

1 The
2 ROAD
2 we are on...

February 19-20, 2021
Virtual Celebration

THE
90TH
ANNUAL
ONMB
CONVENTION



Ontario
Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

ONMB Convention 2021



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 90th Annual ONMB Convention online experience.

2021 continues to challenge us with ever-changing restrictions and guidelines for gatherings. It is hard to believe that it was only a year ago that we were worshiping together, sharing stories and laughter as we met in person at Cornerstone Community Church.

Sharing a hug and catching up with ministry leaders we haven't seen in a while, or enjoying a hot cappuccino at the Multiply booth will have to wait one more year, and that's okay. God has been doing some amazing things which you will read about in this delegate book.

This online celebration couldn't have happened without the help of various members of our National team as well as our local leaders and tech experts. We especially want to say a big thanks to our virtual host, Mountain Park Church in Niagara Falls. We are so grateful for your partnership.

Wherever you are we are so glad that you have decided to engage with us in this way.

Let's celebrate together!



Kristi Lee, Executive Assistant
Ontario Conference of MB Churches



ONMB Convention 2021



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SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021

7:00 pm Virtual Celebration
Worship - Mountain Park Church
The Road We Are On...
Communion - Virtual Choir

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021

8:30 am Zoom Meeting Opens

9:00 am Session 1
Welcome and Devotional
Prayer
Provincial Updates

... Break ...

10:00 am Session 2
Business Session
•Motions & Elections
•Reports & Financial Update
•Motions - 2021 Budget
•Motions - ONMB Bylaws

... Break ...

11:30 am Session 3
Ministry Updates
Final Motions & Decisions
Prayer & Benediction



WELCOME

...to the 90th Annual ONMB Convention of the Ontario Conference of MB Churches

On behalf of the ONMB Board of Directors, I want to welcome you to this year's Convention online. We're so glad that you have chosen to set aside some time to join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness to us throughout 2020 as well as throughout our 90 years as a Conference of churches, and as we also look ahead to the next year with anticipation of what He has in store for us. I hope our time together encourages you to keep going and to keep pursuing Christ and His Kingdom.

I would like to thank Mountain Park Church for hosting us virtually this year. Obviously, 'hosting' looks different this year being online but we are very grateful for Mountain Park's help in making Convention happen, especially our Friday evening worship service. Thanks Mountain Park! We are cheering you on and praising God for the great work He is doing in and through you.

Thanks to all of you for joining us. I hope & pray God blesses you deeply as we gather online as family!



Jeff Jantzi, Chair
Ontario Conference of MB Churches

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB Executive Director's Report

Ed Willms



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Brethren Churches

Greetings Friends...

Welcome to our 90th Annual Convention – offered completely virtually – something our forefathers could never have imagined. Our theme: The road we are on... where we've come from... where we find ourselves... and where we are headed, seems to fit this unique moment in history.

The Road we are on...

If you were with us a year ago at Cornerstone Community Church in NOTL, you would recall the mobile I used as a prop for my convention challenge. I chose it to illustrate that when one part is tugged on, all the other parts shake and vibrate. My point was to highlight our interconnection. When one of us experience a moment of celebration or suffering the effects are felt by all the rest. Seated comfortably as we were that Saturday morning, we had no way of knowing that the world mobile would be yanked just a few weeks later. COVID-19 has reverberated through each of our lives and our churches. We have all been impacted and we will never be the same.

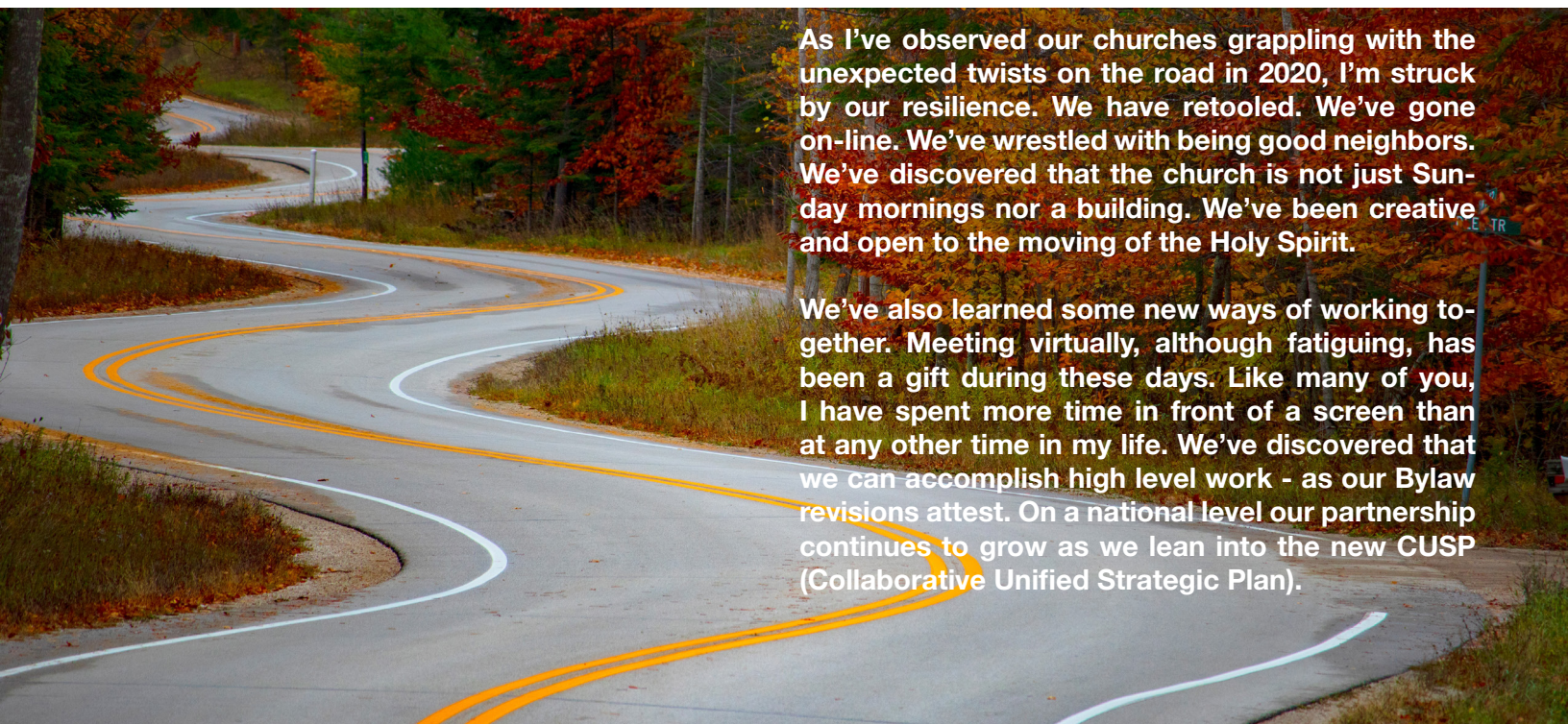
Where we have come from...

To put our 90-year journey into perspective one should note that our forefathers knew all about hardship and uncertainty. Many were immigrants fleeing a bitter revolution in Russia that affected them deeply. When the first churches banded together in 1932 to start our Conference, they did so in the middle of the Great Depression. A few short years later World War II erupted altering their lives yet again. Although ensuing decades included growth, education and material prosperity, the imprint of those early years was never lost. They knew all too well about the harshness and brevity of life. But they also knew a God of comfort and compassion who was guiding them and leading them forward. Their desire, although never perfectly lived, was to be in this world but not to be consumed by it. More than that they had a missional passion that led them to share his love to those around them. They desired to shine the light of Jesus wherever they found themselves.

Where we presently find ourselves...

As I've observed our churches grappling with the unexpected twists on the road in 2020, I'm struck by our resilience. We have retooled. We've gone on-line. We've wrestled with being good neighbors. We've discovered that the church is not just Sunday mornings nor a building. We've been creative and open to the moving of the Holy Spirit.

We've also learned some new ways of working together. Meeting virtually, although fatiguing, has been a gift during these days. Like many of you, I have spent more time in front of a screen than at any other time in my life. We've discovered that we can accomplish high level work - as our Bylaw revisions attest. On a national level our partnership continues to grow as we lean into the new CUSP (Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan).



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ONMB Executive Director's Report

Ed Willms



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I have also noted that many of us are tired and at times living in a fog. We have been willing to discuss these challenges openly and have been blessed by wellness events designed to support and encourage each other. The road forward is far too challenging to go it alone.

I've also been amazed by the generosity of our churches. If there was ever a year for things to implode it might have been this year. It was the perfect storm: An enlarged budget, the implementation of One Stream funding, and fears from the pandemic. With many people's financial realities uncertain, we were bracing for the worst. But instead, we experienced a strong year of financial support, exceeding our expectations. We can only say thanks to each of you and thanks to our Father for leading us through these days.

Where we are headed...

If we've learned one thing during this past year it would be that we can't plan too far into the future. We don't yet know when this pandemic will end nor what the new normal will be. We do know that God is guiding us, that our story is not yet finished, and that his church will flourish as it surrenders control to his leading.

In faith we look forward to great things in the coming days. We envision that we will hold Posture Shift in some fashion this coming year. We are planning a new version of PCO – Pastor Credentialing Orientation this spring. We are looking forward to hosting part of Equip 2021 around the theme: Ecclesia - The fullness of Christ. We will press into the new CUSP with our national partners and I will continue to serve on the National Ministry Team. We know that our partnership with the First Peoples of Canada is growing and numerous doors of opportunity stand before us. We are thrilled to see how Bytown Community Church is being planted in Ottawa. We are aware of other missional activities across this province that we are partners in. We long to press into a fuller understanding of 'Holistic Gospel Presence'. Additionally, we hope to discern a new staff member to compliment the ONMB team to serve you better.

This year I have found the words in 2 Cor. 2:14 to be so appropriate on our journey together. "Thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere." May we indeed spread the sweet aroma of Christ to all who we find on the road before us.

This year we celebrate God's faithfulness to us during the past 90 years. No matter how many twists and turns there have been on the journey, God has been leading us, guiding us, nudging us forward to achieve the purposes that he has for us. We are filled with hope and faith even in the midst of this global pandemic.

On mission with you,

Ed Willms

Executive Director

Ontario Conference of MB Churches



PS: I must add a heartfelt shout out to three of our ONMB Board members whose terms are ending. Jeff Jantzi, Shelley Campagnola, and Rafiqua Masih. May God's richest blessing rest with each of you. Our lives have been enriched by your faithful service and friendship.

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB Moderator's Report

Jeff Jantzi, Board Chair



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Welcome! Thanks for taking the time to read through our conference binder as you prepare for Convention 2021. There's no doubt that this year's virtual Convention will look and feel very different than Conventions in years past, but we're so glad that you've chosen to join us and are excited to see what God does as we anticipate more people engaging this year than in the past.

Our theme for this year's 90th Convention is "The Road We Are On...", and what a road it has been. Our prayer is that together we would be encouraged as we look back and celebrate God's faithfulness over our 90 years together, but that we'd also be inspired as we look forward to what God has in store for us as we continue the journey together. He has and will continue to be faithful!

As we gather virtually for Convention 2021, we are reminded of how much we miss being able to gather together in person. We certainly hope to be able to do so next year! Yet, we are still excited for what God wants to do this year during our time together online. Our team has worked hard to put together a Friday evening worship experience online that we know will encourage you, and we are looking forward to working through various business items on Saturday morning via Zoom as well. Jesus continues to build his church, and COVID can't stop him! We pray our time together will remind us of this truth.

Within the 2020 fiscal year, the Board met virtually for full day meetings in April, June, September, November, and January (2021). We also met for shorter, virtual meetings in March, July, August and January (2021).

Throughout the year we worked through many processes and initiatives, with the key ones being:

- Overseeing, supporting and evaluating the work of our Executive Director, Ed Willms as he works alongside our churches and ministries.
- Supporting our staff and our churches as we navigate the implications of COVID together.
- Providing financial oversight to the Ontario Conference, particularly in light of COVID.
- Implementation of our MB Family Covenant, which most churches in Ontario have now signed and agreed to live into.
- Revising of our ONMB Bylaws and working with our Governance Committee through the proposed changes.
- Implementation of ONMB's Strategic Plan, which includes a special focus for each year.
- Navigating various issues/challenges with some of our churches and ministries.
- Partnering with CCMBC and our National Director, Elton DaSilva, as we work together on "CUSP" (The Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan for the MB Church of Canada).

The Ontario MB Board of Directors:

The 11 members of the Board of Directors for the 2020 fiscal year came from 6 different churches and 6 cities across our province:

- Shelley Campagnola, WMB Church in Waterloo (Treasurer) (term ending)
- Pat Goertzen, Mountain Park Church in Niagara Falls (Secretary)
- Jeff Jantzi, The Gathering in Ottawa (Chair)
- Michelle Knowles, WMB Church in Waterloo
- Jeff MacLeod, Evergreen Heights Church in Simcoe
- Jeff Martens, Southridge Community Church in St. Catharines
- Rafiqua Masih, Behta Darya in Mississauga (term ending)
- Mandy Kasper, Southridge Community Church in St. Catharines
- Mike Meinema, Southridge Community Church in St. Catharines
- Andrew Plett, Mountain Park Church in Niagara Falls
- Karen West, WMB Church in Waterloo (Vice-Chair, Designate to CCMBC Board)

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB Moderator's Report

continued



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•The work of various Board Committees: Faith and Life Team, Multiply/Church Planting, Finance, Executive Team, Governance/Bylaw, and Personnel.

There is much to celebrate from 2020, too:

- Engagement from our churches has increased once again, with church-giving to ONMB growing for the seventh year in a row. (We ended the year with a surplus! Praise God!)
- Most of our churches have now signed off on our ONMB Family Covenant and are now living into it.
- COVID has brought many of our churches and leaders together virtually in ways that we could have never anticipated.
- The CCMBC Collaborative Model is being implemented across our country, with many exciting conversations taking place.
- ONMB's partnership with Derek Parenteau and focus on First Nations ministry continues to take shape.
- The completion of ONMB's revised bylaws, which will be voted on at Convention.
- Several churches continuing to lean in and show ownership in our MB Family.
- The many stories and examples of God at work in and through our local churches during this COVID season.

...And on and on I could go. I am very encouraged by what I see God doing and am thrilled that we all get to be a part of it together!

At the same time though, 2020 brought some challenges as well. Between COVID and the many circulating opinions and conspiracy theories that we have found ourselves navigating in our churches; the economic impact of COVID; the issues of racial and social injustice that have become more urgent both in the US and in Canada which have led to important but challenging conversations in our churches; the political upheaval in the US and having to navigate the strong opinions and concerns of many in our churches; the ongoing pastoral questions that many of us have as it relates to people who identify as LGBTQ... all of this in addition to the ongoing internal/relational challenges we sometimes face as churches, as well as a conference of churches. There is no question that our relationships and our dependence on Jesus has been significantly tested this year and will continue to be tested into 2021. Thank God for his grace and his faithfulness to us!

On a personal note, Convention 2021 marks the five-year anniversary of my role and, sadly, it will be my last as Chair of the Board. At the completion of this year's convention, I will no longer be a member of the ONMB Board as I have decided to step off in an effort to focus more fully on my family and the ministry that God has called me to at The Gathering Ottawa in this next season. It has been a joy to serve as Chair of the Board for the past five years and as a member of the board for the past seven, and I will miss serving with the fantastic people and staff that make up our team. At the same time, our Board is in good hands with Jeff MacLeod stepping into the Chair role (if elected at Convention). I am looking forward to seeing what God does in the coming years through our conference of MB Churches and am glad to continue to be a part of it (even if in a different capacity)!

I also want to thank Shelley Campagnola whose term is coming to an end at convention after serving for 6 full years, many of them as our treasurer (wow!). Rafiqua Masih will also be stepping down. Thank you Shelley & Rafiqua!! Our conference of churches is better because of you both.

Please feel free to be in touch with me or anyone from the Board if you have questions in any of these areas. We're so grateful that you're choosing to lean in as part of our MB family and are looking forward to seeing you on the screen at Convention!

Peace,

Jeff Jantzi

Moderator and Board Chair
Ontario Conference of MB Churches



ONMB Convention 2021

Provincial Faith & Life Team Report

Richard Martens, Chair



The Provincial Faith and Life Team (PFLT) is a standing committee of the Ontario Conference of MB Churches (ONMB) board, and as such, it receives its authority and mandate from the ONMB board and conference of churches. It oversees, promotes, and facilitates the spiritual health and theological integrity of the ONMB churches.

The PFLT participates in and collaborates with the National Faith and Life Team (NFLT) to articulate and safeguard Mennonite Brethren theological convictions and provide discernment and guidance on current issues. This task is accomplished through nurturing churches and their leaders in a variety of ways, sustaining our confessional foundation, helping churches clarify and practise their unique calling, and facilitating the credentialing of church leaders for ministry.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

The PFLT is accountable to the ONMB board and by extension the ONMB conference of churches. The board appoints the team members as well as the chair. Each PFLT has a direct relationship to the NFLT by appointing a representative to serve on the national team.

COMPOSITION:

There are currently eight members of the PFLT, all of whom serve, or have served as credentialed pastors within MB churches. The PFLT members are: Richard Martens (chair), Dave Fowler, Mandy Kasper (Board member), Jeff MacLeod (Board Member), Bill Stubbs, Matt Unruh, and Karen West (Board Member and NFLT rep). In addition, Ed Willms, our Executive Director, provides valuable leadership as a full member on this team.

ACTIVITY:

The PFLT met six times in 2020. There are 23 pastors who are working towards their credentialing, and five pastors that were successful at completing their credentialing. They were: Connie Mai-er, Brent Kipfer, Mike Sherbino, Justin Brix, and Doug Hiebert. All pastor's half time or greater, are required to be credentialed, which includes filling out the credentialing questionnaire (including reading two books), being interviewed, handing in references, signing Code of Christian Conduct, and attending the Pastor's Credentialing Orientation. This process is expected to occur within the first year of a new pastoral assignment.

A background image showing a group of people sitting around a table, possibly in a meeting or interview setting. The image is slightly blurred and has a warm, orange-toned overlay.


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PASTOR CREDENTIALING INTERVIEWS:

March 10 & 11, 2021

email info@onmb.org for more details

ONMB Convention 2021

Provincial Faith & Life Team Report continued



This past year there has been a proposal for relationship-based leadership development and credentialing process. This idea developed primarily as a result of the increased need for credentialing among the First Nations People. The current credentialing process depends on the individual to provide high articulation of theological understanding and presupposes formal theological education from Bible College or Seminary. Our indigenous brothers and sisters in the Lord, who are coming to faith in Christ and being discipled into leaders and church planters, live and practice a narrative culture where oral tradition and storytelling is venerated and taught to the next generation. Without minimizing the expectations of a credentialed leader, the process is being modified to encourage greater accessibility and an honouring of those who have risen into leadership.

Another significant component of our time as PFLT, includes the encouragement of spiritual health and theological integrity of our ONMB pastors and churches. The emotionally charged issue of inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community in our churches continues to be an important issue for discussion. While the MB Confession of Faith clearly states that marriage is between one man and one woman in an exclusive permanent covenantal relationship, the challenge has been - how do we continue to be invitational and loving to those who have a different understanding? The question of inclusion for those who are "different" is as old as human history. Today we face a great deal of social pressure to normalize dif-

ferent forms of marriage and sexual expressions, which has led many to view the church as bigoted and prejudiced against the LGBTQ+ community. Much grace is needed as churches find the balance of love and truth, and that we neither vilify others in the name of truth, or excuse behaviours/beliefs in the name of grace.

In addition, we continue to meet with pastors and church board members, to address wide ranging topics, such as: signing the Family Covenant, the challenges of merging with another church, conflict management, marriage registration, and many other issues. One such example came as Evangelical Asian Church, an MB church for many years, decided to join Bramalea Baptist Church in Brampton. The transition occurred smoothly and amicably, and we wish them well as they continue to serve God in that community.

We are pleased to recommend both Manotick Community Church (Manotick ON), and Northend Church (St. Catharines) making the transition from having Associate Church status, to full member status within our ONMB Conference. Their journey with us has been strong and positive and we look forward to many fruitful years together in this community of faith.



Richard Martens
FLT Chair,

ONMB Convention 2021

Family Covenant - January 2020



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Families are interesting. You don't choose them. You can't control them, and you can rarely predict the twists and turns they'll take over time. But you're always part of them. In the MB family, most of us aren't ethnically "Mennonite." At least half of us aren't "Brethren" (in the truest sense of the word). But just as we know that following Christ personally and individually necessitates being deeply connected to a healthy local church, we hold the same to be true for churches themselves, that they too are at their best when connected to a healthy, larger family. That's why our conference of churches exists.

In that spirit, we (re-)invite each of our Ontario MB churches, through their senior staff and leadership/elder boards, to their place at the MB family "table;" to embrace a fresh sense of belonging and commitment to our larger family of churches and to the collective impact we believe we're called to make, as expressed through this "Family Covenant."

Our covenant commitment as churches, to and with one another, is aligned with our national strategic framework focusing on Spiritual Health & Theology, Leadership Development, and Mission, and is organized around five strategic initiatives within Ontario, in order to bring clarity, unity, and purpose among our ONMB family of churches:

***NOTE:** These shared commitments represent what we believe we can do better together than alone. We appreciate that all our churches lead by example on some points, while having room to grow on others. Through this Family Covenant, we desire a commitment to direction more than perfection and to covenant more than contract. In that spirit, we invite you into a **5-year transition** toward the full scope of each statement, inaugurating a rhythm of covenant review, renewal, and re-affirmation among our member churches anticipated every 5 years.*

1) Establishing Holistic Gospel Presence

- Commit to proclaiming and embodying the person, work, and impact of Jesus as the highest "banner" raised in our churches; higher than individual church brands and distinctions, and higher than our MB "banner."
- Align teaching and ministry with our MB Confession of Faith while participating in and submitting to the ongoing review, refinement, interpretation, and application of the Confession, as directed by our Faith and Life Team(s).
- Develop, support, and sustain activities of relief, reconciliation, compassion, justice, and peacemaking for the poor and marginalized, both locally and globally, calling disciples to express the gospel in both word and deed.

2) Developing Leaders

- Ensure all teaching and pastoral staff are affirmed through our MB credentialing process, ideally as part of hiring or by the end of their first year of pastoral ministry (and for existing uncredentialed staff, as soon as possible).
- Where possible, participate in ongoing ONMB, Multiply, or MB Seminary leadership development initiatives and educational opportunities such as Pastors' & Leaders' Day, *Awake*, and various seminary offerings, in order to further hone the skills required to navigate faith and discipleship in today's context.
- Encourage and intentionally develop young leaders in your context. Where possible, participate in and leverage leadership development initiatives such as *Leaders' Collective*, *SOAR*, *Action*, *Trek*, etc.
- Where possible, promote Camp Crossroads to children and students as an investment opportunity into their discipleship and leadership development.

3) Building Community

- Make every effort to involve leaders in networking experiences such as "Team of Teams" monthly calls, regional meetings, pastoral clusters, and our annual convention.
- Relate with other leaders in a spirit of trust and accountability, always assuming the best intentions and taking responsibility for conflict resolution or relational reconciliation when necessary.
- Speak well of and seek opportunities to encourage or support sibling churches.

ONMB Convention 2021

Family Covenant - January 2020



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4) Multiplying Churches

- Commit to the vision of becoming churches that multiply churches by: supporting church planting partnerships, identifying potential planters within your community, or through multi-site or regional partnership initiatives.
- Pray for our church planters and new congregations throughout the province.
- Be available for mentorship and support of new church leaders in your region.

5) Resourcing Ministry

- Support and promote to staff and congregation the financial and operational resources and benefits provided by the conference.
- Actively share unique expertise, experience, skill sets, and learnings with other MB churches.
- Practice a “corporate tithe” of financial investment in order to expand the impact of God’s love beyond any of our individual local churches, **committing at least half of this “tithe”** (i.e. 5% of budget) to the conference (provincial and national combined) in order to invest in and expand our collective ONMB and CCMBC kingdom initiatives. Communicate your conference contribution at the outset of each fiscal year and submit contributions quarterly in order to assist with planning and implementation.

The staff and Board of the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches is inviting member churches, as represented by their leadership, to sign this covenant, to and with one another, as a renewed and renewable statement of their commitment to our denominational church family. We realize that each church is unique and so we eagerly welcome heartfelt conversations to help all of us grow toward this deeper place of connection and commitment, for the sake of Christ and each other.

Through signing this covenant, the leadership of our church family, _____, desires to live and serve in partnership with the larger church family of Ontario Mennonite Brethren Churches. We give thanks for our place at the table and embrace the privilege of sharing it with our extended family of faith.

Senior Leadership

Lead/Senior Pastor

Date:

Board Chair

Date:



ONMB Convention 2021

National Director's Report

Elton DaSilva



Canadian Conference
of Mennonite Brethren Churches

National Director's report

CCMBC began the year 2020 with the mandate to fully develop the Collaborative Model.

Bylaws

The first thing we had to do was rewrite our bylaws. New bylaws introduced essential elements for the functioning of the Collaborative Model. The bylaws also recognized an additional class of members, including our provincial conferences and national agencies such as Legacy, Multiply and MB Seminary. The board of these new “member organizations” form the National Council to advise and counsel towards fulfilling our collective mission. Senior leaders from the provinces, Multiply, MB Seminary and the National Faith and Life Team make up the strategic planning body we call the National Ministry Team.

For voting and approval purposes, the bylaws recognize the National Assembly, replacing what was previously known as our AGM. The National Assembly includes delegates from churches and member organizations. Church delegates remain the primary decision-makers, just as they had in our previous bylaws.

The CUSP

A second significant development in 2020 was the crafting of the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan. This document gathers all parts of the MB family under

one strategic focus. The priority areas of the CUSP are:

- Spiritual health and theology
- Leadership development
- Mission
- Organizational health

Aimed towards the following outcomes:

- Discipleship identity
- Churches that disciple
- Churches who lead
- Discipleship movements

The CUSP proposes an updated mission focus for the MB Church of Canada: Our mission is to collaboratively develop a discipling identity that propels churches to a disciple-making attitude in order to produce new leaders who lead new disciple-making movements.

The National Faith and Life Team helped us identify the following seven family values:

We operate in dependence on God, who is revealed to us most clearly in Jesus.

- We live by the guidance of Scripture
- We expect transformational discipleship
- We participate in God's mission
- We are church-centred
- We serve and lead together
- We steward resources on God's behalf.

Both the bylaws and the CUSP were vetted multiple times over 2020 with the National Council, focused

EQUIP

STUDY CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2021

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THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST

ONMB Convention 2021

National Director's Report

continued



Canadian Conference
of Mennonite Brethren Churches

groups, and town hall meetings. Some provided additional feedback via email through our website. If you have comments or questions, please email us at FAQ@mbchurches.ca.

The COVID-19 impact

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the ministry of our churches and agencies this past year. The MB family had to adapt to the reality that this health crisis would bring lower funding, the closure of programs and the inability to meet in person. Two things became evident through this: 1. We are a resilient and creative people, and 2. The mission of Jesus continued regardless of church building closures.

The pandemic also had a significant impact on CCMBC's financial picture. We began 2020 with an approved budget of \$1.1 million. In response to COVID-19 constraints, in the spring, we adjusted the budget to \$991,000. CCMBC enacted salary reductions, temporary and permanent layoffs, and reduced giving to partner organizations to make this adjustment. The combination of austerity management and federal wage subsidies allowed us to finish the year positively. Due to the pandemic's continued effects, we propose a reduced 2021 budget, \$236,000 less than the previous year.

