue with the camps but Exec Board is saying we are going to?

A: SS - We want the churches to discern because they are who resource and care for the mission so that's why those future pieces aren't decided. Don't want to devalue our partners.

Q: Matt Glezos - The issues raised are needing to be considered. When and where will they be considered?

A: SS - After the leader has been hired. Is there a possibility we release the camps/CBC to be an evangelistic ministry, maybe. We haven't had those conversations but are open while wanting to make clear the value we place on them but want to be openhanded.

A: Bryan Penner - The system of dependency that has historically been set up with flow through money and the 70 years of history need to be considered.

A: RT - Camps/CBC weren't pieces we were actively presenting at this AGM as we wanted to press into the discernment of moving forward for the new hire. Paul Borden didn't know the history, work accomplished and the relationships with these agencies and was trying to help them to be removed from our budget. We aren't changing anything yet until critical conversations can be had. We believe in Camps/CBC, they are critical institutions, and we are open to what plan can help them thrive while holding bottom line convictions and ongoing stability. It is ultimately up to the CBC Board to make decisions.

Q: Brandt Van Roekel, Christ City Church - Please speak to the fruitfulness of partner agencies vs church planting in amount given in the budget.

A: SS - They each have a report, different metrics are used for success. We believe there needs to be lean in to church planting and the newly formed CREM is our way of providing resources and support to be more effective. The % of money that goes to the partner agencies was voted on by the delegates.

A: RT - We've spent years and money investing in the agencies and if they were gone, how would we recoup, rebuild. Often it is camps and CBC where spiritual formation and calling happens. CCMBC carries us with benefits, mortgages, theological work, connects us nationally and worldwide. In perspective, we are lean compared to other denominations and we are grateful for the churches' generosity.

Q: Curtis Scoville, Black Creek - Will the knowledge that we have some important issues to negotiate with Camps/CBC in the near future guide the selection of a

new ED for the Conference with the experience and capacity to navigate these negotiations?

A: SS - Ideally, but if they aren't personally capable, they are accountable to find someone who is capable to navigate that.

Q: Jon Bryars, Christ City - Why has CP budget been reduced?

A: RT - It has to do with change in the whole CP Task Force as previously money was given to C2C, then Multiply. The CP Task Force assessed what we were giving and the need to be supporting churches and churches planting churches. The reduction reflects the current asks/needs of the churches planting churches. The new committee forming CREM has a broader mandate, and we are not abandoning CP.

Q: Jon Bryars - is that why 2022 actuals were lower? We didn't ask for enough?

A: RT - It is what the churches asked for and what was approved. This is part of the mandate of the new hire so that giving can be increased.

S: Bryan Born, Central Heights and CBC - I spent time with Paul Borden in discussions about CBC and his call was for the college to return to its historic mission and leadership development. This is a call across all denominations done through collaboration with the churches. I embrace what Paul Borden put in the report. You don't know what you've got until it's gone, and I encourage the Exec Board to keep pressing in because we need leaders for the future.

Q: Mark Burch, Northview - He went through the historic names of CP and mourns the loss of the CP mandate - that it's gone and has been replaced with the broader CREM. While fully supporting CREM, why can't we do both? It seems leadership is downplaying CP.

A: SS - Mandate of CREM needs to know the desire for CP and we want the church planters to bring that enthusiasm to CREM. The new hire is to help churches who need the resources and support to be able to do CP.

A: RT - We've had a great task force. Several stepped down for various reasons. It wasn't disagreement about renewal but rather didn't want to be part of a mixed mandate. Needs to be sorted out with the new leader. Paul Borden recommended a pause on CP and to look at renewal. We don't want to pause because we have good churches planting good churches. Churches need renewal as it's healthy churches that reproduce.

S: RT read the position summary draft write up for the new lead hire.

Q: Ray Harms Wiebe, Willingdon - Since RT is to be CM until retirement, how will you support the new hire with your historical knowledge and give freedom to the new hire to move forward?

A: RT - Connie has continuity of knowledge - RT will not be at Exec Board table, but will provide knowledge, support and more than willing to play a secondary role.

A: SS - Acknowledgment of RT willingness to be gracious and openhanded and how that has enabled EB to move forward.

Q: Jon Bryars, Christ City - New position will increase church contributions for individual churches. What will that percentage be?

A: SS - While the report suggests we dedicate a large sum of money to kick off the initiative, we have no assets to borrow against or extra money in the bank. We do have a sale of a church. With alignment and direction, people give.

A: RT - It's a budget proposal of \$250,000 spread over all our churches. It's not a huge increase and there is a faith element where we feel it is doable.

7. MB Seminary: Terry Kaethler - Seminary is to shape how we understand our whole selves in Christ and to shape leaders in a holistic way.

Integrate program partners with churches, online courses and with other seminaries.

Navigate is non-formal teaching and equipping with workshops, webinars, and devotionals. Tuition doesn't cover all costs and the seminary relies on individual and church donations. Local churches are the best place to discern who should be going to seminary. New leadership development with student grant of 25% between the student, the church, CCMBC and MBSS. Impact stories shared.

