

MBCM Assembly
Saturday, March 7, 2020
Westwood Community Church

1. Welcome - Ruth Schellenberg
2. Worship led by WCC
3. MBCM Story - Cam Priebe interview with David Gibson (Lakeview Community Church)
4. Moderator Report - Ruth Schellenberg

Process Recommendations:

Motion: that Assembly accept the following recommendations as a package: m/s/c

- A. Status of printed reports: We recommend that the printed reports be accepted as presented.
- B. Status of recommendations: We recommend that all printed recommendations be considered moved and seconded.
- C. Recording secretaries: We recommend that Konrad Loewen (Elm Creek MB) be appointed as recording secretary.
- D. Ballot committee: We recommend that the nominees for the ballot committee be appointed as presented.
- E. Ballots: We recommend that all ballots be destroyed at the close of Assembly 2020.
- F. Parliamentarian: We recommend that Denver Wilson (Mclvor MB) be appointed as parliamentarian.

5. Financial Report - Harold Froese

We are incredibly grateful for the support from our MBCM churches, from all the ministry initiatives and activities to the financial support.

Questions:

Do we have a policy surrounding estate gifts? We do not currently have a policy, but are working toward the development of such a policy.

Is there a system that we use to value property when loans are requested? We use a process that is a joint one with Legacy, CCMBC & MBCM.

Motion: We recommend that the financial reports for 2019 be accepted as presented. m/s/c

Motion: We recommend the appointment of BDO Dunwoody Accounting firm for the year 2021. m/s/c

6. Nominating Committee - Konrad Loewen

Motion: We recommend the acclamation of the nominees on the election slate. m/s/c

7. Provincial Reporting - Jason Dyck

8. Agency Reporting

Eden Mental Health - Al Kehler

MCC - Darryl Loewen

MDS - Kelsey Friesen

Square One World Media - Sheryl Koop

MB Seminary - Mark Wessner
Canadian Mennonite University - Cheryl Pauls
Steinbach Bible College - Terry Hiebert
Simonhouse Bible Camp - Darryl Janzen
Multiply - Lloyd Letkeman
CCMBC - Elton Da Silva

9. Single Stream Funding - Harold Froese

As a Manitoba board we want to celebrate what is happening in & through Multiply, and at the same time we want to grieve what has happened through the merger and subsequent demerger of C2C & MB Mission.

The new single stream funding asks that all Manitoba churches now send all monies for denominational support to MBCM (8% to MBCM + 5% to CCMBC) and MBCM will then forward 40% of those funds to CCMBC.

The CCMBC budget is a bare bones budget for the next year.

Questions:

If churches are now giving all money to MBCM, this obviously means the income for MBCM will now be higher than what our budget predicts. How will we account for this? Because we will forward about \$350K to CCMBC, our financial statements will reflect that amount in expenditures.

If this is how we are already functioning, why does our proposed budget for 2020 not reflect this? This was an error on our part, it should have been included.

Motion: That we make an amendment to the proposed budget to include the amount that we will forward to CCMBC. m/s/c

10. MBCM 2020 Budget

Motion: We recommend the acceptance of the 2020 MBCM budget as presented, including the 13% of receipt-able revenue towards the Conference Support Fund. m/s/c

11. CCMBC Confession of Faith Article 8 Revision

At the 2021 Assembly we will be asked to vote on the rewording of the article on baptism. What we are doing now at the 2020 Assembly is take a temperature on the wording. What the new language suggests is that baptism moves earlier in the discipleship journey than it currently seems to occur for many people.

Questions:

Is baptism tied to membership? The rewriting frames that belonging is initiated at baptism (that you are initiated into discipleship) and how we address the role of decision making will move away from baptism and is determined by the congregation.

Under practice the language "the local church invites," is this a softening of our stance? No, the tone of the article is to become more invitational.

What does this mean for children under the age of 12 that want to be baptized? The question around age is that sincerity is not enough for baptism, there is a maturity and understanding of accountability.

Gauging Warmth - green light is majority, some yellow light, no red light

12. Questions & Feedback

Could MBCM use some of the money allocated for Indigenous Ministry in our budget be used to help support Simonhouse in their struggle to have enough summer staff? Cam - The earlier explanation regarding money for IM is allocated and being used, so this would mean finding "new" money for Simonhouse.

Do you think we have done enough to restore confidence and trust or do we need to do more and if so, what would that look like? Harold - As the MBCM board we are happy with the direction that we are going in. When it comes to doing enough we can always do more to gain trust. Building trust is a long road and so we will see what the future holds. Abe - We are very encouraged with the accountability and direction that we are going when it comes to our finances.

We heard from Lloyd Letkemen that there are 3 audits that are ongoing with Multiply. It feels as though as churches we have no venue to speak into what is taking place and the hope is that we will hear the results of the 3 audits that are currently taking place. Elton - Yes churches will by the end of March or early April get a synopsis of the audit and recommendations for going forward, which the churches will be asked to vote on.

Express appreciation to our MBCM staff & board for the hard work that has been done and is continuing to be done on MBCM's behalf.

When can we expect the FAQ's for Article 8 to be released? Andrew - There is no hard date, but it looks like it may not be until the Article is approved in 2021.

Slido Questions not asked above:

We've lost the Herald. What will be the new way MB members keep informed and have robust discussions with each other?

How will Harold report joint funding with the Canadian Conference?

If I or my church have a skill to offer (ie making garage windows), how do I make the available to others? Is there any forum built for churches to share?

I'm hearing more about conferences and agencies collaborating. How could we emphasize local churches collaborating together?

How does an organization become a new partner of MBCM? Is that even possible?

Are the organization reps intended to be bringing the organization's message to their church or to allow the church to provide feedback to the org?

Collaboration takes time from our churches. Have others expressed this concern?

Is there any concern that congregations might reduce giving in the single stream approach because it could be seen as an opportunity to drop the national funds?

13. Thank You

Thank you to Abe Klassen who is completing 8 years of being on the MBCM board.

Thank you to Ruth Schellenberg who is completing 3.5 years for being Moderator of MBCM.

14. Adjourned - 3:10pm.