

MBCM Assembly  
Saturday, March 6, 2021  
Via Zoom

1. Welcome & Prayer - Harold Froese
2. Moderator Report - Harold Froese

Process Recommendations:

**Motion 1:** 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 (Crossway Elm Creek) be appointed as recording secretary.
  - D. Ballot committee: We recommend that the nominees for the ballot committee be appointed as presented - Jason Kehler (Fourth Avenue Bible Church) & Karen Loewen (Crossway Elm Creek).
  - E. Ballots: We recommend that all ballots be destroyed at the close of Assembly 2021.
  - F. Parliamentarian: We recommend that Kelsey Friesen (Fort Garry MB) be appointed as parliamentarian.
- B. Financial Report - Harold Froese

Harold Froese hands chairing of the meeting to Ruth Schellenberg as he presents the financial report.

Questions:

What is the DeFehr Fund used for? Interest free loans for church planting.

Could funds going to CCMBC be listed as transfers instead? We will look into that with BDO.

We received just over \$60,000 of Federal CEWB due to COVID. With us having a surplus, should we return it? The board did talk about this, decision was to keep it as we needed it to maintain a break even budget. But the board could revisit this.

**Action Item:** The MBCM LB review the Federal funding due to COVID as to whether we keep the funding or return it.

**Motion 2:** We recommend that the financial reports for 2020 be accepted as presented. m/s/c

**Motion 3:** We recommend the appointment of BDO Dunwoody Accounting firm for the year 2021. m/s/c

Ruth Schellenberg hands chairing of the meeting to Harold Froese.

4. Director Report - Cam Priebe

Questions:

Clarification on the GTE MB training track at CMU in the partnership with MB Seminary.

Affirmation to MBCM staff & board for how well they have led us through the last year with the pandemic.

5. CCMBC Report - Elton DaSilva

Questions:

Is it appropriate to keep the CEWB money if we are showing a surplus? The CEWB permitted us to make some cuts, it did not put us above what we were expected to receive in budget support, without it we would have had a greater financial struggle.

6. PFLT Report - Jason Dyck

6.1 Pastor Credentialing

The pandemic slowed down the process with only 2 taking place in 2020, but have a number that will be worked through in 2021.

6.2 Revision of Article 8 - Christian Baptism Update

This coming June the NFLT will be asking the CCMBC delegates to affirm a revision of Article 8. A resolution will be sent to churches next week to prepare for the vote in June. Andrew Dyck walked us through the changes.

6.3 River East Church Statement

The PFLT has spent a great amount of time with REC and other churches over the last number of weeks. The NFLT is involved in the conversations, but these conversations are not about REC rather asking how we engage in ministry with people on the margins which includes LGBTQ+ and many more.

REC's statement raises some theological concerns. The PFLT has stated where MBCM is theological & is waiting for REC to respond as to where they see themselves in those areas.

Questions:

How will we navigate theological difference between churches (or even pastors) and our Confession should a church or staff person choose to or be asked to leave MBCM? PFLT will need to keep working on this.

How does transformation fit into our discipleship? We have had a culture in the past where baptism was the sign of "graduation" rather than "initiation" of faith. The revision of Article 8 will focus on "initiation." Transformation is never complete, which then asks us look at patience and how long do we wait as people are on the journey. How accountability factors into this is not a simple question, so we will have to figure out how to have healthy conversations.

What has PFLT given REC as a timeline on their response to the question of clarity on what they mean by "inclusion"? PFLT have asked for a timeline. PFLT is unsatisfied with the timeline option that has been given, but appreciate that REC wants to work on this together as a congregation, but COVID a challenge in this.

Delegates moved into breakout groups with the question: What is patience in transformation look like?

More conversations and processing will be coming in the future. Churches are invited to participate in Posture Shift on September 29 & 30.

When it comes down to a decision on this the PFLT will report to the MBCM Leadership Board and then the LB will then bring this to the churches for a decision. We continue to ask churches to be patient with us as we process this together.

#### 7. MBCM Budget 2021 - Harold Froese

Harold walked us through the budget & then handed the chairing of the meeting over to Ruth Schellenberg.

There are no funds in this budget for the annual Pastor Retreat, but care for our pastoral teams is such a high priority that should something be able to take place later in the year we will use some of our surplus funds to make that happen.

Questions:

Is the 13% of church revenue the same as last year? Yes it is, we are recommending that MBCM churches support the budget.

How did we come to such a large increase of donations? This includes the single stream funding model where 40% of what we receive is forwarded to CCMBC.

**Motion 4:** We recommend the acceptance of the 2021 MBCM budget as presented, including the 13% of receipt-able revenue towards the Conference Support Fund. m/s/c

#### 8. Nominating Committee - Konrad Loewen

Change on the Boards & Committees document. MBCM Representative to the National FLT is now Walter Fast (Steinbach) as an interim.

Addition to the Nominations Slate & Elections document. MDS Manitoba Board add Greg Wiens (Westwood).

**Motion 5:** We recommend the acclamation of the nominees on the election slate. m/s/c

#### 9. Adjourned - 12:13pm