

CCMBC National Assembly Minutes

October 28, 2023
Northview Community
Church, Abbotsford, BC

		Type of meeting:	Annual General Meeting
		Minute taker:	Kara Friesen

Minutes

Agenda item: Welcome & Prayer **Presenter:** Cam Stuart

Cam welcomed guests and delegates to the 2023 National Assembly.

Quorum has been reached. There were 124 delegates signed in at the beginning of the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 9:15am PDT

Motion: To appoint parliamentarian (Victor Martens) and minute review team (Reg Toews and Brad Sumner). **MSC**

Motion: To approve the June 8, 2023 AGM minutes and the October 28, 2023 National Assembly agenda. **MSC**

Coffee Break.

Agenda item: Moderator's Report **Presenter:** Cam Stuart

Next year the in-person Equip/National Assembly in Winnipeg October 2024.

Cam highlighted his report in the National Assembly handbook.

There is a growing hunger for making the "main thing" the main thing with a Great Commandment posture. Gratitude for the leaders in each province who have led through a challenging season.

How do we foster the great commission of disciples who make disciples in our churches? Unity is an opportunity.

What is the role of the principal organization, CCMBC?

- We can do more effectively when we coordinate our efforts with other like-minded people.
- To be a supportive infrastructure to provinces and churches.
- Coordinate and track; administration; measuring outcomes.
- Function like a trellis in an apple orchard – providing structure to allow trees to grow healthy and produce good fruit.

We are in a new strategic era as we operationalize the CUSP.

Streamlining events into 2 events: virtual AGM in June (to approve financial statements, elect officers to boards); in-person National Assembly attached to Equip events in October.

The CUSP allows senior leaders, staff, and board members from across the country to collectively engage in operationalizing the elements of the CUSP through NFLT, NMT and the Exec. Board.

Agenda item: Leadership Front Counter Presentation **Presenter:** Mark Wessner

Mark Wessner presented the Leadership Front Counter concept. What is the point of the National Conference?

The conclusion is that there are 4 Priority Areas (Spiritual Health & Theology, Leadership Development, Organizational Healthy, and Mission) that are best accomplished by a collaborative, national approach.

MB Seminary will take the lead in coordinating the Leadership Development that is happening across the country. This tool does NOT do leadership development, people do that. This is a management tool for churches to access that makes what is already happening in Leadership Development accessible for churches across the country.

Core Learning: Leadership Development map; selection of self-guided leadership development pathways, a customized leadership pathway for individual churches, personalized record of completed credits for Canadian credentialed pastors through a dedicated Learning Management System (Populi).

The outcome is better equipped pastors and leaders in Evangelical Anabaptist theology.

Project Timeline:

- Draft Model (August 2023)
- National/Provincial board affirmation (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024)
- NFLT Professional Development approval (Spring 2024)
- Operationalize (Fall 2024)
- Project Launch (Spring 2025).

In June 2023, the NMT moved a motion that said: *“NMT asks MB Seminary to imagine a restructuring and rebranding to become an overall national leadership development center that includes, but is not limited to leadership front counter, GTE, and other forms of leadership development and theological training in partnership with provinces and agencies.”*

Questions/Comments

Elton DaSilva (CCMBC National Director) – appreciation to the Seminary board and staff for their excitement for the project and their willingness to serve.

Andrew Dyck (FaithWorks, Winnipeg) – for the other schools across the country (CBC, ETEQ, CMU, Thrive) – would those be included in the options?

- Absolutely!

Tim McCarthy (North Langley) – hiring a coordinator/hiring a coordinator – what resources are needed?

- The NMT has affirmed a budget piece that outlines the needed funds and costs associated with it.
- Right now, a ½ administration piece is needed.
- As Legacy is in the position to provide revenue once again for ministry.

Michael Engbers (Parliament) - Internal resources within churches are needed rather than moving just to a professional perspective.

- The tendency is to outsource leadership development. If there are internal resources available in your churches, utilize those first. There are also resources that some churches cannot do.
- Ideally, it would be a blend of both.

Rob Thiessen (BCMB) – the picture NMT started with CUSP was a potluck. Now it's a picture of a trellis where the National is the principal organization. Concern we might not get the buy-in for the churches in this process.

- Years ago a ton of money was put into L2L, C2C/Multiply, both of which did not work out.
- As churches, we created a seminary to train pastors. The Seminary seems to be struggling with this (as are all seminaries). Shouldn't the Seminary be focusing on seminary education and churches should be doing leadership development. How is this different from L2L?
 - This is a management tool, for those in our churches and agencies.
 - The buy-in piece is key. The key will be pastors in each province who become part of the deployment and assessment in the process.
 - Seminary can do a good job training pastors, but pastors and churches are instrumental in identifying those leaders.
- Churches are struggling to find trained pastors for the church. Is this part of the plan?
 - Leadership Front Counter will not address that need specifically but it is a tool to facilitate that strategy.
 - The strategy will likely be in the hands of the NMT.

Concerns around the way L2L ended. Supports for lay leaders/board members is crucial. This may increase the overall buy-in.

- L2L had the right impulse, but excessive infrastructure may have been problematic. Leadership Front Counter is light in infrastructure.

Cam Stuart commented on the previous comment related to CCMBC as the Principal Organization. The full version of the CUSP quotes the Stanford Impact Report, which states that without a principal organization that provides organizational support for collaboration, the organization will fail.

Agenda item: Spiritual Health Report

Presenter: Ken Esau

Thanks to Northview Church and their staff for all their support in Equip.

Recordings will be available from Equip for churches in the coming weeks/months.

Eph 4:4-6, 11-13 - Seeing and measuring growth for the purpose of maturing. Our purpose is to create a culture and community of healthy churches.

Defining Healthy Churches - 7 potential areas of health:

1. Love and worship the triune God (moments of prayer in the MB Herald, Code of Personal & Ministry Ethics for credentialed leaders).
2. Value and promote activities that lead to Christlike character development in all members of the congregation (moments of Prayer in the Herald, Code of Personal & Ministry Ethics for credentialed leaders).
3. Widespread familiarity with and embrace God's biblical story from Genesis to Revelation and the key biblical themes central in this biblical story (theological schools)
4. Growing understanding and unity around core theological, ethical and missional convictions (Confession of Faith, Equip, new credentialing questionnaire, PCOs, Q&R corner in the Herald, resources).
5. Gather, worship, pray, teach, love, give, evangelize, baptize, celebrate communion, disciple, serve, discern, fellowship, admonish, care, forgive, submit (Updating resources related to Living the Confession, partner with NMT for Equip).
6. Live out missional faithfulness (Equip, Multiply).
7. Live in accordance with structures and procedures to protect the vulnerable, honor confidentiality, encourage wise discernment and transitional procedures for leadership roles.

Agenda item: Multiply Report

Presenter: Bruce Enns

Bruce highlighted the cumulative mission strategy phases:

- 2005: going to the least reached (North American Missionaries)
- 2015: together that the world may know (leaders who are nationals)
- 2025: Multiplying disciples (regular disciples multiplying).

Multiply wants to come alongside churches and provinces across the country in mission through the NMT and commitment to the CUSP in the area of mission.

Mission Strategy Map: Anchors (sending multiplying disciples, developing missional leaders, strengthening global partnerships) and Outcomes (disciples are made, churches are planted, nations are reached).

Agenda item: MB Seminary Report

Presenter: Mark Wessner

Report is in the National Assembly Handbook.

Mark invited Walter Fast (Steinbach MB Church) and Ray Harms-Wiebe (Willingdon) to share their experience has been with teaching churches.

Willingdon – mobilize and mentor students who will graduate with a master's degree in ministry Foundations in Transformational Leadership. Head, heart and hands – biblical knowledge that transforms hearts and changes the way we live.

Steinbach – has two graduates love the MB church and its theology. We need well-equipped and trained in lay leadership as well given our current cultural moment. The hope is to continue to see local and global impact and those in the church equipped theologically.

Agenda item: Legacy Report

Presenter: Jason Krueger

Jason highlighted the strategic plan summarized in the National Assembly Handbook

Mission statement: to provide ministry-focused financial services for kingdom growth.

Values: dependance on God, serving its partners, steward resources on God's behalf, provide high quality professional service and value the well-being of our employees.

Providing payroll services for approximately 180 churches and serving Health and Dental benefits to approximately 900 members.

Jason invited the Assembly to read Psalm 46 together.

Agenda item: CCMBC Budget

Presenter: Jim Bell

Jim Bell (CCMBC CFO) presented the 2024 CCMBC budget.

