

# Confession of Faith in the MBCM Constitution

## Discussion Point

Article 2, 3, 5 and 12

### Point of Discussion

- Is the Confession of Faith taking on a more legalistic role in the new Constitution?

### What we heard

1. The number of times the words "Confession of Faith" appears in the constitution is high. MBCM seems to be moving from being a body to being about assent to theology. The "old" constitution expresses more body language.
2. In reading the draft it has the feeling of "circling the wagons".

### How we are responding

*Observations about affected articles:*

Article 2 – Confession of Faith: MBCM now formally aligns with CCMBC in the Collaborative Model, and CCMBC holds the Confession. This detail is reflected in points about the new Provincial Faith and Life Team and its relationship to the National FLT.

Article 3 – Membership: In 2008, new member congregations were to be examined "regarding the foundation of faith" of the church. If membership were to be revoked, one criterion was that "the congregation departs from the scripture fundamentals of faith." The Confession of Faith is not mentioned in the membership Article at all in 2008, whereas it is specifically named as one criterion for membership and revocation of same in 2021 (Article 3, Section 2.1d and Section 3, Section 1.) It may be noteworthy that Article 3, Section 2.1b in 2021 simply says MBCM may grant membership to any group "which professes the same faith" as MBCM, retaining more organic terminology.

Mention of the Confession of Faith appears more frequent than in 2008 because the new article now has many more subpoints to clarify congregations' relationship to both MBCM and CCMBC. The 2008 version has the same 6 sections but with very few if any subpoints.

We believe more frequent mentioning of the Confession of Faith is warranted, given the effort to clarify 2 levels of relationship, and the need to expressly point to the Confession as our guide.

Article 5 – Conference Responsibilities: "Spiritual Health and Theology" adds "faithfulness to the Confession of Faith" to reflect alignment with CCMBC NFLT.

Article 12 – Provincial Faith and Life Team: This is new since 2008 and reflects MBCM's alignment with national. The Confession is mentioned again as a central guide to the theological mandate of the PFLT.

*Final Note:*

The Confession of Faith may be used as a club for compliance. This will happen if we come to view the Confession as a "document" rather than a "community discerned shared set of convictions." But the constitution may not be capable of carrying that nuance. Rather we as a body must commit to our historic path of strong relationships among leaders, capable of challenging one another to discerning Scripture in ever-changing context and expressing our communal convictions in the Confession of Faith.