

93<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL ONMB CONVENTION

Scott Street Church – 339 Scott Street, St Catharines, ON / Friday 7–9pm &amp; Saturday 8:30–4:30pm

FEBRUARY 23–24, 2024

Global COVID-19 cases reach 200 million The number of COVID-19 cases worldwide has reached 200 million, with the highly contagious Delta variant causing a surge in infections. The rapid spread of the virus has led to renewed restrictions and lockdowns in some countries, and health officials are urging people to get vaccinated to help slow the spread. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, medical experts remain hopeful that the development of effective vaccines and treatments will eventually bring an end to the crisis.

Wildfires rage in California as temperatures soar Wildfires are raging across parts of California, fueled by high temperatures and dry conditions. Thousands of acres of land have been destroyed, and residents in affected areas are being forced to evacuate. Firefighters are working around the clock to contain the fires, but with conditions expected to remain hot and dry in the coming days, the situation remains precarious.

Climate change: floods, wildfires, and droughts are becoming more frequent and severe, posing a major threat to global food security and water supplies. Areas experiencing shortages, including food and water, are facing significant challenges. Greenhouse gas emissions and develop new technologies to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Economy shows signs of recovery following pandemic downturn The US economy is showing signs of recovery following the downturn caused by the pandemic. Unemployment rates have fallen, and consumer spending is on the rise. However, the long-term impact of the pandemic on the economy, such as loss of jobs and reduced income, continues to be a challenge.

COVID-19 vaccine: The development of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine has been a major achievement, but more research is needed to ensure its safety and efficacy. The vaccine is being distributed to countries with poorer infrastructure, but more work is needed to ensure it reaches those in need. The vaccine is being distributed to countries with poorer infrastructure, but more work is needed to ensure it reaches those in need.

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China's new trade policy: China's new trade policy, which aims to reduce trade barriers and promote economic growth, has been a major focus of international attention. The policy is being implemented in a phased manner, with the first phase focusing on reducing trade barriers and the second phase focusing on promoting economic growth. The policy is being implemented in a phased manner, with the first phase focusing on reducing trade barriers and the second phase focusing on promoting economic growth.

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freedom of speech. The debate highlights the challenges of balancing the need for accurate information with the principles of free speech and open access to information.

the crisis, but the situation remains volatile.

Cybersecurity threats on the rise Cybersecurity threats are on the rise, with a number of high-profile cyberattacks targeting businesses and organizations. Companies and organizations need to take cybersecurity more seriously, including more robust security protocols and employee training. The consequences of a successful cyberattack can be severe, ranging from financial losses to damage to a company's reputation.

development of these tests is seen as a key step in managing the pandemic.

Immigration policy debate heats up in the US The debate over immigration policy in the US is heating up, with some lawmakers calling for stronger border security measures and others pushing for more lenient immigration policies. The issue remains highly contentious, with both sides accusing the other of taking extreme positions. The debate is likely to be a major topic in upcoming elections, as voters weigh the competing demands of national security and compassion for immigrants.

The crisis highlights the challenges of addressing poverty and inequality in the country.

Tensions rise between Israel and Palestine Tensions between Israel and Palestine have risen in recent months, with clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian protestors resulting in multiple deaths. The international community is calling for a peaceful resolution to the conflict, but progress has been slow, with both sides accusing the other of intransigence. The conflict has deep historical roots, with both Israelis and Palestinians claiming the same land as their own, and finding a lasting solution will require compromise and goodwill from all parties involved.

Space tourism takes off with successful launches Space tourism is taking off, with successful launches by companies such as Virgin Galactic and Blue Origin. The launches represent a new era of space travel, with the potential for more people to experience the thrill of spaceflight. However, concerns remain about the environmental impact of space tourism and the potential risks to safety.





# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

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# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

## EVENT DETAILS

### AGENDA

1. Vision, worship and celebration
2. Receiving reports from ONMB board & staff, committees and agencies, CCMBC staff
3. Regular business; motions #1-4
4. 2024 elections for board of directors and nominating committee; motions #5-7
5. 2024 Financial Report; motions #8-11
6. Closing and motions #12-13

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024

- 6:30 pm **Registration**
- 7:00-9:00 pm **Worship & Celebration**  
Worship in Song  
Being a Great News People  
Philip & Robyn Serez  
Welcoming Trevor Seath  
ONMB Stories  
Communion

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1.
  - **Spiritual Health & Theology:**  
Women in Ministry Leadership
  - **Organizational Health:**  
ONMB Finance & Vision
  - **Leadership Development:**  
MB Seminary Teaching Church
  - **Mission:**  
Missional Expressions Update
2.
  - **Spiritual Health & Theology:**  
LGBTQ+ Care & Discipleship
  - **Organizational Health:**  
CCMBC Updates
  - **Leadership Development:**  
Leadership FrontCounter
  - **Leadership Development:**  
Camp Crossroads Gap Year

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024

- 8:30 am **Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 am **Session 1**  
Welcome & Worship in Song  
Commissioning of Trevor Seath  
Opening Business Session  
Reports & Motions  
Board Chair Report  
Interim Executive Director Report  
... Coffee Break ...
- 11:00 am **Breakout Session 1:**  
... Lunch Break ...
- 12:45 pm **Breakout Session 2:**  
... Coffee Break ...
- 2:00 pm **Session 2**  
Reports & Motions  
Nominations & Elections  
Financials & 2024 Budget  
Provincial FLT Report  
Organizational Health Update
- 3:45 pm **Session 3**  
National Ministry Updates  
Final Motions & Results  
Prayer & Benediction







## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### ONMB HEADLINES

## SCOTT STREET CHURCH WELCOMES THE 93RD ONMB CONVENTION

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, it is with great joy and anticipation that we welcome you to the 2024 ONMB Convention. As we come together in the name of Jesus, may our hearts be united in worship and fellowship. May we celebrate God's faithfulness to us over the past year as we read and hear ministry reports from across the province. May we rely on the Holy Spirit as we discern and make decisions for our future. May we be inspired to grow as Christ's disciples: to live, look, and love like our Lord – joining with Jesus in establishing His Kingdom.

From the Ministry Team at Scott Street MB:  
Danielle Duerrstein, Jordan Duerrstein, Paul Mason,  
Katie Hines, and Rob Patterson



## ONMB BOARD APPOINTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Convention 2024!

As one of the latest to join ONMB, I hardly feel qualified to extend my greetings! But I've been very warmly welcomed by so many, so I'll gladly pass on the love. And truthfully, I'm very grateful that you're here. It's so vital that we take time to reconnect as family for fellowship, worship,



and prayer as we look to the year ahead. God is at work not only in our individual lives, churches, and ministries but also in a significant way as He writes us all into His story in Ontario, Canada, and even the world. Shared times like this weekend allow us to glimpse that bigger story and respond by submitting to His leading together.

This year, as we focus on Becoming a Great News People, I wonder how that theme may encourage, confront, and challenge us. My prayer is that we freshly experience the gospel's power to secure, comfort, and deeply change us. I know we need to see God, ourselves, and the world around us through the lens of Jesus' love and power. His life, death, and resurrection

must be a great anthem that plays as the theme over our lives so that the world can see that He is King!

This Great News is our great hope, and it is the message that sparks divine energy and imagination for the world in the core of who we are. Because Jesus is Lord, we have a path to follow, a message to share, and a welcome to extend to others. Our world desperately needs Jesus' people to be captivated again by the wonder of His victory, to be filled again with the Spirit whose power raised Him from the dead, and to be rooted more deeply in our Father's proven love. Lord, win us again with your love for the sake of your great name!

Trevor Seath  
ONMB Executive Director

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## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

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### MESSAGE FROM OUR SPEAKERS



#### Philip & Robyn Serez

Becoming great news people calls us beyond the realm of compelling presentations or even great conversations. It's more than keen interest in our neighbours or wise discernment of culture or community needs. Becoming great news people is an invitation to live immersed in the sustaining truth of who we are as Jesus' people. It's a call to root deeply in God and experience the power of that union bringing abundant life to our hearts so that the gospel is the message we share and the power transforming who we are to the glory of Jesus' name!

Philip and Robyn Serez have held many roles with Multiply over the last 25 years. Currently, Philip is on a disability leave and Robyn leads the Eastern Canada team as Multiply's Regional Mobilizer. They are beloved leaders within our MB family who are living as great news people amid an extremely challenging journey with ALS.



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### ONMB BOARD CHAIR REPORT

## WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR CONVENTION 2024!

Thank you for taking the time to prepare, as we gather as a conference to celebrate, worship & pray, and make important decisions together. What a gift it is to walk together by faith, in the ministry and mission to which God has called us as a family of churches in Ontario.

**ONMB are a people of great news.** There is much to celebrate as we see the beautiful and creative ways that God is at work in our churches across Ontario. Our fall regional gatherings have become an annual highlight for me, as I've had the privilege as board chair to visit Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara, KW and Leamington and meet with so many of our leaders. You are an inspiration and encouragement to me – I am so grateful to be a part of this community.

Our theme this year is **Being a Great News people** – this is a collective vision and mission for us together as ONMB. It is vital that we continue to come together, to learn from one another, to worship and pray, to walk in step with the Spirit together so that Jesus can continue to form us as His people, to be a light to the world around us.

We also **pursue this mission** together with our national MB family. Thank you to everyone from ONMB who participated in EQUIP & National Assembly 2023, in Ab-

botsford last October, to engage important questions about our identity and purpose as the MB Church of Canada today. As I serve with our national Board on behalf of ONMB, I am deeply encouraged by the renewal God is bearing among us. In April, we will also welcome to the team our new National Director, Cam Stuart.

As your ONMB 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.

For many of our 2023 ministry and governance updates, I refer you to the reports from our various committees as well as from our Interim Executive Director. We extend our blessing to Living Hope Bible Church as they withdrew from ONMB membership at the end of 2023. We continue to work closely with Grace MB Church in their closure and merger process with Radiant City Church, to become the newly formed Belmont Village Church, in Kitchener. We invite your prayers for our brothers and sisters as they navigate a complex time in both sadness and hope.



# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

## ONMB BOARD CHAIR REPORT

I want to express my thanks to our Board and committee members, for your **gifted and passionate service** to ONMB. I am grateful for the dedication of our Board; the time and energy you give generously as leaders and servants. Your current Board members are Anita Boles (Treasurer), Darrell Gillespie, Noah Grossman, Brent Kipfer, Michelle Knowles (Chair), Jeff MacLeod, Richard Martens, Andrew Plett, Meghan Plett (Secretary), Doug Valerio (Vice-Chair), Timothy Quek (resigned Sept. 2023).

I am also thankful for our staff, Kristi Lee and Ryan Jantzi, for their gifted leadership and in particular for their flexibility and willingness to go well above and beyond in serving our conference over this past year.

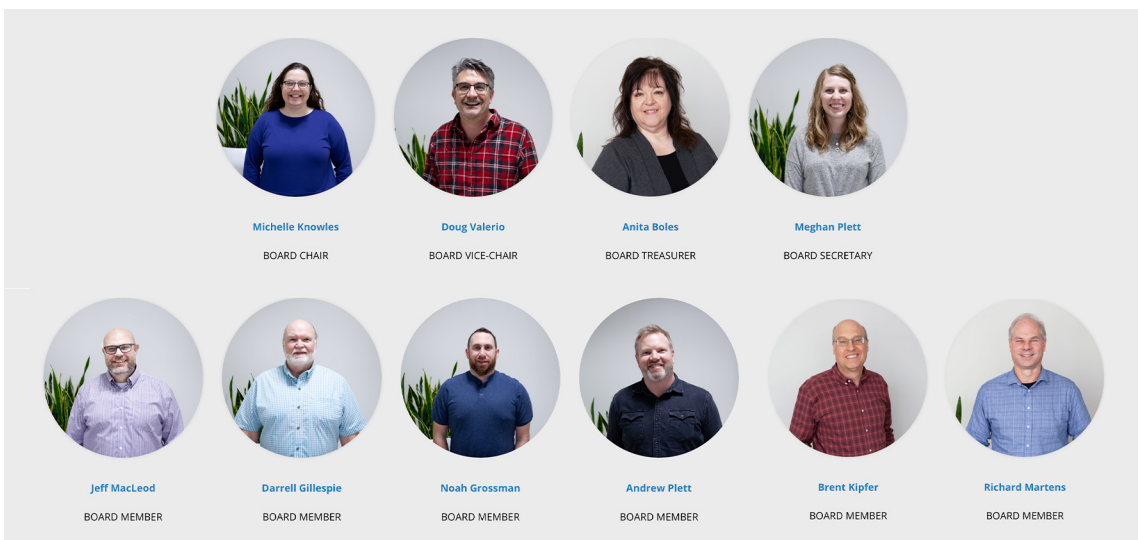
Lastly, we are so excited to welcome Trevor Seath to our team as our new Executive Director! Off and running right away, he

has already proven to be a great addition to our team these first few weeks. I am eager for the ways God will use Trevor's gifts and experience to lead us in this next season of ONMB.

Thank you for all of the ways you as our church members, pastors, and leaders have pressed in together this past year. Our Board is so thankful for your prayers, words of **encouragement, generosity, and grace**. Please feel welcome to connect with me anytime.

It is a joy to serve our ONMB family. I look forward to seeing you and worshipping together soon!

Reported by: Michelle Knowles  
Board Chair



ONMB Board of Directors



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

**“...they never stopped teaching and preaching the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.” Acts 5:42 (NIV)**

2023 had the potential to be a year of struggle and withdrawal from one another as we continued through an ongoing season of uncertainty. However, I saw God do quite the opposite.

I saw God’s gracious activity across our churches and leaders, drawing us together and toward him. I continue to hear many of our people say, “I’m grateful to be a part of the ONMB family of churches. Our partnership matters and I’m excited to see what is next for our collective calling and mission.”

I marvel at the beautiful work God has done, setting us up well for a renewed season of collective fruitfulness as Trevor Seath leads as our new Executive Director.

As we now orient to this next stage of collective disciple-making, we must remind ourselves of and re-declare the story we are founded on, *The Good News of Jesus*. It is in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that we find our life and hope. This is the greatest news of all!

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## THE ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES ARE A GREAT NEWS PEOPLE.

Like the church in Acts 5, may we never stop teaching and preaching the good news that Jesus is the Messiah!

