



Canadian Conference
of Mennonite Brethren Churches

Video Update – May 2017

Steve Berg, CCMBC Interim Executive Director
Bruce Enns, CCMBC Executive Board Moderator

Steve: We've just come through Executive Board meetings, you and I. Just a few minutes ago, we finished in this very room. So, why is it that we're meeting, Bruce? What is your sense about why it's important that the Executive Board and BFL are together on a regular basis?

Bruce: Well, we have this unique responsibility and privilege of giving leadership to this MB family. And one of the images that came through in these meeting for us is this idea of not just thinking of the one tree of CCMBC, but that we're actually part of an orchard, and there are many trees and ministries that are happening and are growing across this country.

And so why we meet is to just celebrate what God is doing, to pray into the things that are happening across the country and also to encourage and equip, so that people are understanding God's mission for us individually and also corporately. We are seeing leaders who are growing and multiplying. We are seeing churches that are becoming more and more intentional about discipleship and following that Great Commission that Jesus gave us.

Steve: The word that was used probably more often than any other word in these last couple of days is *collaboration*. And you know, it can be kind of a buzzword, or it can have different definitions, but I think collaboration, in the context of the MB family of Canada, is really about saying, We have such tremendous resources, such tremendous opportunities, such a rich history of ministry. And now we're really asking the question: How do we partner with each other – in ways that become much greater in the outcomes of mission and in seeing people's living changed and using our resources (our leadership resources, our financial resources) well? So we're talking about that, but we're also doing something about it.

We're got great news in terms of how we are doing financially as a conference: we've been able to be much trimmer in expenditures, and we've been able, as well, to put aside monies for operating reserve and to increase our strength that way.

But we also realize that the way we budget and the way we want to think about expenditures, and even restructuring, is changing. So, as we think about the new realities coming in to 2018, we recognize that this is a time, as well, to take the opportunity to finance and fund our ministries in a new way: with a greater sense, I think, of prudence and of responsibility. We recognize that churches are giving – are so sacrificial in giving – and we want to continue to say, You are our owners, and we want to invite you to engage with us.

We believe this mission is important. As we gather as leaders, we sense that it's so important that we have these leadership structures in place in order to direct the ministry opportunities that exist. But we can only do it as churches continue to believe that we're about the mission, that we're about multiplying churches, that we're about developing leaders and that we provide these initiatives in a very important way to our constituents.

So, we just appeal to churches to continue to consider what your responsibility – what your opportunity – is in supporting both our provincial and our national conference leadership structures. We want to ask for that continued support and trust in the work that we're doing.

Bruce: I would agree. I mean, we know things are changing; we know our budgets are going to be changing. We are moving toward scaling down some of our national structures and reworking some of those things. We're asking churches and provinces to engage with us, as you say, and also hold us accountable, because we want to truly work together, and we're committed to that. We know things are changing, but we know God has some really good things in store for us ahead as well.

Steve: And I want to say to all of our family that, for Bruce and me, it is a great joy to serve Christ by serving you on the great mission that God has called us: to multiply Christ-centred churches across this country that will see the transformation of people in Canada and beyond Canada to the world as they commit their lives to follow Jesus Christ.

Thank you so much. God bless you as you continue to enter into this mission with us.