

### SUMMARY

MBCM has been holding Council of Representative Meetings (formerly known as Regional Meeting) since its first constitution was ratified in 1967. These meetings are intended as a point of contact where representatives from MBCM churches can come together under the shared vision and ministry of our denomination. It is an opportunity to hear updates from the province, stories from each other and plans for the future.

This year was no different.

We opened our meeting with an overview of the denomination's vision, scope of work, and our commitment to the Canadian Conference's Collaborative Model through the CUSP (Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan.)

Everything that followed fell under the CUSP's four priority areas:

### ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

#### BUDGET UPDATE

Melanie Penner, MBCM Board Treasurer presented the budget update by providing us information on our current assets & support, actuals and notes of interest. Her notes are accessible on our [web page here](#).

Overall, we are in a good position. Our numbers show we are a little behind our budget, it is not uncommon for this time of the year. One note of interest is that the board decided to support 3 front line churches in response to the question that came from the Assembly of whether we should return the CEWS money to the federal government.

#### CCMBC UPDATE

Ruth Schellenberg, MBCM Board Member and our appointed CCMBC Executive Board Representative updated us on the work of the CCMBC Executive Board. Her notes are also available on our website at the link provided above.

She reported on the continued work of the CUSP implementation through approving the development of teams in each province to work on this plan. The Executive Board also approved the next steps of 2 MOU's:

1. An MOU with Legacy that describes the expectations concerning Legacy's governance, financial management and resource stewardship.
2. An MOU with the MB Seminary that seeks to address relationship matters.

Approval was also given to the Strategic Partnership Agreement. This is an agreement between the provinces, national partners and CCMBC to serve and support one another while respecting our separate legal standing, governance, fiduciary responsibilities, missions and freedom to engage in other partnerships or projects.

### NOMINATIONS UPDATE

Konrad Loewen, MBCM Board Secretary updated us on the current positions available on the various boards that we have representation on. Please visit our website [here](#) to view the current board positions and vacancies.

### CONSTITUTION REVIEW

The bulk of our time was spent walking through the recommendations being made to our constitution. David Wiebe, MBCM Board Member & Kelsey Friesen, FGMB Assistant Moderator, walked us through the changes as set out in the supporting documents found [here](#). We briefly discussed the changes and then spent time in smaller breakout rooms, coming up with comments and questions for the team and the board to consider. Thank you to everyone for your participation in this review.

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Cam, MBCM's Provincial Director briefly reported on our 3 year affiliation agreement that offers a Manitoba Mennonite Brethren pathway in graduate-level training. We recognize the importance and perhaps, uniqueness of the opportunity to be in this program while also working in ministry. Andrew Dyck & Pierre Gilbert continue to enhance our ministries as professors, advisors, and mentors for our students and in our churches.

Justin Dueck, a current student and pastor at Living Word Temple shared a testimony of his lived

experience, studying and walking out what he learns in real life situations in his ministry. Watch it here.

We were also able to take a few minutes to jump back into break out rooms and share reflections and stories of ways that we are experiencing leadership development as well as envision what we would like to see happening in regards to developing our MB leaders.

### SPIRITUAL HEALTH & THEOLOGY

#### RIVER EAST CHURCH UPDATE

Harold Froese, MBCM Board Moderator gave an update on the ongoing dialogue and process between River East Church and MBCM. He gave some depth to the recent update letter that was sent to church moderators and pastors earlier in November providing a condensed timeline and the requests that have been made to River East Church.

We recognize that this conversation and process has caused some of our churches discomfort. We acknowledge this tension and hope that we can continue to treat each other with honour and respect even in disagreement.

This process is ongoing. The MBCM Board will continue to provide you with updates as we move forward.

Mary Anne Isaac, Pastor at River East Church responded with thanks to the churches that have engaged with them in deep listening and offered an invitation to any other church that would like to sit with them in this way.

#### PROVINCIAL FAITH & LIFE TEAM UPDATE

Jason Dyck, Director of Church Ministries reported on some of the work of the Provincial Faith & Life Team (PFLT) starting with an update on pastor's credentialing. Credentialing is a process that is recognized across Canada and is a requirement of pastoral ministry in an MB church. It is also an invaluable foundation.

Paul Walker, Teaching Pastor at The Meeting Place as well as a member of the PFLT shared an update on the PostureShift Conference that happened in September

of this year. He gave an overview of the conference and shared its objectives with us as well as provided some insight into how his church, The Meeting Place is engaging with this issue and the path provided by PostureShift. For more information, please contact us at the office.

Jason also spent a few minutes acknowledging our current reality - working and serving in the pandemic - shedding light on increased anxiety and the difficulties before us. Through these challenges, we continue to rely on current health orders to be in our best interest and choose to honour these authorities, even if we disagree.

We then moved into a time of prayer, going back into our breakout rooms to connect and pray together.

### MISSIONS

#### MULTIPLY

Lloyd Letkeman, Mission Mobilizer with Multiply introduced their new Mission Modules. These are modules that are being hosted by different churches and details can be found on our website [here](#).

#### SIMONHOUSE BIBLE CAMP

Darrell Janzen, Camp Director, shared, through a video that you can watch here, an update on the camp this last year and what they are looking forward to in the coming summer. They have had many challenges to overcome and are asking for prayers and support as they continue to provide a safe camp experience for many vulnerable kids in the north.

Although all of this was done through zoom, we were still able to experience some connection and community through the screen. Thank you to all those who were able to attend. Take care.