

National Director's report

CCMBC began the year 2020 with the mandate to fully develop the Collaborative Model.

Bylaws

The first thing we had to do was rewrite our bylaws. New bylaws introduced essential elements for the functioning of the Collaborative Model. The bylaws also recognized an additional class of members, including our provincial conferences and national agencies such as Legacy, Multiply and MB Seminary. The board of these new “member organizations” form the National Council to advise and counsel towards fulfilling our collective mission. Senior leaders from the provinces, Multiply, MB Seminary and the National Faith and Life Team make up the strategic planning body we call the National Ministry Team.

For voting and approval purposes, the bylaws recognize the National Assembly, replacing what was previously known as our AGM. The National Assembly includes delegates from churches and member organizations. Church delegates remain the primary decision-makers, just as they had in our previous bylaws.

The CUSP

A second significant development in 2020 was the crafting of the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan. This document gathers all parts of the MB family under

one strategic focus. The priority areas of the CUSP are:

- Spiritual health and theology
- Leadership development
- Mission
- Organizational health

Aimed towards the following outcomes:

- Discipleship identity
- Churches that disciple
- Churches who lead
- Discipleship movements

The CUSP proposes an updated mission focus for the MB Church of Canada: Our mission is to collaboratively develop a discipling identity that propels churches to a disciple-making attitude in order to produce new leaders who lead new disciple-making movements.

The National Faith and Life Team helped us identify the following seven family values:

We operate in dependence on God, who is revealed to us most clearly in Jesus.

- We live by the guidance of Scripture
- We expect transformational discipleship
- We participate in God's mission
- We are church-centred
- We serve and lead together
- We steward resources on God's behalf.

Both the bylaws and the CUSP were vetted multiple times over 2020 with the National Council, focused

groups, and town hall meetings. Some provided additional feedback via email through our website. If you have comments or questions, please email us at FAQ@mbchurches.ca.

The COVID-19 impact

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the ministry of our churches and agencies this past year. The MB family had to adapt to the reality that this health crisis would bring lower funding, the closure of programs and the inability to meet in person. Two things became evident through this: 1. We are a resilient and creative people, and 2. The mission of Jesus continued regardless of church building closures.

The pandemic also had a significant impact on CCMBC's financial picture. We began 2020 with an approved budget of \$1.1 million. In response to COVID-19 constraints, in the spring, we adjusted the budget to \$991,000. CCMBC enacted salary reductions, temporary and permanent layoffs, and reduced giving to partner organizations to make this adjustment. The combination of austerity management and federal wage subsidies allowed us to finish the year positively. Due to the pandemic's continued effects, we propose a reduced 2021 budget, \$236,000 less than the previous year.

We invite you to the National Assembly as either a church delegate, member organization delegate or guest on June 11 and 12, 2021. Additional information, including registration, will be available on our website soon.

You are encouraged to stay connected with the MB Church in Canada by subscribing to our monthly digital magazine, the *MB Herald Digest* at mbherald.com/subscribe-via-email. Add your story to that of the Mennonite Brethren in Canada by contacting us at mbherald@mbchurches.ca.



Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elton DaSilva'. The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial 'E'.

Elton DaSilva
National director

CCMBC Moderator's Report

This past year has tested our adaptability and core values as few years have. Thanks to the resilience and adaptability of our churches, CCMBC team, and partner organizations we have weathered the challenges as well or better than expected. And, we all hope and pray for the restoration of normal options soon!

The CCMBC "Team" consists of the following:

- The Executive Board, which includes the moderators or designates from each province, representatives from the Legacy and Seminary Boards, the NFLT, and members at large – about 20 people.
- The committees and teams which work on specific projects: Finance and Audit Committee, Governance Committee, Personnel Committee, Nominations Committee, Executive Committee, National Ministry Team, and National Faith and Life Team.
- Our two directors: Elton DaSilva (National Dir.), and Ingrid Reichard (NFLT Dir.) along with their staff.

We thank them for their sacrificial work in difficult circumstances to help us through this year.

Your Board's key goals are to execute the will and plans of the Conference, coordinate efforts toward our mission, and work to resolve issues and challenges to our relationships and projects. We have not been able to meet in person since last June, so have worked on monthly zoom calls to do our work.

Given the limitations of a brief report, we will use "headlines" to offer an overview of projects and accomplishments this year.

- Began living into the new Collaborative Model and working at the foundation pieces as described by Elton's report (ie. Bylaws and Strategic Plan).
- Expanded the opportunities for participation and voice from churches, boards, and partners through our National Councils and Townhalls.
- Implemented the One-Stream Funding Model and thanks both to churches' faithfulness and the good management of our staff, finished year 2020 in the black.
- Welcomed a new Executive Director for Legacy, Jason Krueger, and moved beyond the mere recovery phase.
- Participated in the Multiply review and efforts to

rebuild our binational mission.

- Supported MB Seminary in its financial resizing.
- Worked at observing the "Keeping our Promises" commitments made in June 2020.

This June, we expect our National Assembly (AGM) will be held via Zoom which actually makes it possible for more people to attend, and that we affirm. Our schedule, agenda and related reports and recommendations will be published later this spring in good time for our June 11-12 meeting.

We continue to nurture our national partnership, not only because of historic and confessional bonds, but because we believe we can accomplish more by working in a complementary and collaborative way, than if we all attempted to "do it all ourselves."

This June we will be given an opportunity to agree on the areas where we can operate collaboratively; the major goals are to:

- See our churches and members be Spiritually healthy and theologically committed to our joint understanding of God's design for the church – expressed through our Confession of Faith.
- Operate from a plan that calls, equips, supports, and refreshes leaders for our future.
- Mobilize our churches to keep mission and disciple-making a core in their efforts and finances.
- See Conference Board/Agencies and churches grow in their organizational health.

We want to operate with a "figurative open door" policy, so I invite you to address questions and suggestions to our National Board through the following email: moderator@mbchurches.ca.

We trust your provincial meetings go well.



For the Executive Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Penner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ron Penner
Moderator