We invite you to the National Assembly as either a church delegate, member organization delegate or guest on June 11 and 12, 2021. Additional information, including registration, will be available on our website soon.

You are encouraged to stay connected with the MB Church in Canada by subscribing to our monthly digital magazine, the *MB Herald Digest* at mbherald.com/subscribe-via-email. Add your story to that of the Mennonite Brethren in Canada by contacting us at mbherald@mbchurches.ca.



Respectfully yours,

Elton DaSilva
National director

ONMB Convention 2021

CCMBC Moderator's Report

Ron Penner



Canadian Conference
of Mennonite Brethren Churches

CCMBC Moderator's Report

This past year has tested our adaptability and core values as few years have. Thanks to the resilience and adaptability of our churches, CCMBC team, and partner organizations we have weathered the challenges as well or better than expected. And, we all hope and pray for the restoration of normal options soon!

The CCMBC "Team" consists of the following:

- The Executive Board, which includes the moderators or designates from each province, representatives from the Legacy and Seminary Boards, the NFLT, and members at large – about 20 people.
- The committees and teams which work on specific projects: Finance and Audit Committee, Governance Committee, Personnel Committee, Nominations Committee, Executive Committee, National Ministry Team, and National Faith and Life Team.
- Our two directors: Elton DaSilva (National Dir.), and Ingrid Reichard (NFLT Dir.) along with their staff.

We thank them for their sacrificial work in difficult circumstances to help us through this year.

Your Board's key goals are to execute the will and plans of the Conference, coordinate efforts toward our mission, and work to resolve issues and challenges to our relationships and projects. We have not been able to meet in person since last June, so have worked on monthly zoom calls to do our work.

Given the limitations of a brief report, we will use "headlines" to offer an overview of projects and accomplishments this year.

- Began living into the new Collaborative Model and working at the foundation pieces as described by Elton's report (ie. Bylaws and Strategic Plan).
- Expanded the opportunities for participation and voice from churches, boards, and partners through our National Councils and Townhalls.
- Implemented the One-Stream Funding Model and thanks both to churches' faithfulness and the good management of our staff, finished year 2020 in the black.
- Welcomed a new Executive Director for Legacy, Jason Krueger, and moved beyond the mere recovery phase.
- Participated in the Multiply review and efforts to

rebuild our binational mission.

- Supported MB Seminary in its financial resizing.
- Worked at observing the "Keeping our Promises" commitments made in June 2020.

This June, we expect our National Assembly (AGM) will be held via Zoom which actually makes it possible for more people to attend, and that we affirm. Our schedule, agenda and related reports and recommendations will be published later this spring in good time for our June 11-12 meeting.

We continue to nurture our national partnership, not only because of historic and confessional bonds, but because we believe we can accomplish more by working in a complementary and collaborative way, than if we all attempted to "do it all ourselves."

This June we will be given an opportunity to agree on the areas where we can operate collaboratively; the major goals are to:

- See our churches and members be Spiritually healthy and theologically committed to our joint understanding of God's design for the church – expressed through our Confession of Faith.
- Operate from a plan that calls, equips, supports, and refreshes leaders for our future.
- Mobilize our churches to keep mission and disciple-making a core in their efforts and finances.
- See Conference Board/Agencies and churches grow in their organizational health.

We want to operate with a "figurative open door" policy, so I invite you to address questions and suggestions to our National Board through the following email:

moderator@mbchurches.ca.

We trust your provincial meetings go well.



For the Executive Board,

Ron Penner
Moderator

ONMB Convention 2021

National Faith & Life Team Report

Ingrid Reichard



MANDATE:

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. We serve the MB churches of Canada in the area of strengthening the MB identity and community.

NFLT IN 2020:

As is true for most of us, the NFLT only had a few months of activity in 2020 before the CoVid-19 shutdowns began. Some momentum was lost in cancelling and re-planning of events such as PCO 2020, NFLT participation in ICOMB conversations, and launch of new writing and video projects. We have certainly grown in our collective ability to hold plans loosely and to adjust priorities to the needs of the moment.

In response to the unique experience of the last year the NFLT, and I personally, have ministered to our MB family in Canada in new ways such as:

1. Coordination of an international MB Good Friday celebration.
2. Leadership in national and provincial e-prayer gatherings.
3. Resourcing of pastors for ministry in this season through webinars, blog posts, one-on-one support and more.

I trust that some of these ways of ministry will continue into the future.

Despite the challenge of 2020, NFLT has completed significant work in keeping with our mandate and in the process of implementing the Collaborative Structure elements as they pertain to the work of the NFLT.

1. Completed the draft of Article 8, which is now ready for approval. This approval will take place in 2021 in line with our revised bylaws.
2. Launched the alternate stream credentialing process with our First Nations leaders.
3. Completed two national Faith & Life policies, for approval at AGM: Membership and Pastoral Credentialing.
4. Developed a common understanding for the roles of Provincial Faith & Life Teams.
5. Planned the Equip 2021 Study Conference for November 3-5 in a distributed format.



ONMB Convention 2021

National Faith & Life Team Report

Ingrid Reichard



Canadian Conference
of Mennonite Brethren Churches

The NFLT now also has five functioning sub-teams, each with a specific focus. The work of these teams is on-going. We are encouraged by the close collaboration between the national and provincial leadership bodies, the NFLT, the MB Seminary and Multiply. This new era of collaboration has providentially positioned us to be able to quickly and effectively navigate the CoVid-19 demands together.

With the challenge of the times comes an opportunity to re-imagine and to re-evaluate. We are confident that the Lord will use even this experience for the good his MB Church, for our strengthening, for new depths of intimate relationship with Jesus, and a renewed missionary fervor.

Please pray for the National Faith and Life Team – for wisdom, courage and creativity to carry out the task of guarding the treasure of the MB expression of faith in Christ; and for God to continue to send quality men and women to serve on this team and on each of the provincial faith & life teams.



Ingrid Reichard, MDiv
NFLT Director and Chair



Pastors Credentialing Orientation

West (BC)

May 26-28, 2021

East (ON)

June 1-3, 2021



Canadian Conference
of Mennonite Brethren Churches

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB Treasurer Report

Year Ending December 2020



Ontario

Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

2020 was a year like no other in experience but also another testimony of God's presence and provision. We recognize the faith walk that each church individually, and together as a Conference, sustained over the year. We celebrate the faithfulness, perseverance, and fruitful efforts that this report can only begin to tell the story of.

We finished the year 8.6% ahead in budgeted revenues!

Revenues from all sources: 445,128

Less:

Church Planting	30,000
CCMBC Collaborative	120,500
Support of Agencies (Camp Crossroads)	7,500
Office and Organization	9,973
Ministry and Program	20,124
Compensation and Development	147,864
Fees and Professional Services	24,293
Board and Governance	2,216

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 362,470

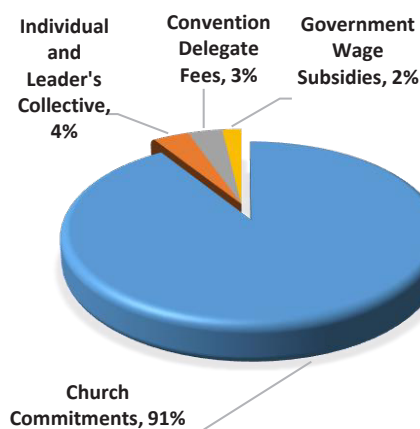
Net Income – a surplus!!! 82,658

While we finished with a significant surplus, we want to recognize the following substantive variances to budgeted expenditures that we anticipate will not be repeated in 2021:

- There was a transition period in one-stream funding that resulted in some funding being sent directly by churches to CCMBC.
- Board meetings moved to virtual significantly reducing travel and meeting costs.
- Program and ministry costs were reduced due to the impact of pandemic lockdowns and suspension of activities.

2020 ONMB REVENUE

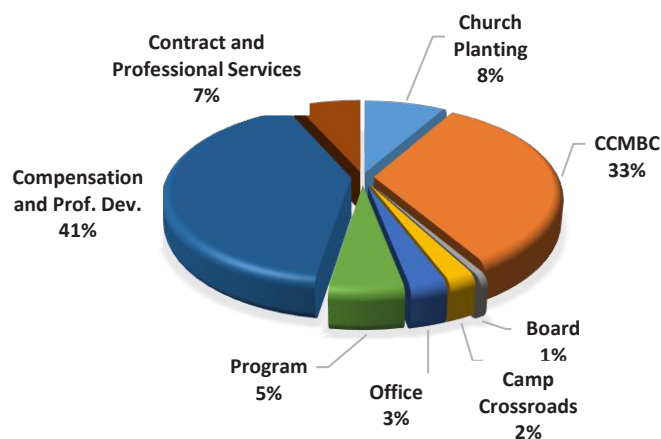
**Based on unaudited numbers*



**Please refer to our audited statements for detailed reports.*

2020 ONMB EXPENDITURES

**Based on unaudited numbers*



Respectfully submitted,

SCampagnola

Shelley Campagnola, Treasurer

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB Proposed Budget

Projected Year Ending December 2021



If 2020 taught us anything, it's that we're in far less control than we prefer to admit. But it also revealed how God's faithfulness far surpasses our common understanding. With that in mind, we're entering 2021 increasing our faith alongside our kingdom investment of the resources God entrusts to us.

2020 saw a substantial surplus, in part, due to pandemic cost savings, but more because of the growing mutual commitment of our churches to one another, believing we can be and do more together. This surplus ensures reserves for years ahead and presents opportunities which were previously on hold.

We're budgeting for 2021 as a similar "pandemic year," although with an inverse expectation of the first 6-9 months being most effected by Covid, compared to the last 6-9 months of 2020. While we imagine our Church Commitments can remain on the growth-trend of recent years, we're cautiously budgeting a level revenue projection given the unknowns still ahead.

On the kingdom investment (or expense) side, we have some exciting potential. As our existing church planting commitments move to sustainability, we have \$10,000 freshly available for new opportunities.

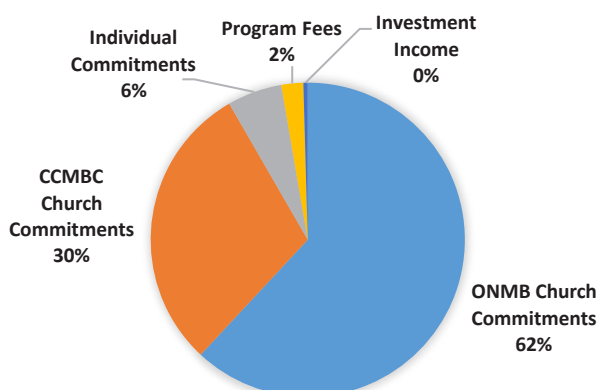
Most significant in this budget, though, is the possibility of additional staffing to enhance support of our churches and set the stage for more holistic and ongoing missional impact. \$50,000 has been ear-marked for the potential hire of staff support (either part-time, or, if full-time, representing a portion of the year).

While being finalized in collaboration with our Executive Director, we're confident new staff could:

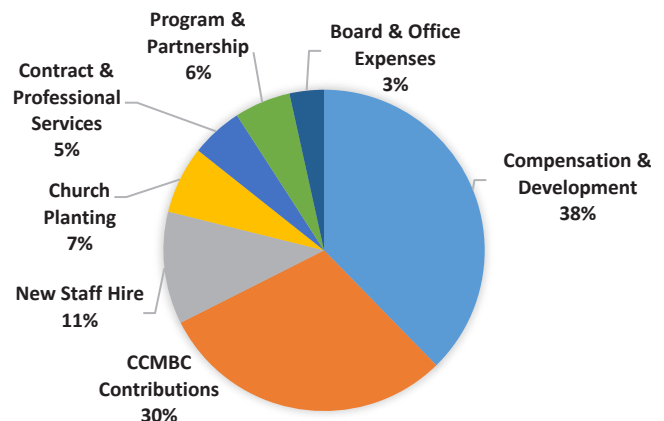
- Share the current load to ensure existing roles remain sustainable
- Drive a consistent and sustainable strategy for church planting and multiplication
- Broaden our leadership development resources and initiatives for our churches
- Engage the emerging generation more fully in our family of churches

As we grow our faith and financial investment in what God is doing among us, even while wrestling with what's beyond our control, let's aspire to participate in all God has in store in 2021!

2021 PROPOSED REVENUE



2021 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES



ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB 2021 Proposed Budget

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Ontario
Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

	Proposed	Actual*	Budget
INCOME	2021	2020	2020
ONMB Church Commitments	275,000	272,995.22	220,000
CCMBC Church Commitments	132,000	132,000.00	132,000
Individual Commitments	25,000	15,815.00	25,000
Convention Delegate Fees	5,000	15,415.00	15,000
Leaders Collective Fees	5,000	300.00	18,000
Misc. Income/PCO	0	8,602.60	0
Investment Income	2,000	503.38	0
Total Income	444,000	445,631.20	410,000
EXPENSES			
Regional Church Planting			
Church Planting ON	20,000	30,000.00	30,000
New Initiatives	10,000	0	0
Total Regional Church Planting	30,000	30,000.00	30,000
CCMBC Collaboration Support			
Collaborative Contributions to CCMBC	132,000	120,500.00	132,000
Support of Other Ministries			
Camp Crossroads	7,500	7,500.00	7,500
Total Other Ministries	7,500	7,500.00	7,500
Board of Directors			
Faith & Life Committee	500	0	1,000
Board Meetings / Travel	5,000	2,215.91	10,000
Total Board of Directors	5,500	2,215.91	11,000
Development			
Leaders Collective	5,000	11,113.68	18,000
PCO	1,000	229.68	0
Pastor's Retreat(s)	1,000	0	4,258
Special Events - Convention 2021	5,000	180.00	0
Total Development	12,000	11,523.36	22,258
Operating Expenses & Wages			
Salaries, Benefits, Payroll & Ministry Expenses	165,000	146,696.35	158,000
New Staff Hire	50,000	0	0
Contract Services	13,000	13,551.22	13,000
Bank Fees	800	799.40	800
Office Supplies	1,200	1,197.90	1,000
Conference Insurance	2,800	2,737.80	2,600
Convention & Yearbook	5,000	8,600.61	10,000
Office Fees & Dues	1,000	730.00	500
Professional Fees	10,000	10,741.68	10,000
Professional Development	1,500	1,167.31	3,000
Technology	4,000	4,108.25	0
Special Project Expense	0	0	5,000
Other Expenses	500	400.24	500
Total Operating & Wages	254,800	190,730.76	204,400
Total Expense	441,800	362,470.03	407,158
Net Income / Deficit	2,200	83,161.17	2,842
Capital Cost Allowance	0	0	1,700

*Based on unaudited numbers

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB 2020 Financial Statements

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Ontario
Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

**ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

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ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB 2020 Financial Statements

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Ontario
Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

**ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

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Statement of Cash Flows	7
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Ontario Conference of M.B. Churches

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ontario Conference of M.B. Churches (the Conference), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020, and the statements of changes in net assets, revenues and expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Conference as at December 31, 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Conference derives a portion of revenue from Northend Church cash donations, and in common with many charitable organizations, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Conference and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to contributions, excess of revenues over expenses, current assets and net assets.

In common with small charities, the organization expenses tangible capital assets when acquired, with the exception of the Northend Church property. The expenses related to other tangible capital assets are recorded in the statements of revenues and expenses. This accounting policy is further described in note 2.

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 Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Conference in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those 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 Financial Statements

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

(continues)

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB 2020 Financial Statements

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Ontario

Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Ontario Conference of M.B. Churches (*continued*)

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

St. Catharines, Ontario

**CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION**

Authorized to practise public accounting by
the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB 2020 Financial Statements

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Ontario

Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2020

	General 2020	Northend Church 2020	Total 2020	Total 2019
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Unrestricted bank accounts	\$ 184,908	\$ 74,635	\$ 259,543	\$ 167,744
Accounts receivable	-	6,869	6,869	-
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	2,636	11,880	14,516	4,062
Prepaid expenses	450	5,330	5,780	5,414
	187,994	98,714	286,708	177,220
INVESTMENTS (Note 4)	71,829	-	71,829	70,309
PROPERTY (Note 6)	-	439,267	439,267	439,267
	\$ 259,823	\$ 537,981	\$ 797,804	\$ 686,796
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 901	\$ 7,676	\$ 8,577	\$ 2,640
Deferred donations	-	9,108	9,108	-
Current portion of long term debt (Note 7)	-	39,441	39,441	37,840
	901	56,225	57,126	40,480
MORTGAGE PAYABLE (Note 7)	-	328,891	328,891	368,770
	901	385,116	386,017	409,250
NET ASSETS	258,925	152,862	411,787	277,546
	\$ 259,823	\$ 537,981	\$ 797,804	\$ 686,797

Approved on behalf of the Board

Director

Director

See notes to financial statements

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB 2020 Financial Statements

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Ontario
Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	2019 Balance	Excess of revenues over expenditures	2020 Balance
General Funds			
General operating fund - current reserve	\$ 94,545	\$ 84,449	\$ 178,994
General operating fund - fixed minimum	50,000	-	50,000
Emergency fund	25,254	-	25,254
Special project fund	4,677	-	4,677
Total General Funds	174,476	84,449	258,925
Northend Church Funds	103,070	49,792	152,862
	<u>\$ 277,546</u>	<u>\$ 134,241</u>	<u>\$ 411,787</u>
	2018 Balance	Excess of revenues over expenditures	2019 Balance
General Funds			
General operating fund - current reserve	\$ 38,475	\$ 56,070	\$ 94,545
General operating fund - fixed minimum	50,000	-	50,000
Emergency fund	25,254	-	25,254
Special project fund	4,677	-	4,677
Total General Funds	118,406	56,070	174,476
Northend Church Funds	68,464	34,606	103,070
	<u>\$ 186,870</u>	<u>\$ 90,676</u>	<u>\$ 277,546</u>

See Note 5 for a description of funds.

See notes to financial statements

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB 2020 Financial Statements

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Ontario

Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	2020	2019
REVENUES		
Church commitments	\$ 395,240	\$ 201,400
Convention delegate fees	16,250	14,370
Individual contributions	15,815	17,136
Donation from Northend Church (Note 5)	10,000	10,000
Miscellaneous income	7,292	70,304
Leader's collective fees	3,900	4,900
Interest from operating funds	1,520	1,862
	450,017	319,972
SUPPORT TO CONFERENCE AGENCIES	128,000	7,500
EXPENDITURES		
Compensation and professional development	147,390	141,089
Church planting	30,000	30,000
Fees and professional services	24,293	26,496
Ministry and program	23,721	42,264
Office management	9,948	7,379
Board and governance	2,216	9,174
	237,568	256,402
NET SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS	84,449	56,070
NET SURPLUS, Northend Church (Schedule 1)	49,792	34,606
COMBINED NET SURPLUS	\$ 134,241	\$ 90,676

See notes to financial statements

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB 2020 Financial Statements

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Ontario
Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - NORTHEND CHURCH
(Schedule 1)
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
REVENUES		
Donations	\$ 570,019	\$ 445,538
Rental	25,137	35,420
Wage subsidies	9,647	-
Youth group	1,664	5,000
Seniors income	1,226	9,747
	<u>607,693</u>	<u>495,705</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Compensation and professional development	208,254	188,267
Ministry and program	83,382	58,084
Office management	78,541	68,343
Fees and professional services	69,447	37,066
Repairs and maintenance	39,607	26,514
Utilities	27,763	28,117
Interest on long term debt	15,656	22,038
Charitable contributions	12,449	5,841
Donation to Ontario Conference of M.B. Churches (Note 5)	10,000	10,000
Board and governance	4,606	3,027
Furniture and fixtures	3,210	3,899
Conferences	2,836	4,054
Honorarium	2,150	5,849
	<u>557,901</u>	<u>461,099</u>
NET SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS	<u>\$ 49,792</u>	<u>\$ 34,606</u>

See notes to financial statements

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB 2020 Financial Statements

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ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	2020	2019
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 134,241	\$ 90,676
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(6,869)	-
Prepaid expenses	(366)	(5,414)
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	(10,454)	524
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	5,938	2,639
Deferred donations	9,108	-
	(2,643)	(2,251)
Cash flow from operating activities	131,598	88,425
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of capital assets	-	(439,267)
Investments	(1,520)	(1,862)
Cash flow used by investing activities	(1,520)	(441,129)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from long term financing	-	439,266
Repayment of long term debt	(38,279)	(32,655)
Cash flow from (used by) financing activities	(38,279)	406,611
INCREASE IN CASH FLOW	91,799	53,907
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	167,744	113,837
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 259,543	\$ 167,744
CASH CONSISTS OF:		
Unrestricted bank accounts	\$ 259,543	\$ 167,744

See notes to financial statements



ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

1. DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

Ontario Conference of M.B. Churches (the "Conference") serves a constituency of member churches in the Province of Ontario. It provides general denominational oversight and facilitates the operation of joint initiatives and gives guidance to the separately incorporated agencies of the denomination which are operating in the province. The Conference received its Letters Patent as a non-share capital corporation from the Province of Ontario in 1932. As a registered charity under the Income Tax Act, the Conference is exempt from tax on its income.

As part of serving the constituency of churches, the Conference has taken over the operations of the new **Northend Church** (formerly Fairview M.B. Church) during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. These operations will continue until the new church has obtained charitable status and is running independently. See "Fund Accounting" Note 2, and Notes: 3, 5, 6, and 7 for details.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFO).

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Net assets

- a) Internally restricted net assets are funds which have been designated for a specific purpose by the organization's Board of Directors.
- b) Unrestricted net assets comprise the excess of revenue over expenses accumulated by the organization each year, net of transfers, and are available for general purposes.

Designated fund exclusions

The Conference is sometimes the conduit for certain designated funds to flow through its accounts to the designated recipient. These flow through amounts are not disclosed in these financial statements, but are recorded in the ultimate recipients' financial statements.

(continues)

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

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

Fund accounting

Ontario Conference of M.B. Churches follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Revenues and expenses related to program delivery and administrative activities are reported in the General Operating Fund.

Revenues and expenses related to program delivery and administrative activities for **Northend Church** are reported separately in their own related funds.

Cash and cash equivalents

The Conference's policy is to present bank balances net of outstanding cheques and deposits under cash and cash equivalents.

Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at a nominal charge. The cost of additions are charged to expenses at the time of purchase. Management has decided to not recognize capital assets and remove the expense in the statements of revenues and expenditures in accordance with ASNFPO. Changing the presentation to capitalize expenditures from operations may reduce useful information to the primary readers of these financial statements as they would now appear on the separate statement of financial position, and not against the budget.

The capital asset related to the acquisition of property was recorded and recognized due to its significant value and mortgage thereon. This property is utilized by the operations of the Northend Church, and consists of land, building, and furnishings. When Northend Church obtains individual charitable status, the property will be transferred to the new organization. As this process is intended to be complete in the short-term, amortization was not recorded on the property.

Contributed services

The operations of the organization depend on both the contribution of time by volunteers and donated materials from various sources. The fair value of donated materials and services cannot be reasonably determined and are therefore not reflected in these financial statements. Certain larger material contributions are recognized at their fair market value.

Budget information

The budget figures presented for comparison purposes have been approved by the Board of Directors. They have not been subject to audit, review or other tests and procedures. Consequently, our opinion on these financial statements does not extend to them.

Financial instruments policy

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB 2020 Financial Statements

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Ontario

Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

3. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS

The General Operating Fund accounts for the Conference's program delivery and administrative activities. This fund reports unrestricted resources and restricted operating grants. \$50,000 is allocated to a separate General Operating Fixed Minimum Fund.

An Emergency Fund of \$25,000 was created out of the Operating Fund on December 31, 2005 to support any church's pastor (or family) in the case of sudden financial curtailment. An additional \$25,000 was transferred into the emergency fund in 2012 from the now unused Covenant (Komoka) Mortgage Fund.

The Special Project Fund was established to segregate any special projects outside the normal course of operations.

The **Northend Church** is a new church plant (formerly Fairview M.B. Church) currently operated by the Conference until such time that the church registers as a charity and is operating independently. Assets, net assets, and the statement of revenue and expenses have been disclosed separately to recognize the operations of the church as a separate fund within the Conference.

4. INVESTMENTS - CANADIAN CONFERENCE

The investment is with the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches earning interest at a base rate of 1.4%. See note 8 for interest rate risk.

5. DUE TO RELATED PARTIES

The Conference has transactions with numerous related parties (member churches) or organizations that are funded by the Conference. Other than an annual interfund \$10,000 church commitment paid from the Northend Church fund to General funds, these financial statements do not determine, disclose or verify all external related party activities.

6. PROPERTY

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2020 Net book value	2019 Net book value
Northend Church	\$ 439,267	\$ -	\$ 439,267	\$ 439,267

All Assets and Liabilities of Fairview Church were transferred to OCMBC in 2019 for \$1.00 consideration, and an assumption of debt (see note 6). The listed value of the combined property and assumed mortgage at the time of transfer was \$439,267.

When Northend Church obtains individual charitable status, the property will be transferred to the new organization. As this process is intended to be complete in the short-term, amortization has not been recorded on the property.

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

7. MORTGAGE PAYABLE

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
CCMBC loan bearing interest at 3.9% per annum, repayable in monthly blended payments of \$4,500. and is secured by Northend Church property.	\$ 368,332	\$ 406,610
Amounts payable within one year	<u>(39,441)</u>	<u>(37,840)</u>
	<u>\$ 328,891</u>	<u>\$ 368,770</u>

Principal repayment terms are approximately:

2021	\$ 39,441
2022	<u>328,891</u>
	<u>\$ 368,332</u>

When Northend Church obtains individual charitable status, the mortgage will be transferred to the new organization. As this process is intended to be complete in the short-term, the total mortgage payables were recorded as due in 2022.

8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Conference is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Conference's risk exposure and concentration as of December 31, 2020.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. In seeking to minimize the risks from interest rate fluctuations, the Conference manages exposure through its normal operating and financing activities. The Conference is exposed to interest rate risk through its investment savings account balance.

Constituency dependency risk

As the Conference serves the member churches, it is dependent on these member churches for financial support.

9. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB 2020 Convention Minutes

Pat Goertzen, Secretary



Ontario

Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCHES

89th Annual Convention

Hosted by Cornerstone Community Church

434 Hunter Road, NOTL

February 21-22, 2020

Theme: 'His Presence/Our Posture at the Table'

Attendance: 97 delegates, with 70 additional guests (167 registered), representing 21 of our 25 member churches as well as 3 of our 6 associate member churches.

Pre-Conference Events:

The 2020 Convention was preceded by a Pastors' and Leaders' event with Danielle Strickland attended by 107 participants.

Friday Night Celebration Service 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

1. CALL TO WORSHIP: The worship team, led by Matt Unruh, opening with Endless.
2. WELCOME TO THE CONVENTION AND PRAYER: Jeff Martens welcomed the delegates to the 2020 Convention on behalf of ONMB. Kevin Bayne, Pastor at Cornerstone Community Church also welcomed the delegates. A new ONMB promotional video was shown. The Worship team led singing King of Heaven, His Mercy is More, Build My Life and Heaven.
3. LEADERS COLLECTIVE UPDATE: Jeff Martens introduced Robyn Serez, Director of the Leaders Collective and Sarah Reed, one of the original Leaders Collective graduates. This year, there are eighteen participants in the cohort and most are in attendance. Robyn acknowledged all of the coaches, staff team and former graduates of the Leaders Collective. Sarah shared her life experiences that have led to her mission path. She is leaving for Austria later this year, and she thanked all of those that have prepared and equipped her.
4. WELCOME TO NEW CHURCHES: Ed Willms introduced Ryan Jantzi and Brent Kipfer, lead Pastors from Kingsfield Zurich and Maple View Mennonite Churches, and welcomed them to the MB family. Brent shared the process that led the Maple View church (circa 1859) to the decision to join the ONMB Conference. Ryan shared that joining the MB family feels like coming home. The Board gathered around the representatives of the two new churches and Herm Plett prayed a blessing over them.

