

2025 NATIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT

One of the reasons I pursued this role was the growing sense that CCMBC was budding into a new season. For the last eight years we have been in a season of significant change, restructuring, and revisioning. At times it has been very painful, yet much of the change was necessary. By God's grace, we are emerging from this challenging season with hope and hunger for what God wants to do in and through our churches. Here are a few of the highlights and opportunities that are before us.

Highlights

1. We ended the year with a large donation that covered our potential deficit. God's grace and the faithful generosity of our churches and donors is such an encouragement.
2. Praise God for his continued faithfulness as we grow into our vision with a collaborative posture. The vision that we believe God is inviting us to pursue is: "To cultivate a community and culture of healthy disciple-making churches and ministries, faithfully joining Jesus in his mission." To me, this is a very compelling and challenging vision. It is compelling because it reflects the unique call that God has given us as participants in his great unfolding story of redemption. It is challenging because we have not had a robust plan in our church ministries that incorporates disciple-making as an expectation of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. I want to celebrate a very big step forward with our vision and collaborative efforts. We have streamlined our vision and collaborative efforts with two key documents that will lead us into the future. These two documents — Collective Impact Strategy (CI Strategy) and Member Organization Agreements (MOAs) — are making their way through the necessary procedural channels and will be presented to the constituency for final affirmation.
 - a. Collective Impact Strategy: Our leading vision is called the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP-approved 2021). This is very comprehensive document. The Executive Board asked that we summarize this document into one page that clearly and simply summarized the larger CUSP document. This summary is called the Collective Impact Strategy (CI Strategy). The CI Strategy has been well received and is the basis of our collaborative efforts between all our provinces and agencies.
 - b. Collaboration and Member Organization Agreements (MOAs): The governance posture we have recently adopted is called the collaborative model. The intention of this model of leadership/governance is to fundamentally serve one another in mutual submission, humility, and respect, realizing that each brings much to the conversations. It is a way of leading that intentionally puts aside personal agendas in order to pay attention to Jesus' leadership of our denomination, churches, and agencies. The ways in which we want to collaborate are outlined in what we are calling Member Organization Agreements (MOAs).
3. The National Ministry Team (NMT) has discerned two key initiatives towards our vision. First, we would like to have prayer increasingly become a core aspect of our ministry/missional DNA. We have been encouraged by the week of prayer during January 5-11, 2025. Our theme for that week — and for the year — is "Pray First/Pray Always". We had roughly 100 participants from across our country come together daily to pray. The good news is that many felt we needed to continue praying for our churches, and so we established a weekly 30-minute online prayer time on Tuesdays at 12 p.m. PST. Second, I believe that the only way we are going to cultivate healthy disciple-making churches and ministries is through disciple-making initiatives. We are all exploring and learning the principles of disciple-making with the goal of discipling others towards disciple-making.
4. A major project the Executive Board completed this year was the writing of a new Governance Manual that is congruent with our by-laws, CUSP, and Collaborative Model.

Opportunities

1. 2025 is the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. This is the historical and theological stream from which Mennonite Brethren emerged. There is much to celebrate in our story. I also believe that there is much our theological framework has to offer our broken and violent culture. We will explore one of these themes at EQUIP in October at North Kildonan Church in Winnipeg (October 23-25) led by Ken Esau and our National Faith and Life Team. The theme is **“The Gospel, Peacemaking, and the Kingdom: God’s Peace in an Age of Conflict, Chaos, and Confusion.”**
2. It does feel as though we are moving into a season of unity building and vision development. I believe this will be the outflow of praying together. And as we grow a culture of prayer, I am hoping that we can increasingly be supporting, blessing, encouraging, and resourcing one another in a spirit of humility and generosity for the glory of God and for the wonderful vision he has entrusted to us. This kind of unity will be noticed (John 17) by a watching world. Please consider joining our national weekly prayer gathering every Tuesday at noon (PST). You can sign up through the [CCMBC website link](#).

So Grateful

I am so grateful for wonderful colleagues and leaders in our denomination. I am grateful for Jason Krueger who held the interim National Director role for the first few months of 2024. I am thankful to serve alongside our Executive Board who serve faithfully, diligently, and with humility. The same is true of the National Ministry Team who serve our provincial conferences and agencies with integrity and diligence. The CCMBC staff has had a significant turn over this year and are blessed to have added Leanne Janzen, Michelle Madnunatu, Carina Gallardo and Linda Fox. We welcomed Connie Dyck as the new Executive Assistant replacing Kara Friesen who left us to pastor a church in Winnipeg. Carson completed a much-earned sabbatical from November 9, 2024 to February 10, 2025. We are grateful to Jon Isaak, the director of our archives, who retired at the end of the year. He provided 13 years of steady, diligent service to our CCMBC family.

