

**Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
Minutes for Annual General Meeting, Gathering 2016
July 6-9, 2016, Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel; Mississauga, Ontario**

Celebration Service – Wednesday July 6, 2016

7:00 – 9:00pm

The evening opened in singing followed by a welcome from hosts Mandy Kasper and Ed Heinrichs. Ed Willms, Executive Director for Ontario, welcomed everyone to Toronto. Time was spent in worship, and then CCMBC Executive Director, Willy Reimer, introduced the theme for the weekend “Compelled” based on 1 Corinthians 9:16. Testimonies were given by Adam Greeley and Judy Harms-Wiebe followed by Vic Neufeld (North Kildonan MB) speaking on the theme, “Compelled by Christ’s Sacrifice”. The evening ended in communion.

Business Session – Thursday July 7, 2016

8:30am to 12 noon

- 1) Time was spent in worship followed by Janet Thiessen, North Langley church, speaking on “Compelled by the Call in Community”.
- 2) Willy Reimer presented his Executive Director report, reviewing the CCMBC Sandbox including the CCMBC Mission statement, Preferred Culture, Guiding Principles and Central Ministry Focus. Willy showed a video that gives an overview of the Ministry Model which includes 4 areas: Developing Leaders, Building Community, Resourcing Ministry, and Multiplying Churches. The ministry model was developed in cooperation with provincial Conference Ministers/Executive Directors who joined Willy onstage for introductions. Willy also acknowledged the contributions of CCMBC staff across Canada. He then closed in prayer for our churches and their need for workers to bring in the harvest of souls that God has prepared.
- 3) Business session was called to order at 10:05am by Harold Froese, CCMBC Moderator. Quorum was established at 136 delegates (100 needed). This year the “report card” is not looking good. Have we analyzed the information correctly to minimize the risks? Have we done enough to respond to the “report card”? Are we moving too fast / too slow to manage our financial situation? These questions will be discussed at the breakout sessions.
 - a. Introduction to business procedures (p.18 Gathering 2016 Event book). Questions are to be addressed in the breakout session to allow for sufficient time to address
 - b. Motions:
 - i. **Motion 2016-07-02:** To approve the agenda as presented. **S**
 1. It was moved that an amendment be made to the agenda regarding the acceptance of the Mission statement component of the Sandbox. To be added as business arising from the 2014 Minutes.
 2. **Motion 2016-07-01:** To amend the agenda to add approval of the Mission statement of CCMBC. **SC**

- ii. **Motion 2016-07-03:** To appoint the balloting team of Bertha Dyck, Norbert Bargaen and Jon Isaak. **SC.**
 - iii. **Motion 2016-07-04:** To approve the following as parliamentarians: Reg Toews, Michelle Knowles, and Jason Dyck. **SC**
 - iv. **Motion 2016-07-05:** To approve the minutes of Gathering 2014 as circulated. **SC**
 - v. **Motion 2016-07-06:** To approve the minutes of October 2015 Annual General meeting as circulated. **SC.**
 - vi. Business arising from minutes:
 1. **Motion 2016-07-07:** To affirm the mission statement for CCMBC as presented, as at the 2014 Gathering the mission statement was approved only “in principle”.
S.
 - a. **Motion 2016-07-08:** To amend the motion on the floor to modify the mission statement of CCMBC (striking the word “to Multiply” and replace with “We are”). **S. Defeated**
 - b. Discussion:
 - The rationale given for the amendment was that there are 4 ministry areas and only “multiply” is mentioned in the Mission statement.
 - Several people spoke against the amendment with the theme being that multiply is central to what we do as a conference. An argument in favor of the amendment reasoned that the word “multiply” infers that we are serving ourselves and not being missional.
 2. **Action:** To refer the mission statement implications of the words “multiply” and “transformed” to BFL for definition.
 - vii. **Motion 2016-07-07:** To affirm the adoption of the mission statement for CCMBC as presented (p 7 – MB Churches of Canada 2016). **S. Carried with dissenting votes.** *Note: The approval of the mission statement completes the approval of the Sandbox model which was approved in principle at Gathering 2014.*
 - a. Discussion: The mission statement helps to affirm the intention of bylaws. The mission statement must affirm the intention of the CCMBC charter from 1946.
- 4) BFL Report (David Miller reporting) – BFL has the mandate to watch over the spiritual health of the conference. The BFL is made up of provincial conference ministers, members at large, CCMBC Executive Director, MBBS rep, and a C2C rep. The study conference on Human Sexuality in October 2015 was well received with a study guide prepared for the conference – churches are encouraged to use this guide for their own discussions. There was substantial input after the sessions and BFL was in discussion with respondents. The next study conference (Equip 2017 “Transforming Discipleship”) is scheduled for fall 2017 in BC.

