



MBCM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

ELTON DASILVA

Welcome to *Assembly 2016*! I anticipate that as we gather, we will experience a wonderful time of networking and spiritual renewal.

By now you are probably familiar with the four *Core Service Areas* that are foundational to the work of this conference. CCMBC and the provincial conferences are partnering to identify our mandates and create a unified language around ministry. In the following report, I want to highlight just some of the exciting work MBCM is doing under each service area.

DEVELOPING LEADERS:

2015 was dedicated to supporting leadership development in Manitoba. We are grateful for God's continued supply of leaders and recognize that MBCM has a key role to play in the development of new and existing leaders. During this past year MBCM has:

- Established a *Leadership Development Advisory Team* to shape all aspects of the MBCM leadership development program, including vision, evaluation, advisory and networking elements.
- Completed the second year of the *TREK Internship Program* – an 8-month discerning process for Christians exploring long-term vocational ministry. Within the teaching and practicum components, *TREK* participants become part of a network of ministry partners who help discern next steps in ministry and education. *TREK* is a partnership between MBMission, MBCM and C2C. In 2015 *TREK* had 10 participants, four of whom served in local ministries.
- Launched *Elevation*, an apprenticeship program that pairs formal education and hands-on ministry to prepare new pastors for life-long ministry in the local church. The classroom component happens at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary (MBBS) and Canadian Mennonite University (CMU). Under the guidance and supervision of an experienced lead pastor and MBCM, *Elevation* candidates apply their academic training in context, gaining experience in administration, teaching and preaching, leadership, outreach and pastoral care
- Proposed that Steinbach Bible College (SBC) be officially affiliated with MBCM. **For your approval today**, we request that MBCM join the EMC, EMMC and CMC conferences in formally acknowledging SBC as an affiliated college. SBC consistently has a large enrollment of MB students and it offers a formal theological degree at the undergraduate level.

RESOURCING CHURCHES:

Focused Ministry is an assessment tool to help churches rediscover their mission. This process helps church leaders discover God's will for their ministry and develop a strategy for moving forward. It provides churches with a facilitated process that assists them in discerning a course of action. In defining their area of focus, churches are challenged to find clarity in the following four areas: *Spiritual clarity, resource clarity, process clarity* and *language clarity*. At present three churches are involved in this process, and four others will start soon.

MULTIPLYING CHURCHES:

MBCM—in partnership with C2C—have initiated the development of a Manitoba **First Nations ministry**. This new ministry aims to fulfill three key mandates:

1. Plant new churches among First Nations and aboriginal communities in urban settings and on reserves.
2. Identify, train and resource First Nations and aboriginal leaders to effectively lead in churches and their community.
3. Create ministry opportunities for our existing churches to engage holistically with First Nations and aboriginal communities.

MBCM is delighted to introduce Paul Winter as our new First Nations Ministry Director. Paul's role will be to develop, supervise and communicate the work done within this ministry portfolio.

We are also very pleased to receive *Christ Impacting Nation* to our family of Manitoba MB Churches. Pastors Roger and Claudine Salumu and a congregation of mostly new Canadians currently meet at 188 Princess Street.

BUILDING COMMUNITY:

Ninety-one pastors and spouses – representing 27 churches – joined us at Lakeview Hecla Resort for the Pastors & Spouse Retreat. This year we were led by Bob and Penny Armstrong of Oasis Ministries. Recording artist Cory Alstad provided leadership in worship. We look forward to hosting the 2016 retreat on May 29-31.

