

# ruth schellenberg

## leadership board



What a year it has been!

Last April, Elton DaSilva announced that he had accepted the role of National Director for the Canadian Conference and was giving the Manitoba board notice of his departure at the end of June. We were very grateful for

Gerald Dyck who was willing to step into an interim role as Provincial Director, while also continuing his existing role as Director of Church Ministry. He navigated these two roles with much grace, as the board investigated next steps.

During the hiring process for a new provincial director, two other staff members gave us notice. Audry Goertzen moved to BC to help with a church plant and Carson Samson joined Elton on the Canadian Conference staff.

Janelle Braun and Gerald remained in the MBCM office. They took on an enormous task of reworking job descriptions for the interim, learning new things with fervour and still providing support and resources to our churches. As a board, we want to publicly state how incredibly thankful and grateful we are, for the manner in which they maintained our conference office and thrived in their new roles. It has been a tremendous joy to work with them.

Our board went through the process of hiring a new Director last summer. We unanimously called Cam Priebe to this role. We look forward in anticipation to having him on the team and to this new chapter in our conference. His time with us will begin on June 1st. We will take some time on Saturday morning to show our support and pray for him and the year ahead.

Our board has also been hard at work going over our finances and looking at our property at 83 Henderson. Our treasurer, Harold Froese, will take us through where we are now and how we got there. We have devoted much of our reserves over the last five years, to building up various ministries such as new church plants, Indigenous initiatives and leadership development. We are currently in a place where it is necessary to work on building up those reserves and work with a zero-based budget for at least the next year.

In addition, we have two more transitions. Janelle Braun is on maternity leave and will possibly have her baby about the time we are meeting. We pray for Janelle and her husband Andrew, as they begin this wonderful new journey of parenthood. Also, Gerald Dyck will be leaving his role with our conference at the end of May, to serve as lead pastor of Westside church in Morden. We are very sorry to see him go. We are presently in the process of hiring Gerald's replacement.

We are thankful for the two individuals we've hired for a year term; Bomba Ng'andu, who will be taking care of MBCM communications and Amanda Leighton, who will serve as administrative support, one day a week.

I am so thankful to serve alongside such a wonderful board during these changes. They have leaned in and engaged willingly, from a heart of deep love for our churches.

In all these things we look to God, for whom we desire to bring honour and glory in all we do and the way we serve.

Thank you!