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5. KEY-NOTE SPEAKER: Ed introduced Danielle Strickland. Danielle read from John 12 and spoke on the theme of Our Lives in Love. She spoke of how Jesus met Moses and Elijah on the mountain in the Promised Land and discussed the exodus that is to come. Peter and the disciples fell asleep. When Jesus woke him, Peter suggested that three memorials be built to celebrate the transfiguration. Like us, he was holding on to the comfort of the past rather than welcome the uncertainty and fear of an unknown future. Like the monkey caught with his hand in the coconut, many of us are unwilling to let go of the comforts that we know to follow Jesus. She spoke of the Salvation Army's work in Japan to shut down a long-standing brothel system. Fifty Salvationists rescued sex-trade workers over a number of weeks before the shamed Japanese government released 1,400 girls from their indentureships. She shared how she applied the same principle to a Sex Conference invasion in Australia and how Jesus used this misguided attack to reach millions of Australians to hear the good news. Pain and love are used very closely in scripture and Danielle prayed that we would wake up in time to be part of the greatest exodus of all time. Danielle led in a Posture Prayer.

6. WORSHIP, COMMUNION & PRAYER: The Worship team led singing of Lord Have Mercy, At The Cross and 'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus as delegates served each other at the communion table.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL: Jeff Martens thanked Danielle Strickland for her message tonight. He explained the comment/question cards and offering envelopes and provided details for tomorrow. The service ended at 9:00 pm.

Saturday, February 22, 2020 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

A continental breakfast buffet was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the Cornerstone Community Church.

8. CALL TO WORSHIP: The worship team led in song: This Is Amazing Grace, His Mercy is More and Your Grace is Enough.

SESSION 1:

9. WELCOME & VISION: Ed Willms welcomed the delegates to the 89th Convention. He asked us to think about our immediate family, and how differently we all turned out, despite the same starts in life. Time, separation and differing social environments mold us. This weekend we gather as an extended family. We have taken shape under very different circumstances. He asked "What is your posture at this table?" Our posture indicates our willingness to engage at the table. Jn. 17:20-23. Jesus prayed what we would come together in complete unity. He used the illustration of a mobile, where moving one piece affects every other piece of the construction. In the MB Family, the Multiply de-merger, the LGBTQ+ conversations and the Family Covenant have all yanked our mobile this year, and this has affected the posture of many at the table. Ed read many verses where Jesus encourages

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us to be devoted to one another in love, as brothers and sisters, and come together in unity, doing right in the eyes of everyone. We are a complicated family and though we may sometimes disagree, we are encouraged by the scripture to value others above ourselves. In our relationships with one another, we are to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. Ed suggested that there are three postures that we can lean into. Humility, as we listen and learn from each other. Hospitality, as we engage in life together, in close proximity. Acceptance, which is a posture of sacrifice, as we serve one another. We need a balance of both grace and truth, but which do we lead with? Ed considered the biblical examples of how Jesus led – grace or truth. He shared his experience walking the Camino in Spain last year, and how people brought their burdens to the cross. He reminded us that Jesus is the ultimate example of truth and grace. It is not easy and there will be challenges and seasons of chaos. “Come to the Table” video was shown. Ed prayed.

10. PANEL DISCUSSION: FAMILY COVENANT: Ed introduced Tamille Richardson, Ryan Jantzi, Rafique Masih and Doug Valerio, who represent MB churches across the province with very different backgrounds. Ryan shared how the Family Covenant document was a very helpful tool as the church worked through the decision to join the MB family. Tamille shared how the document brought the leadership team at Evergreen Heights into more clear and focused thinking. Rafiqua shared that the youth of BDCC were involved in the consideration of the Family Covenant and compared it to a similar process their church was also working through. It was a positive experience. Doug shared that the Manotick CC comes from a non-MB background, with little confidence in denominational thinking. However, they found that working through the document was useful in that it lowers the denominational flag and raises the flag of Christ. This is a posture that resonated around their table. Ed highlighted that the Family Covenant is a working document intended to be a tool to draw us together. Any church ready to sign is encouraged to do so now. Some additional conversation may be required by some, but it is hoped that all MB Churches will be ready to sign on by June, 2020.

11. CCMBC UPDATE: Ed introduced Elton DaSilva, National Director of the Canadian Conference of MB Churches. Elton shared how, rather than hire professionals/experts, he called upon his family seven years ago to build a garage in his yard. It all came together as everyone brought their unique skills to the table. It was a successful project. The collaborative model has been a similar exercise as the old paradigm for the Conference needed to be rebuilt. The National Management Team is the table at which the provincial leaders gather with the Seminary, in a collective, to represent the national vision, accountability and responsibility. The Collaborative Model is the new governance model for the country.

COFFEE BREAK: Jeff Jantzi, Board Chair of ONMB, introduced the groups that are hosting booths at this year’s Convention and encouraged everyone to connect with them during coffee break.

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SESSION 2: The video, Life with God, was shown.

12. WELCOME BACK / CALL TO ORDER – BUSINESS SESSION:

Jeff Jantzi and Karen West welcomed everyone to the business portion of the meeting and shared how they came to be part of the MB family. They introduced and thanked the parliamentarians, Michelle Knowles and J.P. Hayashida for the meeting. The present Board came to the stage and introduced themselves. Herm prayed for the Board and for the meeting. Jeff thanked Kristi Lee and Ed Willms for their work this year.

Karen referred to Bylaw 10.4 of the ONMB General Operating Bylaws and confirmed that we have fulfilled the requirements of the quorum for the AGM.

Jeff explained the process by which motions reach the Convention floor and Karen explained the question cards located on the table.

MOTION 20-10 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the agenda be accepted as presented.

QUESTIONS:

- Should the Family Covenant be among the motions this Year? This is not a matter that will be put to a vote.
- Are national concerns to be discussed provincially under the new governance model? This is the plan, going forward, and will hopefully be included in future AGM's.
- When will the next National budget be approved? Elton explained that, by 2021, these budget decisions will be put to a vote at the June Convention.

MOTION 20-11 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that we receive the Committee and Board Reports as distributed in advance in the delegates binders and as handed out at the door.

MOTION 20-12 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the minutes of the AGM/Convention 2019, as sent out electronically, be approved.

MOTION 20-13 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that Kingsfield-Zurich Mennonite Church be accepted into full membership of the Ontario Mennonite Brethren Conference of Churches as a church in good standing.

MOTION 20-14 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that Maple View Mennonite Church be accepted into full membership of the Ontario Mennonite Brethren Conference of Churches as a church in good standing.

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QUESTIONS:

- Will the names of these churches be changed to reflect the new MB affiliation? Both Ryan and Brent responded that this decision is separate from the vote taken and has not yet been addressed. It was also noted that it is not necessary to have the MB included in the church name.

MOTION 20-15 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the 2020 proposed nomination slate of directors for Radiant Care be approved as presented.

MOTION 20-16 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the persons elected to the Radiant Care Tabor Manor Board of Directors be the Board of Directors for;

- Pleasant Manor Retirement Village (O/A Radiant Care Pleasant Manor)
- Mennonite Brethren Seniors Citizens Home Inc. (O/A Radiant Care Tabor Manor)
- The Pleasant Manor and Tabor Manor Foundation (O/A Radiant Care Foundation)
- The Pleasant Manor and Tabor Manor Support Association (O/A Radiant Care Support Association)

MOTION 20-17 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the auditing firm Crawford, Smith and Swallow be assigned to Radiant Care for the fiscal year 2020-2021

Note: Radiant Care has asked for additional time to present their bylaw amendments to the ONMB Convention for approval.

13. ONMB BOARD CHAIR REPORT: Jeff Jantzi shared the challenges the Board, and he as Chair, faced during 2019. It has, however, been an opportunity to see God's powerful hand at work. Many heart-felt discussions have taken place and the collaborative work with CCMBC, the other provinces and various ministries have strengthened and enriched our relationships. The family covenant has encouraged the churches to focus and lean in. Strategic planning has identified a five ministry model and, starting with Holistic Gospel Presence, we will focus on each over the coming years. Bill Lancet will be brought in for a conference later this year to discuss how we can better include the LGBTQ+ community, to love and minister better. We are a family in Christ and we should continue to come to the table. Jeff thanked the Faith and Life Team, and others who have worked on our behalf this year.

14. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Jeff J. introduced Tabitha VandenEnden. Tabitha referred to the General Operating Bylaw and explained the process by which the Nominating Committee discerns candidates to serve on the Board of Directors for the next term. This is a time-consuming undertaking and, next year, the process will begin sooner. She noted that the term for the Chair of the Board is unclear as the Bylaw is presently written. The NC is therefore proposing a motion to extend the Chair term for an additional two years.

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MOTION 20-18 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that with regard to article 8.2, that the term for Jeff Jantzi to serve as chair includes an additional two-year term.

QUESTIONS:

- Is this change only for the election this year, or will it apply going forward? This is a one-time motion and we will work to bring better clarity to the Operating Bylaw in future.

MOTION 20-19 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that Jeff Jantzi be acclaimed for the position of Chair of the Board.

MOTION 20-20 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that all candidates for Member-at-Large positions on the Board be acclaimed.

QUESTIONS:

- The Nominating Committee takes consideration of diversity on the Board. Is there any consideration to the number of lay-people on the Board? This is a good suggestion and may be considered going forward.

MOTION 20-21 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that all candidates for the Nominating Committee be acclaimed.

15. FINANCIAL REPORT – 2019: Jeff introduced Shelley Campagnola who presented the audited financial statements for the Ontario Conference of M.B. Churches for the year ended December 31, 2019. She explained a small difference in the audited revenue reporting in the handbook as further year-end donations are included. She reviewed the expenditures by category which is very much in alignment with the 2019 budget approved last year. We celebrate finishing the year with a small surplus.

Shelley explained the significant changes to the 2020 budget as we transition to the one-stream funding process as required under the national Collaborative Model. Churches and individuals are encouraged to contribute specifically to the Leaders Collective as an investment in all of our futures. Under the new budget, timing is critical and Shelley encouraged all of the churches to commit to giving at least quarterly, as we cannot wait until the end of the year to see if the money will arrive. While it is great to have a surplus, in reality, that means there is money that could have been used to support His ministry, left at the end of the year.

MOTION 20-22 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that all audited financial statements for 2019 be accepted.

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MOTION 20-23 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that Bridgman and Durksen be appointed as auditors for 2020 and that the ONMB Board of Directors be authorized to set the remuneration for these auditing services.

The 2020 budget will be voted on after the Breakout Sessions.

16. BREAKOUT SESSION #1: Karen introduced the Breakout Session for the morning.

ROOM #1: Raising the Church of 2050 – Christie Penner Worden

ROOM #2: Living into the Collaborative Model – Elton DaSilva

ROOM #3: Multiply Update – Moving Forward – Philip Serez

ROOM #4: FLT Update – Ingrid Reichard

LUNCH BREAK: Many thanks to the Cornerstone hosts for a delicious lunch.

17. BREAKOUT SESSION #2:

ROOM #1: First Nations Ministry – Daniel 9 – Derek Parenteau

ROOM #2: Living into the Collaborative Model – Elton DaSilva

ROOM #3: Eden By-law Changes – John Bryan & J.P. Hayashida

ROOM #4: ONMB Financial Update – Mike Meinema & Shelley Campagnola

SESSION 3: The call back video Stranger was shown.

WELCOME BACK & ONMB Ministry Reports: Jeff welcomed everyone back to the meeting.

18. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

- Ed thanked Elton for all his efforts as we, as a conference, move into the Collaborative Model, along with the other provinces.
- We have entered into a formal partnership with the Arrow Leadership Program. Ed explained that this could benefit local congregations and encouraged anyone interested to contact him for details.
- We redrafted our partnerships with many of our Conference agencies. This year, Eden is the focus, and we will vote on changes to their by-laws later today. Radiant Care will likely present revised by-laws next year.
- The ONMB involvement in a historical Bethesda lawsuit should be over early this year.
- The conversations over Valleyview Manor are continuing.
- October 15-17, 2020, Mountain Park will be hosting a Soul Care event.
- A Posture Shift event with Bill Henson will be coming to Cornerstone November 12-15, 2020 focusing on the LGBTQ+ community.

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19. INTRODUCTION OF MINISTRY REPORTS: Ed introduced the Ministry Speakers:

MB SEMINARY: Ingrid Reichard presented the report about the work of the Seminary. She provided quotes from students who shared their experiences while studying. The seminary needs to raise \$300,000 per year going forward and they are encouraging the churches to include the Seminary in their budgets. She urged everyone to go to mbseminary.ca/easter2020 to get a Lent booklet.

EDEN HIGH SCHOOL: John Bryan, SLC Director, brought the Eden report for 2020. He shared the challenge of ministering to over 1,000 students who are only there for four years before they move on. This year, 268 students and 90 volunteers attended grade retreats at Camp Crossroads. Also, 13 students were sent on a missions trip to Epereias. The SLC Team connects with over 40 students monthly. Eden hosts 200+ chapels per year and 25% of students attend these chapels. Student families support the program with donations, but this is always challenging. God's love is like a boomerang – it keeps coming back. John asked for prayer going forward.

CAMP CROSSROADS: The new Camp video was shown. Andrew Hiebert welcomed everyone to Camp. They exist as a Christ centered ministry to support the local church in making disciples and developing leaders. It is exciting to see hearts change through winter retreats, summer ministry, school and church retreats and Andrew encouraged anyone with ideas to speak to him. They are always looking to engage new families and partnership discussions are presently underway with MCC and a Canadian Newcomers Outreach Ministry in Brantford. Registration is now open for summer camp.

MENNONITE WORLD CONFERENCE: Ed introduced Cesar Garcia, the Executive Director of the Mennonite World Conference. Cesar is from the MB church in Columbia thanks to Canadian MB missionaries. In a world of division, fragmentation and separation, the First Global Assembly met in Switzerland in 1925. Now, 95 years later, we still need to meet in unity. Jn 17:21 "...that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." Today, they have 107 Mennonite National churches and Anabaptist Conferences, with the majority of them living in Africa. (Only 17% live in North America.) Cesar encouraged anyone wanting more information to contact him.

MULTIPLY: Philip Serez explained the name Multiply and reviewed their painful journey over the past three years. In 2019 245 churches were planted worldwide, 5649 people were baptized and 561 people from North America participated in short-term mission projects with 776 presently in training for mission engagement. The Tibetan ministry in Toronto is the first of its kind. He thanked everyone for partnering in this effort. Let's celebrate being on mission together and let's continue to make a difference, here and globally.

Ed prayed for Doug and Diana Hiebert, in their ministry in Burundi.

ONMB Convention 2021

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Jeff Jantzi thanked all of the volunteers who have worked so hard to make this Conference a success.

MOTION 20-24 it was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the proposed by-law changes for the Governing of Eden be accepted.

MOTION 20-25 it was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the operating budget for 2020 as presented be approved.

20. Worship: The worship team led in Build My Life and Heaven.

21. Final Announcements: Karen thanked everyone and noted upcoming events.

October 15-17, 2020, Mountain Park will be hosting a Soul Care event
November 12-15, 2020, Cornerstone Community Church will host Posture Shift with Bill Henson
Feb. 19-20, 2021 ONMB Convention at Mountain Park Church in Niagara Falls.

MOTION 20-26 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the Annual General Meeting 2020 of the Ontario Conference of MB Churches be adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Karen closed with prayer.



ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB Governance Committee Report

ONMB General Operating Bylaw Update



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At Convention 2021 the Board will bring an updated ONMB general operating bylaw. **The document “ONMB GOB 2021 Final OCA” will be presented to the delegates, with a single motion to approve the amended 111119 bylaw in its entirety as presented.**

As explained last fall, and in the Bylaw Revision Overview document on our website, there will be a single vote to accept all changes and there will not be amendments made at Convention (see the FAQ doc on our website for further explanation).

The ONMB general operating bylaw was updated to address three goals:

1. Compliance with upcoming new ONCA law (the new Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act), to be prepared for when it is enacted
2. Alignment with the upcoming CCMBBC bylaws update, including the CUSP, to align our provincial conference with the new Collaborative Model
3. Bringing clarity and best practices to some items in our existing bylaws

The Governance Committee assembled a bylaw revision team, who interacted with representatives of our Ontario churches and agencies, made adjustments based on feedback, sought legal counsel, and did extensive research and revising over the course of four drafts in order to produce the final draft for Convention.

Please note one change from the original plan, as previously explained in the Bylaw Revision Overview: we will only be bringing one version

of the ONMB draft bylaw for vote at Convention, the OCA compliant version. While much of the work has been done to also produce an ONCA compliant version of our bylaw, we have decided to hold off on bringing this second document for approval until ONCA has been enacted by the Ontario government (again, refer to the docs below for further explanation).

The ONMB Board is deeply grateful for the rich engagement of our ONMB family in the revision process. We appreciate the time and energy you have invested, and we are so glad to produce a document that reflects the collective voice of our ONMB family. We believe it will set us up well for future ministry together.

The document “ONMB GOB 2021 Final OCA” included in the Convention package is the clean version of the updated ONMB general operating bylaw being presented for acceptance by the delegates. We refer you to the ONMB website for the full bylaw revision package, including several supporting documents to explain more about the updating process. The document “ONMB GOB 2021 Final OCA trackchanges” shows all changes from our current ONMB Bylaw, tracked in blue underlined text, many items including comments with further explanation.

Thank you for sharing in this important activity as we continue to deepen our ministry partnership as the ONMB family of churches.

For more information visit:

ONMB Bylaws: <https://onmb.org/resources-new/onmb-bylaws/>

ONMB Convention 2021

ONMB General Operating Bylaws

Final OCA DRAFT

General Operating Bylaw (210220) of the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches



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General Operating Bylaw (210220)

A bylaw relating generally to the conduct of the affairs of the

Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

INTRODUCTION

Whereas by Letters Patent issued under the Act and dated the 8th day of July, 1932, and amended by Supplementary Letters Patent on the 30th day of August, 1971, and on the 18th day of February, 2005, the Corporation named, "The Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches", hereinafter referred to as the "Corporation" or the "Ontario Conference", was incorporated for the following ministry reasons:

1. To establish and maintain places of worship.
2. To build colleges, seminaries and other institutions of learning for the training and education of the public.
3. To set apart individuals for Christian ministry to serve the churches of the Conference and the larger community of Christians in leadership and spiritual functions.

And whereas it is considered expedient to enact a General Operating Bylaw relating generally to the conduct of the affairs of the Ontario Conference, be it therefore enacted as a bylaw of the Ontario Conference as follows:

Prayer for the Conference

"Father God, we humbly bring the words of this Bylaw before You and we pray for the health of our denomination and conference of churches. While we understand that these words are written under the authority of government acts, we proclaim that our heart, soul, mind and strength are dedicated to You, Lord Jesus, and to Your service to bring You glory. Lord, please help all who seek guidance in this Bylaw to deal with one another according to Your words in scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

PART 1 – DEFINITIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Article 1 Interpretation

1.1 Meaning of Words

In this Bylaw and all other bylaws and resolutions of the Ontario Conference unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1.1.1 the singular includes the plural;

1.2 Defined Terms

- 1.2.1 "Act" means the Corporations Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 89, and any statute amended or enacted in substitution thereof, from time to time;
- 1.2.2 "Associate Church" is a church that has been granted standing by the Members as defined in Section 16.2, and receives privileges as defined by Ontario Conference policies. Associate Churches are not Member Churches of the Ontario Conference;
- 1.2.3 "Associate Church Representative" is an individual from an Associate Church who has been granted standing by the Board to be an office holder as allowed for in Section 6.6.5;
- 1.2.4 "Board" means those established by the Voting Representatives to oversee and administer the affairs of the Ontario Conference. The Board is the board of directors of the Ontario Conference;
- 1.2.5 "Board Chair" means the person elected to be the Chair of the Board, who will be the president of the Ontario Conference and may also be known as the Moderator;
- 1.2.6 "Canadian Conference" means the Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches as described in Article 2;
- 1.2.7 "church" means a group of Christians organized into a fellowship or congregation for the service of God;
- 1.2.8 "church member" means an individual who has been received into membership of a church in accordance with the membership rules that govern that church as described in Section 6.15;
- 1.2.9 "church membership" means the collective membership of a church as defined in accordance with the membership rules that govern that church as described in Section 6.15;
- 1.2.10 "Collaborative Model" means the model of collaborative mission and governance as defined in the Canadian Conference Bylaw;
- 1.2.11 "Committee" means any committee established by the Board pursuant to Article 12;

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- 1.2.12 “Confession of Faith” shall mean the statement of faith and practice of the Ontario Conference as defined in Section 3.1;
- 1.2.13 “Convention” means a duly called meeting of the Members where voting may occur by Voting Representatives;
- 1.2.14 “Convention Member” means an individual put forth from a Member Church who has been accepted into membership as provided for in Section 6.4.2 and becomes a Voting Representative at a meeting of the Members;
- 1.2.15 “Documents” includes deeds, mortgages, hypothecs, charges, conveyances, transfers and assignments of property, real or personal, immovable or movable, agreements, releases, receipts and discharges for the payment of money or other obligations, conveyances, transfers and assignments of shares, bonds, debentures or other securities and all paper writings;
- 1.2.16 “Executive Committee” means the Standing Committee as defined in Section 12.1;
- 1.2.17 “Executive Officer” means any person who holds one of the offices enumerated in Section 10.1;
- 1.2.18 “Members” means the associations, corporations and individuals in the two classes of Members, being Member Churches and Convention Members, that are current members of the Ontario Conference;
- 1.2.19 “Member Church” means a local Christian church in Ontario which is organized according to Mennonite Brethren polity, as described in this Bylaw, and which is in agreement with the Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith and practices, and has been accepted into membership as provided for in Section 6.4, and which desires to support the work of the Ontario Conference;
- 1.2.20 “Member Church in good standing” means a Member Church that has not been suspended as described in Section 6.8;
- 1.2.21 “member in good standing of a Member Church” means an individual who belongs to a Member Church as described in Section 6.15 and has been found to be in good standing following the procedures described in Section 6.6;
- 1.2.22 “Mennonite Brethren Church” means a church that has been accepted into membership of the Canadian Conference and is part of the Mennonite Brethren denomination;
- 1.2.23 “Office Holders” means a person elected or appointed to the Board or a member of a committee as described in Section 6.6;
- 1.2.24 “Officer” means any person who holds an office of the Ontario Conference as defined in Article 10;
- 1.2.25 “Ontario Conference” means the Corporation known as The Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches;
- 1.2.26 “National Faith and Life Team” means the committee of the Canadian Conference as defined in the Canadian Conference Bylaw;
- 1.2.27 “Rules of Order” means the parliamentary policies used in a meeting of the Members as maintained by the Governance Committee;
- 1.2.28 “Special Resolution” means a resolution passed by the Board and confirmed with or without variation by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at a meeting of the Members of the Ontario Conference called for that purpose;
- 1.2.29 “Voting Representative” means either an individual authorized by a Member Church to represent the Member Church or a Convention Member, who may vote at a meeting of the Ontario Conference as provided for in Section 6.5.

1.3 Corporations Act Terms

All terms defined in the Act have the same meanings in this Bylaw and all other bylaws and resolutions of the Ontario Conference.

Article 2 Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches

The Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches is the national body incorporated by an act passed by the Senate on 22nd November 1945. It is comprised of all the Mennonite Brethren churches in Canada, which in turn are generally organized into regional conferences usually on a provincial basis.

2.1 Relation to the Canadian Conference

The Ontario Conference is a member organization of the Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches and shall support its activities and carry out its decisions as described in the Canadian Conference Bylaw and the Collaborative Model. As defined in the Canadian Conference Bylaw, Member Churches of the Ontario Conference, by virtue of their membership in the Ontario Conference, are Member Churches of the Canadian Conference.

2.2 Organization of Provincial Conferences

Pursuant to the governing documents of the Canadian Conference, the Ontario Conference is at liberty to apply for the issuance of letters patent and to prepare and adopt bylaws of its own according to its existing needs, provided that such are in harmony with the governing documents of the Canadian Conference.

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2.3 Authority of the Conferences

- 2.3.1 The Ontario Conference and the Canadian Conference, as a national religious denomination, may grant its Member Churches with legal standing pertaining to credentialing of clergy, land holdings, tax relief and other affiliations available to a religious denomination.
- 2.3.2 The Ontario Conference shall exercise authority in matters that relate to the common work and welfare of Member Churches in keeping with the Bible, Confession of Faith, and this Bylaw.

Article 3 Statement of Faith and Mission

3.1 Statement of Faith

- 3.1.1 The statement guiding the faith and practice of the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and its Member Churches shall be the Confession of Faith as adopted by the Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches and as changed from time to time.
- 3.1.2 In a spirit of unity and harmony, neither the Ontario Conference nor its Member Churches shall pass or accept resolutions or practices which are in conflict with this Confession of Faith.
- 3.1.3 The Member Churches of the Ontario Conference shall accept the wisdom, guidance and rulings of the Provincial Faith and Life Team and National Faith and Life Team in matters relating to the faith and practice described in the Confession of Faith.

3.2 Mission

The central purpose of the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches is to bring honour and glory to God (1 Peter 2:4-12; Revelation 4:11; Romans 15:5,6; 1 Corinthians 6:20). This is the reason for being, and the essential character of the activity of the Member Churches and the activity of the ministries of the Ontario Conference. The Bible amplifies this purpose to include the following dimensions of mission:

- 3.2.1 To worship God. Worship is to be the believer's response to God in all of life. Individual and corporate worship keeps God central in the life and mission of every congregation and ministry. It makes God's honour and glory the guiding motive for a life of personal holiness and obedient service. (1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 29:2; 96:9; 107:32; Matthew 4:10; John 4:23-24; Romans 12:1; Revelation 14:7).
- 3.2.2 To build up the body of Christ. The church is the body of Christ, and it is to be built up into the fullness of Christ's likeness through the exercise of the gifts which the Holy Spirit has given to its members for the common good of the church. (Ephesians 5:23; Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Ephesians 4:11-16).
- 3.2.3 To witness to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and thus make disciples of all peoples, thereby bringing about the growth of the church. This is to be accomplished through the proclamation of the gospel and by extending God's love and care to all people. Practical and sacrificial service exemplified by Christ will authenticate His gospel and the biblical faith of the church. (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 1:16; Acts 2:40-41; Matthew 6:10; James 1:22-26; John 13:13-17; Matthew 20:28; Luke 4:16-21).

Article 4 Head Office

The head office of the Ontario Conference shall be in the Niagara Region, in the Province of Ontario, and at such place therein as the Board may from time to time determine.

Article 5 Seal

The seal which is impressed in the margin hereon shall be the corporate seal of the Ontario Conference.

PART 2 – MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Article 6 Membership

There shall be two classes of membership in the Ontario Conference as follows:

- (1) Member Churches
- (2) Convention Members.

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6.1 Membership Requirements

6.1.1 Member Church Requirements

The Ontario Conference may grant membership to any church which professes the same faith as that of the Ontario Conference, accepts its resolutions, Confession of Faith, values and mission, understands the responsibilities and expectations of membership, and participates in its common undertakings.

6.1.2 Convention Member Requirements

The Ontario Conference may grant membership to an individual to become a Convention Member who is a member in good standing of a Member Church that is in good standing with the Ontario Conference, and who has been approved by their church membership or governing board of their church to represent the Member Church at a meeting of the Members. A Member Church may apply to have one (1) Convention Member for every twenty-five (25) church members or fraction thereof of that Member Church.

