



# BCMB

BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE  
OF MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

---

April 22, 2021

BC Report for National Convention

Greetings from the churches in BC.

As fellow travelers through a year of Covid we confess by faith, “our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all” (2 Cor, 4:17)

Despite all the setbacks, disappointments and deep loss, our hope in Christ remains strong. Knowing that the light shines brightest when the night is dark, we anticipate that the troubles of these days will cause many to seek a community where they can find truth and love. By God’s grace our churches will be those communities.

Over the past year our BCMB churches have been catapulted into the online world. Necessity has led even the smallest of our churches to utilize zoom and live streaming to provide teaching and community for their people. In so doing our churches have opened hundreds of thousands of portals offering seekers a glimpse of what they might find at a given church.

Across the province, the creative Holy Spirit of God has led our churches to

- offer drive thru communion
- divide up buildings into multiple zones for groups of 50
- serve coffee and donuts at local schools for teachers
- honour long term care workers with gifts and a musical tribute
- support families with children’s ministry resourcing at home
- form small discipleship huddles compliant with Covid restrictions
- focus on a decentralized discipleship model and consider how to be the church when large gatherings are not possible.

Our BC churches and pastors have grown in their appreciation for the wider Canadian MB family through the past year. National prayer events, a pastoral wellness seminar as well as invitations from the CCMB and NFLT to offer feedback on strategic and theological questions have all helped to raise awareness that we are part of a Canada wide community.

The year past has also stretched and tested us in many ways. The changes in structure and leadership at Multiply have left us struggling to maintain momentum in church planting and retain our confidence in MB global mission partnership. We praise God that the mission is His and we are grateful for the many signs that momentum and confidence remain strong.

It is no secret that Canadians struggle with regionalism. With the new collaborative model, we are eager to see the MB family grow ministry partnerships between provinces and we want to pursue ministry here in the west with a keen eye on what we can learn from and share with our churches to the east.

BCMB church members have trusted God for His provision in their lives during this time of COVID. They have been faithful in worshipping God through gifts and offerings and have enabled BCMB to contribute faithfully 20% or \$355,400 of our church contributions to the CCMBC one-stream funding budget in 2020. This is a reflection of trust and hope in God's provision and the gospel work of the church, both provincially and nationally.

We deeply appreciate our Canadian MB family and are prayerfully excited about what God has for us together.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Thiessen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Rob Thiessen**

Conference Minister  
BCMB Conference