

92ND ANNUAL ONMB CONVENTION

Maple View Mennonite Church
5074 Deborah Glaister Line, Wellesley, ON



Ontario
Conference of Mennonite
Brethren Churches

FEBRUARY 24-25,
2023

IN OUR
BROKENNESS
JESUS SHINES



ONMB Convention 2023

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Welcome to Maple View Mennonite Church!

We are delighted to host you for the 2023 ONMB Convention, the first in-person annual assembly since our congregation was welcomed into the MB family in 2020. We look forward to our time together – celebrating Jesus, connecting as brothers and sisters, hearing reports of God’s work among us, encouraging each other, and relying on his Holy Spirit in our discernment and decision-making. It is a gift to be on this journey with you!



Brent Kipfer

Pastor, Maple View Mennonite Church

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WELCOME TO THE 92ND ANNUAL ONMB CONVENTION

Hey Friends!

We are so thankful that we are finally meeting in person once again. It's been way too long. We meet annually, not just for an AGM or meeting of the members. It's not just to make important decisions for our future as a group. We gather as a family of churches to be together, to share together, to learn with and from each other, to fellowship and break bread together. Whether this is your first time attending with us or if you have been coming for years, we hope you feel God's overwhelming presence here this weekend. We are so much better when we are together.

Our theme this weekend is **In Our Brokenness - Jesus Shines**. No doubt we are in a turbulent season as a family. We are broken people in a broken world. We carry burdens for ourselves and for others. We walk in fear of messing things up or making the wrong decisions. We try to distance ourselves from conflict or uncertainty, yet our Heavenly Father is right there with us, in the mess, in the chaos, in the darkness.

2 Cor. 4:6,7 says, *"For God, who said, 'Let there be light in the darkness,' has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure.*

Let there be light!

As we gather this weekend, may we experience the warmth of his light, shining in and through our brokenness. May we experience a renewed hope and faith in this light, and may we experience his call on our lives to be that light to others, beyond these doors.

To quote Bruce Enns, Director of Multiply – "My prayer is that we will continue together, to allow God's light to flow through our cracks and brokenness, that the world may know Jesus."

Welcome! We are so glad you are here.



Kristi Lee

ONMB Executive Assistant

ONMB Convention 2023

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023

- 6:30 pm **Registration Opens**
- 7:00-9:00 pm **Worship & Celebration**
Worship in Song
In Our Brokenness - Jesus Shines
•With Bruce Enns
•ONMB Stories
•Communion

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023

- 8:30 am **Doors Open**
- 9:00 am **Session 1**
Welcome & Worship
Opening Address & Prayer
•Panel Discussion: Journeying
Toward Wholeness
Opening Business Session
•Reports & Motions
•Interim Executive Director Report
•Board Chair Report
... Coffee Break ...
- 10:45 am **Breakout Session 1:**
... Lunch Break ...
- 12:45 pm **Breakout Session 2:**
... Coffee Break ...
- 2:00 pm **Session 2**
Reports & Motions
•Nominations & Elections
•Financials & 2023 Budget
•Camp Crossroads Bylaws
•Church Suspensions
- 3:30 pm **Session 3**
National Ministry Updates
Final Motions & Results
Prayer & Benediction

AGENDA

1. Vision, worship and celebration
2. Receiving reports from committees, board, ministry partners and agencies
3. 2023 elections for board of directors and nominating committee
4. 2023 Financial Report and 4 related motions
5. 1 motion for Camp Crossroads bylaw update
6. 2 Motions regarding suspended member churches



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:

- **ONMB Family Updates:**
 - PFLT Updates
 - Church Suspensions
- **Organizational Health:**
 - ONMB Financial Update
 - Camp Crossroads Bylaws
- **National Partners:**
 - CCMBC, Legacy, NFLT, MB Seminary
- **Discipling GenZ:**
 - Hearing from seasoned Youth Pastors

2:

- **Spiritual Formation Panel:**
 - ONMB Stories: Journeying Towards Wholeness
- **Organizational Health:**
 - Building a Ministry of Safety Within our Churches
- **National Partners:**
 - CCMBC, Legacy, NFLT, MB Seminary
- **Multiply Update:**
 - Together that the World May Know

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MESSAGE FROM OUR SPEAKER:



Jesus Shines Through Our Brokenness

Living in spiritual community is challenging, but Jesus never intended for us to live out our faith alone. Our churches can be the place of our greatest pain and disappointment, but also the place of greatest promise for healing, wholeness and hope. In the honesty of our own brokenness, together with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, and the truth of God's word, transformation happens. This is the light of Christ shining through our brokenness, giving witness to a watching world.

Our keynote speaker is **Bruce Enns, General Director of Multiply**. Former Lead Pastor at Forest Grove Community Church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He has also served on the Multiply Board and moderator of CCMBC. Bruce and his wife, Lisa, live in Saskatoon. They have four adult daughters.

NOTES

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ONMB BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Michelle Knowles

Welcome and thank you for joining us for Convention 2023! I hope you find encouragement and renewed vision as you read our Convention booklet. Thank you for taking the time to prepare, as we gather as a conference to celebrate, worship & pray, and make important decisions together. We seek to walk in faith and obedience, as we continue forward in the ministry and mission which God has called us as a family of churches in Ontario.

Our theme this year is, In our Brokenness, Jesus Shines, taken from the image of cracked jars of clay in 2 Corinthians 4:6-7. As a repentant perfectionist, Jesus has led me on a journey of turning from patterns of hiding and trying to fix my imperfections, to living freely as a child of God, trusting in the ways His light will shine through my cracks, depending on His strength in my human fragility. Cracks and brokenness seem inevitable this side of heaven. The question is what we will allow Jesus to do with this. As your ONMB leaders, we recognize the turbulence that all of us have experienced, in many ways, this season. We want to be honest in our brokenness, to come humbly to Jesus and one another and trust in God's faithfulness.

As your Board, we are committed to stewarding well that which you have entrusted to us as your leaders and governing Board. We serve to carry out the purpose and direction for our conference, as set by our members in our governing documents, and to guide our churches in life and mission according to the shared convictions of our MB Confession of Faith. In all of this, we pray that we may bring glory to God as His light shines through us.

For many of our 2022 ministry and governance updates, I refer you to the reports from Ryan Jantzi, our Interim Executive Director and from our various committees, including our Faith and Life Team, Finance Team, Nominations Committee and our (new!) Organizational Health Team.

There are also many encouraging things happening among our extended Canadian MB church family; it is a gift to serve together in God's mission across Canada. We are excited to have several of our national leaders join us for Convention 2023. Our Board is so grateful for the support and prayers of our national team in navigating such a challenging season.

I want to take a moment here to acknowledge the upheaval we experienced in ONMB this past fall, after several difficult decisions made by our Board, including the release of Ed Willms as our Executive Director and the suspension of two member churches, FreeChurch Toronto and Southridge Community Church. While each of these decisions came after many months - or years - of prayer, discussion, and discernment, we recognize the suddenness in which this was received by many of our members. Know that our Board and staff have been praying as our community processes and grieves this news.

In the suspension of two of our churches, these decisions were rooted in a deep commitment to our Canadian MB Confession of Faith and carried out according to the direction set by our members in our governing bylaws. We believe deeply that our MB Confession shares our best interpretation of scripture and as such, we carry a vision to grow as disciples and equip our churches to live missionally with passion and creativity in the full expression of these convictions.

At Convention this year our members will receive motions regarding the future status of our suspended churches. We encourage you to attend our online breakout on February 21st to hear a full report from our Board and our Faith and Life Team. A follow up session will also be held in person during Convention.

In this turbulent season, I am grateful for the ways you as our members, pastors, and leaders have pressed in together. Our Board is so thankful for your prayers, words of encouragement, generosity, and grace.

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ONMB BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Michelle Knowles

I want to express my thanks to our Board and committee members, for your gifted and passionate service to ONMB. I have deeply appreciated the dedication of our Board, particularly these last several months; thank you for the time and energy you have poured out to navigate this season. Your current Board members are Doug Valerio (vice chair), Meghan Plett (secretary), Noah Grossman (treasurer), Andrew Plett, Brent Kipfer, Darrell Gillespie and Jeff MacLeod. Our Board would also like to thank Jeff for his leadership as our previous Board Chair and we are so glad for his continued service on our team.

Three Board members each stepped down from their role during this past year and we also want to extend our thanks to Jeff Martens, Mandy Kasper, and Tamille Richardson for their service to our conference on our Board.

I am also thankful for our staff, Kristi Lee and Ryan Jantzi, for their gifted leadership and their deep love and commitment to our ONMB family, which is constantly evident. Our Board is grateful for their flexibility, their willingness to stand in the gap and serve our conference however needed; it is truly a joy to lead and serve together with this amazing team.

Lastly, I want to express my appreciation for Ed Willms. As we grieve this departure, we remember and are grateful for his ten years of dedicated ministry leadership. Ed led with courage and passion to bring us renewed vision, to rebuild relationships among our churches, and to guide us into a new path of mission. Many of us have experienced and appreciated Ed's shepherd heart, and his love for Jesus and the Church. We invite your continued prayers for Ed and Karin and their family.

In my childhood room was a piece of artwork that read, "Please be patient, God isn't finished with me yet". Friends, we are broken, but God is faithful, and He has so much ahead for us yet! Thank you for walking this road together, cracks, bumps, beauty, and all. Please feel welcome to connect with me anytime. It is a joy and privilege to serve our ONMB family. I am excited to gather in person and worship together again and I look forward to seeing you soon.

In His grace,



Michelle Knowles

ONMB Board of Directors Chair



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ONMB INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ryan Jantzi

One year ago, the ONMB Convention theme was “The Road Ahead...” Together, we declared we would trust in God’s presence and guidance to lead us through the unknown bends before us. None of us could have predicted the unexpected turns that the year would hold.

Now, at the 2023 ONMB Convention we ponder the truth that “In Our Brokenness, Jesus Shines.” We have experienced brokenness this past year at a denominational level and within our local churches. As we struggle to be faithful to the way of Jesus, the relational challenges are real. There is hurt and sadness. Brokenness is evident.

And yet, Jesus shines brightly. Not despite, but through our brokenness. Throughout 2022 I’ve had the pleasure of becoming more familiar with our ONMB churches and missional expressions. What a messy bunch we are. What a beautiful bunch we are! I see God’s hand at work extending His kingdom. This makes me smile. There is no better way to describe it than Jesus shining through our brokenness.

*We now have this light shining in our hearts,
but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure.*

~ 2 Corinthians 4:7 ~

In the fall of 2022, as they received feedback from our churches, the ONMB Board brought clarity to our family identity through some challenging decisions. While the hard conversations surrounding this have had the potential to pull us apart at the seams, I’ve experienced much the opposite. I’ve seen the majority of our churches and leaders lean in, asking how they can support and invest in the ONMB family. Overall, I see a deepened desire to engage well so that we can be more fruitful in multiplying disciples together. This has been hopeful and encouraging, as facilitating collaboration between churches is a passion of mine. We are broken, but Jesus is shining.

Becoming more familiar with our churches and leaders throughout 2022 was my greatest highlight. It has been a joy to gather for worship, to meet the people and hear the stories of our leaders. It’s a thrill to hear how people are experiencing God and finding freedom. Noteworthy highlights include:

- **Posture Shift** – In March, over seventy leaders gathered with humility and curiosity to learn how to better care for and lead 2SLGB+ persons to Jesus. We learned from a same-sex attracted man and a person who experiences severe gender dysphoria, both of whom are committed to Jesus and the historic, traditional, biblical view of sexuality. It was also great to finally all be in the same room together.



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- Pastors Retreat – Forty leaders and spouses from across ONMB gathered Nov. 6-8 at Muskoka Bible Centre to catch our breath, care for one another and seek God.
- Leaders Collective – Our post-covid relaunch of this discipleship program for young adults consists of 6 participants from WMB, Meadow Brook Church, and Kingsfield – Zurich Menno-nite.

Much thanks to the ONMB Board, for their hard work in 2022, leading us through this unexpected season with courage and care. This especially applies to the Board Chair role, previously Jeff MacLeod and now Michelle Knowles who stepped into the role in November as she had the capacity to meet the increased demands of our new reality. I'd also like to honour Mandy Kasper, Jeff Martens and Tamille Richardson, each of whom completed their time with the Board in 2022. You have blessed ONMB through your investment in us. The diligent work of our Executive Assistant, Kristi Lee is also noteworthy. Kristi's passion for our family of churches is evident in how she has persevered through these months of transition. It is Kristi who keeps the wheels of ONMB turning week after week. Thank you! I'd also like to acknowledge the support and encouragement we've received from the Canadian Conference of MB Churches in recent months.



I also honour Ed Willms for his leadership as Executive Director over the past decade. Ed's passion and gifting for drawing people together strengthened ONMB as he poured his heart into us. A good number of leaders, including myself, arrived among ONMB through Ed's warm welcome. I'm thankful for the opportunity to have learned at his side through the 12 months we shared on staff.



It has been a joy to serve throughout 2022 as Ministry Director with primary responsibility in the areas of Missional Expressions and Faith and Life. While it's not what I ever imagined when joining the ONMB staff, it is my honour to serve as Interim Executive Director since December 2022 until a permanent Executive Director is hired. I love our churches and God's activity among us and will do my utmost to support and lead us as a conference throughout this transition period.

Through 2022, we began to build some momentum and vision for ONMB Missional Expressions, in terms of how we'll plant churches and initiate new ways of disciple-making. A missional expressions team has been formed and been developing the vision. There are a handful of possibilities that are bubbling. Sadly, this area did not receive as much attention through the ONMB leadership turbulence of the fall, nor now as I re-prioritize my focus for the Interim Executive Director role. However, new mission endeavours are best when they rise from our local churches. I'm excited to hear how God is calling your church to send Gospel witness into new territory!



ONMB INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

continued

Each year brings its share of church and leader transitions, each with a unique interplay of brokenness and beauty. Perhaps the most noteworthy was the withdrawal from membership by New Hope Church Niagara (NHCN) in February/March 2022. Following an extended period of difficult dialogue, including an invitation to mediation by the ONMB Board, NHCN felt the differences were irreconcilable and requested separation from the ONMB family of churches, which we granted. We're thankful for their investment in ONMB over the years and pray for the fullness of God's blessing as they proceed as an independent ministry. Credence & Co. advised the ONMB Board in this process and provided insight into how to better navigate challenging conversations of this nature.

Additional transitions are:

- Life Point Church (Oshawa) has sold their facility, The Harmony Creek Community Centre and Pastor David Fowler has retired. Pastor Mike Dale will lead the church as they discern God's future for their church.
- The Valleyview Manor Board added four new Directors and are now compliant with the number of Directors required. Under the leadership of Board Chair, Shelley Campagnola, Valleyview will proceed toward further flourishing as a ministry of low-income housing for seniors.
- In November 2022, Grace Mennonite Brethren Church of Kitchener voted to merge with Radiant City Church (an independent congregation) to form Belmont Village Church. The new church will be discerning their affiliation. We are grateful for Grace MB's twenty-one years of partnership with ONMB and extend our blessing and prayers for Belmont Village Church.
- We've also welcomed Brent Easey as Lead Pastor with St. Ann's Community Church and Keith Shields as Transitional Pastor with Evergreen Heights Christian Fellowship. Please pray for our churches who continue to seek new lead pastors (Kingsfield – Zurich Mennonite & Christian Fellowship Chapel).

Throughout 2023, a key theme I will lead in is how to form cultures of God's goodness in our leaders and churches, using *Live No Lies* by John Mark Comer and *A Church Called 'Tov'* by Scot McKnight. The Faith and Life Team has also committed to continue leading our churches to grow in how we engage with 2SLGBTQ+ persons. There will be new Missional Expressions initiatives to share. We're also anticipating the EQUIP Conference in October, where MBs from across Canada will gather in Abbotsford to discern God's leading. "Fire & Ashes: Why Church? Why MB?" will be the theme as we consider what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ.



I do not yet know how our brokenness will manifest in 2023. Whatever that brokenness is, may it lead us to lean more fully on the grace of Jesus. I do know this, Jesus will shine. He is good and is leading us. As we proceed beyond Convention 2023, I'm excited to see where God leads us. I'm hopeful about our ONMB future as we support and inspire one another, accomplishing more for the Kingdom of Jesus, than any of us could alone. May the Holy Spirit empower us. It is my honour and joy to lead and facilitate this collaboration within the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.



Ryan Tantz

ONMB Interim Executive Director

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Pat Goertzen, Secretary

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

91st Annual Convention

Hosted via Zoom

February 25-26, 2022

Theme: 'The Road Ahead....'

Attendance: 74 delegates, representing 20 of our 27 Member churches, plus additional guests and 1 of our 4 Associate Member churches.

Friday Night Virtual Celebration Service 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

1. **WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:** Jeff MacLeod welcomed everyone to the 2022 Annual Convention and explained the Zoom elements for the evening. He opened with prayer asking for protection and peace for those in harms way in Ukraine and Russia.
2. **WORSHIP IN MUSIC:** The worship team from Meadow Brook Church led in the singing of "Oh God, You Have Done Great Things".
3. **VISION & PRAYER - THE ROAD AHEAD....:** Ed Willms introduced the theme for the 91st Convention of the Ontario Mennonite Brethren Conference. The road ahead is uncharted, uncertain and complex, but it is a journey that we can choose to navigate together. He shared some of his road trip experiences and how he is still captured by the beauty of God's creation he has witnessed during his many drives. He read Psalms 121:1. God wants to be our guide and lead us forward. Tonight we will share stories and Ed encouraged us to lift our eyes to the mountains.
4. **SPIRITUAL PRACTICE:** Ed introduced Tamille Richardson, Interim Pastor at Evergreen Heights Christian Fellowship. Tamille reflected that, as we go through long seasons of turmoil, it's normal to want things to just go back to normal, the safe and familiar, where we have been comfortable. Yet seasons of upset can show us new ways to grow and live better lives. She shared her experience on a mission trip to Guatemala in her youth, and her struggle to pack appropriately. As we move through seasons of our life, we have an opportunity to reevaluate what to keep, what to let go of and what will be useful moving forward. Let's start the road ahead by reflecting on what He is calling us to hold on to, and to let go and be open to new things. Tamille led a guided spiritual practice of reflection, gratitude, evaluation, release, preparation, invitation and excitement. She read from Psalm 25, asking Him to point out the road for us to follow.
5. **STORIES TO INSPIRE US FORWARD:** Ryan Jantzi, ONMB Ministry Director, welcomed everyone and looked forward to a day when we can meet together again in person. He shared his own experience of a significant road trip in his life, driving to school in small town Saskatchewan. While daunting at first, he came to love the vast prairies. Life is full of uncertain territory. Our futures are unknown and with all of the turmoil in the world today, it is easy to worry about what is around the next corner. Yet God is often on the move during uncertain times. Ryan referred to the ministry of Philip. When the early Church faced an uncertain future, the Holy Spirit led Philip to strange places where he had the opportunity to evangelize people who were not familiar or safe. Ryan introduced three stories to inspire us forward.

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FEATURE #1 – DAVID HOOD of Southeast City Church. David shared the early days of ministering in his community as a new church. Covid shut down much of the programming and they worried about losing touch with the neighbors and friendships they had worked hard to develop. To answer a need, they began to deliver food bank items within the community. More and more people began accessing the food bank and, through this work, they were made aware of a need in their community that they had not perceived before. Last October, the Food Bank asked if they would host a weekly food bank on site in Russell Gardens which has allowed them to maintain the connections they worried they would lose. They were able to form new relationships through their food bank work. Covid has provided them with a trust-based presence in the community, where they continue to grow relationally among the marginalized people they serve.

Ryan announced that a new Podcast is coming that will allow us to follow the work at Southeast City. Ryan compared this experience to how Philip engaged with a new person in a new place and how the Spirit led him to disciple in an unfamiliar community.

FEATURE #2 – K. in Parkdale: K. shared how her group has been given the opportunity to minister to a 0.01% Christian community in downtown Toronto. As followers of Jesus, we need to be good neighbors and share the gospel to unreached people in Canada. Through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will have opportunities to share the gospel. She recounted a recent story of an unexpected conversation that led to prayer with a person God led to her. She prayed for God to open these opportunities to us, to create a desire within us to pray for these communities and to be brave to share the gospel.