6.2 Rights of Membership

6.2.1 Rights of a Member Church

A Member Church in good standing has the right to identify itself as a Member of the Mennonite Brethren denomination in Canada and to operate under any rights and privileges afforded to the denomination, including having credentialed and licensed pastoral staff. Member Churches can join into fellowship at meetings to pass resolutions and elect office holders for ministry. Member Churches can access a variety of ministry resources, legal and administrative support services, and can participate in financial and operational programs offered by the Ontario Conference for its Members.

6.2.2 Rights of a Convention Member

A Convention Member has the right to be a Voting Representative at a meeting of the Members. A Convention Member ceases to be a member of the Ontario Conference at the close of the meeting of Members at which the Convention Member is registered.

6.3 Membership Responsibilities

6.3.1. Member Church Responsibilities

A Member Church shall commit to working collectively on mission under the Collaborative Model of the Ontario Conference and Canadian Conference. Each Member Church accepts as binding upon it the decisions of the Ontario Conference concerning the operation and finances of the projects of the Ontario Conference and shall conscientiously carry out those decisions within the Ontario Conference so far as it is able. Each Member Church shall conduct its affairs as required by and consistent with this Bylaw and shall not pass resolutions or bylaws that are in conflict with the Ontario Conference. A Member Church shall be led by a pastor who has been credentialed by the Ontario Conference.

6.3.2 Convention Member Responsibilities

A Convention Member is responsible to represent the will of their Member Church at a meeting of the Members.

6.4 Applications for Membership

6.4.1 Member Church Application

Any local church may apply for membership in the Ontario Conference using the following process:

- (1) The church shall make application to the Board, who, in consultation with the Provincial Faith and Life Team, shall determine whether the church meets the membership requirements and understands the responsibilities of membership as outlined in Section 6.1 and 6.3.
- (2) The church will be asked to pass a resolution at a general meeting and provide a copy of the resolution to the Board showing its willingness to align its governing documents in support of the Ontario Conference. A church shall not be a member of another denomination upon admission into membership of the Ontario Conference, unless an exception is otherwise provided by the Board in accordance with Section 6.9.
- (3) If the Board approves the application, it shall present the application at the next meeting of the Members for a decision by the Members.
- (4) After approval by the Members and prior to being officially received into membership, the church must complete the steps of incorporating into its bylaws the Confession of Faith and adherence to the General Operating Bylaw of the Ontario Conference. A copy of the church bylaws shall be filed with the Board.
- (5) Upon the passing of a final resolution by the Board that all conditions have been met, the church is received into membership of the Ontario Conference as well as membership in the Canadian Conference.

6.4.2 Convention Member Application

Prior to a meeting of the Members, each Member Church may petition the Ontario Conference to enroll its Convention Members into membership in the Ontario Conference as follows:

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- (1) No sooner than thirty (30) days and at least two (2) days prior to a meeting of the Members, a Member Church in good standing may make application to the Board to register members of its pastoral and leadership team, as well as lay persons, as Convention Members.
- (2) All individuals nominated as Convention Members must be at least 18 years of age and must be a member in good standing in the Member Church as defined in Section 6.6.
- (3) A Member Church may apply to have one (1) Convention Member for every twenty-five (25) church members or fraction thereof of that Member Church.
- (4) The Member Church will provide notice of the meeting to their Convention Members. The address of each Convention Member shall be the address of the Member Church. The Member Church will also provide copies of the Ontario Conference's Financial Statements to the Convention Members if requested.
- (5) Either the Board or the Executive Committee shall approve the nominated individuals, who qualify to be Convention Members.
- (6) Prior to the start of a meeting of the Members, the Secretary shall publish the official list of the approved Convention Members.
- (7) In special circumstances, as approved by the Executive Committee, the Secretary may be given authority to update the published list of Convention Members at any time up to the start of the meeting of the Members. No Member Church may exceed the limit on the total number of Convention Members allowed based on the size of the Member Church's membership.

The membership of the Convention Members shall terminate at the close of the meeting of the Members for which the Convention Members were registered.

6.5 Voting by Members

Members in good standing shall be entitled to vote through duly authorized Voting Representatives who shall have one vote each at all meetings of the Members.

6.5.1 Appointment of Voting Representative by a Member Church

Each Member Church in good standing shall be entitled to be represented at any meeting of the Members by a single individual who is authorized by the Member Church to represent it. The individual will become the Voting Representative of the Member Church. The individual must be 18 years of age or older, must be a church member in good standing, and shall be approved by the church membership or governing board of the Member Church. Typically, a Member Church shall put forth the Senior/Lead Pastor to be the Voting Representative.

6.5.2 Convention Members as Voting Representatives

Each Convention Member shall be entitled to be a Voting Representative having a vote at a meeting of the Members.

Board Members of the Ontario Conference and the Executive Director shall be put forth as Convention Members by their Member Churches at a meeting of the members.

6.6 Office Holder Requirements

- 6.6.1 With the exceptions of Sections 6.6.4 and 6.6.5, no person who is not an active member in good standing of a Member Church, shall be qualified to be a member of the Board, a Committee, a Voting Representative, or a representative of the Ontario Conference. An individual shall relinquish their position in the Ontario Conference if they no longer meet the requirements to hold office unless the provision in Section 6.6.4 or 6.6.5 is granted.
- 6.6.2 The conditions used to determine if an individual is in good standing within their own Member Church shall be set forth by that Member Church as described in the church's governing documents as described in Section 6.15.
- 6.6.3 To hold a status of good standing with the Ontario Conference, an individual shall fully support the Confession of Faith, as described in section 3.1.
- 6.6.4 If a Member Church's governing documents fail, to the satisfaction of the Board, to adequately define an active member in good standing for their church, then the Provincial Faith and Life Team shall conduct an interview to determine if an individual holds good standing with respect to the Ontario Conference and therefore qualifies to hold office.
- 6.6.5 In special circumstances, the Board may pass a resolution to designate an individual from an Associate Church as holding the status of "good standing" as would be in the same manner as would apply to a "member in good standing of a Member Church". This standing is valid for five (5) years and may be revoked at any time by a resolution of the Board.

6.7 Transfer of Membership

Membership in the Ontario Conference is not transferable.

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6.8 Suspension or Revocation of Membership of a Member Church

6.8.1. Investigation

The Board shall begin investigation of any Member Church that, in the opinion of the Board, fails to adhere to the polity as described in this Bylaw or the bylaws of the Canadian Conference, or fails to adhere to the Confession of Faith, such that it could create undue risk spiritually or financially or legally, or in any other manner that damages the unity, purpose and mission of the Ontario Conference. The desired outcome, where possible, is for any such issues to be rectified in order for the Member Church to remain in good standing with the Ontario Conference.

6.8.2 Suspension Procedure

In the case where an investigation, as set out in 6.8.1 reveals unresolvable issues, the Board's investigation, in consultation with the Provincial Faith & Life Team, shall be done in good faith in a fair and reasonable manner, including:

- (1) A written notice will be sent to the Member Church of the proposed discipline, including the reason for such proposed suspension at least fifteen (15) days before the suspension begins; and
- (2) The Member Church will be given a further, reasonable opportunity to make representations to the Ontario Conference respecting the proposed discipline not less than five (5) days before the suspension begins.

Upon a resolution of the Board, a Member Church that is suspended is considered to be in "not good standing" with the Ontario Conference as well as with the Canadian Conference. The membership rights, as described in Section 6.2.1, of a suspended Member Church are suspended until resolved as described in either section 6.8.3 or 6.10.

6.8.3 Revocation Procedure

After suspension as described in Section 6.8.2, a Member Church's membership in the Ontario Conference can be terminated:

- (1) After a careful examination of the circumstances by the Provincial Faith and Life Team; and
- (2) Upon the recommendation of the Board; and
- (3) Through a Special Resolution passed by the Members.

Termination of church membership in the Ontario Conference also terminates membership in the Canadian Conference.

6.9 Termination of Membership of a Member Church

Unless granted special dispensation in a resolution passed by the Board, membership in the Ontario Conference automatically terminates, without a period of investigation or suspension, upon the happening of any of the following events:

- 6.9.1 upon presentation by a Member Church to the Board of a true copy of a resolution to that effect passed by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of its church membership at a meeting of the Member Church duly called for that purpose;
- 6.9.2 if a Member Church joins another denomination;
- 6.9.3 upon the passing of a Special Resolution passed by the Members, as set out in 6.8.3;
- 6.9.4 upon closing or dissolution of the Member Church;
- 6.9.5 upon revocation or loss of charitable status as granted by the Canada Revenue Agency; or
- 6.9.6 upon revocation or loss of the legal registration under which the church was formed.

Termination of membership in the Ontario Conference also terminates membership in the Canadian Conference.

6.10 Reintegration of a Member Church

- 6.10.1 Any membership that has been suspended as described in Section 6.8.2 can be reinstated by a resolution of the Board upon the Board's satisfaction that the concerns have been adequately rectified.
- 6.10.2 Any membership that has been terminated as described in Section 6.8.3 can be reinstated after completing the membership application procedures as described in Section 6.4.

6.11 Division or Merging of a Member Church

- 6.11.1 When an existing Member Church deems it advisable to divide or establish a new congregation, the Provincial Faith and Life Team shall be informed and consulted at the initial planning stages. After such a division or new establishment has been completed, a new congregation with the intention of becoming a separate Member Church may apply to the Board for membership according to the steps outlined in the Membership Application Process in Section 6.4.
- 6.11.2 Should a Member Church consider merging with another church, the Board shall oversee the process to determine the resulting membership status depending upon the churches involved. (See Section 6.7)

6.12 Closing of a Member Church

The initiative for the closing of a church normally comes from the church membership at such a time when continuing as a church entity is no longer a viable option. Before a decision to close a church is reached, the church shall invite consultation with the

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Ontario Conference. The church's membership in the Ontario Conference is terminated upon closing of the church. As a Member Church within the Ontario MB Conference of Churches, it is expected that the dissolving congregation's assets become the property of the Ontario Conference, for the purpose of supporting ministry initiatives within the Ontario Conference in a manner consistent with the purposes of the church being closed.

6.13 Autonomy of a Member Church

Each Member Church is autonomous in the management of its local affairs, but only to the extent that the Member Church's local affairs are not subject to the Confession of Faith, Letters Patent, bylaws, policies, or procedures of the Ontario Conference and Canadian Conference.

6.14 Liability of a Member Church

Member Churches shall not, as such, be held answerable or responsible for any act, default, obligation or liability of the Ontario Conference or for any engagement, claim, payment, loss, injury, transaction, matter or thing relating to or connected with the Ontario Conference.

6.15 Membership of an Individual in a Member Church

Each Member Church shall establish in its governing documents all conditions for an individual to be a member in good standing of such church, including procedures for acceptance, termination, discipline, withdrawal, and transfer of an individual's membership. The Member Church's governing documents shall be used to determine the number of members in the church. All membership policies and practices should align with the guidelines of the Ontario Conference and Canadian Conference.

Article 7 Meetings of the Members

7.1 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Members, also called a Convention, shall be held each year within Ontario, at a time, place and date determined by the Board, and may be held electronically, with due consideration being given to rotation of the place of meetings and the statutory requirements for such a meeting, for the purpose of:

- 7.1.1 hearing and receiving the reports and statements required by the Act to be read at and laid before the Ontario Conference at an annual meeting;
- 7.1.2 passing a Special Resolution to fix the number of Board Members to be elected;
- 7.1.3 electing such Board Members and Officers as are to be elected at such annual meeting;
- 7.1.4 appointing the auditor and fixing or authorizing the Board to fix the remuneration therefor;
- 7.1.5 discussing and approving the budget for the following year;
- 7.1.6 dealing with any other matter properly brought before the meeting;
- 7.1.7 hearing and receiving reports from the Canadian Conference and providing feedback;
- 7.1.8 voting on decisions from the Canadian Conference under the Collaborative Model; and
- 7.1.9 approving rule or policy changes, whether with or without amendments, to this Bylaw.

7.2 Special Meeting

The Board may at any time call a special meeting of Members, also called a Convention, to address issues or to formulate transactions, the general nature of which is specified in the notice calling the meeting. A special meeting of Members may also be called by the Members as provided in the Act.

7.3 Notice of Meetings

- 7.3.1 The formal Notice of the time, place and date of meetings of Members, and the general nature of the transaction to be considered, shall be given no more than fifty (50) and at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting to each Member Church (and in the case of an annual meeting to the auditor of the Ontario Conference) by sending by prepaid mail or electronic mail to the last address of the addressee shown on the Ontario Conference's records. Member Churches shall notify its Convention Members of the meeting of Members as noted in the application process in Section 6.4.2.
- 7.3.2 In the notice of meeting, the Board will declare if Voting Representatives are allowed to attend, participate and vote by electronic means as is present in person.
- 7.3.3 An informal announcement of meeting dates for the purposes of planning may be provided in advance of fifty (50) days.

7.4 Quorum

A quorum for any meeting of Members shall consist of not less than fifty (50) Voting Representatives registered at commencement thereof and present in person, and representing at least 50 % of Member Churches. In the absence of quorum no binding decisions can be made.

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7.5 Voting by Members

Unless otherwise required by the provisions of the Act or this Bylaw of the Ontario Conference, all questions proposed for consideration at a meeting of Members shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast by Voting Representatives. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall not be entitled to a second or casting vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not allowed.

7.6 Show of Hands

At all meetings of Members every question shall be decided by a show of hands unless otherwise required by the Chair or requested by any Voting Representative, or required by this Bylaw. Whenever a vote by show of hands has been taken upon a question, unless a ballot is requested, a declaration by the Chair that a resolution has been carried or lost by a particular majority and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the Ontario Conference is conclusive evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of votes recorded in favour of or against the motion.

7.7 Chair

In the absence of the Chair or the Vice Chair, the Voting Representatives present at any meeting of Members shall choose another Board Member as Chair and if no Board Member is present or if all the Board Members present decline to act as Chair, the Voting Representatives present shall choose one of their number to be Chair.

7.8 Parliamentary Procedure

7.8.1 At least two Parliamentarians, as selected by the Board, will be approved by the Members at the start of any meeting of the Members. At least one Parliamentarian shall not be a member of the Governance committee.

7.8.2 The Rules of Order will be followed in any meeting of the Members. Policies relating to guest attendance at meetings shall also be maintained.

7.9 Adjournments

Any meeting of Members may be adjourned to any time and from time to time, and any transactions may be undertaken at any adjourned meeting that might have been transacted at the original meeting from which the adjournment took place. No notice is required of any adjourned meeting.

7.10 Written Resolutions

Subject to the Act, a resolution in writing, signed by all the Voting Representatives entitled to vote on that resolution at a meeting of Members or Committee of Members, is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of Members or Committee of Members called, constituted and held for that purpose.

PART 3 – THE BOARD, OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Article 8 Board

8.1 Number of Board Members

Subject to the provisions of any Special Resolution changing the number of Board Members, the Board shall be composed of eleven (11) Members.

At a meeting of the Board held immediately prior to the annual meeting of Members, the Board shall pass a Special Resolution fixing the number of Board Members for the following year. The Special Resolution shall be confirmed at the annual meeting of Members.

8.2 Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business at meetings of the Board shall be not less than sixty (60) percent of the total number, as currently defined by the last resolution, of Members of the Board as currently set by the last resolution of Members.

8.3 Remuneration of Board Members

The Board Members of the Ontario Conference shall serve without remuneration. No Board Member shall, directly or indirectly, receive any profit from their position as such, provided that a Board Member may be reimbursed reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

8.4 The Duties of the Board

8.4.1 The affairs of the Ontario Conference shall be governed by the Board whereby all Board Members shall comply with the Act and this Bylaw. The duties of the Board include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) hiring and overseeing of the Executive Director;
- (2) the development and approval, with or without amendment, of the strategic plan in alignment with the Collaborative Model as defined in the Canadian Conference Bylaw;
- (3) the development of the budget for approval by the Members;
- (4) measuring and monitoring of strategic outcomes and goals;

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(5) development of policies and guidelines; and

(6) oversight of the health and welfare of the Member Churches.

8.4.2 The Board shall appoint one of its members to serve as the Ontario Moderator Representative as requested by the Executive Board of the Canadian Conference.

8.4.3 Board Members are delegates to the Canadian Conference's National Assembly to represent the Ontario Conference and participate in decision making under the Collaborative Model defined in the Canadian Conference Bylaw.

8.5 Responsibility for Acts

The Board Members shall not be under any duty or responsibility in respect of any contract, act or transaction whether or not made, done or entered into in the name or on behalf of the Ontario Conference, except such as shall have been submitted to and authorized or approved by the Board.

Article 9 Election of Board

9.1 Election

Board Members shall be elected by the Voting Representatives at each annual meeting of the Ontario Conference, subject to the provisions of the Letters Patent and the Supplementary Letters Patent, for a term of two (2) years to hold office until the annual meeting held in the second year next following their election.

9.2 Tenure

9.2.1 A Board member, if otherwise qualified, is eligible for election for three (3) consecutive full two-year terms, and thereafter is not eligible for re-election until a period of eleven (11) months has lapsed from the date of retirement of such Board member.

9.2.2 The Chair and Vice Chair are eligible for election for two (2) consecutive full two-year terms.

9.2.3 In the case of the Chair or Vice Chair, a person may serve a maximum of six (6) consecutive years as a Board member plus a maximum of an additional four(4) consecutive years as Chair or Vice Chair.

9.2.4 A Board member may serve a maximum of ten (10) consecutive years, in any combination of roles, and thereafter is not eligible for re-election until a period of eleven (11) months has lapsed from the date of retirement of such Board member.

9.2.5 In special circumstances, these provisions may be set aside by a two-thirds majority vote of the Voting Representatives at a meeting of the Members. Notice for applying this provision shall accompany the name of the nomination.

9.3 Qualifications of Board Members

Each Board Member shall:

9.3.1 be at the date of, and thereafter remain throughout the term of office, qualified by the terms of Section 6.6 to hold office;

9.3.2 be at least eighteen (18) years of age; and

9.3.3 not be an undischarged bankrupt or a mentally incompetent person. If a person ceases to be qualified by the terms of this Article 9 or Article 6.5 to hold office, or becomes a bankrupt or a mentally incompetent person, the person thereupon ceases to be a Board Member, and the vacancy so created shall be filled by the Board.

9.4 Nominations

9.4.1 Candidates for the office of Board Member shall be proposed by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the qualifications of Section 9.3, and

9.4.2 The Nominating Committee, having received nominations from any Member Church in good standing, up until the closing of nominations, shall submit at an annual meeting of the Members, the names of the candidates that have been duly processed and discerned.

9.4.3 The Board will establish a closing date for nominations for each annual election not less than 28 days prior to the annual meeting of the Members.

9.5 Election Method

The election of candidates shall be by ballot. To be elected, a candidate must receive at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the ballots cast by the Voting Representatives at a meeting of the Members. Where the number of affirmed candidates is greater than the number of offices to be filled, the candidates receiving the highest number of affirming ballots will be elected to the available offices.

9.6 Voting Forms

The Board may prescribe the form of nomination paper and the form of a ballot.

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9.7 Removal of Board Members

9.7.1 The Voting Representatives entitled to vote may, by resolution passed by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at a special meeting of which notice specifying the intention to pass the resolution has been given, remove any Board Member before the expiration of the term of office, and may, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast at that meeting, elect any qualified person in the place and stead of the person removed for the remainder of the term of the removed Board Member. As described in Section 9.3 and 12.2.2, the Nominating Committee shall propose the person to fill the vacancy created.

9.7.2 A Board Member's term shall automatically terminate upon resignation, or death, or failure to meet the qualification set forth in Section 9.3.

9.8 Vacancies

9.8.1 So long as a quorum of the Board Members remains in office, a vacancy on the Board may be filled by the Board. The Board may appoint a person who meets the qualifications of a Board Member as described in Section 9.3.

9.8.2 If no quorum of Board Members exists, the remaining Board Members shall forthwith call a special meeting of Members to fill the vacancies on the Board.

Article 10 Executive Officers

10.1 Election/appointment of Executive Officers

10.1.1 There shall be a Chair, who shall also be the President of the Ontario Conference, and a member of the Board, and a Vice Chair. Both the Chair and the Vice Chair shall be elected by resolution of the Members of the Ontario Conference.

10.1.2 There shall be a Secretary and a Treasurer selected by the Board from within the membership of the Board.

10.1.3 One person may hold more than one office, except that the Chair shall not hold the office of Vice Chair.

10.1.4 The Executive Officers shall sit on the Executive Committee.

10.2 Chair

10.2.1 The Chair shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the Board and at all meetings of the Ontario Conference.

10.2.2 The Chair shall supervise the affairs of the Board, sign all documents requiring the signature of the President, and have the other powers and duties from time to time prescribed by the Board or incident to the office.

10.2.3 The Chair shall also serve on an ex officio basis and without voting privileges, of all Committees of the Ontario Conference with the privilege of bringing along any other Board Member if deemed advisable by the Chair.

10.3 Vice Chair

10.3.1 During the absence or inability of the Chair to act, the duties and powers of the office may be exercised by the Vice Chair. If the Vice Chair exercises any of those duties or powers, the absence or inability to act of the Chair shall be presumed with reference thereto.

10.3.2 The Vice Chair shall also perform the other duties from time to time prescribed by the Board or incident to the office.

10.4 Secretary

10.4.1 The Secretary shall be appointed from among the current Board members.

10.4.2 The Secretary:

- (1) shall act as Secretary of each meeting of the Ontario Conference and shall attend all meetings of the Board and shall record all resolutions, facts and minutes of those proceedings in the books kept for that purpose;
- (2) shall oversee giving all notices required to be given to Members and to Board Members;
- (3) shall be the custodian of the corporate seal of the Ontario Conference and of all books, papers, records, correspondence and documents belonging to the Ontario Conference;
- (4) shall oversee the maintenance of the register of directors, officers, and members; and
- (5) shall perform the other duties from time to time prescribed by the Board or incident to the office.

10.4.3 The Secretary shall provide for the annual collection and deposit in Provincial and Canadian Conference archives of the minutes of the meetings of the Ontario Conference, the Board, and all Committees, together with any related documents.

10.4.4 The Secretary, in consultation with the Board, may:

- (1) Employ or obtain the voluntary services of a record keeper as deemed necessary, to be responsible, under their supervision, for the day-to-day administration of specific tasks delegated by the Secretary; and
- (2) From time to time prepare, and amend as necessary, a comprehensive job description for the record keeper.

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10.5 Treasurer

10.5.1 The Treasurer shall be appointed from among the current Board members.

10.5.2 The Treasurer:

- (1) shall oversee the keeping of full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements of the Ontario Conference in proper books of account;
- (2) shall oversee the deposit all moneys or other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Ontario Conference in the bank or banks from time to time designated by the Board;
- (3) shall oversee the disbursement of the funds of the Ontario Conference under the direction of the Board, taking proper vouchers therefor;
- (4) shall render to the Board, whenever required, an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial position of the Ontario Conference; and
- (5) shall cooperate with the auditors of the Ontario Conference during any audit of the accounts of the Ontario Conference.

10.5.3 The Treasurer shall perform the other duties from time to time prescribed by the Board or incident to the office, including the following:

- (1) Invest surplus funds, establish reserve funds and secure loans, mortgages and lines of credit when necessary to maintain the cash flow of the Ontario Conference and retire such debts as expeditiously as possible; and
- (2) Submit quarterly financial statements to the Board as requested.

10.5.4 The Treasurer, in consultation with the Board, shall:

- (1) Employ or obtain the services of a bookkeeper as deemed necessary, to be responsible, under their supervision, for the day-to-day administration of the central treasury of the Ontario Conference; and
- (2) From time to time prepare, and amend as necessary, a comprehensive job description for the bookkeeper.

10.6 Executive Director

The Executive Director, as described in Section 15.1, shall be an officer of the Ontario Conference.

10.7 Other Officers

The Board may appoint other officers, including without limitation, or agents with such titles as the Board may prescribe from time to time and as it considers necessary and all officers shall have the authority and perform the duties from time to time prescribed by the Board. The Board may also remove at its pleasure any such officer or agent of the Ontario Conference. The duties of all other officers of the Ontario Conference appointed by the Board shall be such as the terms of their engagement call for or the Board prescribes.

Article 11 Meetings of the Board

The Board shall meet at least three (3) times a year. Meetings of the Board may be called by the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or any two (2) Board Members.

11.1 Notice of Meetings

11.1.1 Subject to the provisions of Article 22, notice of Board meetings shall be delivered, emailed, faxed or telephoned to each Board Member not less than two (2) days before the meeting is to take place. The statutory declaration of the Secretary or Chair that notice has been given pursuant to this Bylaw shall be sufficient and conclusive evidence of the giving of such notice. No formal notice of a meeting is necessary if all the Board Members are present or if those absent have signified their consent to the meeting being held without notice and in their absence.

11.1.2 The Board may appoint one or more days in each year for regular meetings of the Board at a place and time named; no further notice of the regular meetings need be given.

11.1.3 The Board shall hold a meeting within thirty (30) days following the annual meeting of the Ontario Conference for the purpose of organization, the election and appointment of Officers and Committees, and any transactions considered necessary.

11.2 Meetings by Electronic Conference

11.2.1 If all persons who are members of the Board or a Committee (as the case requires) consent thereto generally or in respect of a particular meeting and each has adequate access, such persons may participate in a meeting of the Board or Committee by means of such conference telephone or other communications facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other, and a person participating in such a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting.

11.2.2 Provided that at the outset of each such meeting, and whenever votes are required, the Chair of the meeting shall call roll to establish quorum, and shall, whenever not satisfied that the proceedings of the meeting may proceed with adequate security and confidentiality, unless a majority of the persons present at such meeting otherwise require, adjourn the meeting to a set date, time and place.

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11.3 Voting

Prior to calling a vote, the Board shall prayerfully discern God's will and seek consensus among its members wherever possible.

11.3.1 Where consensus is not possible, questions arising at any meeting of the Board shall be decided by a majority vote.

11.3.2 In the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.

11.3.3 At all meetings of the Board, every question shall be decided by a show of hands unless a poll on the question is required by the Chair or is requested by any Board Member.

11.3.4 A declaration by the Chair that a resolution has been carried and an entry to that effect in the minutes is conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.

11.4 Absence from Meetings

If a Board Member misses more than two (2) consecutive meetings, the Secretary shall contact the Board Member and request an explanation for the absence and confirm the member's commitment to continue to serve on the Board and to attend the next meeting.

11.5 Written Resolutions

Subject to the Act, a resolution in writing, signed by all Board Members entitled to vote on that resolution at a meeting of the Board, is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board constituted and held for that purpose.

Article 12 Committees

The Ontario Conference shall have Standing Committees and may create Ad Hoc Committees as needed. At its first meeting after each annual meeting, the Board shall reaffirm, elect or appoint the members to all Committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee. The Ontario Conference shall keep a copy of the minutes and resolutions of all Committees as required by the Act.

12.1 Executive Committee

12.1.1 Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Board, as well as the Executive Director. The Board may fill vacancies in the Executive Committee by election from among its members. If and whenever a vacancy shall exist in the Executive Committee, the remaining Members may exercise all its powers so long as a quorum remains in office.

12.1.2 Powers

During the intervals between the meetings of the Board, the Executive Committee shall possess and may exercise all the powers of the Board in its functions in governance in such manner as the Executive Committee shall deem to be in the best interest of the Ontario Conference in all cases in which specific direction shall not have been given by the Board.

12.1.3 Limitation of Actions

Any action by the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Board at the next meeting of the Board succeeding such action and shall be subject to revision or alteration by the Board; provided that no actual rights of any third party shall be affected by such revision or alteration.

