



LEADERSHIP BOARD REPORT

RUTH SCHELLENBERG, MODERATOR

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3: 27-28)

We are so thankful for the many churches who are joining our MB family, many representing various cultures, traditions and heritages from across the globe. Despite differences, we are united through baptism into Christ, and are one body, worshipping one Lord.

In October of 2016, I took on the role of acting moderator when our then moderator Gerald Dyck, accepted a staff position at MBCM. This is not the only change for the Leadership Board: our membership has dwindled over the years. I am grateful to those who have stepped forward and agreed to let their name stand as additions to this hard-working group.

It is a privilege to provide leadership to the Manitoba Conference. Our MBCM staff are dedicated and have a deep love of the church. They too have gone through changes, with new people recently joining and long-time conference pastor Keith Poysti departing in December, 2016.

This weekend, you will hear about the new strategic road map that the staff brought to the board in January. We were all so impressed and encouraged by the vision behind it. There is great work being done, and so much more yet to come.

Our board meets 3-4 times in a year. Meetings includes hearing about the work of our staff and partner ministries/agencies, keeping abreast of our financial situation, discussing, and taking care of any issues that may arise from our churches or partner ministries. These are a few of the items we had a hand in:

- School of Leadership came under the MBCM umbrella after Christian Family Center closed its doors at the end of 2015.
- Assisting Ethiopian church International House of Covenant with a loan towards owning their own building.
- Updating and creating policies and governance manuals.

Council of Representatives took place in November, and its focus was on both discipleship and our educational institutions. Engagement was high as participants listened to and had discussion with our various institutions. We have wonderfully dedicated people leading our schools.

A part of the Canadian Conference of MB Churches, I sit on the Canadian executive board. It was a difficult fall season following Harold Froese's resignation as moderator. Under the leadership of Bruce Enns, collectively we came to the decision of asking Willy Reimer to step down as CCMBC executive director. Both the Canadian and Manitoba leadership boards are committed to serving our churches as we discern what lies ahead.