

CONFERENCE PASTOR REPORT

KEITH POYSTI



The Conference Pastor's role is to provide support for pastors and leaders as they help churches pursue Christ's appointed mission: to make disciples of all nations. Within MBCM's four core service areas, the work of Conference Pastor best fits within the following three:

BUILDING COMMUNITY

One of the strongest predictors of a long-term successful pastorate is the pastor's regular participation in a peer support group. This group of peers can provide prayer support, accountability, shared event leadership and other networking opportunities. In 2015 I participated in four groups: two in Winnipeg, one in southern Manitoba and another in western Manitoba. I am convinced that these groups are vital to the spiritual well-being of pastors. The godly practice of submitting to each other's counsel, supporting each other and being vulnerable with each other is food for the soul.

The Canadian Conference of MB Churches (CCMBC) Study Conferences, MBCM's annual Pastor and Spouse Retreat, Council of Representatives and Assembly meetings are other ways that I am involved in building community among pastors and leaders.

“MBCM IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING ONGOING SUPPORT AND TRAINING IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR THE HEALTH OF THE CHURCH.”

DEVELOPING LEADERS

MBCM's Executive Director, Elton DaSilva is networking with MBMission's *TREK* and Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary's *ELEVATION* programs to share resources in identifying, developing and supporting leaders to ensure the continuation of mission. I chair the MBCM Leadership Development Advisory Team whose mandate is to supply the church with missional leaders committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Credentialing and Commissioning pastors is another area of ministry where I provide leadership in examining, affirming and recognizing leaders for the church.

The Church Unity Project was initiated in 2012 to address the need for training leaders in basic conflict resolution skills. In September 2015, Dr. Brian Strom facilitated the fourth in a series of practical, skills-oriented workshops for pastors and church leaders. MBCM is committed to providing ongoing support and training in conflict resolution for the health of the church.

RESOURCING CHURCHES

As a member of the CCMBC Board of Faith and Life, I was part of the planning committee for the Study Conference *God, Sex & Church: A Theology of Healthy Sexuality*. The goal of this study conference was to equip the church to better engage in conversation and ministry in the area of human sexuality. Another goal was to create a greater understanding of the complexity of issues related to human sexuality from a theological and practical point of view.

It remains a privilege and an honour for me to serve the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba.