STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

for the Board of Directors
of the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
(as approved by the Board of Directors on December 13, 2012)

Characteristics of Leadership

It is important to understand that the personal and spiritual maturity characteristics required of members of the Board of Directors are the same as those required of Elders and Deacons, as described in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9. In addition, there are also specific spiritual gifts and abilities required of these leaders. As leaders of our Conference, board members also need to possess knowledge, skills and experience in the roles and responsibilities of governance boards, in seeking and casting vision and facilitating its implementation, and in making decisions on a wide range of issues. Board of Directors members must be willing to further develop in these areas.

Valuable spiritual gifts for the Board of Director role include leadership, discernment and wisdom [1]:

i) **Leadership**

The divine enablement to cast vision, motivate and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God. People with this gift provide direction for God's people or ministry; motivate others to perform to the best of their abilities; present the "big picture" for others to see; model the values of the ministry; take responsibility; and establish goals.

ii) **Discernment**

The divine enablement to distinguish between truth and error, to discern the spirits, differentiating between good and evil, right and wrong. People with this gift distinguish truth from error; right from wrong; pure motives from impure; identify deception in others with accuracy and appropriateness; determine whether a word attributed to God is authentic; recognize inconsistencies in a teaching, prophetic message, or interpretation; and are able to sense the presence of evil.

iii) **Wisdom**

The divine enablement to apply spiritual truth effectively to meet a need in a specific situation. People with this gift focus on the unseen consequences in determining the next steps to take; receive an understanding of what is necessary to meet the needs of the body; provide divinely given solutions in the midst of conflict and confusion; hear the Spirit provide direction for God's best in a given situation; and apply spiritual truth in specific and practical ways.

[1] Definitions taken from *"Network — Understanding God's Design for You in the Church"* by Bruce L. Bugbee and Bill Hybels

A person (i.e. nominee) may be considered as a candidate for election to the Board of Directors based on the following legal, functional, and biblical qualifications:

(1) Legal Qualifications

As prescribed in the General Operating Bylaw (GOB), board members shall:

a) be at the date of election, or become within ten (10) days after election, and thereafter remain throughout the term of office, an active member in good standing of a local church congregation holding full membership in the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren (MB) Churches *(subsection 6.6 and 7.3.1)*
b) be at least 18 years of age *(subsection 7.3.2)*
c) not be an undischarged bankrupt *(subsection 7.3.2)*
d) not be a mentally incompetent person *(subsection 7.3.2)*

(2) Functional Qualifications

Members of the Board of Directors shall:

a) be gifted in (i) leadership, (ii) discernment, and/or (iii) wisdom (s*ee definitions on page 1 herein*);
b) support the mission, vision, and values of both the Ontario Conference of MB Churches and the Canadian MB Conference, and be willing and able to represent the broader interests of these two organizations;
c) be in agreement with the Canadian MB "Confession of Faith", and be living in adherence with its teachings;
d) demonstrate the spiritual maturity and characteristics outlined by the apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9 (as further outlined below), and not evidence conduct or behaviour that is unbecoming of a Christian;
e) have knowledge of the Ontario Conference of MB Churches, gained through a time of active and practical involvement and service within the Conference and/or one of its churches;
f) either be, or be willing to become, familiar with and to understand the unique function of a governance board and its General Operating Bylaw, within the context of an organizational structure;
g) have a demonstrated ability to make decisions and work constructively as a member of a unified, collaborative team or board;
h) be willing and able to give the time and energy needed to fulfill the responsibilities and functions of the Board;
i) demonstrate an attitude of humility and servant leadership;

j) be passionate for Christ's church and its wide variety of creative ministry expressions through missions, outreach, discipleship and church planting.

(3) Biblical Qualifications

Scripture outlines the characteristics of leaders in the church, which are equally applicable to the leaders of our Conference (i.e. the Board of Directors). In addition to the underlying expectation that church leaders will have a foundational dynamic relationship with Christ and will live in the power of the Holy Spirit, scripture also prescribes these specific qualifications:

I. Relation to God

Holding firmly to scriptural truths	1 Tim. 3:9; Tit. 1:9
Upright and holy	Tit. 1:8
Able to teach	1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17, Tit. 1:9
Above reproach	1 Tim. 3:2,9; Tit. 1:6
Not a new convert	1 Tim. 3:6
Loving what is good	Tit. 1:8
Tested	1 Tim. 3:10
Devout	1 Ch. 28:9; Acts 10:2

II. Relation to Others

Sincere	1 Tim. 3:8
Respectable	1 Tim. 2:9; 3:2,8
Hospitable, gentle, gracious	1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8
Not quarrelsome	1Tim. 3:3
Not violent but gentle	1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7
Good reputation with outsiders	1 Tim. 3:7
Not overbearing, forbearing	Tit. 1:7,8
Not a pursuer of dishonest gain	1 Tim. 3:8; Tit. 1:7
Just	1 John 3:7

III. Relation to Self

Disciplined, prudent	Tit. 1:8
Temperate	1 Tim. 3:2,8; Tit. 1:7
Not a lover of money	1 Tim. 3:3
Self-controlled, not pugnacious	1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8
Not quick-tempered	Tit. 1:7
Not overbearing	1 Tim. 3:3,8; Tit. 1:7
Not be bound by addictions	1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7

IV. Relation to Family

Faithful in marriage	1 Tim. 3:2,12
Managing family well	1 Tim. 3:4,12; Tit. 1:6

V. Responsibilities

Oversee and shepherd	Acts 20:26-31
Instruct, correct, and equip	Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Tim. 3:2; 2 Tim. 2:24-25
Lead in moral/doctrinal issues	Acts 15:4,6,23; Gal. 6:1-5
Discern vision and goals by prayer	Acts 13:1-3; Acts 6:1-6
Coordinate/oversee ministries	1 Pet. 5:1-10
Accountable to Jesus Christ	Acts 20-28; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-5