

ELTON DASILVA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome delegates and guests to Assembly 2018. The *Some Assembly Required* theme reflects the fact that our conference is comprised of many moving parts, each one being assembled together for God's purpose. MBCM staff endeavours to serve you in service to God, and I am happy to say that we are seeing God's great work accomplished all around us.

This past ministry year (Assembly to Assembly), our main area of focus has been leadership development. Still, we have seen growth and development in all four service areas.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

There are several key developments in this area that are worth highlighting.

- ▶ Hiring of Janelle Braun to coordinate leadership development
- ▶ Creation of a strategic plan that puts the focus of leadership development on the local church
- ▶ Development of courses and learning materials that are both comprehensive and easy to use
- ▶ Planning a user-friendly leadership development hub, where all available resources will be accessible to churches
- ▶ Strengthening of our relationship with MBBS, and further development of the Elevation apprenticeship program
- ▶ Continued collaboration with MB Mission, specifically in our joint TREK Central Canada Internship program
- ▶ The licensing of MBBS Ministry Lift for all Manitoba churches
- ▶ Improved partnerships with Manitoba colleges, universities and agencies to better equip leaders

RESOURCING CHURCHES:

This service area has also continued to develop and grow

- ▶ Development of the Nuts+Bolts resourcing series
- ▶ Continuing our pastoral cluster gatherings
- ▶ Development of a new transitional pastor program.
- ▶ 5C Focused Ministry: Improved survey tools and a new workbook
- ▶ New connections with EMC, EMMC, and CMC for the creation of a resourcing series called Church Worx
- ▶ We were saddened by the closure of House Blend Ministries

MULTIPLYING CHURCHES:

We are experiencing significant growth in this area, especially as it relates to new immigrant churches and Indigenous ministries. We are further encouraged as some of our emerging ministries have moved to the level of church plants.

BUILDING COMMUNITY:

Assembly 2017 was well attended with over 70% of Manitoba MB churches represented. Over the year we have connected with several groups of ministry leaders both lay and clergy as we engaged in events such as Pastors retreat, CR, Nuts+Bolts, board visits and pastoral clusters.

We have implemented a new CRM (Conference relationship management tool) that allows us to track churches, and individual's progress in areas such as leadership development tracks, credentialing, and conference support.

THE STRATEGIC ROAD MAP:

At Assembly 2017 we presented a strategic road map, summarizing MBCM's ministry philosophy. The seven road signs—or guiding principles—influence how we develop new ministries and strengthen existing ones. They are: Good communication, balanced theology, contextualized approach, partnering for growth, resources for mission, targeted funding and common language.

Good communication:

- ▶ Steady use of social media platforms. We recently opened an Instagram account (@MBCMOnline)
- ▶ Revamped our electronic newsletter to reflect both stories and events.
- ▶ We are presently working on a new web site
- ▶ Adoption of a CRM, for improved relationship management.
- ▶ Increased interaction with church boards, while continuing to regularly connect with pastors.

Balanced theology:

- ▶ The restructuring of the Faith and Life team as the Theology and Ethics team.
- ▶ Increased focus on our relationship with other evangelical/Anabaptist conferences for the purpose of learning and resourcing.

Contextualized approach:

- ▶ Improved curriculum and deliverables for 5C Focused ministry.
- ▶ Creation of the Nuts + Bolts series – A contextualized conversation around a topic.
- ▶ MBCM's transitional pastor ministry.

Partnering for growth:

We are intentionally partnering with other agencies and schools to bring the best tools, teachers, and resources to our churches.

Resources for Mission:

We are in the early development stages of a church multiplication resource called Every Church Can.

Targeted Funding:

There are several opportunities for churches and individual to contribute towards specific ministry developments. From Indigenous ministry to leadership development, we are moving towards funding specific programs, rather than the overall budget. We are using a narrative approach to reporting. This narrative budget provides an overview of conference support that is both compressive and easy to follow.

Common Language:

By adopting the language around the 4 core areas of service, we have a connection to the national and provincial conferences. This allows us to collaborate around key needs from a place of understanding.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

The MB church family is at a turning point: a new direction needs to be established. At Assembly 2018 you can lend your voice and opinion on what direction we should go. I want to express my gratitude to the MBCM board, that with great integrity, has lead us this past year. I want to acknowledge the contribution of Glyn Allen and Val Willems (who are stepping away from board involvement), and personally thank them for their dedication over the years.

I am also thankful to the MBCM staff team for their willingness to serve, and their dedication to the work they have been called to do.

It has been a great pleasure to serve the Lord with you, and I look forward to what God still has in store for us.