It has been an honour and joy to serve as the Interim Executive Director throughout 2023. This has been a significant personal growing experience. I am grateful for the grace, encouragement and support you all have extended. A special thanks to our Executive Assistant, Kristi Lee, as well as Chairperson Michelle Knowles and the Board of Directors. I find joy in serving alongside you all. You’ve led and served well in 2023.



Becky Valerio, Trevor Seath, Michelle Knowles, Kristi Lee, and David Hood - Ottawa Regional Meeting 2023

## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

#### RE-ENGAGING OUR CHURCHES

A top priority in 2023 has been engaging with our churches and leaders on a relational level. This meant much time on the road to join worship gatherings and to share meals or coffee with our great pastors. The intent has been to rebuild trust and relational strength with our churches. A highlight was gathering our four Ottawa MB churches for a shared worship service in November for the very first time!



Ryan Jantzi, David Hood (Southeast City), Dan Chook Reid (Bytown CC), Doug Valerio (Manotick CC), Jeff Jantzi (The Gathering Ottawa) - Joint Worship Service

#### PURSuing 'TOV' & CONTINUED LEARNING

Tov, the Hebrew word for 'good' has been a theme for our churches as we've considered how to foster cultures of goodness. We've used *A Church Called Tov* by Scot McKnight and Laura Barringer as our guide, and many have contributed via written and spoken reflections on our ONMB blog, Jesus Stories podcast and in Team of Teams calls. Whole church elder teams have engaged as well. May our churches be places where all people can thrive in the fullness of God's goodness!



At the 2023 Convention, our Provincial Faith and Life Team (PFLT) committed to continued growth in care for and discipleship of LGBTQ+ persons. Throughout the year a group of 6 pastors across ONMB have participated in a cohort by Revoice, being coached by a celibate pastor with same-sex attraction. We've also hosted four LGBTQ+ Care and Discipleship Zoom conversations for all ONMB church leaders. Here we learned from three same-sex attracted persons and one parent of a non-binary child, all of whom are committed to a traditional sexual ethic.

Healthy Leaders Training has been developed by the PFLT, to provide training in the realm of pastoral vulnerability and power dynamics. This will be completed by all credentialed leaders once every five years. This is a critical step in empowering our leaders to engage wisely in the many relational complexities we encounter as pastors.





# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

## INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

### CCMBC ENGAGEMENT

Serving with the National Ministry Team in 2023 I worked with CCMBC leaders, Provincial Leaders and National Ministry Partners (Legacy, MB Seminary & Multiply) to continue to develop strategy for our Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (The CUSP). We're beginning to see the fruit as we learn about the Leadership FrontCounter being developed with MB Seminary taking the lead. This will facilitate better formation for our leaders across Canada to engage the complexities of this time with the Good News. Multiply is also leading our collaborative work on our CUSP mission strategy which you'll hear about in the coming year.

I'm grateful for the work of Elton DaSilva as our National Director and excited for the incoming National Director, Cam Stuart. Elton served us well with courage through a season that included many speed-bumps. Cam brings a determined but wise and gentle approach to collaboration and a passion for disciple-making cultures in our churches.

The EQUIP National Conference was a great success! We had approximately 35 participants from Ontario as we gathered with approximately 220 MBs from across the country to ask the theme, "Fire and Ashes: Why Church? Why MB?" My observation is that we're entering a season of increased national unity and readiness.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF NOTE

- Three days in Dartmouth, NS to encourage and learn from The Well Church and their pastor, Adam Greeley. The Well is one of two MB churches in Atlantic Canada and thus in need of relational connection.

- Gathering pastors through the spring for regular prayer in Niagara, KW and the GTA.

- ONMB Board Retreat in May: a time of seeking understanding and healing related to the past year and seeking God's direction forward. We examined our current place in the entire history of ONMB, using the Journey Wall process from years prior. We have an excellent Board of Directors who lead with faith-filled humility and courage.

### CHURCH & PASTOR TRANSITIONS

Three great new Lead Pastors and one Transitional Pastor have been placed in our churches in 2023. God has provided:

- David Wicks, Kingsfield – Zurich Mennonite Church
- Michael Thompson, Christian Fellowship Chapel
- Stephen Sesink, Evergreen Heights Christian Fellowship
- Jacob Birch, New Life Christian Church

Chris Walker of Meadow Brook and Timothy Quek of New Life

Christian Church both completed their time as Lead Pastor with their churches. I'm grateful for the leadership and service of both pastors.

In 2023, Living Hope Bible Church (Port Rowan MB) withdrew from membership with ONMB, citing a more conservative theological trajectory. We're grateful for their long-time partnership and are sad to see them step away. However, we pray for the fullness of God's blessing and encourage partnership with a network of churches with whom they feel they can align

and thrive with.

In 2023, Grace MB also voted to formally close with their people merging with Radiant City Church to become Belmont Village Church. This merger is in process and BVC is on track to become an Associate Church with ONMB. We are grateful for Grace's participation with ONMB for twenty-three years. We recognize that this has been a challenging time and not an easy decision for the Grace MB people. We join with them in both sadness and hope for the future.



# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

## INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

### MISSIONAL EXPRESSIONS



Darren Milley - PowerServe

Unfortunately, due to my shift to the Interim Executive Director role, Missional Expressions leadership for new disciple-making initiatives and church plants received limited attention. I am grateful for the ongoing growth of our most recent church plants, Southeast City Church and Bytown Community Church. We've partnered in the launch of PowerServe with Darren Milley. This is a Disciple-Making initiative in the trucking industry. Life Point has also relaunched in a new storefront location. Multiply workers also continue to invest in disciple-making in Indigenous and Tibetan communities in Ontario. We also hosted a disciple-making movement training event by Derek Parenteau with 16 leaders across ONMB in the spring.

I'm excited to begin giving 50% of my focus to this realm once the Executive Director baton has been completely passed. There are good dreams and ideas stirring as our Missional Expressions Team has sought God's vision for ONMB.

### NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

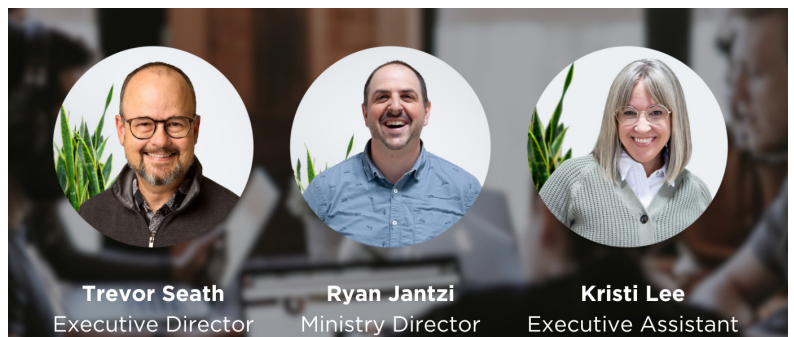
Trevor Seath will serve us well as our new Executive Director, while I return to the Ministry Director role I was originally hired into. I'm thrilled that God has led Trevor to this role. I've experienced Trevor as a wise and kind leader who understands organizations and how to empower and catalyze the people around him. Trevor is well-loved by our pastors and this sets him up well to hit the ground running!

God's goodness to our family of churches has been evident throughout 2023.

With Love and Hope,



Ryan Jantzi,  
Interim Executive Director



ONMB Staff



# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

## 2023 ONMB CONVENTION MINUTES - DRAFT

ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES  
92nd Annual Convention  
Hosted at Maple View Mennonite Church, Wellesley ON

Feb. 24-25, 2023

Theme: "In Our Brokenness Jesus Shines"

Attendance: 91 Convention Members, representing 20 of 26 member churches, plus additional guests and 1 of our 4 Associate Member Churches.

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

### **Welcome and Introductory Comments:**

Kristi Lee and Brent Kipfer welcomed everyone to the 2023 ONMB Convention at Maple View Mennonite Church in Wellesley, ON. Brent shared the history of Maple View and how it ties into the Mennonite Brethren story. Kristi introduced the theme, "In Our Brokenness, Jesus Shines." Kristi opened in prayer.

### **Worship in Music:**

A team from WMB Church, led by Shawn Branton opened the worship music with "God So Loved" and "This is Amazing Grace".

### **Acknowledging Our Brokenness:**

Board Chair, Michelle Knowles celebrated the opportunity to gather in person again after two years of meeting online for Convention. We come with both thanksgiving and brokenness in our personal lives and in the conference of churches. The absence of Ed and Karin Willms was acknowledged with sadness and thankfulness was expressed for Ed's ten years of leadership with ONMB. Michelle prayed a blessing upon Ed and Karin.

### **Guided Prayer:**

Meghan Plett, an ONMB Board Member led in a "Palms Up, Palms Down" prayer to settle ourselves through connecting with Jesus.

### **Plenary Address:**

Bruce Enns, General Director with Multiply preached from 2 Corinthians 4:5-7 on the theme "In Our Brokenness, Jesus Shines." We are called to be witnesses to the light of Jesus both individually and corporately. However, this light is threatened by division and brokenness as the darkness creeps into the church. And yet, it is in the spiritual community where our stumbling toward Jesus takes place. Leonard Cohen's song Anthem declares, "There's a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." While we may be stumbling, we are still called to be witnesses and this brokenness enables the light of Jesus to shine brighter. Bruce shared his own season of personal burnout and how Jesus shone through that experience. The closing statement was "May we lift our eyes to trust the Spirit is at work in our dark places so that we may follow Jesus into his great mission together."



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### 2023 ONMB CONVENTION MINUTES - DRAFT

#### **ONMB Story:**

Dan Chook Reid, church planter with Bytown Community Chair shared how Jesus has shone through his brokenness. As God has led Dan through a journey of cancer, and a tumultuous leadership journey, he has discovered the power of Jesus amid his brokenness. This led to the planting of Bytown CC. He also noted the significance of the ONMB family as a support through the journey.

#### **Mosaic and Communion:**

Ryan Jantzi expressed thanks to all who have gathered and hosted this Convention, as well as to Bruce Enns for his address. He led through the corporate creation of a tile mosaic to concretely represent how Jesus shines in our Brokenness. Together, the Convention attendees remembered and honoured Christ's work at the cross through sharing in the Lord's Supper. Leaders Collective participants assisted in administering communion. The Worship Music Team lead in "Gratitude", "Great Are You", "Whole Heart" and "Glorious Day".

#### **Closing Comments and Prayer:**

Ryan Jantzi invited Joel Martin of Multiply to pray for healing and blessing upon Philip Serez who has ALS. Joel invited Trevor Seath of C2C Collective to join him in this prayer. This was a powerful symbolic moment of C2C and Multiply standing side-by-side given the recent story of the Multiply and C2C demerger. Ryan invited attendees to embrace this truth that Jesus shines in our brokenness as decisions are made in the Saturday AGM, even as those decisions may be difficult. The service was closed with prayer at 9:00pm

**Saturday February 25, 2023 9:00am-4:50pm**

#### **WORSHIP SONG AND WELCOME:**

Jeff MacLeod welcomed everyone, giving instructions for Convention Members to sign in if they haven't already and invited us to focus today on what God is doing in the midst of all the challenges and transitions we are facing.

#### **OPENING ADDRESS AND PRAYER:**

Ryan Jantzi gave opening comments around our theme of In Our Brokenness Jesus Shines, recapping our time together last night. Jesus experienced brokenness so we can become whole.

Us: A Display of God's Wisdom

Ephesians 3:10-11

God's intent was that through the Church he would show his wisdom to the world.

Makes us wonder, do we actually display the wonder and glory of God?

Yet we believe and experience this to be true as God meets us in our brokenness and works to make all things new. Ryan went on to give many examples of how Jesus is shining through our ONMB churches.



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### 2023 ONMB CONVENTION MINUTES - DRAFT

#### **Spiritual Healing Panel Discussion: Journeying Toward Wholeness**

with Andrew Plett (Mountain Park Church), Dave Bretzlaff (South Point CC), Susan Friesen (Meadow Brook Church)

Covid revealed much of our brokenness.

Susan recognized that they needed to do something but didn't yet have tools to address it. Dave continually got calls from people who were looking for more support and counselling. While not a big program person, Celebrate Recovery has provided structure to help people experience healing.

Andrew recognizes that having doctrinally correct answers to questions doesn't mask the brokenness going on underneath. Noticed the Church splintering over theological/ethical/social issues. He had people in his office every week expressing their strong convictions with anger and bitterness. There was a brokenness in their soul and hearts. Pastors often lead from a place of brokenness that gets masked with programs, information, theological training. Leading out of a place of insecurity, fear, and control. As leaders instead of bringing the Kingdom to bear in our churches, we're in the midst of the dysfunction. From personal struggles with control and fear, the question of how to lead others into peace and hope arose. Mountain Park took their staff through Freedom Session (it's a 20 week intensive healing discipleship process) and then rolled it out to the whole church in the fall. There are people who are being healed from trauma, abuse, and generational baggage. People who are experiencing deep, personal relationship with Jesus. Jesus is setting people free, restoring and renewing them, stepping into their lives tangibly.

Dave's church started Celebrate Recovery as a 12 step program for people with hurts, habits, and hang-ups. When people are hurting, everyone around them is hurting too. CR takes that collective of people to help them too.

Susan shared that Meadow Brook has been using Soul Care (book and video study) that's designed to go through with one other person, allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal areas deep in your life where you're stuck, wounded. You become authentic with other people. Goes through 7 principles that can bring great healing. They have seen a lot of freedom in a lot of lives through this ministry. Such great healing from fear, insecurity, shame, unforgiveness. Relationships restored, physical healing, real encounters with Jesus, falling in love with him.

#### **BUSINESS SESSION PART 1:**

Michelle Knowles and Doug Valerio offered a welcome and introduced themselves as well as the agencies with tables in the foyer. They also introduced our National Leaders (Elton DaSilva, Ken Esau, Jason Krueger, Mark Wessner, Bruce Enns, Kara Friesen, Carson Samson).

They gave instructions for voting delegates about the voting process with the voting cards and ballots. There is an invitation to give to Bytown Community Church this weekend, to bless them with our generosity, so they can continue their mission in Ottawa.





## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### 2023 ONMB CONVENTION MINUTES - DRAFT

#### CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM:

Quorum bylaw 7.4 requires 50 voting representatives present, in person, representing at least 50% of member churches. We have 20 of 26 member churches represented with 91 delegates present at the beginning of this session, plus 34 guests. One of our 4 associate member churches is also represented. The quorum requirements have been met.

