

## **CCMBC GOB Commentary: For Draft 1-8**

This document is written for the National Assembly as an introduction to the proposed Bylaw revisions.

### **Where to Begin**

In addition to this document, there is a section by section summary of changes, a high-level presentation (PDF with 12 slides) with a video, and a FAQ document that will be available to the constituency.

### **Two Classes of Membership**

The most significant change to the CCMBC Bylaw has been the addition of a new class of membership called Member Organizations. The 6 provincial conferences, MBS, Multiply and Legacy will each become a Member Organization in the national Conference. These nine MB organizations join the 250+ Member Churches in the Conference. The Member Organizations are added to create the National Assembly. CCMBC now becomes both a “conference of churches” and a “conference of conferences”.

### **National Assembly and Delegates**

Under the Collaborative Model, the purpose of the National Assembly is to bring together the boards of all nationally affiliated MB organizations in order to formulate national strategy. National collaboration is possible when all boards begin working together to coordinate the contributions of their organizations to create a collective impact. The board members of Member Organizations become the delegates to the National Assembly. Each Member Organization is allowed a maximum of 12 delegates. The CCMBC Executive Board and National Ministry Team also take part in the National Assembly. (The National Faith and Life Team may attend as non-voting members.)

### **Meetings of the General Assembly**

The General Assembly is an annual meeting of all Members and was previously called a convention. Whereas only National Assembly Delegates attend the National Assembly, the General Assembly is attended by both Member Church delegates and National Assembly delegates for voting on national conference matters. Under the CCMBC Charter, elections of the Executive Board must be done at an annual meeting. Under federal law, appointment of the auditor and approval of the audited financial statements must also be done at an annual meeting. The annual General Assembly might be held electronically or could be combined with the Equip study conference, as has been done in the past.

### **Use of Referenda**

The need to retain a General Assembly (an annual meeting of Members) does not change the design of the Collaborative Model. Decisions can be made using Referenda whereby national voting is done by casting ballots at the six Provincial Conventions. The bylaws are designed to be flexible, allowing either a General Assembly or Referenda to be used. Using Referenda enables greater delegate participation as well as better alignment of provincial-national decision making. Historically, there has been as many as four times the number of delegates at the provincial conventions compared to national conventions.

### **Rights of Delegates**

Each delegate may cast one vote, at an Assembly or by Referenda, whether from a Member Church or Member Organization. There is no differentiation between delegates in the two classes.

### **Meetings of the National Assembly**

Article 6 Section 10 describes the Role of Delegates at the National Assembly. Within the Collaborative Model, the National Assembly has the critical role of formulating plans that can be supported by the Member Organizations and Member Churches. Individually, each board has the responsibility to develop its budget and plans, which are typically approved by the members of its organization. The National Assembly is not meant to control the boards. It is meant to bring boards together so that the national collective context can be considered when planning. The goal is that a Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan can be formulated which each organization can then support and recommend to its members, the

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churches, for approval. National Assembly meetings are primarily for formulating plans and monitoring those plans to make necessary organizational adjustments.

### **National Ministry Team**

The addition of the National Ministry Team in Article 10 is another significant structural change to the bylaw. This team is the heart of the Collaborative Model in which ministries can interact in a cycle of continuous communications for collective impact. This group of senior staff leaders will play a crucial role in establishing a culture of collaboration among Member Organizations. Much of the design work will begin with members of this team, relying upon their understanding of the daily operations of each organization.

### **Authority of the Provincial Conferences**

An important area of bylaw clarification is the Provincial Conferences' authority related to church membership. A church becomes a member in the national conference by first becoming a member of a provincial conference. Hence, the rules of church membership and church discipline begin with the province and its bylaws. A bylaw checklist has been created to help provincial conferences review their governing documents for best practices in the area of membership, as well as other areas, as they relate to being part of the MB denomination. For example, it is helpful for national referenda voting if a similar church delegate ratio is used at provincial conventions across the country.

### **Other Bylaw Changes**

As noted in the summary presentation and video, there are language, clarity, structural and operational changes made to the bylaw to bring the Collaborative Model into existence. The proposed bylaw changes are focused specifically on implementing the Collaborative Model for the denomination.

### **The Big Picture**

For the Member Organizations, the revision to the CCMBC Bylaw is just one part of the Collaborative Model. To implement the full model requires the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan developed by the National Ministry Team and National Assembly, and then approved by the churches. The Strategic Partnership Agreements, signed between the Member Organizations and the national conference, help to define the operating framework of the model. The Principal Organization and its policies are needed to provide the administrative support for the model to function on a daily basis.

### **3 Perspectives**

Finally, the CCMBC Bylaw revisions can be viewed from the following perspectives:

1. As a church member, how do these revisions continue to protect the MB churches?
2. As a Member Organization, how might the revisions impact the way my organization operates?
3. As a denomination, how will these revisions enable our MB family to work more collaboratively?

The goal of the Collaborative Model is to build a shared plan that can be supported by all members of the denomination. This shared plan is not about controlling what every member will do. This plan is about envisioning the potential national impact of the MB denomination created by what every member can do. It is not about replacing mission. It is about combining mission for greater collective impact.

### **Your Feedback**

Thank you for your participation in the development and implementation of the Collaborative Model. Your feedback plays a valued and essential role in building the future of our work as a denomination.