



Canadian Conference
of Mennonite Brethren Churches

Video Update – January 2018

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I want to wish you a very happy New Year and trust that you have had a rich and renewing Christmas holiday.

As we all do at this time of year, we're thinking and praying a lot about what God is calling us to and how we recommit ourselves and refocus ourselves to those things. I've been thinking about the word "one."

Jesus prayed in his prayer in John 17, "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one." What God is doing among us is to make us one, even as he has experienced complete unity within the godhead.

When we think about being one, it calls to mind Paul's favourite metaphor, which is to be a body of Christ. There is a kind of unity in the physical body under the head, and we understand that Christ as the head of the church is enabling us to function, in all of our diversity, with the kind of unity that enables us to accomplish the task.

So, there is great diversity within the body. It describes how it is that we carry out, in our unique roles, what God's purpose is for us in this mission. But oneness also describes the way that we relate to each other. It describes how it is that we think about ourselves as a national church and as an international church. God is making us one people.

As we anticipate gathering together in Saskatoon this July, the theme of One will help us think about what God is doing. We've chosen the verses that Paul has penned for us in Ephesians chapter 4, "There is **one** body and **one** Spirit – just as you were called to the **one** hope that belongs to your call – **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, **one** God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" (ESV, emphasis mine).

As you join us in prayer this month of January, I invite you to pray that the work of God would be to make the people of the MB church – the family of churches across Canada – a people that are one.

God bless you, and thank you for joining us.