#### REPORTS AND MOTIONS:

**MOTION C23-1 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that JP Hayashida (WMB), Tracy Lepp (South Point Community Church), and Ed Korschewitz (Grace MB) be approved as parliamentarians and that Darby Mills (WMB), Renee Rocheleau (Meadow Brook Church), Robin Scheffler (WMB), and Samantha Steckle (Kingsfield-Zurich) be approved as ballot counters.

**MOTION C23-2 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that the agenda be accepted as presented.

**MOTION C23-3 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that we receive the Committee and Board Reports as distributed in advance in the Convention book.

**MOTION C23-4 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that the minutes from Convention 2022, as presented in the Convention book, be approved.

#### ONMB INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Ryan acknowledged that this year shaped up differently than expected, which has brought much grief. Expressed gratitude for Ed Willms' leadership of ONMB for the past 10 years. Ryan is honoured to lead as the Interim Executive Director at this time, and loves these churches. Has a passion to facilitate the collaboration of churches. Believes that we're healthier when we partner together well. Expressed thanks to Kristi Lee, Jeff MacLeod, and Michelle Knowles, as well as the full Board of Directors and PFLT.

Ryan acknowledged sadness about the motions regarding Southridge, FreeChurch, and the withdrawal of New Hope last year. We long to align so we can partner well in ministry together.

There is much hope for 2023. To enter into a season of prayer, seeking God about what he's calling us to. There will be opportunities to invite everyone into this, not just the Board. There will be a renewed space and capacity for a greater focus to multiply disciples of Jesus.

Ryan expressed disappointment about being unable to focus on Missional Expressions to the extent he had hoped this last year, to plant churches and make new disciples.

We will be having conversations based on Scot McKnight's Book of Tov - how do we form communities of shalom. We will continue to care for and shepherd our pastors, be a sounding board, pray with, and encourage them. We will continue to learn and grow in our care for and disciple 2SLGBTQ+ people.





# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

## 2023 ONMB CONVENTION MINUTES - DRAFT

Ryan shared that we won't have a pastors retreat this year, but have plans to host one in May 2024. Ryan will work to strengthen trust between churches and the board, encourage pastors and leaders, and work together with the board to discern where God is leading us.

### **ONMB BOARD CHAIR REPORT:**

Michelle reviewed the year, touching on the disappointments and hopes of renewal. What had felt hopeful in the spring, by the fall we entered into a very turbulent season which resulted in the release of Ed Willms, shifts on our Board, and Ryan entering into a new role. There is grief and trauma attached to this; yet we also saw hope. Our churches pressed in, rather than pulled away. Clarity of our shared convictions, encouragement, support, and generosity brought much hope amid turbulence. We see God at work and are grateful for the ways the churches have pressed in together. She extended a huge thank you to Ryan and Kristi. So grateful for staff who love God and love the churches in our ONMB family, who pour themselves out. We have challenges and significant decisions to make together today, and also have much hope before us. The outcome of these decisions will guide where we go from here. We seek to steward well what you've entrusted to us, to carry out the purpose and direction of the Conference, and to trust God as he leads us forward.

### **BREAKOUT SESSION 1: 10:45-11:45**

LUNCH BREAK

### **BREAKOUT SESSION 2: 12:45-1:45**

BREAK

### **BUSINESS SESSION PART 2:**

Doug welcomed everybody back.

Doug clarified the voting process regarding who is welcome to ask questions or make comments during the discussion - only for delegate voters and registered guests (at Michelle and Doug's approval).

### **Camp Crossroads Report:**

Andrew Hiebert expressed gratitude to our churches for support - financially, volunteering, serving with skilled trades, etc. So thankful for the way God has provided through the pandemic. God is using chapel ministry on retreats this winter to change students' lives. Theme verse: Psalm 16:11. We want to show people the path of life. We value the next generation. We help make Christ known through camp retreats throughout the year, church retreats, and summer camp programs. Currently ~630 students (capacity 960) signed up for camp programs.

To help support Camp Crossroads, pray for them, tell others about camp, volunteer your time, and support financially. There's a work week in April that you can come up and help work around camp to get it prepared for future ministry.



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### 2023 ONMB CONVENTION MINUTES - DRAFT

#### **ONMB Nominations Report:**

Jeff Martens presented the process by which the nominating committee discerns the candidates for the ONMB Board. There has been a lack of nominations over the last few years, so Jeff encouraged a wider swath of candidates being nominated next year.

#### **Election Motions:**

**MOTION C23-5 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that the Board of Directors for the period commencing from Convention 2023 to Convention 2024 be made up of 11 directors.

**MOTION C23-6 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that Michelle Knowles be acclaimed for her first two-year term as Chair of the ONMB Board of Directors.

**MOTION C23-7 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that Doug Valerio be acclaimed for his first two-year term as Vice-Chair of the ONMB Board of Directors.

**MOTION C23-8 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that the following individuals be elected to the ONMB Board as members-at-large: Anita Boles, Jeff MacLeod, Richard Martens, Timothy Quek

**MOTION C23-9 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that all candidates for the Nominating Committee 2023 be acclaimed.

#### **MCC Video**

#### **ONMB Financial Report:**

Noah Grossman summarized his report as found in the Convention book pages 36-39.

We had planned for a \$27,000 deficit, but came in at only \$18,000 deficit. There's affirmation of how God is taking care of us.

We have a desire to continue on the same path and vision that was established in previous budgets, to continue the momentum. We have also proposed that the remainder of Ed Willms' severance be taken out of the Operating Reserve fund, leaving us in a surplus budget.

We propose that we do a review engagement for 2023 rather than a full audit, as allowed this year under ONCA rules. The main benefit is fiscal - about half the price of a full audit.

#### **Financial Motions:**

**MOTION C23-10 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that the audited financial statements for 2022 be accepted.

**MOTION C23-11 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that the ONMB membership approve the use of a review engagement instead of an audit for 2023.



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### 2023 ONMB CONVENTION MINUTES - DRAFT

**MOTION C23-12 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that Bridgeman and Durksen be appointed to perform the review engagement for 2023.

**MOTION C23-13 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that the operating budget for 2023 be approved as presented.

#### MoveIn Video

#### ONMB Organizational Health Report & PFLT Report:

A new committee has been established to align with the CUSP, with an expanded mandate including that of the former Governance Committee. Through surveys with churches we heard that the churches want us to help them with organizational health. This team will serve the local churches. Have also worked with Camp Crossroads to renew their bylaws.

If your church is incorporated, you have until Oct. 24, 2024 to review your bylaws and governing documents. If you want OH Team's help, please start now.

#### OH Team Motion:

**MOTION C23-14 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that the Conference Member vote in favour of the amended Camp Crossroads bylaws as presented.

#### Provincial Faith & Life Report:

Pages 24-31

Karen West presented

One PFLT member serves on the NFLT to ensure collaboration across our whole country.

The primary function is to safeguard MB theological convictions and biblical interpretation as given in our Confession of Faith (CoF) which outlines our best, collective, communally discerned understanding. Every article is as essential as the others - the document is to be seen as a whole. It's a rich discipleship tool which sets out and defines what we wholeheartedly believe is God's very best plan for abundant life for all people as understood through Scripture. Designed as God's gift to the world in both good and turbulent times.

#### 2 main functions:

- facilitating the credentialing process using a National tool
- guiding and supporting MB churches as they apply our common understanding of Scripture in their contexts.

Over the past few years, we have been journeying with FreeChurch Toronto and Southridge Community Church as they have broken the common covenant together around our understanding of marriage to be limited to one man and one woman but now hold a different belief of marriage. It has become clear that both FC and SCC have chosen a path that no longer embraces our CoF.



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### 2023 ONMB CONVENTION MINUTES - DRAFT

There is a place for everyone in Christ's church. As a discipleship call, we believe that faithful Christian living includes celibacy or committed marriage between one man and one woman. Continuing down this path would undermine all our beliefs. We have not always loved 2SLGBTQ+ people well, and ask their forgiveness, and commit to doing better.

#### **Board Report:**

Michelle offered gratitude to the PFLT for their weighty work, for their posture and discernment.

These motions have implications for all our churches. Should we allow members to hold any articles in our CoF as disputable matters, to do so would put at risk our legal standing as well as our standing with our National Conference.

We don't bring these motions lightly, but humbly and with deep conviction that they are the right next step in continuing to live into the fullness of our convictions.

#### **PFLT Motions:**

**MOTION C23-15 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that having followed the procedure of the GOB 6.8.1, and in accordance with the GOB 6.8.3, we move that the membership of FreeChurch Toronto in the ONMB Conference be revoked.

Mike VandenEnden, Grantham MB - the absence of FreeChurch here today speaks clearly

Glencairn - affirm the work of our PFLT and Board on this motion and the next.

**MOTION C23-16 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that having followed the procedure of the GOB 6.8.1, and in accordance with the GOB 6.8.3, we move that the membership of Southridge Community Church in the ONMB Conference be revoked.

Tabitha VandenEnden, Grantham MB - can we hear from Southridge?

Jeff Lockyer, Southridge CC, shared Southridge's perspective. Understand the clarity offered by PFLT and Board that the Confession of Faith (CoF) is not to be treated as disputable matters, and the consequences of being misaligned, but diverge on a few points. CoF feels like it's bearing too much weight, and common relationship and common mission should carry us through a divergence of opinion on shared (or partially shared) beliefs. They do not believe that divergence on one or two shared articles should result in "full removal from the family." Would like to continue in shared mission together regardless of the result of the vote. Their members are 10 to 1 in favour of creating space for full expression of both traditional and affirming views of marriage, and ask for us to respect their position. They love our shared history, identity, relationships, mission, and beliefs. Regardless of how the vote lands, they want, together with ONMB, to be an answer to Jesus' prayer for unity in spite of differences.



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### 2023 ONMB CONVENTION MINUTES - DRAFT

Rich Janzen, WMB Church, asked how we understand this in light of our full confession, our centrality of Jesus, our view that community is the centre of our lives, and our call to peace and reconciliation. Cutting off a part of our community because their views make us uncomfortable seems to reflect the world more than Jesus. And we desperately need reconciliation with the LGBTQ+ community who have been harmed by the Church. Wisdom would suggest that we take time to wrestle with why this topic is leading us to live outside of our character as MBs.

Mike VandenEnden, Grantham MB, proposed an amendment to name all 3 locations of Southridge CC on the motion. This amendment was seconded but not passed.

Christine Jantzi, Maple View Mennonite, appreciates the hard work of our Board, and deeply appreciates belonging to this family. Having recently left another denomination they had a long history with, can appreciate the challenge we're facing. And notes that she continues to love and minister together with other nearby churches in her former denomination.

Shelley Campagnola, WMB Church, Question arose about if this vote does not pass, how does that affect our position in the Canadian Conference? Suspension in Ontario = suspension nationally.

Answer: Yes that is possible. CCMBC has the authority to suspend or remove provincial conferences

Shawn Branton, WMB Church. Jesus is not ethically wishy-washy - doesn't condemn the woman caught in adultery, and tells her to go and sin no more. Part of being a covenant church is agreeing to stand in the same space.

Vic Thiessen, Glencairn - we don't know exactly what will play out after this vote. But God knows, so we rest in the promises of God to be with us, even though paths may shift. The Prodigal Son. Wants to bless Southridge for where God is going to take them, and wants to bless what God is going to do in our conference under our current structures.

Wayne Wagler, Maple View Mennonite - Grieved to ask someone to leave, but also rejoicing that we hold to our convictions. Trusts our leadership.

Derek Klumpenhauer, WMB Church - if both churches are removed, does that automatically remove their credentialing?

Answer: Yes. They can seek credentialing under other denominations. Their registration for marriage would also be removed.

Vishal Rangha, Behta Darya CC - appreciates Mike V's "Abrahamic spirit" (like when he bargained with God for Sodom and Gomorrah). We chose the leadership with our free will, and have given them the responsibility to make decisions on our behalf. This is not easy, but it makes me think of Barnabas and Paul - they disagreed and took different directions. If we have chosen this leadership and trust in them, then we must appreciate their painful, hard work.



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### 2023 ONMB CONVENTION MINUTES - DRAFT

Twila Smith, Evergreen Heights CF - the leadership that is in place right now is not the leadership that was in place at the onset of these discussions. Ed Willms is not here. That needs to play a part in the conversation and decision-making process, that the leadership that stands before us is not the leadership that was put in place by our voting members. Does not understand why we would remove those with the most knowledge and understanding of these issues from being part of this conversation.

Point of Information: Parliamentarians clarified that Ed Willms as Executive Director is not a voted upon leader. He is hired by the ONMB Board.

Kevin Bayne, Cornerstone - with a heavy heart, speak in favour of motion. Offer thanks to PFLT and Board for providing clarity. To vote against this motion would put our conference in a precarious spot. Our Confession (COF), while a part of our identity, it is a critical and essential part. Like permission to play - and then we engage in shared mission and shared relationship. We are eager to continue conversation around how can we love LGBTQ+ people. We're eager to have the conversation about how to share the gospel to them and how the life of Christ can be expressed in them. But we've been having the conversation about our position for a decade. We'd like to move beyond that, because it's settled after 2 study conferences and conversations. For us, the questions of sexual ethics as a Christian disciple is a big deal and we stand in alignment with our COF on that issue. And we want to learn to walk in repentance and humility because of the COF is true, it must be good news. How do we put it into practice, in the context of our position. Honour brothers and sisters at Southridge, wishes they didn't make this decision, that they would change their mind, and also wishes them God's blessing.

Mike Dyck, Grantham MB - This vote will not be unanimous. That means this conversation isn't over, and we're not actually settled. It's ok if it's messy. We're in the hands of God and he'll take care of us.

#### CCMBC Legacy Video

##### National Update:

Elton DaSilva, National Director  
CCMBC Report

Thank you for the process you've undertaken. Thank you to the leadership of ONMB not just for their conversations in Ontario, but also across the country. We have felt, believed, and understand, that our MB Confession of Faith at this point in time is our best understanding of the invitation of Jesus to live as a disciple. Thank you Southridge CC that your words were not antagonistic, I pray God's blessing over you for continued ministry, and that continued relationship can happen.

There are good things happening across the country and the world through the MB Conference. We are working diligently. God is at work in healing, strengthening, correcting, and building what's happening across the country.





## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### 2023 ONMB CONVENTION MINUTES - DRAFT

We've divided our National Assembly and AGM because our AGM has to occur within 6 months of the year-end. It will be on June 8 on a Thursday evening. Your vote matters, and you are invited.

