

NATIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT FOR CCMBC AGM

One of the reasons I pursued this role was the growing sense that CCMBC was budding into a new season. For the last 8 years we had been in a season of significant change, restructuring and revisioning. At times it has been very painful and yet much of the change was necessary. By God's grace we are emerging from this challenging season with hope and hunger for what God wants to do in and through our churches. Here are a few of the highlights and opportunities that are before us.

Highlights:

1. We ended the year with a large donation that covered our potential deficit. God's grace and the faithful generosity of our churches and donors is such an encouragement.
2. Praise God for his continued faithfulness as we grow into our vision with a collaborative posture. The vision that we believe God is inviting us to pursue is: *"To cultivate a community and culture of healthy disciple-making churches and ministries, faithfully joining Jesus in his mission."* To me, this is a very compelling and challenging vision. It is compelling because it is reflecting our unique call of God as participants in His Great unfolding story of redemption. It is challenging because we have not had a robust plan to cultivate disciple-making into the expectation of what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our church ministries.
3. I want to celebrate a very big step forward with our vision and Collaborative efforts. We have streamlined our vision and collaborative efforts with two key documents that will lead us into the future. These two documents are making their way through the necessary procedural channels and will be presented to the constituency for your final affirmation. These 2 documents are the Collective Impact Strategy (CI Strategy) and Member Organization Agreement's (MOA's).
 - a. Collective Impact Strategy: Our leading vision is called the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP-approved 2021). This is very comprehensive document. The Executive Board asked that we summarize this document into one page that clearly and simply summarized the larger CUSP document. That summary is called the Collective Impact Strategy (CI Strategy). This summary document has been well received and is the basis of our collaborative efforts between all our provinces and agencies.
 - b. Collaboration and Member Organization Agreement's (MOA's): The governance posture we have recently adopted is called the collaborative model. The intention of this model of leadership/governance is to fundamentally serve one another in mutual submission, humility, respect realizing that each brings much to the conversations. It is a way of leading that intentionally puts aside personal agendas in order to pay attention to Jesus' leadership of our denomination, churches and agencies. The ways in which we want to collaborate are outlined in what we are calling "Member Organization Agreement's (MOA's).
4. The National Ministry Team (NMT) has discerned two key initiatives towards our vision. First, we would like to have prayer increasingly become a core aspect of our ministry/missional DNA. We have been encouraged by the week prayer Jan. 5-11, 2025. Our theme for that week and for the year is "Pray First/Pray Always". We had roughly 100 participants from across our country come together to pray. The good news is that many felt we needed to continue praying for our churches and so we established a weekly prayer time on Tuesdays at 12pm PST and prayed through Easter and the BCMB convention.
5. Second, I believe that the only way we are going to cultivate healthy disciple-making churches and ministry is through disciple making initiatives.

We are all exploring and learning the principles of disciple-making with the goal of discipling others towards disciple-making. I will be having a group of pastors from across the country gather to prayerfully develop a “Road map” that will guide pastors and churches in cultivating a healthy disciple-making church or ministry. I am very excited to see the Spirit lead us in this initiative.

6. A major project the Executive Board completed this year was the writing of a new Governance Manual that is congruent with our By-laws, CUSP and Collaborative Model.

Opportunities:

1. 2025 is the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. This is the historical and theological stream from which Mennonite Brethren emerged. There is much to celebrate in our story. I also believe that there is much our theological framework has to offer our broken and violent culture. We will explore one of these themes at our Equip Conference in October at North Kildonan Church in Winnipeg (Oct. 23-25) led by Ken Esau and our National Faith and Life Team. The theme is **“The Gospel, Peacemaking, and the Gospel: God’s Peace in an Age of Conflict, Chaos, and Confusion.”**
2. It does feel as though we are moving into a season of unity and vision development. I believe this will be the outflow of praying together. And as we grow a culture of prayer, I am hoping that we can increasingly be supporting, blessing, encouraging, resourcing one another in a spirit of humility and generosity for the glory of God and His wonderful vision He has entrusted to us. This kind of unity will be noticed by a watching world. (John 17: 23)

So Grateful:

I am so grateful for many people in our denomination. I am thankful to serve alongside our Executive Board who serve faithfully, diligently and with humility. The National Ministry Team, who are each, gifted in their own way serve our churches and agencies with integrity and diligence. The CCMBC staff has had a significant turn over this year and are blessed to have added Leanne Janzen, Michelle Madunatu, Carina Gallardo and Linda Fox. Carson completed a much-earned Sabbatical, Nov. 9, 2024-Feb. 10, 2025. We are grateful to Jon Isaac, the director of our archives, who retired at the end of the year. He provided 13 years of steady, diligent service to our CCMBC family.

I would close my brief report with Psalm 126:3 “The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” May this continue to be our experience and our anticipation!



Cam Stuart

CCMBC National Director