



Scope and Definition

National Assembly

As a national not-for-profit with charitable status, the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, in accordance with federal regulations, must hold Annual General Meetings. At these Annual General Meetings, delegates representing the Mennonite Brethren churches in Canada vote on matters of vision, budget, and the election of officials and directors. With the development of the Collaborative Model, a new system of representation was proposed. The proposed formation of a National Assembly will bring representation from all provinces as well as Mennonite Brethren national agencies and may operate in lieu of a delegate Annual General Meeting.

Definition

The National Assembly is the decision-making body of Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Collaborative Model. The delegates of the National Assembly will vote on matters of vision, budget, receiving of financial statements, and election of officers and directors. The National Assembly will represent the will of the various provinces and carry the collective vote of a provincial church conference as voted in by their respective provincial assemblies. The voting process at the provincial assemblies will be carried according to the existing

constituted levels of 1 delegate per 25 church members and a pastoral delegate. In matters not voted on at provincial assemblies, the National Assembly members will cast a conscientious vote with each member of the National Assembly having one vote. The National Assembly will hold an annual in-person meeting and may call any extraordinary meetings as it deems necessary. The decisions of the National Assembly will be binding to Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and to the function of the Collaborative Model.

Composition

The National Assembly will be composed of all members of the provincial executive/leadership boards, National Assembly Executive, the National Faith and Life Team, the Multiply board, the MB Seminary board, and all members of the National Ministry Team.

Key Functions

- To pray, support, and spiritually care for the nation
- To approve a national vision and strategy
- To be the keepers of a national vision and strategy
- To represent the will of the provinces in matters relating to Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Collaborative Model
- To approve a national budget that reflects the Collaborative Model
- To receive financial reports from Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and Legacy, Multiply, and MB Seminary
- To approve financial auditors
- To elect officers and directors. The National Assembly Executive will function as the governance board for Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches as well as for the Collaborative Model
- To elect a National Assembly Executive

Key Relationships

- With provincial conferences
- With National Assembly Executive
- With the National Ministry Team
- With the National Faith and Life Team
- With Mennonite Brethren partner agencies

Key Expectations

- To be the decision-making body for Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Collaborative Model
- To foster and model an attitude of collaboration and unity
- To represent the national decisions at provincial assemblies
- To meet in person at least once per calendar year
- To represent the will of the provinces as it relates to Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Collaborative Model

Scope and Definition

National Assembly Executive

Under the Collaborative Model, the source of authority for decision making rests with the National Assembly. The National Assembly entrusts the governance of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Collaborative Model to a board known as the National Assembly Executive. This board will be responsible for the monitoring and measuring of a national vision as established by the National Assembly.

Definition

The role of the National Assembly Executive is to provide leadership to the entire conference structure and to the Collaborative Model. It designs governance policies, monitors outcomes, delegates management authority to the national director, and measures performance and results.

The National Assembly

Executive will create committees and super-committees in order to assist the board with its governance. Super-committees consist of the National Faith and Life Team and National Ministry Team. Committees consist of Finance/Audit Committee, Governance Committee, Personnel Committee, and Nominating Committee.

Composition

The National Assembly Executive will be composed of one member from each provincial conference, a representative from the Maritimes, a representative from the Multiply board, a representative from MB Seminary board, and four to six members-at-large. The Executive will have four officers – the moderator, assistant moderator, treasurer, and secretary. These officers will be elected by the National Assembly at the annual general meeting. Elected members will serve for a term of four years with the option of renewal for one additional term.

Note the composition of National Assembly Executive should be diverse in nature to represent the diversity present in our churches and ministries.

Key Functions

- To pray, support, and spiritually care for the nation
- To be the fiduciary of the conference and the Collaborative Model
- To provide strategic leadership
- To design board structure and governance processes
- To oversee the charter and the General Operating Bylaw and implement any changes as required
- To provide direction in matters of church polity
- To monitor performance and measure strategic results
- To delegate management authority to the national director

Key Relationships

- With the National Assembly
- With provincial conference boards
- With the national director
- With the International Community of Mennonite Brethren family of churches
- With Mennonite Brethren partner agencies



Key Expectations

- Be knowledgeable of primary areas in which the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Collaborative Model operate
- Have the ability to understand key operational and financial risks
- Exercise objectivity, sound judgment, and capacity for independence and interdependence
- Meet either via conference call or in person a minimum of four times per year
- Attend National Assembly meetings

Scope and Definition

National Ministry Team

The Collaborative Model, approved for development at Gathering 2018, calls for a number of changes in the relationship between national and provincial conferences and between these same conferences and Mennonite Brethren agencies. The Collaborative Model calls for the creation of a National Ministry Team composed of national, provincial, and Mennonite Brethren agency leaders.

