

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
AND
MENNONITE BRETHREN BIBLICAL SEMINARY
2022-2026**

January 21, 2022 Draft

PREAMBLE

This Memorandum is entered into between the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (CCMBC) and Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary (MB Seminary) to continue their agreement for the operation of MB Seminary.

Key related documents are the MBBS Act, MBBS Bylaws, CCMBC Bylaws, and the CUSP Network Strategic Partnership Agreement.

This MOU seeks to address relationship matters beyond the scope of the CUSP SPA. MB Seminary is a key partner in the CUSP and participates in its development, implementation, and assessment.

Through this Memorandum, the CCMBC commits itself to the ongoing viability and vitality of a seminary controlled by the CCMBC, which will serve the constituency through multiple teaching centres and modalities in Canada.

GOVERNANCE and ACCOUNTABILITY

MB Seminary is incorporated in the province of British Columbia under Bill PR 402-2013 to provide theological education and Christian leadership training.

MB Seminary is a ministry of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. All permanent faculty members are to be members in good standing and part of a Mennonite Brethren Church also in good standing.

MB Seminary is a partner organization in the CCMBC collaborative model. In pursuit of good collaboration and communication, MB Seminary appoints one of its Board members to be a non-voting member of the CCMBC Executive Board, appoints its President to serve on the National Ministry Team, and appoints a representative to the National Faith and Life Team. CCMBC agrees to represent itself on the MB Seminary Board via two voting appointments: the National Director or designate and the NFLT Director or designate. In addition, either Board has the prerogative to invite other representatives to their board or committee meetings for particular agenda items.

MB Seminary is free to enter additional partnerships with academic institutions, churches, and other ministry organizations as determined by its Board or President.

MB Seminary is governed in accordance with the MBBS Act, and in accordance with its Bylaws, which are expressly approved by the CCMBC.

As indicated in the Bylaws, the MB Seminary Board of Directors is responsible for the governance of MB Seminary. The Board guards the mission and mandate of MB Seminary and serves as the fiduciary for the institution. In fulfilling this role, the Board is responsible for hiring and supervising the president and oversees the philosophy, finances, and curriculum of MB Seminary.

The MB Seminary Bylaws outline the following ways MB Seminary is accountable to the CCMBC:

1. The CCMBC shall elect members of the MB Seminary Board of Directors in accordance with MB Seminary Bylaws.
2. CCMBC approval is required for any substantial changes in the direction of MB Seminary, any loan greater than 10% of the MB Seminary operating budget, and for the dissolution of MB Seminary and distribution of residual assets.
3. The Bylaws of MB Seminary can only be amended by action of the CCMBC.
4. CCMBC reviews the MB Seminary Annual Audited Financial Statements and approves the Auditor.
5. All permanent status faculty members must be members in good standing of a CCMBC church in good standing and shall sign a statement of agreement with the Canadian MB Confession of Faith, the MB Seminary Community Covenant, and the MB Seminary Mission Statement, and be credentialed in their province of residence.
6. The MB Seminary Board of Directors will provide full reports to the CCMBC as requested by the CCMBC Executive Board.

FINANCES

This Memorandum does not change the ownership of any assets held by or for the benefit of MB Seminary or alter MB Seminary's status as a beneficiary under any endowment, annuity, or other similar instrument.

The CCMBC agrees to assist in the funding of the operations of MB Seminary as follows:

1. CCMBC will provide annual funding of a minimum of \$150,000 to support the ongoing operation and ministries of MB Seminary, with the goal of increasing the annual amount 10% annually during the duration of this MOU.
2. MB Seminary, under the supervision of its Board of Directors, shall continue to raise funds from churches, donors, and other sources for designated and undesignated purposes. CCMBC will actively encourage MB churches to financially support MB Seminary directly.
3. MB Seminary endeavors to live within its means and avoid operating with an annual deficit. In the event of an anticipated operational deficit CCMBC may be asked to assume responsibility in working with the Board of Directors to correct the shortfall.
4. MB Seminary is committed to contributing its expertise and resources toward implementation of the CUSP as considered feasible by the MB Seminary Administration and Board.
5. MB Seminary agrees to avoid encumbering debt beyond 10% of its annual budget without the approval of CCMBC.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Both parties agree to use the Dispute Resolution process as outlined in the CCMBC Bylaws.

FUTURE REVIEWS

The agreements set forth in this Memorandum of Understanding and the relationships established herein and in the accompanying Bylaws will be reviewed by the national conference a minimum of every five years to determine whether any changes are desired. This agreement can be open for review at the written request of either party with six month's notice.

Signatories Segment to be added.