



Ruth Schellenberg

Leadership Board Moderator

This past year was full of transitions, challenges, plus many good things. Our theme verse for this year's Assembly epitomizes the work of the board this past year.

We were full of hope as Cam Priebe began as provincial director at the beginning of June and Jason Dyck began as our director of church ministries in mid July. As a board we are full of confidence in their abilities. They have been doing so well, especially amid difficult issues, they have engaged fully. They are passionate about our churches and helping them minister in their context.

We are grateful for the rest of our staff, Bomba and Amanda, who were also quite new to the team when Cam and Jason arrived. They are a wonderful and integral part of our staff team. We are looking forward to having Jenelle Braun join the staff again in Feb after her maternity leave.

We ended the year in a healthy financial position due to the generosity of our churches. We are still working on the potential sale of 83 Henderson, which we are hopeful that it will be finalized this year.

The year also was not without its difficulties. We needed to be and continue to be patient in affliction. We dealt with and continue to deal with some difficult situations with a few of our churches.

Since the announcement in June about the separating out of C2C from Multiply we have been figuring out how to deal with the church plants that began with C2C/Multiply but are now under MBCM's umbrella. There have been numerous, lengthy discussions

around these church plants in Manitoba and how we best proceed. It has been a difficult road.

We have also been discussing and working on how to best to help all our churches be places where the Safe Place Policy is adhered to, where there is proper governance in place and how to be financially healthy.

We continue to work with the National Conference to gain unity with the new collaborative process. This is not an easy or quick process, but we are all at the table together, sharing ideas, concerns and encouragements. We need to be patient in all this.

As a board we know we can't move away from difficult topics or issues, but, in love and grace, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, we need to fully address them as they occur.

We have been and continue to be faithful in prayer. At every board meeting we begin with a devotional and prayer. Many times, we are called to pray during the meeting too. I am grateful for the board I get to serve with. Through the difficult and good times, they have leaned in and engaged fully, for which I am immensely grateful.

There were a few transitions of board members this past year, but our nominating team is working hard at filling roles. We continue to ask for your prayers in all these things.

We are, through it all, joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer.