

National Assembly AGM

June 12, 2021

8:00 AM – 2:10 PM PDT

Zoom Meeting

Meeting called by:	CCMBC Executive Board	Type of meeting:	Annual General Meeting
		Note taker:	Reg Toews

Minutes

Agenda item: Welcome and Prayer

Presenter: Ron Penner

Ron Penner welcomed delegates and guests, prayed and gave some opening remarks.

We have 214 delegates registered from coast to coast for our virtual annual meeting. Thursday evening we held workshops and Friday evening we had worship. Today we will do our business.

Introduction of CCMBC staff, formal guests (ICOMB, Mennonite World Conference, MDS, MCC).

Goals - we are about God's work. Jesus came to seek and save the lost and our mission is the same as the mission of Jesus. Our style would be Acts 15 - it seemed to be good to us and the Spirit. We use a simple majority for most decisions except for a few where we need two thirds for approval.

Last night we looked up and looked around. Today we look back - accountability; goal setting; relationship work.

Introduced Sharon Simpson who will be sharing the moderating duties.

Quorum was reached at 8:10 am PDT

Meeting Procedures

Reg reviewed the Rules of Order from page 1 of the National Assembly handbook and Carson reviewed the online support and technology. Zoom chat can only be used by attendees to directly send a message/question to Cam Stuart. The chat will also be used to show motions and will have the link to the voting platform.

Consent motions will be used for a couple of motions to help move us forward.

Consent Motion: to appoint parliamentarian (Jason Dyck); Ballot team (Sandra Schmidt, Alinea Piche); Minute review committee (Gareth Goossen; Gwen Machnee) **MSC**

Consent Motion: to approve the 2020 AGM minutes and the 2021 AGM agenda. **MSC**

Prayer in Breakout Rooms to pray for our family of churches in these challenging times; for our partner ministries; for our leaders at CCMBC and country; families struck by tragedy; how can we be redemptive?

Agenda item: Moderator's Report

Presenter: Ron Penner

Ron Penner introduced those who serve on the Executive Board and the support staff. He thanked all for their service. Ron highlighted bylaws, CUSP, and budget.

In the past year we have launched teams, monitoring the National Director's work, and monitoring our finances. Problems arose and we worked through them.

On June 24, 2021 the Executive Board will look at the coming year forward to the coming year's goals.

Delegates thanked the EB members for their work.

Ron highlighted the *Keeping Our Promises* update found in the Moderator's report. No questions were asked.

Agenda item: National Director Report

Presenter: Elton DaSilva

It has been a difficult year and we have had to adjust. Elton thanked pastors and churches for being faithful in this time; Elton thanked the Executive Board, CCMBC staff, and Legacy staff for the work they did over this past year.

Elton's report is based on the five big 'rocks' that needed to be done this year.

The 'demolish phase' included staffing adjustments to be in a place to better manage ourselves.

The 'designing phase' is where we have done the work on the bylaws and the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP). Collaboration was a key in getting to this place.

- The National Council is a new part of our process. This engages more people into what is happening at the national level, but decisions are still made by the churches. We look forward to times when we will be working out these plans.

Questions/Comments from delegates

- Appreciation and thanks for living within our means.
- Were people laid off; who is doing the work of those who were laid off?
 - o CCMBC closed the events department, and we are moving to work with provinces around events; use of technology with limiting of travel; workload has been managed by relying on technology using electronic formats. This is not ideal, but it is what we can do within our means. More staff will be needed in the future.
- Ron Penner asked Elton to share about his favorite hobby and food.
 - o Favourite food is Brazilian BBQ. He also builds furniture out of recycled wood or pallets. These times allow him to pray and prepare sermons. Shared his attitude of listening and following where God is leading us.
- Elton was thanked for being part of the ICOMB work and the Multiply work.

Sharon passed the moderating work back to Ron Penner

Agenda item: MB Seminary Report

Presenter: Mark Wessner

The MB Seminary report can be found on page 26 of the handbook.

Mark highlighted two pieces in the life of the Seminary.

1. The restructuring plan was to work out our finances for sustainability. There were increased donations and cost savings. They ended the year with a surplus to begin replenishing reserves. Mark thanked those who gave funds, sent students and prayed for the Seminary.
2. Teaching churches in a more formal way in serving regions is being operationalized now. The board just approved a certificate that MB Seminary is offering - it is four courses. These are face to face in churches. Planning to be virtual this year. A video was shared explaining the teaching church model. The first teaching model will be held at Willingdon Church this coming fall.

Continuing education certificate - the work of ministry is helping with training world-wide as referenced by the ICOMB report last night. This will be available to others across the country.

Delegates took a 30-minute break

Agenda item: CCMBC Financial Reports

Presenter: Michael Dick, Bertha Dyck,
Jason Krueger

Michael Dick (chair of Finance & Audit Committee and Legacy board chair) introduced the new President and CEO for Legacy, Jason Krueger.

