



Assembly 2020

On March 13-14, just prior to the provincial pandemic restrictions rolling out, delegates met to celebrate Jesus and conduct the work of the Conference. The Assembly 2020 event theme was “Overcomers: In Christ we are Victors” (Romans 8:37). A key

message to delegates was that in a time when our country is in a sea of great chaos, change and fear, the church must be an island of peace, hope and joy. In Christ, we can be such an oasis.

Common Understandings & Covenant

The Assembly delegates approved the drafting of a *Common Understandings & Covenant* document for presentation at the 2021 Assembly. The primary purpose of the document is to articulate specific, tangible faith, and ministry related convictions and expectations for all member churches to sign on to. It is anticipated that this document will provide a clear template for what it means to be a member church in good standing.

Discipleship Coach

The contracted hiring of a discipleship coach was approved at the 2020 Assembly. This coach would extend the work of the Director of Ministry in the area of fostering discipleship and multiplication in the province. The discipleship coach would primarily build relationships with churches and camps, encouraging, supporting, inspiring and resourcing them in their efforts to make disciples. Luke Etelamaki, site pastor of The Compass Church (Regina), started in this role April 1st.

Financial News

Through the generous giving of churches and individuals in 2019, the Conference was able to cover all its operational expenses and SK. strategic investments and then bank a surplus amount in its Strategic Investment Fund. The 2020 budget remains the same for revenue and expenditures as 2019. The 2020 strategic investments are slightly lower than 2019 due to some last minute revisions. Due to a possible reduction in 2020 giving and revenue, a revised budget was recently implemented by the Executive Board.

Leaders Collective

The Conference will see its first group of eleven young adults complete the *Leaders Collective* training program in the Spring of 2020. The *Leaders Collective* is a six month cohort-based program which seeks to train participants who are actively serving their churches or camps. The purpose is to deepen their capacity to lead as followers of Christ.

Covid 19: Life In The ‘New Normal’

Saskatchewan churches and camps have adapted quickly to the physical distancing restrictions. The regular use of Zoom, Facebook Live and You Tube Live are now common in our faith communities seeking to stay connected and on mission. Face-to-face pastoral care is now taking place through phone calls, emails and texts. Small groups of one shape or another are actively supplementing the pastor’s efforts to stay in touch with the needs of congregants. Online video prayer meetings have also been a blessing to many.

This season is also presenting significant concerns about meeting budgets. The Conference office, churches, camps and partner schools have revised their budgets in light of a potential shortfall in giving and other revenue. At the time of this writing a number of staff have already been temporarily laid off and our two camps are seriously discerning whether to run a summer camp program. Our partner schools (Horizon College & Seminary and Thrive Discipleship School) have sent students home early, lost considerable rental revenue and are experiencing dire financial challenges.

These are also the days of opportunity. Testimony from churches is that they are seeing new opportunities for serving and sharing the Gospel. There is an increase in the number of unchurched or dechurched folks watching Sunday services as well as pastor’s daily online devotionals. One rural pastor who provides daily online devotionals went to his local bank where two unchurched tellers said that even though they are not Christians they listen to, and are genuinely encouraged by, his devotionals.

National – Provincial Collaboration

The SKMB Five Year Strategic Framework adopted at Assembly 2020 seamlessly works with the national strategic framework and matches national’s missional focus on making disciples.

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| <u>National</u> | <u>Provincial</u> |
| Spiritual Health & Theology | Pastoral/Church Care & Conference Unity |
| Leadership Development | Leadership Development |
| Mission | Making Disciples |

This year SKMB implemented one stream funding and its Director of Ministry is actively serving on the National Ministry Team. Our Executive Board is anticipating keen participation in the upcoming National Assembly.

Moving Forward

The Executive Board will be working with the Director of Ministry on a ministry tactical plan arising out of the recently adopted *Five Year strategic Framework*.