



1. That all ministry reports be approved.
2. That the 2021 BCMB budget be set at \$2,100,000.00.
3. That the 2022 BCMB budget be set at \$2,340,000.00.
4. That the audited financial statements, prepared by Loewen Kruse Chartered Accountants for the fiscal year 2020, be approved as presented.
5. That we appoint Loewen Kruse Chartered Accountants as the accounting firm to perform an audit of the financial records and prepare the financial statements for the year 2021.
6. That the BCMB bylaws be approved as presented.
7. That the British Columbia Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches release Artisan Church from membership. *See the explanation on the following pages.*
8. That the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches close Culloden Church in Vancouver and release them from membership.
9. That the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches welcomes Midtown Church as a member church within BCMB and transfers the beneficial ownership of the property to Midtown.
10. That the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches welcomes Praxis as a member church within BCMB.
11. That the BC Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches affirms and approves the nomination slate as presented.



Background explanation to the recommendation to release Artisan Church

In order to help the Convention understand how BCMB has engaged this process, the following brief summary is offered:

Over the past five years, BCMB leaders have met with Artisan pastoral staff and their leadership team, encouraging them to teach and develop a ministry response to LGBTQ issues from within the theological framework of our MB Confession of Faith. We regret that Artisan leadership did not utilize the theological resources available from our MB Seminary, National Faith and Life team, or our provincial PMC (Pastoral Ministry Committee) as they considered these matters.

Artisan's "Milestone" statement released in early 2021 has been reviewed by our PMC, our Executive Board, and our National Faith and Life director. There is a consensus that Artisan's stated commitment to celebrate and perform gay marriages places them in conflict with our Confession. An appeal was made to Artisan leadership that BCMB be allowed to interact with the Artisan community directly, but no invitation or opportunity was given. The restrictions on meetings imposed by Covid-19 certainly did not help our efforts to engage meaningfully in the past 3 months.

We appreciate that since the release of the Milestone statement, Artisan has respectfully requested the withdrawal of their membership from BCMB and their credentialed pastor, Nelson Boschman, has also surrendered his licence as a BCMB pastor. As part of this journey, BCMB has sought to support individuals who have left Artisan church as a result of the Milestone statement and the process that led to it. The PMC has met with Pastor Dan Unrau who has assisted Artisan in an advisory role since May 2020.

In addition, the PMC and members of our National Faith and Life team have received and provided in-depth responses to two appeal letters from former BCMB pastors who advocate that we allow Artisan and churches who adopt a similar position to remain within the MB community.

These letters notwithstanding, BCMB and the wider CCMBC community are deeply saddened to see Artisan choose this path. We have expressed to them that although we share their deep desire to reach the LGTBQ community, we do not believe that their approach is in line with the gospel and the teachings of Scripture.



In all things, even in this difficult departure, we want to honour Christ and treat one another with love. While we cannot bless the choice and direction which they have made, we remain deeply thankful for them and appreciative of all that God has done in and through them in the city of Vancouver and among us. Our prayer remains that they would repent of this decision and return to the pathway of witness and obedience marked out for us by Christ and the Apostolic witness of Scripture.

Rob Thiessen

Conference Minister

On behalf of the Pastoral Ministry Committee and the BCMB Executive Board