

MODERATOR REPORT

Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches – Mission/Vision

To cultivate a community and culture of healthy disciple-making churches and ministries, faithfully joining Jesus in his mission.

It has been a privilege to serve on the CCMBC Executive Board during the past year. This year represented a significant personnel change in the Executive Committee. I started the role of Moderator in November, 2023, the positions of Assistant Moderator and Treasurer were newly elected in June, 2024 and we were able to appoint a Secretary, which was vacant, in October, 2024. The Executive Board is made up of the 4 executives, 5 Members at Large, 6 Provincial Moderators (or Representatives), 3 Member Organization Representatives (MB Seminary, Legacy, Multiply) as well as CCMBC senior staff (National Director, National Faith and Life Director, Legacy CEO and Legacy CFO). As of Fall of 2024, we were pleased to see the roster of board positions full, something which has not been the case for a number of years. This year has been filled with learning, building relationships, robust conversations, decision making and a positive prayerful attitude of serving together. I am grateful for the willingness of all to engage and serve well.

Some highlights from the past year:

Executive Director

Cam Stuart is just completing his first year as Executive Director. Cam is doing an excellent job and we greatly appreciate his leadership. He brought much experience as he had been on the board for a number of years and was most recently the Interim Moderator. Cam and Ken Esau, our National Faith and Life Director, are both effective servant leaders and continue to strengthen the relationships with our provinces and agencies.

Governance Manual

In the summer of 2024, the Governance committee with the help of a number of others focused on rewriting the Board Governance Manual that reflects our Collaborative model. This is a valuable resource in helping our board understand roles and processes as we work together.

New Board members

At our AGM in June, 2024, Mike Rochon was elected to our board as a Member at Large. Through some developments beyond his control, he was unable to continue serving with the board. In the last half of 2024, Glen Madden from Willow Park Church, Kelowna was appointed as a Member at Large, serving on the Finance and Audit Committee. In the Fall of 2024, Les Riediger, from Summit Church, Calgary was appointed as Secretary. We are bringing Glen and Les forward as Executive Board nominees to be ratified by our AGM.

National Council and National Town Hall

On January 30, 2025 we had a National Council meeting to discuss and affirm our desire to bring the Collective Impact Strategy (CI Strategy) and the Member Organization Agreement (MOA) to the 2025 AGM for approval. This meeting included delegates from the Provincial boards, Agency Boards and Executive board. The meeting had a feeling of celebration as it was the culmination of much discussion with and feedback from our provinces and agencies that has been ongoing for the past number of years.

On May 1, 2025, we held a National Town Hall for all church members who wanted to interact with leadership of the conference with a focus being on our financial information and the CI Strategy and MOA.

Collaborative Model

As a board we continue to be enthused about the Collaborative Model of governance. Although there is a

longer process to points of decision, the unity and engagement has been evident. We continue to reflect on best practices of communicating, receiving feedback, and making decisions together. I am grateful for the desire of our board members to engage in discussion, bringing a broad range of perspectives with the desire for outcomes that support and promote our vision and mission. We have recognized our bylaws need to be updated. We had considered bringing a number of these updates to this AGM, but realized in our board discussions that it would be valuable to take a bit more time to bring clarity to the changes that need to be made to better reflect our practice. We will continue these plans at our Fall 2025 board meetings with the desire to bring bylaw updates to our 2026 AGM.

National Equip Conference

We are looking forward to our National Equip conference Oct 21-23 in Winnipeg this year. Thanks to Ken Esau and the rest of the NFLT for all the work they are doing to prepare for this event. It promises to be very interesting and engaging so we welcome as many as are able to come and participate.

Acknowledgment

Thank you to our team of National staff, serving our conference so well providing communication, documentation and administration. Thank you, also, to our churches, provinces, agencies and board members for your willingness to serve where you are. Many times it is not easy, sometimes it is not convenient, but it is important and is a valuable avenue of us serving God together. It is my prayer that you will feel God's presence and capacity as you serve. Thank you!

Final thought

This past February, my wife Yvonne and I had an opportunity to join a MCC Learning Tour in Colombia. This was a very encouraging and eye-opening experience

seeing the work of MCC supporting our churches in Colombia. We were able to meet a number of MB churches serving their communities faced with difficult socio economic and political challenges. They were happy to share and it was inspiring to see the light of Jesus they were bringing to their community. When we were in Bogota a group from the Choco region (NW Colombia) came to Bogota to report to us the work that the MB church was doing in that region. We were unable to visit this area because of the continual challenge of armed groups and rebel forces. It was inspiring to hear how the church was involved in bringing the light and peace of Jesus into a world of turmoil and conflict. One of the presenters was a man named Pedro who is a church leader and a farmer. Being a farmer myself, we talked about crops and such. In Alberta where I live, we have about 115 days of growing season between frosts and so crop storage is a prominent consideration. I asked him how he stored crops, especially with so much armed conflict around him. He just smiled and said he manages that by continually planting crops all year long as their growing season is 365 days a year. I was struck by this statement thinking about all the productive potential which is extremely hampered by conflict and instability.

God calls us to join in His mission. Our spiritual season of planting and growth is 365 days a year. Although we each face conflicts and pressures that challenge us in our walk with God, He continues to give us opportunities to reach out to those around us. May God give us wisdom and grace as we serve God together as individuals, churches, provinces and as a nation.

For the Board,



Tim Doerksen

CCMBC Executive Board Moderator