

PROVINCIAL FAITH AND LIFE TEAM REPORT

Ryan Jantzi, ONMB Ministry Director



The ONMB Provincial Faith and Life Team has continued its diligent work of overseeing the theology, ethics and ministry practice across our family of churches. We believe the shared understandings of our MB Confession of Faith are a treasure. We find joy in using it as a tool to guide and strengthen the witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ across ONMB. Healthy leaders and church cultures are our passion and we're consistently encouraged with what we see across ONMB. Praise God!

The PFLT met on six occasions through 2025, with 2 of those being abbreviated online meetings. Team members consisted of Dave Fowler (Chaplain), Ryan Jantzi (ONMB Staff), Kristi Lee (ONMB Staff), Richard Martens (Cornerstone), Andrew Plett (Mountain Park), Renée Serez (WMB) and Matt Unruh (Cornerstone). Dave Fowler concluded his time with the PFLT following 10 years of service, now easing into semi-retirement. Dave was the pastor with Life Point Church in Ottawa and serves as a military chaplain. We're grateful for Dave's many years of service and will miss his energy, warm heart and wise perspective. The team is happy to report that Andrew Plett will remain with the PFLT, even as his time serving as the Board of Directors representative concludes. We continue to search for one additional team member and await the appointment of a new Board rep.

Credentialing

In 2025, the PFLT extended ministry credentialing to the following:

- Susan Friesen, Pastor of Spiritual Formation (Meadow Brook Church)
- Matt Harman, Lead Pastor (Meadow Brook Church)
- Paul McIlwraith – Reinstatement, Community Care Pastor (WMB Church)
- Steve Peng, Worship Director (WMB Church)
- Renée Rocheleau, Child and Youth Director (Meadow Brook Church)

Credentials were removed for five ministry leaders in 2025, due to resignations and transitions from the ONMB community. We anticipate extending credentialing to 3-5 ministry leaders in 2025.

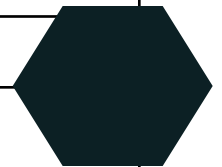
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Lead Pastor Resignations

In the past year, we experienced the resignations of Brent Easey, Lead Pastor with St. Ann's Community Church, Doug Valerio, Lead Pastor with Manotick Community Church and Stephen Sesink, Lead Pastor with Evergreen Heights Christian Fellowship.



Ordination

The ordination of Ryan Jantzi, ONMB Ministry Director took place in January 2025, with his home church, Maple View Mennonite Church, in partnership with the PFLT. Following a discernment process this was a service of affirmation of God's call and covenanting between Ryan, God and the church with anointing and blessing. We encourage our churches to consider initiating the practice of Ordination for their pastors who've received a life call to church leadership, affirming this following a few years of experience.

Church Memberships

The PFLT is happy to make the following recommendations:

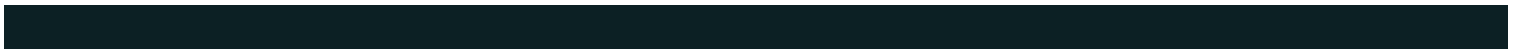
Full Member Church

- Southeast City Church - Ottawa with Pastor David Hood

Associate Member Church

- Bytown Community Church - Ottawa with Pastor Dan Chook Reid
- Christ Like Church - Kitchener with Pastor Yelshaday Baraki
- Mission Pentecostal Rehoboth Church - Hamilton with Pastor Landware Simugabo

Each of these three churches are in the Exploratory Associate Church status, which is the temporary stage designed for the church and ONMB to discern fit and God's leading to become a full member church with ONMB. A pre-screening interview is held by PFLT members with the leaders of each church to ascertain alignment with the MB Confession of Faith and fit with ONMB.