12.1.4 Quorum and Rules for Meetings

The Executive Committee shall fix its own rules of procedure and shall meet where and as provided by such rules or by resolution of the Board, but in every case the presence of a majority shall constitute a quorum. Each Board Member shall be entitled to speak but not to vote at any meeting of the Executive Committee at which the Board Member is present. No Board Member who has not been elected to the Executive Committee shall be entitled to notice of any meeting of the Executive Committee, and the presence of such Board Member shall not be included for the purpose of calculating a quorum.

12.2 Nominating Committee

12.2.1 Composition

The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members who shall be elected at the annual meeting of Members and who are not at the same time Board Members. The Nominating Committee shall have power to fix its quorum at not less than a majority of its voting members, and to regulate its procedure. The Executive Director is a non-voting member of the Nominating Committee as described in Section 15.1.5. The Chair of the Board is also an ex officio non-voting member of the Nominating Committee as described in Section 10.2.3

12.2.2 Duties

Nominating Committee discerns qualifying nominees for all elected roles by exercising the qualifications process and documentation established by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board. The Nominating Committee shall:

- (1) receive nominations from members of Member Churches;
- (2) discern suitable candidates, to match the upcoming vacancies, considering specific needs as communicated by the Board for building a healthy and balanced Board; and

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- (3) present the names of those discerned as qualifying nominees to the annual meeting of Members to fill vacancies on the Board, including the election of the Chair and the Vice Chair and for the election of the Nominating Committee.

12.2.3 Limitations

The Nominating Committee is accountable to the Ontario Conference at the annual meeting of Members. It shall function as a Committee of the Ontario Conference in cooperation with and under the general supervision of the Board.

12.3 Finance Review Committee

12.3.1 Composition

The Finance Review Committee shall consist of no fewer than two Board Members including the Treasurer.

12.3.2 Meetings

Until otherwise ordered by the Board, the Finance Review Committee shall meet at least twice annually.

12.3.3 Duties

The Finance Review Committee shall assist the Board in fulfilling its financial requirements under the Act, plan and review the annual audit with the external auditor, negotiate the remuneration to be paid to the external auditor for the ensuing year, and report to the Board on the audit, and any management or audit comments by the external auditor, when the audited financial statements are presented.

12.4 Provincial Faith and Life Team

12.4.1 Composition

The Provincial Faith and Life Team shall be composed of a minimum of four (4) and maximum of six (6) members in addition to the Executive Director. A minimum of three (3) of the committee membership shall be pastors, associate pastors or chaplains serving in the Member Churches in good standing.

12.4.2 Meetings

The Provincial Faith and Life Team shall meet a minimum of three (3) times per year in order to perform its duties.

12.4.3 The Mandate

- (1) It shall initiate, study and recommend any matters of faith and life related to the issues of ministry and church life in the Ontario Conference or to the relationship of the Ontario Conference to broader issues in society at large.
- (2) It shall maintain the centrality of the Confession of Faith and shall interpret and apply it to all Ontario Conference ministries and programs in a manner consistent with interpretations and practices of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and the National Faith and Life Team.
- (3) It shall administer the processes for both credentialing and de-credentialing individuals for Christian ministry who serve the Member Churches of the Ontario Conference, or who serve in other similar leadership and spiritual functions.
- (4) It shall maintain the registry with the Ontario office regarding the licensed ministers of the Ontario Conference.
- (5) It shall give guidance to Member Churches, Associate Churches, and any other organizations using the Confession of Faith in matters of faith and doctrine.
- (6) It shall appoint one of its Committee members to serve on the National Faith and Life Team of the Canadian Conference.
- (7) It shall assist the Board in discerning new congregations applying for membership in the Ontario Conference.
- (8) It shall assist the Board in matters of the suspension, revocation or reinstatement of a Member Church as described in Section 6.8 and 6.10.
- (9) It shall interview individuals to determine their standing as described in Section 6.6.4.

12.5 Governance Committee

12.5.1 Composition

This Committee shall be appointed annually by the Board and shall consist of no fewer than two (2) Board Members. The Committee may add other members from among the individuals from Member Churches of the Ontario Conference who are qualified to hold office as described in Section 6.6.

12.5.2 Duties

- (1) The Governance Committee shall assist the Board with reviewing and amending as needed the Letters Patent and this Bylaw, before the Board recommends adoption at a Members Meeting.
- (2) The committee shall assist in drafting various rules and policies of the Board as part of maintaining the Governance Manual.
- (3) As requested by the Board, members of the Committee shall also serve as Parliamentarians in Board meetings.

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(4) The Committee shall identify and recommend to the Board possible Parliamentarians for meetings of the Members as defined in Section 7.8.

(5) The Committee shall oversee and maintain the Rules of Order for meetings of the Members as defined in Section 7.8.2. to be approved by the Members when amended;

(6) The Committee shall perform such other duties as directed by the Board from time to time.

12.6 Other Committees

There may be such Ad Hoc Committees and for such purpose as the Board may determine from time to time by resolution.

12.6.1 Composition

The Board shall set the composition of each of the Ad Hoc Committees. At least one member of the Board and the Executive Director must serve on the Ad Hoc Committee in accordance with Section 12.7.2.

12.6.2 Mandate

The Board shall set the terms of reference of each of the Ad Hoc Committees in accordance with Section 12.7 and including any powers delegated to it within the limitations of the Act.

12.6.3 Termination

The existence of each such Ad Hoc Committee shall be terminated automatically upon:

- (1) the delivery of its final report; or
- (2) the completion of its assigned task; or
- (3) a resolution to that effect of the Board; whichever first occurs.

12.7 Rules Governing Committees

All committees have the general responsibility to assist the Board and the Executive Director to fulfil the mission as established in the Ontario Conference's organizational objects in its Letters Patent. Except as otherwise provided by this Bylaw, all Committees are subject to the following:

12.7.1 the Chair and members shall be appointed by the Board, from among the individuals from the Ontario Conference who are qualified to hold office as described in Section 6.6 and who meet the qualifications required to serve on the Committee as set forth by the Board;

12.7.2 with the exception of the Nominating Committee, at least one member of Board shall be appointed to serve on each Committee along with the Executive Director in accordance with Section 15.1.5 and the Board Chair in accordance with Section 10.2.3;

12.7.3 a member of a Committee shall serve for a term ending at the annual meeting of Members following appointment, and is eligible for reappointment but shall not serve for more than 6 consecutive years on the same Committee and thereafter is not eligible for re-appointment until a period of eleven (11) months has lapsed;

12.7.4 each Committee shall meet at least annually, and more frequently at the will of its chair or as required by its terms of reference, and as requested by the Board;

12.7.5 each Committee shall be responsible to, and report after each meeting to the Board;

12.7.6 each Committee shall keep minutes of its meetings in which shall be recorded all action taken by it, and these minutes shall be forwarded to the Board for record keeping;

12.7.7 subject to any rules and policies established by Board, each Committee may establish its own rules of procedure and may appoint subcommittees; and

12.7.8 the Board may, by passing a resolution, remove a member from a Committee.

Article 13 Protection of Board Members and Officers

13.1 Board Members and Officers Liability Exclusion

Absent the failure to act honestly and in good faith in the performance of the duties of office, and save as may be otherwise provided in any legislation or law, no present or past Board Member or officer of the Ontario Conference shall be personally liable for any loss or damage or expense to the Ontario Conference arising out of the acts (including willful, negligent and accidental conduct), receipts, neglects, omissions or defaults of any other Board Member or officer or employee, servant, agent, volunteer or independent contractor arising from any of the following:

13.1.1 insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired by the Ontario Conference or for or on behalf of the Ontario Conference;

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- 13.1.2 insufficiency or deficiency of any security in or upon which any of the monies of or belonging to the Ontario Conference shall be placed out or invested;
- 13.1.3 loss or damage arising from the bankruptcy or insolvency of any person including any person with whom or which any monies, securities or effects shall be lodged or deposited;
- 13.1.4 loss, conversion, misapplication or misappropriation of or any damage resulting from any dealings with monies, securities or other assets belonging to the Ontario Conference;
- 13.1.5 loss, damage or misfortune whatever which may happen in the execution of the duties of the Board Member's or officer's respective office or trust or in relation thereto; and
- 13.1.6 loss, damage, arising from any wilful act, assault, act of negligence, breach of fiduciary or other duty or failure to render aid of any sort.

13.2 Pre-Indemnity Considerations

Before giving approval to the indemnities provided in Section 13.3 herein, or purchasing insurance provided in Section 13.4 herein, the Board shall consider:

- 13.2.1 the degree of risk to which the Board Member or officer is or may be exposed;
- 13.2.2 whether, in practice, the risk cannot be eliminated or significantly reduced by means other than the indemnity or insurance;
- 13.2.3 whether the amount or cost of the insurance is reasonable in relation to the risk;
- 13.2.4 whether the cost of the insurance is reasonable in relation to the revenue available; and
- 13.2.5 whether it advances the administration and management of the property to give the indemnity or purchase the insurance.

13.3 Indemnification of Board Members, Officers and Others

13.3.1 Every person, (including their respective heirs, executors and administrators, estate, successors and assigns) who:

- (1) is a Board Member; or,
- (2) is an officer of the Ontario Conference; or
- (3) is a member of a Committee; or
- (4) has undertaken, or, with the direction of the Board is about to undertake, any liability on behalf of the Ontario Conference or any Corporation controlled by the Ontario Conference, whether in their personal capacity or as an Officer or Board Member or employee or volunteer of the Ontario Conference;

shall, upon approval of the Board from time to time, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the Ontario Conference, from and against costs, charges and expenses which such person sustains or incurs:

- (1) in or in relation to any demand, action, suit or proceeding which is brought, commenced or prosecuted against them in respect of any act, deed, matter or thing whatsoever, made, done or permitted or not permitted by them, in or in relation to the execution of the duties of such office or in respect of any such liability; or,
- (2) in relation to the affairs of the Ontario Conference generally, save and except that such costs, charges or expenses are occasioned by their own failure to act honestly and in good faith in the performance of the duties of office, or by other willful neglect or default.

13.3.2 The Ontario Conference shall also, upon approval by the Board from time to time, indemnify any such person in such other circumstances as any legislation or laws permit or require. Nothing in this Bylaw shall limit the right of any person entitled to indemnity to claim indemnity apart from the provisions of this Bylaw to the extent permitted by any legislation or law.

13.4 Insurance

13.4.1 The Ontario Conference shall purchase and maintain appropriate liability insurance which shall provide coverage for each person acting or having previously acted in the capacity of a Board Member, officer or such other capacity on behalf of the Ontario Conference, which insurance shall include:

- (1) comprehensive general liability insurance;
- (2) directors and officers insurance; and,
- (3) such other insurance as may be recommended from time to time by the insurance broker retained by the Ontario Conference to advise it and procure coverage on its behalf,
- (4) specifying coverage amounts of a minimum of \$5 Million per claim/\$10 Million in the aggregate.

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13.4.2 No coverage shall be provided for any liability relating to a failure to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Ontario Conference.

13.4.3 It shall be the obligation of those seeking insurance coverage or indemnity from the Ontario Conference to cooperate fully with the Ontario Conference in the defence of any demand, claim or suit made against it, and to make no admission of responsibility or liability to any third party without the prior agreement of the Ontario Conference.

Article 14 Conflict of Interest and Dispute Resolution Policies

14.1 The Board shall establish and maintain a comprehensive conflict of interest policy, in accordance with the Act, and shall maintain a record of an annual review and an annual commitment from each Board Member, Officer and Committee Member declaring any potential conflicts or the absence of such.

14.2 The Board shall establish and maintain a dispute resolution policy in the event that a dispute or controversy among Members, Board Members, Officers, Committee members or staff of the Ontario Conference arises.

PART 4 – STAFF AND AGENCIES

Article 15 Conference Employees and Representatives

15.1 Executive Director

15.1.1 The Board shall employ an Executive Director, who shall be answerable only to the Board.

15.1.2 The Executive Director will be in charge of the management and have the general supervision of the affairs of the Ontario Conference, other than the internal affairs of the separately incorporated agencies. The terms of engagement and specific duties of the Executive Director shall be determined by the Board.

15.1.3 The Executive Director shall represent the interests of the Ontario Conference in its relations to fraternal bodies and serve generally in the area of public relations.

15.1.4 The Executive Director shall receive notice of all meetings of the Board and shall have the right, unless otherwise directed by the Board, to attend and to speak to any issue placed before the Board but shall not be a member of the Board and shall not have the right to vote.

15.1.5 The Executive Director shall receive notice of all meetings of all Committees and shall have the right to attend and to speak to any issue placed before the Committees. The Executive Director shall be a member of each Committee with the right to vote except the Executive Director shall not have the right to vote at the Nominating Committee.

15.1.6 The Executive Director shall oversee the other employees of the Ontario Conference unless an employee's job description states otherwise.

15.1.7 The Executive Director shall serve as an Officer of the Ontario Conference.

15.2 Other Employees

15.2.1 With the recommendation of the Executive Director, the Board may engage additional employees to fulfil ministry or administrative functions on behalf of the Ontario Conference.

15.2.2 The terms of engagement and the specific duties of such employees shall be determined by the Executive Director.

15.3 Representatives

With the recommendation of the Executive Director, the Board may at any time appoint representatives either ad hoc or permanent for such purposes and with such powers as the Board may determine to carry out the operations of the Ontario Conference and assist with the work of a particular ministry or to address a particular function.

Article 16 Ontario Conference Associations

16.1 Separately Incorporated Agencies

The Ontario Conference from time to time may organize a particular ministry under a separately constituted entity. Such ministries will be governed by their own constituting documents and their own board of directors elected by the Ontario Conference according to the rules established in their respective constituting documents. Such ministries shall maintain the centrality of the Confession of Faith and shall interpret and apply it to all activities and programs in a manner consistent with interpretations and practices of the Ontario Conference. Accountability of such boards of directors is to the Ontario Conference at its annual meeting of Members. Between conventions the accountability of the boards is to the Board as the governing board of the Ontario Conference.

The Board will keep a list of the separately incorporated agencies and will bring reports and any necessary motions from these agencies to the annual meeting of the Members.

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ONMB General Operating Bylaws

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Ontario
Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

General Operating Bylaw (210220) of the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

16.2 Associate Churches

- 16.2.1 The Ontario Conference recognizes that not all missional expressions of the church will be registered as charitable organizations with formal governing documents so as to qualify as a Member Church. The Board, in consultation with the Provincial Faith and Life Team, may identify a fellowship or congregation that meets the membership requirements in Section 6.1 as a potential Associate Church of the Ontario Conference.
- 16.2.2 The Board will bring the candidate for Associate Church status to the next meeting of the membership for a decision by the Members. If approved by the Members, Associate Church status is granted for a period of five (5) years. Standing is renewable.
- 16.2.3 Associate Churches are not Members of the Ontario Conference, but may receive support from the Ontario Conference as outlined by policies of the Board.
- 16.2.4 As provided for in Section 6.6.5, the Board may grant up to three (3) individuals from an Associate Church standing to hold office in the Ontario Conference as an Associate Church Representative.
- 16.2.5 Associate Church status can be revoked by a resolution of the Members or, in special circumstances, by a resolution of the Board. If an Associate Church receives full Member Church status, its Associate Church status terminates.

PART 5 – RECORDS AND FINANCE

Article 17 Execution of Documents

17.1 Cheques, Drafts, Notes, etc

All cheques, drafts or orders for the payment of money and all notes and acceptances and bills of exchange shall be signed by the officer or officers or person or persons and in the manner from time to time prescribed by the Board.

17.2 Execution of Documents

Documents requiring execution by the Ontario Conference may be signed by any two (2) of the Chair or the Vice Chair and the Secretary or the Treasurer or any one (1) of the foregoing together with any one (1) Board Member, and all documents so signed are binding upon the Ontario Conference without any further authorization or formality. The Board may from time to time appoint any officer or officers or any person or persons on behalf of the Ontario Conference, either to sign documents generally or to sign specific documents. The corporate seal of the Ontario Conference shall, when required, be affixed to documents executed in accordance with the foregoing.

17.3 Books and Records

The Board shall see that all necessary books and records of the Ontario Conference required by this Bylaw of the Ontario Conference or by any applicable statute are regularly and properly kept.

Article 18 Banking Arrangements

18.1 Board Designated Bankers

The Board shall designate, by resolution, the officers and other persons authorized to transact the banking arrangements of the Ontario Conference, or any part thereof, with the bank, trust company, credit union or other corporation carrying on a banking business that the Board has designated as the Ontario Conference's banker, to have the authority set out in the resolution, including, unless otherwise restricted, the power to,

- 18.1.1 operate the Ontario Conference's accounts with the banker;
- 18.1.2 make, sign, draw, accept, endorse, negotiate, lodge, deposit or transfer any of the cheques, promissory notes, drafts, acceptances, bills of exchange and orders for the payment of money;
- 18.1.3 issue receipts for and orders relating to any property of the Ontario Conference;
- 18.1.4 execute any agreement relating to any banking business and defining the rights and powers of the parties thereto; and
- 18.1.5 authorize any officer of the banker to do any act or thing on the Ontario Conference's behalf to facilitate the banking services.

18.2 Deposit of Securities

The securities of the Ontario Conference shall be deposited for safe keeping with one or more bankers, trust companies or other financial institutions to be selected by the Board. Any and all securities so deposited may be withdrawn, from time to time, only upon the written order of the Ontario Conference signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Ontario Conference, and in such manner, as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. The institutions which may be so selected as custodians of the Board shall be fully protected in acting in accordance with the directions of the Board and shall in no event be liable for the due application of the securities so withdrawn from deposit or the proceeds thereof.

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Article 19 Borrowing by the Ontario Conference

19.1 Board May Borrow

Subject to the limitations set out in this Bylaw or in the Letters Patent of the Ontario Conference, the Board may,

- 19.1.1 borrow money on the credit of the Ontario Conference;
- 19.1.2 issue, sell or pledge securities of the Ontario Conference; or
- 19.1.3 charge, mortgage, hypothecate or pledge all or any of the real or personal property of the Ontario Conference, including book debts, rights, powers, franchises and undertakings, to secure any securities or any money borrowed, or other debt, or any other obligation or liability of the Ontario Conference,
- 19.1.4 provided that, except where the Ontario Conference borrows on the security of its real or personal property, its borrowing power shall be limited to borrowing money for current operating expenses.

19.2 Specific Borrowing Authority

From time to time the Board may authorize any Board Member, officer or employee of the Ontario Conference or any other person to make arrangements with reference to the money so borrowed or to be borrowed and as to the terms and conditions of the loan thereof, and as to the security to be given therefor, with power to vary or modify such arrangements, terms and conditions and to give such additional security as the Board may authorize, and generally to manage, transact and settle the borrowing of money by the Ontario Conference.

Article 20 Financial Year

The financial year of the Ontario Conference shall terminate on the 31st day of December in each year or on such other date as the Board may from time to time by resolution determine.

Article 21 Appointment of Auditor by Members

- 21.1 The Members entitled to vote shall at each annual meeting appoint an auditor to audit the books of the Ontario Conference, to hold office until the next annual meeting, provided that the Board may fill any casual vacancy in the office of the auditor. The remuneration of the auditor shall be fixed by the Members entitled to vote or by the Board, if authorized to do so by the Members entitled to vote.

PART 6 – NOTICE, AMENDMENTS AND DISSOLUTION

Article 22 Notice

22.1 Method of Notice

Except where otherwise provided in this Bylaw, notice shall be validly given if given by telephone, or if in writing, by prepaid letter post, by facsimile, by email, or by other electronic method, addressed to the person for whom intended at the last address shown on the Ontario Conference's records.

22.2 Computation of Time

In computing the date when notice must be given under any provision of this Bylaw requiring a specified number of days' notice of any meeting or other event, the date of giving the notice is, unless otherwise provided, not included.

22.3 Omissions and Errors

The accidental omission to give notice of any meeting of the Board, a committee or Members or the non-receipt of any notice by any Board Member or Member or by the auditor of the Ontario Conference or any error in any notice not affecting its substance does not invalidate any resolution passed or any proceedings taken at the meeting. Any Board Member, Member or the auditor of the Ontario Conference may at any time waive notice of any meeting and may ratify and approve any or all proceedings taken thereat.

Article 23 Bylaw Amendments

This Bylaw of the Ontario Conference may be enacted, repealed, amended, altered, added to or re-enacted in the manner contemplated in, and subject to the provisions of the Act. As described in the Act, the Bylaw, amendment or repeal, is effective from the date of the resolution of the directors.

23.1 Notice of Bylaw Amendment and Enactment

- 23.1.1 The notice of motion to amend the Bylaw must be presented to all Member Churches at least six weeks before the meeting of Members at which the motion is to be voted on. The notice will include the details of the amendment.

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23.1.2 In such extraordinary cases where the Board feels it is necessary to enact a bylaw amendment prior to the approval by the Member Churches, then the Board shall give notice of the amendment to all Member Churches at least 2 weeks before enacting the amendment. Any enacted amendment must comply with the Act.

23.2 Approval by Members

A two-thirds (2/3) majority of those Voting Representatives present and voting at a meeting of the Members shall be required to carry an amendment.

23.3 Repeal of Prior Bylaws

23.3.1 Repeal

Subject to the provisions of Sections 23.3.2 and 23.3.3 hereof, all prior bylaws, resolutions and other enactments of the Ontario Conference heretofore enacted or made are repealed.

23.3.2 Exception

The provisions of Section 23.3.1 shall not extend to any bylaw or resolution heretofore enacted for the purpose of providing to the Board the power or authority to borrow.

23.3.3 Proviso

Provided however that the repeal of prior bylaws, resolutions and other enactments shall not impair in any way the validity of any act or thing done pursuant to any such repealed bylaw, resolution or other enactment.

Article 24 Dissolution

24.1 Voting

Dissolution of the Ontario Conference shall only be carried out by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Voting Representatives present and voting at a special general meeting of the Members. The motion to dissolve the Ontario Conference will include a description of the distribution of assets, in accordance with Section 24.2, for approval by the Voting Representatives.

24.2 Disposition of Assets

If upon dissolution or winding up of the Ontario Conference there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and obligations, any property or assets whatsoever, then said property or assets shall be given or otherwise transferred to the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, or, if not in existence, then to some other Canadian charitable organization or organizations having cognate or similar objects, provided that such organization is a charitable organization within the meaning of the Income Tax Act for the time being in force.

Article 25 Effective Date

This Bylaw shall come into force as a bylaw of The Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and sealed with the corporate seal on the twentieth (20th) day of February 2021. It was Confirmed by the Members in accordance with the Corporations Act (Ontario) on the twentieth (20th) day of February 2021.

Signed by:

Chair : _____

Secretary _____

ONMB Convention 2021

Nominating Committee Report

Tabitha VandenEnden, Committee Chair



The members of the Nominating Committee for 2020/2021 were Jeff Martens, Tamille Richardson, Bill Stubbs, and Tabitha VandenEnden. Ed Willms participated as a non-voting member by virtue of his position as Executive Director of the Ontario Conference of MB Churches. It has been a difficult and challenging year for everyone, and the Nominating Committee has certainly felt the impacts of COVID-19 as we have sought out suitable candidates who are willing and able to serve on the ONMB Board this coming year. We received more nominations this year than we have in recent history, for which we are grateful.

According to the conference's General Operating Bylaw, the mandate of the Nominating Committee (NC) is to present a slate of candidates for election who have been duly processed and discerned to fill vacancies on both the Board of Directors (BoD) and the NC. As part of the discernment procedure, each nominee responds to a questionnaire and provides the NC with two references who are members of an MB church, with at least one from their congregation.

In November of 2020, all MB churches in Ontario were invited to submit nominations for the election of candidates for the BoD and the NC. Additionally, Ed Willms and members of the BoD were proactive in seeking out qualified candidates. This year, the Nominating Committee is presenting two new candidates for the BoD who went through the discernment process with the NC and were deemed to be suitable candidates. You will find their names and personal profiles at the end of this report, along with three existing BoD members and three NC members slated for re-election. This year, Jeff MacLeod is seeking election as Chair of the BoD, as Jeff Jantzi is stepping down from this position. Karen West is slated for re-election as Vice-Chair.

The nomination process takes time and prayerful discernment. Potential board members also need to prayerfully consider whether they have the necessary time and resources to accept a nomination. Therefore, it is important to start the nominating process early in the year. The NC is asking our member churches to begin the discernment process now by

prayerfully considering candidates who could serve on the BoD in 2022. Nominating gifted and qualified individuals who can serve on the board is one way that our churches collaborate with each other and bless the conference as a whole.

The NC would like to thank this year's candidates for their willingness to let their names stand for election. The NC also wishes to thank our outgoing Chair, Jeff Jantzi, as well as our outgoing board members, Shelley Campagnola and Rafiqua Masih, for their years of dedicated service.

Recommendations (Motions):

- (1) That Jeff MacLeod be acclaimed for the position of Chair of the BoD.
- (2) That Karen West be acclaimed for the position of Vice-Chair of the BoD.
- (3) That all candidates for Member-at-large BoD positions be acclaimed.
- (4) That all candidates for the NC be acclaimed.
- (5) That the election ballots be destroyed upon adjournment of this AGM.

Peace in Christ,

Tabitha VandenEnden
Chair, Nominating Committee

2021 Slate of Candidates for the Board of Directors:

Chair: Jeff MacLeod
Vice-Chair: Karen West
Members-at-large: Mandy Kasper, Michelle Knowles, Michael Meinema, Tamille Richardson, Doug Valerio

2021 Slate of Candidates for the Nominating Committee:

Members: Jeff Martens, Bill Stubbs, Tabitha VandenEnden, Terry Shuh

NEW CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

Nominee Profiles



Tamille Richardson

- Associate Pastor of Community Life and Spiritual Formation – Evergreen Heights Christian Fellowship
- Ministry Experience: Life Groups, Spiritual Formation, Community Engagement, previous leadership in Youth and Family Ministries
- Education: Outtatown Discipleship Program, BA (Hons) in Psychology, MDiv
- Other experience/work: Community Mental Health Work, Case Management at a Women's Shelter
- Spiritual Gifts: Teaching, Mercy, Leadership



Doug Valerio

- Lead Pastor, Manotick Community Church (Manotick, Ottawa)
- Church Experience: Small Group Leader and Co-Ordinator; Bible College Director and Tutor (Cert IV in Ministry, Diploma in Marketplace Ministry); Assistant Pastor (UK); Executive Pastor (Australia); Church Board Secretary and Treasurer
- Education: MA Christian Studies (Leadership Major)
- Other Experience: 2 social business startups; Secretary of Minister's Association (Australia); Former credentialled Pastor with the Australian Christian Churches. Current Board Secretary for Manotick Village Community Association and Secretary/ Chaplain for a local Christian Motorcycle Ministry.
- Spiritual Gifts: Teaching, Leadership, Tongues, Prophecy.