- 5) ICOMB (David Wiebe reporting). David brought greetings from ICOMB (23 conferences / 490,000 members) of which CCMBC is an integral part. Our international MB community represents the love that we show by serving and praying for each other. The last ICOMB meeting was in Panama. Pray for Thailand 2017 mission and prayer consultation being planned. CCMBC's support of ICOMB is appreciated.

Ed Heinrichs led in Prayer before continuing with reporting.

- 6) C2C (Gord Fleming reporting) – C2C, the church planting arm of CCMBC, serves a variety of denominations (23) throughout Canada. The mandate is to serve Christ in Canada with a focus on MB church planting. We desire to communicate truth to each other. Gord invited questions on a one-to-one basis. Gord presented answers to the following questions which had arisen in conversations and at conventions:
- a. How do we protect the theological identity of the Canadian MB's if our church planting division is interdenominational? *All staff is MB. All MB church planters must be credentialed by provincial MB conferences and not by C2C. Church plants by other denominations must not conflict with MB church plants.*
 - b. How can we ensure that C2C will keep MB church planting as its primary focus? *All C2C staff is MB and MB church planting is C2C's highest priority. Church planters are recruited in prayer.*
 - c. Why are there not more MB Church plants? *C2C is praying for that, but C2C does not recruit. It responds to those who have been called. Churches need to recruit more church planters.*
 - d. Why are there not more female church planters in our network? *C2C does not recruit church planters. C2C responds to those who are called and assesses them. Females, when called, are responded to in the same manner as males.*
 - e. Can you ensure that Canada will not be diluted if C2C helps/serves in the USA? *Canadian C2C staff will remain as Canadian staff. US staff will be funded by the US.*
 - f. How much money is directed to other denominations from CCMBC? How are other denominations funding their church plants and supporting C2C. *There is a net income to CCMBC budget for C2C from donations including 15% overhead from other denomination church plants based on MB Mission guidelines.*
 - g. What if CCMBC adopted the same format of funding 15% to C2C? *CCMBC at this point is not actually giving 15%. C2C is partially funding MB church plants*
 - h. How do we plant more MB churches in Canada without increasing our church planting budget as a denomination? *Home churches need to be committed to planting churches – C2C will be a resource for them.*

Gord closed in prayer.

- 7) MB Mission (Randy Friesen reporting) – CCMBC churches were thanked for their contributions to the international ministry of MB Mission. Randy emphasized the harvest that needs workers where MB Mission is working with other denominations and mission organizations. Rev. 14:14-16. We need to look at one Lord of the harvest that helps us work collaboratively in local, provincial, national and global harvest fields. MB Mission is

working in countries where there is a cost for individuals to know and follow Jesus – they are sharing their faith more frequently than we are in Canada. We have the same Gospel. MB Mission is discerning how best to serve Mission USA to collaborate with them in planting churches in the USA. Is God inviting MB Mission to partner with both USA MBs and Canadian MBs in planting churches (particularly ethnic and from countries that are restricted to the proclamation of the Gospel) in their respective countries? The harvest is ripe globally – God is “not willing that any should perish”. Our churches are responding to refugee needs who also need the gospel. Randy related the story of a young man from a Muslim father & Mennonite mother who was converted to Islam. He married a nominal Christian woman who then engaged others to pray for her husband. He gave his life to Jesus after receiving a vision from the Lord. Prayer is solicited for workers going into Syrian refugee camps. We are a visible demonstration of God’s love to others. Samir Youssef (director of Oasis in N Africa – 27 years with MB Mission) shared how southern BC churches are working with Syrian refugees. The mission field is all around us, in our communities. Ed Heinrichs led delegates in corporate prayer to build His church.