Bertha reported on the 2020 fiscal year (beginning on page 29 of handbook).

- Ended the year with a small surplus thanks to government subsidies related to COVID and keeping down of expenses.

Jason reported on the Pension Plan (page 53). The plan earned just over 6% which was in keeping with the plan.

Jason reported on the Legacy Fund (page 89)

- Audit came back clear.
- Mortgage investment policies were reviewed by the auditors. This was the first full year of operation.
- Jason reviewed the revenue areas.
- A plan in place for CCMBC to repay debt owing to Legacy.
- *Our Plan Forward* (page 85) was reviewed.
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Questions/Comments from Delegates

- Question about the liability that CCMBC has to Legacy.
- Comment was shared thanking Jim Davidson who came out of retirement to serve. Also, a thank you to the present staff for their diligent work.
- Affirmation was shared for the National Ministry Team. Affirmation was given for the amount of process that was used this past year.
- Affirmation for the payroll services.
- The reports from Elton and Jason both spoke of the same things.
- Ontario members are having trouble investing in Legacy. What is being done about this?
 - o Jason responded that there is only one product being offered at this time. Legacy would need to look at other products that would allow for investment by Ontario members (as investment rules for Ontario restrict investment presently).
- What is the 6 million due to and due from?
 - o Jason responded that different accounting standards have been followed.
- Will the national council be involved in decisions about how Legacy funds will be used in the future?
 - o NMT along with EB will both be involved in creating the budget and funding.

Motion: To approve Legacy consolidated financial statements as presented. **MSC**

Motion: To approve CCMBC non-consolidated financial statements as presented. **MSC**

Motion: To approve CCMBC pension plan financial statements as presented **MSC**

Motion: To approve KPMG as auditor for Legacy. **MSC**

Motion: To approve KPMG as auditor for CCMBC. **MSC**

Motion: To approve KPMG for CCMBC Investments. **MSC**

Motion: To approve KPMG for auditor for CCMBC Pension Plan. **MSC**

Agenda item: Legacy Report

Presenter: Michael Dick, Bertha Dyck, Jason Krueger

Jason gave a historical perspective along with a present report.

Most churches use the payroll and accounting services. Insurance coverages and the pension plan are part of the Legacy work. The difference in interest rate differential allows for these services to be provided.

Three focuses: operation policies, opportunities for investors, eliminating the deficit.

Jason shared a request for prayer and thanked people for being part of this ministry.

A delegate expressed thanks to God for where we are now from where we were.

Agenda item: CCMBC General Operating Bylaws

Presenter: Ron Penner

Ron Penner passed the moderating duties to Sharon Simpson.

Ron presented the revised Bylaws.

Motion: To approve the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws as presented. **MSC**

Comments/Questions from Delegates

- The bylaws don't replace the Charter that we have. The Charter showed the imagination of our forefathers.
- Will the Bylaws be able to support the Collaborative Model and the CUSP?
- The bylaws should contain rules for establishing quorum on a provincial basis, common delegate pool, a greater clarity on when a vote or referenda are used, and a definition of the CUSP should be included. The addition of Article 13 gives more power and legal standing to fewer people.
 - o Ron Penner responded that church delegates will be the majority of those voting in the future; The Executive Committee of the Executive Board is essentially a coordinating body with emergency powers; still following the will of the conference; quorums done provincially would be helpful.
- If approved, how would we adjust the bylaws moving forward?
 - o There are ways included in the bylaws for future revisions.

Delegates took at 10-minute break

Agenda item: Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP)

Presenter: Elton DaSilva

The Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP) is the coordination of all the ministries across the country. This phase is decentralized but organized. There are different ways of explaining the plan.

Comments/Questions from Delegates

- Affirmation for the road map to move forward collaboratively.
- Could threats also be opportunities?
- Looking at the SWOT analysis are the threats listed generalized, or in order of importance?
 - o No order of importance. These came from 50+ people; provincial conferences were then given opportunity to share the top two of each area; boards were also asked for input. Elton did not edit this.
- Support for the overall direction of the collaborative model.
- On the Mission of the CUSP, Multiply requested a friendly amendment: Key deliverables be moved from seven to five.
 - o This friendly amendment has been seen by staff. It was agreed that this is an editorial change, not an amendment.
- The Key Performance Indicators are not measurable enough. A request was made for them to be made into measurable components.
 - o The CUSP is more than measuring. Can we agree to work through the measurements over the next year so not hold up the direction of this?
- Affirmation of the shift from what leaders will do to what all of us will do. This must happen at the local level. Affirmation for disciple making direction if we are going to engage with Gen Z. Can each person at this meeting find 4 or 5 people to disciple?

Motion: To approve the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan as presented. **MSC**

Agenda item: Multiply Report

Presenter: Vic Wiens

Vic Wiens is serving in the role of interim coordinator and board liaison.

