



ABMB Convention 2017 Update

For those of you who were there, thanks for joining the team! For those of you who were not able to make it our ABMB Convention this year, here is a brief summary! A special thanks to Urban Grace Church (downtown Calgary) who hosted us this year. Job well done!

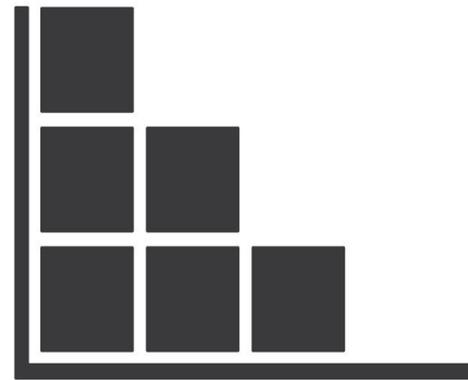
Friday afternoon was our LEADERS TRAINING day, with MB Seminary providing the training which centered around church governance and strategic planning. About 35 leaders participated in this opportunity led by Dr. Randy Wollf. This was followed by a city tour led by Dr. Randy Wollf. This was followed by a city tour led by Trevor Rysavy, pastor of Urban Grace, in which we were taught how to exegete our culture for church ministry and outreach.

The Convention formally began Friday night with 125 registrants joining us for a Family Dinner. The evening program focused on the ministries of G2C and MB Mission. We heard stories and reports of the various ministries as well as a further update on how MB Mission is planning to take over responsibility of G2C. A final decision on this will be made at the National AGM in Abbotsford on November 1. After a brief presentation, there was opportunity for Q&A. Although the sentiment in the room seemed optimistic, some registered concerns regarding lack of information on how to respond.

Saturday morning started with a time of worship, and focus on the Word. Our ABMB Director/ Provincial Minister, Paul Loewen, provided us with six foundational disciple-making building blocks exemplified in the life of Christ using the acronym HS-POWER: Holy Spirit dependence, Prayerful guidance, Obedience to the Father, authority of the Word, Experiencing God, intentional Relationships.

The formal part of the business meeting began mid-morning. Matt Dyck, moderator of the ABMB Board, handed over the chair for the meeting to Michael Dyck (Abbotsford, BC) whom the Board had asked to moderate. Reg Toews (Chilliwack, BC) was brought in to assist in the role of parliamentarian (along with Kevin Koop of Medicine Hat, AB). These third-party persons were brought in to assist due to the sensitive and potentially contentious nature of the meeting.

The focus of the AGM was the revision of the Bylaws of 2010. While the older version was strong, there was a need to strengthen it for clarity and to provide better understanding on some matters related to quorum, responsibilities and rights of member churches, and election procedures. After a period of questions and subsequent motions from the floor which were defeated, a delegate from the floor called for the vote (good thing we had parliamentarians who could provide clarity of process). The Bylaws Revision 2017 passed by 79% (67% was required).



FOUNDATION

■ ...like no other (1 Cor. 3:11) ■



The finance reports (including 2015) were presented and accepted. The budget for 2017 remains status quo with an increase expected in church support and individual donations. Support for the budget was strong.

Elections for board members followed and questions were raised regarding the process of nominations. The 2017 process was a step toward the Nominations Committee set forth in the new bylaws and included an application and reference procedure. New board members include the following: Nelson Senft (pastor of La Glace Bible Fellowship), Tim Doerkson (Gem MB Church, agri-business), Dr. Waldie Neufeld (La Glace Bible Fellowship, President Peace River Bible Institute). Ongoing board members are: Matt Dyck (pastor SunWest Christian Fellowship), Laurence Hiebert (pastor of Mountainview Grace Church), Benny Leung (Mountainview Grace Church, commodities analyst & trader), Scott Tucker (College Drive Community Church, welding instructor & entrepreneur). Special thanks to Val Martens and Kerry Dyck (both from River West Christian Church) for their commitment to the board in this past year.

Special thanks to all who participated in this Convention—we had over 80 registered delegates and another 40 guests! We look forward to moving into 2018 with a renewed focus on assisting churches to accomplish their mission and vision of reaching people with the good news of Jesus Christ. The year ahead will focus on Next GEN support, disciple-making training and coaching, support for our new Canadian churches.

Mark your calendars for 2018! Bethel Eritrean Church in Edmonton has invited us to join them in their newly bought and renovated facility on April 13-14.



THE ALBERTA CONFERENCE
OF MENNONITE BROTHERS CHURCHES