Q&A – None.

8. CBC Report: Bryan Born - Core value of following the true Jesus of scripture wholeheartedly and being theologically sound. A Christ centred, biblical understanding of identity, belonging and purpose is important, especially for Gen Z, and needs to be kept in every subject. College needs to stay focused on its 5 foundational truths. Spoke about the transitional leadership team and the clarity needed for where CBC stands with the 2 denominations. Thanks for support and continued prayer for the board, leadership, and future.

Q&A – None.

9. Multiply: Bruce Enns - In addition to the report and video, Bruce talked about the bigger picture beyond the local church and how Multiply has a desire to serve the churches. The global workers have been blessed by the Focal Internship program along with church partnerships. Thanks for continued support and trust.

Q&A – None.

10. Present Financial statements: Curtis Braun from Loewen Kruse Chartered Professional Accountants - Thankful for the decade long partnership. Issued a clean Audit Report with respect to the operations of the Conference. The two qualifications are non-operational capital matters from previous years. Statement of Financial Position was explained. Church property held for sale refers to Keremeos funds received after statements. Deferred contributions refer to donations received in 2021 for Abbotsford flood relief but not paid out until 2022.

Statement of Operations event income/expenses increased due to in-person events.

Donations increase includes flood relief. Ministry partnership expenses reduced due to the decrease in budget.

Q&A –

Q: Mark Burch - Northview, Re the Keremeos sale not being reflected in the report.

A: CB - The sale was after the audit report date and will be shown on next year's report.

11. Stewardship Advisory Committee Budget Proposal: Selwyn Uittenbosch - Reviewed the 2023 Baseline Budget. Same level of subsidies for continuity. The Incremental Budget would get added to this baseline budget. Thank you for faithful support and thanks to Denis for his work.

Q&A -

Q: Rod Adrian, Central Heights - What is the plan for the \$62,505 surplus? What is the plan for churches who don't meet the requested contribution?

A: SU - Nonprofits need to have a buffer and I would expect as the year unfolds the surplus money will be allocated. With all the new initiatives there will be a need for extra monies.

A: DF - At times we have operated with no contingencies, but we have an internal policy to retain a 3-month contingency fund out of which we support church planting. If there is surplus, we want to help resource smaller churches. If all churches gave 5% of their income, (not special projects) we would be at 2.9 million dollars. We average 2.5% so we created a 5-year runway to try and hit the ideal of 5% yet we recognize the financial struggle of churches.

Q: Curtis Scoville - Does the SAC need more members to function optimally? If so, what kind of skills are you seeking?

A: SU - Yes, with administrative skills, financial acumen, trend keeping and record tracking, financial statements.

Q: Mark Burch, Northview - Give more explanation on Pastor's and Spouses Retreat increase of \$40,000, CP decreased by \$60,000 and yet there is a surplus?

A: DF - There was a steep increase in retreat costs, and it is heavily subsidized.

A: RT - Re CP, the budget isn't being cut, money is given to those who ask, and the CP Taskforce hasn't been initiating and mobilizing church plants as it has in the past.

Re the Retreat, it is a significant subsidy even with churches who pay. Results are worthwhile but attendance is declining, and we need to consider that it is cost prohibitive.

Re the incremental budget, it's not a big ask for a significant shift as it's less than \$3000 per church. Some churches are already giving 5% and we think it's worthwhile to participate in the community, the vision and mission.

S: Brian Martin, Discovery Community Church - During covid there was an Island mini retreat and it's not about the place but the community and support.

Re the 5%, I understand churches who can't afford it, but when it is history, mistrust and unforgiveness, can we take that before the Lord and deal with it so we can move forward? If you are a church who doesn't need the denomination, please know other churches need you. Let's move forward together.

S: SS - Re the proposed Incremental Budget for The Way Forward - what could be done for hiring and funds to put the plan into motion. We want to use the funds from the Keremeos church sale to kickstart this initiative.



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This budget, although different from previous years, is showing that churches feel the urgency and initiative to do more.

Q: Ken Esau, Life Centre - The budget is planned as if the new hire is already here, but it will probably only be a few months.

A: SS - Yes and we can adjust this.

Q: Wally Nickel, Jericho Ridge - Can you clarify the proceeds of the Keremeos church?

Of the \$538,000 you are only taking a portion, where will the rest go?

A: SS - It will go into reserves.

A: RT - The sale went through recently and we haven't fully processed as a board where all the funds will go. We are offering it as an option.

S: Hans Krueger, Cedar Park - experience shows good vision creates buy in and finances come. I affirm this vision.

Q: Matt Glezos - Tri City Church - Since parts of the vision aren't fully realized, calling for more giving before the clarity is in place is difficult.

A: SS - The objectives are set and then it's up to the new hire to lead well, to work towards obtaining the cohorts, put the resources in place and begin the renewal and inspiring of the Great Commission.

A: RT - We know there will be early adopters and later adopters and the full amount of money probably required won't be right at the front, but we need to get started and gain momentum.