- 8) Resourcing Churches CCMBC (Jim Davidson reporting) – Jim is the interim chief financial officer for CCMBC and a member of Forest Grove Community church, Saskatoon. CCMBC provides mortgages to pastors, loans to churches, pension administration, and payroll services to churches. CCMBC owns facilities to serve programs in various provinces. CCMBC has been blessed by individuals who have invested their funds with CCMBC. We need to grow our reserves which are practically depleted at this time. A survey was done in 2015 during the development of the Legacy Fund Inc. to ensure that the fund will meet the goals of investors. Jim related an experience involving two machines (one old / one new) from his previous experience in the pulp & paper industry. The mandate of CCMBC stewardship is to serve ministries of our MB churches. Our present financial system needs to be updated although it works fairly well to meet most ministry requirements. Legacy Fund was established to minimize non-compliance to regulatory requirements. Documents are being finalized after 18 months of work together with accountants, lawyers and government agencies. Legacy has been incorporated and filed for charitable status. Plans are to have Legacy fully operational by Jan 1, 2017. Legacy will provide support only to CCMBC financially and in services to the churches. Delegates were invited to attend the breakout sessions to find out more about finances.

The morning session was ended in prayer.

Experience Toronto – Thursday, July 7, 2016

2:00-9:00pm

- 9) Four different busses went to different parts of Toronto for church visits, prayer walks and sightseeing. All busses ended up at St Paul’s Anglican Church in downtown Toronto for worship and prayer, led by Willy Reimer.

Plenary Session - Friday, July 8, 2016

8:30am-9:45am

- 1) Delegates began the day with worship led by Matt Unruh and prayer led by Willy Reimer. Delegates thanked organizers for events of Experience Ontario.
- 2) Mandy introduced Laurence East (lead pastor of Metro Community Church, Kelowna), speaker for the Plenary Session. Laurence used his home church community to speak about the theme, “Compelled by the Spirit to Obedience” Ed Heinrichs challenged us to put aside “niceness” and be “right for God”. Ed thanked Laurence and prayed for our obedience to God. Ed welcomed guests from USMB, EFC, etc., and outlined the location and times for the breakout sessions (50-min each) to follow.

Breakout Sessions – Friday July 8, 2016

9:45am – 12noon

- 3) Ministry Equipping Breakouts were held, 2 session of 50 minutes. Delegates chose 2 to attend. Options were:
 - L2L (Fishing with the Master)
 - C2C Ministry report
 - BFL update

Business session – Friday July 8, 2016

1:00 – 2:30pm

Ed Heinrichs prayed to open the afternoon session.

- 4) L2L report (Ron Toews) – Leading with a shoehorn (shoehorn is a tool to help us walk in our shoes). Leaders are like a shoehorn to help Christ’s church spread the Good News. Ron invited John Osmond, Cheryl Plett, and Ed Willms from ON to share their experiences using L2L services. L2L provides individualized assistance to leaders & churches. L2L can be contacted through Willy or provincial conference ministers.
- 5) MB Biblical Seminary (Bruce Guenther reporting) – MBBS seeks to fulfil the mission of “educating and equipping people to help lead the church in reaching Canada and the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ”. Past and present MBBS students (through video and live presentations) shared the value of their theological education. About 70% of MBBS students are part-time with 257 alumni. Bruce acknowledged the contribution of MBBS faculty and staff. MBBS Canada works in partnership with ACTS and CMU. MBBS is now offering a chaplaincy and spiritual care program. New partnerships include working with Manitoba churches, Northview Community church, Tyndale Seminary (Toronto). Ministry Lift helps churches in doing ministry though live-streaming seminars & workshops. Financial operations include 18% of MBBS budget from CCMBC. Vision 2020 has been

developed to increase the capacity of MBBS to serve the church better in various ways. Ron Penner (MBBS board chair) acknowledged the 15 directors on the MBBS board. Bruce Guenther was recognized for his significant contributions during his presidential leadership over the last 5 years, leading MBBS to accreditation and degree-granting status. Bruce is taking a 6-month sabbatical followed by a return to teaching in January 2017. Bruce was acknowledged by the Gathering 2016 delegates by a standing ovation. The incoming MBBS president, Mark Wessner (a seasoned pastor and teacher), is presently recovering from a concussion and plans to start his duties in August. Ron Penner presented greetings (in absentia) from Mark. Willy expressed his appreciation for Bruce and the board's leadership, and prayed for the continuing service of MBBS to the churches of CCMBC under the new leadership.

- 6) The business meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Harold Froese
- a. **Reg Toews, Parliamentarian's Point of Clarification:** In general, no additional items may be added to the agenda from the floor. CCMBC Operating Bylaws – Article 6; Section 3 states “The Executive Board shall give at least six (6) weeks’ notice of any annual or special Convention. Such notice shall stipulate the date, location and agenda of such Convention.” The additional item yesterday was seen as business arising from the minutes of the 2014 Convention and therefore deemed appropriate.
 - b. **Motion 2016-07-09:** To appoint the following as members of the Gathering 2016 Minutes-Review committee: Marilyn Hiebert, Janessa Giesbrecht, Marvin Dyck, Ingrid Reichard. **SC.**
 - c. Vic Martens (Nominations committee) presented the slate of nominees. There are still two vacancies for Member-at-large positions on the Executive board who will also serve on the Legacy Fund Inc. board. The following individuals were presented:
 - i. Harold Froese (Fort Garry MB, Winnipeg) – Moderator (2nd two-year term)
 - ii. Bruce Enns (Forest Grove Community, Saskatoon) – Assistant Moderator (two-year term)
 - iii. Marilyn Hiebert (Central Heights MB, Abbotsford) – Secretary (two-year term)
 - iv. Howie Wall (Forest Grove Community, Saskatoon) – MAL – (2nd four-year term)
 - v. Michael Dick (Bakerview MB, Abbotsford) – MAL (four-year term)
 - vi. David MacLean (Willow Park Community, Kelowna) – MAL (four-year term)
 - vii. Provincial moderator's / appointee ratification:
 1. Don Petker (BC)
 2. Matt Dyck (AB)
 3. Phil Gunther (SK)
 4. Ruth Schellenberg (MB)
 5. Karen West (ON)
 6. Zacharie Leclair (QC)

- viii. Nominating committee MAL
 - 1. Ralph Gliege, Living Hope / Forest Grove (4-yr term)
- ix. MB Biblical Seminary – CCMBC ratification
 - 1. Ron Penner, Northview MB (2nd 4-year term)
 - 2. Roger Braun, Broadway MB (2nd 4-year term)
 - 3. John Neufeld, Meeting Place (2nd 4-year term)
 - 4. Donna Vollett, Forest Grove Community (4-year term)
- x. MB Historical commission – CCMBC ratification
 - 1. J. Janzen, Highland Community, Abbotsford (2nd 4-year term)
- xi. MB Mission
 - 1. Shirley Falk, Faith River Community (4-yr term)
 - 2. Allan Dickens, Cariboo Bethel (2nd 4-yr term)
- xii. MCC Delegate Assembly – Ernie Schmidt, Highland Community (2nd 4-yr term)
- xiii. Board of Faith & Life
 - 1. Robyn Serez, Waterloo MB (4-yr term)
 - 2. Brent Hudson, The Journey Church, Moncton (4-yr term)
 - 3. Paul Lam, Burnaby Pacific Grace (2nd 4-yr term)

Ballots were handed out for voting, then collected by the ballot team to be counted. Results were made available on Saturday.

- d. **Motion 2016-07-10:** To approve the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws as presented. **S. Carried with some opposed.**

Discussion – Concern was expressed about reducing quorum to 30 for meetings which only approve audited financial statements, budget and auditors. It was suggested that a quorum of 75 would serve CCMBC better since the budget is an important document which funds ministry programs. A proposed amendment to this end was ruled as unfriendly and was referred to be added if the original motion was defeated.

- e. **Motion 2016-07-11:** To approve the MB Mission MOU as presented. **SC**

There was a question regarding why the MOU was presented at this Gathering?
Answer from Randy Friesen (MB Mission) was that the MOU has an expiry date and needs to be renewed.

