



CCMBC Annual Update 2017

I'll admit it: I enjoy watching HGTV. One of my viewing favourites is "Love It or List It Vancouver." Interior designer Jillian and real estate agent Todd compete for the homeowners' decision about their home – she will renovate it to convince them to "Love It"; he will find them a new house so they'll "List It."

Stepping into the gap to lead CCMBC in 2017 has confirmed my decision for the MB family is to "Love It!" Here are some of my reasons:

- I have attended provincial conferences, visited churches, and met the people who are passionate about making Christ known in Canada.
 - I have participated in Pastors Credentialing Orientation, where I was enriched by the MB Confession and encouraged by the many new leaders accepting the call of God.
 - I have prayed, discerned, and planned with the Executive Board, the Board of Faith and Life, and the Senior Leadership. I have witnessed their integrity and faithfulness in seeking to be good managers of our resources and good leaders in our opportunities.
 - I have looked the CCMBC team members in the eye, seen their dedication, and said thank you for the service they give to Christ.
 - I have become one in heart and vision with the leaders of MB Mission, the C2C Network, MB Seminary, our regional colleges and universities, ICOMB, MCC, Mennonite World Conference, Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders, and so many more. What a joy to be inspired and strengthened by our partners in the mission of God.
 - I have worked with a phenomenal EQUIP 2017 planning team who pursued a new vision for the MB Study Conference and realized this vision by effectively presenting the crucial theme of Transforming Discipleship.
- I linked arms with the Senior Leadership Team in preparing a plan for financial sustainability through a substantially reduced 2018 budget.
 - I have sat with those who were personally impacted by the budget cuts and witnessed their tremendous sacrifices.
 - I have invited prayerful and discerning people to imagine a One Mission Partnership that can provide a simpler and more effective structure for resourcing churches, developing leaders, multiplying churches, and building community for the MB churches of Canada.
 - I have listened to those who speak with love for Christ and passion for the mission of the church who see the things in our family that are incomplete, ineffective, or injurious as they call for confession, correction, and change.

After this year of serving Christ among you, I am more committed than ever to loving this family of MB churches in Canada. Just yesterday I received this email:

"Thanks for your leadership through this high-challenge time for our national family. Steve, we were privileged to pray with and for you at our elders meeting, and we will continue to do so as God brings you to our mind.... Part of the way in which partnerships are expressed is also financial. So, to this end, our elders discussed and approved the sending of an additional 25 percent of our 2017 contribution. We want you and the CCMBC team to know that we are with you and for you, and we are encouraged by the work that God is calling us into as a national family."



Warmly in Christ,
Steve Berg

Mission

To multiply Christ-centered churches to see Canada transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ

What is our work?

Recently, I was reading Ephesians 3 from The Message, where Paul describes the incredible, transforming gospel of Jesus. The words that stood out for me that morning were **“This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message.”**

It prompted me to think about my life work. What is my purpose and calling? As conference moderator, it also leads me to think about this question as it relates to the Executive Board and our national staff. Determining the life work or focus for this group is what the various levels of CCMBC leadership have been reflecting on as well. It’s not a simple question – particularly after coming through a season of such significant change.

Our conference moved C2C under the umbrella of MB Mission, following the delegate’s strong endorsement at our special meeting last November. We also approved a much smaller, more sustainable budget that involved very difficult choices, such as no longer funding L2L, among many others. It was a budget steeped in reflection, analysis, and prayer. And it has changed us.

With a much smaller and leaner organization, it is even more vital to determine the focus of the Executive Board and staff and to redefine our specific role within our ongoing life’s work of “helping multiply leaders and disciple-making churches”. This important work will need collective consideration between now and Gathering 2018.

As I reflect on the input we have received from the MB family, I see three themes emerging for the Executive Board and staff:

- **Champion and articulate our collective vision** – Can we imagine becoming a family of MB churches that is absolutely committed to being on one mission together – locally, nationally, and globally?
- **Focus on collaboration for the Kingdom** – What can we do to bring greater collaboration among our MB entities and the many resources within our family and beyond?
- **Create systems and venues for effective collaboration and leadership** – How can we listen to the constituency so that they feel heard, create effective venues for two-way communication, and then provide clarity and authority for leaders?