Definition

The National Ministry Team is a super-committee of the National Assembly, and as such, it receives its authority and mandate from the Mennonite Brethren churches of Canada through the National Assembly. The National Ministry Team is a strategic group of Canadian MB senior staff, led by the national director, whose mandate is to work collaboratively to accomplish the national vision. The National Ministry Team exists to inspire, equip, and encourage the church for effective ministry and mission in Canada and beyond.

Accountability

The National Ministry Team is accountable to the National Assembly and will be led by the national director. The National Ministry Team is accountable for Collaborative Model outcomes to the National Assembly Executive through the national director.

Composition

The National Ministry Team will be composed of the national director, the senior staff leader from each province, the president of MB Seminary, the president of Multiply, the Canadian church planting director, as well as the national director of Faith and Life. The National Ministry Team is able to establish both permanent and temporary committees as extensions of the team.

Operation

The National Ministry Team will meet either via conference call or in person a minimum of six times per year.

Key Functions

- To pray, support, and spiritually care for the nation
- To develop and maintain a national vision and present a national strategic plan for approval by the National Assembly
- To develop a national collaborative ministry plan, implemented through the provinces
- To ensure the detailed and timely flow of information
- To develop and implement measuring tools
- To develop a national ministry budget
- To work collaboratively with National Assembly Executive

Key Relationships

- With provincial executive leadership and provincial delegates
- With the National Assembly
- With the National Assembly Executive through the national director
- With Mennonite Brethren partner agencies
- With the National Faith and Life Team

Key Expectations

- To inform the National Assembly Executive of ministry challenges and opportunities in Canada
- To foster and model an attitude of collaboration and unity
- To inspire and equip the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches toward fulfilling its national vision
- To be ambassadors for the denomination and its ministry in Canada

Scope and Definition

National Faith and Life Team

The National Faith and Life Team is a new version of the previous board known as the Board of Faith and Life. The National Faith and Life Team was created in order to accommodate the relational changes called for in the new Collaborative Model, while still maintaining a focus on theological clarity, Mennonite Brethren identity, and community. The National Faith and Life Team will provide this focus with a collaborative relationship structure and mandate.

The National Faith and Life Team will carry out its mandate in partnership with provincial leadership. The National Faith and Life Team resources and support will be deployed primarily through the provincial Faith and Life teams.

Definition

The National Faith and Life Team is a super-committee of the National Assembly, and as such, it receives its authority and mandate from Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches through the National Assembly. The National Faith and Life Team exists to articulate and safeguard Mennonite Brethren theological convictions, produce theological and pastoral resources, and provide discernment and guidance on current issues.

Accountability

The National Faith and Life Team is accountable to Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches through the National Assembly and will be led by the National Faith and Life director.

The primary supervisory relationship for the National Faith and Life Team is with the National Assembly Executive. The primary supervisory relationship for the National Faith and Life Team director is with the national director.

Composition

The National Faith and Life Team will be composed of the National Faith and Life director (chair), a provincial conference minister or designate, a provincial Faith and Life rep from each province/region, an MB Seminary rep, a Multiply rep, and two members-at-large. Members-at-large will be elected by the National Assembly based on specific skill sets needed for accomplishing the necessary Faith and Life Team objectives. The National Faith and Life Team may invite guest expertise to accomplish a specific task. The National Faith and Life Team is able to establish both permanent and temporary committees as extensions of the team.

Operation

The National Faith and Life Team will meet in some form a minimum of five times per year

Key Functions

- To pray, support, and spiritually care for the nation
- To articulate the Mennonite Brethren theological convictions and encourage vital engagement with the Confession of Faith
- To provide theological resources
- To provide theological and pastoral discernment and guidance on prevailing social, ethical, and theological issues

Key Relationships

- With provincial Faith and Life teams
- With the National Assembly
- With the National Ministry Team through the National Faith and Life Team director
- With the National Assembly Executive through the National Faith and Life Team director
- With Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches partners: the MB Seminary, Multiply, and MB schools in Canada.
- With the International Community of Mennonite Brethren family of churches

Key Expectations

- Teaching and reviewing the Confession of Faith
- Building the process and support for the Confession of Faith for accountability and discipline
- Providing ongoing opportunities for Mennonite Brethren community to come together to engage theologically, e.g., Equip Study Conference, National Faith and Life Team Summit, etc.
- Teaching the Mennonite Brethren, evangelical-Anabaptist theology, identity, and heritage
- Developing resources for provincial Faith and Life teams
- Building the process and support for pastoral credentialing, including Pastors Credentialing Orientation and ongoing professional development
- Writing and resourcing in person and in print