- 7) MB Historical Commission (Jon Isaak reporting) – There are 4 centers of the MB Historical Commission (Hillsboro, Fresno, Abbotsford, Winnipeg) where historical documents are kept in archives. 2650 profiles of MB are printed annually for distribution. Funding is provided for study grants annually. An archival intern is funded to visit each of the four archives. The Katie Funk-Wiebe research grant supports writing related to MB history. Jon acknowledged the MB Historical staff and board members who serve the constituency.
- 8) MCC Canada (Don Peters reporting) gave greetings to CCMBC and referred to the MCC Canada report in the MB Churches of Canada publication (pg. 32). Don related two stories: a meeting in Lebanon with 15 Syrian women who begged that persons in need not be forgotten; the other one from a visit to the border country between Honduras and Guatemala – 80 women showed up for a meeting and said that no rain had fallen since March. The corn

that had germinated was dying due to lack of rain. There was limited drinking water. MCC is involved in these and other high profile and unknown disaster areas in the name of Christ.

Break-out session – July 8, 2016

2:50-5:00 pm

9) Recommendation Processing breakouts were held (50-55 min each). Delegates chose 2 to attend. Choices were:

- C2C & MB Mission – Big Idea (Mississauga);
- Finance Update (Dundas),
- Communication plan (Vista).

Notes were taken at each session as feedback for the Executive Board in their deliberations.

Dinner and Celebration Service – July 8, 2016

6:00 – 9:00pm

Following dinner, Matt Unruh and band led in a time of worship, followed by prayer.

Testimonies were given by Joel Francis and Janessa Giesbrecht. Ed Heinrichs introduced speaker Chris Stevens (Lead pastor, Waterloo MB) who spoke on the theme, “Compelled by the Call to Make Disciples”. People were invited to the front for a time of prayer.

Business Session – July 9, 2016

8:00 am – 12 noon

1) The morning opened with worship and Phil Collins (Lead Pastor, Willow Park) speaking on the theme, “Compelled to Reach Canada” Willy thanked Phil and led in prayer for the decision-making session and for what God wants each of us to be and do. Prayer by delegates in groups was followed by Willy praying for renewal. Ed Heinrichs closed worship and teaching session in prayer. Ed thanked the logistics team (Michelle P, Steve, etc.) and the prayer team for their work planning Gathering 2016.

2) Decision making

- a. Presentation of election / affirmation results (Vic Martens reporting) – All individuals on ballot were approved (in excess of 97%) by delegates (129 voting). Harold led in prayer for those that were affirmed in their positions.

- a. **Motion 2016-07-12:** To destroy ballots. **SC.**

Harold expressed his appreciation to delegates for their participation in breakout sessions and on the floor. Can we improve our “report card” in how we do kingdom business?

- b. C2C/MB Mission task force decision: Michael Dick presented the recommendations from the Executive board and commented on the rationale for the motions which was discussed in the breakout sessions.
 - a. **Motion 2016-07-13:** To affirm a task force to work with the MB Mission board to investigate options for C2C and MB Mission for church planting ministries locally, nationally and globally. **S. Carried with some opposing votes.**

Discussion:

- Michael Dick clarified that the task force would be appointed by the Executive Board with representation from across Canada. It will include reps from the EB, C2C, MB Mission and one USMB rep will be invited as well. Communication will happen through the MB Herald and the website, and any significant steps to be taken would be brought back to the constituency.
- C: Practical stories that enhance the “why” are helpful as we move forward.
- C: It is a premature assignment since MB Mission needs to explain why they need to redefine their scope. A: Mission has become from everywhere to everywhere. Randy Friesen – the least reached have come here from other countries. Focusing on mission only outside of North America is a model that has passed. Some of the people coming to Canada are the best evangelists back to their own nations. Co-operative strategies linking us together seems to be a better way to do missions. Demographics of our Canadian MB churches are changing – we need to link loyalties of the older generation to MB Mission and the younger generation to C2C to reach Canada and the world. There are 7 regional leaders in MB Mission who are ICOMB leaders. Follow up comment: Encourage partnering with MCC as well.
- C: Affirmation for the EB listening during breakout sessions. It is a complex matter and the constituents are extending trust to the EB and outreach organizations.
- C: MB Mission board has limited authority. No one board has the authority to explore this on its own while the task force can. If we vote against the motion, we hamper our ability to proceed.
- A request was made for the task force to be intentional in inviting a wide range of opinions including gender balance.
- C: Provinces have been invited into the conversation and are receiving regular updates.
- Q: Is it minuted that the final decision will be brought back to the constituents? A: Yes.
- Q: Collaboration is supported. What is the purpose of the interim leadership team for C2C? Michael Dick: The interim leadership team for C2C and task force will be merged. Concern was expressed that the load would be too much for a combined team to do both.
- C: Concern about a conflict of interest for leader from C2C and MB Mission making decisions on the task force. Michael Dick: The leaders of C2C and MB Mission will be ex officio, but their input is valued. In camera sessions excluding ex officio members will be held at each meeting.

- b. **Motion 2016-07-14:** That C2C, in collaboration with MB Mission, be authorized to assist the USMB conference, as invited by USMB leadership, and be allowed to function interdenominationally in the USA as requested, without any negative impact on Canadian church planting ministries and budget. **S. Carried with opposing votes.**

Discussion:

- Concern about having “in collaboration with MB Mission” in the motion. Harold Froese: The request from USMB came through MB Mission. There are some legalities about operating in the US that MB Mission can help with.
 - Don Morris (USMB interim director) C2C is asked to assist as a resource for Mission USA to work alongside, not replace what is already being done.
 - Concern that interdenominational involvement in the USA is wide-ranging. Michael Dick: Denominations have US head offices in some cases. MB Mission is incorporated in the USA.
 - Comment: The two motions seem to be counter-productive. Michael Dick: The permission for C2C allows CCMBC to serve the USMB, and enhances the partnership with MB Mission.
 - Comment: This motion has findings that the task force should present. Michael Dick: The EB has reviewed steps and recommends this motion.
 - Question: How does this authorization compare to what is already happening? Michael Dick: The intent is to respond to invitations coming to us from the US. Len Penner: The US involvement has evolved from requests to C2C. We are able to resource churches through the C2C network. This is viewed as an interim step.
 - Willy Reimer: We intentionally work with MB Mission. We can work through the legal entity of MB Mission in the USA.
 - David Wiebe: Moved an amendment
 1. **Motion 2016-07-15:** To strike “in collaboration with MB Mission” to amend the motion. **S. Motion is defeated**

Discussion: Centered around the need for collaboration with MB Mission, the fact that the request came to C2C from USMB through MB Mission, and that legally we need MB Mission to do this. Other structures can be built but would take a long time. This would be a good test of what it looks like for mission to be local, national, global. Concern was expressed regarding lack of clarity of the vision.
- c. Financial decision making (Len Penner): Finances help to support ministry. Len expressed appreciation to Jim Davidson and Bertha Dyck with their staff for their work in finance for CCMBC. In 2012, direction was set to shift to increase the transparency and openness to the constituency, compliance with regulatory

agencies, better risk management and improve governance and accountability. How do we balance ministry with financial stewardship? Auditors were changed which resulted in improved accounting practices – a change in accounting resulted in a \$9 million write-down. We have \$110 million out in mortgages of which \$3.6 million was in doubtful accounts. Some of the land held has been sold off with some land being below our book value resulting in a write-down in assets. Plan return in the pension plan has been better than expected. How do we supply financial support to our ministries? Risk has been reduced. Howie Wall reported on the Stewardship fund. Working with regulators, lawyers and accountants is tedious and time consuming. Regulatory changes have resulted in the formation of Legacy Fund Inc. as a replacement for the Stewardship fund. Application for charitable status has been submitted. Howie presented the Legacy Fund Inc. bylaw which was developed by lawyers and modified by CCMBC staff. Changes to by-laws require 6-wk notice although suggestions for action are welcomed.

- i. **Motion 2016-07-16:** To approve the Legacy bylaw as presented. **SC**
- ii. The following action items were presented pertaining to the Legacy Fund Inc. for the Executive Board to consider and report back to delegates at the next AGM.