BOARD MEMBERS FOR RE-ELECTION 2021

Nominee Profiles



Jeff MacLeod: Chair

- Lead Pastor – Evergreen Heights Christian Fellowship, Simcoe
- Church Experience: pastor with various roles and responsibilities
- Education: Ministerial Diploma (Summit Pacific College), Masters of Divinity (Tyndale Seminary), Addiction Studies Diploma (McMaster University)
- Other Experience/work: led four short term mission opportunities, previous chair of board with Southwestern Ontario Youth for Christ, Director of Addiction & Shelter services with a Christian Mission Organization in Hamilton, has served four years on the ONMB Board of Directors
- Spiritual Gifts: Leadership, Teaching



Karen West: Vice-Chair

- Pastor Emeritus – WMB Church (Waterloo)
- Church experience: Various ministry positions – Pastor of Small Groups & Adult Ministries; Pastor of Care & Connections; Pastor of Community Care; Pastor of Missional Initiatives; Associate Lead; Senior Leadership Team; Preaching Team; Lead Pastor's Executive Team, Ontario M.B. Conference Board of Faith & Life; Ontario M.B. Conference Board of Church Extension; Ontario M.B Conference Board of Directors Chair & Provincial Moderator; Canadian MB Conference Executive Board Ontario Representative
- Education: Bachelor of Religious Education in Pastoral Studies, and Masters of Divinity
- Other experience/work: small business owner, legal secretary, refugee ministry
- Spiritual gifts: leadership, teaching, preaching, wisdom, discernment

BOARD MEMBERS FOR RE-ELECTION 2021

Nominee Profiles continued



Mandy Kasper: Member-at-Large

- Spiritual Practices Pastor - Southridge Community Church (St. Catharines)
- Church ministry experience: YWAM, Youth Pastor, Worship Pastor, Leadership Development & Training, Associate Pastor
- Spiritual Gifts: Leadership, Preaching/Teaching, Administration, Encouragement



Michelle Knowles: Member-at-Large

- Director, Global Outreach & Refugee Ministry – WMB Church (Waterloo)
- Church Experience: served on pastoral staff team for eight years, member of WMB Church for 14 years. Currently a church-planting apprentice with Multiply, together with her husband Adam.
- Education: MA – Transformational Leadership, Bethel Seminary; BA – Kinesiology & Phys Ed, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Previous Experience/Work: Served with the ONMB Board of Directors, 2012-2015; Nominations Committee 2017-2019; parliamentary teams for provincial or national gatherings. Served in leadership with many short-term mission teams, including various programs and events with Multiply, with her church's soccer outreach ministry, and other church ministries.
- Spiritual Gifts: Leadership, Discernment, Prophecy, Wisdom/Knowledge



Mike Meinema: Member-at-Large

- Location Pastor - Southridge Community Church (Welland Location)
- Church experience: I have served, and in some areas continue to serve as a youth leader, worship band musician, life group leader, Alpha leader, and in outreach/action ministry.
- Education: M.Th (in progress), McMaster Divinity College; B.A., Calvin College
- Other experience/work: I am a former Christian school teacher, vice principal, and principal. I spent 15 years teaching and leading in both elementary and secondary schools.
- I am an avid reader and I love to continue to grow through professional development. I have studied things like Transformational Coaching recently to bring into our church environment, and I am slowly continuing with my studies in graduate school so I can be at my best for serving God and the church.
- Spiritual gifts: leadership, apostleship, and pastoring



CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2021

Nominee Profiles



Jeff Martens

- Outreach Pastor & Operations Director – Cornerstone Community Church (Niagara-on-the-Lake)
- Church Experience: Youth Pastor, children's ministries, outreach ministries, various church committees
- Other Experience/Work: various leadership roles at Camp Crossroads; over 1 year experience in global ministry throughout Asia & Africa
- Educational Background: Capernwray Harbour Bible School, Tyndale University
- Spiritual Gifts: Administration, Teaching, Wisdom



Bill Stubbs

- Retired – formerly Lead Pastor at Glencairn MB Church, Kitchener
- Church experience: Lead Pastor, Associate Pastor, OCMBC Faith & Life Team; currently Team leader of Glencairn's Congregational Care Team
- Education: BSc in Electrical Engineering, Th.M. in Bible Exposition, All classwork completed for D.Min. (dissertation uncompleted)
- Spiritual Gifts: pastor-teacher, helps, mercie



Tabitha VandenEnden

- Co-Pastor – Grantham MB Church, St. Catharines
- Church Experience: Co-pastor, music & worship leader, children's ministries, outreach ministries
- Education: MA in Theological Studies, Bachelor of Church Music
- Other experience/work: Beacon Christian School Board of Directors, Chapel Coordinator at Canadian Mennonite University, Regional Representative for World Vision Canada, Ministry Team Director at Heritage College & Seminary
- Spiritual Gifts: teaching, discernment, encouragement



Terry Shuh

- Retired - Business, client relations/sales, active member of WMB (Waterloo site)
- Church Experience: Leadership Board Chair (term ended October 2020), Home Group Leader, Usher/Greeter, Mentor. Two previous terms served with the ONMBC Board of Directors
- Spiritual Gifts: administration, discernment

ONMB Convention 2021

Camp Crossroads Update

Andrew Hiebert, Executive Director



Looking Back on 2020

Like all of you we at Camp Crossroads also experienced a very different year in 2020. In 2019 we had just over 4,000 campers, families and retreaters come to camp. This past year we had 13% of that number.

2020 started very well and we are grateful that we were able to serve 13 different Churches and a number of families through our winter retreats.

Spring and summer were incredibly quiet (too quiet). It was sad not having campers and retreaters come. It was also difficult to respond to the ongoing changes that Covid-19 brought.

However, despite these losses 2020 was also a year where we were inspired by your support and God's provision in incredible ways! We saw families and individuals come to volunteer their time to help manage the property. We saw former summer staff, LIT's, families, and churches give generously to support us financially. We had volunteer work crews come and move construction projects forward to make camp better for the next time you come. We also received encouraging notes and e-mails from people who were praying for us in the midst of it all. We are so grateful for you, our camp family, who helped us make it through 2020 and positioned us to serve you better in 2021!

2020 Summer/Fall Programs and Projects

- Ran a 1 week Horse Day Camp
- Hosted Family Fun Weekends from Labour Day to Thanksgiving
- Continued running a full Horse Program outreach including private lessons, trail rides and an After School Club
- Major construction work was done on the following areas: main water lines, our trail network, cabin 11 and 12, dining hall side entrance rebuild
- Launched an on-line Tuck shop
- Sold several items no longer needed (2 boats, 2 fifth wheel trailers, 2 vehicles etc.)



ONMB Convention 2021

Camp Crossroads Update
continued



Looking Forward

Here are two things we are excited about in 2021:

1. Creating and running camp programs once again.
2. Moving forward with construction projects to rebuild camp.

Upcoming Programs

On February 1 we will open up our on-line registration for family camp weekends in spring as well as 5 weeks of family camp for July/August.

On April 1 we will open up the remaining 4 weeks of the summer. Our hope is that we will be able to run overnight kids/youth camps in August. If COVID 19 restrictions do not allow us to run overnight kids camps we will open up the 4 weeks for additional family camps.

Upcoming Construction Projects

Our construction projects will be focussed on rebuilding cabins 3 and 4, our docks at the waterfront, and several other projects as time and resources permit.

Please pray for us in the following ways:

- Wisdom as we make decisions for camp in a year with many unknowns
- Provision to continue to meet our fixed costs
- Hiring seasonal staff to run spring/summer programs

Supporting Camp

Please visit www.campcrossroads.com for more information. If you want to support camp in prayer or with donations please contact us by phone (705) 762-3111 or e-mail info@campcrossroads.com.

Hopefully we will see you this summer!



CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

CMU Mission

Canadian Mennonite University is an innovative Christian university, rooted in the Anabaptist faith tradition, moved and transformed by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Through teaching, research, and service CMU inspires and equips women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.

2020-21 Enrolment

902 Full-time equivalent

690 Shaftesbury campus (628 FTE)

611 Undergraduate

79 Graduate

76% Manitoba; 24% other provinces and international

83 International students, 28 countries

274 FTE Menno Simons College

(CMU programming in Conflict Resolution and International Development at UW)

Church-Rooted University

Undergraduate degree programs

in Arts, Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, Biblical and Theological Studies (BA majors in BTS and Christian Ministry), Music, Business, Communications & Media.

Graduate degrees feature MBA, Peacebuilding and Development, and Seminary programs.

Biblical and Theological Studies (BTS)

Eighteen credit hours of BTS in all undergraduate degrees.

Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM)

Anabaptist-Evangelical Seminary learning in a Canadian university context.

Three degree streams:

MA Christian Ministry

MA Theological Studies

Master of Divinity

Chapels centred on Hebrews 11:1-3
"By Faith we Understand"

Live-Streaming: Access Xplore courses, Face2Face conversations, ReNew pastors resourcing ... wherever you are!



Greetings from Canadian Mennonite University

The challenges of a global pandemic have highlighted the quality of education offered by CMU. Visit media.cmu.ca/cmu-faculty-reflections to watch videos of faculty reflecting on courses described below.

Sundar John Boopalan, Assistant Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies, *Reading the Bible as a Witness to Liberation*:

In exploring the Biblical witness, we discovered how God's liberation encompasses all of who we are, including our personal, spiritual selves and our social-structural lives.

Rachel Krause, Assistant Professor of Biology, *Introduction to Global Health*:

Studying global health, immunity, ethics, human rights and vaccines became highly relevant for students in the midst of our global pandemic.

Anna Nekola, Assistant Professor of Music, *History of Gospel*:

While encountering the struggle and faith embodied in gospel music, several students composed new gospel hymns expressing their longing to connect with God's deliverance.

David Balzer, Assistant Professor of Communications and Media, *Introduction to Communications and Media*:

Expanding an audio interview to include family members about 'why studying communications is so important to their job?' led to fascinating insights.

Jobb Arnold, Assistant Professor Conflict Resolution Studies, *MSC*

Introduction to Conflict Resolution Studies: Exploring personal and community trauma and conflict related to the use of methamphetamines and opioids impacted students deeply. CMU's spiritual commitments were among the values and practices that resourced our study.

James Magnus-Johnston, Director, Centre for Resilience, Lecturer in Business, *Social Innovation Lab*:

Integrating theory, research, and practice, students partnered and proposed solutions for particular problems being encountered by different community organizations and businesses.

Irma Fast Dueck, Associate Professor of Practical Theology, *Introduction to Christianity*:

Understanding Christian faith 'from the bottom up' involved students listening to people from diverse backgrounds share how experiences of 'interruption' shaped their faith.

The words of Jaden Krahn (Environmental Studies Major, Outtatown graduate), 4th year, Calgary, AB: I continue to attend a Mennonite university because of the broader church and community that it connects me to. CMU is an academic community, a social community, and a community of faith—all commitments that are dearly important to me during these formative years of my life. CMU is a university where I have the chance to be who I am in a place of academic rigour, where weekly chapels, forums, fellowship groups, and professors help me to understand more of myself and who God is.

cmu.ca

2020 Update

Trevor Seath, Regional Director

Reflecting on 2020, God brought Ezra 3 to our team in a fresh way. After returning from exile, Israel holds a worship celebration as builders lay a new foundation for the temple. There's a great shout of praise but at the same time many who had seen the first temple start wailing in grief. As God is doing a new thing, there is a sense of loss and the community can't decide whether to rejoice or cry. This past year has felt a lot like that.

New things developed in 2020: we're discovering online ministry opportunities, thinking differently about time and work, and getting excited to see teams form and collaborate virtually. In the same moment, new challenges are confronting us: there's division over how to respond to government regulations, weaknesses are being exposed as some church members drift spiritually, and pandemic restrictions are pushing many to the brink.

It may feel like a strange time to think about church planting. Still, church planters are moving forward with fragile, new mission efforts right now! In the midst of the confusion and even fear, leaders are seeking Jesus and hearing His voice. And God is moving in ways that are life-giving and healing for us and for others.

STORIES OF PLANTING AND REPLANTING:



In 2020, the replanting story at Northend Church in St. Catharines has continued to unfold in a vibrant and dynamic way. It was a privilege to be invited by leaders at Fairview MB and to serve alongside Ed Willms in discerning and advising in the early steps of this process. Reflecting on how much has happened since then and how much vitality there is around Northend now is so encouraging. I'm thankful for Mike and Terrie Sherbino,

for Ed, and for the other members of the transitional board. Playing a small part in this story has been a privilege.

Meanwhile, in Ottawa's Alta Vista neighbourhood, there is so much to celebrate at Southeast City Church. David & Diana Hood started Southeast City Church (SECC) with a vision to reach their neighbours. Their team has been actively engaging with the community by hosting fun fairs, movies-in-the-park, conversation cafés, and other creative & fun ways to engage with folks. In the course of learning about needs in their neighbourhood, SECC uncovered that Ottawa Community Housing's Russell Gardens had been ignored and disconnected from the rest of the neighbourhood. Residents were lonely and discouraged.

ONMB Convention 2021

C2C Collective Update

continued

Southeast has been able to come alongside and befriend folks through offering foot clinics, games nights, and community meals. During COVID, they've partnered with a local food bank to make deliveries while also volunteering in a separate effort to deliver fruits and vegetables. They also organized "Balcony Bingo" as a creative way to encourage community during the pandemic.



The Chook Reids also have stepped into church planting with a deep personal knowledge of God's power to bring hope, strength, and joy in the midst of profound fear and struggle. Dan has undergone two rounds of cancer treatments in the same season when God has blessed Dan & Mel with their two boys. As Dan was beginning his church planting apprenticeship, there was a third

diagnosis of cancer and ministry plans had to be put on hold. As always, a call went out for prayer and God answered in a dramatic way: the tumour doctors had found had disappeared by the day of Dan's surgery! Throughout all the challenges, Dan & Mel have remained focused on a vision to reach out with the gospel in The Glebe in Ottawa. In late 2020, Dan led a group through ZUME training. ZUME is the Greek word for yeast and the training is built on a vision for ordinary people, using ordinary resources, having an extraordinary impact for the Kingdom of God. Family-friendly Advent services complimented this strategic equipping in prayer, discipleship, and evangelism. It's exciting to see Dan leading with faith and humility in these very early days for Bytown Community Church.



MINISTRY FOCUS:

C2C Collective is continuing to invest in church planters across Canada. We currently work with about 70 church planting couples and 13 apprentices nationally. This means we've supported these leaders through assessment, coaching, training, leadership development, task force leadership, and financial subsidy as required.

While relational investments are the key to how we serve, we are grateful as well for the opportunity to provide financial subsidies to church planting projects where that funding can be helpful. In 2020, we dispersed \$230,000 in financial support to 35 church planting projects across Canada, over 30% of our budget. For 2021, we have already committed \$210,000 in subsidies to 34 church plants.

Thank you for praying for our team and for the church planting teams that we support. Let's persevere in praying for vibrant kingdom fruitfulness through the multiplication of the Church in Canada!



Greetings to the ONMB Conference as it celebrates its 90th anniversary in such a unique time. As we've all experienced challenges, I trust we're rejoicing in the unique opportunities God has presented as he works out his "good, pleasing and perfect will"! Last year, the SLC wove the theme "It's Personal" into the fabric of our mission of "leading students to learn of Christ and live in Christ." God's presence impacted many lives as connections were deepened with students. Like our entire world, we never could have imagined being thrust into a landscape that fought against every effort to make ministry personal. We've lamented our lack of proximity to one another, but have been renewed by our intimacy with the Holy Spirit.

We've all had to practically understand protocols and restrictions, become accustomed to zoom calls, and we all wish we invested early as their stock rose 400%! But amidst it all, getting to wear shorts most days has its advantages!

In this season, we're feeling the loss of normal structures and conventions but I have to confess, there's something refreshing about having to step out of the comforts of what we're used to: to loosen our grip on the "normal" that we've tethered to. Now we all find some peace in familiar routines but they always seem to shift and change as new challenges arise...like a global pandemic! Thankfully we're not anchored to normal structures or familiar routines, and we don't come unhinged by our circumstances. Indeed, the life we have in Christ and the calling He has put before us can transform any life in any context. So we're excited about the new doors that God has opened and these aren't standard doors, but are like the doors on airplane hangars! This is who God is! He is not bound by our conventional structures or wisdom. He opens doors of original and unconventional opportunity! So what has that looked like for the SLC? Covid protocols have not allowed The First 25 (our



morning chapel) to gather so we started Encounter, a network of online life groups that are led by student leaders. There are about 30 student leaders, 10-12 local youth workers offering support, and roughly 90 students who meet each week to study God's Word and encourage one another in faith and life. The SLC has produced teaching videos that have included "Canvas" (encouraging students to embrace the opportunities within our new normal), "The Christmas You Never Knew" (shedding light on unique truths

within the Christmas narrative), and we're currently working on "Pathways" (discovering God's will and walking in it). It has been so exciting to see students take the time to connect virtually each week! We've also been running weekly drop-ins, providing more in-depth Bible studies and meeting with students 1:1 and in small groups. The needs to maintain



connection and community are greater than ever so please keep all of these ministry opportunities in your prayers.

Eden High School is now over 1100 students with a growing demographic who do not share a Christian worldview. These are exciting times and we're encouraged by student leaders who are witnessing to their peers, but it presents increased funding challenges. In September, we were not able to have a physical registration week so our funding dropped dramatically

from 2019. We were blessed with a banquet in 2019 that brought in over \$48,000 and with continued donations in the fall of 2019, the SLC was sustained through the spring lockdown, allowing our staff to make virtual connections with students in a vital season. Due to low funding in the fall of 2020, we have made the necessary decision to use an emergency fund to support our work. We hope to reach the registration season of September 2021, where our funding support will determine what our staff and ministry will look like moving forward. This past November featured our virtual banquet which raised over \$44,000 and December brought generous donations that have helped sustain us, but we are praying for renewed support, particularly from our parent community, to ensure we are able to serve beyond 2021. For a comprehensive funding projection, please visit slceden.com.

Amidst the challenges, God has been so faithful in his provision and we are at peace knowing that the SLC is his ministry! I would like to thank our partner churches; Cornerstone Community Church, Scott Street Church and New Hope Church, who are supporting us financially and resourcing our ministry through practical service and prayer. We are seeking to build a partnership with more churches so if you're interested, please let me know!

As I close, I'd like to thank the SLC team as they have served faithfully and tirelessly in this challenging season. Alicia Janzen, Meghan Plett, and Ethan Braun. It's a privilege to work with such a great team who cares passionately for the souls of high school students. I would also like to thank the Eden Advisory Board, Briar Wiens (chair), Eric Alguire, Peter Smith, Leonard Janzen and Charles Koop for supporting and encouraging this amazing ministry!

Finally, I would like to thank the ONMB Conference for their support and encouragement. May God richly bless each ministry this coming year and beyond! Again, if you want to stay updated on the SLC, please go to slceden.com.



On behalf of the SLC and EAB,

John Bryan
SLC Director



2020 IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

We began 2020 with 2 Peter 1:4, recognizing that we are **"part of the divine nature."** As the year progressed and the pandemic spread, all planned activities, events, and visits were canceled and regular travel was halted, and we noticed how vulnerable we and all our plans are. This tiny virus put a halt to much of our plans and we were helpless to stop it. Through it all, we were reminded there is an Almighty God, through whose divine nature we can endure all challenges. Our plans may have been thwarted, but not God's plans, purposes, love or care.

As an ICOMB Global Family we have been active during this time: living our vision, gathering online to celebrate and share, and taking important steps forward on the path to growth.

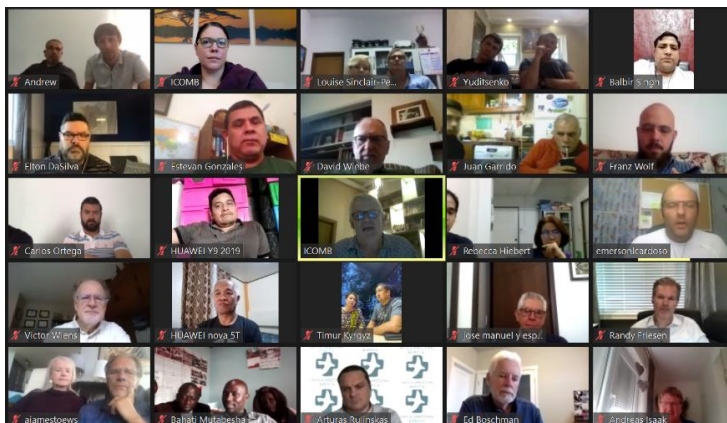
ICOMB member conferences have had both shared and unique experiences during this challenging year. Andreas Isaak from Bavaria, Germany writes: "I send devotions via text messages a few times week to more than a hundred people. They sometimes forward them to others with the help of social media. I have heard that people came to know Jesus in other parts of the country through these devotion messages." Other conference leaders have reported similar blessings from this new way of connecting and ministering.

However, there is a great deal of pain in many of our conferences. From Malawi we read: "Some of our members are infected and have to stay in isolation but have no food. Most of our members cannot afford face masks and soap." The Panamanian conference lost long-time and respected leaders this year due to the virus.

Most of the conferences in ICOMB live in this space of tension between opportunity and sorrow. As ICOMB leadership we pray for wisdom to navigate these waters together with member conferences.

SUMMIT ONLINE

Unfortunately the annual Summit planned in Brazil for June was not possible, but we were able to improvise and meet online. Some members were unfamiliar with the new technology or limited by their internet capacity but we were able to provide technical support to ensure everyone could join. Through meeting online, we have been able to meet with emerging conference leaders and young leaders that would normally not be able to afford to travel to Summit. However, due to a wide range of time zones, online meetings must be brief, and cannot replace the connections formed in person. 2020 has given us a breadth of connections with new leaders, but we have not been able to connect in depth.



We don't know when we will be able to meet face to face, or how the pandemic will impact us long term, but we have been moving forward regardless, looking into the future, setting goals, and creating ways to live out ICOMB's vision.

FACING THE FUTURE

ICOMB leadership has been preparing a way for conferences to work together in this season of ministry, which we will present to the delegates at the end of March for processing. In June, we plan to have our Summit, either in Paraguay, online, or a combination of the two, depending on travel restrictions. Regardless of how we meet, we will make decisions for the future together and set our sail to the wind of the Holy Spirit. We trust that God will give us the needed wisdom and strength to navigate purposefully in this unique time.

ICOMB IN CANADA

We are pleased to report that ICOMB Society (Canada) is a new charity registered as of June 2020. We received official notice from CRA in mid-November. We are in the process of disengaging officially from CCMBC. Elton DaSilva is the new charity's treasurer along with 2 other directors.

This entity is the first legal identity in all of ICOMB, and thus represents the beginning of "visibility" and a new level of responsibility. We expect to be able to raise funds more easily; CCMBC and Canadian churches will now have a smoother path to support this level of the Mennonite Brethren Church.

ICOMB thanks CCMBC for its generous support over the years. We expect to maintain a close relationship going forward.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

In 2020 we saw a significant drop in conference contributions and in funds raised from individuals and churches, due to economic difficulties in many parts of the world. Thankfully, we were able to cut expenses due to cancelled travel and Summit meetings. We are grateful to God and to the donors that have made it possible balance our budget this year. Looking toward the future, we are aware that many member conferences will continue to be hard hit economically and it will affect their budgets and contributions to ICOMB. We continue to rely on donations from individuals and churches toward the global family.

ICOMB is thankful for the support of CCMBC and of Canadian churches and individuals. Canadian members have supported through finances, encouragement, prayers, suggestions, and much more, and we deeply appreciate this sign of love and support for the global family.

The global family and ICOMB leadership continue to pray for the Canadian conference: for a strong trust, closeness and common purpose between all Mennonite Brethren churches in Canada.

PLEASE PRAY

- For wisdom to navigate this challenging time.
- For discernment on how to support the member conferences.
- For a clear vision of how God wants ICOMB to move ahead.
- For the financial resources to support education, training, strengthening, connecting and expanding the Global Family.

*ICOMB exists to
connect, strengthen,
and expand
conferences for
Christ-centered
mission.*



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

Go to www.icomb.org to sign up for the monthly ICOMB Update

Like us on Facebook.com/icomb

ONMB Convention 2021

Leaders Collective Update

Robyn Serez, Director



Highlights this year:

The fourth cohort for Leaders Collective began with a foundational retreat up at Camp Crossroads, in September 2019. The staff team for our first retreat comprised of representatives from a number of our churches: Tamille Richardson from Evergreen Heights who joined the Leaders Collective leadership team, Josh and Jess Klassen from Cornerstone, Paul Chin, Renée Serez, Philip and Robyn Serez from WMB, Ed Willms from Northend and Kristi Lee, staff of ONMB.

I list these friends, because they represent one of the valued outcomes in Leaders Collective, Building Community. Not only did our staff team represent a number of our regional churches, the cohort itself drew from two internship programs (Behta Darya and WMB) as well as individuals from Cornerstone, New Hope, WMB and Glencairn. There were 17 participants in total.

Although the ability to gather for community building was curtailed because of COVID-19, the cohort was able to meet both in September and again at the February Convention where they interacted with the general event to a greater extent than they had in the past. In April we held our first ever Zoom retreat – meeting for 3 evenings for 2 hours each to hear from each other, receive teaching from Ed Willms' lessons on the Camino, Robyn Serez on Sustainable Resilience in ministry and on Disciple-making movements with Derek Parenteau. The group also had daily devotional reflections and activities to present to each other in the evenings based on their reflections. This online retreat became a highlight in an otherwise challenging season for the program.

The gathering portion of Leaders Collective was deeply missed. The value of connection and community-building for mutual support in ministry and life is not to be underestimated. And it was disappointing to cut the year short without a final in-person retreat. But the gift of coaches who remained consistent was very significant and the debrief reports from coaches as they reflected back on the year were truly impactful.

-September in-person retreat where each cohort member shared their faith journey and was surrounded by commissioning prayer. Josh Klassen led in worship followed by foundational teaching on cultivating a devotional life with Tamille Richardson. A call to a Spirit-surrendered life by Philip Serez was followed by a "Dragon's Den" collaborative game that brought out team dynamics in the group.

-February Convention

-Studying Soul Care by Rob Reimer with their individual coaches. This book enabled participants to delve into their identities and recognize those places where God is inviting holistic health.

-April online retreat

-Countless conversations via messaging threads to encourage each other during a season where many of the church ministries that they participated in were shut down.



Leaders Collective did not start a new cohort in September or 2020. We are taking this opportunity to consider the best ways to accompany the younger leaders within the ONMB family. If you have any ideas for how you would like to see Leaders Collective develop and resource the emergence of our leaders, we would love to hear from you.

ONMB Convention 2021

Leaders Collective Update continued



Here again are the five key areas where Leaders Collective seeks to impact participants:

Clarity Calling:

- Dealing effectively with uncertainty
- Making wise decisions
- Discerning ministry opportunities
- Addressing transitions in location. Life and maturity

Develop Christian Character:

- Listening to the Holy Spirit
- Growing spiritually
- Reducing stress
- Learning to pray strategically
- Consistent investment in Scripture

Expand Competence:

- Setting better goals
- Leading more effectively
- Maximizing ministry impact
- Dealing effectively with uncertainty
- Developing and honing ministry skills

Build Community:

- Improving relationships
- Developing listening and sharing skills

Impact Culture:

- Reaching others for Christ
- Maximizing ministry impact
- Leading more effectively

Our themes verse comes from John 3:30,

“He must become greater; I must become less.”

In a season where leadership is more often defined by who is following you, and how great that following is, we are reminded that it all begins with the One we follow. We are each of us invited to follow Jesus. Who comes behind us, and who watches us, will be defined by how we ourselves have chosen to follow Jesus.

Robyn Serez

Leaders Collective Director



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



As the MB Church of Canada's National Seminary, our mission is to educate and equip men and women to lead the church and reach the world. Yet, leadership is not only for those in or aiming for professional ministry. Regardless of where you are in your journey as a disciple of Jesus, MB Seminary has **something for everyone** to help equip you along the way. From our biannual devotional series to events on relevant topics and courses in graduate theological education, MB Seminary aims to shape leaders and change lives wherever they may be. Join us. We can make a difference as we, together, navigate faith and life in the complex world in which we live.



