

# Faith & Life

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. We continue to serve the MB churches of Canada in the area of strengthening the Canadian MB identity and community.

Since the Equip Study Conference and AGM of October 2019 the National Faith & Life Team (NFLT) formerly known as the Board of Faith and Life (BFL) continued the process of implementing the Collaborative Structure elements as they pertain to the NFL team.

As is true for of us, the NFLT only had a few months of activity since the last AGM before the CoVid-19 shut-downs began. Some momentum was lost in cancelling and re-planning of events such as PCO 2020, NFLT participation in ICOMB conversations, launch of new writing and video projects, update of the provincial faith & life team mandates etc. I have personally grown in my ability to hold plans loosely and in my flexibility to adjust priorities to the needs of the moment.

**With the challenge of the times comes an opportunity to re-imagine and to re-evaluate. We are confident that the Lord will use even this experience for the good his MB Church.**

In response to the unique experience of this season the NFLT, and I personally, have ministered to our MB family in Canada in new ways such as:

1. Coordination of an international MB Good Friday celebration,
  2. Leadership in national and provincial e-prayer gatherings,
  3. Resourcing of pastors for ministry in this season through webinars, blog posts, one-on-one support and more,
  4. Call for reports on what we are hearing God say to us collectively,
  5. Call for stories of CoVid-19 experiences for mutual encouragement and historical record.
- I'm grateful to our Lord for the opportunity to

minister in these ways and to receive ministry from the MB family in Canada and around the world in return. I trust that some of these ways of ministry will continue into the future.

There has also been progress on the more usual Faith & Life work where we:

6. Completed the draft of Article 8, which is now ready for approval. This approval will take place in 2021 in line with our revised bylaws.
7. Welcomed Karen West and Adam Greely as ON and Atlantic region reps to the NFLT,
8. Launched the alternate stream credentialing process with our First Nations leaders,
9. Begun the work of defining the Disciple Identity in support of the National Ministry Framework and strategic plan.

The NFLT now also has five functioning sub-teams, each with a specific focus. The work of these teams is on-going. We are encouraged by the close collaboration between the national and provincial leadership bodies, the NFLT, the MB Seminary and Multiply. This new era of collaboration has providentially positioned us to be able to quickly and effectively navigate the CoVid-19 demands together.

With the challenge of the times comes an opportunity to re-imagine and to re-evaluate. We are confident that the Lord will use even this experience for the good his MB Church, for our strengthening, for new depths of intimate relationship with Jesus, and a renewed missional fervor.

Please pray for the National Faith and Life Team – for wisdom, courage and creativity to carry out the task of guarding the treasure of the MB expression of faith in Christ; and for God to continue to send quality men and women to serve on this team and on each of the provincial faith & life teams. If you have any questions or suggestions for the NFLT please do not hesitate to connect.



*Ingrid Reichard, MDiv*  
National Faith & Life Director  
and NFLT Chair