Ryan asked why we are led down unknown roads? We are resurrection people and Jesus loudly proclaimed that the Kingdom of God will win. Chaos will never overcome God.

FEATURE #3 - THE JESUS NETWORK - OBED ROD: Obed shared his extremist past and how he escaped from Afghanistan to eventually be in Canada, working to plant churches in Toronto, Waterloo and Kitchener. When the Taliban took over, many people were displaced and contacted the Jesus Network seeking help to escape Afghanistan. Well over 275 Christians have been rescued but 300-400 people are still trapped inside and the Jesus Network continues to work to free them. He described the system of safe houses and refugee camps to shelter refugees, and the assistance his group is able to offer to expedite the process of moving them to other countries. Many partner groups from other countries are assisting and financing some of this work. Miracles are happening and Obed shared how we can assist, through prayer, raising awareness in our communities and through sponsorships, volunteering and financial support.

Ryan provided contact information for The Jesus Network. We in Ontario need to be aware and open to discipleship opportunities. He told the story of the work of a very small church in his community that has made significant efforts to reach out to others and the great work they have been able to do. Uncertain times call for courageous and hope filled responses.

Ryan invited those who are willing to donate to the Jesus Network through ONMB to support the work among Afghanistan refugees in Canada. He explained that, for the next three days, donations may be made through the ONMB office for this ministry. He asked us to be prayful and listen earnestly for the calling of the Holy Spirit to lead our lives. Ryan prayed for these featured diaspora ministries who shared their stories tonight.

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6. **WORSHIP IN MUSIC:** The worship team from WMB Church led in the singing of “*Resurrected King*”.
7. **COMMUNION AND PRAYER:** Connie Maier of Glencairn MB read from I Cor. 11. Jesus repeats, ‘Do this in remembrance of me’. She led us in prayer for the gift of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. He is the source of our joy and our hope. Connie prayed for the fulfillment of the New Covenant.
8. **CLOSING COMMENTS:** Kristi Lee, ONMB Executive Assistant, thanked everyone who contributed to making this event possible and to the delegates and guests participating tonight. She invited registered participants to join the Zoom meeting tomorrow morning starting at 8:45 am and provided link instructions. The service was closed with prayer at 8:25 pm.

Saturday, February 26, 2022 9:00 am – 10:00 am

9. **WORSHIP SONG AND WELCOME:** As attendees entered the meeting, the WMB worship team sang “*Hallelujah for the Cross*”. Jeff MacLeod welcomed everyone to the Business Session of the 91st ONMB Convention. He reviewed Zoom etiquette and highlighted features of Zoom to be used at various times during the program. Jeff prayed for the meeting today.
10. **OPENING VISION & PRAYER:** Ed Willms welcomed everyone and spoke to the theme for this year, ‘The Road Ahead...’ The world is complicated and full of pain at this time. This morning, prayer was focused around 4 themes; the invasion of Ukraine (Mandy Kasper), the people of Afghanistan, refugees and workers (Ryan Jantzi), for our divided country Canada (Andrew Plett) and for our Convention and delegates, still separated by pandemic (Doug Valerio).
11. **HOUSEKEEPING – PRACTICE MOTIONS:** Jeff MacLeod explained the format for the meeting. He referred to the Convention yearbook that contains many of the reports for the meeting. Jeff introduced Karen West, Vice-Chair of the ONMB Board. She explained the process for asking questions throughout the day. Refugee relief donations may be made through the ONMB website. Jeff explained the electronic voting process and presented the first practice motion. Karen thanked those serving as tech support that will assist throughout the day. Two practice motions were presented to learn the new voting process for registered delegates.
12. **ONMB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** Ed Willms referred to his written report on pages 5-6 of the Convention booklet. Ed shared that he has found this year to be very challenging. Year two of the pandemic has created polarization and unease, with mental and physical health concerns on the rise. As a country and a people, we are faced with our own inherent racism. Our provincial and national Faith and Life teams have been navigating many heavy themes this year. On the other hand, Ed feels privileged to witness God moving in our Province. He expressed his gratitude for Kristi, Ryan, Christine Hamm, J.P. Hayashida, and the ONMB Board. A highlight this year was the in-person Pastor’s credentialing event held in St. Catharines, with three indigenous leaders participating. Looking ahead, we will be hosting an in-person Posture Shift event later this year at Cornerstone Community Church. We want to develop four teams to focus on different areas of ministry.

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13. **ONMB MINISTRY DIRECTOR REPORT:** Ryan Jantzi introduced himself and explained his role which will develop into 50% church extension, 35% faith and life and 15% resource oversight. He is working to explore and develop opportunities for 'missional expressions' and a team is being organized province-wide to share the good news and to multiply disciples. He explained the nature of missional expressions, which are diverse and must be approached in non-traditional ways. He encouraged everyone to watch for more information as we partner broadly to develop a multiplication culture plan. There will be many opportunities for individuals and groups to participate in community. These undertakings must be financially sustainable, as the days of big-budget church-planting seem to be over. Ryan is available to speak to Churches on the topic of church extension and missional expressions. Podcasts will be available soon with interviews and stories to inspire.
14. **ONMB BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** Jeff McLeod reported on the work of the Board this year. By-law changes have been required to maintain ONCA compliance and many of our incorporated churches will need to do likewise. We have developed a new Ministry Misconduct Policy that will be presented for vote today, and Jeff explained the importance of such a document. We celebrate the hiring of Ryan, our Ministry Director - the future looks bright. We are working toward the 'Bless and Release' of Radiant Care. The past year has held many challenges, but God has given us much to celebrate. Church engagement as indicated through participation and financial support is encouraging and Jeff thanked all of the churches. Credentialing our first indigenous leader is a blessing and we need to hold up this work in prayer. Jeff thanked Karen West for her support and assistance during his first year as Chair. He thanked Pat Goertzen and Mike Meinema, who are transitioning off the Board this year. He thanked the Board and staff for the past year.

BREAK 10 minutes

BUSINESS SESSION PART 1:

CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM: Parliamentarians for this convention are J.P. Hayashida and Michelle Knowles. Jeff MacLeod explained the decision-making procedure we strive for as a Conference and explained the process and discussion rules for the following motions.

Quorum bylaw 7.4 requires 50 voting representatives present, in person (virtual), representing at least 50% of member churches. We have 20 of 27 member churches represented with 74 delegates present at the beginning of this session, plus guests. One of our 4 associate member churches is also represented. The quorum requirements have been met.

Jeff MacLeod reviewed the current details of the agenda for the Convention.

MOTION C22-1 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the agenda be accepted as presented.

MOTION C22-2 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that we receive the Committee and Board Reports as distributed in advance in the convention yearbook.

MOTION C22-3 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the minutes from Convention 2021, as sent out electronically, be approved.

15. **CAMP CROSSROADS UPDATE:** Andrew Hiebert, Executive Direct of Camp Crossroads, highlighted the Camp report in the Convention booklet. He thanked everyone for their support of Camp over the past year. He celebrated the Winter Blast programs for this winter, which are being

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continued

hosted at half-capacity. Discipleship is provided with contributions by three new staff members supported through government grants. It is hoped that the Leadership Program will be hosted again this year, equipping young people to better serve in their local churches. The Bridge discipleship track worked well last year and we have a number of applicants already for this summer. God has generously blessed us with donors and we are blessed to be able to continue refurbishing Camp facilities. We look forward to the loosening of capacity limits as most of our camp events are wait-listed. Christine Hiebert has been stepping into more of a discipling development role. A work weekend is planned for April and Andrew thanked everyone for their help.

16. **MULTIPLY UPDATE:** Erin Coffey brought the Multiply report on behalf of herself and Robin Serez of the Eastern Canada Multiply team. Robin chose the scripture Ps. 24:1 Erin invited everyone to read the full report in the Convention booklet. She highlighted the events planned for the coming months, to equip and resource youth leaders. SOAR and TREK opportunities should resume in 2022. Jeff thanked Erin for her report.

17. **ONMB NOMINATIONS REPORT:** Jeff Martens (Cornerstone) Chaired the Nominating Committee and reported via Zoom from Burundi. He introduced the other members of the committee - Bill Stubbs, Tabitha VandenEnden and Terry Shuh. Jeff reminded us of the role and responsibilities of the NC and their process for discerning candidates.

MOTION C22-4 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that Michelle Knowles be acclaimed for the position of Vice-Chair of the ONMB Board of Directors.

MOTION C22-5 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that all candidates for Member-at-large positions on the ONMB Board be acclaimed.

Note: Members at large elected are Andrew Plett, Jeff Martens (Southridge), Darrell Gillespie, Noah Grossman, Meghan Plett and Brent Kipfer.

MOTION C22-6 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that all candidates for the Nominating Committee be acclaimed.

Note: Nominating Committee members for 2022 are Jeff Martens (Cornerstone), Bill Stubbs, Tabitha VandenEnden and Terry Shuh.

18. **CCMBC – Legacy Video:** A brief video was shown, explaining the purpose, services offered and the benefits of the Legacy Fund.

19. **ONMB FINANCIAL REPORT:** Jeff Martens (Southridge), Treasurer of the ONMB Board, presented and highlighted pages 20-23 of the Convention booklet. He spoke to some of the key themes that were discussed at the break-out session hosted earlier this week. We find ourselves in a deep state of gratitude for 2021 as our expectations have been exceeded in a difficult season. 2021 marked seven straight years of financial growth and we celebrate hiring Ryan Jantzi as Ministry Director this year. We have a 6% increase in church contributions and 5% increase in revenue. Expenses finished 12% below budget, thanks to reduced programming and travel and a later start for the new Ministry Director. The bottom line is a surplus of \$77,000+. The audited financial statement is available in draft form in the booklet. Jeff explained that the Northend Church is still on our budget for this year, but will be separate and autonomous by 2023. The approach to the 2022 budget focuses on re-investing our resources into ministries and churches. While budgeted income is similar to last year (\$463,000), our expenses will be slightly higher (\$490,000) as we increase our commitment to CCMBC to realign to 35% of church commitments, have a full year of

ONMB Convention 2023

ONMB 2022 CONVENTION MINUTES

continued

Ministry Director salary, and implement proposed plans for special programming to support our churches and pastors. We have a small, intentional deficit (\$27,000) to mobilize the reserves to better invest in ministry. Jeff referred to page 23 and explained the transfer to reserve funds proposed: to top up the Emergency Fund for churches and pastors in crisis, and the new Special Project fund for new missional opportunities that arise. The Family Covenant encourages a commitment of 5% of church budget to support this one-stream funding formula. Ryan explained the change to the Multiply line in the budget, as new church initiatives are re-aligned.

MOTION C22-7 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the audited financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2021 be accepted as published.

MOTION C22-8 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that Bridgman and Durksen be appointed as auditors for 2022 and that the Board of Directors be authorized to set the remuneration for these auditing services.

MOTION C22-9 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the operating budget for 2022 be approved as presented.

MOTION C22-10 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED to transfer \$15,323.09 from Operating Reserves to the Special Project Fund to establish a balance of \$20,000, in anticipation of special projects supporting pastors and churches emerging from the pandemic.

18. NATIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT: Karen introduced the National staff and committee members joining us today. A brief video prepared by CCMBC was presented highlighting the services, structure and planned events of the National Conference. The plans were explained for CUSP going forward and the Collaborative model by which decisions will be made and information distributed. A new website launch is planned for June 2022.

Elton DaSilva, CCMBC National Director, thanked the ONMB Conference for engaging in the strategic plan and also for the people we have sent to participate on the National Board and teams. Elton thanked Karen West for her years of service and welcomed the participation of Michelle Knowles. He reiterated the challenges Ed Willms experienced this past year. This highlights the need for conversation and working together to resource the church for what is needed in the future. CCMBC is just coming out of a difficult financial season. They are full of hope and encouragement for continued partnerships and look forward to what God has in store for us all.

BREAK – 30 minutes.

BUSINESS SESSION PART 2:

19. ONMB GOVERNANCE REPORT: Michelle Knowles explained the three-year process that has led to the by-law decisions we will approve today. ONCA has specific compliance requirements for updated and resubmitted documents. Incorporated local churches will also be required to make similar changes. A Webinar is planned for the spring to assist with this process. The Board has grandfathered our four existing Associate Churches however, going forward, Associate Churches will be approved by the Conference at Convention each year. Michelle explained the need for and purpose of the three following motions.

MOTION C22-11 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED to approve the ONMB General Operating Bylaw Draft 2a (“ONMB GOB 2022 revisions for ONCA draft2a”) as presented with an amendment to Section 6.2.2 (Rights of a Convention member) to add the sentence, “As a Voting Representative, a Convention Member shall

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ONMB 2022 CONVENTION MINUTES

continued

have one (1) vote on all matters coming before the Members' Meeting that require a vote to which such individual was appointed as a delegate".

MOTION C22-12 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the amended ONMB Articles of Incorporation to support the bylaw changes and ONCA transition be approved in its entirety as presented.

The motion to approve the ONMB Ministerial Misconduct Policy was opened to discussion.

- It was suggested that the definition of 'complaint' should be expanded to include sins of omission as well as commission. Guidelines of preventative measures may also be considered. Michelle noted these suggestions for future reviews, and while the document does mention 'omission', it could be more clearly identified.
- A question arose concerning how the Family Covenant informs misconduct under 1.9 – Interpretation. This could lead to the misuse of the policy. In response, while the Covenant does not outline any specific issues of misconduct, it is one of our foundational documents. This policy is intended to apply specifically to Conference church pastors and the process should eliminate any inappropriate use of complaint. This concern will be noted and the Governance Committee will give the issue consideration when future revisions occur.
- It was also suggested that the Family Covenant should be presented for formal consideration and approval at Convention, as with other policy documents. Also, the document states that the 'ONMB will...' but the ONMB is defined as the Conference of churches. J.P. Hayashida explained that this legal language is common and not inappropriate. However, in unique cases, when a group within the body is referenced, details should be clearly identified. He thanked Michael VandenEnden for his close reading of the document, which has led to stronger policy in the past and present.
- The purpose of the policy might be better clarified in the preamble. Karen explained how this wording had been developed and the clarity it provides.

Jeff MacLeod thanked Michelle, Doug and J.P. for all of the work they have completed this year to bring these motions to Convention.

MOTION C22-13 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the ONMB Ministerial Misconduct Policy be approved as presented.

MOTION C22-14 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that, at the AGM's of the various incorporated boards, we authorize the chair of the ONMB Board, or his/her designate, to vote in favour of the motions presented at those respective meetings.

20. **CCMNC/MCC – What will happen....:** A video was presented. Elton DaSilva, Carson Samson and Kara Friesen spoke on the crisis of displacement of Afghan Christian families. Elton remembered the story of Joseph and Mary who also fled their home, going into Egypt to save their young family. MCC is working to support refugee families in Canada. Sponsoring a refugee family is a big commitment and details are on the MCC website for congregations willing to commit to sponsorship. Opportunities are available through mid-March.

21. **RADIANT CARE UPDATE:** Ed and Jeff Martens (Southridge) have given leadership to the 'bless and release' of Radiant Care. Ed described the process that other Conference ministries have completed, including Bethesda, Camp Crossroads and Eden. Radiant Care and Valleyview Manor are the last incorporated groups to complete the transition to self-autonomy. Ed highlighted the discussions over the past few years that have led to the presentation of these motions today. As a Board, we are now comfortable that we have come to a satisfactory conclusion that includes the MB Confession of Faith as the basis for Radiant Care's covenant moving forward. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed which establishes our mutual understanding of the spiritual future of the organization. The motions were opened to discussion.

ONMB Convention 2023

ONMB 2022 CONVENTION MINUTES

continued

- Release will protect the ONMB Conference from any legal liability for the ongoing operations of Radiant Care and protect Radiant Care from any liability relating to ONMB oversight.
- Glen Unruh responded to a question and explained the strength of the Radiant Care documentation and governance and the rigorous process of vetting board members. The care provided to seniors is an expression of our Anabaptist faith now and in future. The intention is not to separate from the local churches, which continue to be valued and necessary to the future of the five corporations.
- It was acknowledged that Radiant Care is a regional organization and not Provincial in focus.
- Michael Dyck, a Radiant Care chaplain, provided comment on the ongoing spiritual care required at the senior's facilities. He encouraged anyone wishing to volunteer to contact him, as the relational ministerial connections can continue to grow under the new structure.

MOTION C22-15 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the proposed changes to the bylaws for governing the Radiant Care Tabor Manor corporations be approved provided that the Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Radiant Care Tabor Manor Corporations.

MOTION C22-16 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the proposed changes in the Articles of Amendment for governing the Radiant Care Tabor Manor corporations be approved provided that the Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Radiant Care Tabor Manor corporations.

MOTION C22-17 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the 2022 proposed nomination slate of directors for Radiant Care be approved as presented.

Note: The Radiant Care Board Members are Glen Unruh (Southridge Community Church – Glenridge), John Krause (New Hope Church Niagara), Dorothea Enns (Niagara United Mennonite Church), John Dyck (Cornerstone Community Church), John Hay (Southridge Community Church – Glenridge), Christa Krause (Southridge Community Church – Glenridge), Nathan Braun (New Hope Church Niagara) and Richard Wall (Niagara United Mennonite Church).

MOTION C22-18 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 C22-19 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the auditing firm Crawford, Smith and Swallow be assigned to Radiant Care for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

Jeff Martens offered a prayer of blessing for Radiant Care Tabor Manor as it is released into mature self-autonomy.

ONMB Convention 2023

ONMB 2022 CONVENTION MINUTES

continued

22. **MB SEMINARY UPDATE:** Mark Wessner referred to the MB Seminary report in the Convention booklet. Two years ago, the seminary launched a financial restructuring that has led to greater sustainable today. He thanked those who made this possible through their gifts. In BC, we now have two partnering 'teaching churches' and similar models are being considered for Ontario very soon. He provided links for any churches looking into this opportunity. He announced an upcoming New Testament Teaching Tour of Turkey.
23. **NFLT UPDATE:** Ken Esau is Interim Director of the 17 member National Faith and Life Team. Ken introduced the members of the team and thanked them for their participation. He encouraged us to pray for a return to health for Ingrid Reichardt. He described the large mandate of NFLT in credentialing, hosting events, educating, seminary, engaging with other conferences and responding to demands and questions of the congregations. A posture of humility, paired with gospel integrity, is their guiding principle. He prayed for the Conference.
24. **FINAL RESULTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:** Ed Willms thanked everyone for engaging and participating in this Convention. He encouraged the Faith and Life teams in this heavy time and reminded everyone of the Posture Shift event planned for March in Niagara. He thanks Jeff, Karen, Michelle and everyone who made this event possible. He thanked the National team, Carson and Kara, working in the background – we are better together!

MOTION C22-20 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the ballots be destroyed upon the approval of the minutes by the Board Secretary.

MOTION C22-21 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the Ontario Mennonite Brethren Convention 2022 be adjourned

Tamille Richardson closed the meeting in prayer at 1:30 pm.



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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The members of the Nominating Committee for 2022/2023 were Tabitha VandenEnden, Bill Stubbs, Terry Shuh and Jeff Martens. Ryan Jantzi participated in some meetings as a non-voting member by virtue of his position as Interim Executive Director of the Ontario Conference of MB Churches. This year we saw an increase in turnover on the Board of Directors which left four (4) openings to be filled from the previous board size of twelve (12) members. After processing all received nominations, the NC is recommending the BoD operate with eleven (11) members for the next year.

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 2022, all MB churches in Ontario were invited to submit nominations for the election of candidates for the BoD and the NC. Additionally, Ryan Jantzi and members of the BoD were proactive in seeking out qualified candidates. This year, the Nominating Committee is presenting three (3) new candidates for the Board of Directors who went through the discernment process with the NC and were deemed suitable candidates. You will find their names and personal profiles at the end of this report, along with three (3) existing BoD members and four (4) NC members slated for re-election.