ENHANCING

Leaders never stop learning. Whether it is pursuing a degree or auditing a relevant course, MB Seminary can help enhance your ministry. For instance, Johnny is the pastor of Discipleship and Life Groups at Eastview Community Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and he is currently working toward his MA degree at MB Seminary. When asked how his seminary studies help him in his role, he responded, "I often find that what I am learning **inspires the ministry I am a part of at Eastview.**"



EDUCATING

Churches need leaders, and one of our core values is to help educate and shape leaders both formatively and theologically. Nolan is one such leader who has a clear call to ministry and is preparing by studying with MB Seminary. Unable to relocate to learn, our online courses make it possible for him to attain a seminary education. Nolan loves his studies, especially the ability to dive deeply into theological topics and wrestle with how they come together in "real life." He says his **"classes at MB Seminary have been some of the best he's ever taken."**



DISCERNING

Discerning God's call can be one of life's most profound experiences. Recently, April, a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist in Ontario, explored whether God is calling her to bi-vocational ministry. To help her, she enrolled in our Christian Leadership course online with MB Seminary. She says, "the course I took ***gave me the in-depth teachings and tools I needed in order to deepen my understanding*** of Christian leadership and how to apply my gifts both in my personal and professional life."



EQUIPPING

We've all asked the question about how our faith should shape our view on a given issue. Our new medium, **"Navigate: Faith and Life with MB Seminary,"** is designed to help answer those questions. Our first event in November equipped our MB family across the country to engage with the question of what our response should be to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). One participant said, "All three of the presenters had prepared very well and with the solid biblical and theological presentations of Doug and Brian, and the careful words of Gloria about the experience of working with people preparing to die, ***anyone listening had a very rich experience.***"

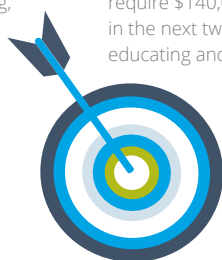


UNFOLDING

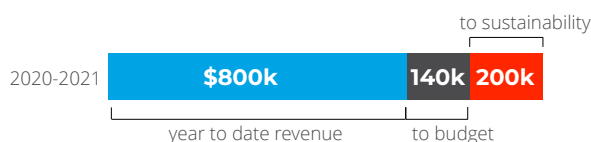
Each year, as Christians celebrate Lent and Advent, MB Seminary produces our biannual devotional designed to help readers engage, reflect and be transformed by the Scriptures. Inspired by Psalm 119:130, where **"the unfolding of your word brings light,"** authors from across our MB family offer daily insight and encouragement to over a thousand readers, introducing them to Jesus, or strengthening them in their spiritual journey.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Like any non-profit, managing finances amidst a pandemic is a huge challenge. Last spring, our Board of Directors initiated a 24-month Financial Restructuring Plan, requiring approximately \$375,000 to be cut from the operating budget over two years. By aligning the Seminary's income with its expenditures, we are confident that this plan ***will lead to a sustainable and stable financial future.***



As we approach our fiscal year end on May 31, we are continuing to work toward sustainability. We're grateful that, as of December 31, revenues of \$800,000 have exceeded budget. Thank you for your generosity! However, we still require \$140,000 to meet our 20-21 financial budget, and an additional \$200,000 to meet our sustainability goals in the next two years. ***Your continued financial support is vital and necessary*** to help us carry out our mission of educating and equipping men and women to lead the church and share the good news of Jesus Christ.



When we partner together, your support enables us to live out this mission and fulfill our vision of making the Seminary and its resources available to every interested pastor and individual in an MB church across Canada and around the world. That interest takes various forms—from studying for a graduate degree to engaging in continuing education or becoming equipped for serving as a volunteer. There is **something for everyone** at MB Seminary, and your support makes ***shaping leaders and changing lives*** possible.

We are grateful for the strong financial support received from across the country; thank you!

BY THE NUMBERS

91

2019/20 Enrolled Students

157

NAVIGATE Participants

1090

Devotional Readers

January 27, 2021

Dear friends at Mennonite Brethren Churches in Ontario,

So many things have changed in our world and in our communities this year. We've faced unprecedented challenges not only to our economy and our physical and mental health, but also in our relationships. And in the midst of all that we've faced here in Ontario, I've watched you step up and step into the need.

You've found new ways to continue to meet the evolving needs of people in your congregations and communities. It's certainly been challenging, but your creativity and willingness to step out of your comfort zones to care for those around you has been inspiring to witness. And despite these difficult adjustments to new ways of being and living out your mission, you've continued to support the broader ministry of MCC. Thank you!

As a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, MCC continues to share God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. We are deeply grateful for the way you are continuing to impact lives around the world by responding to these needs through MCC and our partner organizations.

This year you have provided soap, water, food and personal protective equipment so desperately needed in the midst of an evolving pandemic. In Syria, 18,000 COVID-19 kits were distributed to 9,000 households. In Mexico, shelters in Sonora and Chiapas are using emergency funds for medical supplies, food and information sessions about physical and mental health care. And right here in Ontario isolated First Nation communities received masks, hand sanitizer and much-needed hygiene supplies. These are just a few of the ways your generosity is saving lives today.

Watch this [short video from Mark Epp](#), MCC's Director of International Program, to learn more about how MCC is responding during a global pandemic.

Thank you for your continued trust and commitment as we build this work of MCC together. I am profoundly grateful for each of you!

Peace be with you,



John Head,
Executive Director

P.S. Included with this letter is an infographic sharing some of the 2020 MCC highlights in Ontario and around the world. Let us know if you would like copies to share with your congregation. This infographic is also available online at mcco.ca/year-at-a-glance.



**Mennonite
Central
Committee**

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(519) 745-8458

mcco.ca

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

2020

ONTARIO

YEAR GLANCE

AT A

INTERNATIONAL

51 countries
511 partners
619 projects
1,134 workers

Global Service and Learning participants

YAMEN	33
IVEP	24
SALT	39
Seed	13
Summerbridge	14
SOOP	45

United States
205 MCC workers

Canada
475 MCC workers*

Europe & the Middle East
54 MCC workers

Asia
158 MCC workers

Africa
152 MCC workers

Latin America & the Caribbean
90 MCC workers

fiscal 2019/2020

COVID-19 RESPONSE



1,899 individual health staff and volunteers provided with personal protective equipment for COVID-19 prevention

109,849 people received emergency food assistance

11,400 people in Chad received hygiene supplies and access to safe drinking water in efforts to cushion the spread of COVID-19

200 Syrian and Palestinian child refugees received psychosocial support in Lebanon

ONTARIO PROGRAMS



MATERIAL RESOURCES

Relief aid shipped from our Ontario warehouse included:

2,564 comforters
2,380 relief kits
7,600 hygiene kits
2,310 school kits

MIGRATION & RESETTLEMENT

182 refugees sponsored by 67 groups

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Supported 80 individuals returning to community from prison

165 people received tools to intervene when they are witness to abusive, isolating or stigmatizing behaviour

WALKING WITH PEOPLE IN POVERTY

7 Raw Carrot Soup staff members made 10,760 cups of soup

42 Circle of Friends program participants

324 Living Wage employers

INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS

In response to spring floods, 2,000 hygiene kits sent to Kashechewan First Nation

2,400 pandemic response kits and 3,000 masks sent to First Nations communities to help prevent the transmission of COVID-19

7,000 bottles of sanitizer distributed to urban and remote Indigenous communities

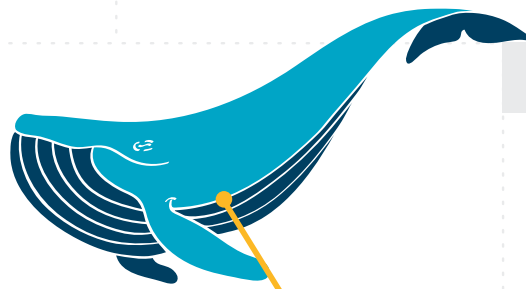
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

IN A YEAR

MCC Thrift Shops in Ontario helped divert from landfills

600,000
cubic feet of material

That's the same size as...



76 blue whales

RELIEF SALES



The New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale "100 quilts for 100 years" live online auction raised over \$85,000.



Many relief sales were cancelled in 2020, but the My Coins Count program was still able to raise over \$580,000! That is a lot of nickles and dimes.

Mennonite Disaster Service Canada REPORT



A great encouragement to our congregation and a catalyst for ministry..."

That's what Rob Patterson, pastor of the Scott St. Mennonite Brethren Church in St. Catharines, Ont. said about what a grant from the Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Canada Spirit of MDS Fund meant to his church during the pandemic.

The church used the funds to provide about 500 meals for nearby families experiencing food insecurity because of COVID-19. "The grant allowed us to get the program up and running, helping with food purchasing and promotion," says Patterson.

He added it "made us feel that we are part of the larger Mennonite cause, both in St Catharines and around the world. This kind offer of support from MDS has been a real blessing, and in turn, allowed us to be a blessing to the larger community."

Scott St. was one of 80 congregations or other ministries in Canada that received \$1,000 grants or more from the Fund this year to respond to pandemic needs in their communities.

Due to the pandemic, MDS was unable to do its regular programs of repairing

and rebuilding homes for people impacted by natural disasters in the U.S. and Canada. Through the Fund we could support churches on the frontlines of responding to this huge pandemic disaster—supporting their efforts to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their communities.

Although the pandemic curtailed our regular programs in Canada, and prevented Canadians from going to the U.S. to volunteer, we were able to help flood victims in Fort Vermillion, Alta. clean out their houses, and rebuild one house in 70 Mile House, B.C.—all done following strict health and safety protocols to keep volunteers

and members of the community safe.

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13:13:

"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love."

During this challenging year we experienced God's faithfulness as we brought hope to people struggling because of disaster, showing them the love of Christ that is in our hearts.

—Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations



Bob Ratelle does cleanup in the kitchen at Scott Street Church in St. Catharines, Ont., after making meals made possible by support from the MDS Canada Spirit of MDS Fund.

The MDS budget year runs from August 1 to July 31. In 2019-20, **6,048** volunteers from across Canada and the U.S. gave their time, skills and compassion to build **79** new homes, complete **280** repairs, and finish **91** cleanups for households who experienced a disaster. That volunteer labour was valued at **\$13.6** million. In Canada, we finished up a project rebuilding or repairing **15** houses in Grand Forks, B.C.; built or repaired **5** houses in Renfrew, Ont.; and built two new homes following fires in Marquette, Man. and Newfoundland.



**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**

mds.mennonite.net

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Mission is Alive in ONMB Churches

Multiply Eastern Canada brings greetings to our brothers and sisters in Ontario as we reflect on this past year. COVID-19 may have shut down in-person gatherings and programs, but it hasn't shut down the movement of God through his Spirit! What a time of adaptation and dependence. "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken" (Psalm 16:8).

There have been unexpected gifts this year. Going online with Zoom opened up availability and access for many more to engage with and learn about Multiply's global work. Biweekly **Global Partnership calls** connected our churches and partners as we heard stories, asked questions, and joined in prayer with our national workers and Multiply family.

In the spring, we were able to develop and offer an online course for churches called *Living on Mission in Times of Crisis*. A number of our Ontario pastors and leaders joined with Multiply workers to consider God's invitations to mission in such challenging times.

Short-term trips that were planned to partner ministries were postponed due to travel restrictions. Kingsfield-Zurich MC was the last church to visit their Thai partner church plant, little knowing that weeks later borders would close.

However, borders were wide open for a video sermon that Philip Serez and global workers prepared for the region this summer. We are so thankful that over a dozen churches were able to use it, and for the Q&A's and opportunities to connect with smaller groups through online platforms.

January 24-25, 2020 BC (before COVID-19), a group of 100 gathered at WMB church for the **AVOCAT** prayer training event. This year's plenary speaker, Andrew Plett (Mountain Park Church), gave theological foundations and practical activation on how to pray in unity with the Father's will, and how to speak in his authority over things that oppose it.

We have been learning together that prayer *is* ministry, not some prequel or addendum to our human plans. Since 2014, many have gathered at **AVOCAT** events to learn to listen to the Holy Spirit and equip prayer teams from our churches toward kingdom mission.



Multiply Eastern Canada, 208-50 Kent Avenue, Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1
519.886.4378 • 1.888.866.6267 • multiply.net

Here are some highlights from the team that you have sent and supported:

- » **WMB Church** has sent **Sarah Reed** to Austria, the only global worker to be sent by Multiply during the pandemic. We are so excited to launch a missionary during this time! Pray for her as she gets established.
- » **Kyla Sinclair-Peters** has seen God open doors to some key relationships this year as she serves in Toronto among the 'T' people group. Kyla is looking for an ONMB home church.
- » **Doug Hiebert** and his family were welcomed back to Canada from Burundi. He continues his work as Regional Team Leader for Sub-Saharan Africa from their new home in Niagara. **Cornerstone** is their church home.
- » **Derek Parenteau**, serving with First Nations, is encouraged with the narrative credentialing process that was pioneered this fall in conjunction with the NFLT. There are nine leaders going through the process with peer mentors from pastors and leaders in our churches. The Rugged Tree team is growing as FOCUS apprentices **Nick & Katelynn Bateman** and **René & Lisa Nyland** (already at their ministry sites) have almost completed their training and **Tom & Karen Bursma** continue as Global Servants (short-term). We are thankful for the group of churches that have gathered around this ministry of reconciliation.
- » **A & R N** report that a number of young adults have come to faith during this difficult time and there have been baptisms and ongoing discipleship.
- » **Somdy & Chanh Jusse** from **Meadowbrook** are one of our couples whose stay in Canada has been extended due to closed borders. He continues to preach and train leaders in the church plant in Phon Pisai, Thailand.
- » **Robert & Anne Thiessen** from **St Ann's** have also been unable to return to Mexico until early 2021, but God has used this time at home to invest in Spanish-speaking leaders at WMB Church to support their leadership development.
- » **Alex & Carla Suderman - WMB Church, Kitchener Site** have seen the launch of *PraesentKirche* in Dortmund, Germany. Their team has grown, and God is making his presence known there.
- » **Dave & Louise Sinclair-Peters**, also in Canada at this time, have been sharing the gift of coffee through Lighthouse Coffee, a "business as mission" focus that brings enterprise and the Gospel to rural people in Myanmar. Visit online: lighthousecoffee.roasters.ca
- » **Joanna (Pharazyn) & Jonathan Gutierrez** were married in October. Pray for open borders and visas for them to return to Portugal and continue serving with **Otto & Marjorie Ekk**.
- » **Sean & Judith Fast** from **Grantham MB** are in their first term serving among Burmese workers and learning the challenging Myanmar language.
- » **Doris Goertz** continues to serve in Japan building relationships through teaching English.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement with **local** (Diaspora and First Nations) and **global mission**. Although we are a sending agency, we are also a collaborating family. God has blessed us here in Ontario with the gift of journeying together on mission. Through your sending, praying, giving, and partnering we have seen God bring hope in the midst of adversity and light in darkness.

On a personal note, our team has experienced challenges this year. **Philip Serez** was diagnosed with ALS in December. We are deeply thankful for the prayers and care that our ONMB family has expressed. Thank you for walking and pressing forward with us. We see the goodness of God every day. "You crown the years with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance" (Psalm 65:11).

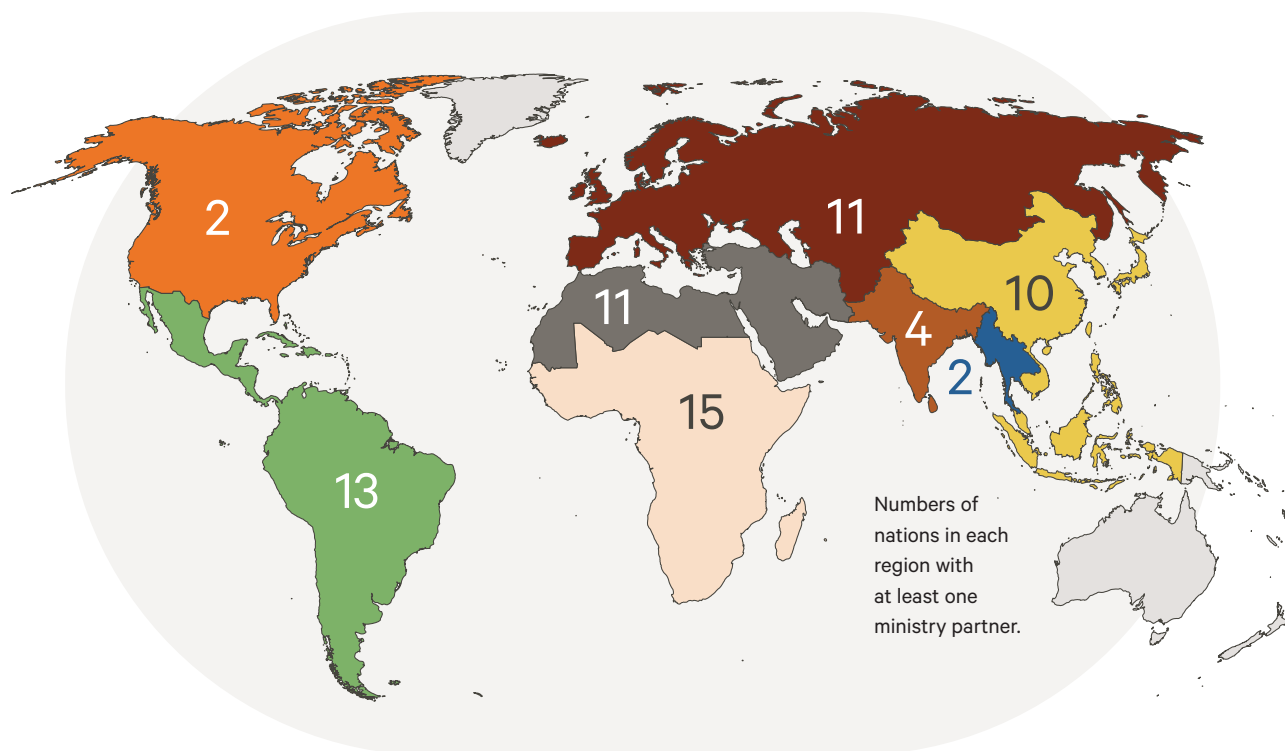
As we move into 2021, the call has not changed, the invitation has not been rescinded. Jesus still invites us to go. Would you ask yourself and your church this year, "Who will go? Who is sensing the leading of the Holy Spirit to move into the unknown, perhaps in their current occupation to another country, perhaps as a vocational missionary, perhaps in a short term context?" May God send out more workers from our region in the year to come.

Philip & Robyn Serez
Multiply Eastern Canada
philips@multiply.net
robyns@multiply.net

multiply 
together that the world may know

Let's Celebrate our Shared Impact in 2020

Working together to make Jesus known, we saw
377 churches planted and **5,560** people baptized in **68** nations
as reported by our
89 Global Workers* and **91** National Leaders



Facilitating mission engagement among U.S. and Canadian churches, we saw
463 people participate in mission and discipleship training
12 Global Partnership video calls, each with up to **74** participants
279 churches involved in global mission through Multiply

**Global Workers refers to Long-Term Missionaries sent from North America as well as International Partner Missionaries.*

You can find regional stories, ministry highlights and the full 2020 Impact Report at **multiply.net/2020report**

multiply 
together that the world may know

Financial Overview

Fiscal Year in USD: June 2019 - May 2020

Ongoing Operations

Revenue: \$ 9,785,509
Expenses: \$ 9,846,776
Net: (\$ 61,267)

Includes one-time internal restructuring expenses related to our ongoing Short-Term Mission Programs.

Discontinued Operations

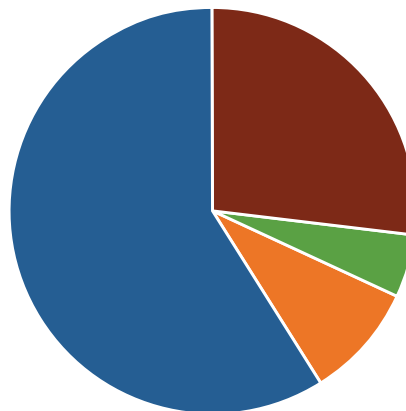
Revenue: \$ 397,483
Expenses: \$ 800,917
Net: (\$ 403,434)

Refers to de-merger revenues and expenses. Not shown in pie chart below.

How Your Gifts Were Put to Work

Cross-Cultural Mission Activities | 59%

Central & South America | 7%
 East Asia | 6%
 Europe & Central Asia | 14%
 Middle East & North Africa | 3%
 North America | 3%
 (Indigenous & Immigrants)
 South Asia | 2%
 Southeast Asia | 15%
 Sub-Saharan Africa | 4%
 Worldwide Initiatives | 5%



27% | Church Mission Engagement

16% | Church Partnership Support
 11% | Mission & Discipleship Training
 (includes Short-Term Mission programs)

5% | Missionary Care

Equipping & Team Health

9% | Administration

Finance, IT, Legal & Governance

Our Generous Donors

Individuals & Families

47%

Estates & Foundations

35%

12%

6%

Churches

Businesses

January 20, 2021

Mr. Ed Willms
Executive Director
Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
455 Geneva Street
St. Catharines, ON
L2N 2H2

RE: ANNUAL CONVENTION PREPARATION – RADIANT CARE

Dear Mr. Willms,

I am writing this letter to you to confirm a number of items our Board would like to move forward to the annual convention on February 19-20, 2021.

The proposed nomination slate of Directors is as follows;

Glen Unruh	Southridge Community Church - Glenridge
John Krause	New Hope Church
Dorothea Enns	Niagara United Mennonite Church
John Dyck	Cornerstone Community Church
Hal Klassen	Southridge Community Church - Glenridge
John Hay	Southridge Community Church - Glenridge
Christa Krause	Southridge Community Church – Glenridge
Nathaniel Braun	New Hope Church

Finally, please find attached a copy of Radiant Care's annual report.

With respect to formal recommendations our Board is requesting be presented to the delegates at Convention 2021, we respectfully submit the following;

1. That the 2021 proposed nomination slate of directors for Radiant Care be approved as presented.
2. That the persons elected to the Radiant Care Tabor Manor Board of Directors be the Board of Directors for:
 - Pleasant Manor Retirement Village (O/A Radiant Care Pleasant Manor)
 - Mennonite Brethren Senior Citizens Home Inc. (O/A Radiant Care Tabor Manor)
 - The Pleasant Manor and Tabor Manor Foundation (O/A Radiant Care Foundation)
 - The Pleasant Manor and Tabor Manor Support Association
 - The Radiant Care Support Association

3. That the auditing firm Crawford, Smith and Swallow be assigned for the fiscal year 2021-2022.
4. That the Board of Directors of Radiant Care in collaboration with the Ontario MB Board of Directors will continue to work to finalize a new governing Bylaw for Radiant Care. In the spirit of "bless and release" we are attempting to find the best path forward for both organizations. A joint recommendation will be brought to the 2022 ONMB AGM for delegate approval.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glen Unruh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Glen Unruh, President, Board of Directors
Radiant Care

Cc: Kristi Lee, Secretary, Ontario Conference of MB Churches

To provide with excellence, love, and dignity a full continuum of affordable housing and services to senior citizens.
We serve seniors who wish to live in a community of Christian faith.

NEW 2019-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Excellent, Top-Quality Client Experience



With more than 70% of residents in our Long-Term Care homes living with cognitive impairments, as well as many in our housing units, Montessori-based programs and activities have been incorporated into daily life at Radiant Care.

Most recently, Radiant Care has implemented in its Long-Term Care and housing programs, a cognitive stimulation therapy program called “Fit Minds.” With the implementation of Fit Minds, we have measured improvements in Mini Mental scores by up to 4 points, in some cases, and have measured decreases in responsive behaviours during and following engagement in the program.

Radiant Care’s Montessori-based programs are having a measured impact on the lives of seniors, and help us fulfil the promise we make to residents and tenants.

Human Resources Development



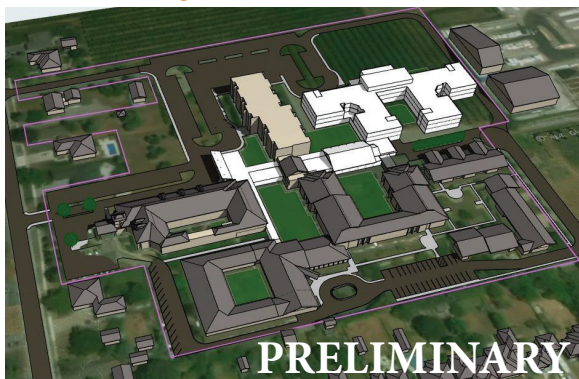
Our relationship with Brock University and Niagara College is strong and flourishing.

A “Living Classroom” was created in Tabor Manor’s former Long-Term Care home, through the retrofit of several old resident rooms into training labs.

A strong focus of our relationships with Brock University and Niagara College is on preparing students for work in the area of seniors’ services, thereby increasing the supply of employees for rewarding careers in health and aging.

Through a number of endeavours, Radiant Care has engaged its 350 employees to better understand why employees are choosing to remain employed at Radiant Care and why some are choosing to leave. Employee engagement efforts will help us create and enhance a culture of appreciation and recognition, thereby helping us fulfil the promise we make to our employees to be valued and treated with respect.

Methodically Planned Growth



We patiently await government’s decision on final bed count for the Pleasant Manor Long-Term Care redevelopment. Currently, we operate 41 beds and were awarded 81 bed licenses in 2018. We await confirmation of another 38 bed licenses in order to achieve the 160 beds Pleasant Manor was approved to build.

Radiant Care’s wait-lists for apartment living continue to grow, with over 2,000 people expressing interest in living at one of our sites.

Radiant Care’s Building Committee is commissioned to not only plan the building of a new Long-Term Care home at our Pleasant Manor site and to retrofit the existing Long-Term Care home into semi-independent living, but also to explore the building of a new apartment at our Tabor Manor site to address the burgeoning wait-list. This work has already started.

WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT!

How People Donate

Individuals and families supported Radiant Care homes in a variety of ways in 2019. Many residents and tenants chose to commit to a monthly donation and continue to do so. It is an easy and practical way to support our homes; the donation is an automatic withdrawal for added convenience, and can be designated to either home. As well, many chose to donate with an annual one-time gift. Some honoured the passing of a loved one with a memorial gift, while others are planning to include Radiant Care in their estate planning.

Why Donate

Donations from the Foundation are used to enhance and improve residents' and tenants' experiences through activities and events designed to reduce barriers and promote independence and integration with each other and their broader community beyond what can be achieved through the government and non-government funding received by Radiant Care. We call this 'Opening Doors for Seniors.' The focus of annual work of the Foundation is achieved through a process of resident, tenant, and employee engagement, and is approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

2019 OPENING DOORS FOR SENIORS

To our residents and tenants, we promise to provide them a home that is a familiar, faith-based and caring community where they know the people and culture, their independence is respected, daily needs are taken care of, where they are treated with love and dignity and they can enjoy peace of mind knowing they will always have a home and access to excellent care. To this end, the Foundation has opened doors for seniors in the following ways:



Spiritual Enrichment

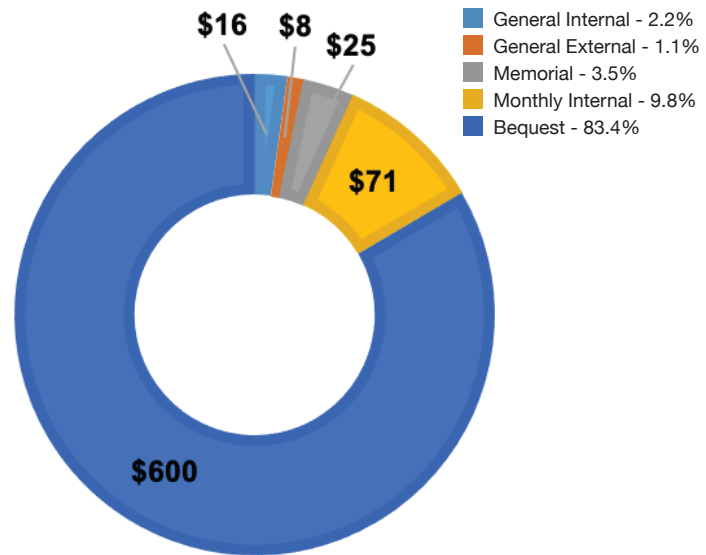
Our focus on spiritual enrichment is highly valued at Radiant Care. To help sustain the chapel services, one-on-one visitations, Bible Studies, and other faith-based activities, the Foundation continued to provide funding to ensure we are able to have a chaplaincy presence in both homes, on a full-time basis – not something we could offer by relying solely on government funding. Spiritual enrichment is a critically important thread woven into the fabric of daily life at Radiant Care.



