

Call to Prayer Assembly 2023

(MBCM Constitution, Article 6) *An Assembly of Congregations of the Manitoba Conference shall consist of an assembly of delegates for the purpose of deliberating the work of the Manitoba Conference, electing its officers and directors, dealing with its finances. to hear and receive reports from the Canadian Conference, and to provide feedback to the Canadian Conference.*

The above description describes a significant level of responsibility that each delegate at Assembly 2023 holds. And yet we are each human, bringing the whole of ourselves to each day and circumstance and certainly to our church! While the Assembly isn't what you'd identify as your church, it is an extension of all Mennonite Brethren Churches in Manitoba. Reflected in our name, the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba, is the thought that, together, we are an expression of the church. While we may not gather as a local church, we gather as far more than mere associates. From that place of understanding, please consider the following excerpt from our shared confession. May this be true of us on March 3 and 4.

The delegates of MBCM will *gather together as people called by God through Jesus Christ. We gather to glorify God and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. As we observe communion together, we will proclaim the good news of salvation.* (Confession of Faith, Article 6)

In your preparation for this Assembly, please consider the following invitation to prayer. Pray as an individual. Pray with another person. Call your church to pray for you and for the Assembly. The following prayer guide draws heavily from our confession of faith, Article 1.

Speak to God what is already true of God

- God, you are the one, true, living God, Creator of heaven and earth. You are almighty in power, perfect in wisdom, overflowing in steadfast love. You are the Sovereign who rules over all things visible and invisible, the Shepherd who rescues the lost and helpless. You are a refuge and fortress for those in need. You are a consuming fire, perfect in holiness, yet slow to anger and abounding in tender mercy. God, you comfort like a loving mother, train and discipline like a caring father, and persist in covenant love like a faithful husband. We confess God as eternal Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God our Father, you are the source of all life. In you we live and move and have our being.
- Jesus, through whom all things were created and who holds all things together, is the image of the invisible God.
- The Holy Spirit, the Counsellor, is the creative power, presence, and wisdom of God. The Spirit convicts people of sin, gives them new life, and guides them into all truth.

Petition for discernment

- Spirit of the living God, give us wisdom and steadfast love. As the Assembly gathers, guide us into all truth. In motivations, actions and words, produce through us your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- Jesus, as you intercede and advocate on our behalf, may we experience your peace and compassion as we navigate challenging decisions.
- Lord God, to anyone who responds in faith to the gospel, you have forgiven those who repent of their sin and have entered into a new covenant with us. May we know your creative and redemptive love that sustains this world until the end of the age.