This year, Michelle Knowles is being put forward for election as Chair of the BoD along with Doug Valerio for election as Vice-Chair. Both Michelle and Doug are currently serving in these roles on an interim basis and the NC is recommending that they be acclaimed for the positions for the next term.

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 wants to hear from member churches and is asking our member churches to begin the discernment process now by prayerfully considering candidates who could serve on the BoD in 2024. Nominating gifted, qualified and spiritually mature 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 Jeff McLeod for his time serving as the Board Chair until November 2022, as well as our outgoing board members Jeff Martens, Mandy Kasper, and Tamille Richardson for their years of dedicated service.

RECOMMENDATIONS (MOTIONS):

1. That the Board of Directors for the period commencing from Convention 2023 until Convention 2024 be made up of 11 directors.
2. That Michelle Knowles be acclaimed for her first two-year term as of Chair of the ONMB Board of Directors.
3. That Doug Valerio be acclaimed for his first two-year term as Vice-Chair of the ONMB Board of Directors.
4. The following individuals be elected to the ONMB board as members-at-large: Anita Boles, Jeff MacLeod, Richard Martens, Timothy Quek
5. That all candidates for the Nominating Committee 2023 be acclaimed.



Jeff Martens

Nominating Committee Chair



SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

Chair: Michelle Knowles
Vice-Chair: Doug Valerio
Members-at-large: Jeff MacLeod, Timothy Quek,
 Richard Martens, Anita Boles

SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2023

Bill Stubbs
 Tabitha VandenEnden
 Terry Shuh
 Jeff Martens

NEW CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

Nominee Profiles



Anita Boles: Member-at-Large

- Director, Finance & Operations at WMB Church
- Church Experience: (at various points over many years) prayer usher, home group leader, Leadership Board member, Sunday school teacher, premarital mentor
- Education: Business Administration-Accounting
- Other Experience: Chief Financial & Operations Officer at Emmanuel Bible College; Co-Chair of Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region
- Spiritual Gifts: Leadership, Discernment, Wisdom



Richard Martens: Member-at-Large

- Lead Pastor of Glencairn MB Church
- Church Experience: Served in five churches as Associate or Lead pastor since 1988. Ontario MB Conference Minister for 2 years. Current member of PFLT, and past member of NFLT, ONMB Leadership Board, Church Extension Board.
- Education: BTh from Tyndale University
- Spiritual Gifts: Evangelism, Discipling, Encouragement, Teaching



Timothy Quek: Member-at-Large

- Lead Pastor, Pastoral Consultant, Church Conflict Manager; Adjunct Professor; Church Planting; Council Member (Greater Toronto Spiritual Life; Persian Transformational Network)
- Education: Ph.D.; M.A.; B.A. Grip-Birkman Coach; SEAN Trainer; SEUS certification
- Other experience: Private Practice (Counselling); District Executive Committee, Ordination Council, Discipline Committee (C&MA); Chinese Canadian Churches Association, Missions (vice chair)
- Spiritual Gifts: Leadership; Teaching/Preaching; Exhortation; Administration; Discernment

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BOARD MEMBERS FOR RE-ELECTION 2023

Nominee Profiles



Michelle Knowles:
Board Chair

- Pastor, Global Outreach & Theological Development, WMB Church (Waterloo)
- Church Experience: Served on pastoral staff team for thirteen years, member of WMB Church for eighteen years
- Education: MA – Transformational Leadership, Bethel Seminary; BA – Kinesiology & Phys Ed, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Other Experience: Served with the ONMB Board of Directors, 2012-2015 & 2019-present, ONMB Moderator Rep CCMBC Executive Board 2022 – present, Nominations Committee 2017-2019, chaired ONMB governance team, parliamentary teams for provincial and national gatherings, National Assembly task forces, served in leadership with many short-term mission teams, including various programs and events with Multiply
- Spiritual Gifts: Leadership, Discernment, Prophecy, Knowledge



Doug Valerio:
Board Vice-Chair

- Lead Pastor, Manotick Community Church
- Church Experience: Executive Pastor, Small Group Director; Bible College Director and Tutor (Australia); Assistant Pastor (UK)
- Education: MA Christian Studies (Leadership Major) at Alphacrucis University College. Sydney Australia.
- Other Experience: ONMB Board member, Current Secretary for the Manotick Village Community Association; Co-lead Renew-Arts and Theology. Former Secretary/Chaplain for a local Christian Motorcycle Ministry.
- Spiritual Gifts: Teaching, Leadership, Creative



Jeff MacLeod:
Member-at-Large

- Co-Lead Pastor, WMB Church
- Church Experience: pastor with various roles and responsibilities
- Education: DMin in Contextual Theology, 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 Mission Organization in Hamilton, has served, and former board chair, on the ONMB Board of Directors since 2016
- Spiritual Gifts: Leadership, Teaching



ONMB Convention 2023

CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2023

Nominee Profiles



Jeff Martens

- Outreach Pastor & Operations Director – Cornerstone Community Church (NOTL)
- Church Experience: Children and Youth Ministries, Outreach Ministries, Executive Leadership, Pastoral Leadership Team (Current)
- Other Experience/Work: Summer Leadership and Program Development at Camp Crossroads, extended experience in global ministry throughout Asia & Africa
- Educational Background: Capernwray Harbour Bible School, Tyndale University
- Spiritual Gifts: Administration, Teaching, Wisdom



Terry Shuh

- Retired - Business, client relations/sales, active member of WMB (Waterloo site)
- Church Experience: Former Leadership Board Chair, Home Group Leader, Usher/Greeter, Mentor. Two previous terms served with the ONMB Board of Directors
- Spiritual Gifts: Administration, Discernment



Bill Stubbs

- Retired: Formerly Lead Pastor at Glencairn MB Church, Kitchener
- Church Experience: Lead Pastor, Associate Pastor, formerly ONMB 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, Mercies



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

ONMB Convention 2023

2022 ONMB Treasurer Report

Noah Grossman, Treasurer

The Backstory:

For the first time since 2019, 2022 began to feel like a 'return to normal' after the Pandemic cut normal operations within not just ONMB staff, but most churches. 2022 seemed to act as a 're-launch', and the 2022 ONMB budget was reflective of this.

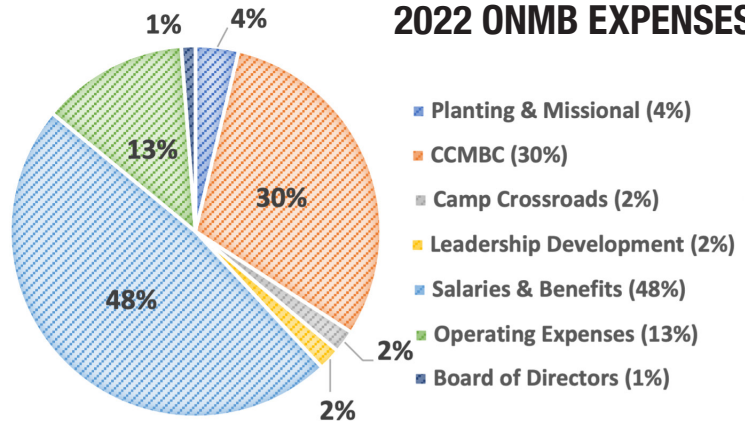
Not foreseen was the shifting of staff. With the transition out of Ed Willms as Executive Director, this led to Ryan Jantzi being designated as Interim Executive Director, as well as moving Kristi Lee from part time to full time hours as our Executive Assistant.

The Bottom Line:

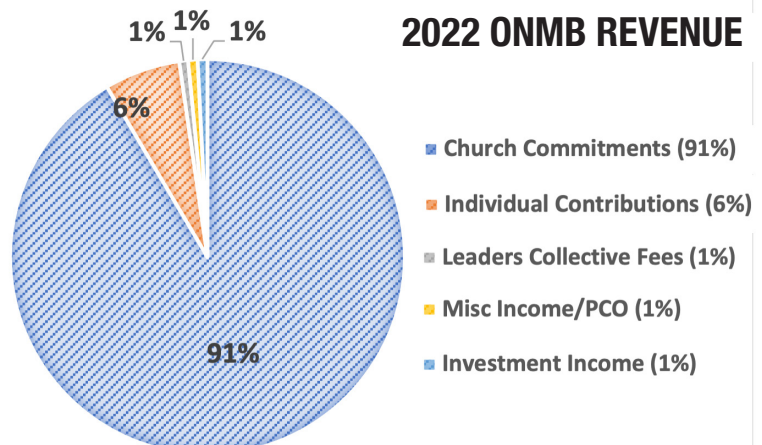
We finished 2022 in a stronger financial position than expected! The 2022 budget contained a planned deficit of \$27K, as a result of a strong operating reserve and a desire to invest in some new ministry initiatives. However due to increased giving, we finished with a 3.5% increase in church commitments and 5% overall increase in revenue year-over-year with a \$18K deficit, 33% lower than the original, planned deficit.



2022 ONMB EXPENSES



2022 ONMB REVENUE



ONMB Convention 2023

2023 ONMB Treasurer Report

continued

A Year of Transition:

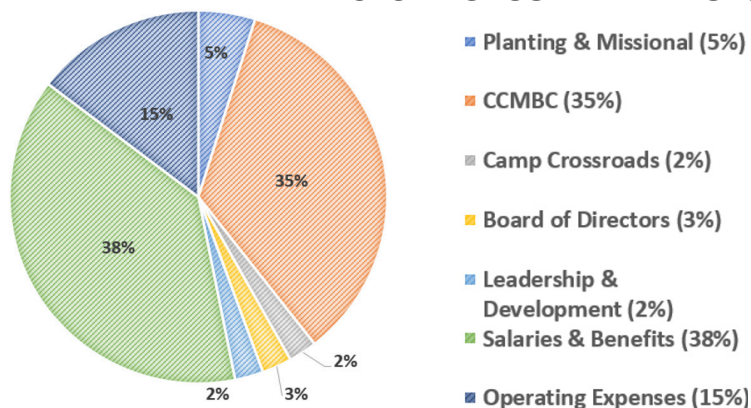
2022 was a year of transition within our ONMB staff with the unforeseen transition of our Executive Director. As stated in the Treasurer Report, this resulted in moving Ryan Jantzi into an Interim Executive Director role, as well as moving Kristi Lee from part-time to full-time Executive Assistant. Although these moves occurred, due to the lessened head count, we have seen a decrease in Salaries & Benefits by 35%.

While the intention of the Board is to backfill the role of Executive Director as soon as possible, we are not in a position at this time to be able to project if/when this will happen in 2023, so we must account for this in the budget and project a line that is reflective of where we are as an organization today.

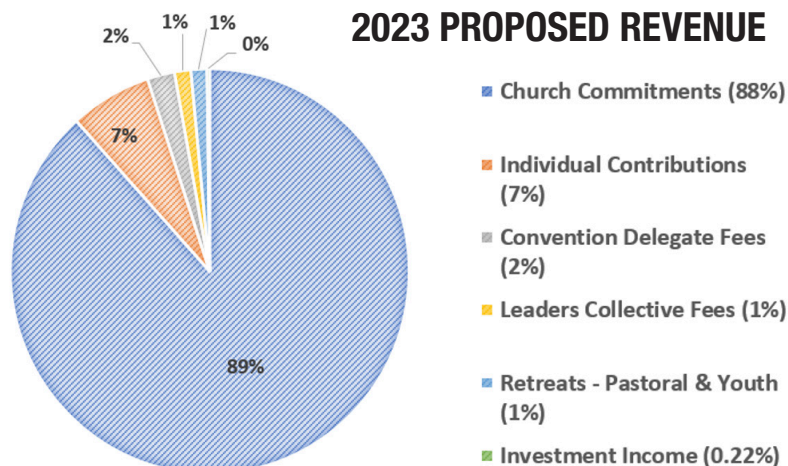
Continued Growth:

The ONMB Board and staff have a desire to continue the same path and vision established in the previous budgets. Because of this we have proposed that the remainder of Ed Willms' severance be taken out of the Operating Reserve fund. This will allow us to operate on a proposed surplus budget, helping us to recuperate from the \$18K deficit of 2022.

2023 PROPOSED EXPENSES



2023 PROPOSED REVENUE



ONMB Proposed Budget - DRAFT

	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Income	2023	2022	2022
Church Commitments	400,000.00	445,210.23	435,000.00
Individual Contributions	30,000.00	30,264.12	25,000.00
Convention Delegate Fees	10,000.00	-	-
Leaders Collective Fees	6,000.00	3,500.00	2,000.00
Retreats - Pastoral & Youth			
Misc Income/PCO		3,773.87	
Investment Income	1,000.00	3,868.74	1,000.00
Total Income	447,000.00	486,616.96	463,000.00
Expenses			
Church Planting & Missional Expressions			
ONMB Resources & Initiatives	-	-	-
Regional Church Planting	20,000.00	5,000.00	-
New Initiatives		13,951.86	20,000.00
Total Church Planting & Missional Expressions	20,000.00	18,951.86	20,000.00
CCMBC Collaborative Support			
One-Stream Funding	142,000.00	153,372.12	150,000.00
Support of Partner Ministries			
Camp Crossroads	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Total Partner Ministries	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Board of Directors			
Faith & Life Committee	500.00	203.16	500.00
Board Meetings / Travel	10,000.00	5,971.51	3,000.00
Total Board of Directors	10,500.00	6,174.67	3,500.00
Leadership Development			
Leaders Collective	5,000.00	2,328.68	2,000.00
Special Events	5,000.00	7,500.03	5,000.00
Pastors Retreat	-		5,000.00
Total Development	10,000.00	9,828.71	12,000.00
Operating Expenses & Wages			
Advertising	500.00	-	-
Conferences	500.00	672.83	-
Conference Insurance	3,000.00	2,926.80	3,000.00
Contract Support	-	-	8,000.00
Convention/Yearbook	8,500.00	170.41	5,000.00
Bank Fees	1,000.00	1,035.55	300.00
Bookkeeping	2,500.00	2,392.00	2,500.00
Fees & Dues	1,000.00	922.56	-
Consultant Fees	5,000.00	4,625.00	-
Office	600.00	473.00	2,200.00
Professional Fees	10,000.00	19,360.75	5,000.00
Professional Development	2,000.00	2,602.41	5,000.00
Rental Expense	3,000.00	1,400.00	-
Technology	1,500.00	2,244.04	4,000.00
Special Projects	-	-	-
Salaries & Benefits	158,000.00	241,791.77	238,000.00
Staffing Expenses	6,000.00	11,864.34	7,500.00
Other Expenses	500.00	304.10	1,000.00
Total Operating & Wages	203,600.00	292,785.56	281,500.00
Payroll Expenses	14,500.00	13,651.56	13,000.00
Total Expenses	410,600.00	504,764.48	490,000.00
Net Income / (Deficit)	36,400.00	\$ (18,147.52)	(27,000.00)

ONMB Proposed Budget - DRAFT

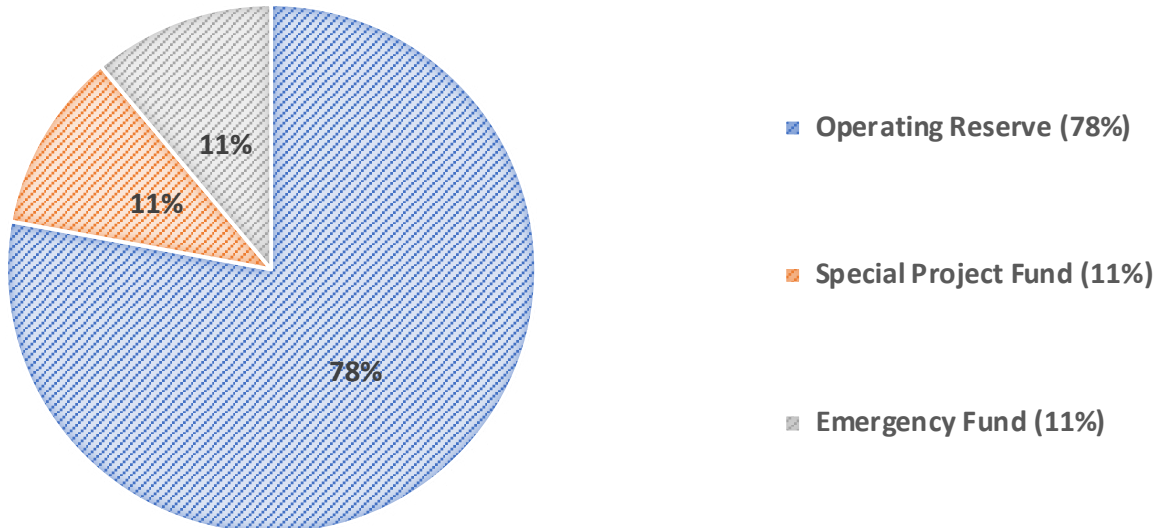
Current Fund Balances	
Operating Reserve	\$ 286,954.70
Special Project Fund	\$ 24,737.90
Emergency Fund	\$ 25,000.00
Total Fund Balances	\$ 336,692.60

Planned Usage of Funds	
Operating Reserve funds released to cover staff transitions	\$111,678.52
Total	\$111,678.52

Proposed Fund Balances	
Operating Reserve	\$ 175,276.18
Special Project Fund	\$ 24,737.90
Emergency Fund	\$ 25,000.00
Total Fund Balances	\$ 225,014.08

* The expenditures for staff transitions will cover any and all costs that are being incurred as a result of the change in the role of Executive Director.

2023 PROPOSED FUND BALANCES



Noah Grossman

ONMB Board Treasurer

ONMB Convention 2023

ONMB FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2022 Audited Financials - DRAFT

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

DRAFT COPY

Prepared by MM 2/15/23	Reviewed by SJE 2/16/23	Partner	Corrections
2nd review			

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**ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

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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, 2022, 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, 2022, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO)

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 Conference expenses tangible capital assets when acquired. The expenses related to 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 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 these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, 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.

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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 related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Conference or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 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.

(*continues*)

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

St. Catharines, Ontario

**CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION**

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

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ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 69,661	\$ 261,182
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	2,294	1,172
Prepaid expenses	449	473
	<u>72,404</u>	262,827
PROPERTY (Note 6)	-	439,267
INVESTMENTS (Note 4)	<u>247,501</u>	72,838
	<u>\$ 319,905</u>	<u>\$ 774,932</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 8)	\$ 113,500	\$ 3,438
Current portion of long term debt (Note 7)	-	41,953
	<u>113,500</u>	45,391
MORTGAGE PAYABLE (Note 7)	<u>-</u>	286,028
	<u>113,500</u>	331,419
NET ASSETS		
NET ASSETS	<u>206,405</u>	443,513
	<u>\$ 319,905</u>	<u>\$ 774,932</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board

Michelle Knowles
Michelle Knowles (Feb 22, 2023 19:56 EST)

Director

Noah Grossman
Noah Grossman (Feb 22, 2023 20:01 EST)

Director

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See notes to financial statements

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	2021 Balance	Deficiency of revenues over expenditures	Transfers	2022 Balance
General Funds				
General operating fund - current reserve	\$ 252,550	\$ (130,560)	\$ (15,323)	\$ 106,667
General operating fund - fixed minimum	50,000	-	-	50,000
Emergency fund	25,000	-	-	25,000
Special project fund	4,677	4,738	15,323	24,738
Total General Funds	332,227	(125,822)	-	206,405
Northend Church Funds	111,286	-	(111,286)	-
	\$ 443,513	\$ (125,822)	\$ (111,286)	\$ 206,405

	2020 Balance	Deficiency of revenues over expenditures	Transfers	2021 Balance
General Funds				
General operating fund - current reserve	\$ 178,994	\$ 78,362	\$ (4,806)	\$ 252,550
General operating fund - fixed minimum	50,000	-	-	50,000
Emergency fund	25,254	(5,060)	4,806	25,000
Special project fund	4,677	-	-	4,677
Total General Funds	258,925	73,302	-	332,227
Northend Church Funds	152,862	(29,784)	(11,792)	111,286
	\$ 411,787	\$ 43,518	\$ (11,792)	\$ 443,513

See Note 3 for a description of funds, and Note 6 for Northend Church Fund transfers.

**ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
REVENUES		
Church commitments	\$ 445,210	\$ 430,374
Individual contributions	40,264	25,607
Pastoral and youth retreats	5,850	-
Interest from operating funds	4,663	1,009
Leader's collective fees	3,500	-
Miscellaneous income	585	4,409
Convention delegate fees	-	5,300
	<u>500,072</u>	<u>466,699</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries and benefits	255,443	172,053
Support to conference agencies	163,372	139,500
Ministry and program	33,648	24,397
Fees and professional services	22,622	18,105
Church planting	18,952	21,328
Office management	9,580	9,629
Board and governance	6,175	740
Professional development	2,602	2,585
	<u>512,394</u>	<u>388,337</u>
NET SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS	<u>(12,322)</u>	<u>78,362</u>
OTHER EXPENSES		
Severance wage expense (Note 8)	113,500	-
Emergency fund disbursements	-	5,060
Net surplus, Northend Church Fund (Schedule 1)	-	29,784
	<u>113,500</u>	<u>34,844</u>
COMBINED NET SURPLUS	<u>\$ (125,822)</u>	<u>\$ 43,518</u>

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See notes to financial statements

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - NORTHEAST CHURCH FUND
(Schedule 1)
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
REVENUES		
Donations	\$ 118,749	\$ 302,114
Seniors income	100	120
Youth group	10	900
Rental	-	9,732
Government grants	-	46,279
	<u>118,859</u>	<u>359,145</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Charitable contributions (Note 5)	116,870	293,282
Office management	1,989	4,079
Interest on long term debt	-	13,649
Salaries and benefits	-	74,217
Repairs and maintenance	-	1,871
Ministry and program	-	1,435
Utilities	-	347
Conferences	-	49
	<u>118,859</u>	<u>388,929</u>
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIENCY) FROM OPERATIONS	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (29,784)</u>

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See notes to financial statements

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>\$ (125,822)</u>	<u>\$ 43,518</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	-	6,869
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	(1,122)	13,344
Prepaid expenses	23	5,307
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	110,063	(5,139)
Deferred donations	-	(9,108)
Transfers to Northend Church	-	(11,792)
	<u>108,964</u>	<u>(519)</u>
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	<u>(16,858)</u>	<u>42,999</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Investments	<u>(174,663)</u>	<u>(1,009)</u>
FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Repayment of long term debt	-	(40,351)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW	<u>(191,521)</u>	<u>1,639</u>
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>261,182</u>	<u>259,543</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 69,661</u>	<u>\$ 261,182</u>
CASH CONSISTS OF:		
Cash - General Funds	\$ 69,661	\$ 261,182
Cash - Northend Church Fund	-	-
	<u>\$ 69,661</u>	<u>\$ 261,182</u>

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See notes to financial statements

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

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 continued until January 13, 2021, at which time Northend Church received their charity status. See "Fund Accounting" Note 2, and Notes: 3, 6, 7, and 8 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 (ASNFPO).

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, 2022

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 fund.

Restricted contributions for operations are deferred and recognized as income in the related fund once they are disbursed. Restricted contributions for the repayment of debt that was incurred to fund the purchase of a capital asset that will not be amortized is recognized as direct increases in net assets, see note 6.

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. As the Northend Church has obtained individual charitable status, the property has been transferred to the new Church as of April 2022.

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.

(continues)

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

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

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.

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.

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

The **Northend Church Fund** is a new church plant fund (formerly Fairview M.B. Church) operated by the Conference. The new Northend Church registered as a charity on January 13, 2021 and began operations independently of this related fund. Remaining Northend Church Fund assets, net assets, and the statement of revenue and expenses have been disclosed separately to recognize any church activities still operated under the Conference. As at December 31, 2022, the only remaining balances within the Northend Church Fund have been transferred to Northend Church.

4. INVESTMENTS - CANADIAN CONFERENCE

The investment is with the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches earning interest at a base rate of 3.15% at year end, with an increase to 5% effective January 1, 2023. 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. These financial statements do not determine, disclose or verify external affiliate activities.

2022 charitable contributions of \$116,870 (2021 - \$293,282) are net payments of received donations to the new Northend Church registered charity.

Net transfers of \$111,286 to the Northend Church Fund Net Assets are to the Church, and include the transfer of the Church property and its related mortgage.

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

6. PROPERTY

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2022 Net book value	2021 Net book value
Northend Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 439,267

All Assets and Liabilities of Fairview Church were transferred to the Conference in 2019 for \$1.00 consideration, and an assumption of debt. The exchanged value of the combined property and assumed mortgage at the time of the 2019 transfer was \$439,267.

Northend Church obtained charitable status in fiscal 2021, and the legal transfer of the property and its related mortgage has been completed as of April 2022 (see note 7).

7. MORTGAGE PAYABLE

	2022	2021
CCMBC loan bearing interest at 3.9% per annum, repayable in monthly blended payments of \$4,500. and is secured by Northend Church property.	\$ -	\$ 327,981
Amounts payable within one year	-	(41,953)
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 286,028</u>

The Northend Church property has been legally transferred to Northend Church (see note 6) and the mortgage has also been assumed by the Church.

8. ACCRUED LIABILITIES

During the year, the Conference terminated the employment of one employee, without cause. As such, the Conference has agreed to a severance package ending November 1, 2023, with an estimated total cost of \$113,500.

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

9. 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, 2022.

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.

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ONMB Convention 2023



FROM THE PROVINCIAL FAITH & LIFE TEAM

Karen West, Ontario Rep. to NFLT

The Provincial Faith and Life Team (PFLT) is a standing committee of the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (ONMB) board, as set forth in the ONMB General Operating Bylaw. Its authority and mandate is to:

(1) 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) Maintain the centrality of the Confession of Faith and 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) 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) Maintain the registry with the Ontario office regarding the licensed ministers of the Ontario Conference.

(5) Give guidance to Member Churches, Associate Churches, and any other organizations using the Confession of Faith in matters of faith and doctrine.

(6) Appoint one of its committee members to serve on the National Faith and Life Team of the Canadian Conference.

(7) Assist the Board in discerning new congregations applying for membership in the Ontario Conference.

(8) Assist the Board in matters of the suspension, revocation or reinstatement of a Member Church.

(9) Interview individuals to determine their standing as described in the bylaw.

ONMB Convention 2023

FROM THE PROVINCIAL FAITH & LIFE TEAM

continued

Through these mandated roles, the FLT participates in and collaborates with the National Faith and Life Team (NFLT) to articulate and safeguard Mennonite Brethren theological convictions, and provides discernment and guidance on contemporary issues within the Province of Ontario. This task is accomplished primarily through sustaining our MB confessional foundation, guiding and supporting churches and their leaders, and facilitating the credentialing process for church and ministry leaders.

The PFLT is accountable to the ONMB board, and by extension to the ONMB conference of churches, with the ONMB board appointing the team members as well as the chair. Each Provincial Faith and Life Team across Canada has a direct relationship to the National Faith and Life Team by appointing one team member as a representative to serve on the NFLT, and to ensure national and provincial coordination and collaboration on Faith and Life Team matters.

During this past fiscal year, our Ontario PFLT officially met four times in June, October, December 2022 and January 2023, through a combination of zoom and in-person meetings, with additional meetings for credentialing interviews, meetings with various church leaders, and preparatory work.

During this last fiscal year, the following people served as members of PFLT, all of whom are credentialed pastors/leaders within our MB churches:

The PFLT members are:

- Richard Martens (as chair)
- Dave Fowler
- Jeff MacLeod (previous ONMB Board Chair)
- Mandy Kasper (until October)
- Matt Unruh
- Chris Walker
- Karen West (Ontario Rep to NFLT)
- Michelle Knowles (current ONMB Board Chair)

Ed Willms also served on PFLT as ex-officio staff, with Ryan Jantzi continuing in that role as Interim Executive Director, along with Kristi Lee. Thank you to Bill Stubbs, who serves our PFLT by tracking all our marriage licensing. A special thank you to Richard Martens for his excellent leadership as PFLT chair for many years! Pursuant to our Bylaw, the next chair will be appointed by the ONMB Board after this convention.

One of the major PFLT roles is ensuring that our pastors and ministry leaders are credentialed, in order to maintain the centrality of our MB Confession of Faith in the context of ministry leadership and practice, and to ensure that our pastors and leaders in our ONMB family are ethically able and supported in their ministry roles.

The credentialing process includes:

- Completing the national Ministry Credentialing Questionnaire or Mentor-Based Credentialing Process
- Reading and reporting on two historical MB books
- Being interviewed by two members of the PFLT
- Reference checks
- Prayerful discernment and vote by the PFLT as a whole
- Signing the MB Code of Personal and Ministry Ethics
- Attending the National Pastor's Credentialing Orientation (PCO).
- Note: This credentialing process is expected to occur within the first year of a new pastoral assignment, with PCO to be completed within two years of credentialing.

2022 Credentialing Updates:

- 5 Ministry Leaders Credentialed
 - Mike Brnjas (WMB); Mitch Hunter (North-end); Derek Klumpenhauer (WMB); Michael Reimer (Cornerstone); Alex Smethurst (Mountain Park)
 - Additionally, Shawn Branton (WMB) shifted from local to provincial credentials

ONMB Convention 2023

FROM THE PROVINCIAL FAITH & LIFE TEAM

continued

- 4 Credentials Removed Due to Resignations/Withdrawals from ONMB
- We anticipate credentialing 5-10 additional pastors in 2023.

This past year our PFLT engaged in various topics and circumstances:

- Ways to keep confessional integrity with the MB Confession of Faith and our communal interpretation of scripture as captured therein, given other views. While the whole of the confession is included in this work overall, a particular topic has surfaced due to cultural views and practices which are contrary to the MB confessional belief that scripture defines marriage as being between one man and one woman. Your PFLT joins our churches in ensuring that we live and model that confessional integrity, while still demonstrating Christ's love and grace to those who either view this differently, or who question how to practically merge faith and life on this topic. The seminar "Posture Shift", hosted by ONMB in March 2022, along with the NFLT's document, "LGB Loving Well", continue to be helpful resources.
- Processing with the leadership in two of our churches regarding their belief and subsequent choice of a different path from that as set out in our MB Confession (resulting in the formalized suspension of church membership within our conference for both Southridge Community Church and FreeChurch Toronto). This convention 2023 includes a deciding vote by the delegates to either affirm or reject the recommendation of the ONMB board and PFLT to release and bless these two churches as they pursue a different understanding and belief regarding marriage.
- Processing the withdrawal of New Hope Church Niagara from membership with ONMB in February 2022.

- Providing input and feedback to NFLT regarding work on collaborative national documents, particularly from an Ontario perspective. These are typically documents that all provincial MB conferences seek to hold in unity across Canada, and to implement together as one denomination, but with many different geographical and cultural settings. In 2022, this work primarily included feedback and implementation of the Collaborative National Credential Policy, the Code of Personal and Ministry Ethics, and ongoing review of Confession of Faith wording.

Your Ontario PFLT appreciates your prayers, and is open to your feedback, comments and questions.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we live in a broken world, with broken lives, and often in broken circumstances. Churches deal with these realities of "faith" and "life" all the time. It's where the "rubber hits the road" in the lives of those who gather every Sunday, and those who don't know Jesus... yet. The fact is, life can be challenging, and yet, through our obedience to his ways, Jesus calls and enables us—His Church—to individually and collectively witness his presence in our lives, so that others might also know him as Saviour. Our troubles may at times feel overwhelming, but the Holy Spirit empowers us, none-the-less, to live in the light of the greatest love the world has ever known. In our brokenness, Jesus shines, leading us through turbulence, so that others may see and know the reason for our faith! This is what "Faith" and "Life" is all about. It's the reason we serve! To this end, we pray.



Karen West

Ontario Provincial Faith and Life
Rep to NFLT, for the PFLT

February 8, 2023

Greetings,

We are looking forward to gathering as the ONMB community for our 2023 Convention at Maple View Mennonite Church in Wellesley, ON. This will be our first in-person convention in three years!

This year's convention will include important decisions related to the identity and future of the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. It is our desire that our ONMB members be well informed in preparation. Two motions being brought by the ONMB Board are related to the ending of ONMB affiliation for FreeChurch Toronto and Southridge Community Church (SCC). FreeChurch and SCC were placed on "membership suspension" on October 14, 2022 and November 5, 2022 respectively. These recommendations to end their ONMB affiliation are coming to you, the delegates, after much dialogue, interaction, process, prayer, and discernment by both the ONMB Board and Faith & Life (PFLT) over the last four years.

Background Related to the Proposed Action

1. **We share a deep concern for how we can grow in love and invitation for 2SLGBTQ+ persons—but believe that this is best done by a careful exploration of the way of Jesus and the ethical expectations articulated in Scripture for disciples of Jesus.** Jesus' ethical expectations are always in the direction of true life—even when they are profoundly challenging and difficult. These ethical expectations (which reflect the historic, biblical, and orthodox understandings held by Christians for the past 2000 years) are summarized well in Articles 10 and 11 of the MB Confession of Faith — and describe what Mennonite Brethren believe are God's very best and loving intentions for people, creation, and the world.

As such, the MB Confession of Faith is both an invitation and a discipleship tool for all who desire to journey through life in submission to Christ, and in obedience to his ways, regardless of one's self-identity. This includes those who identify as 2SLGBTQ+ persons, who wish to join the MB family as we all submit to Christ.

We believe that Articles 10 and 11 faithfully describe the way of Jesus in terms of sexuality and sexual expression, but we need to grow in our posture of love and invitation especially to those who have been excluded and marginalized. We have much to learn and feel that our Posture Shift event in March, where we learned from believers who experience same-sex attraction and gender dysphoria, was a significant step in this direction. Our Board and Faith & Life Team are committed to continuing this journey of growth. We acknowledge our need to continue to learn more about embodying a posture of invitation, compassion, and love for 2SLGBTQ+ persons both outside and inside our church families.

2. **We believe that clarity in the ethical issue of sexuality really matters because it is a theological and a hermeneutical question that is about much more than simply sexual behaviours.** It has larger implications for how we understand the nature of Christian discipleship, the authority of Scripture, the nature of the gospel, and so on. For this reason, we do not see sexual ethics as a standalone issue, but one integral to the overall framework of how we use Scripture. And thus, as part of a larger theological and hermeneutical perspective, we affirm the view on sexuality expressed in our Confession of Faith.

While some declare that our historic understanding of sexual intimacy for Christians as limited to male/female marriage is really a disputable or secondary theological matter, the Faith & Life Team and ONMB Board believe it is critical to hold fast to our existing convictions. Our ethics cannot be distanced in significance from doctrine. Our Anabaptist forebears insisted that 'to have faith is to follow' and thus our ethical decisions are of

critical importance. We believe that the biblical teaching on the subject of sexuality, as historically understood and articulated in the MB Confession of Faith, is strong and biblically defensible. We believe that when our hermeneutical approach, our posture toward Scripture, and our understanding of God's expectations for Christian disciples are all shifted to allow for differing views on sexual ethics, many of our other faith commitments are also dramatically and negatively affected.

3. **ONMB is part of a larger church family (national and international) who share mutual commitments around theological and ethical matters like this.** If we were to ignore our commitment to this larger church family, it would have a ripple effect—both nationally and internationally.

ONMB churches are part of a national (CCMBC) and global (ICOMB) MB community. The covenantal relationship with these partners is based on shared theological/ethical convictions, relationships, and mission. Divergence from sexual ethics expressed in the Confession of Faith would violate our existing commitments both relationally and organizationally with the broader MB community.

This issue and all theological issues need to be discerned via a community hermeneutic with our national and global partners, rather than prematurely stepping beyond as a local or regional MB community. The National Faith and Life Team has been and will continue to lead us in discerning these matters with regional and global MB communities.

4. **All ONMB churches enter the ONMB family on the basis of their commitment to operate in agreement with the MB Confession of Faith and practices.** If a church moves away from and violates this fundamental commitment, it must recognize that this necessarily puts at risk their affiliation with the larger church family.

The existing organizational structure and polity require that all ONMB churches and pastors affirm and comply with the Confession of Faith in its entirety, as seen in the bylaws of the Conference:

1.2.18 "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.

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.*

(Please see the bylaws related to the suspension and revocation of member churches, included in Appendix A. The Collaborative National Credentialing Policy also indicates the expectation that all credentialed pastors fully embrace the MB Confession of Faith.)

Present Situation and Proposed Action

1. **SCC and FreeChurch have each publicly expressed their decision to move away from our shared biblical understanding that for disciples of Jesus, sexual intimacy is necessarily limited to the context of a male/female marriage covenant (as described in Articles 10 and 11 of the MB Confession**

of Faith). By doing this, both congregations are moving away from and violating their ONMB affiliation covenant to operate in agreement with the MB Confession of Faith and practices.

FreeChurch via their website and their “Living Document” indicate a commitment to full inclusion of all 2SLGBTQ+ persons including those who are in or seeking same-sex marriages. FreeChurch’s Living Document expresses that FreeChurch values marriage as a life-long exclusive relationship. They are inviting same-sex couples and male/female couples to this same expectation. The Living Document recognizes human sexuality as an important matter for Christian ethics, proposes that Christians can faithfully disagree on the issue of same-sex marriage, and expresses the desire to pursue unity despite theological differences.

SCC publicly communicated the intention in Fall 2022, to expand its capacity for ‘Love Beyond Belief’, especially as it relates to the inclusion of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. The intention of SCC is to move into a model of full inclusion for 2SLGBTQ+ persons and make the discipleship expectation of sexual intimacy limited to male/female marriage a “disputable matter” and not a requirement for participation and leadership in their church. While SCC has not become a “fully affirming” church as a formal position, it has expressed the desire to create space for divergent views and practices within their church family—even for those in leadership.

2. ONMB has had a three-plus year journey of extensive conversations with SCC and FreeChurch about these decisions and the implications for their participation within the ONMB family but both congregations have decided to continue with the path that they have chosen. ONMB has discerned that in both cases, their plans are in fundamental conflict with our MB Confession of Faith which is why this decision is being brought to the ONMB Convention. Here are a few of the steps in the process:

- ONMB has sent staff, board members, and Faith & Life Team members to dialogue with leaders of both churches at various points.
- A listening event organized by the ONMB Board was held in September 2022 with the intent of ONMB pastors learning about the journey of these churches related to 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion.
- In terms of SCC, ONMB has previously published public communication pieces relaying the dialogue with SCC including December 2019 which stated their view at that time, “SCC is seeking to find ways to include and disciple 2SLGBTQ+ people in their church community by creating open and safe environments for them, while also upholding the Confession of Faith” and “SCC intends to clearly teach and uphold this position within their congregation.”

Finding ways to reach out to those who refer to themselves as 2SLGBTQ+ people is, and should be, part of our collective vision as Mennonite Brethren, just as it is our vision to reach out to all people from every sphere of life. However, through significant dialogue and interaction with SCC leadership over the past three plus years, the ONMB Board and PFLT came to understand that SCC’s vision is to be inclusive, not just of people with varying sexual perspectives and practices, but also to be inclusive of differing theological beliefs and biblical interpretations on these questions. The MB Confession of Faith on sexuality would thus be considered a disputable matter, with people of differing views and practices being welcomed into leadership and decision-making roles. It took time to get to the heart of this matter, and to realize that SCC is on a different path from the MB vision to first invite everyone to Jesus regardless of their situation, but also to disciple all people towards what we believe is God’s very best plan for faith and life as articulated in Scripture.

Much hard work has been invested in understanding one another with the hope of finding a mutually satisfactory, redemptive outcome. Much of the dialogue has been in closed circles due to the private nature of the topic at hand, but aimed to be public and transparent where possible, as the discernment conversations have taken place over multiple years.

3. It is for these reasons that ONMB is proposing the ending of SCC and FreeChurch's affiliations with the ONMB Conference.

It is with sorrow and loss that we recommend the revocation of membership from the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches for FreeChurch Toronto and Southridge Community Church. The ONMB Board does not view this motion to our delegates as a removal of a church from membership—but rather as an action to formally recognize what FreeChurch Toronto and Southridge Community Church have already done by their actions of knowingly departing from their ONMB affiliation expectations.