I would close my brief report with Psalm 126:3: “The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” May this continue to be our experience and our anticipation!



Cam Stuart

National Director



2025 NATIONAL MINISTRY TEAM

REG TOEWS

BCMB

JASON KRUEGER

CCMBC Legacy

KEN ESAU

National Faith & Life

TREVOR SEATH

ONMB

PHIL GUNTHER

SKMB

JASON DYCK

MBCM

PAUL LOEWEN

ABMB

CAM STUART

CCMBC National Director

MARK WESSNER

MB Seminary

RICHARD LOUGHEED

AEFMQ

BRUCE ENNS

Multiply



NATIONAL FAITH & LIFE DIRECTOR REPORT FOR 2025 PROVINCIAL CONVENTIONS

Mandate

According to the 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 2024

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. I’m thankful to be part of all of these teams of deeply committed men and women of godly character. They are an inspiration and encouragement to me each and every day. Over the course of 2024, we said good-bye to Karen West (ONMB Provincial Rep), Rob Thiessen (BCMB Conference Minister), and Doug Heidebrecht (Multiply Rep). We were very thankful for these three faithful team members and wish them God’s best in their new endeavors.

Some of the NFLT highlights for 2024 include:

- We produced a monthly “**Contending in Prayer**” resource that revolved around encouraging different types of prayers throughout the year (viz., gratitude prayers; blessing prayers; confession prayers; etc.).
- We gave final approval to **Article 3: Creation and Humanity** (Explanatory Notes); **Article 4: Sin and Evil** (Explanatory Notes) and **Article 6: Nature of the Church** (Explanatory Notes; Living the Confession [FAQs]) as part of our Confession of Faith Resource Revision Project.
- We are in the final approval stage for **Article 5: Salvation** (Explanatory Notes); **Article 7: Mission of the Church** (Explanatory Notes), and **Article 9: Lord’s Supper** (Explanatory Notes). These are presently on the [CCMBC website](#) inviting feedback.
- We gave final approval to our “Loving Well our Trans Neighbours, Friends, and Family” for

distribution to our pastors and church leaders.

- We partnered with MB Seminary and BCMB to oversee the **Pastors Credentialing Orientation** May 28-30, 2024 at Columbia Bible College (Abbotsford) with about 70 participants. We agreed that in 2025, PCO would become a regional event alternating between west (BC/AB/SK) and east (MB/ON/QC) with shared planning and implementation from these provincial conferences.
- We made a decision to discontinue the publishing of new topics in our **NFLT Pamphlet Series** and evaluate our existing pamphlets for relevance and constituency demand.
- The NFLT spent some significant time deliberating how we should navigate our 1999 and 2006 discussions around women and church leadership roles. We are continuing to talk about this in light of the reality of significant differences and perspectives across our national family. We do hope that all of CCMBC’s member organizations and local churches can encourage and facilitate leadership development for gifted women within their community.

Besides all of these more formal NFLT involvements, I enjoyed writing the **Q&R Corner** in the *MB Herald Digest* addressing such topics as Progressive Christianity (Feb); the Nature of Suffering in Hell (April); Burial or Cremation? (Aug); the Role of Israel Today (Oct); and Children Leaving the Faith (Dec). I also joined the *Direction* journal Editorial Council as CCMBC’s representative. The Fall 2024 issue was dedicated to the publication of presentations from Equip 2023 so I revised my “**Why Church?**” presentation and had it published there. Whenever possible, I try to say yes to serve in local churches and this year, I had the opportunity to teach a “From the Garden to the Desert: Genesis to Deuteronomy” summer course and an Old Testament Survey Fall course. These made my life very full but were very enjoyable.

While we celebrate all the highlights from 2024 (and thank God for so many answered prayers!), we continue to engage around the following items for 2025:

- Our CCMBC theme for 2025 is “**Pray First! Pray Always!**” so our monthly prayer column will have this new name. We will be working slowly

through short phrases from the Lord's Prayer each month. We have invited some new writers from across the country to contribute to the column.

- We are actively planning and anticipating an excellent **Equip 2025** conference from October 21-23 at NKMB Church, Winnipeg. Our theme is: **"The Gospel, Peacemaking, and the Kingdom: God's Peace in an Age of Conflict, Chaos, and Confusion."** More information [here](#).
- We are working with MB Seminary and ONMB to host the **PCO 2025: Getting to Know the Family!** (May 6-8, 2025) at Behta Darya Community Church (Mississauga, ON). More information [here](#).
- We continue to give significant effort to our **Confession of Faith Resource Revision Project** and hope to process new explanatory notes for **Article 10: Discipleship; Article 11: Marriage, Singleness, and Family; Article 12: Society and State; and Article 13: Love and Nonresistance.** (Articles 12 and 13 will be the special focus of Equip 2025.)
- We have been asked to work on other resources related to **Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)** and about **divorce and remarriage**—especially in reference to pastors/leaders. It was deemed wise to wait for the completion of the Explanatory Notes on Article 14: Sanctity of Life and Article 11: Marriage, Singleness, and Family before addressing these topics. It is hoped that resources will become available for churches and pastors later in 2025.

