

## **ABMB 2021 Report for National Assembly**

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Like every organization, we made adjustments and pivots. 2020 was a year of soul-searching, re-focusing, and many uncertainties, with plenty of faith-building opportunities. Our priorities shifted from future directional plans to focusing on maintenance and assistance.

- We made budget adjustments, reducing our expected income and narrowing expenses, recognizing the effect the pandemic would have on all of us. We are contributing 30% of all church donations to the National Conference which lines up with how funds were distributed in the past. We are very thankful that at the end of 2020, we were able to meet our obligations and attain a surplus.
- We managed crises and conflicts, and with the leadership of the Faith & Life Teams (credentialing & care), we saw some churches move back to increasing health.
- We increased our partnerships and collaboration efforts, specifically with leadership development (churches, Camp Evergreen and Multiply), and for 2021 are anticipating some ground-breaking events like SOAR Alberta (for youth) and TREK (focus on post high school “gap” year).
- Credentialing of pastors has been challenging with no in-person interviews; the value of theological alignment and understanding is so helpful in achieving our mission. We are very intentional about interviewing all potential pastors prior to candidating or hire.
- We continue to assist new Canadian churches with practical matters like credentialing of pastors, financial support systems, and achieving their charitable status.
- Working toward helping churches collaborate together for greater missional impact and church health. When churches start, or struggle through transitions, we invite and engage other congregations to partner.
- We are beginning to implement the CUSP (Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan) within the province.

Moving forward, 3 mandates that we want to focus on. They are:

1. Grow personal relationships with pastors and boards/church leaders;
2. Develop conference-wide missional opportunities that build unity;
3. Focus on collaborating together for emerging leadership development.

We want to continue to work with our churches and mission partners (Camp Evergreen, Multiply, MB Seminary, Colleges...etc.) to achieve these goals. It is our desire that these opportunities for ministry will rise out of our churches, and that we grasp them and collectively see them grow within our province. It is a call to our churches that as they see opportunities they share that vision with our province. This approach is very much in line with our National Collaborative Model that allows more direction from our provinces to identify areas of ministry that need to be emphasized.

We continue to emphasize the need to work together as churches and ministry partners for greater service to the King of kings. In so many ways we are seeing the need to get back to the basics of doing “church” in more relational ways, encouraging each other in our walk and service to Jesus. While we grieve many losses of past ministry, we also anticipate the greater opportunities that are before us. May God lead and guide us together!