On Oct. 28, at the conclusion of the EQUIP Conference we'll have our National Assembly. What are we doing missionally, leadership development, Organizational Health, etc. Talk about a forward-looking vision for our family of churches.

#### **NFLT Report:**

NFL Director Ken Esau - grateful to be here. Our mission is spiritual health and theology. The discussion we just had is part of that. Great questions, good suggestions made. How do you measure spiritual health and theology? What is the metric? More people in prayer, baptisms, members, etc? Working on a monthly prayer update (also available in the MB Herald). Create a prayer partnership with another church in the country.

What does theology actually do and how does it affect relationship and mission? These are great questions.

We also have policies so we don't end up in firestorms over everything.

EQUIP Oct. 26-28, 2023 in Abbotsford BC, and PCO June 6-8, 2023 in Winnipeg, MB.

If you're interested in spiritual growth, you need the Holy Spirit. Pray for more of the HS. Our church buildings or ONMB don't have spiritual health and theology, it's only our people. We must do our own work to grow spiritually and theologically. There will be an opportunity to join a group of mutual support and blessing to meet over Zoom.

#### **MB Seminary Update:**

Mark Wessner - the next generation of leaders are coming from your churches. Very encouraged about the next generation of leaders being raised up across the country. MB devotionals are available every Advent and Lent to your email inbox every day. Deficit free since 2020, which has been hard work, and we praise God. Would not exist without the generosity of individuals and churches. Have reimagined ourselves as a model of training to come to your church alongside you in your mission.

#### **Multiply Update:**

Joel Martin, Mission Mobilizer for Eastern Canada - joined this September, and is enjoying getting to know the MB family.

Video update.

Final Results, announcements, etc.

Michelle announced that all motions passed.

Thank you for your intentional, diligent participation in these big decisions.

Doug offered thanks for the rich discussions and opportunities to hear more voices.

# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

## 2023 ONMB CONVENTION MINUTES - DRAFT

Invited Southridge pastors Jeff Lockyer, Jeff Martens, and Mandy Kasper, along with the ONMB Board, to the front to pray over them as they're released from formal relationship with the MB Conference.

**MOTION C23-17 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that the ballots be destroyed.

**MOTION C23-18 MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED** that the Ontario Mennonite Brethren Convention 2023 be adjourned.

Michelle Knowles closed the meeting in prayer and dismissed everyone at 4:50.





## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### BREAKOUT SESSION 1:

#### **Spiritual Health and Theology** - Women in Ministry Leadership

*Hear 2 Stories of the Empowerment of Women*

(Connie Maier, Richard Martens - Glencairn MB Church)

#### **Organizational Health** - ONMB Finance and Vision

*Resourcing the Mission God is Calling Us Toward*

(Trevor Seath - ONMB Executive Director, Anita Boles - ONMB Treasurer)

#### **Leadership Development** - MB Seminary Teaching Church

*Training for Everyone is coming to Ontario!*

(Mark Wessner - MB Seminary, Adam Knowles - WMB Church)

#### **Mission** - Missional Expressions Update

*Catalyzing Disciple-Making in New Territory*

(Ryan Jantzi - ONMB Ministry Director)



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### BREAKOUT SESSION 2:

#### **Spiritual Health & Theology: LGBTQ+ Care and Discipleship**

*Hear One Man's Journey with Same-Sex Attraction*

(Facilitator: Ryan Jantzi - ONMB Ministry Director)

#### **Organizational Health: CCMBC Updates**

*Hearing from Our National Leaders*

(Jim Bell - CCMBC Legacy, Ken Esau - National FLT Director)

#### **Leadership Development: Leadership FrontCounter**

*A National Collaborative Strategy for Strengthening Our Leaders*

(Mark Wessner - MB Seminary)

#### **Leadership Development: Camp Crossroads Gap Year**

*Year-Round Young Adult Discipleship is Coming to Camp!*

(Andrew & Christine Hiebert - Camp Crossroads)



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT



The members of the Nominating Committee (NC) for 2023/2024 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. This year there were two (2) openings to be filled on the Board of Directors (BoD) to maintain its current size of eleven (11) members.

According to the conference's General Operating Bylaw (GOB) (Article 8.1) the BoD can range in size from seven (7) to twelve (12) members. After processing all received nominations, the NC recommends the BoD operate with its current size of eleven (11) members for the next year. This year there were also two (2) openings to be filled on the NC. GOB (Article 12.2.1) outlines the NC to consist of at least three (3) members.

The GOB (Article 12.2.2), outlines the mandate of the Nominating Committee is to present a slate of candidates for all elected roles on

both the BoD and the NC who have been duly processed and discerned to fill vacancies. As part of the discernment process, each nominee responds to a questionnaire, interviews with the NC and provides two references who are members of an MB church, with at least one from their congregation.

In October of 2023, 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 and following up with previously nominated individuals. 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, starting the nominating process early in the year is important. The NC wants to hear from members and is asking our member churches to begin the discernment process now by prayerfully considering

candidates who could serve on the BoD in 2025. Nominating gifted, qualified and spiritually mature individuals who can serve on the board is one way that our churches collaborate and bless the conference as a whole.

This year, the NC is presenting two (2) new candidates for the Board of Directors and two (2) new candidates for the Nominating Committee 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 four (4) existing BoD members and two (2) existing NC members slated for re-election.

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 outgoing board members Darrell Gillespie and Timothy Quek for their time serving on the board as well as outgoing Nominating Committee Member Bill Stubbs for over 11 years of dedicated service.

## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### MOTIONS

(1) That the Board of Directors for the period commencing from Convention 2024 until Convention 2025 be made up of eleven (11) members.

(2) The following individuals be elected to the ONMB board as members-at-large: Andrew Plett, Brent Kipfer, Noah Grossman, Meghan Plett, Jeff Martens, Tanya Janssen

(3) That all candidates for the Nominating Committee 2024 be acclaimed.

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## SLATE OF CANDIDATES:

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

**Members-at-large:** (1) Andrew Plett, (2) Brent Kipfer, (3) Noah Grossman, (4) Meghan Plett, (5) Jeff Martens, (6) Tanya Janssen

**New Candidates for Board of Directors 2024:**

(1) Jeff Martens (2) Tanya Janssen

**Board Members for Re-Election 2024:**

(1) Andrew Plett (2) Brent Kipfer (3) Noah Grossman (4) Meghan Plett

## SLATE OF CANDIDATES:

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2023

(1) Tabitha VandenEnden (2) Terry Shuh (3) Jeff Jantzi (4) Jordan Duerrstein

**New Candidates for Nominating Committee 2024:**

(1) Jeff Jantzi (2) Jordan Duerrstein

**Committee Members for Re-Election 2024:**

(1) Tabitha VandenEnden (2) Terry Shuh



Reported by: Jeff Martens  
Committee Chair





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## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

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### NOMINEE PROFILES



## NEW CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024



### Tanya Janssen

- Member at Kingsfield Zurich Mennonite Church
- Current Church Roles: Finance Committee, Sunday School Director, and Kids Connect teacher at Kingsfield

Zurich Mennonite Church

- Church Experience: Finance Chairperson, Church Council member, Pastoral Search committee member, Girl's Club leader
- Education: Discipleship Training School with YWAM
- Other Experience: Bookkeeping, Office manager, Business owner, Respite foster care
- Spiritual Gifts: Leadership, Teaching, Giving

### Jeff Martens

- Pastor, Outreach & Operations, Cornerstone Community Church (Niagara-on-the-Lake)
- Church Experience: Served as Pastor at Cornerstone for 14 years, part of Lead Pastoral Team since 2019, experience in leading Children and Youth Ministries, Outreach Ministries, Executive Leadership
- Other Experience/Work: Ministry leadership at Camp Crossroads, extended experience in global ministry, 4 years on ONMB Nominating Committee
- Educational Background: Capernwray Harbour Bible School, Tyndale University
- Spiritual Gifts: Administration, Teaching, Discernment, Encouragement



## THINKING AHEAD TO 2025

"The NC wants to hear from members and is asking our member churches to begin the discernment process now by prayerfully considering candidates who could serve on the BoD in 2025. Nominating gifted, qualified and spiritually mature individuals who can serve on the board is one way that our churches collaborate and bless the conference as a whole."

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## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

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### NOMINEE PROFILES

#### BOARD MEMBERS FOR RE-ELECTION 2024

**Andrew Plett**

- Lead Pastor of Mountain Park Church, Niagara Falls
- Church Experience: Worship Pastor, Youth Pastor, Creative Director
- Other Experience: Short-term mission leader on teams in Middle East, India, Europe, United States. Creative Director/Producer in Film Industry. Lead on branding and identity design projects for church and other for-profit agencies
- Spiritual Gifts: Teaching, Prophetic, Faith, Discernment

**Noah Grossman**

- Active member of The Gathering Ottawa
- Church Experience: Board Chair at The Gathering Ottawa; Board Member - Treasurer at One Hope Canada, Hope Youth; Home Church Leader; Youth Leader
- Education: BA History University of Ottawa
- Other Experience: IFIC from Mutual Fund Dealer Association (MFDA); LLQP from Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO)
- Spiritual Gifts: Discerning of Spirits, Shepherd, Teaching

**Meghan Plett**

- Spiritual Life Associate – Eden High School Spiritual Life Centre (St Catharines)
- Church Experience: Life Group Leader, Retreat Leader, Mentor, Mission Trip Leader, Chapel Speaker
- Education: B.Sc. in Secondary English Education, M.A. in Counselling
- Other Experience: Community Education Director at the Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre, Jr LIT program at Camp Crossroads, Bible Quizzing
- Spiritual Gifts: Encouragement, Leadership, Discernment, Compassion

**Brent Kipfer**

- Pastor of Maple View Mennonite Church
- Church Experience: 30 years of pastoral leadership in three Ontario Congregations
- Education: BTh, BA (History), MDiv, Arrow Leadership, DMin (Christian Leadership)
- Spiritual Gifts: Shepherding, Teaching, Wisdom

## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### NOMINEE PROFILES

## CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2024



#### **Jordan Duerrstein**

- Associate Pastor — Scott Street MB Church, St. Catharines
- Church Experience: Lead/Parish Pastor, Associate Pastor, Worship Pastor, Music Director, Choir Conductor, Preacher/Teacher
- Other Experience: High School Music/Media Studies teacher (overseas), MB Historical Commission summer archival intern, MoveIn Team Member, Toronto City Mission Day Camp Coordinator, Camp Crossroads Summer Team
- Education: Master of Divinity, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Education
- Spiritual Gifts: Teaching, Administration, Exhortation, Service



#### **Jeff Jantzi**

- Pastor, The Gathering Ottawa.
- Church Experience: Lead Pastor @ The Gathering Ottawa (2014-present), Associate Pastor @ Southridge (2007-2014), ONMB Board Chair/Member at Large (2013-2021), ONMB FLT Member (2013-2017), Associate Spiritual Life Director @ Eden High School (2003-2007), Former Youth Worker with YFC (1999-2003).
- Spiritual Gifts: Shepherding, Teaching/Preaching, Leadership, Discernment



#### **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



#### **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

# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

## 2023 ONMB TREASURER REPORT

### LOOKING BACK...

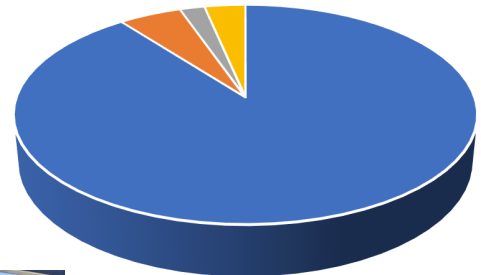
#### 2023 – A year of stability within a year of transition!

- Transition, because we appointed an Interim Executive Director, and because three churches have parted ways with ONMB, two removed after a lengthy and difficult journey, and one voluntarily withdrawing.

- Stability, because Ryan Jantzi and Kristi Lee led us with excellence, clarity and purpose, and we have experienced a growing unity among our churches. This has set us up well for welcoming Trevor Seath, our new Executive Director. Thanks be to God!

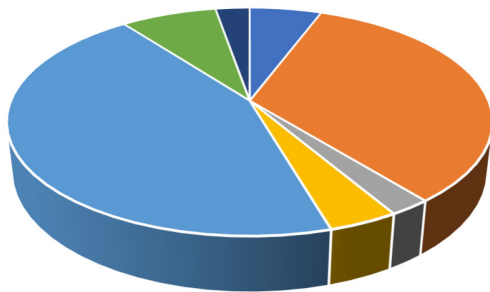


### 2023 ONMB Revenue



- Church Commitments 90%
- Individual Commitments 5%
- Convention Delegates 2%
- Miscellaneous Income 3%

### 2023 ONMB Expenses



- Planting & Missional 6%
- CCMBC 33%
- Camp Crossroads 2%
- Leadership Development 4%
- Salaries & Benefits 44%
- Operating Expenses 8%
- Emergency Fund Use 3%

### THE BOTTOM LINE...

The 2023 ONMB Budget was approved with recognition that we would be in transition and that revenue would be lower. Despite this, we finished 2023 with a **surplus of \$36K**. Church commitments came in **3% higher** than budgeted and an overall **decrease of 7%** over the previous year.

Expenses were **3% higher** than budgeted due to the use of funds from the Emergency Fund (surplus funds set aside for assisting pastors and churches in need). Expenses **decreased by 31%** over the previous year.



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### 2024 ONMB BUDGET PROPOSAL

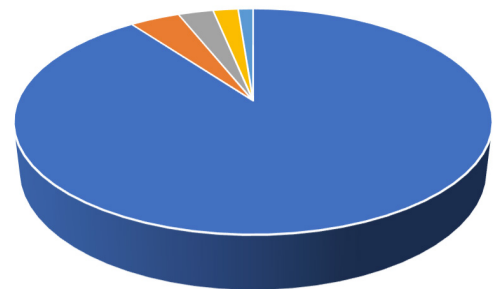
## LOOKING AHEAD...

We have a new Executive Director!! **Welcome Trevor Seath!** Ryan did a great job as our Interim ED and he is eager to return to his original role as Ministry Director. The ONMB Board and staff have a strong desire to continue to increase the engagement of churches and leaders. In the fall of 2023, a video was distributed from the Board and staff inviting churches to examine their giving and move towards the suggested 5% (if not already there) for One Stream funding.



