

## Held November 19, 2022

### SUMMARY

This year's MBCM Council of Representatives was held at Portage Avenue Church on Saturday, November 19, 2022. The Council of Representatives meeting is an annual gathering led by the MBCM board, inviting Manitoba MB church leadership to come together discussing our shared vision and the ministries of our denomination. It is an opportunity to hear updates from the province, stories from each other and plans for the future.

### 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.

Overall, as of the end of October, we are in a good position. Melanie's slides and notes can be found [here](#). Some notes of interest:

- We are paying CCMBC a set amount quarterly with the arrangement that if we do not reach our budgeted income by December 31st then the last payment will be adjusted accordingly.
- We have created a draft reserve policy
- Though not budgeted for, it was decided at Assembly 2022 that we indeed wanted to provide a Refresh Pastor's Retreat for our Pastors. The net cost was \$13,822.

#### NOMINATIONS UPDATE

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

#### CONSTITUTION UPDATE

Kelsey Friesen, MBCM Board Member and a member of our constitution review team provided an update on the continued work of the constitution review. In 2021, the MBCM Assembly of Churches voted and passed important revisions to the constitution. This year the work of the review team is focused on three articles:

Article 14 (Board of Concord College/Canadian Mennonite University), Article 15 (Membership Representation of MBCI) and Article 16 (Membership Representation in Family Life Network). We have made important progress on all three articles, but will not be ready to bring these recommended changes to Assembly 2023, and will plan on 2024 as the new target date.

### SPIRITUAL HEALTH & THEOLOGY

#### PROVINCIAL FAITH & LIFE TEAM UPDATE

Jason Dyck, Director of Church Ministries updated us on the MBCM credentialing policy. The National Faith and Life Team has approved a credentialing policy for adaptation in the provincial contexts. MBCM's Provincial Faith and Life Team has submitted a draft of MBCM's Credentialing Policy to the MBCM board for approval.

Jason also announced the upcoming Pastor's Credentialing Orientation planned for June 6 - 8, 2023 right here in Winnipeg. Please consider sending your pastors to attend. Check the PCO website for regular updates and registration information [here](#).

#### JUBILEE MENNONITE CHURCH UPDATE

Dave Ens, MBCM Board Moderator, provided an update and overview of the timeline and constitutional process regarding Jubilee Mennonite Church's recent statement of inclusion. This statement finds itself in sharp disagreement with our shared confession, specifically our conviction that covenant marriage is intended to unite a man and a woman for life. For a full understanding of this process and to hear from the MBCM Leadership Board, please follow this link to read the most recent letter sent out to church pastors and moderators [here](#).

We appreciated hearing from Chris Friesen, Jubilee's Board Moderator, share the story of the church's process that brought them to develop this statement.

The Council of Representatives then spent the afternoon in a question and response time where various perspectives and concerns were raised and processed.

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### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Cam Priebe, MBCM's Provincial Director led this portion of the meeting in a time of round table discussions. The goal of this time was to give opportunities for leaders to connect and hear from one another, trusting that the Spirit would guide us as we sought to bear fruit. The discussion focused on three questions:

1. Test an assumption – Less people are willing to sign up to lead/volunteer. Suspicion of leadership position. People are experiencing re-engagement fatigue.
2. Who is in your personal pipeline as a church? Who knows they are in the pipeline (specifically the pastoral role here)?
3. If we were to put together a task force/team to pay attention to leadership development, what is it we would want them to focus on?

These table discussions were great opportunities for leaders to share stories, struggles and ideas about their current leadership realities within their local churches. There was a collective curiosity among our leaders wondering what is next for leadership development during *this* time.

Andrew Dyck, highlighted the upcoming ReNew conference which is a great opportunity for us to follow up on these leadership themes. Dr. Kathleen Cahalan will be speaking on Living Call Stories: Dynamics of the Pastoral Vocation. Find more [information here](#).

### MISSIONS

#### MULTIPLY

Cam provided an update on Multiply's Focus Internship - a nine month program that supports and trains missionaries along a journey toward long-term ministry. The program starts with two months of training and equipping, followed by a seven month internship in either an international or North American location. This year, the training took place in Fort Garry MB church with participants living in the apartments surrounding the church. This was to intentionally foster missional living, giving the interns opportunities to practice what they were learning through their

training. Eight of this year's interns were from Manitoba.

We would invite you to be prayerfully considering how your church's mission might be supported and strengthened by similar training in your context. Contact Lloyd or Carol Letkeman for further collaborative ideas.

#### THANK YOU

We would like to thank Portage Avenue Church for their generous hospitality and open door, including both Margaret Kramer and Hyechin Jun who so graciously served us throughout the meeting.

And thank you to all who attended both online and in person. Take care.