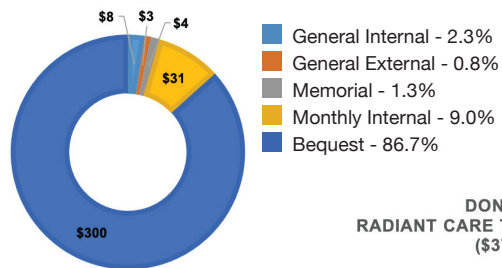
Culture and Music

The Foundation's 2019 focus for Opening Doors for Seniors revolved around providing a range of cultural and musical events including support for Farm Day and Heritage Day, our two large annual community events, as well as special entertainment by John Pebble, Walter Ostanek, Lincoln Concert Band, and the Sweet Harmony Choir.

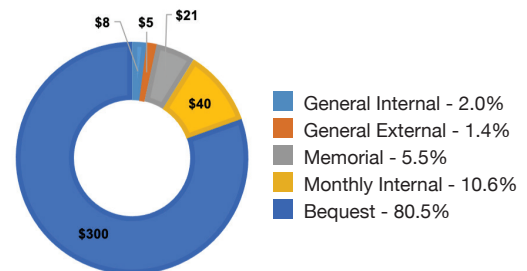
DONATIONS RADIANT CARE 2019 (\$718,960)



DONATIONS RADIANT CARE PLEASANT MANOR 2019 (\$346,200)

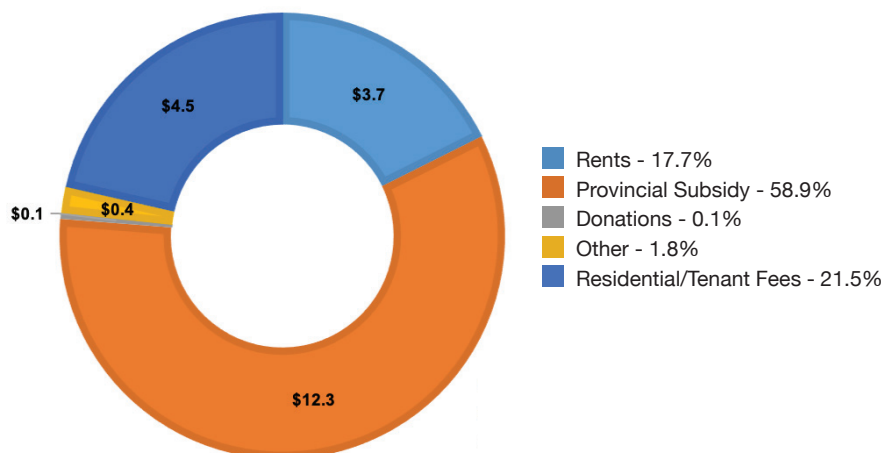


DONATIONS RADIANT CARE TABOR MANOR 2019 (\$372,760)

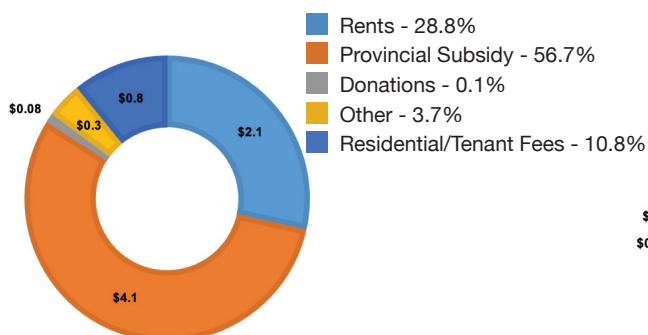


BUDGET OVERVIEW

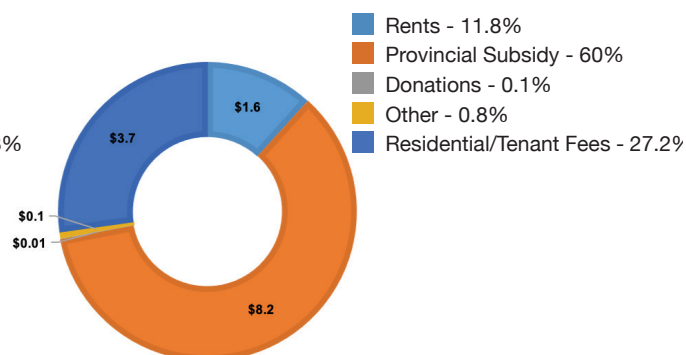
FUNDING SOURCES
RADIANT CARE 2019
(\$20,924,930)



FUNDING SOURCES
RADIANT CARE PLEASANT MANOR 2019
(\$7,207,080)



FUNDING SOURCES
RADIANT CARE TABOR MANOR 2019
(\$13,717,850)



How is the money put to use?

Wages and Benefits: In line with other homes in Niagara and our sector, the largest part of the budget, almost 85%, is used to pay the wages and benefits of our 350 employees - the lifeblood of our home. We are proud to pay competitive wages in line with other homes in Niagara.

Food: In our Long-Term care homes, part of the funding from the government is earmarked for food purchases. Our residents enjoy tasty and healthy meals and snacks, all accomplished with \$9.54 per resident per day

Facilities: This year, we completed major retrofitting with fire safety equipment (alarms and sprinklers), common area upgrades, property signs, new roofs at Pleasant Manor, and we continue to work on window replacement at Tabor Manor's Maplevue Apartment.

Programs: Life at Radiant Care is about more than just a place to sleep and eat. The budget includes provision for Therapeutic Recreation programs and activities, seasonal decor, trees, plants and flowers for the gardens, to name just a few.

Through every area of our spending, we are diligent and faithful stewards of the funding that has been entrusted to us.

VALLEYVIEW MANOR REPORT

Karl Hanson, Administrator

CONFERENCE REPORT

.....

Date: February 20, 2021

To: Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

From: Karl Hanson, Administrator

Re: Report from Valleyview Manor - 2020

.....

On behalf of the Board and residents of Valleyview Manor I bring greetings to the conference. It has been a very different and challenging year. I thank God that we have not had any cases of COVID at Valleyview Manor!

Residency

God has been faithful in meeting our needs. Our units are always occupied and we enjoy a healthy interest from individuals wanting to call Valleyview home. Our waiting list continues to grow and currently has 71 names on the 1-bedroom list and 21 names on the 2-bedroom list. (9 of those names are on both lists.)

Hospitality Suites

Valleyview is proud to provide three hospitality suites for residents to rent when they have family and friends come to visit. The suites are available to rent at a nominal fee of \$50 per night. In 2020 there was minimal revenue from the hospitality suites due to the fact that we stopped renting out these suites because of the pandemic.

Building Maintenance

Valleyview is now going into its seventeenth year. This means that we are seeing a number of things that require repair or replacement due to age. The next few years will see quite a few upkeep projects in order to maintain the building. One of these items was the replacement of the makeup air unit on the roof. This was replaced in January 2020.

Support Services

Community Care Concepts out of Elmira provide assisted living services to our residents in order that they may continue to live independently at Valleyview. They continue to make available a senior support worker from Community Care Concepts to assist our seniors on a pre-arranged appointment basis.

VALLEYVIEW MANOR REPORT

continued

Social Activities

Valleyview residents usually have a variety of organized activities available to them as listed below. However, due to the pandemic and lock down rules all of these organized activities have been cancelled until further notice. One exception to that is the Diner's Club.

Community Care Concepts has come up with an innovative solution to providing meals during this challenging time. The Diners Club, which usually meets in the multi-purpose room for a home-cooked meal, is now being provided twice a month on a delivery basis. Residents who have signed up in advance place a table or chair outside their apartment on the day of the meal and the ladies deliver the lunches to those residents.

Usual Activities

- a bi-weekly Bible study on Tuesday evenings, open to all interested parties
- a bi-weekly coffee hour for residents
- a weekly crafter social on Monday afternoons
- a weekly games night on Monday evenings
- a bi-weekly crokinole competition between residents and individuals from outside Valleyview
- an occasional movie night
- an occasional evening of singing by residents and/or groups who visit Valleyview
- "Diners Club" - Community Care Concepts provides us with a great home cooked meal for our residents who choose to attend. Residents may also invite friends to the luncheon which is a great opportunity for outsiders to see the facility and interact with its residents. The luncheon is held in our multi-purpose room on the first and third Thursdays of each month. There is a nominal fee for each person partaking of this meal.
- Community Care Concepts also provides residents with a certified exercise trainer two afternoons per week for a one-hour exercise program.

In addition to the organized activities listed above, residents also have the following available to them:

- Outdoor shuffleboard
- Billiards table
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Exercise room
- Ping pong table
- Library

SAYING YES: Summer Camps in 2020



We have been able to notice how different the world has been since COVID-19. We are all beyond aware of what has changed.

And yet summer is still summer. It's still kids at home, hot days, popsicles and endless days with less to do. Summer camps have always filled this space, creating joy and fun for kids who desperately need it. It creates care and support for kids whose families can't afford to be home with them, or who need stimulation. For both parents and kids seeing empty moments stretching ahead of them as summer comes again, COVID-19 may change our plans, but it doesn't change summer. It is still one of the best seasons to gather with family and friends, to enjoy the fruit of a long winter, to celebrate the change in season. Summer is still summer!

And so, for the MB churches of Ontario, many realized that camp could still be camp – even if it

would be entirely different. Scott Street Church put it this way: "In a 'normal' summer, day camps seem to be a super important thing for not only the kids that attend them, but also for parents who need alternative childcare and for young leaders who get an opportunity to develop their gifts and God-given talents. So, this summer was no different. We knew we wanted to run a camp, because COVID-19 or not, we knew God would be able to use it to build His kingdom. In one sense, this summer seemed to have an even greater urgency for a day camp program, because many kids were just stuck at home with much less social interaction than they usually have."

We sit in this space – of different, but the same; of change, but consistency; of challenge, but of opportunity. Camp required a major pivot – each church revising and re-visioning their camp. And, as ever, our creative, generous and merciful

God showed up, breathed new life through the Spirit and used camp to sprout buds of good news in the lives of campers, parents and staff.

SAYING YES: Making Camp Happen

The biggest hurdle was actually making it happen – taking all the questions and what-ifs and imaginings, and forming them into a plan. Northend Church reflects, "Camp was valuable enough to say yes, because it meant reaching kids in our community and teaching them about the love God has for each of them. In these hard, stressful times, camp meant connecting and building relationships with these kids when we have all been lacking relationship. We got to bring camp to the kids this summer and provide them with fun activities to do at home!"

But that didn't mean it was easy to do. At Northend, limited Canada Summer Jobs grants meant camp was going to have to scale down. But God brought about a different plan: "By the grace of God, Scott Street Church reached out to us and we began a conversation of collaborating this summer. They had 8 interns and we had all of the plans in place, so God truly was at work in this situation. After praying and asking God if this is what He wanted for us this summer, we said YES, and the preparation began."

For Meadowbrook Church, saying yes was a chance to engage an important opportunity: "This year we felt camp was valuable enough



SAYING YES:

Summer Camps in 2020



to do online because we wanted to engage with families to come alongside their kiddos and learn together at home. We will NEVER have another opportunity (yes I said opportunity!) to spend such uninterrupted time at home with our families and we wanted to use this time to grow families closer to each other, equip parents, and help them realize that every word and action they pour into their children has an eternal impact – and give them something fun to do together!” With this meaningful perspective, Meadowbrook was able to formulate a camp that took them right into the homes of campers, and disciplined parents as well. One parent discovered, “The fact is that I sat around and expected you and the church to do the legwork for me in this area and God has used this pandemic to open my eyes to how incredibly wrong I was! So, thank YOU for all of the work you have done and continue to put into our children and for always being awesome even when I left it all on your shoulders!”

At Cornerstone Community Church, it was a rollercoaster ride towards saying yes. “We didn’t know if we could do it, should do it, or what it would even look like if we did. Our camp structure is dependent on funding through the CSJ grant and they were very late in notifying us we were approved for funding. We were moving forward with a much smaller “camp in a box” style program until we heard. With the funding we were able to hire more students and start a youth drop-in center in part of our building that wasn’t being used.”

Each church had to do the work of finding that YES – trusting that in doing so, they would be able to put together an experience that impacted campers, parents and staff alike. And they found something incredible.

SAYING HELLO: Connecting Across Space and Time

Camp is definitely for the kids – that’s the heartbeat of camp, the pulsing fun. But it also breathes life into the leaders, the older-than-the-kids who show up (online or in-person) to make connections happen, share the good news and tell the unchangeable and unconditional truth to each child: they are loved.

It was leaders who had to manage the new connections and who had to connect to God in a new meaningful way. For the leaders of Scott Street, connection was found in trying new things and caring for one another. “Our leaders found new skills and talents while doing online camp that they might not have known if it was a ‘normal’ day camp. Some people who don’t consider themselves ‘kid people’ were able to connect in a meaningful way with the kids, partly because of the platform. We were also able to form a close-knit team that was able to support each other emotionally, care for each other’s needs, and form lasting friendships.”

Their partners at Northend noticed the same important growth in leaders, “Since we were beyond blessed with the interns and staff

at Scott Street Church, God truly showed us a way where we thought there was no way. He allowed us to grow together and build everlasting friendships. We grew in relationship with Him through devotionals, conversation, preparation, and team building days. We were able to put our full trust in Him that He would provide the money, families, and anything else we needed, and we were able to see this happen.”

What a lesson inside a pandemic – that there is a way forward. That in connection with one another, closing the space between programs and priorities, meaningful discipleship can be found. For all of the kids seen on a zoom screen – so much more was happening in the lives of the leaders behind the scenes.

Raising up leaders was a meaningful part of the summer at Meadowbrook: “God has allowed this time to raise up creativity in leaders to point people to Jesus. Whether it be navigating how to engage without being in-person, how to make fun videos, how to do weekly camper zoom calls, He is raising up leaders.” For the leaders, parents and kids, that summed up their season; raising people up. Imagine that: new things in a season of limits.



SAYING YES: Summer Camps in 2020



Perhaps we haven't always noticed the fulsome work of God in camp. We focus on the kids' stories, the beautiful ways they are impacted. That's important, of course, but God can do so much more through camps. As we pull people together to bring good news of great joy to the world, God does that not only in the campers, but in the leaders as well, reminding them afresh of the gospel that brings light and life.

SAYING AMEN: Seeing God in the Changes

For each church, God was moving, and it was certainly evident. The provision of funds, the power of relationship, the development of leaders – God was at work.

For Northend and Scott Street, God filled in the gaps, "Since we said YES to camp this summer, God provided an opportunity to collaborate. Once we said YES, God filled in the gaps. He provided us with staff and interns. He provided MORE than enough donations to run camp to the fullest, providing better activities and materials, and to help us produce better content for the kids. God provided ways to make our visions become a reality."

At Cornerstone, long-term vision was given new footing, "The main thing that comes to mind is that God led us to try an idea we've considered for a while but never had the opportunity to do. A drop-in center worked so well in Virgil. It was busy every day and connected us to new youth in the community



who hadn't had a connection to a church before. This program is already reshaping how we're thinking about opportunities for ministry to youth in the NOTL area and has impacted some decisions about how we want to use spaces in our buildings."

For The Gathering Ottawa, saying yes opened new doors, "Offering the camp online opened huge doors - we were no longer just offering our camp to people in our community, but literally to people anywhere. I heard of families who had relatives as far away as Saskatchewan that were participating.

Our reach has never been that far!"

In each place, all across the province, God did incredible things through camp. Through the hard, uncertain work of saying yes, times of creativity, joy, and fellowship all in unique formats were brought to life, creating gospel sparks.

Whatever the summer of 2021 brings, the summer of 2020 definitely brought good news to our province.

*Contributed by:
Sarah Whyte, WMB*

ONMB Church Directory

Member Churches



Ontario

Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

Behta Darya Community Church

Address: 3479 Autumn Leaf Cres.,
Mississauga, ON L5L 1K6
Meets at: 5155 Spectrum Way #15, Mississauga, ON
Office Phone: 416-857-4039
Office Email: bdcc03@gmail.com
Pastor(s): Vishal Rangha & Rafiqua Masih
Church Website: www.bdcctoronto.com

Christian Fellowship Chapel

Address: B-1296 Cambrian Road,
Severn, ON L3V 0W5
Office Phone: 705-326-8030
Office Email: office@cfchapel.com
Pastor: Jay Lafontaine
Church Website: www.cfchapel.com

Cornerstone Community Church

Address: PO Box 112, 1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
Meets at: 434 Hunter Rd., NOTL, L0S 1J0
Office Phone: 905-468-7155
Office Email: admin@ccchurch.ca
Pastor: Kevin Bayne
Church Website: www.ccchurch.ca

Evergreen Heights Christian Fellowship

Address: 140 Oak Street,
Simcoe, ON N3Y 5M5
Office Phone: 519-428-0960
Office Email: office@evergreenheights.org
Pastor: Jeff MacLeod
Church Website: www.evergreenheights.org

Free Church Toronto

Address: PO Box 67653,
Toronto, ON M5T 3M1
Office Email: admin@freechurch.ca
Senior Pastor: Jon Osmond
Church website: www.freechurch.ca

The Kensington Expression

Meets at: St. Stephen in-the-Fields, 103 Bellevue Ave.
Assistant Pastor: Courtney Reeve

The Annex Expression

Meets at: The Annex Theatre, 730 Bathurst St, Toronto

Glencairn MB Church

Address: 725 Erinbrook Dr.
Kitchener, ON N2E 3E3
Office Phone: 519-579-8741
Office Email: office@glencairn.ca
Pastor: Richard Martens
Church Website: www.glencairn.ca

Grace MB Church

Address: 546 Belmont Ave,
Kitchener, ON N2M 5E3
Office Phone: 226-243-4735
Office Email: gracemb@gracemb.org
Transitional Pastor: Harry Whyte
Church Website: www.gracemb.org

Grantham MB Church

Address: 469 Grantham Ave.,
St. Catharines, ON L2M 3J2
Office Phone: 905-935-5811
Office Email: office@granthamchurch.ca
Pastor(s): Michael & Tabitha VandenEnden
Church Website: www.granthamchurch.ca

Kingsfield - Zurich Mennonite Church

Address: PO Box 131, 37818 Zurich Hensall Rd.,
Zurich, ON N0M 2T0
Office Phone: 519-236-4933
Office Email: admin@kzmc.ca
Pastor: Ryan Jantzi
Church Website: www.kingsfieldcommon.ca

Life Point Church

Address: 15 Harmony Road North,
Oshawa, ON L1G 6K8
Office Phone: 905-725-8463
Office Email: dcfowler@rogers.com
Pastor: Dave Fowler
Church Website: www.lifepointdurham.ca

Living Hope Bible Church

Address: 465 1st Concession Rd.
Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0
Office Phone: 519-586-2835
Office Email: admin@livinghopebiblechurch.ca
Pastor: Mark Hunt
Church Website: www.livinghopebiblechurch.ca

ONMB Church Directory

Member Churches



Maple View Mennonite Church

Address: 5074 Deborah Glaister Line,
Wellesley, ON N0B 2T0
Office Phone: 519-656-2946
Office Email: office@mvmchurch.ca
Pastor: Brent Kipfer
Church Website: www.mvmchurch.ca

Meadow Brook Church

Address: 219 Talbot Street East,
Leamington, ON N8H 3V6
Office Phone: 519-326-3605
Office Email: office@meadowbrook.ca
Pastor: Chris Walker
Church Website: www.meadowbrook.ca

Mountain Park Church

Address: 6970 Mountain Rd.,
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6S4
Office Phone: 905-374-2911
Office Email: andrew@mp.church
Pastor: Andrew Plett
Church Website: www.mp.church

New Hope Church Niagara

Address: 2360 First Street Louth,
St. Catharines, ON L2R 6P7
Office Phone: 905-684-2444
Office Email: office@newhopechurchniagara.com
Pastor: Thom Braun
Church Website: www.newhopechurchniagara.com

New Life Christian Church

Address: 480 Huntingwood Dr.,
Toronto, ON M1W 1G4
Office Phone: 416-497-5437
Office Email: info@newlifetoronto.com
Pastor: Timothy Quek
Church Website: www.newlifetoronto.com

New Living Church

Address: 36 Broadlands Blvd.,
Toronto, ON M3A 1J3
Office Phone: 416-655-2602
Office Email: jacob.hfan@gmail.com
Pastor: Jacob Nuh
Church website: www.newlivingchurch.ca

Scott Street MB Church

Address: 339 Scott Street,
St. Catharines, ON L2N 1J7
Office Phone: 905-937-6900
Office Email: info@scottstchurch.ca
Pastor: Rob Patterson
Church Website: www.scottstchurch.ca

South Point Community Church

Address: 475 Bevel Line Rd.,
Leamington, ON N8H 3V4
Office Phone: 519-819-1590
Office Email: dave@southpointcc.ca
Pastor: Dave Bretzlaff
Church Website: www.southpointcc.ca

Southridge Community Church

Address: 201 Glenridge Ave.,
St. Catharines, ON L2T 3J6
Office Phone: 905-682-9901
Office Email: info@southridgechurch.ca
Lead Pastor(s): Jeff Lockyer, Mike Krause
Church Website: www.southridgechurch.ca

St. Catharines Location: Chris Fowler
Meets at: 201 Glenridge Ave., St. Catharines, ON
Vineland Location: Rick Zwiers
Meets at: 3970 Glendale Ave., Vineland, ON
Welland Location: Michael Meinema
Meets at: 414 River Rd., Welland, ON

St. Ann's Community Church

Address: 5425 Regional Road #69 RR#1,
St. Ann's, ON L0R 1Y0
Office Phone: 905-957-7436
Office Email: stannschurchoffice@gmail.com
Pastor: Greg Allen
Church Website: www.stannscommunitychurch.ca

The Access Centre

487 Westney Road South,
Ajax, ON Units 19& 20 L1S 6W8
Office Phone: 416-385-0285
Church Phone: 905-239-8309
Pastor: Dan Sileshi
Church Website: www.theaccesscentre.org

ONMB Church Directory

Member Churches



Ontario

Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

The Gathering Ottawa

Address: PO Box 82013 Riverside South RPO,
Gloucester, ON K1V 2N9
Meets at: St. Francis Xavier High School, 3740 Spratt Rd.
Office Phone: 613-822-7440
Office Email: info@thegatheringottawa.com
Pastor: Jeff Jantzi
Church Website: www.thegatheringottawa.com

The Jesus Network

Address: PO 22028 Toronto, ON M4H 1N9
Meets at: (Salvation Army) 2 Overlea Blvd, East York, ON
Office Phone: 1-866-700-2020
Office Email: prayer@jesusnetwork.ca
Pastor(s): Shawn & Haley
Church website: www.jesusnetwork.ca

WMB Church

WMB Church Waterloo

Site Pastor: Chris Stevens
Address: 245 Lexington Rd.,
Waterloo, ON N2K 2E1
Office Phone: 519-885-5330
Office Email: office@wmbchurch.ca
Church Website: www.wmbchurch.ca

WMB Church Kitchener

Site Pastor: Adam Knowles
Address: 19 Ottawa Street North,
Kitchener, ON N2H 3K2
Office Phone: 519-745-5144
Office Email: office@wmbchurch.ca
Church Website: www.wmbchurch.ca

ONMB Church Directory

Associate Churches

Manotick Community Church

Address: 2492 South River Dr,
Manotick, ON K4M 1E8
Office Phone: 613-864-9249
Office Email: admin@churchinhetick.ca
Pastor: Doug Valerio

Malkutha

Address: 1201-10 Teesdale Place,
Toronto, ON M1L 1K9
Office Email: contact@movein.to
Church Planter: Nigel Paul
Church website: www.movein.to

Northend Church

Address: 455 Geneva Street,
St. Catharines, ON L2N 2H2
Office Phone: 905-934-3398
Office Email: hello@northendchurch.ca
Pastor: Mike Sherbino
Church Website: www.northendchurch.ca

Rugged Tree Community Church

Address: 21 Poupore Rd. West
Skead, ON P0M 2Y0
Church Email: derek@ruggedtree.org
Pastor: Derek Parenteau
Church Website: www.ruggedtree.org

Southeast City Church

Address: 1854 Russell Rd, Ottawa, ON K1G 1L5
Meets at: 933 Smyth Rd., Ottawa ON
Office Phone: 613-809-6575
Pastor: David Hood
Office Email: hello@southeastcitychurch.ca
Church Website: www.southeastcitychurch.ca

The Spirit of Truth Church

Address: 25 Central Ave., North York, ON M2M 3W8
Office Phone: 416-356-9967
Pastor: Siamak Keramat
Office Email: thespiritoftruthchurch@gmail.com
Church Website: www.ruherasti.com

ONMB Convention 2021



A NOTE TO DELEGATES

We strive for unity and respect, seeking the participation of all assembled, as we discern decisions that shape the future of our conference.

Delegates are invited to respond to the reports and recommendations presented. Only delegates are permitted to vote.

Each ONMB church may send one delegate for every 25 members (or fraction thereof), plus...

- one Pastor, one Moderator, one Treasurer
- In the event that the Pastor, Moderator, or Treasurer is unable to serve as a Delegate, an alternate Delegate may be appointed.

Each delegate must be:

- a member in good standing of a member church
- 18 years of age or older
- he or she must be approved as a delegate by the church membership or governing board of the church.
- Associate member churches and church plants are encouraged to send non-voting guests.

As a Delegate, you have been assigned a unique identifier that confirms your eligibility to vote. This is your 10-digit Order # from your registration confirmation email from Eventbrite. You will need to use this number multiple times, so we ask that you please keep it accessible for the entire duration of the Convention.

Each Delegate will need to log in using their own personal device. The sharing of devices will hinder your ability to vote.

In general, Roberts Rules of Order will be followed during the business sessions.

A spirit of love should prevail in all comments.

EVENT INFORMATION

Do you have questions?

Please email Kristi at klee@onmb.org if you have any questions or are having any technical issues during the online event. We will do our very best to help you out. Please ensure you have a reliable internet connection.

How to join the meeting?

Upon registration, you will have received a confirmation email from Eventbrite which included an Order #. All delegates will need this unique Order # to vote. Please email klee@onmb.org if you do not have your Order # before the Convention begins. A Zoom link will be emailed to all registered guests and delegates a week before the event.

Dropped ZOOM call?

Please note that an authorized zoom account is required to join this meeting. Follow the instructions at <https://zoom.us/signup> to set up an account. You will be prompted for an email address, we ask that you enter the same email address that you used to register for this event.

If the ZOOM call gets dropped for all participants, ONMB will email each person with instructions on how to proceed. If you do not receive an email from ONMB, the call was not dropped for everyone and it may be your connection.

91st Annual ONMB Convention
February 25-26, 2022
Maple View Mennonite Church
Wellesley, ON



905.934.3398 | info@onmb.org | onmb.org