There have been several transitions that have been taking place within Multiply:

- 3 couples who have served for over 3 decades each. Vic thanked the delegates for support for these missionaries.
- The transition of Randy Friesen from his role as President.
- Philip Serez has served for over 30 years and has moved to long-term disability.

Vic thanked Multiply mobilizers for their work. A video report was shared from Lloyd Letkeman. There is a written report on page 27 and a full report on the National Assembly website.

Financially Multiply is finishing strong.

A team of workers from Brazil will be in Dominican Republic discipling, training and building leaders and churches there who are looking for a family of churches to join. They are bringing Missional Leadership Training to this group. This is a story of collaboration. We were encouraged to give to the present needs.

Multiply shared a video encouraging us to “go”.

David MacLean (Multiply Board Chair) shared on behalf of the board. The board is new, and he introduced the new Canadian members - Wendi Thiessen, Maryanne Berge, Bill Seinen, Chris Stevens, and himself. He also introduced the US members. This time of transition is to follow Jesus into this new season. The task force recommendations are being implemented. Of the 18 they have implemented 15.

Agenda item: CCMBC Budgets

Presenter: Bertha Dyck

Bertha Dyck (CFO) presented the 2021 budget as well as the 2022 Pro Forma budget.

Motion: to approve the 2021 CCMBC Budget as presented. **MSC**

Motion: to approve the 2022 CCMBC Pro Forma budget as presented. **MSC**

Agenda item: National Faith & Life Team (NFLT)

Presenter: Andrew Dyck, Karen West,
Laurence Hiebert

A working team for the NFLT has been created to help facilitate the work of the NFLT during the NFLT Director's leave of absence. This working team consists of Ken Esau, Karen West, Elton DaSilva and Andrew Dyck.

Andrew Dyck, member of the NFLT reviewed the revisions made to the Confession of Faith Article 8: Christian Baptism.

Some questions were raised from delegates around infant baptism and the concern of “devaluing” that experience when we ask those individuals to be re-baptized.

Motion: to approve the revision of the Confession of Faith Article 8: Christian Baptism as presented. **MSC**

Karen West presented the Membership Regulation Policy.

Motion: to approve the NFLT Membership Regulation Policy as presented. **MSC**

Laurence Hiebert presented the National Credentialing Policy.

Motion: to approve the NFLT National Credentialing Policy as presented. **MSC**

Agenda item: Elections

Presenter: Reg Toews

Reg Toews, Executive Board Secretary presented the role of the nominating team and the two Executive Board members to be ratified at this AGM: Phil Gunther (Saskatchewan Rep) and Tim Doerksen (Alberta Rep).

To help the nominating team find individuals to serve on our boards and teams, a form will be sent to all delegates via email to complete if there are leaders in the church who would make a good board member.

Motion: to approve Executive Board members, Phil Gunther and Tim Doerksen. **MSC**

Agenda item: Closing Remarks

Presenter: Ron Penner

Ron Penner made some closing remarks to wrap up the 2021 Virtual National Assembly

Thanks to all who made this event happen.

A survey will be emailed to all participants to provide feedback on the event.

Consent motion: To destroy the ballots upon approval of the minutes by the Executive Board Secretary and to adjourn the meeting. **MSC**

The annual general meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm PDT

Summary of Motions

1. **Consent Motion:** to appoint parliamentarian (Jason Dyck); Ballot team (Sandra Schmidt, Alinea Piche); Minute review committee (Gareth Goossen; Gwen Machnee) **MSC**
2. **Consent Motion:** to approve the 2020 AGM minutes and the 2021 AGM agenda. **MSC**
3. **Motion:** To approve Legacy consolidated financial statements as presented. **MSC**
4. **Motion:** To approve CCMBC non-consolidated financial statements as presented. **MSC**
5. **Motion:** To approve CCMBC pension plan financial statements as presented **MSC**
6. **Motion:** To approve KPMG as auditor for Legacy. **MSC**
7. **Motion:** To approve KPMG as auditor for CCMBC. **MSC**
8. **Motion:** To approve KPMG for CCMBC Investments. **MSC**
9. **Motion:** To approve KPMG for auditor for CCMBC Pension Plan. **MSC**
10. **Motion:** To approve the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws as presented. **MSC**
11. **Motion:** To approve the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan as presented. **MSC**
12. **Motion:** to approve the 2021 CCMBC Budget as presented. **MSC**
13. **Motion:** to approve the 2022 CCMBC Pro Forma budget as presented. **MSC**
14. **Motion:** to approve the revision of the Confession of Faith Article 8: Christian Baptism as presented. **MSC**
15. **Motion:** to approve the NFLT Membership Regulation Policy as presented. **MSC**
16. **Motion:** to approve the NFLT National Credentialing Policy as presented. **MSC**
17. **Motion:** to approve Executive Board members, Phil Gunther and Tim Doerksen. **MSC**
18. **Consent motion:** To destroy the ballots upon approval of the minutes by the Executive Board Secretary and to adjourn the meeting. **MSC**