Pastor Credentialing Orientation (PCO)

Pastor Credentialing Orientation took place in Mississauga, May 6-9, 2025. It was a joy to host PCO in Ontario the year. Ken Esau and the National Faith and Life Team were the primary organizers. Betha Darya Community Church in Mississauga, led by Vishal Rangha and Rafiqua Masih, were amazing hosts. Getting to Know the Family! was our theme. 27 people participated, 18 of whom were from Ontario. Numerous national partners presented with Matt Unruh, Sarah Patterson, Michelle Knowles and Connie Maier contributing. We also visited in a downtown Toronto neighbourhood to learn and prayer walk with Kyla Sinclair Peters (Multiply) regarding her disciple-making work with a Buddhist diaspora group in that area.



EQUIP 2025 - The Gospel, Peacemaking & the Kingdom

Approximately 40 people from across ONMB travelled to North Kildonan MB Church in Winnipeg for this national event. It was an excellent week with grappling with the theology and ministry implications of a commitment to being a peace-making people. We're grateful for the work of Ken Esau, National Faith and Life Director for leading this event.



2025 Issues Addressed

- T-JTA Assessment – this new assessment tool, now required for the credentialing of incoming Lead Pastors was first utilized in 2025, with success. Thanks to Dianne Loerchner, a Registered Psychotherapist (Kingsfield – Zurich) for assisting. It is a tool available to all churches upon request.
- Supporting Pastoral Transitions – guidance and encouragement has been offered to St. Ann's Community Church and Manotick Community Church in 2025 and will be extended to Evergreen Heights Christian Fellowship in 2026 as they prepare and search for their next Lead Pastors.
- NFLT Engagement – PFLT continues to offer feedback to the National Faith and Life Team on the development of Explanatory Notes for the Confession of Faith, clarifying the CCMBC understanding and application of the resolution on Women in Ministry Leadership and the possibility of mandatory professional development requirements for credentialed leaders.
- A Confession of Faith Survey – conducted with ONMB leaders to discern how it is being used in our churches and thus how we can strengthen our engagement with this great resource.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our team at any point with comments or questions. And of course, your prayers are a gift! It's an honour and joy to serve the ONMB family in the realm of faith and life.

Sumbitted with love and hope,
Ryan Jantzi

ONMB Ministry Director

June 2-4, 2026

CCMBC
CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF
MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

PCO

CCEFM
CONFÉRENCE DES ÉGLISE
DES FRÈRES MENNONITES

GETTING TO KNOW THE FAMILY!

ASSOCIATE & MEMBER CHURCH INTROS

We're excited to introduce three churches being recommended by the Provincial Faith and Life Team and Board of Directors to join ONMB as Associate Member Churches. This is the status whereby churches and ONMB commit to becoming familiar to discern if God is leading toward full membership with this family of churches.

We're excited that these three Associate Church recommendations consist of a C2C Collective church plant from an ONMB church, a new immigrant church, and an initiative of second-generation Canadians. Two of these consist primarily of ethnicities different from the historic ethnic make-up of Mennonite Brethren in Ontario. We believe that God is forming our family of churches in important ways as we give and receive gifts with these new churches. Praise God!

Bytown Community Church

Planted in 2021, Bytown Community Church is a congregation in The Glebe neighbourhood of Ottawa. Dan Chook Reid is the planting pastor, following many years on staff with InterVarsity in Ottawa. His wife Melody serves alongside him and continues to work with InterVarsity. The Gathering - Ottawa serves as the planting church, with Bytown CC under their charitable status and Dan as their staff member. The church meets at 4 pm Sundays in a beautiful Presbyterian church building. Trevor Seath and C2C Collective have played a key role in supporting and coaching the church from its inception.

Beginning as a bible study meeting in parks during the covid-19 pandemic, the church is experiencing slow, steady growth toward becoming a sustainable, independent church. The church reaches many university students and is excellent at engaging seekers and believers with questions and uncertainty, pointing them toward faith.

Establishing Associate Church Member status formalizes a relationship that has already existed for several years.



Christ Like Church

In 2024, Yelshaday Baraki approached ONMB seeking support in planting a multi-ethnic church in Kitchener. What started in his home as a Bible Study to engage Ethiopian and Eritrean young adults who were drifting from their parents' churches had turned into a 70+ person gathering in a church basement. As this group grew, God gave them a desire to grow a church of many ethnic backgrounds, reflecting their schools and shopping centres.