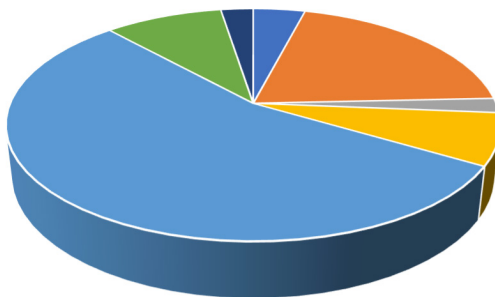
In anticipation of a positive response, we have increased budgeted revenue from church commitments. **We need your support in order to expand our impact and re-invest resources into the opportunities and needs of our churches.**

## 2024 Proposed Revenue



- Church Commitments 90%
- Individual Commitments 4%
- Convention Delegates 3%
- Retreats, Pastoral /Youth 2%
- Miscellaneous Income 1%

## 2024 Proposed Expenses



- Planting & Missional 4%
- CCMBC 22%
- Camp Crossroads 2%
- Leadership Development 7%
- Salaries & Benefits 54%
- Operating Expenses 9%
- Board of Directors 2%

## THE BOTTOM LINE...

The proposed 2024 ONMB Budget is being presented as a **balanced budget** (with a small surplus). We have budgeted for an **increase in revenue from church commitments (over 2023 actuals) of 7.5%**. Budgeted expenses are **17% higher** than 2023 actuals, due to moving from a 2 to a 3 person staff. We believe this sets us up well for the ministry the Lord has for us. Increasing our revenue will realistically take more than one calendar year. Therefore, for the 2024 year, we have **decreased our commitment to CCMBC from 30% to 22%**. We have had a good conversation with staff and board members of CCMBC to ensure that they understand we remain committed to our national partnership and to express that we anticipate being able to give more than we have promised and to be able to return to our 30-33% target in future years.





# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

## 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

	Proposed 2024	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
<b>INCOME</b>					
Church Commitments	445,000	412,958	400,000	445,210	430,374
Individual Commitments	20,000	23,475	30,000	40,264	25,607
Convention Delegate Fees	14,000	9,280	10,000		5,300
Leaders Collective Fees		240	6,000	3,500	
Retreats - Pastoral & Youth	10,000			5,850	
Misc. Income	1,000	4,686		585	
PCO					
Investment Income	5,000	10,332	1,000	4,663	510
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>495,000</b>	<b>460,972</b>	<b>447,000</b>	<b>500,072</b>	<b>461,791</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Missional Expressions</b>					
Direct Support to New Initiatives	15,000	22,081	20,000	5,000	21,328
Resourcing and Catalyzing Leaders	5,000			13,952	
<b>Missional Expressions</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>22,081</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>18,952</b>	<b>21,328</b>
<b>CCMBC Collaboration Support</b>					
One-Stream Funding	100,000	142,000	142,000	153,372	132,000
<b>Support of Partner Ministries</b>					
Camp Crossroads	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	7,500
<b>Total Support of Partner Ministries</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>152,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>7,500</b>
<b>Board of Directors</b>					
Faith & Life Team	2,000	4004	500	203	199
Missional Expressions Team	500	384			
Board Meetings / Travel	10,000	9,784	10,000	5,972	541
<b>Total Board of Directors</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>14,171</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>6,175</b>	<b>740</b>
<b>Development</b>					
Leaders Collective		1,589	5,000	2,329	
Pastor's Retreat(s)	10,000	60		11,112	780
Special Events	2,000		5,000	7,500	400
Church Engagement	22,000				
Misc. /PCO					4,513
Regional Meetings	1,500	877			
<b>Total Development</b>	<b>35,500</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>20,941</b>	<b>5,693</b>
<b>Operating Expenses &amp; Wages</b>					
Advertising	500	109	500		2,044
Conference		149	500		
Conference Insurance	4,000	3,472	3,000	2,927	2,878
Convention & Yearbook	14,000	7,253	8,500	170	10,191
Bank Fees	1,000	812	1,000	1,036	443
Bookkeeping	4,000	3,347	2,500	2,392	1,850
Office Fees & Dues	1,000	834	1,000	923	2,485
Consultant Fees	5,000	6,159	5,000	4,625	7,175
Office	1,500	1,218	600	492	
Professional Fees	5,000	4,551	10,000	15,605	9,080
Professional Development	3,000	1,871	2,000	2,602	3,491
Rental Expenses	3,000		3,000	1,400	
Technology	3,000	1,295	1,500	2,244	3,388
Special Project Expense		2,109			
Salaries, Payroll & Benefits	270,562	159,645	158,000	241,792	162,231
Staffing Expenses	-	12,740	6,000	11,864	5,563
Other Expenses	500	862	500	558	617
<b>Emergency Fund Expense</b>		11,511			
<b>Total Operating &amp; Wages</b>	<b>316,062</b>	<b>217,938</b>	<b>203,600</b>	<b>288,630</b>	<b>211,436</b>
Payroll Expenses		15,437	14,500	13,652	9,822
Severance Liabilities				113,500	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>494,062</b>	<b>424,153</b>	<b>410,600</b>	<b>625,221</b>	<b>388,520</b>
<b>Net Income / Deficit</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>36,819</b>	<b>36,400</b>	<b>(125,149)</b>	<b>73,271</b>



# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

## 2024 PROPOSED FUND BALANCES

### FUND BALANCES

#### Current Fund Balances

Operating Reserve	\$	193,435.00
Missional Expressions Fund (formerly Special Project Fund)	\$	25,897.90
Emergency Fund	\$	13,489.00
Ministry Development Fund	\$	-
<b>Total Current Fund Balances</b>		<b>232,821.90</b>

#### Proposed Fund Balances

Operating Reserve	\$	196,993.00
Missional Expressions Fund (formerly Special Project Fund)	\$	20,000.00
Emergency Fund	\$	25,000.00
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>		<b>241,993.00</b>



Reported by: Anita Boles  
ONMB Board Treasurer



### WAYS TO GIVE

Would you join in strengthening churches and sending out disciple-makers to make that happen?

Giving will be directed to the  
**ONMB General Operating Fund.**



**BY CHEQUE**  
Payable to The Ontario Conference  
of MB Churches.



**BY E-TRANSFER**  
Send to ONMB at [info@onmb.org](mailto:info@onmb.org).



**BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD**  
Visit [onmb.org/donate](https://onmb.org/donate).



### LEGACY GIFT

Leave a lasting legacy that participates in extending the Kingdom of Jesus! Consider making a gift to ONMB from your estate. Contact the ONMB office for more details.

Contact us at [info@onmb.org](mailto:info@onmb.org).

**ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

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Prepared by BB 2/09/24	Reviewed by SJE 2/13/24	Partner	Corrections
2nd review			

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**ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES  
INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

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Statement of Revenues and Expenses	5
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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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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, 2023, 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, 2023, 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.

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.

(continues)

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

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

*Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

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

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

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

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

St. Catharines, Ontario

**CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS  
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION**

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

**ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 59,562	\$ 69,661
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	1,540	2,294
Prepaid expenses	810	450
	<u>61,912</u>	72,405
<b>INVESTMENTS (Note 4)</b>	<u>182,833</u>	247,501
	<u><b>\$ 244,745</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 319,906</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 4,571	\$ 113,500
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>240,174</u>	206,406
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<u><b>\$ 244,745</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 319,906</b></u>

**Approved on behalf of the Board**

\_\_\_\_\_ *Director*

\_\_\_\_\_ *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, 2023**

	2022 Balance	Surplus (deficiency)	2023 Balance
General Funds			
General operating fund - current reserve	\$ 106,668	\$ 35,229	\$ 141,897
General operating fund - fixed minimum	50,000	-	50,000
Emergency fund	25,000	(511)	24,489
Special project fund	24,738	(950)	23,788
Total General Funds	206,406	33,768	240,174
	\$ 206,406	\$ 33,768	\$ 240,174

	2021 Balance	Surplus (deficiency)	Transfers	2022 Balance
General Funds				
General operating fund - current reserve	\$ 252,551	\$ (130,560)	\$ (15,323)	\$ 106,668
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	332,228	(125,822)	-	206,406
Northend Church Funds	111,286	-	(111,286)	-
	\$ 443,514	\$ (125,822)	\$ (111,286)	\$ 206,406

See Note 3 for a description of funds, and Note 5 for Northend Church Fund transfers.

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See notes to financial statements

**ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES**  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Church commitments	\$ 412,958	\$ 445,210
Individual contributions	24,635	40,264
Interest from operating funds	10,332	4,663
Convention delegate fees	9,280	-
Miscellaneous income	2,515	585
Leader's collective fees	240	3,500
Pastoral and youth retreats	-	5,850
	<u>459,960</u>	<u>500,072</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Salaries and benefits	175,082	255,443
Support to conference agencies	152,000	163,372
Ministry and program	24,886	33,648
Church planting	22,081	18,952
Board and governance	14,171	6,175
Fees and professional services	14,058	22,622
Office management	10,532	9,580
Professional development	1,871	2,602
	<u>414,681</u>	<u>512,394</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIENCY) FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<u>45,279</u>	<u>(12,322)</u>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>		
Severance wage expense	-	113,500
Emergency fund disbursements	11,511	-
	<u>11,511</u>	<u>113,500</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIENCY)</b>	<u>\$ 33,768</u>	<u>\$ (125,822)</u>

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See notes to financial statements

**ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net surplus (deficiency)	\$ 33,768	\$ (125,822)
Item not affecting cash:		
Interest from operating funds	<u>(10,332)</u>	<u>(4,663)</u>
	<u>23,436</u>	<u>(130,485)</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	754	(1,122)
Prepaid expenses	(360)	23
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	<u>(108,929)</u>	<u>110,063</u>
	<u>(108,535)</u>	<u>108,964</u>
Cash flow used by operating activities	<u>(85,099)</u>	<u>(21,521)</u>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITY</b>		
Transfer from (to) investments	<u>75,000</u>	<u>(170,000)</u>
<b>DECREASE IN CASH</b>	<u>(10,099)</u>	<u>(191,521)</u>
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>69,661</u>	<u>261,182</u>
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 59,562</u>	<u>\$ 69,661</u>

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See notes to financial statements



**ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**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 took 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, and 5 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, 2023**

**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.

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.

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.

**ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF M.B. CHURCHES**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**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 5% at year end. See note 6 for interest rate risk.

**5. RELATED PARTIES TRANSACTIONS**

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.

2023 charitable contributions of \$0 (2022 - \$116,870) are net payments of received donations to the new Northend Church registered charity.

During 2022 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, 2023**

**6. 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, 2023.

**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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## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

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### PROVINCIAL FAITH & LIFE TEAM REPORT

#### MANDATE:

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, as outlined in the bylaw, 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.

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.

#### PROVINCIAL & NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

The PFLT is accountable to the ONMB board, and by extension to the ONMB conference of churches. 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 & Life Team matters.

MAY 28-30, 2024 | ABBOTSFORD, BC





# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

## PROVINCIAL FAITH & LIFE TEAM REPORT

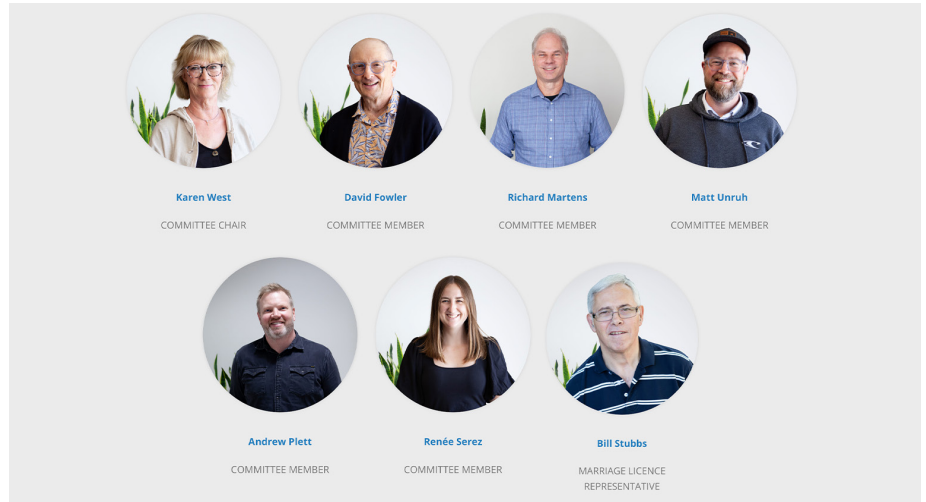
### FAITH & LIFE TEAM:

During this past fiscal year, our Ontario PFLT officially met six times in March, May, June, October, November, 2023 and January 2024, through a combination of zoom and in-person meetings, with additional meetings for credentialing interviews, meetings with various church leaders, and preparatory work.

PFLT team members and chair are appointed by the ONMB Board. During this last fiscal year, the following people served as members of PFLT, all of whom are credentialed pastors/leaders within our MB denomination:

Dave Fowler  
Richard Martens  
Matt Unruh  
Andrew Plett  
Renee Serez (beginning October, 2023)  
Chris Walker (ending June, 2023, due to a change in ministry role)  
Karen West (PFLT Chair and Ontario Rep to NFLT)  
Michelle Knowles (as needed, ONMB Board Chair)  
Ryan Jantzi and Kristi Lee (as ex-officio staff)

Thanks also goes out to Bill Stubbs in volunteering to track all our marriage licensing, as part of our credentialing process.



### CREDENTIALING:

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
- interview with 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)
- NEW – completing Healthy Leaders Training once every five years (see below)
- 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.

### 2023 CREDENTIALING UPDATES:

- 6 Ministry Leaders Credentialed: Jordan Duerrstein (Scott Street MB Church); Renee Serez (WMB Church); Brent Easey (St. Ann's Community Church); April King (Kingsfield-Zurich Mennonite Church); David Wicks (Kingsfield-Zurich Mennonite Church);

- Jamie Current (Glencairn Church)
- 14 Credentials removed due to resignations or withdrawals from Mennonite Brethren
- We anticipate credentialing 5-10 additional pastors in 2024.

## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

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### PROVINCIAL FAITH & LIFE TEAM REPORT

#### **CHURCH WITHDRAWAL:**

It is with sadness we report that in May, 2023, Living Hope Bible Church (formerly Port Rowan MB Church) chose to withdraw their MB membership effective December 31, 2023, due to their stated difference in theological convictions, and their desire to pursue a different vision and direction.