While we value our shared church affiliation across our provincial and national MB conferences (and we grieve this loss within our church family), there are times when maintaining affiliation puts at risk the well-being, integrity, public witness, and missional purpose of the local MB church, ONMB and our larger Canadian Conference of MB Churches. It is therefore important to have clarity about the process of and the rationale for this motion to end their ONMB affiliation.

The passing of this motion will remove all formal and informal standing of FreeChurch and SCC in their relationships with ONMB and CCMBC. Our partner agencies (Multiply, Camp Crossroads, etc.), who also are committed to uphold the MB Confession of Faith, will each need to discern the nature of their relationship to these churches in the future.

The Future Relationship of SCC and FreeChurch with the ONMB Conference.

Should these churches be released from membership, our ONMB conference will relate to them in the same ways as we would relate to any other non-MB church. Even though the passing of this motion will end formal affiliation, we will continue to be united as brothers and sisters in the broader body of believers and we anticipate opportunities to connect and serve together.

We acknowledge the valuable gifts and inspiration they have brought to the ONMB family. We would love to see these churches return to our shared commitments and convictions as Mennonite Brethren, and continue to be significant contributors to, and extensions of the shared ministry of ONMB. At any time, they are welcome to reapply for affiliation with the ONMB Conference if they can commit to living according to our shared ONMB affiliation expectations.

Praying that the Holy Spirit will guide the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches in this matter. On behalf of the ONMB Board, Staff, and the Faith & Life Team,

Michelle Knowles, ONMB Board Chair
Ryan Jantzi, Interim Executive Director

Appendix A

Excerpt from the General Operating Bylaw (220226) of the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

- **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:
 - 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
 - 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:
 - After a careful examination of the circumstances by the Provincial Faith and Life Team; and
 - Upon the recommendation of the Board; and
 - 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.

ONMB Convention 2023

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Doug Valerio, Committee Chair

This has been a year of transitions. After Convention 2022, Michelle Knowles indicated that she would like to step down from Chairing the Governance Committee as she moved to representing the ONMB at National meetings. I (Doug) took over the role as Chair, while Michelle has remained on the team to help with the transition. We would like to honour Michelle for the two years she Chaired the committee, the amazing work she did in facilitating the new GOB and ONCA revisions as well as serving the Convention as a parliamentarian.

Thank you, Michelle.



Organizational Health Team:

One of the goals Ed Willms set in 2022, was to transition the Governance Committee into the Organizational Health Team (OHT). The purpose of developing the OHT is to align with the strategic priorities set out by the National Assembly (NA) in the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP - Oh, how we like our acronyms!).

The NA is currently working on a number of systems for assessing and equipping our local churches to measure organizational health and training for our leaders and Boards. The role of our OHT is to liaise with the NA and the local church to help with implementation of the organizational health systems. The OHT will continue with its governance work, writing policies, advising the ONMB Board, providing parliamentarians for Convention, and assisting local churches with their own ONCA Bylaw reviews. (Deadline is October 24th, 2024).

That said, we needed to increase the size and skill set of the team which, currently comprises of Ryan Jantzi as Interim Executive Director; Board members Michelle Knowles, Noah Grossman, Brent Kipfler, Darrell Gillespie and myself; Non-Board Members Brenda Kirkwood who has an HR and Executive Coaching background and Tanya Janssen who has a finance and administration background.

Transitions:

Ed's release from his role as Executive Director has also been a big transition for the team. Ed provided a cohesion across all the different areas of ONMB as well as providing vision and direction for the team. We want to honour and thank Ed for the years of wisdom and insight he gave to the team, not least of which was the historical connection he gave to us newer members to the ONMB. Thank you, Ed.

Policy Work:

- We have been working with the Board of Camp Crossroads to review and update their bylaws in the light of ONCA and to address how their board was affected by the member church suspensions.
- A policy review has been started and we now have a system for ongoing policy revision with priorities identified.
- The Associate Church policy is currently under review following the changes for Associate churches in our GOB last Convention.

OHT Work:

- We continue to assist and advise the team that is dedicated to working with Valleyview Manor in preparing them for bless and release.
- ONCA review discussions have started with Member and Associate churches.

ONMB Convention 2023

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

continued

Vision for 2023:

- Working on an ONCA review package for our member churches that will be available on the ONMB website. We had hoped to have this ready for this year's Convention but, with all the changes that have taken place in recent months, we have had to push this back.
- As a Provincial Conference, we are looking into becoming accredited with the Canadian Centre for Christian Charities. This would hold us to the highest standards of accountability and transparency. For more information see: <https://www.cccc.org/accreditation>
- We will be working with the NA in rolling out organizational health systems as they become available.

At Convention 2023, the Governance Committee/OHT will bring a motion to present the Camp Crossroads Bylaw revisions for your approval.



Doug Valerio

Governance Committee Chair



ONMB Convention 2023

GOB CAMP CROSSROADS

DRAFT-Proposed Revisions

GENERAL OPERATING BY-LAW OF CAMP CROSSROADS

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Approved by:

Board of Directors on [●], 2022
Membership on [●], 2022

GENERAL OPERATING BY-LAW OF CAMP CROSSROADS

ARTICLE 1 – DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

1.1 Definitions

“Act” means the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (Ontario) and, where the context requires, includes the regulations made under it, as amended or re-enacted from time to time;

“Annual General Meeting” shall have the meaning as set out in section 8.1;

“Board” means the Board of Directors of the Corporation;

“Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches” shall have the meaning as set out in section 3.1;

“Committee” means any committee established by the Board pursuant to Article 11;

“Conference” means the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches;

“Conference Member” means the individual appointed by the Conference in accordance with section 4.1.1;

“Confession of Faith” shall have the meaning as set out in section 3.2;

“Corporation” means Camp Crossroads;

“Documents” means the Corporation’s 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;

“Director” means a person who has been elected to the office of Director in accordance with Article 5 and 6, or appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of Director in accordance with section 5.5;

“Director Member” means the Directors from time to time of the Corporation in accordance with section 4.1.2;

“Officer” means any person who hold the offices enumerated in Article 9;

“Extraordinary Resolution” means a resolution that is submitted to a Meeting of the Members with or without variation by at least 80 per cent (80%) of the votes cast;

“Governance Manual” means the Camp Crossroads Board Governance Manual, as from time to time updated by the Board;

“Letters Patent” means the Letters Patent incorporating the Corporation, as amended from time to time;

“Meetings of the Members” includes the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meeting;

“Member” means a member of the Corporation;

“Special General Meeting” means a meeting called by the Board or by a Member for the transaction of any affairs, the general nature of which is specified in the notice calling the meeting; and

“Special Resolution” means a resolution passed and confirmed with or without variation by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.

1.2 Interpretations. In all by-laws and resolutions of the Corporation, the words herein importing the singular shall be construed to include the plural and vice versa.

1.3 Durability of the By-law. If any provision set forth in this by-law or the application of it in any particular circumstance shall, to any extent, be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this by-law or the application of such provision other than those to which it is held invalid or unenforceable shall not be affected thereby. Each such provision shall be separately valid and enforceable to the full extent permitted by law.

1.4 Not-for-Profit Corporations Act Definitions. All definitions in the Act have the same meanings in this by-law and any other by-laws and resolutions of the Corporation.

ARTICLE 2 – HEAD OFFICE

2.1. Head Office. The head office of the Corporation shall be in Town of Torrance in the Province of Ontario, and at such place as the Board may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE 3 – AFFILIATION AND CONFESSION OF FAITH

3.1 Affiliation. The Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches is a national body incorporated by an Act passed by the Senate on November 22, 1945. It is comprised of all the Mennonite Brethren congregations in Canada, which in turn are generally organized into regional conferences on a provincial basis. The Corporation exists within the family of churches of the Conference and is committed to the faith of the Mennonite Brethren denomination as expressed in the Confession of Faith as maintained by the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.

3.2 Confession of Faith. The statement guiding the faith and practice of the Corporation shall be the Confession of Faith, as adopted by the Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches and as changed from time to time.

ARTICLE 4 – MEMBERS

4.1 Classes of Members. There shall be two (2) classes of Members, who shall be entitled to vote in the Meetings of the Members and otherwise possess all the rights, duties and privileges of membership in the Corporation:

4.1.1 Conference Member: There shall be one (1) Conference Member appointed by the board of directors of the Conference and shall be authorized to represent the Conference at all Meetings of the Members. The Conference Member shall:

- (a) be an individual of at least eighteen (18) years of age appointed by the board of directors for the Conference;

- (b) not be an undischarged bankrupt or otherwise incapable in accordance with the Act;
- (c) uphold the Confession of Faith in their role as a Conference Member;
- (d) be a member of a church in good standing, which must be a member church of the Conference; and
- (e) have the endorsement of the pastor, or the board of the individual's church, as being a member in good standing of their congregation.

4.1.2 Director Member: The Director Members shall consist of the Directors from time to time of the Corporation. Subject to the provisions in Article 5, each Director Member shall:

- (a) be at the date of, or become within ten (10) days after the election of the person as, and thereafter remain throughout their term of office, qualified by the terms of this section 4.1.2 to hold office;
- (b) be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- (c) not be an undischarged bankrupt or otherwise incapable in accordance with the Act;
- (d) uphold the Confession of Faith in their role as a Director Member;
- (e) be a member of a church in good standing, which must be either a member church of the Conference or another evangelical church committed to supporting the objects and ministries of the Corporation; and
- (f) have the endorsement of the pastor, or the board of the individual's church, as being a member in good standing of their congregation.

4.2 Voting. Save as otherwise provided herein, each Member shall be entitled to one (1) vote per Member at all Meetings of the Members.

4.3 Transfer of Membership. A Director Member may not transfer their membership. The board of directors of the Conference, or another duly authorized representative of the Conference, may transfer the membership of the Conference Member.

4.4 Termination of Membership. Membership in the Corporation automatically terminates upon the happening of any of the following events:

- (a) if the Member dies;
- (b) they cease to be a Member who meets the applicable qualifications to hold office;
- (c) they become bankrupt or otherwise incapable in accordance with the Act;
- (d) the Directors determine by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote that a Member has acted in any way which discredits the Corporation, brings it into disrepute, or otherwise damages or potentially damages the reputation of the Corporation after first giving the Member an opportunity to address the Board concerning such allegations or concerns;
- (e) they shall be removed from office by resolution of the Members passed by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at a Special General Meeting;

- (f) the Member resigns their office in writing provided to the Corporation and such resignation, if not effective immediately, becomes effective in accordance with the terms of the resignation; or
- (g) if the Conference terminates in writing to the Corporation the appointment of the Conference Member.

4.5 Effect of Termination of Membership. Subject to this by-law, upon any termination of membership, the rights of the terminated Member, including any rights in the property of the Corporation, automatically and immediately cease to exist.

4.6 Liability of Members. Members shall not, as such, be held answerable or responsible for any act, default, obligation or liability of the Corporation or for any engagement, claim, payment, loss, injury, transaction, matter or thing relating to or connected with the Corporation.

ARTICLE 5 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5.1 Number and Composition of Directors. Subject to the provisions of any Special Resolution changing the number of Directors, the affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board composed of nine (9) elected Directors. The number of Directors from non-Mennonite Brethren churches shall not exceed one-third (1/3) of the total number of Directors.

5.2 Election. Candidates shall be elected as Directors in accordance with Article 6.

5.3 Qualifications. Each Director shall be qualified as a Director Member as outlined in section 4.1.2.

5.4 Quorum. A quorum for any proceedings or transactions taken at meetings of the Board shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the number of Directors of the Board, and no actions shall be taken at any meeting unless the requisite quorum is present at the commencement of such proceedings. Directors may be present in person or otherwise participate by a conference call whereby all parties are able to hear and reply to the comments of the other Directors and all Directors have consented to such meetings.

5.5 Vacancies. So long as a quorum of Directors remains in office, a vacancy on the Board may be filled by resolution of the Directors. The person so appointed to fill the vacancy shall do so for the remainder of the term. If no quorum of the Directors exists, the remaining Directors shall forthwith call a Special General Meeting to fill the vacancies on the Board. At the Special General Meeting, the Members may, by a majority of the votes, elect any person to fill the applicable vacancy for the remainder of the former Director's term.

5.6 Termination of Directors. A Director shall be terminated from the Board if they cease to be a Director Member as outlined in section 4.4.

5.7 Remuneration of Directors. The Directors shall serve without remuneration.

5.8 Responsibility for Acts. The Directors 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 Corporation, except such as shall have been submitted to and authorized or approved by the Board.

5.9 Powers of the Directors. The Directors may administer the affairs of the Corporation in all things and make or cause to be made for the Corporation, in its name, any kind of contract which the Corporation may lawfully enter into, and may delegate administrative powers to Officers and Committees and, save as herein provided, may exercise all such other powers and do all such other acts and things as the Corporation is by its Letters Patent or as otherwise authorized to exercise and do.

5.10 Conflict of Interest. Subject to the requirements in the Act, a Director shall disclose to the Corporation or request to have entered in the minutes of the meeting the nature and extent of any potential conflict of interest. A Director is presumed to have a conflict of interest if they are either a party to a proposed material contract or transaction, if they are also a director or an officer of another party involved in a proposed material contract or transaction, or has a material interest in any person or party involved with a material contract or transaction with the Corporation. The Director must disclose any conflict of interest:

- (a) at the meeting at which a proposed contract or transaction is first considered;
- (b) if the Director was not then interested in a proposed contract or transaction, at the first meeting after they become so interested;
- (c) if the Director becomes interested after a contract is made or a transaction is entered into, at the first meeting after they become so interested; or
- (d) if a person who is interested in a contract or transaction later becomes a Director, at the first meeting after they become a Director.

Subject to any exceptions in the Act, a Director with a conflict of interest shall not attend any meeting during which the contract or transaction is discussed, and shall not vote on any resolution to approve such contract or transaction.

ARTICLE 6 – ELECTION OF THE BOARD

6.1 Term of Office. Each term of office of Director shall be three (3) years, with at least three (3) Directors being elected at each Annual General Meeting. The terms of Directors shall be scheduled to provide for a staggered rotation.

6.2 Nominations. The names of candidates nominated for the office of Director shall be set out in a proposed slate of candidates to be submitted by the Personnel Committee or, if there is no Personnel Committee, by the Board at the Annual General Meeting.

6.3 Election Method. The Members shall be asked to vote on the proposed slate as a whole. The Members shall cast a single ballot to elect the proposed slate of candidates for the vacant offices. If any Member does not approve of the whole proposed slate, the election shall be done pursuant to a method which sets the names of the candidates and allows each Member to vote for

each candidate on an individual basis. The number of votes cast by a Member shall be limited to the number of vacancies to be filled.

6.4 Re-election. A Director is eligible for election for two (2) consecutive terms, and thereafter is not eligible for re-election until a period of eleven (11) months has elapsed from the date of retirement of such Director; however, the Board may by Special Resolution increase the consecutive number of terms that can be served to three (3) consecutive terms in extenuating circumstances.

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

ARTICLE 7 – MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

7.1 Location. Meetings of the Board may be held at any place within or outside the Province of Ontario, as designated in the notice calling the meeting.

7.2 Calling Meetings. Meetings of the Board may be called by the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, Secretary, or any two (2) Directors.

7.3 Notice of Meetings. Notice of meetings shall be delivered, emailed, faxed or telephoned to each Director not less than two (2) days before the meeting is to take place. No formal notice of a meeting is necessary if all the Directors are present or if those absent have signified their consent to the meeting being held without notice and in their absence.

7.4 Recurring Meetings. The Board may appoint one (1) or more days in each year for recurring meetings of the Board at a place and time named. No further notice of the recurring meetings is required.

7.5 Election of Officers and Committee Members. At the first meeting following the Annual General Meeting, the Board shall include in its agenda the election and/or appointment of its Officers and Committee members for the coming year.

7.6 Participation by Alternative Means. Any person entitled to attend the meetings of the Board or Committees may participate by telephonic or electronic means that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting. A person so participating in a meeting is deemed for the purposes of this by-law to be present at the meeting.

7.7 Voting. Questions arising at any meeting of the Board shall be decided by a majority vote. In the case of an equality of votes, the question shall be deemed to have been lost. At all meetings of the Board, every question shall be decided by a show of hands or by verbal affirmation. A declaration by the Chairperson 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.

7.8 Written Resolutions. Subject to the Act, a resolution in writing, signed by all the Directors entitled to vote on that resolution at a meeting of Directors or a Committee meeting is as valid as

if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board or a Committee called, constituted and held for that purpose.

ARTICLE 8 – MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

8.1 Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year within the Province of Ontario, not later than fifteen (15) months after holding the preceding Annual General Meeting, at a time, place and date determined by the Board, for the following purposes:

8.1.1 Reports and Financial Statements. The Members shall hear and receive the reports and financial statements required by the Act to be read at and laid before the Members at an Annual General Meeting;

8.1.2 Election of Directors. The Members shall elect such Directors to be elected at such Annual General Meeting;

8.1.3 Auditor. The Members shall appoint the auditor and determine, or authorize the Board to determine, the auditor's remuneration; and

8.1.4 Miscellaneous. The Members shall hear the transaction of any other miscellaneous affairs properly brought before the meeting.

8.2 Special General Meeting. The Board may at any time call a Special General Meeting for the transaction of any affairs, the general nature of which is specified in the notice calling the meeting. A Special General Meeting may also be called by the Members as provided in the Act.

8.3 Notice of Meetings. Notice of the time, place, and date of Meetings of the Members and the general nature of the affairs to be transacted shall be given not less than ten (10) days and not more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting to each Member (and in the case of an Annual General Meeting shall also be given to the auditor of the Corporation) by sending notice by prepaid mail to the last address of the addressee shown on the Corporation's records, or, if the Member or auditor has consented to have the notice sent by email, it shall be sent to the email address on file at the office of Corporation.

8.4 Participation by Alternative Means. Any person entitled to attend the Meetings of the Members may participate by telephonic or electronic means that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting. A person so participating in a meeting is deemed for the purposes of this by-law to be present at the meeting.

8.5 Quorum. A quorum at a Meeting of the Members shall be at least two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of Members entitled to vote at the meeting. No affairs of the Corporation shall be transacted at any Meeting of the Members unless the requisite quorum is present at the commencement and throughout the meeting.

8.6 Voting by Members. Unless otherwise required by the provisions of the Act or this by-law of the Corporation, all questions proposed for consideration at a Meeting of the Members shall be

determined by a majority of the votes cast by Members entitled to vote. In the case of an equality of votes, the question shall be deemed to have been lost.

8.7 Proxies. Votes at the Meetings of the Members may be given either personally or by proxy. The appointed proxyholder need not be a Member. The proxyholder shall represent no more than one (1) Member at such meeting. A Member present at a meeting shall nullify the vote of that Member's proxyholder. A proxy shall be executed by the Member or the Member's attorney authorized in writing.

A proxy may be in the following form or substantially similar form:

The undersigned Member of Camp Crossroads hereby appoints _____, or failing the person appointed above, _____ as the proxy of the undersigned to attend and act at the Meeting of the Members of Camp Crossroads to be held on _____, and at any adjournment or adjournments thereof in the same manner, to the same extent, and with the same power as if the undersigned were present at the said meeting or such adjournments thereof.

Signature

The Board may from time to time make rules regarding the lodging of proxies at some place or places other than the place at which a meeting or adjourned Meeting of the Members is to be held and to determine particulars of such proxies communicated in writing through email, fax, or by prepaid letter post before the meeting or adjourned meeting. The Chairperson may, subject to any requirements herein, accept written communication through email, fax, or by prepaid letter post as to the authority of any person claiming to vote on behalf of and to represent a Member notwithstanding that no proxy form as stated above conferring such authority has been lodged with the Corporation, and any votes given in accordance with such written communication accepted by the Chairperson shall be valid and shall be counted.