Q: Ken Peters, Saanich Community - The report came in October. Pastors didn't get it until February. Why the delay? It wasn't clear who Paul Borden talked to. I find the report deeply flawed and detailed Information wasn't given until this morning. Congregations have no capacity to process this so there is inconsistency in the ask.

A: SS - This wasn't a qualitative research review. We wanted a broad sweep look at what BCMB would need after the past hard years. We had to process first and didn't want to release the report earlier due to the many complexities that were coming out of it. Town Halls were robust, and the recommendation has been out for 35 days. This is now a discernment process which the board brought forward for transparency and to receive input as we want to hear the church's voice.

A: RT - I appreciate your dilemma, the board wrestled with the amount of information and the timeline, and I agree it wasn't a perfect process.

Q: Ken Peters - The process is too hasty. I don't share your sense of urgency. The Great Commission is not the only commission. Ken went on to list some other elements and the push back against the measures of success.

A: SS - We want to engage with people. The number of baptisms is a metric and numbers are people. Perhaps the new leaders have other ideas. SS acknowledged the rich depth of Ken's input that helped us write to the previous pastor of Cedar Park.

A: RT - We have a holistic view of baptism and of the Great Commission and Anabaptists have to keep the ethos and deep faith that is holistic.

S: Vic Martins, Ross Road - our Great Commission has not changed. We've had minimal staff at BCMB and now it's time for encouragement to move forward.

12. CCMBC:

12.1 National Faith and Life: Ken Esau, NFL Director responsible for the spiritual health and theology of the MB family. Outlined the 4 areas NFL is working, in partnership with the provinces. Focus on Holy Spirit, call to prayer each month in the Herald, the leaders needing the excitement. Policies on clarity of our theology and mission. Special projects to bring people together, PCO and Equip.

12.2 National Director: Elton DaSilva - So excited about what is happening in BC. Continue to keep these important things in the forefront. Thank you for the great representation on the CCMBC board. Five years ago, things were difficult, and God has been good so we are in a much healthier place. There is clear, mission focused vision for the future, with church led initiative, partnerships and advancing the Gospel. Invitation to AGM and Equip.

12.3 Legacy: Jason Krueger - Gave a word about Legacy's mission and services.

Spoke to inflation's impact and one third of churches have had a meeting with Legacy. Explained the components of the high mortgage rates. Regarding the transfer of CCMBC assets transferred to Legacy, CCMBC budget practices were improved, and accounting policies strengthened. Pension plan advisory committee is implementing new plan changes. Facilitating mission and growth will continue.

Q&A for PMC, Camps & Church Planting.

13. Recommendations:

1. That all ministry reports be approved. **Carried.**
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. **Carried.**
3. That the 2023 Church Ministry contribution budget be set at \$1,656,000. **Carried.**
4. That an additional deployment of \$275,000 be approved to add to the baseline of the 2023 BCMB budget 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. **Carried.**

Q: Ron Leonard, Willingdon - If this gets voted no then what?
A: SS - then EB will have hard work to do.
5. That the 2024 Church Ministry contributions be set at \$1,950,000. **Carried.**
6. That the audited financial statements, prepared by Loewen Kruse Chartered Accountants for the fiscal year 2022, be approved as presented. **Carried.**
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. **Carried.**
8. That the nomination slate be affirmed and approved as presented. **Carried.**
9. That the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches support the transfer of the property title of Highland Community Church to Highland Community Church Society for Gospel use. **Carried.**



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Q: Rick Bayer, Grace Point - From the denomination's perspective, is this something you are recommending for congregations to look into and is there a process to follow?

A: SS - There are increasing requests for title due to liability and risk reasons, city planning and bylaws and outside financing. EB gets requests, looks at past practices and when it seems fitting, then we approve. Highland church said it was for a project they are working on.

A: RT - It is added responsibility and onus for the church but with the new Societies Act, legal counsel has said it would be beneficial for the conference to recommend this. Now the Board needs to set up a task force to determine pros/cons and answer those questions.

Q: Brian Cooper, South Abbotsford - Is the stipulation to Highland that if the church ceases to exist it reverts to BCMB.

A: SS - Yes.

A: RT - It's a disillusion (dissolution?) decision but we don't have clauses dealing with the possibility of a church leaving the denomination; however, with this church it's for a project.

A: DF - It is a standard stipulation but it's not in a clause if they leave the denomination.

S: Hans Krueger, Cedar Park - If CP had owned its own property, the vote at the church would have moved it out of the denomination and the revival that is now happening wouldn't be taking place.

14. Closing Comments: Matt Ewert - Grateful for the opportunity to serve previously and meaningful to be a part of a team who work together for things that matter.

Thankful to staff, Sharon & the entire Board for integrity and wanting the best for the church and not letting the obstacles take them off course. God is already at work in our BCMB family in ways that need to be told and celebrated. Let's press deeper into the call. Challenges exist both in and outside, yet we can hold deeply a shared mission in a way that revitalizes and results in fruitfulness.

15. Doxology.

16. Motion to destroy the ballots.

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