#### **2023 TOPICS AND SPECIFIC WORK:**

1.ONMB Interim Executive Director - Supporting Ryan Jantzi as the ONMB Interim Executive Director in his role responsibilities with our Ontario churches, ministries, and leaders, in matters of faith and life.

2.Healthy Leaders Training – Working with the Interim Executive Director to establish credentialing training tools to better position healthy leaders and churches in Ontario. A key component of this for 2023 was developing a new ONMB initiative, called Healthy Leaders Training, to be completed by all credentialed leaders once every 5 years, beginning in February, 2024. Knowing that leading God's people can be complex, this training focuses primarily on pastoral vulnerability and power dynamics. Abuse of power can happen in ways we least expect, causing hurt and damage in ways we least intend. Healthy Leaders Training is preventative training, designed to provide healthy ways for our credentialed leaders to lead and guide others in appropriate, Christ-honouring ways.

3.Confessional Integrity - Exploring ways to help our ONMB churches live and model confessional integrity with the MB Confession of Faith on a variety of complex, cultural topics, while still demonstrating Christ's love and grace to all people. 2023 topics: Divorce & remarriage; LGTBQ+; MAID.

4.Revoice Cohort - Exploring through a Revoice Cohort regarding how to guide our leaders and churches in LGBTQ+ care, while remaining true to our Mennonite Brethren convictions.

5.Emergency Pastoral Support Fund - Working with the ONMB Board to update the Emergency Pastoral Support Fund Policy, and applying it to come-along-side a specific situation in restorative and redemptive ways.

6.EQUIP & CCMBC AGM - Participating in our national MB EQUIP conference on the topic of "Why Church, Why MB?" held in Abbotsford, B.C., and engaging with others across Canada for denominational discernment and decision-making.

7.National Faith & Life - Providing input to NFLT regarding work on collaborative national documents, particularly from an Ontario perspective. These are documents that all provincial MB conferences hold in unity across Canada, and seek to implement together as one denomination, but in many different geographical and cultural settings. In 2023, this work primarily included feedback and implementation of the Collaborative National Church Affiliation & Review Policy, the Confession of Faith Amendment Procedure Policy, the Collaborative National Credential Policy, and ongoing review of Confession of Faith wording, focusing on Articles 2, 6 and 7. Initiating dialogue with the NFLT to clarify aspects of the MB Divorce & Remarriage Policy, and the MB position on women in ministry leadership across Canada;

Your Ontario PFLT appreciates your prayers, and is open to your feedback, comments and questions. It is with great blessing that we serve and support you—our leaders and churches—in the call to be "Great News People", sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ!



Reported by: Karen West  
Ontario Provincial Faith and Life Chair, and  
Rep to NFLT, for the Provincial Faith and Life Team

## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH TEAM REPORT

#### FIRST FULL YEAR AS OHT

This has been the first full year that the Organizational Health Team (OHT) has been operating since its transition from the old Governance Committee. Much of our work has continued on the same lines as before, assisting churches with their ONCA compliance and drafting policies. We expect to expand our scope as soon as the National Assembly begins to roll out its OHT initiatives. Indications are that these will include systems for assessing and equipping our local churches to measure organizational health and training for our leaders and Boards.

#### ONCA UPDATE:

A note for our Lead Pastors and Boards, the deadline for ONCA compliance is October 24th, 2024. If your church has incorporated as a not-for-profit in Ontario and have not started the process of reviewing your by-laws, the time to start is now! Bylaw review takes time, and we highly recommend that you have it reviewed by a lawyer all before the deadline date. The OHT is here to help Boards with that review process. We have gathered several articles that will guide you. Please contact the ONMB Office and we can start that dialogue with you.

#### THE TEAM:

The OHT would like to welcome Trevor Seath as our new Executive Director; we look forward to working with you. This past year we have had a number of people come off the team. We want to say thank you to Noah Grossman, Darrell Gillespie, Brenda Kirkwood, Tanya Janssen and last but by no means least, Ryan Jantzi. Ryan has done an amazing job in his role as Interim Director and will come off the team to focus on his Ministry Director role. The OHT is currently comprised of Trevor Seath E.D., Board Members Brent Kipfer, Doug Valerio, and our newest member Katie Hines from Scott Street Church. Welcome Katie.

#### POLICY WORK:

- We have been working with the PFLT on the Emergency Pastoral Support Fund Policy to update it to fit our new governance structure. This Policy is to be used in the case of an ONMB Pastor, Leader or ONMB Staff member needing emergency financial assistance.

- The Associate Churches Policy has had a major review this year to align it with the changes in our GOB. The Policy remains a Board policy and will not be voted on at Convention. The main changes are two new categories of Associate Church.

- Extended Associate Churches - these are Missional Expressions or fellowships that are not currently able to be full members.

- Exploratory Associate Churches - church plants or existing churches that are new to the ONMB and discerning the possibility of becoming full member churches.

#### POLICY WORK:

- We continue to assist and advise the team that is dedicated to working with Valleyview Manor in preparing them for blessing and release.

- We were able to assist Meadow Brook Church and WMB with their ONCA bylaw reviews.



Reported by: Doug Valerio  
ONMB Board Vice-Chair,  
OHT Committee Chair

# 2024 INTERIM NATIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT

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

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

## 2023 in Review

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

### **Financial Update**

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

### **Looking forward in 2024**

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

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



*Jason Krueger*

Interim National Director

**CCMBC**  
CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF  
MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

**CCEFM**  
CONFÉRENCE DES ÉGLISE  
DES FRÈRES MENNONITES

**AGMNA** NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY

**JUNE 13, 2024 7-9PM EST**



# NATIONAL FAITH & LIFE DIRECTOR REPORT FOR 2024 PROVINCIAL CONVENTIONS

## Mandate

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

## Activities in 2023

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

Some of the NFLT highlights for 2023 include:

- We produced a monthly “Moments in Prayer” resource that revolved around prayers on the topic of “**Holy Spirit—Fill us!**”
- We approved the **Collaborative National Church Affiliation and Review Policy** that assists our provincial conference families with clear and shared mutual expectations between local churches and their provincial/national conference. It also provides clarity around processes if these relationships break down.
- We approved the **CCMBC MB Confession of Faith Amendment Procedure Policy** that gives direction related to why and how the Confession of Faith might be amended. It is important that this process is clear to everyone in our family.

- We gave final approval to the “**Introduction to the MB Confession of Faith (2023)**” which provides greater clarity around the purpose of the CoF and what “affirming” it involves.
- We gave final approval to **Article 1: God (Explanatory Notes)** and **Article 2: Revelation of God (Explanatory Notes)** as part of our Confession of Faith Resources Revision Project.
- We gave final approval to the “**Revised Credentialing Questionnaire**” which requires all prospective leaders seeking credentialing from their provincial MB conference to interact more intentionally with our MB Confession of Faith.
- We expanded on some earlier revision work done by Andrew Dyck to the Liturgical Readings and approved 18 **Responsive Worship Readings** that correlate with each of the 18 articles in our CoF.
- We created a draft document called “**Defining a Healthy Church**” to encourage discussion around what a healthy local church looks like (and ultimately how we can measure that and seek ways of increasing church health).
- We partnered with MB Seminary and MBCM to oversee the **Pastors Credentialing Orientation** June 6-8, 2023 at The Meeting Place (Winnipeg) with 30 registrants (26 regular and 4 “Alumni”).
- We oversaw Equip 2023 (Oct 26-28) at Northview Church (Abbotsford) on the theme **Fire and Ashes: Why Church? Why MB? (A Family Conversation)**. We had about 220 registrants from across Canada, with many extra drop-in attendees for the evening sessions. Equip 2023 concluded with the National Assembly on Saturday morning.
- Besides all of these more formal NFLT involvements, I had the privilege of being the main writer for the newly developed **Q&R Corner** in the *MB Herald Digest* which began in April 2023. It provides an opportunity to respond to questions that individuals from across the country have on topics of relevance. I also had the privilege of presenting on “**Fire & Ashes: Why Church?**” at Equip 2023 (video recordings of most of the Equip plenary presentations are available [here](#)).

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

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

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

**May 2024 be such a year!**

If you have suggestions, encouragements, or thoughts, feel free to email them to us at [listeningwell@mbchurches.ca](mailto:listeningwell@mbchurches.ca)



*Ken Esau*

National Faith and Life Director

#### 2023 NATIONAL FAITH AND LIFE TEAM

RICHARD LOUGHEED  
AEFMQ Designate  
RYAN JANTZI  
ONMB Interim Executive Director  
KAREN WEST  
ONMB Representative  
CONNIE MAIER  
Member-at-Large, ONMB  
JASON DYCK  
MBCM Director of Church Ministries  
WALTER FAST  
MBCM Representative  
PHIL GUNTHER  
SKMB Director of Ministry  
RICK SCHELLENBERG  
SKMB Representative  
PAUL LOEWEN  
ABMB Provincial Director  
LAURENCE HIEBERT  
ABMB Representative  
ROBERT THIESSEN  
BCMB Conference Minister  
KRISTAL TOEWS  
Member-at-Large, BCMB  
KEITH REED  
MB Seminary Representative  
DOUG HEIDEBRECHT  
Multiply Representative  
ELTON DASILVA  
CCMBC National Director





## CCMBC LEGACY FUND

Ministry-Focused Financial Services

Dear Ontario Conference of MB Churches,

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

### Did you know?!

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

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

Contact [legacy@mbchurches.ca](mailto:legacy@mbchurches.ca) or call 1-888-669-6575 for more information.

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



#### Administrative Support

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



#### Group Benefits

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



#### Financial Assistance

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

### Help spread the word!



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

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

## Achievements over the past year



### Strategic Planning

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



### Pension Plan Review

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



### Cybersecurity

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



### New Loans

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



### Financial Flexibility

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

## Anticipated initiatives for the coming year

### Enhanced Pension Plan Options

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



### Technological Advancements

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



### Increased Support

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



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

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



## *Celebrating 2023*

### From the Eastern Canada Regional Office

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 not only commands us to make disciples of all nations, but also reminds us that “surely, I [God] am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

As the Eastern Canada Multiply team reflects on 2023, we remain confident in the presence of God with us and lean into that presence to celebrate together as part of the Ontario MB family of churches, CCMBC and global MB Family.

### Highlights of 2023

Ministry in North America (MINA) for several global workers

**Jeremy & Adrienne Penner** (Evergreen, MapleView) returned to Thailand after time in Canada for MINA and the birth of their third child

**Jonathan & Joanna Gutierrez** (WMB, Evergreen) had their first MINA (June to October 2023) and returned to Portugal after Jonathan completed long-term worker training

**Sarah Reed (WMB)** completed her first three-year term in Austria and was affirmed to return to Europe after MINA in Canada (August to October 2023)

Youth Celebration and Commission Day in June

Fifty youth, young adults, and leaders from six ONMB churches gathered around the theme of Celebration (asking, “What has God been doing in and through lives this past school year?”) and Commission (being sent out to live on mission in every context, whether living, playing, studying, and/or working).

Uganda Vision Trip in November

**Doug Hiebert** and **Joel Martin** along with others from Niagara and the US Midwest spent 10 days visiting, celebrating and encouraging our global partners at Kings Kids School and Life House Church. Doug also went in advance to be part of a training event for African pastors and church leaders.

Ongoing First Nations Ministry

In July, **Derek, BJ,** and **John** traveled to Brazil for an Amazon River trip where they learned about ministry among Indigenous peoples in Brazil, built prayer partnerships, and survived the mosquitos.

New Partnerships in Diaspora Ministry

**Kyla SP** is encouraged by new partnerships developing with churches interested in learning more about reaching Buddhist background diaspora groups in the GTA as they come alongside her in prayer and financial support.

Philip and Robyn Serez Ministry

If you haven't yet watched the seventeen-minute documentary called “The Terrifying Delight of Losing Everything” you can find it on [multiply.net/videos](https://multiply.net/videos) or on Philip or Robyn's social media. It shares some of their family's journey through this incredibly difficult season, and explores what it means to find hope, joy, and purpose in Jesus when everything else is stripped away. God is using this film to introduce people to hope and encourage them to trust Jesus.





## GLOBAL IMPACT Eastern Canada

In 2023, we saw thirty-two global workers (missionaries) from Eastern Canada serving locally and globally in nine different countries.

### New Global Workers - Focus Internship

#### **multiply.net/focus-internship**

**DJ and Rose Gerrie**, from the town of Hesson, are serving Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand.

**Joanna Kipfer** from MapleView Church studying English and serving in an urban center in a country in Central Asia where it is difficult to share the Gospel.

### Prayer and Vision Trips

It is our hope to get each of our partner churches to spend time in person with their workers (whether Ontario-based or overseas) over the next three years!

Newsletters can only give you a small piece of the picture, especially in restricted countries. As we hear stories of what it is like to follow Jesus in other contexts, church team participants will have a better sense of what God is doing and mobilize prayer from sending churches.

This is also a way to build and take next steps in training intercessory prayer teams to support both global ministry and your local church ministry.

Pray for locally rooted **SOAR** experiences for youth. Modeled on our past **AWAKE** events, these have the potential to be for the whole church and we hope to bring a mini-SOAR experience to other regions in the future. Pray for this year's program happening in KW March 13-16, 2024. **multiply.net/soar/ontario**

## Milestones

**Robert and Anne Thiessen** (St. Ann's, Evergreen, Christian Fellowship Chapel) retired from official Multiply ministry to Mexico.