8.8 Show of Hands. At all Meetings of the Members every question shall be decided by a show of hands unless otherwise required by this by-law of the Corporation. Upon a show of hands, every Member entitled to vote and present in person shall have one (1) vote. Whenever a vote by show of hands has been taken upon a question, a declaration by the Chairperson that a resolution has been carried or lost by a particular majority and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the Corporation is conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of votes recorded in favour of or against the motion.

8.9 Chair. The Chairperson shall act as chair of the Meeting of the Members.

8.10 Adjournments. Any Meeting of the Members may be adjourned to any time and from time to time, and any matter or action may be transacted at any adjourned meeting that might have been transacted at the original meeting from which the adjournment took place. If a Meeting of the Members is adjourned for less than thirty (30) days, no notice is required other than by announcement at the Meeting of the Members that is adjourned. If a Meeting of the Members is

adjourned by one or more adjournments for an aggregate of thirty (30) days or more, the Corporation shall give notice in accordance with Article 20.

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

ARTICLE 9 – OFFICERS

9.1 Officers. The Board shall elect the Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson must be two (2) different Directors. The Secretary and the Treasurer may be the same individual and, if they are not a Director, must meet the same qualifications as the Director Members outlined in section 4.1.2.

9.2 Election of Officers. Officers shall be elected by resolution of the Board at the first meeting of the Board following the Annual General Meeting.

9.3 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The Chairperson shall be the President of the Corporation and, when present, preside at all meetings of the Board and of the Meeting of the Members. The Chairperson shall supervise the affairs and operations of the Corporation, 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. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall act as temporary acting Chairperson. In the absence of both the Chairperson or the Vice Chairperson, those entitled to vote at the meeting shall choose another Director or Member as a temporary acting Chairperson.

9.4 Secretary. The Secretary shall act as secretary of all meetings of the Board and Meetings of the Members (or delegate those duties to another person); shall attend all meetings of the Board to record all facts and minutes of those proceedings in the books kept for that purpose; shall give all required notices to Members and Directors; shall be the custodian of all books, papers, records, correspondence and Documents belonging to the Corporation; and shall perform the other duties from time to time prescribed by the Board or incident to the office.

9.5 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements of the Corporation in proper books of account; shall deposit all moneys or other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Corporation in the bank or banks from time to time designated by the Board; shall disburse the funds of the Corporation under the direction of the Board, taking proper vouchers therefor; shall render to the Board, whenever required, an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial position of the Corporation; shall co-operate with the auditors of the Corporation during any audit of the accounts of the Corporation; and shall perform the other duties from time to time prescribed by the Board or incident to the office.

9.6 Additional Officers. The Board may appoint other Officers with such titles as the Board may prescribe from time to time. Such Officers shall have the authority and perform the duties

prescribed by the Board. Such Officers must have the same qualifications as Director Members as outlined in section 4.1.2. The duties of all other Officers appointed by the Board shall be determined by the written terms of their engagement or as the Board otherwise prescribes.

9.7 Termination. The Board may by resolution remove any Officer.

9.8 Disclosure of Conflict of Interest. Subject to the requirements in the Act, an Officer shall disclose to the Corporation the nature and extent of any potential conflict of interest. An Officer is presumed to have a conflict of interest if they are either a party to a proposed material contract or transaction, if they are also a director or an officer of another party involved in a proposed material contract or transaction, or has a material interest in any person or party involved with a material contract or transaction with the Corporation. The Officer must disclose any conflict of interest:

- (a) forthwith after the Officer becomes aware that the contract or transaction or proposed contract or transaction is to be considered or has been considered by the Directors;
- (b) if the Officer becomes interested after a contract is made or a transaction is entered into, forthwith after they become so interested; or
- (c) if a person who is interested in a contract or transaction later becomes an Officer, forthwith after they become an Officer.

ARTICLE 10 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

10.1 Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation and, subject to the directions of the Board from time to time, shall perform all duties incident to the office. The Executive Director shall be appointed by resolution of the Board. The Executive Director shall receive notice of all meetings of the Board and its Committees and shall have the right to attend and to speak to any issue placed before the Board or any of its Committees, but shall not be a Director or a Member, and shall not have the right to vote at any meeting.

ARTICLE 11 – COMMITTEES

11.1 Establishing Committees. The Board may by resolution establish any Committee as it deems necessary or appropriate for such purposes and, subject to the Act, with such powers as the Board shall see fit. The number and composition of Committee members on each Committee and the mandate of such Committee may be determined by resolution of the Board from time to time. Any such Committee may formulate its own rules of procedure, subject to any applicable legislation or regulations and in accordance with the Governance Manual. Any member of a Committee may be removed by resolution of the Board.

11.2 Electing Committee Members. At its first meeting after each Annual General Meeting, the Board shall elect the members of any standing Committees. The Board may establish additional Committees, either on an ad hoc basis or permanent basis, or such purposes and with such powers as the Board may determine.

11.3 Finance Committee. At its first meeting after each Annual General Meeting, the Board shall appoint no fewer than three (3) Directors to the Finance Committee. Until otherwise ordered by the Board, the Finance Committee shall meet at least four (4) times annually to plan and review the annual financial statements to ascertain the financial position of the Corporation with reasonable accuracy on a quarterly basis, to assist the Corporation's auditor or review engagement (if applicable), negotiate the auditor's remuneration for the ensuing year (if authorized by the Members), and provide reports to the Board as required.

11.4 By-law Review Committee. A By-law Review Committee may be appointed by the Board, as required, consisting of at least three (3) members. At least one (1) member must be either the Conference Member or a proxy chosen by the Conference Member. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, the By-law Review Committee shall have power to fix its quorum at not less than a majority of its members, and to regulate its procedure.

ARTICLE 12 – LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

12.1 Liability of Directors and Officers. 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 applicable law, no present or past Director or Officer shall be personally liable for any loss or damage or expense to the Corporation arising out of the acts (including wilful, negligent and accidental conduct), receipts, neglects, omissions or defaults of any other Director or Officer or employee, servant, agent, volunteer or independent contractor arising from any of the following:

- (a) insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired by the Corporation or for or on behalf of the Corporation;
- (b) insufficiency or deficiency of any security in or upon which any of the monies of or belonging to the Corporation shall be placed out or invested;
- (c) 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;
- (d) loss, conversion, misapplication or misappropriation of or any damage resulting from any dealings with monies, securities or other assets belonging to the Corporation;
- (e) loss, damage or misfortune whatever which may happen in the execution of the duties of the Member, the Director, or the Officer's respective office or trust or in relation thereto; and
- (f) 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.

12.2 Pre-Indemnity Considerations. Before giving approval to the indemnities provided in section 12.3 herein, or purchasing insurance provided in Article 13 herein, the Board shall consider:

- (a) the degree of risk to which the Director or Officer is or may be exposed;
- (b) whether, in practice, the risk cannot be eliminated or significantly reduced by means other than the indemnity or insurance;

- (c) whether the amount or cost of the insurance is reasonable in relation to the risk;
- (d) whether the cost of the insurance is reasonable in relation to the revenue available; and
- (e) whether it advances the administration and management of the property to give the indemnity or purchase the insurance.

12.3 Indemnification. Every person (including their respective heirs, executors and administrators, estate, successors, and assigns) who is either a Director, an Officer, a member of a Committee, an individual who has undertaken or about to undertake under the direction of the Corporation any liability on behalf of the Corporation or any Corporation controlled by the Corporation, whether in their personal capacity or as an Officer or Director or employee or volunteer of such Corporation, shall upon approval of the Board from time to time be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the Corporation from and against costs, charges, and expenses which such person sustains or incurs. This includes 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 relation to the execution of the duties of such office or in respect of any such liability; or, in relation to the affairs of the Corporation 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 wilful neglect or default. The Corporation 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.

12.4 Additional Relief. Nothing in this by-law shall limit the right of any person entitled to indemnity to claim indemnity apart from the provisions of this by-law to the extent permitted by any legislation or law.

ARTICLE 13 – INSURANCE

13.1 Insurance. The Corporation shall purchase and maintain appropriate liability insurance which shall provide coverage for each person acting or having previously acted in the capacity of a Director, Officer, or such other capacity on behalf of the Corporation. This insurance coverage shall include:

- (a) comprehensive general liability insurance;
- (b) Directors and Officers insurance; and
- (c) such other insurance as may be recommended from time to time by the insurance broker retained by the Corporation to advise it and procure coverage on its behalf specifying coverage amounts of a minimum of \$5 million per claim (\$10 million in the aggregate).

13.2 No Coverage. 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 Corporation.

13.3 Obligations. It shall be the obligation of those seeking insurance coverage or indemnity from the Corporation to cooperate fully with the Corporation 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 Board.

ARTICLE 14 – EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS

14.1 Signature. 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 person in the manner from time to time prescribed by the Board.

14.2 Execution of Documents. Documents requiring execution by the Corporation requires two (2) signatures. Any two (2) of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer are authorized to execute Documents, provided one signatory is a Director. Documents may also be signed by any of the foregoing together with any Director, or the Board may appoint any person to sign Documents generally or to sign specific Documents. All Documents signed are binding upon the Corporation without any further authorization or formality.

14.3 Corporation Records. The Board shall prepare and maintain the records of the Corporation containing:

- (a) the Corporation's articles, by-laws, and amendments to them;
- (b) the minutes of Meetings of the Members and of any Committee;
- (c) the resolutions of the Meeting of the Members and of any Committee;
- (d) the minutes of meetings of the Directors and of any Committee;
- (e) the resolutions of the Directors and of any Committee;
- (f) a register of Directors;
- (g) a register of Officers;
- (h) a register of Members;
- (i) accounting records adequate to enable the Directors to ascertain the financial position of the Corporation with reasonable accuracy on a quarterly basis; and
- (j) a register of ownership interests in land complying with section 92 of the Act.

ARTICLE 15 – BANKING ARRANGEMENTS AND SECURITIES

15.1 Banking Arrangements. The Board shall designate, by resolution, the Officer or other person authorized to handle the banking transactions of the Corporation, or any part thereof, with the bank, trust company, credit union, or other Corporation carrying on a banking arrangement that the Board has designated as the Corporation's banker, to have the authority set out in the resolution including, unless otherwise restricted, the power to:

- (a) operate the Corporation's accounts with the banker;
- (b) 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;
- (c) issue receipts for and orders relating to any property of the Corporation;

- (d) execute any agreement relating to any banking affairs and defining the rights and powers of the parties thereto; and
- (e) authorize any officer of the banker to do any act or thing on the Corporation's behalf to facilitate the banking arrangements.

15.2 Deposit of Securities. The securities of the Corporation 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 Corporation signed by such authorized Officer or other person authorized by the Corporation, 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.

ARTICLE 16 – BORROWING BY THE CORPORATION

16.1 Authority to Borrow. Subject to the limitations set out in this by-law or in the Letters Patent of the Corporation, the Board may borrow money on the credit of the Corporation. The Board may also issue, sell or pledge securities of the Corporation, as well as charge, mortgage, hypothecate or pledge all or any of the real or personal property of the Corporation, 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 Corporation; provided, however, if the Corporation borrows on the security of its real or personal property, its borrowing power shall be limited to borrowing money for current operating expenses.

16.2 Specific Borrowing Authority. From time to time the Board may authorize any Director, Officer, employee of the Corporation, 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 Corporation.

ARTICLE 17 – FINANCIAL YEAR

17.1 Financial Year. The financial year of the Corporation 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 18 – DISSOLUTION

18.1 Remaining Net Assets. In the event of the dissolution of the Corporation, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of its debts and liabilities shall be transferred to the Conference provided the Conference is a registered charity pursuant to the Income Tax Act. In the alternative,

the Board will transfer the net assets to another registered charity consistent with the Corporation's objects.

ARTICLE 19 – AUDITING

19.1 Auditor. The Members at each Annual General Meeting shall appoint an auditor to audit the books of the Corporation. The auditor shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting, provided that the Directors may fill any casual vacancy in the office of the auditor.

19.2 Review Engagement in Lieu of Audit. The Members may pass an Extraordinary Resolution to have a review engagement instead of an audit in respect of the Corporation's financial year if the Corporation had annual revenue in that financial year of more than \$100,000 or such other prescribed amount and less than \$500,000.

19.3 Waiver of Audit and Review Engagement. Members of the Corporation may pass an Extraordinary Resolution to not appoint an auditor and to not have an audit or a review engagement in respect of the Corporation's financial year if the Corporation had annual revenue in that financial year of \$100,000.

ARTICLE 20 – NOTICE

20.1 Method of Notice. Except where otherwise provided in this by-law, notice shall be provided not less than ten (10) days and not more than fifty (50) days in advance of a meeting and will be considered validly given if provided by telephone or, if in writing, by prepaid letter post, by fax, by email, or by other electronic method, addressed to the person for whom intended at the last address shown on the Corporation's records.

20.2 Computation of Time. In computing the date when notice must be given under any provision of this by-law 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.

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

ARTICLE 21 – BY-LAWS AND AMENDMENTS

21.1 Amendments. The Directors may by resolution make, amend or repeal any by-law that regulates the activities or affairs of the Corporation, subject to the limitations in section 17 of the Act. Any Member may initiate a proposed amendment to the by-laws by submitting it in writing to the Board. The By-law Review Committee may also propose amendments to the by-laws by submitting it in writing to the Board.

21.2 Review. The By-law Review Committee shall review any proposed by-law or amendment before presenting to the Board for a vote. The By-law Review Committee may work with the initiating Member to make revisions to their proposal, or they may present an alternative proposal regarding the amendment being considered.

21.3 Notice. Notice to make or amend the by-laws, along with a complete copy of the applicable by-law with the proposed amendments, must be provided to the Board at least thirty (30) days before the meeting at which it is to be considered.

21.4 Meeting of the Members. Upon a resolution passed by the Board, the Members must approve the amendments to the by-laws with or without variation at a subsequent Meeting of the Members by Special Resolution, which must include an affirmative vote by the Conference Member.

21.5 Effective Date. Amendments shall be effective from the date of the resolution of the Board. The by-law, amendment, or repeal ceases to have effect if the Directors do not submit them to the Members, or if it is rejected by the Members.

The foregoing by-law has been passed by the Board on the ____ day of _____, 2023.

[Title of Signatory]

[Title of Signatory]

The foregoing by-law is ratified and approved in accordance with the Act on the on the ____ day of _____, 2023.

[Title of Signatory]

[Title of Signatory]

CCMBC National Director 2023

Provincial Assembly Report

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

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

A year in review:

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

POSITIVE FINANCIAL POSITION:

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

THE SEMINARY ENDS ITS EXIGENCY AND LAUNCHES TEACHING CHURCHES:

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

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

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

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

CCMBC CALLS A NEW NFL DIRECTOR:

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

THE MB HERALD CONTINUES TO GROW:

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

CCMBC LEGACY HIRES A NEW CFO:

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

THE NMT SOLIDIFIES ITS WORK:

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

THE NFLT SERVES THE CONFERENCE BY

PROVIDING US WITH THEOLOGICAL CLARITY:

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

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

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD UNDERGOES TRANSITION:

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

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES DEAL WITH THEOLOGICAL DISSONANCE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Elton Dasilva
National Director

NATIONAL MINISTRY TEAM

RICHARD LOUGHEED

AEFMQ Representative

RYAN JANTZI

ONMB Interim Executive Director

CAM PRIEBE

MBCM Provincial Director

PHIL GUNTHER

SKMB Director of Ministry

PAUL LOEWEN

ABMB Provincial Director

ROBERT THIESSEN

BCMB Conference Minister

DENIS FEDERAU

BCMB Director of Resource Ministries

BRUCE ENNS

Multiply General Director

MARK WESSNER

MB Seminary President

JASON KRUEGER

CCMBC Legacy Fund CEO

KEN ESAU

National Faith and Life Director

ELTON DASILVA

CCMBC National Director



CCMBC MAKES CHANGES TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FORMAT

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

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

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

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

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

PART ONE: CCMBC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

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

What's on the agenda?

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

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

[Delegates can register here](#)

[National Council delegates can register here](#)

[Guests can register here](#)

PART TWO: CCMBC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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

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

What's on the agenda?

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

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

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

[What is a delegate?](#)



National Faith & Life Director Report for 2023 Provincial Conventions

MANDATE

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

ACTIVITIES IN 2022

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

Some of the highlights of the year include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Ken Esau

National Faith and Life Director

NATIONAL FAITH AND LIFE TEAM

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

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

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



CCMBC LEGACY FUND

Ministry-Focused Financial Services

1310 Taylor Ave
Winnipeg MB R3M 3Z6
ccmbclegacyfund.com



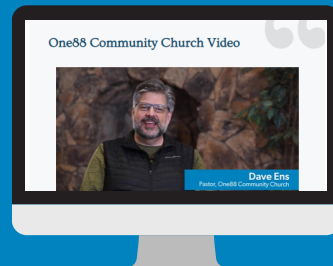
Who We Are

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

Celebration Stories

To view our celebration stories and videos, please visit:

ccmbclegacyfund.com/about/stories



Legacy Snapshot

LEGACY BY THE NUMBERS

GROUP INSURANCE PARTICIPANTS

1,137

PENSION PLAN PARTICIPANTS

1,543

INVESTOR ACCOUNTS

1,956

INVESTED IN PROMISSORY NOTES

\$158 MILLION

CHURCH AND PASTOR MORTGAGES

93

TOTAL MORTGAGES

\$76 MILLION

CHURCHES USING PAYROLL SERVICES

191

ORGANIZATIONS USING ACCOUNTING SERVICES

26

Greetings

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

Greetings to the ONMB Conference as it celebrates its 92nd convention. We are grateful for the privilege to serve our churches, faithfully joining Jesus in his mission. As a national ministry partner, we take joy in the collaborative relationship shared with our provincial conferences. Our staff are dedicated to serving our churches as a trusted financial and administrative resource.

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

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

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

May God richly bless each of you this year.

On behalf of the Legacy team,
Jason Krueger CEO



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INVESTING IN KINGDOM GROWTH TOGETHER



ONMB Convention 2023

LEADERS COLLECTIVE UPDATE

OUR VISION:

Leaders Collective began in 2015 as a coaching and equipping track for young adults engaged in ministry within MB churches in Ontario. Its purpose is to invest in the strategic and holistic development of leaders so that they can engage effectively in the mission of God through the church, whether it is vocational or marketplace in expression. Out of a heart for collaboration and multiplying healthy leaders, our MB churches and partnering organizations—the Ontario Conference of MB Churches, Multiply and Camp Crossroads co-sponsor this leadership development track. Ryan Jantzi and Kristi Lee representing ONMB, Joel Martin representing Multiply, and Andrew and Christine Hiebert representing Camp Crossroads are leading the 2022-2023 program.

Our theme verse comes from John 3:30, “He must become greater; I must become less.” Before we become better leaders, we must become better followers of Jesus and allow ourselves to be transformed by his spirit.

Since Leaders Collective began, we have seen 5 cohorts, 45 participants representing 8 ONMB churches. They are:

- Behta Darya Community Church
- Cornerstone Community Church
- FreeChurch Toronto
- Glencairn MB Church
- Kingsfield-Zurich Mennonite Church
- Meadow Brook Church
- Southridge Community Church
- WMB Church

We are grateful for the support of our local churches and ministry partners. We hope to see more of our churches participate as we continue to grow and develop this program.

OUR FOCUS:

Leaders Collective provides opportunities for young leaders to grow in a rich cohort experience with others in their demographic; a broadening of skills and understanding of leadership through dialogue, retreats, readings, exposure to seasoned leaders and online discipleship coaching. All of this will be geared towards supporting the participant as they serve faithfully in their current youth ministry context.

This past fall we relaunched after a break due to Covid-19 and it has been a great re-start. We kicked off our program with a retreat up at Camp Crossroads where we received biblical teaching from veteran leaders, dug deep into our leadership pathway to create a journey wall, and experienced a fresh and personal encounter through prayer and personal devotion each day.

We have continued meeting virtually bi-weekly for discipleship coaching huddles. This has been added for the '22-'23 cohort, to establish consistent growth and connection throughout the year. Building a Discipling Culture by Mike Breen has been our guide as we grow into God's calling to be disciples who make disciples.

