

## **MBCM Constitution Revisions Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Why does the MBCM constitution need to be revised?**

Our current constitution was last updated in 2008. Since that time a number of things have changed, for example: 1) the CCMBC bylaws have changed (see question below) which our Provincial documents need to be in alignment with; 2) organizational relationship changes 3) the development and role clarity of the Provincial Faith and Life Team, etc.

### **Why does the MBCM constitution need to be in alignment to the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws?**

CCMBC recently amended its General Operating Bylaw (GOB) to implement the Collaborative Model. The vote on their bylaw amendment happened in June 2021. The CCMBC amendment process has highlighted the importance of aligning provincial and national bylaws. For example, an MB church becomes a member of the national conference when it becomes a member of a provincial conference. Consequently, it would be best if all provinces have well defined membership processes that are consistent across Canada.

### **What is the Collaborative Model?**

The Collaborative Model was approved by the Member Churches at the CCMBC 2019 Annual General Meeting. It is a new form of governance that brings the six provincial conferences together with other national MB organizations to coordinate the work of the MB denomination. For more information on the Collaborative Model, please review the CCMBC website.

### **What is the current process for changing our constitution?**

*Article 18 – Constitution Committee – Section 2 (e) Through the Leadership Board, to notify the congregations of proposed constitutional changes sixty (60) days prior to the annual Assembly of Congregations so that the Constitution can be kept current.*

### **Who makes up the constitution committee?**

Since there has not been an active standing constitution committee for the past few years, the board approved the following people to form a committee to take on this specific revision project. The committee consists of David Wiebe (MBCM board rep), Kelsey Friesen (FGMB assistant moderator), Marvin Dyck (recently retired pastor), with Cam Priebe as (MBCM Provincial Director) and Amanda Leighton (MBCM) staff providing resource and support.

## **What is the process?**

April 2021 – MBCM board approved a committee and presented them with the task of reviewing and revising the MBCM constitution.

May - Present – The committee has been meeting regularly to review the constitution & corresponding documents, current board and conference practice, and to prepare documents and first drafts of their proposed changes.

Oct. 13, 2021 – The MBCM Leadership Board will review the first draft. Comments, questions, and feedback will be gathered by the committee, and the appropriate adjustments made.

Mid October – Documents to be sent to constituency church leadership for review.

Oct 27, Wednesday at 7pm – A town hall meeting (Online) is scheduled. Ideally, we would have a church representative from each of our churches. Opportunities to hear feedback, questions, and provide further clarification will be given. That information will go back to the constitution committee for further review and adjustments in creation of the next draft.

Nov. 13 Regional Meeting – Another time for further review and discussion of the newest draft of the constitution and proposed changes.

60 days prior to Assembly (early January) the document with the recommendation for changes would be sent out to constituency churches for their awareness, and then brought to vote at Assembly 2022.

## **How will the MBCM constitution revisions be approved?**

Often a bylaw amendment is proposed to a single Article or Section and can be approved on a line-by-line basis. Given the scope of the changes in the proposed revisions, there will be a single vote at convention to approve the entire bylaw without debating line-by-line amendments. It is very important that churches review the documents in detail and participate in the Town Hall meetings so that any specific amendments that are needed are identified before the final vote. We are inviting churches into the drafting process so that all churches will be able to approve the final bylaw wording at convention. Now is the time for amendments. Amendments will not be introduced at the convention.

## **What are some questions I should consider as I read this on behalf of my church?**

The MBCM constitution is written to help the Member Churches operate the Manitoba Conference on behalf of the churches. A bylaw is always created for its members. The members have the power to amend the bylaw. The bylaw is not a Board document; rather, it instructs the members how to create and operate a Board to oversee the Conference. Some questions members might ask themselves are:

- How does the Governing document help our Conference operate better?
- How does the Governing document protect the member churches in the Conference?
- Does the Governing document make my church's role and responsibilities clear?

## **Your Feedback**

The MBCM constitution belongs to the Member Churches in the Manitoba Conference. Your input into the development of the bylaw revisions is important to the future of how our Conference operates. Thank you for taking the time to support MBCM.