## Multiply Team Serving in Eastern Canada

- **Erin Coffey** – Regional Administrator & Mission Mobilizer
- **Joel Martin** – Mission Mobilizer and Mission Training Program Leader (until April 2024)
- **Robyn (& Philip) Serez** – Regional Mobilizers
- **Doug Hiebert** – Niagara – Regional Team Leader for Sub-Saharan Africa & Quebec Liaison
- **Kyla SP & L** – Diaspora Work GTA
- **Somdy & Chanh Jusse** – Leamington – Thai diaspora & coaching Thai churches
- **Derek Parenteau** – Ministry to Indigenous peoples/ Chaplaincy, DMM coaching
- **Rene & Lisa Nyland** – Ministry to Indigenous peoples
- **N & K** – Ministry to Indigenous peoples
- **Billie-Jo** – Ministry to Indigenous peoples

## Multiply Workers from Eastern Canada Serving Abroad

- **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) Gutierrez** – serving with national leaders in Portuguese MB churches
- **Doris Goertz** – reaching out to nationals through English classes and friendship ministry

### Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

**So what is our act of worship? In light of God's mercy, we join with God and with each other to:**

**Send disciples on mission**

**Develop missional leaders**

**Strengthen missional partnerships**

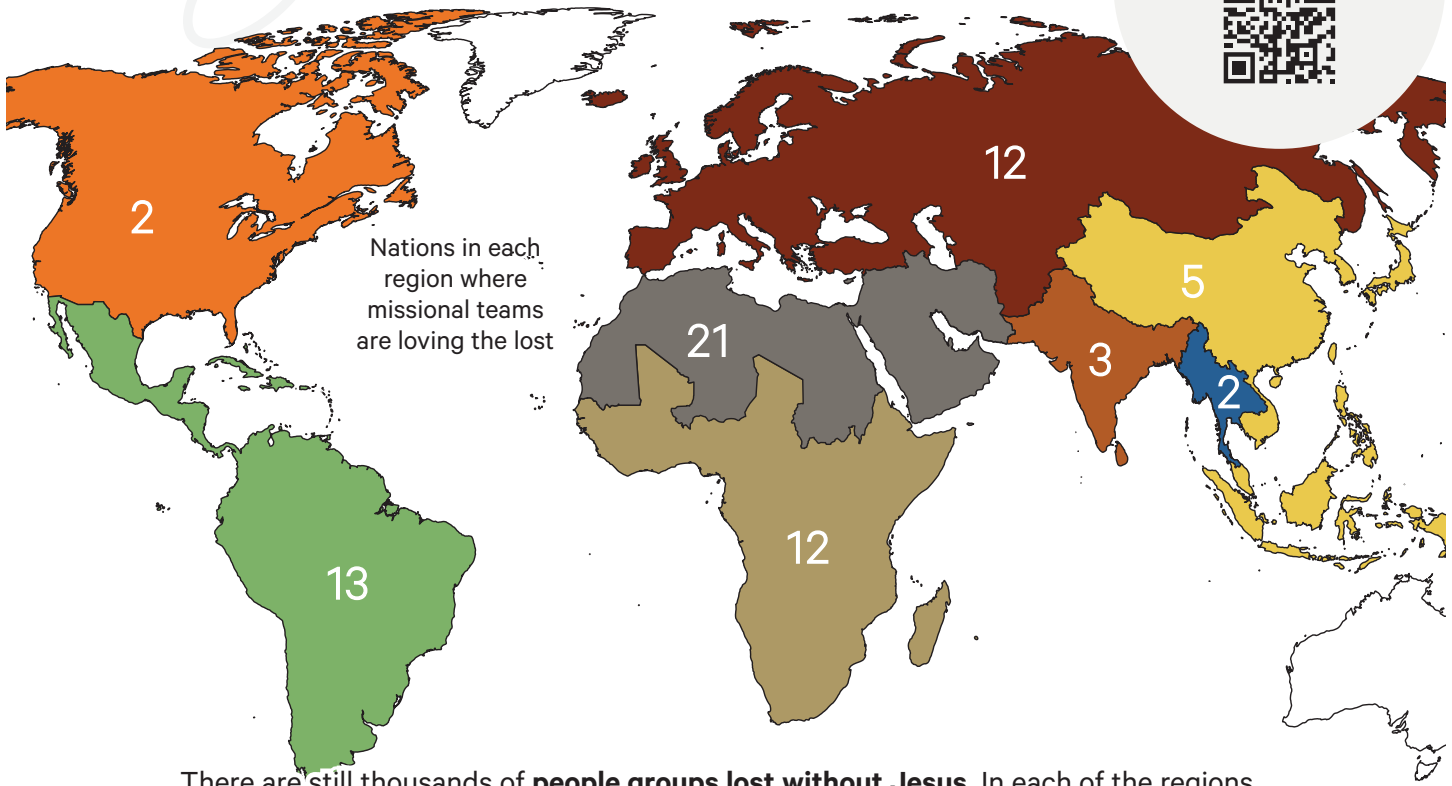
# Our Family ON MISSION IN 2023

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

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

View online at

[multiply.net/report](https://multiply.net/report)



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

## SENDING OUT MISSIONARIES

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

## PARTNERING WITH NATIONALS

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

## HELPING DISCIPLES MULTIPLY

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

# Financial Overview



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

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

## Net Results

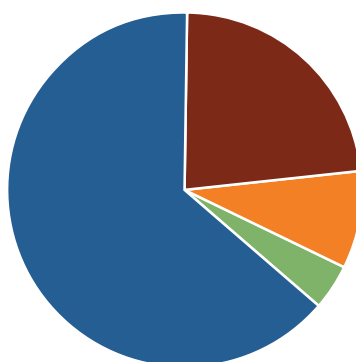
Fiscal Year Ended:	<b>May 31, 2023</b>	<b>May 31, 2022</b>
Revenue:	\$ 10,553,563	\$ 10,410,659
Expenses:	\$ 10,828,328	\$ 9,995,026
<b>Net:</b>	<b>\$ (274,764)</b>	<b>\$ 415,633</b>

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

## How Your Gifts Were Put to Work

### Missional Teams Loving the Lost | 64%

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



### 23% | North American Church Engagement

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

### 9% | Administration

Finance, IT, Legal & Governance

### 4% | Human Resources

Wellness, Equipping & Long-Term Training

## Our Generous Donors

### Individuals & Families

47%

### Estates & Foundations

35%

12%

6%

Churches

Businesses

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



# 2023 MB SEMINARY REPORT

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

136

Graduate  
Courses  
Taken

59

MB  
Students  
Taught

90

Online  
Courses  
Taken

382

Lifelong  
Learners

2350

Devotional  
Readers



# THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE



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



[mbseminary.ca/go](https://mbseminary.ca/go)





# CAMP CROSSROADS

**‘And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up’ Galatians 6:9.**

We’ve all felt this way at certain times in our lives and have wrestled with the doubt and discouragement that can come from not seeing progress in the timeframe we wanted. However, God’s promises are trustworthy and we can rest in the work that He has started and that He will complete. Sometimes it just takes longer and as our faith is stretched in the waiting a deeper work is done and His name is glorified.

This past year we saw God work in a number of ways and are grateful for His leading and guiding as well as the fruit that we saw.

## Some highlights from 2023:

Sometimes the seeds of faith that are sown take a while to grow. We don’t always know what God is doing in the background to bring together His purposes. In 2022 we had a day camper who had gone home and asked her mom a number of questions about the christian faith but didn’t give her life to Jesus. This past summer the same youth came to our overnight camp program. During her week as a camper her curiosity continued to grow in the Lord and while she was at camp she said yes to following Jesus and to accept Him as Saviour.

This past summer we partnered with a youth ministry called ‘Rose City Kids’. They came with 20 campers and staff to help provide consistent leadership during the week of camp. Three of the campers decided they wanted to take the next step of obedience in their faith and get baptised when they got home. We praise God for His working in the lives of these kids and the partnership in ministry where we can come together and point kids to Jesus!



## Fast Facts:

Camper Comparison	2022	2023
Winter Retreaters	418	811
Overnight Campers	558	728
Family Campers	281	296
Day Campers	90	111
Peewee	73	92

## Discipleship of Staff

Wrangler in Training	0	2
Leaders in Training	24	26
Bridge	10	15
Summer Staff	21	36

## Projects Completed in 2023:

- Cabins 5 and 6 rebuild
- Grey Gables Renovation (new windows, flooring and fresh paint)
- Fireside benches and stage was rebuilt
- New program options for mountain biking and our low ropes adventure course

## Winter Retreats 2024:

We have run 5 winter retreats for junior and senior youth so far and have another 4 retreats to go in February and March. A number of youth have accepted Christ as Saviour and want to follow Him. We are excited that we will have served youth groups from 15 different churches this winter.

## Looking Ahead:



**Bringing Back the 'BLOB'**



**Log Rolling**

### Summer Registration (opened February 1 & 2)

-So far we have over 600 overnight campers, 291 family campers, 53 day campers

### Partnerships

-We are partnering with 3 different youth/family ministries 'Rose City Kids' (Welland), City Kidz (Burlington) and 'Move-in' to provide summer camp opportunities to youth.  
-We continue to partner with Eden High School for their grade retreats in fall

### New Programs

-Bringing back the 'Blob'  
-Key Log Rolling

-Youth Canoe Trip in summer  
-26-week Discipleship Program starting September 2024

### Project Plans for 2024

We are incredibly grateful to churches and individual donors who continue to give financial support in order to rebuild camp. Thank-you!  
-Chapel Fireplace and Interior Renovations in the main building called the 'Centre'  
-Oakridge Lodge Build (future summer staff and Discipleship Program housing)  
-Septic Upgrades  
-Rebuild Overnight Site

### Prayer Requests

-We have 8 more churches coming in February and March. Pray that God would change hearts  
-Summer Camp Registration: that God would fill camp up so many children, youth and families would hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and say yes to following Him!  
-We still need to hire two staff coaches

Thank-you for your continued partnership in supporting the ministry at Camp Crossroads.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Hiebert  
Executive Director



# C2C collective

## 2024 REPORT TO ONTARIO MB

### Becoming a Great News People

is a powerful, positive, and challenging invitation for the Ontario Mennonite Brethren to gather around at this year's convention. And it's a great way to express the vision at the heart of the work of C2C Collective. C2C carries forward the vision that was birthed within the MB Church in Canada by helping leaders, churches, and denominations plant churches across the country. The core of our vision is to see healthy leaders starting fruitful churches and we want to live and work in a way that expresses our core values to be gospel-centered, Spirit-led, mission-focused, and kingdom-minded.

The last year of ministry in Ontario included meaningful steps of progress as well as some challenges. Following through on discernment in prayer and conversation with others, my focus for the year narrowed in on encouraging church planting collaboration among pastors, seasoned church planters, and other ministry leaders in both Ottawa and Toronto. More than ever before, I wanted to ensure that

my ministry encouraged local leaders to work together to make disciples through church planting. Rather than beginning with specific C2C ministry tools and gathering others around our services, I wanted to prioritize encouraging unity, initiative, and collaboration among local leaders and churches. My hope was to encourage a city ministry culture that would support identifying, developing, sending, and supporting church planters.

### In the Fall of 2022,

I joined an interdenominational team that had already been convened by Ottawa's One Way Ministries (OWM) around a vision for collaboration to find and support church planters. In support of that vision, I personally hosted lunchtime gather-

ings for interested pastors, church planters, and potential church planters throughout the year. We shared meals, joined in worship, and prayed for one another and the needs of the city. A group of twenty gathered consistently including five who were just starting or still preparing for new church planting projects. In May, our whole OWM team hosted a BBQ for church planting couples and were excited to have 50 join us. During that event, we conducted an online survey to identify where leaders wanted help and were able to follow up on the desire some expressed for coaching. In September, we hosted Bill Hogg for Advance Evangelism Training in response to the top training need identified in the May survey.



# C2C collective

## 2024 REPORT TO ONTARIO MB

**In December 2022**, Mike Sherbino and his brother David led a meeting at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto to explore collaborative strategies for training and church planting. After attending, I invited leaders from my contacts to a follow-up meeting in January. About 60 came together and Mike and David led an interactive gathering where we looked to identify how pastors and leaders could best collaborate to encourage church planting. I found the conversation and feedback harder in Toronto than in Ottawa. Some leaders resisted the idea of starting another new initiative. Others expressed a strong sense of personal isolation and a greater longing for friendship than for a new challenge. Perhaps more than anything, full schedules and Toronto's size presented significant obstacles as I followed up to discern and implement next steps. At the same time, connections between a small number of highly motivated leaders were strengthened and we worked to support one another in offering two relevant training opportunities later in the year.

**Cultivating and sustaining collaboration** among pastors and leaders to support church planting is not easy. Church leaders rightly understand that God has given them an assignment within their own local context and many are unsure it's wise or even appropriate to give significant energy to initiatives outside their local church. Additionally, since many pastors are disconnected, it can be hard to encourage trust when denominations and churches disagree theologically and have significant cultural differences. When it comes to genuine unity in Jesus' Church, I'm convinced that we're completely dependent on God moving

by His Spirit to show us the way. I saw very encouraging steps forward in both Ottawa and Toronto in 2023, and yet the road ahead is long and steep. Help us, Lord!

In addition to pursuing city-based collaboration, my work with C2C was full of lots of one-on-one coaching, church plant task force and board meetings, and a church planter assessment centre that I organized in May for three church planting couples. C2C also supported new churches with financial subsidies, including 8 in Ontario. Overall, 2023 was a full year and I loved being able to support church planters in meaningful ways.

There's no doubt that **faithful lives of prayer, relational unity, and practical collaboration** foster the culture in which God's kingdom thrives and grows. C2C Collective must model, encourage, and guard these foundational dynamics along with others. Since that's true, even as I've moved into my new role with ONMB, I look forward to supporting and extending the vision that remains at the heart of C2C Collective.



Reported by: Trevor Seath  
Former Ontario Director





# EDEN HIGH SCHOOL SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTRE

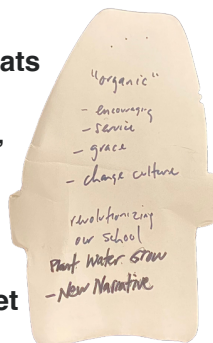


*"Leading students to learn of Christ  
and live in Christ."*

## GOD IS ON THE MOVE!

This year began like every other year as we asked God to breathe life into our high school campus. The narrative concerning Christians was increasingly negative, and in some cases it was deserved. We were asking God to equip us to build bridges rather than walls, and He answered our prayers! We were longing for our Christian students to live with a responsibility to others, rather than with a perceived authority over others. Through all these prayers, a word was spoken; "organic." Thoughts began to form (on a piece of cardboard taken from the recycling bin), and new vision was birthed! So what does "organic" look like?

The year began with our Grade Retreats and there were close to 300 students involved in our three retreats, as we unpacked the theme "Becoming." We focused on being a community that is attractive to others, praying for the courage to become more like Jesus in our school, so that others would come to know Him. As God met us in times of worship, I honestly thought the floor was going to cave in at Camp Crossroads (may need to look at the floor structure!) Those retreats became a catalyst for some incredible things that are happening on campus and here are a few highlights:



We have committed every Thursday morning in The First 25 (chapel) to prayer. We called students to pray and 138 showed up for the first one! And we've seen 80-90 regularly attending each week. These meetings are happening at 8:15am in the morning, at school, on a weekday! On average, there are 100+ students attending every day during our teaching times. It's been so encouraging to see a new level of spiritual engagement in our community!