JOIN US:

Leaders Collective is a nine-month program running from September to June. We connect both in-person at 3 retreats and virtually bi-weekly. Do you know someone who would be a good fit for Leaders Collective? Would this be a good fit for your growth as a developing leader? Visit our website at onmb.org/leaderscollective/ for more information. Applications for the 2023-2024 season will open soon.

ONMB Convention 2023



CAMP CROSSROADS UPDATE

Andrew Hiebert, Executive Director

There is something very memorable and inspiring about being on a trip of some kind and coming to a place where the landscape opens up with a beautiful view where you can see far off into the distance. A place of beauty, inspiration and hope. This past year started out for all of us with another Covid lockdown. Our attention was drawn from the possibilities and opportunities of the future to dealing once again with immediate changes and challenges directly in front of us. There was no view except the needs of the next day. Thankfully, a lot has changed over the course of this past year. It is exciting to realize we are now in a place of hope and future possibilities again.

This past summer we saw God use Camp as a place to change the hearts of many campers and staff. We also saw God move us forward with rebuilding camp capacity for the future. We were able to complete a number of infrastructure projects and also rebuild our seasonal programs and year-round staff team. As we move into the start of 2023 God has positioned us to be in a place of 100% capacity where we can once again look ahead and maximize the time given to us.

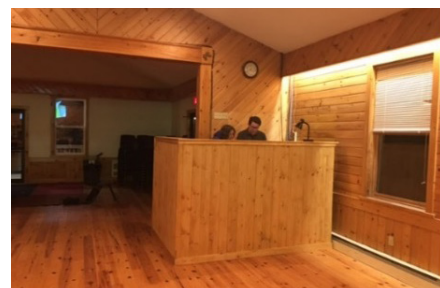
Highlights:

- We have run four youth retreats this winter, serving 12 churches (350 people) and have seen many youth say yes to following Jesus. We have 5 more winter retreats (400 senior youth)
- We've been able to fill all the 2023 summer staff positions (47) except for 2
- We have many Leaders in Training

applicants for this summer

- We are running at 100% capacity for summer and have 600 overnight (maximum of 960) and 90 day campers (maximum of 120) registered for 2023.

Chapel being used with the new audio/visual equipment and new constructed sound booth:



Junior High Retreat Fun in January:



ONMB Convention 2023

CAMP CROSSROADS UPDATE

Looking Ahead/What's New:

People and Programs:

- We are partnering with two Christian agencies (Arden Language Centre and Mennonite Central Committee) to run retreats for newcomers to Canada.
- We have hired two people in the summer to pastor, mentor, disciple and develop summer staff
- We are partnering with a ministry ('Rose City Kids') to bring 20 youth up for a week in summer
- We are making plans to run a Junior Leaders in Training program (15-16 years old)
- We are making plans to run a four-month discipleship program starting January 2024

Capital Projects for 2023:

We are grateful for the projects accomplished in 2022 and are excited to continue the work of rebuilding Camp in 2023. We want Camp Crossroads to be positioned to serve youth and families for many years to come and your contributions make this a reality.

Project Plans 2023:

- Rebuild Cabins 5 & 6
- Hook-up the drilled well to water system
- Grey Gables Refresh – Replacing windows, painting interior, replacing flooring
- Cook Out Site – purchasing Yurts to create an adventure overnight program
- Septic system - required upgrades
- Oakridge Lodge – permitting approvals and building start

Prayer Requests:

1. Winter retreats: we have 5 more weekend retreats in February and March
2. Camp Registration: For God to draw kids/youth/families to our summer camps (especially 8-12 year-olds). We want to see Camp full.
3. Staff Needs: we need to hire a dining hall host and a kitchen assistant for the summer
4. God's leading for infrastructure projects
5. Open doors for new retreats.
6. Direction for future discipleship opportunities (Gap year possibility)

Our prayer is that God will continue to use Camp Crossroads to disciple and develop the campers and staff that come and in turn to be a light in their families and serve in their home churches.

Thank-you for your continued partnership in setting Camp up for the work God is doing.

Sincerely,



Andrew Hiebert

Executive Director

STAFF 2022



SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTRE - EDEN HIGH SCHOOL



Greetings to the ONMB Conference as it celebrates another year of God's faithfulness, demonstrated through so many unique and exciting ministry ventures! In the Spiritual Life Centre at Eden High School, God's presence has been evident, as we returned to a more "normal" high school landscape. It's been refreshing to host our regular programs and offer a variety of spiritual connections for students. For example, after a two year pause, we experienced a joyous return to our annual Grade Retreats at Camp Crossroads! Over the three retreats, 300+ students and leaders were engaged in chapels, team-building, and the unexpected "deep conversations" that make up the fabric of our retreats. They continue to introduce our students to Jesus and promote spiritual



growth. This was vital as students still feel isolated and struggle to find the normal rhythms of high school life, and God is blessing our offer of genuine community to the many who are seeking it. In recent years, the heritage and ethos of Eden have been challenged, but despite these cultural shifts, we are seeing the Holy Spirit work in undeniable ways. Many have reached out because they feel "called by God and they can't deny him any longer." Students have come into our office area for the first time and have shared that "this is the most peaceful place in the whole school." We've also seen some return to community through The First 25 (chapel) and



our Life Groups, after having been disconnected for a long time! Finally, we're humbled by the various baptism testimonies that have been shared in local churches! It truly is an honour to take part in the spiritual journey of high school students!

As you know, Eden High School is a very unique school within the province of Ontario, and with that reality comes the ongoing conversations we must navigate with the local School Board. Recently, they have sought to evaluate Eden's identity and this affects the SLC directly. We invite you to pray for us as we review and discuss a proposed Community Partner

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTRE - EDEN HIGH SCHOOL



Agreement that will hopefully bring further clarity on our relationship with the Board and our role within Eden. More and more, we are seeing that the voice of students is important, and although we don't agree with the mantra that "student voice trumps all," we do believe that our students thrive when they feel heard and that is best accomplished in loving mentoring relationships and in healthy community. We

are continually praying that the Holy Spirit will ignite a passion within our Christian students so that they may be faithful servants within their peer groups and our school community as a whole. There is no doubt that God is honouring these prayers as there is a growing hunger for a biblical response to the cultural ideas they're being presented with. It is a gift to see students sharing their faith in classrooms and respectfully challenging world-views that struggle to address the deeper needs of students. Currently, we have 60+ students that are



engaged in weekly Life Groups, where they are being equipped for the difficult questions they are facing. This is another exciting opportunity for the SLC as we fulfill our mission of "leading students to learn of Christ and live in Christ." For more information on our exciting programs, please follow us on social media @slceden or by visiting our website slceden.com



As I close, I'd like to thank Alicia Janzen, Meghan Plett, and Ethan Braun (SLC Team) for committing themselves to the beautiful ministry of discipling high school students. It's a blessing to work with such gifted

and passionate people! I'd also like to thank our Eden Advisory Board consisting of Ken Friesen (Chair), Len Janzen, Val Devries, Charles Koop, and Krista Janzen. They have been a steadfast support and encouragement to the SLC through many victories and challenges. I'd also like to thank Briar Wiens, Peter Smith, and Eric Alguire who completed their terms last spring. We pray God's richest blessing upon them as they continue to serve in their own communities. Finally, thanks to our supporting churches; Cornerstone, Scott Street MB, New Hope Niagara, and Grantham MB, who recently made a generous donation through their mission initiatives. We're grateful for your prayers, financial support, and your staff who have been guest speakers in our chapels! May God continue to richly bless each of our churches this coming year and beyond!

On behalf of the SLC and EAB,



John Bryan
SLC Director

Eastern Canada Convention Report

Hope Lives

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... in this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.”

1 Peter 1:3-6

As the Eastern Canada Multiply team reflects on 2022, we are thankful for the hope we have in Jesus and the ways we see that lived out in the Ontario MB family of churches.

Thank you ONMB Churches, for your partnership in God's mission during difficult seasons and circumstances. Our small team here in the Eastern Canada office has been blessed by your prayers for Philip Serez in his ongoing journey with ALS; your encouragement of Robyn Serez as her role shifts to ministry with and care for Philip; your commitment to disciple making and training your church to reach your neighbours despite uncertainty over restrictions in the first half of 2022 and shifts in society and culture as a result of the pandemic.

We are eager to work together with you again this year. Whether it be discipling emerging leaders, planning mission training initiatives, or entering into deeper partnerships with churches and mission workers around the world and here in Ontario. We do this together, so that the world may know Jesus!



Erin Coffey

Regional Administrator and Mission Mobilizer Eastern Canada

kitchener@multiply.net





SOAR in Eastern Canada

The vision for a 'reboot' of SOAR in Eastern Canada kicked off in early April. Eight churches with sixteen youth leaders joined us for an in-person prayer and training day. We worshiped, visioned, prayed and walked the neighbourhoods surrounding WMB's Kitchener Site.

SOAR 2022 was built around the theme LINKED.

In a time when isolation and separation have been our defining circumstances, Jesus reminds us that IN CHRIST we are linked - to each other as one body with many beautiful and unique gifts and to the world around us. Each one matters. Rom 12:4-5



From July 1-3 six churches with forty-five youth gathered in Kitchener for a weekend of TOGETHER encountering Jesus and His heart for mission!

We worshipped, listened, celebrated, learned, and built relationships. We were hosted by WMB Kitchener and Glencairn. Students and leaders experienced community while sleeping on classroom floors and worshipping corporately. Teams reached out around the church with acts of kindness, neighbourhood surveys, kids activities, public prayer and worship over the city.

multiply.net/soar/ontario (to be updated as plans for 2023 develop)

TREK

Preparation is underway to relaunch TREK September 2023 with a local ministry component as well as international. Is there a young adult that you feel is ready for deeper discipleship through the local and global church?

multiply.net/trek

FOCUS Internship

An opportunity for families, couples, and individuals to take part in a one year missions training internship as they pray into discerning long term calling. Please pray for the conversations with candidates from ONMB Churches for Fall 2023!

Who will you invite?

multiply.net/focus-internships

Regional Events & News

- > Welcoming ten families serving around the world plus staff for a MINA retreat at Crieff Hills (Ministry in North America, formerly known as furlough) in July
- > “**L**” moved to Toronto to minister alongside **Kyla**
- > Saw closer relationships with other Multiply regional offices as we work together to redevelop Mission Training Programs (STM) such as TREK to serve our regional churches
- > Continued fellowship with our AEFMQ Quebec churches through regular translation of Witness articles and Vision 4 Mission updates into French

We Celebrated

- > **Philip’s** resiliency, continued ministry and call alongside **Robyn**
- > **Bruce Enns** starting as the Multiply General Director in the Spring
- > **Joel (and Petra) Martin** joined our team in the Fall, and moved their family to the Waterloo Region
- > International travel opened up, **Doug Hiebert** was able to make multiple trips to Africa

GLOBAL IMPACT Eastern Canada

2022 saw 29 missionaries from Eastern Canada serving in nine different countries.

Your Eastern Canada Multiply Team

Erin Coffey – Regional Administrator and Mission Mobilizer

Joel Martin – Mission Mobilizer and Mission Training Program Leader

Robyn Serez – Regional Mobilizer

Doug Hiebert – Niagara – Regional Team Leader for Sub-Saharan Africa & Quebec Liaison

Robert & Anne Thiessen – Niagara – developing role with Ministry to First Nations peoples, Coaching former teammates in Mexico

Kyla SP & L – GTA Diaspora Work

Somdy & Chanh Jusse – Leamington – Thai diaspora and coaching Thai churches

Derek Parenteau – Ministry to First Nations peoples/Chaplaincy, DMM coaching

Rene & Lisa Nyland – Ministry to First Nations peoples

N & K – Ministry to First Nations peoples

BJ – Ministry to First Nations peoples

AND GLOBALLY

D & M – serving church planting initiatives in Europe and Central Asia

A & R – serving church planting initiatives in Central Asia

Sarah Reed – serving the local church in Austria as it reaches out to its community

Alex & Carla Suderman – coaching and partnering in church planting in Germany

Jeremy & Adrienne Penner and **Dave & Louise Sinclair-Peters** – serving with national leaders in church planting on the Thai-Myanmar border

Jonathan & Joanna (Pharazyn) Guttierrez – serving with national leaders in Portugal

Sean & Judith Fast – ministering alongside students at LCC in Lithuania

Doris Goertz – serves in the Amagasaki MB Church in Japan through ESL classes and friendship ministry

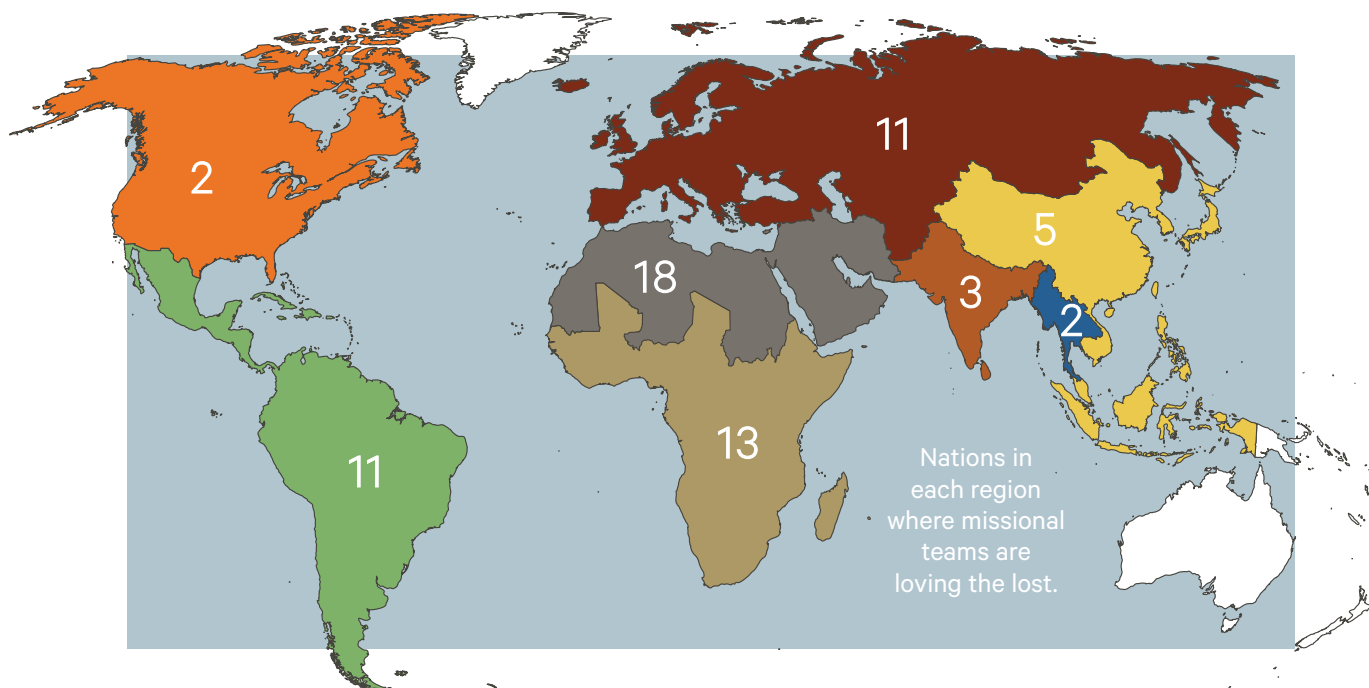
Otto & Marjorie Ekk – retired from Portugal to California in 2022

OUR FAMILY ON MISSION IN 2022

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

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

View online at
multiply.net/2022report



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

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

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

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

Together that the world may know Jesus



Multiply Eastern Canada, 19 Ottawa Street North, Kitchener, ON N2H 3K2
519.886.4378 • 1.888.866.6267 • multiply.net

Financial Overview



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

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

Net Results

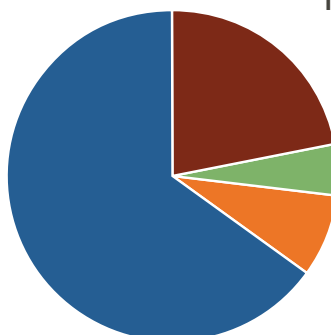
Fiscal Year	2022	2021
Revenue:	\$ 10,410,659	\$ 10,655,995
Expenses:	\$ 9,995,025	\$ 9,986,624
Net:	\$ 415,634	\$ 669,371

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

How Your Gifts Were Put to Work

Missional Teams Loving the Lost | 65%

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



22% | North American Church Engagement

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

5% | Human Resources

Wellness, Equipping &
 Long-Term Training

8% | Administration

Finance, IT, Legal & Governance

Our Generous Donors

Individuals & Families

47%

Estates & Foundations

35%

12%

6%

Churches

Businesses

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

C2C collective

A highlight of my work with C2C Collective is serving alongside those in ON MB who are starting and reimagining churches. I love coming alongside leaders to help with discernment and to offer encouragement and resourcing as their journey of mission through church planting takes shape.

We are entering a new season for church planting in Canada. More than ever before, we are moving forward conscious of past failures and blindspots that are coming to light in the public arena. We're aware of growing hostility toward Christians in some corners of Canada's culture. And many are concerned for the vitality of the church overall as habits and commitments of Christians appear to be shifting.

In this moment, though, some rich gifts of this season are already in view:

- In this post-pandemic season, people with no prior church experience are connecting with churches and expressing fresh interest in learning about the Lord Jesus.
- God is raising up new leaders with a deep commitment to making disciples through open and vulnerable relationships that were uncommon in past generations.
- Other leaders are humbly responding to God's conviction and confessing that they have not emphasized wholehearted discipleship in their churches.
- We're discovering more of what we need to learn from those in the global church who know how to suffer well and live out a bold, faithful, and prayerful witness.
- Church planters are leading their churches to volunteer in compassion & justice efforts, coming alongside established agencies in their cities.
- We're seeing a fresh vision for churches engaging online to reach spiritually needy people and to serve those who've been cut off because of illness, disability, or age.

These new opportunities and shifts in focus are only a quick sampling of what is stirring. At a more foundational level, our team is more committed than ever to give our time and energy to encourage and safeguard the spiritual health of church planters. Those starting new churches must know Jesus intimately and walk with Him closely. As the days grow shorter and darkness deepens - both literally and spiritually - we must cling to our Shepherd and open our hearts for a fresh, sustaining work of the Holy Spirit and an outpouring of grace that draws our nation to Christ!

While serving church planters with assessment, coaching, training, and financial support, our priority is to ensure that Jesus is at the very centre. God must be the one mobilizing and it is the Holy Spirit who must give vision and strategy. We pray as Jesus taught us, "Father, Your kingdom come, Your will be done!" In Canada as it is in heaven Lord! Here's some of how we see God answering our prayers in Ontario's MB family:



Bytown Community Church
Dan & Mel Chook Reid

When I think of Bytown, I immediately think of the depth of maturity and resilience that both Dan and Mel embody. Dan's cancer journey is well known and I have been so encouraged and challenged to learn from Dan about what it means to follow God's call despite being diagnosed with an incurable disease. It's not only that, though. Dan is keenly self-aware and irrepressibly energetic in bringing all of himself to the Lord Jesus. He wants to know Christ and the power of His resurrection in every part of his life. Of course this sets the course for his influence

C2C collective

with others who come into the community of this new work. At the same time, Dan is patient and kind as he leads others and has a high capacity to embrace tough questions that his community is struggling with. Additionally, he's keen to allow those around him to offer their gifts in ministry in a variety of ways. All in all, it's a joy to watch and pray as this work continues to grow. It's worth noting that Dan is supported by a Task Force that includes Jeff Jantzi (Pastor, The Gathering), Doug Valerio (Pastor, Manotick Community Church) and Brenda Kirkwood (member, The Gathering) as well as other leaders from Ottawa.



Southeast City Church

David & Diana Hood

As the story at Southeast has been developing for some time, I'm so grateful to see what God is cultivating. I'm struck by just how wholeheartedly David and Diana partner as a couple in this work and how each brings such a vital set of leadership and ministry gifts to their church. In church planting, the image of "following God's bread crumbs" often comes to mind for me. For SECC, this has meant cultivating a whole set of meaningful relationships in Ottawa's Alta

Vista community. The step by step discovery of opportunities surrounding an Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) building called Russell Gardens stands out. SECC's love, humility, and generosity has led to genuine partnership and high trust. Recently David shared an offer to organize prayer for residents and OCH was enthusiastically supportive! Hallelujah! This story is only one encouraging part of a wonderful work that God is doing.



Manotick Community Church

Doug & Beck Valerio

Doug and I met first by email as the Valerio family was preparing to come to Canada from Australia in response to a strong sense of God's call to ministry in Canada's capital. We had a great conversation but I certainly could not have guessed all that God had in store! The invitation for Doug to step into leadership at Manotick Community Church (MCC) was a welcome surprise. And over the years since, I've always been struck by the combination of innovative energy and peaceful joy that has characterized Doug's ministry in their fledgling

church. The sense of faith-filled confidence, adventure, and unvarnished honesty that both Doug and Beck bring to life is really encouraging. I'm thankful that Ryan Jantzi and Doug have invited me to have regular 'sounding board' conversations as we listen for God's voice and heart for this young church in the National Capital Region. During COVID, MCC thrived online. It feels right now that a key question is how God may want to continue to grow the seeds that were planted during that time when the move online provided an opportunity for a highly interactive ministry.

Joyful to be Serving,

Trevor Seath
C2C Collective Ontario



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

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

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

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



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

Celebrating **together** all God has done

SHAPING LEADERS, CHANGING LIVES

Shaping Leaders

Dr. Randy Wollf



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



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

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

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



Nicole Yang is a Pastoral Intern at Willingdon Church and has been studying at MB Seminary since the fall of 2021. Asked about her ministry aspirations, she said, “A Turkey mission trip in 2015 was one of the turning points of my life. God has shaped my heart to love the lost, especially the 1040 unreached people groups. I am passionate about sharing God’s love to fulfill the Great Commission locally, globally and cross-culturally. To be part of God’s wonderful invitation of making more disciples and pointing people to Jesus.”

She describes the impact of studying at MB Seminary this way; “**Being a student in MB seminary has allowed the new knowledge about God that draws me into a deeper love for the Lord; a heart posture to lean in to love Him fully.** Also, the humbling realization of how much I don’t know and how much more I need to learn by depending on the Lord to be His vessel for his kingdom. In addition, so grateful for the opportunities to have godly professors who guide and journey with us and point us to King Jesus.”



Thinking Theologically

Dr. Brian Cooper

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

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

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



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 for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.

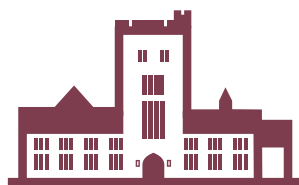
2022-23 Enrolment

556 FTE Main Shaftesbury campus
(full-time equivalent) for
Undergraduate and Graduate

197 FTE Menno Simons College
(CMU programming in Conflict Resolution
and International Development at UW)

753 Total CMU FTE

Small university Big opportunities



Why CMU?

Academic excellence

Professors know you

Work experience in every program

Faith and community matter

For more information and connection to CMU:

View our Report to the Community at cmu.ca/communityreport. Sign up for **Through this Place** our monthly e-newsletter for more stories and happenings at cmu.ca/newsletter.

cmu.ca



Greetings to the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

Here's a glimpse into CMU classrooms this year:

Introduction to Global Health | Dr. Rachel Krause | Examines infectious and neglected tropical diseases, malnutrition and the nutrition transition, maternal and child health, and environmental health.

Business and Sustainable Development Goals | Dr. Jerry Buckland | Critically examines the UN's sustainable development goals as objectives to achieve human and environmental health.

Graphic Design | Craig Terlson | Studies the creative use of the elements and principles of design as applied to graphic communication, and of the use of symbols, pictographs, writing, and letter forms.

Bible and Emotion | Dr. John Boopalan | Asks if human flourishing today is better enabled in allowing the manifestation of the full range of human emotions in religious and public life.

Disruptive Good News: The Church in Acts | Dr. Shelia Klassen-Wiebe | Asks how the contemporary church can learn from and be challenged by the same disruptive Spirit found in the book of Acts.

The Neuroscience of Social Behavior | Dr. Delmar Epp | Explore the neural processes underlying important aspects of our social behavior, including neuroscience perspectives on person perception, the need to belong, intergroup relations, and aggression.

Resourcing the church

Xplore | A lifelong learning program investigating dimensions of Christian faith, our world, and life. Spring session begins February 21, 2023. Visit cmu.ca/xplore.

Graduate School of Theology and Ministry | Study part time or full time, in person or online. Full scholarships for full time students available. Visit cmu.ca/gstm.

ReNew | Pastor and church leader conference, happens January 30-31, 2023. Visit cmu.ca/renew.

"Alongside its theological commitments, we also recognize and value the unique approach to academics and pedagogy that CMU embodies. We value its rigorous, dialogical, interdisciplinary, and deeply embodied way of knowing."

– Letter from Hutterite students 2022



“Your ongoing support of MCC Ontario’s programs brings hope and dignity right here in our back yard and around the world. We are deeply grateful for your role in this ministry and your incredible generosity again this year.”

- John Head, MCC Ontario Executive Director

Residents in Ukraine receive relief supplies and canned meat at a distribution in September 2022. Photo courtesy of AMBCU

Impact Report

2022 Ontario highlights

- MCC Thrift Shop volunteers in Ontario processed, cleaned and priced over three million items.
- In Attawapiskat First Nation, 50 single-parent or elder-led households received wagons that will aid in transporting heavy buckets of water from the community water depot to their homes.
- 181 newcomers were welcomed to Ontario through the private sponsorship of refugees program.
- Over 300 services providers learned new skills allowing them to better engage with and serve the Low German-speaking community.
- 109 persons were supported as they transitioned back into community following incarceration.
- 17,094 and 1/2 cups of soup provided meaningful employment for seven individuals receiving Ontario Disability Support Program payments.

2022 International highlights

- 6,250 dignity kits
- 31,650 relief kits
- 52,859 comforters
- 262,360 cans of meat
- 43,300 hygiene kits
- 73,819 school kits

Material resources were shipped to Ethiopia, Jordan, USA, Syria, Cuba, Zambia, Guatemala, Haiti, Iraq, Malawi, Mozambique, Ukraine and within Canada.

- More than 35,000 people received emergency assistance, including food, hygiene and essential household items in the months following the Russian military invasion of Ukraine.
- 5,351,318 trees, shrubs and grasses were planted in the watershed areas of the Amhara region of Ethiopia to transform 3,700 acres of degraded land into usable farmland.

I am pleased to report another remarkable year in which there was so much evidence of God's faithfulness and provision despite great uncertainty. The pandemic continued to impact our work in Ontario and globally: Thrift Shops were closed or had limited capacity, travel restrictions delayed refugees coming to Canada, material resource shipments were delayed and isolation weighed heavily on our staff and those we serve. Internationally, the needs were significant with crises in many places like Ethiopia, Ukraine and Lebanon. The impact of climate change continues to create food insecurity in so many places. Despite multiple challenges, those who help make the ministry of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) possible gave generously of their time and resources to collectively bring hope and healing to

those most deeply affected. I hope you are inspired knowing that despite so much conflict and need, God is at work restoring hope and healing and know that you are a vital part of MCC. Thank you.

- John Head, MCC Ontario Executive Director



45 countries
381 partners
496 projects

Mennonite Brethren



Originally from Kryvyi Rih, the family (Olga, her husband and two daughters) fled their home with only the clothing they had on their backs. Olga says the shelter, run by MCC partner Association of Mennonite Brethren Churches of Ukraine, can be cold when the power goes out, but they use the hand-made comforters received from MCC to keep their children warm.
MCC photo/Emily Loewan

Ukraine

MCC partners with the Association of Mennonite Brethren Churches in Ukraine (AMBCU) to support vulnerable and displaced families in southern and eastern Ukraine including in the regions of Zaporiz'ka, Cherkas'ka, Kharkivs'ka, Khmelnyts'ka, Kirovohrads'ka and Poltavs'ka through material resource shipments of canned meat, comforters and hygiene items. MCC is also supporting AMBCU as they respond to the needs of internally displaced people in Mukachevo in western Ukraine through the provision of food packages, hygiene items and temporary accommodation.

Thank you for your partnership and support

In 2022, Ontario MB churches supported MCC through financial donations, material resource donations of comforters, hygiene kits and relief kits, hosted MCC speakers and accessed and used MCC resources such as the Peace Packet. MB church members also attended events such as the annual Peace Conference, volunteered at MCC Thrift Shops and participated in learning tours.

Top 100 Charities

MCC is a ministry of the church — of your church. We have been committed to carrying out that ministry with the highest standards of effectiveness and good stewardship for over 100 years. That commitment is recognized by the wider community as MCC Ontario was named as one of the top 100 charities in Canada and MCC Canada was named as a Top 10 International Impact Charity by Charity Intelligence.

More on that recognition here: www.charityintelligence.ca/charity-profiles/top-100-rated-charities-2

“In June 2022, I shared the work of MCC at Grantham MB Church in St Catharines. I joined a multi-aged group in the church gym prior to the service to pack 150 relief kits. The materials were laid out making it easy to gather the contents for each kit. Once filled, the kits were taken to tables for careful packing and a lid was carefully hammered on to keep the contents secure. Completed kits were stacked, ready for delivery to MCC. Special thanks to Pastor Tabitha VandenEnden for overseeing the kit packing.”

—Stephen Roy
Church & Community Relations Associate



Thank you for your partnership. We give thanks for ONMB representatives on the MCC Ontario Board of Directors in the past year: Rich Janzen (served as the Vice-Chair), Denis Wall, Jean de Dieu Basabose, John Abraham and Nate Dirks.

Mennonite Disaster Service Canada **REPORT**

MDS Canada 2022: "We became friends."

2022 was a busy year for MDS Canada. After the inactivity of 2020-21, due to the pandemic, we were busy responding to many needs across the country.

Through Hay West, farmers in Ontario who had good crops supported farmers in Saskatchewan who were threatened with the loss of their herds due to severe drought.

"I want to thank you," said Saskatchewan cattle farmer Curtis Mattson. "I was really up against it. It gave me some optimism to know there are people out there trying to help us."

In August 2021, the White Rock Lake Wildfire in Monte Lake, B.C. ravaged that community near Kamloops. MDS volunteers built four new homes in that community.

"The words don't come for how grateful we feel towards MDS," said Robert Hugh, who received a new home in Monte Lake. "Awesome, fantastic, incredible, that's what comes to mind when I think about what MDS is doing."

Following the devastating November 2021 flood in B.C., volunteers responded in Princeton and the Fraser Valley in B.C. Volunteers repaired 45 homes in both locations.

"I can honestly say we wouldn't be where we are today without your help," said Princeton Mayor Spencer Coyne. "You will never be forgotten. You will always be a part of our community." Added Dian Brooks, who lives with her brother, Danie, in a home that was repaired by volunteers in Princeton: "I don't know a better way to put it, but MDS



Shelley Dueck presents a quilt to Michelle and Ted Swanson

helped with that sense of hope," she said. Said Danie: "We became friends."

In the Fraser Valley, Tom Johnstone not only saw his house badly damaged by flood waters, but also lost his wife to cancer during that time. Help from MDS not only repaired his house—it helped him at a dark time.



Jobin family in front of their house, Barry's Bay

"MDS was there when I needed it the most," he said.

In Barry's Bay, Ontario, MDS volunteers worked with the Roman Catholic Knights of Columbus to help a family with a severely disabled child who needed special accommodation. Prior to building an addition to the farmhouse, the family had been separated so the child could have the controlled environment she needed. With help from MDS volunteers and the Knights, the family was reunited.

"God brought us together in an act of love," said the mother, grateful to be reunited with the rest of her family after living apart with her disabled child for about two years.

MDS volunteers also responded to Hurricane Fiona in Atlantic Canada. 133 volunteers spent ten weeks doing 179 tree clean-up jobs and 28 roof repair or rebuild jobs in Cape Breton. Homeowners were grateful. "It's beautiful what they did," said Edith Ball, a widow, of the volunteers who cleaned up the trees on her yard. Added Johnny Parson, a person living with a disability: "People here appreciate what MDS did."

For MDS Canada, it was privilege to be the hands and feet of Jesus for our neighbours across Canada in 2022. Thanks for your support

—Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations



**Mennonite Disaster Service
Canada**

MDS Canada
200-600 Shaftesbury Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB Canada R3P 2J1
204-261-1274 / toll-free 866-261-1274
mdscanada@mds.org
mds.org

CONFERENCE REPORT

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Date: February 10, 2023

To: Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

From: Karl Hanson, Administrator

Re: Report from Valleyview Manor - For 2022

.....

On behalf of the Board and residents of Valleyview Manor I bring greetings to the Conference. It has been great to slowly get back to a semblance of "normal" after all the COVID-19 restrictions.

Residency

God has been faithful in meeting our needs. Our units are always occupied, and our waiting list currently has 60 names on the 1-bedroom list and 20 names on the 2-bedroom list, (9 of those names are on both lists.)

Hospitality Suites

Valleyview has three hospitality suites available 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, and if someone stays for a week the seventh night is \$25. In 2022 the rooms were rented out for a total of 65 nights. This translated into \$3,200 of revenue.

Building Maintenance

Valleyview is now going into its nineteenth year. We continue to do repair and upkeep, as needed, to keep the building in good repair. We have started updating our hot water tanks. We are eliminating the rental tanks from Reliance and replacing them with stainless steel water tanks that are purported to last for over 20 years. The elimination of the rental tanks will save us \$900 per month, and the replacement and installation cost for the stainless-steel tanks will be about \$30,000.

The next mechanical update should be to our heating system boilers. This update would eliminate about 30% natural gas wastage which translates to approximately a \$10,000 annual savings.

ONMB Convention 2023

Support Services

Community Care Concepts out of Elmira provide the opportunity for 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.

Social Activities

Valleyview residents are again enjoying various gatherings as listed below.

VVM Activities

- a bi-weekly Bible study on Thursday afternoons, open to all interested parties
- a bi-weekly coffee hour on Wednesdays for residents
- a weekly games night on Monday evenings
- a weekly crokinole competition on Wednesdays between residents
- a weekly games night on Thursday evenings
- a weekly games night on Saturday evenings
- an occasional movie night
- an occasional evening of singing by residents
- "Diners Club" - Community Care Concepts provides us with a great home-cooked meal for our residents who choose to attend. 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.

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

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

I'm very grateful for the dedication and generous giving of time by the residents of Valleyview, as they are the ones who initiate and run most of the activities as volunteers.

Respectfully submitted by:

Karl Hanson

Administrator

ONMB Convention 2023

The Valleyview Board of Directors during the fiscal year 2022 were:

Name	Position	Church Affiliation
Doug Dibben	Chair	Glencairn MB Church
Dean Perkins	Vice-Chair	Glencairn MB Church
Doug Chalk	Treasurer	Glencairn MB Church
Kathy Pickford	Member	Waterloo MB Church

A Note from the Board

The Valleyview Board has sought to serve well over the past year. We have been encouraged by the efforts of the ONMB Board and Executive director with their guidance in required next steps. Board terms are ending, the first priority is to complete the list of 5 directors for 2023. We wish the new board members success in providing direction during this next phase of Valleyview Manor.

Financial Summary

Valleyview Manor finished 2022 with a small surplus (unaudited at time of this report). Rising interest rates had the most significant impact on our bottom-line compared to recent years and will remain a factor to monitor in 2023. Otherwise, the facility is well-run by our Administrator whose capabilities are deeply appreciated.

ONMB Convention 2023

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Member 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
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
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
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
Church Website: www.evergreenheights.org

Free Church Toronto

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

Glencairn MB Church

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

Life Point Church

Address: Oshawa, ON
Office Phone: 905-725-8463
Office Email: mkdale@hotmail.com
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
Church Website: www.livinghopebiblechurch.ca

Manotick Community Church

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

Maple View Mennonite Church

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

ONMB Convention 2023

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Member Churches

Meadow Brook Church

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

New Life Christian Church

Address: 480 Huntingwood Dr.,
Toronto, ON M1W 1G4
Office Phone: 416-497-5437
Office Email: info@newlifetoronto.com
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
Church website: www.newlivingchurch.ca

Northend Church

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

Scott Street MB Church

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

St. Catharines Location:

Meets at: 201 Glenridge Ave., St. Catharines, ON

Vineland Location:

Meets at: 3970 Glendale Ave., Vineland, ON

Welland Location:

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
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

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
Church Website: www.thegatheringottawa.com

ONMB Convention 2023

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Member Churches

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
Church website: www.jesusnetwork.ca

WMB Church

Waterloo Site:

Meets at: 245 Lexington Rd.,
Waterloo, ON N2K 2E1
Office Phone: 519-885-5330
Office Email: office@wmbchurch.ca
Church Website: www.wmbchurch.ca

Kitchener Site:

Meets at: 19 Ottawa Street North,
Kitchener, ON N2H 3K2
Office Phone: 519-745-5144
Office Email: office@wmbchurch.ca
Church Website: www.wmbchurch.ca

Associate Churches

Malkutha

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

Rugged Tree Community Church

Address: 21 Poupore Rd. West
Skead, ON P0M 2Y0
Church Email: derek@ruggedtree.org
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
Office Email: hello@southeastcitychurch.ca
Church Website: www.southeastcitychurch.ca

The Spirit of Truth Church

Address: 671 Sheppard Ave. E, North York
Office Phone: 416-356-9967
Office Email: thespiritoftruthchurch@gmail.com
Church Website: www.stctoronto.com





ONMB Convention 2023

Event Information

CONVENTION RULES OF ORDER 2023

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

- Members are invited to respond to the reports and recommendations presented.
- When wanting to make a comment, please state your name and Church you are representing.
- Address your comments directly to the moderator. Open dialogue between members is discouraged on the conference floor. Keep your comments brief and limit repeating statements already given by other members.
- In order to keep things flowing smoothly, each Member may speak up to three times on any specific issue. For further comments, he/she must await the Moderator's approval, and that will be given only when no other Member wishes to speak.
- Guests who would like to comment may request to do so with the Moderator.
- Additional instructions may be provided by the Moderator regarding procedures.
- The Moderator reserves the right to bring discussion to a close with proper notification.
- Only Voting Representatives and Convention Members are permitted to vote.
- In general, Roberts Rules of Order may be used as a guideline during the business sessions.

A spirit of love should prevail in all comments.

ONMB Convention 2023

Event Information

VOTING REPRESENTATIVES AND CONVENTION MEMBERS

The Voting Representative and Convention Members act as delegates who are responsible to represent the will of their Member Church as a meeting of the Members, also known as Convention.

In addition to the single Voting Representative, a Member Church may have one (1) Convention Member for every twenty-five (25) church members or fraction thereof of that Member Church.

Each Associate Church is invited to register their Representatives into membership as Convention Members.

Both the single Voting Representative AND Convention Members are all voting delegates at Convention, each with one vote, all votes are equal.

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.

EVENT INFORMATION

Questions:

Come and say "hi". Please visit us at the Welcome Desk/Registration Table in the lobby for any questions related to the Convention, Connect Cards, or first aid.

Name Tags:

Please wear your name tag at all times. Your name tag gets you into sessions, breakouts and meals. Plus, we would love to know your name.

Exhibitors:

We are thrilled to have exhibitors back in-person. They represent the many ministry partnerships we have within ONMB. They are located in the main lobby. Please take the time to visit with them and discover ways that their ministry can support and provide resources to you and your church.

Photography:

Please be advised that photographs and video may be taken throughout the weekend which will be used for promotional purposes within ONMB and CCMBC. We would love for you to bring your best smile.



COMING EVENTS 2023



JUNE 6-8, 2023
The Meeting Place, Winnipeg

pco.mennonitebrethren.ca



JUNE 8 + OCTOBER 28, 2023
Virtual/Hybrid Gathering

na.mennonitebrethren.ca



OCTOBER 26-28, 2023
Abbotsford, BC

equip.mennonitebrethren.ca



FEBRUARY 23-24, 2024
Location TBD

onmb.org/2023-convention/