

As we look forward to 2021, we anticipate living in the Collaborative Model and the National Strategic Plan, together with the other provinces and agencies. We remain committed to our ongoing work to equip, resource, and inspire our churches.

Leadership Development

We established a new 3-year affiliation with the MB Seminary, CCMBC, and CMU to continue offering a Manitoba Mennonite Brethren track in graduate-level training. Andrew Dyck and Pierre Gilbert remain as faculty in our midst and continue their involvement in our Faith and Life Teams, preaching and teaching and ministry among students. We are grateful for these partners and the tangible collaboration in the forming of this affiliation.

Organizational Health

We are updating and revising our governance and bylaws in order to bring them into compliance with the Collaborative Model. We put together a bylaw review team and will bring these items to our Assembly 2022. Also, revisions to our Safe Place Policy are being completed along with further resource materials to provide churches with training for volunteers.

Another space of our work is supporting churches. Pastoral searches, HR realities, crisis support, board development, navigating challenging conversations, etc. We are honored to be invited and welcomed into the internal workings of a local church.

Spiritual Health & Theology

Our Nuts & Bolts events have been times for pastors and leaders to gather, be equipped, inspire and support one another. These events are times where we can ask challenging questions. Questions like how do we help our pastors and leaders survive and thrive in an alien environment? Or, how can we help them navigate the changing landscape?

One space of need that became apparent in 2019 was the care and inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons. While we have many churches who have made great strides in this important work, we've often struggled with how to engage in healthy conversation that continues to honor the convictions that we share in our confession. We engaged with PostureShift, an event designed to equip churches for this very work. Unfortunately, the pandemic

tangled our plans for 2020. PostureShift is now scheduled for September 29-30 of this year. We are excited to collaborate with the Saskatchewan and Ontario MB Conferences in this opportunity.

MBCM's Provincial Faith and Life Team have been faithful in their ongoing work in the area of spiritual health and theology. The PFLT has always been a critical factor in the credentialing process for MBCM pastors, and that continues to be the case. 2020 marked the year that the PFLT began to focus and work a bit more in the theological and practical workings of churches within MBCM. This work continues into 2021.

Missions

This past March, the Multiply team once again hosted SOAR Heartland. Our ongoing partnership with Multiply continues to be effective in providing opportunities for local churches such as cross-cultural & contextual training on living out the Gospel of Jesus, orientating our everyday life to be missional, as well as resources in the areas of local & global mission, to name a few

I Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."

We're incredibly grateful for the resilience of our churches in 2020. Indeed a sign of God's steadiness in our lives amid much trouble and unknown.