This Sunday evening group began meeting at the WMB - Waterloo site and Yelshaday began a church planting apprenticeship. In June 2026 they shifted to 1 pm, worship gatherings at KMB. In October 2025, the official church launch was held. The charitable status from New Living Church (an ONMB church which closed in late 2024) is being transferred to Christ Like.

Christ Like is seeing growth, including young adults from Muslim background, as they engage people with the Gospel. A strong internal leadership team has been established as they receive counsel from an external advisory team. Yelshaday is shifting to a .8FTE employment role early in 2026. We're grateful for the support from Central West churches, particularly WMB, Maple View and K-ZMC for their generosity of space, people and finances.



Mission Pentecostal Rehoboth Church

Planted in March 2025, by Pastor Landware Simugabo, Mission Pentecostal Rehoboth Church is located in Hamilton. The church consists of African immigrants, primarily Congolese folks. There are approximately 40 people who gather for worship on Sunday afternoons in a church building.

Pastor Landware was introduced to ONMB by Pastor Athanase Chiruzza, an MB pastor he served under while living in Saskatchewan and whom he has been mentored by. Doug Hiebert, a Multiply Regional Leader from Cornerstone Community Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake, has also provided encouragement and support. Pastor Landware also joined the EQUIP Conference in October, sharing in a panel discussion with insight on how MBs can engage immigrant churches well.



Southeast City Church

Planted with C2C Collective and ONMB in 2019, Southeast City Church in Ottawa receives leadership from David and Diana Hood. With weekly gatherings starting only months before the covid-19 pandemic hit, it is a miracle that this church has survived and is growing. Praise God!

Southeast City Church has had significant presence in their neighbourhood, coming alongside the people of Russell Gardens, a low-income housing community. This included initiating and operating a foodbank there for four years before it was taken over by the community housing organization. Because of their presence over time and the trust built, they've had many opportunities for Gospel witness. They engage in weekly prayer outreach where they also watch and discuss The Chosen video series with residents and extend pastoral care. They've also begun Community meals in the neighbourhood. This has become a rich partnership between the church and Russel Gardens.



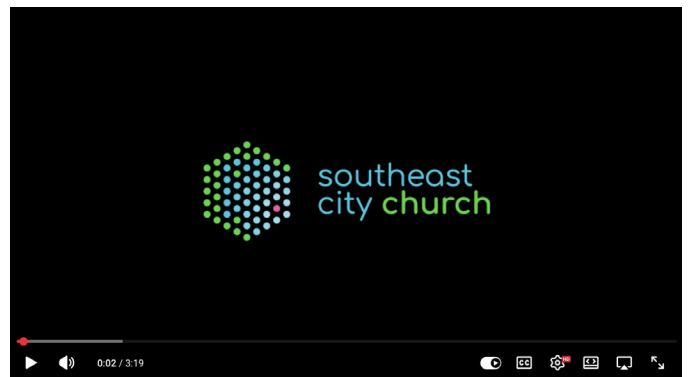
Southeast City Church has also become the church that men from Jericho Road, a Christian addictions recovery program, attend as part of their program. As a result, they baptized nine of these men in 2025. Sadly, not all the men have continued in recovery since and so Southeast is challenged to walk with grace, humility, and faith alongside folks facing huge challenges. The presence of these men adds a beautiful, raw and honest dynamic to the church family.



'Soul Care' is a significant ministry where people find deep spiritual healing. Vacation Bible School with over 40 kids has also been a draw. A collaborative youth group with a nearby church has also developed.

David reports, "Church is growing. Our Sunday attendance is growing, as well as our Children's Church and nursery. People are having babies and some families with older kids have been coming and leaning in. More people are serving and becoming members too. It has been slow at times, we have received a lot of people with serious church hurt and pain, but they seem to be finding healing with us."

What the 3-minute video, '[Who is Southeast City Church?](#)' for a window into their story.



We're excited to receive Southeast City Church as a significant next step in their steady development toward becoming a healthy, sustainable and multiplying church. God has been at work!

