



Video Update – May 2016
Willy Reimer, CCMBC Executive Director

The reason that we exist as a conference – our mission statement that we processed at Gathering 2014 – is that “we exist to multiply Christ-centred churches to see Canada transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ.”

I think the key part of that actually is *Christ-centred*. What does it mean for us to be a family of churches that lifts up high the person of Christ, the saving work of Christ, the centrality of who he is? And then what [does] that mean for us as a people in our own identity and our identity as a conference? And, of course, that then plays out in our day-to-day lives as we seek to walk in relationship to him, follow him in obedience and live that out in mission as he’s called us to do. [Then] life on life, one at a time, we see the transformation of a country because the people of a country are transformed by the reality of the gospel. Which, of course, is the power that saves, transforms, heals and renews all of us.

In light of that mission, we sent out the Church Transformation Survey last year to try and understand if the work that we are doing is making a difference on the ground for churches. So that survey gives us the feedback loop to see if the support that we’re trying to bring to local churches and leadership development in church planting, in all those initiatives that are tied to creating greater health and ministry understanding and ministry effectiveness at the local church level – which is what is most important – are actually working.

So we invite you to participate again in that survey this upcoming year. The survey did show some interesting things at the first run last year.

We know that half of our churches have intentional discipleship initiatives. We know that half of our churches are engaged in church multiplication in some form: whether they are supporting C2C, supporting a church plant, or initiatives in their own church around reaching out into their communities, or starting maybe another campus, or starting other ministries to try and engage the community with the life transforming message of the gospel. We also know that 87 percent of our churches are engaged in global missions, which was a very exciting number.

And so, this spring, you will get the survey in your inbox again. And we’re really praying and hoping that we would have 100 percent participation because this information is critical in shaping the kind of ministry that we initiate as a conference with all of our provincial partners. [We want] to say, “How do we best serve the local church?” Because as I’ve said many times, “If it doesn’t help the local church, it doesn’t help.”

So the information you're feeding back to us helps us understand what the trickle-down impact is of the things that we've tried to shape – in leadership development, in church multiplication, in working with our partners across the country and in the MB family with the seminary and with MB Mission – so that we can best serve the ministry on the ground at the local church.

So, when it comes into your inbox (I know it's a bit of work to get the survey done), but as pastors and leaders, we would very much appreciate this, because really it helps us help you, which is why we exist anyway – to lead the church across the country in mission, and we do that together. The local expression of that is, of course, what is so important, as you engage with the unique circumstances you have in your church, around your church, as well as the unique gifts, abilities and callings that God has on each of you as local churches.

I firmly believe that the Lord has given every church everything it needs to do what God has called it to do. So you don't need to do what the church down the street is doing; you just need to discern what the Lord has called *you* to do. I believe that God has given all the gifts to do that, and if they are not there, then obviously he wants to provide them, so you need to step out in faith and walking in the direction that he's given you, as you discerned as a faith community.

I'm excited about the information the survey has given us this past year, because it really helps us shape and tune what we do. As well, we have the conversations with pastors and leaders across the country who feed back to us and continue to shape the ministries across the country.

So, thank you to those who participated last year. And for those who didn't: please jump in and take the survey. You'll see some more reports coming out about last year's survey in the upcoming issues of the *Herald*. And we will always feed back to you all the key learnings that we get – both to all of our partners and, as well, obviously, to the churches all across the country – because we think this information can be helpful for you as well, as you understand the trends that are happening and how churches are working. And hopefully you also connect with other churches that can be partners for you [as] you learn how to better serve the purposes of our King in your local context.