We are also hearing stories of multiple Bible studies and prayer groups that are springing up and these are student initiated! There are some groups that have 20-30 students that are meeting outside of school hours, as they seek to grow in their relationship with Jesus! Please keep these "organic" gatherings in your prayers.



Our Life Groups that meet at lunch are booming in the SLC! Driven, for girls, has focused on "Encounters With Jesus." Every Monday and Wednesday, Alicia and Meghan are leading girls in a study on encountering the living God in a public high school! The Foundry for boys, is every Tuesday and Thursday and we've recently studied some big questions; How do we know we're following the right God? If God is so good and powerful, why is there evil in the world?, Does God hear our prayers? and more. During the last month, we studied Galatians, discovering what it means to move from religion, to a living relationship with Jesus Christ. These are incredible opportunities to disciple students in their faith journey and we're so thankful!





## A WONDERFUL LEGACY!



Our SLC Team is going to look different in 2024! Alicia Janzen, who has served in the Spiritual Life Centre since 2003, is finishing her time with us on January 31, and moving into an exciting new role! Over the past two years, Alicia has been completing a Master's Degree in Counselling and recently graduated upon fulfilling her practicum at a local clinic. There was no doubt in our minds that the clinic would want Alicia to stay and be a part of their staff, and that is exactly what happened! We'd love for her to stay in the SLC and are sad that she's finishing, but we're excited for her new role at the Play Clinic in St. Catharines, Ontario. Alicia has always had a heart to see students grow in their faith in Jesus, and has always been a beautiful example of compassion and empathy. Her gentle spirit

and welcoming smile have allowed for students to feel safe as they unpack their story. We really can't begin to estimate the lives that have been impacted for all of eternity because of Alicia's selfless care for students, and we know that she'll continue in her new role. As an SLC Team, Eden Advisory Board and as a community, we pray for God's richest blessing as she begins the next season of her life. Thank you Alicia for giving of yourself because in Christ, you've helped us all grow in our faith!

As I close, I'd like to thank the SLC Team for being such a clear example of Jesus in their commitment to loving students! It has been a joy to serve with Alicia, Meghan, and Ethan who completed his time with us in June. We have seen God do so much in our midst, and while we still face many ongoing challenges with the School Board, God has been faithful in sustaining us. Please continue to pray as we seek to "build bridges rather than walls." I'd also like to thank our Eden Advisory Board consisting of Ken Friesen (Chair), Len Janzen, Val Devries, Chuck Koop, and Krista Janzen. They are sharing in many joys, challenges, and burdens, and have been so committed to supporting the SLC, helping ensure this vital ministry continues. Finally, we wish to welcome Trevor Seath as he begins his new role as Executive Director, and thanks to our ONMB churches (Cornerstone and Scott Street), for their partnership, and ongoing support. We're grateful for your prayers, financial support, and the many resources you share with us as we partner in the Gospel. May God richly bless each of our churches this coming year and beyond! On behalf of the SLC/EAB,



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING WAYS TO  
SUPPORT THE SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTRE,  
PLEASE VISIT [SLCEDEN.COM](http://SLCEDEN.COM)**



## GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

DR. STEVE A. BROWN PRESIDENT

My heart is full! I am in my first month as the new President of Columbia Bible College. Every day I meet more students who are leaning wholeheartedly into Jesus and seeking to launch their lives with purpose for God's glory.

In the learning environment of our classrooms, in the rich community of our campus and in our service opportunities, we are seeking to develop spiritual vibrancy, resilient godly character, connectedness to community and passion for a lifetime of service in the church and community.

As our world navigates increasingly complex and changing times, please know you play a key part in helping Columbia develop the next generation of wholehearted disciples and leaders. First, please pray for God's work at Columbia. Your prayers matter. Second, please encourage a young person to consider leaning into their faith, getting grounded in God's Word and intentionally launching their lives with a year (or two) or full four-year degree at Columbia.

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

## 2023–24 Enrollment Stats

143 Residents

123 Commuters

16 Offsite

Current Students: 282

*Bonus: 25 interns active in our community!*



## COLUMBIA'S PROGRAMS

APPLY TODAY!

All of Columbia's programs invite students deeper into their faith journey with Jesus, build biblical and theological foundations, and equip them to effectively serve the church and community. Consider a one-year discipleship experience like Quest or a degree in ministry preparation, leadership, psychology or biblical studies!



## GREETINGS ONMB!

We are so grateful to be on mission with all of our MB churches across Canada. Over the years we have been delighted to welcome many students from Ontario; students who join us to grow, learn, and be equipped for service in the church and marketplace. Student's lives are being transformed on our campus because of Jesus and the faithful work of his people. Please continue to pray, and we thank you for cheering us on!

[columbiabc.edu](http://columbiabc.edu)



## STUDENT STORY

RYKIA GUENTHER 4TH YEAR, INTERCULTURAL STUDIES



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



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

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



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

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

## BE KNOWN. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

JEFF PETERS FACULTY & DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS



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

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



*We are grateful for the partnership of the MB Conference in Ontario. Your generous support has brought dignity and God's love in powerful ways - here at home and around the world.*

MCC Material Resources and Malawi program staff meet with leaders and administrators from the Mennonite Brethren Church in Malawi.  
Photo/Tom Wenger

## Impact Report

### 2023 Ontario highlights

- 300 gardening bundles were distributed to individuals and families to assist in producing healthy and culturally-appropriate food
- 151 newcomers were welcomed to Ontario through the private sponsorship of refugees program
- 421 individuals were trained in practical, hands-on peacebuilding
- 20,272 cups of soup (a 21% increase) provided meaningful employment for seven individuals receiving Ontario Disability Support Program payments
- We said farewell to John Head, and we welcomed Michelle Brenneman to the Executive Director role, previously the Director of Human Resources
- 184,614 hours spent processing, cleaning, pricing and selling by Thrift volunteers

### 2023 International highlights

- 27,370 relief kits
- 54,420 comforters
- 479,040 cans of meat
- 76,360 hygiene kits
- 75,716 school kits

Material resources were shipped to Burundi, Chad, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Jordan, Cuba, Zambia, Guatemala, Malawi, Ukraine and Canada

- 1,600 households in Syria received food baskets containing essential food and supplies in the aftermath of the Feb 2023 Türkiye and Syria earthquake
- 208,149 individuals received food assistance
- 399 active peace clubs in Nigeria, Ethiopia, Zambia and Malawi

For more than 100 years, MCC has served in the name of Christ, working faithfully with partners all around the world, and it's all thanks to generous and compassionate people like you. Your financial gifts are making an incredible impact across the globe and closer to home. This past year, you've helped provide critical items like relief supplies, warm blankets, and food to children and families in the most desperate situations around the world. You've also supported long-term projects like giving access to clean water, healthcare to women and children, agricultural training, and sustainable livelihoods and educational opportunities. You are creating change in Ontario as well by walking alongside people experiencing poverty, supporting those who are reintegrating into community, welcoming newcomers, and actively advocating for peace and reconciliation.

The ways in which you've helped bring joy and hope to so many lives and provide a tangible expression of God's love and compassion. This is a work we do together in the wider mission of the church. Thank you for all you do.

With much gratitude,

**Michelle Brenneman, MCC Ontario Executive Director**



**45 countries**  
**393 partners**  
**508 projects**  
**1,108 workers**



# Mennonite Brethren

**In 2023, Ontario MB churches supported MCC through financial donations, material resource donations of comforters, hygiene kits, relief kits and school kits, hosted MCC speakers and accessed and used MCC resources such as the Peace Packet and World Refugee Sunday materials. MB church members volunteered at MCC Thrift Shops and attended MCC events.**

## Grow Hope Niagara Project

MCC supporters, including some MB churches, support MCC's food security programs by sponsoring an acre of land on Larry and Marg Dyck's farm in Niagara for \$400 per acre. The land is farmed each year and the proceeds donated after harvest. The proceeds are matched by the government and go to help end hunger through MCC and Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

In 2023, there was a good stand of soybeans that had ample rain and good growing conditions. It was combined in mid-October and yielded a crop that fetched over \$1,000 per acre for a \$400 investment, a fantastic way for an initial gift to grow and help provide food for people who need it.

After harvest, the field was planted with next year's wheat crop. Many thanks to the Dyck family for all their efforts in managing this field project and we recognize its success depends on their efforts and expertise.



A combine harvesting soybeans. MCC photo

## MCC work around the world with MB partners: Malawi

The Mennonite Brethren Church in Malawi started in 2009 with a location in Dzaleka refugee camp, and now has over 19,000 members around Malawi. The church seeks to support both the spiritual and physical development of communities, ensuring residents' basic needs are met.

Through the MCC Material Resources program, the church receives and distributes much-needed resources, including MCC comforters and dignity, relief, hygiene, infant care and sewing kits.

Women Development Madevic Mama Tailoring Centre provides employment and training opportunities for women in the refugee camp. Mawazo Fatuma, who leads efforts there, says, "Thank you for the sewing kits. The supplies are very helpful. The women in this centre are able to learn tailoring and make a little money."



Women sit at sewing machines during a training at Women Development Madevic Mama Tailoring Centre, a small enterprise in the Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Malawi. MCC Photo/Tom Wenger

## Ukraine

MCC partner Association of Mennonite Brethren Churches of Ukraine (AMBCU) is now assisting about 13,000 people affected by the war in Ukraine. These are internally displaced individuals and families, people living near the contact lines, children in families experiencing dysfunction, large families and elderly people. AMBCU distributes humanitarian assistance, including MCC relief kits, blankets, hygiene kits, toothpaste and canned meat.



Residents of a village in Ukraine received humanitarian relief items supplied by MCC partner Association of Mennonite Brethren Churches of Ukraine (AMBCU) in June 2023. Photo/Association of Mennonite Brethren Churches of Ukraine

**Thank you for your partnership. We give thanks for the ONMB representative on the MCC Ontario Board of Directors in the past year: Denis Wall.**



# Mennonite Disaster Service Canada **REPORT**

*MDS Canada 2023:*

## **"You brought hope and love to the community"**

"You brought hope and love to the community." That's what Amanda McDougall-Merrill, mayor of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, said about volunteers from Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) who came to Cape Breton to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Fiona in Cape Breton.

After the storm, which struck on September 24, 2022, people "felt alone and hopeless," she said. "You did more than build walls and fix houses. You brought love here," she said. "There are no words that have the capacity to show how grateful we are."

Altogether, 458 volunteers from across Canada provided over 32,000 hours of service for 272 families and community organizations in Cape Breton. This included repairs to 44 houses, 28 new roofs or roof repairs and 179 tree-cutting and cleanup jobs.

Caroline Purnell's daughter, Rosalyn, had her house repaired by MDS volunteers. When it hit, the hurricane damaged the roof of Rosalyn's house, causing rain to leak in every time a new storm came along. Unable to afford repairs, and with a deadline from her insurance company to fix the roof or lose her house insurance, the situation seemed hopeless for the single mother of three boys.

When MDS offered to fix the roof, everything changed, Purnell said. "When you said you would do the repairs, not only were you helping someone with a leaking roof, you were changing the outcome of an entire family's life. I have seen my daughter go from hopelessness and despair to gratitude and hopefulness for her future," she added. What MDS did "was a miraculous answer to prayer and a

source of encouragement to everyone who hears how you answered God's call," she went on to say.

Along with service in Cape Breton, MDS Canada responded to a tornado in Alberta and did other repairs in other provinces. We also offered the Spirit of MDS Fund once again, providing 26 grants worth just over \$137,000 given to churches and organizations across Canada.

The goal of MDS Canada is to restore homes and hope for survivors of natural disasters in Canada and the U.S.



Caroline and Rosalyn Purnell and family

Hearing about the impact of our service in Cape Breton, I am happy to hear both of those things happened. We thank God for the mission God has called us to: To be the hands and feet of Jesus for those affected by natural disasters. We invite you to pray for us as we explore where in Canada we can be of best service in 2024.

—Ross Penner, Executive Director



**Mennonite Disaster Service  
Canada**

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



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### MEMBER CHURCH DIRECTORY

**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

**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)-868-4933  
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

**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

**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



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### MEMBER CHURCH DIRECTORY

**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: tracy@southpointcc.ca  
Church Website: www.southpointcc.ca

**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

**Restoration Place**

Address: 121 Athol St,  
Whitby, ON L1N 3Z1  
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

**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: 519-885-5330  
Office Email: office@wmbchurch.ca  
Church Website: www.wmbchurch.ca





## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### ASSOCIATE CHURCH DIRECTORY

#### **Malkutha**

Address: 1201-10 Teesdale Place,  
Toronto, ON M1L 1K9  
Office Email: [contact@movein.to](mailto:contact@movein.to)  
Church website: [www.movein.to](http://www.movein.to)

#### **Rugged Tree Community Church**

Address: 21 Poupore Rd. West  
Skead, ON P0M 2Y0  
Church Email: [derek@ruggedtree.org](mailto:derek@ruggedtree.org)  
Church Website: [www.ruggedtree.org](http://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](mailto:hello@southeastcitychurch.ca)  
Church Website: [www.southeastcitychurch.ca](http://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](mailto:thespiritoftruthchurch@gmail.com)  
Church Website: [www.stctoronto.com](http://www.stctoronto.com)



# ONMB

## PASTORS & LEADERS RETREAT

### MAY 5-7, 2024

### CAMP CROSSROADS



## 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

### VOTING DETAILS

## 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.

## CONVENTION RULES OF ORDER 2024

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.





# 2024 ONMB CONVENTION

## 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.

### 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.

## EXHIBITORS 2024

Once again, we are happy to have many exhibitors with us this year. They represent the many ministry partnerships we have within ONMB here in Ontario as well as across Canada. Exhibitors are located in the fellowship area which is in the lower level. Please take the time to visit with them and discover ways that their ministry can support and provide resources to you and your church.

### This year's Exhibitors:

- AGORA Network Ministries
- Camp Crossroads
- CCMBC Legacy
- CBC
- Eden SLC
- Multiply
- MB Seminary
- MCC
- MDS
- Plan to Protect





**2025 ONMB CONVENTION**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**94th ANNUAL  
CONVENTION**

**FEB 28 –  
MAR 1**

**2025**

**The Ontario Conference of MB Churches**

455 Geneva St. St Catharines, ON L2N 2H2

[info@onmb.org](mailto:info@onmb.org) [www.onmb.org](http://www.onmb.org)