

# Moderator's Report

**Dave Ens**

Most likely, it goes without saying that we are in a challenging time as a conference. As we walk through it, I find myself asking questions for which I do not necessarily have the answer. What holds us together as a conference, what defines how we are in relationship with each other? Denominationally, it is said that we are held together by shared conviction/confession, shared relationship, & shared mission. What is the interplay between these elements, particularly when we find ourselves disagreeing? In the midst of these large questions, there is the on-going ministry that is being carried out by 42 MBCM faith communities, striving to be faithful to what God is calling us to in the place we find ourselves. My prayer continues to be that God grants us wisdom & grace as we navigate challenging times.

Over the last year, the Leadership Board has put in many extra hours beyond the regularly scheduled meeting times. I have been grateful for the way the board has been deliberate in working through the issues with integrity and with a desire to lead MBCM well. And while we are not perfect, there has been a willingness to trudge through hard things together. I am particularly grateful for the grace extended to me by the board as I find my way in this position.

The MBCM staff team – Cam, Jason, Amanda, & Holly (on maternity leave) — continue to do strong work for us as a provincial conference. I am grateful for the careful way they work through matters and their attention to detail. Cam & Jason represent us well on the national level through the National Ministry Team (NMT) and the National Faith & Life Team (NFLT). Overall, this past year has been very challenging for our staff and I encourage you to hold them up in prayer as they continue serving us.

Within the challenges, our regular work goes on. We continue to operate under the single-stream funding model. We ask that churches send in 13% to MBCM and then in conversation with CCMBC, we distribute approx 30% to them. Thank you for the strong support once again as we were able to meet all of our financial obligations for 2022 and end with a surplus. Thanks to our board treasurer Melanie for her good work on the Reserve Fund Policy.

Work on the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP) continues. This is part of our work with our national family (CCMBC). Our focus over the next while will be creating a team to focus on Leadership Development, which is one of the four strategic areas within the CUSP. As mentioned, our staff



sit on NMT & NFLT, while the MBCM board has a representative sitting on the Executive Board. I have been the representative for the past year, but

moving forward, we are looking at sharing that workload by having another board member step into that role.

I pray that we do not get discouraged as we walk through a challenging time. The work of the church is good work and good work is worthwhile but seldom easy. For us as a church family, for our board, and our staff I pray Romans 15.5-6: *May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*