My prayer is always that everything that I do and that we do together as a family would reflect faithfully the character and mission of King Jesus and God's Kingdom. As we live into God's Kingdom story of 2025, may we engage fully into the Lord's Prayer, calling out to God to bring his Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven—and participating in disciple-making as a dimension of the Kingdom work in the world. Blessings and Shalom in Jesus as you pray and serve in your family, church, and community!

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



Ken Esau

National Faith and Life Director

2025 NATIONAL FAITH AND LIFE TEAM

- RICHARD LOUGHEED
AEFMQ Designate
- RYAN JANTZI
ONMB Ministry Director
- MATT UNRUH
ONMB Representative
- CONNIE MAIER
NFLT 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
- REG TOEWS
BCMB Executive Director
- KRISTAL TOEWS
Member-at-Large (BCMB)
- KEITH REED
MB Seminary Representative
- CAM STUART
CCMBC National Director
- KEN ESAU
NFL Director



PCO Group 2024



CCMBC LEGACY FUND

Ministry-Focused Financial Services

1310 Taylor Ave
Winnipeg MB R3M 3Z6
ccmbclegacyfund.com



Greetings to the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches!

We extend our sincere gratitude for the privilege of partnering with you in the shared mission that unites us. Reflecting on the past year, we are deeply inspired by the powerful stories of God's work within your congregations. These stories strengthen our resolve to provide ministry-focused financial services that support Kingdom growth.

Our unique role enables us to serve Mennonite Brethren Churches across Canada in meaningful ways



Financial Assistance

Offering mortgage loans to churches, camps, schools, and pastors to facilitate the purchase, maintenance, or renovation of vital meeting spaces.



Administrative Support

Alleviating administrative challenges through payroll administration and bookkeeping expertise.



Group Benefits

Providing cost-effective group health benefits and a pension plan tailored for CCMBC pastors and staff.

Did you know?!

Legacy offers investment accounts designed specifically for MB Churches. These accounts feature no lock-in periods, no terms, and no fees. Here's how your church can benefit from a Legacy Account:

- Set aside unused operating funds until they are needed.
- Save for building or renovation projects.
- Hold restricted funds securely.

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

Help Us Spread the Word!

Investments from individuals form the backbone of our ability to provide loans to churches and pastors and offer financial services. However, many people attending MB Churches are unaware of our investment program. You can help us get the word out to your congregation!



Access these resources by scanning the QR code, email us at legacy@mbchurches.ca, or call 1-888-669-6575. We'd love to hear your ideas and explore how we can partner together!

Specialized HR Advisory Services

CCMBC churches can access Christian HR advisory services at below-market costs. Legacy covers the cost of your initial consultation! Spraggs Advisory Group consultants offer extensive experience to support churches and organizations like yours.

For service details, scan the QR code or click [HERE](#). To get in touch with a Spraggs consultant, please email info@spraggsadvisorygroup.ca.



Highlights from the Past Year



Strategic Initiatives

Launched new services and hosted topical webinars to address the evolving needs of our churches.



New Loans

Provided three pastor loans, four church loans, and two organization loans to support various initiatives across our CCMBC community.



Estate Planning

Partnered with Advisors with Purpose to offer church members professional guidance in crafting estate plans that reflect their faith, values, and life's work.



HR Advisory Services

Partnered with Spraggs Advisory Group to provide churches with tailored human resource advisory services designed to address the unique challenges of faith-based and non-profit organizations.



Pension Plan Enhancements

Introduced a new Mennonite Brethren pension plan, benefiting 1,600 members. This “best in class” plan includes expanded investment options, retirement and educational tools, decumulation (retirement) options, and significantly lower investment management fees.



Employee Engagement

Designated a “Flourishing Christian Workplace” by Best Christian Workplaces. Focusing on our mission, values and employee engagement has resulted in a team that does its best to serve our constituents and glorify God.



As we look to the year ahead, we are eager to continue growing, collaborating, and serving alongside you in our shared mission of Kingdom growth. Your unwavering support and partnership empower us to make a meaningful impact, and we are excited about the opportunities that await. Thank you for your trust and collaboration.

Jason Krueger, CEO



Make a Meaningful Impact

Take advantage of free, confidential estate planning services. Professional estate specialists at Advisors with Purpose are available to guide you through important decisions about your estate. They'll help you create a personalized plan that ensures your will reflects your life, faith, and values. For more information and a list of upcoming webinars, scan the QR or click [HERE](#).

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