Revenue: \$933,300

Expenses: Spiritual Health – \$266,640

 Leadership Development: \$195,000

 Mission: \$40,000

 Organizational Health: \$556,660

Total Expenses: \$1,058,300

Surplus (Deficit) of Revenue over expenses: (\$125,000)

*Note – the unpublished quarterly results indicate that CCMBC will likely end with a small surplus.

The deficit budget:

- Strengthen, enhance the single stream funding development.
- Committed to no deficit budgets in the future.
- Given the missionary annuity amount in 2022, the deficit has been carried over

Motion: to approve the 2024 CCMBC budget as presented. **MSC**

Questions

Jonathan Giesbrecht (Northview) – How do we forecast the future year budget? What is the plan to get a balance for the following year? Is there a plan for review of the single-stream funding? If so, at what level is that happening?

- Conversation is key between provinces and National Staff based on the previous year's budgets. The key is frequent conversation in the new year once provincial budgets are finalized.

Michael Dick (South Abbotsford) – As FAC chair, we are constantly dialogue around One Stream funding and its implications. The pressure is down to the provinces. Begin dialogue between FAC and the finance teams in provinces. We don't necessarily have a money problem, but a willingness to acknowledge that we are in this together. We have made commitments together as a family of church and we need to be reminded of that. We have been blessed as Mennonite Brethren, we need to challenge our churches to give nationally and provincially, seminaries and colleges.

Mark Burch (Northview) – Finances reflect our vision. Church health – down to 86 churches in BC. How many more churches will close in the next year. How is church planting being addressed? We have lost it. Less than 1% is designated to mission (not necessarily Canadian mission).

- In the strategic plan, the church planting piece is in the realm of provincial offices.

Agenda item: National Director Address

Presenter: Elton DaSilva

Elton shared parting words with the Assembly.

People will be missed. Thank you to staff, the Executive Board, National Ministry Team, National Faith & Life Team, Legacy, Seminary & Multiply, Provincial Staff Leaders.

Acknowledgement of Don Morris (USMB Exec. Director), Doug Klassen (Exec. Minister of Mennonite Church Canada), and Dave Reimer (president of SBC) who are here today.

In these last 5 years we have needed to look at structural, leadership, theological and organizational health of CCMBC. We have a pathway now for moving forward.

1. As Anabaptists and as MBs, we need to wrestle with the word authority. When we call people to places, we give them great responsibility but minimize the authority we give them to accomplish those responsibilities. Authority is biblical.
2. High calling toward mission and what it means to be a church in mission. What is mission? If we minimize mission to simply, evangelism we are creating a disservice for ourselves. It is about strengthening and equipping the church and opening new spaces for the Gospel to enter. Mission is also walking with people to be more like Jesus.
3. Canada has a great responsibility for the globe. Engage in reaching other parts of the globe. And the globe is also coming to Canada.

Why MB?

We bypass the practicality of being MB. It is because God placed you here that you are to embrace, labor and build up to the best of your ability, uphold its collective understanding and practices, and diligently repent for failures.

God felt you were needed in this denomination. Being obedient to God's call is also to be obedient and to the place where he has called you.

Closed with Jude 2:24-25

Agenda item: Commissioning for National Director

Presenter: Michael Dick, Mark Wessner, Vic Wiens

Every leader is an interim leader – we all lead for a season.

Elton has led this denomination in a season of change, constriction, but have led us in a new Collaborative Governance model with a Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP).

Thessalonians – He who calls you is faithful.

Philippians – God provides for all your needs.

Deuteronomy 34:10-12 – Moses was known by God, sent by God and he did it. The same can be said for Elton. Leading is hard. Leading nationally is hard.

Elton has been a gift from God for this family of churches. This gift is now being shared at a global level – his leadership, spirit and authority. As a global family, ICOMB wants to also invest in the family of CCMBC. The best is yet to come!

Vic Wiens prayed for Elton.

Agenda item: Closing Remarks

Presenter: Cam Stuart

Motion: to adjourn the October 28, 2023 National Assembly as presented. **MSC**

Cam closed with a blessing.

Meeting adjourned at 12:23pm PDT.

Summary of Motions

1. **Motion:** To appoint parliamentarian (Victor Martens) and minute review team (Reg Toews and Brad Sumner). **MSC**
2. **Motion:** To approve the June 8, 2023 AGM minutes and the October 28, 2023 National Assembly agenda. **MSC**
3. **Motion:** to approve the 2024 CCMBC budget as presented. **MSC**
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