Actions for the Executive Board to consider:

1. Revise the initial "Whereas" clause in order to provide greater clarity regarding the specific purpose of the corporation
2. Include in the Bylaws a mandate to present the audited financial statements of Legacy Fund Inc. at the CCMBC annual general meeting.
3. Include in the Bylaws a mandate for the approval of the Legacy Fund Inc. annual budget at the CCMBC annual general meeting
4. Adjust the structural location of the Legacy corporation within CCMBC from being under the direct control of the Executive Board to being alongside the Executive Board, directly answerable to CCMBC at its AGM to avoid a potential conflict of interest on the part of the Executive Board and provide adequate protection for the interests of the depositors.

- d. Howie Wall presented the consolidated statements as well as the Pension fund. Pension plan legislation continues to change. The pension plan is doing well. The auditors have been helpful.
 - iii. **Motion 2016-07-17:** To approve the 2015 Consolidated Audited Financial Statements as presented. **SC**
 2. Discussion: There was a request for clarification of reserve status.
 - iv. **Motion 2016-07-18:** To approve the 2015 Pension Plan audited Financial Statements as presented. **SC**.
 - v. **Motion 2016-07-19:** To approve KPMG as auditors for 2016. **SC**
- e. **Motion 2016-07-20:** To approve the CCMBC 2017 Budget as presented. **S**.
Carried with amendment.

Amendment proposed to above motion: that CCMBC take all necessary actions to achieve a balanced ministry budget (in accordance with designations p.21 of 2015 audited statements) by reducing expenses and/or increasing revenue. Progress is to be monitored by the Finance committee of the Executive Board, and that CCMBC direct the Stewardship fund (Legacy Fund Inc.) to take all necessary actions to replenish Investment reserves by annually directing:

- vi. All net capital gains
- vii. All profits from “for profit” companies
- viii. All net returns on impaired mortgages
- ix. 10% of net investment returns (beginning 2018)

and that after these annual provisions have been fulfilled each year, monies from Legacy may be transferred for ministry support. The annual provisions will continue to be applied until the Investment reserve reaches a level of 6% of total funds under deposit.

Motion 2016-07-21: To approve the amendment. **SC**

Discussion:

- Comment: The ministry side has had a loss of 3 million. This is a serious amount and needs to be corrected. The amendment to the motions is in the right direction but will take serious effort. Challenge to those on the ministry side to cooperate with the finance committee.
- Len Penner: The reason for the structure is so everyone understands what it will look like.
- Question regarding the current amount of reserves and what it should be. There is currently 2 million in reserves, should be 16 million. If this amendment is passed, we are looking at 1.1 to 1.2 million going into reserves each year.
- How does the speed of the decline compare to the recovery? With this amendment should get to 8-9 million by 2018.
- What red flags would go off if we aren't progressing as expected? 2 areas: doubtful accounts and writing down asset values. Steps are being taken to minimize risk – every mortgage is reviewed annually, we are actively working on selling land, down to 5 properties.
- Comment: We can't afford to lose investor confidence; reserves should be at 10-16%. Encourage a degree of urgency.
- Len Penner: 10-16% includes liquidity that has not been reported on here. Legacy has increased liquidity.
- What will be the impact of a reduced budget on ministry?
- Jim Davidson: Another million would have to be cut from the 2018 budget. One option is to cut; another is to look for increased revenue.
- Comment: Ministry side needs to be balanced.

- Len Penner: The finance committee has been working with the staff to reduce and balance. Expenses have already started to be reduced.
- Comment: We can go back to our churches and tell them that God is at work. Revenue can increase if churches invest in the conference.
- Comment: Will go home and ask church to give to CCMBC so ministry doesn't suffer.

f. **Motion 2016-07-22:** To approve the Ministry reports as presented. **SC**

g. **Motion 2016-07-23:** To adjourn the meeting. **SC**

Business part of the meeting was adjourned at 11:50am

- 3) Constituents prayed for Willy Reimer and Ron Toews. Willy is leaving on sabbatical shortly and Ron will be stepping in as ED during this time.
- 4) The morning was finished with worship and a commissioning word from Willy on the theme "Compelled to Go", Using the passage Matthew 28:18-20. We are commissioned in the authority of Christ and promised the presence of Christ.