I welcome your input on these thoughts and look forward to our discussions at provincial conferences and other venues leading up to Gathering 2018. As a lead pastor in Saskatoon, I am thrilled to invite you all to my home city for the July meetings as we pursue the theme and goal of ONE.

For God’s glory,
Bruce Enns
CCMBC moderator
(and local church pastor)



Gathering 2018
gathering.mennonitebrethren.ca



July 11-14,
2018

Developing Leaders

L2L, the leadership development arm of CCMBC, concluded its ministry at the end of 2017. Since its launch in 2013, L2L built up numerous congregations and leaders:

- 86 churches received assessment and coaching
- More than 100 sermons and teaching sessions were delivered
- 516 leaders received training in applying coaching skills to their everyday and ministry conversations
- 241 leaders received personalized coaching by phone, online, or in person
- 941 leaders attended one or more discovery retreats
- 739 leaders participated in the online community
- 452 clusters (online small-groups) were launched (ranging in size from 2–25 people)
- 938 GoToMeetings brought leaders together from across Canada

Developing Leaders continues to be one of CCMBC's core service areas to the churches. In 2018, this will be realized through the ongoing Leadership Training Matching Grant program for post-secondary students, leadership development initiatives at the provincial conference level and continued training and growth through our national schools: MB Seminary and ETEQ.

Building Community

We build community as a national family of Mennonite Brethren both face to face and through our publications. The Board of Faith and Life (BFL) offers spiritual guidance in matters of faith, ethics, doctrine, theology, and Christian living, so the MB church in Canada remains grounded in the Bible and equipped to reach our communities for Christ. In 2017 the BFL produced a document on ordination, published new pamphlets on Creation and Life before Birth, and recently released a revised Canadian version of Family Matters: Discovering the Mennonite Brethren.

Pastors Credentialing Orientation ensures those new to our family or to church leadership have common core understandings of who we are as MBs.

The MB Herald connects us by sharing stories of how God is at work across this country. Now that the publication has move to four issues per year, be sure to sign up online to receive monthly email updates with current news and stories.

National gatherings happen annually. EQUIP Study Conference 2017 in Abbotsford, B.C., November 1–3, brought us together to explore Transforming Discipleship. We saw almost 400 people gather to study the Word and pray together. Gathering 2018 is taking place July 11–14 in Saskatoon on the theme of ONE. We hope to see you there!

Mission

Multiplying Churches

At the core of our mission, our prayer is that every MB church in Canada would have a mindset of multiplication. As we have been praying Luke 10:2 every morning at 10:02, we have seen the Holy Spirit at work, moving people's hearts. It has been exciting to witness the many new initiatives, outreaches, additional services, and meeting locations our churches have embarked on across the country. We have also seen newly planted churches reaching new neighbourhoods and demographics.

C2C network is our church planting arm in Canada and MB Mission is our church planting agency across the globe. The synergy of these two organizations led CCMBC to move the mission and ministry of the C2C network under the oversight of MB Mission in 2018. CCMBC continues to support church planting: in partnership with the provinces and C2C, we currently fund 23 MB church plants and 9 apprentices.

Resourcing Ministry

Under Resourcing Ministry, CCMBC offers MB churches and pastors pensions, benefits, and payroll and accounting services. We also make mortgages available to MB churches and pastors through the registered funds (TFSA, RRSP, RRIF) entrusted to our care.

In 2018, we are seeing the transition of this ministry to the CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. Owned by CCMBC, Legacy's purpose will be to continue resourcing ministry, in addition to the ways mentioned above, by providing space and services to MB partners, MB church plants, and CCMBC staff.

Leadership worked to create a sustainable CCMBC ministry budget for 2018, primarily dependent on church support. This budget funds the ministries of CCMBC as well as contributing to partner agencies. Churches are encouraged to give 5% of their operating budget to CCMBC for conference ministry support.