Willy concluded Gathering 2016 with a closing prayer.

Summary of Motions

Motion 2016-07-02: To approve the agenda as presented. **S**

1. It was moved that an amendment be made to the agenda regarding the acceptance of the Mission statement component of the Sandbox. To be added as business arising from the 2014 Minutes.
2. **Motion 2016-07-01:** To amend the agenda to add approval of the Mission statement of CCMBC. **SC**

Motion 2016-07-03: To appoint the balloting team of Bertha Dyck, Norbert Bargaen and Jon Isaak. **SC.**

Motion 2016-07-04: To approve the following as parliamentarians: Reg Toews, Michelle Knowles, and Jason Dyck. **SC**

Motion 2016-07-05: To approve the minutes of Gathering 2014 as circulated. **SC**

Motion 2016-07-06: To approve the minutes of October 2015 Annual General meeting as circulated. **SC.**

Motion 2016-07-07: To affirm the mission statement for CCMBC as presented, as at the 2014 Gathering the mission statement was approved only “in principle”.
S.

- a. **Motion 2016-07-08:** To amend the motion on the floor to modify the mission statement of CCMBC (striking the word “to Multiply” and replace with “We are”). **S. Defeated**

- ii. **Motion 2016-07-07:** To affirm the adoption of the mission statement for CCMBC as presented (p 7 – MB Churches of Canada 2016). **S. Carried with dissenting votes.** *Note: The approval of the mission statement completes the approval of the Sandbox model which was approved in principle at Gathering 2014.*

Motion 2016-07-09: To appoint the following as members of the Gathering 2016 Minutes-Review committee: Marilyn Hiebert, Janessa Giesbrecht, Marvin Dyck, Ingrid Reichard. **SC.**

Motion 2016-07-10: To approve the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws as presented. **S. Carried with some opposed.**

Motion 2016-07-11: To approve the MB Mission MOU as presented. **SC**

Motion 2016-07-12: To destroy ballots. **SC**

Motion 2016-07-13: To affirm a task force to work with the MB Mission board to investigate options for C2C and MB Mission for church planting ministries locally, nationally and globally. **S. Carried with some opposing votes.**

Motion 2016-07-14: That C2C, in collaboration with MB Mission, be authorized to assist the USMB conference, as invited by USMB leadership, and be allowed to function interdenominationally in the USA as requested, without any negative impact on Canadian church planting ministries and budget. **S. Carried with opposing votes.**

Motion 2016-07-15: To strike “in collaboration with MB Mission” to amend the motion. **S. Motion is defeated**

Motion 2016-07-16: To approve the Legacy bylaw as presented. **SC**

Motion 2016-07-17: To approve the 2015 Consolidated Audited Financial Statements as presented. **SC**

Motion 2016-07-18: To approve the 2015 Pension Plan audited Financial Statements as presented. **SC.**

Motion 2016-07-19: To approve KPMG as auditors for 2016. **SC**

Motion 2016-07-20: To approve the CCMBC 2017 Budget as presented. **S. Carried with amendment.**

Amendment proposed to above motion: that CCMBC take all necessary actions to achieve a balanced ministry budget (in accordance with designations p.21 of 2015 audited statements) by reducing expenses and/or increasing revenue.

Progress is to be monitored by the Finance committee of the Executive Board, and that CCMBC direct the Stewardship fund (Legacy Fund Inc.) to take all necessary actions to replenish Investment reserves by annually directing:

- x. All net capital gains
- xi. All profits from “for profit” companies
- xii. All net returns on impaired mortgages
- xiii. 10% of net investment returns (beginning 2018)

and that after these annual provisions have been fulfilled each year, monies from Legacy may be transferred for ministry support. The annual provisions will continue to be applied until the Investment reserve reaches a level of 6% of total funds under deposit.

Motion 2016-07-21: To approve the amendment. **SC**

Motion 2016-07-22: To approve the Ministry reports as presented. **SC**

Motion 2016-07-23: To adjourn the meeting. **SC**