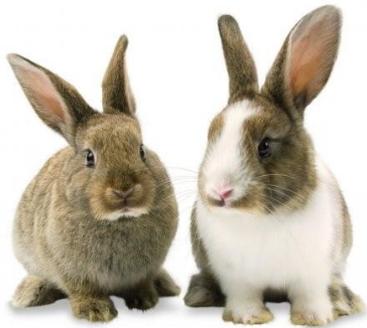




THE ALBERTA CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES



Disciple-Making That Transforms

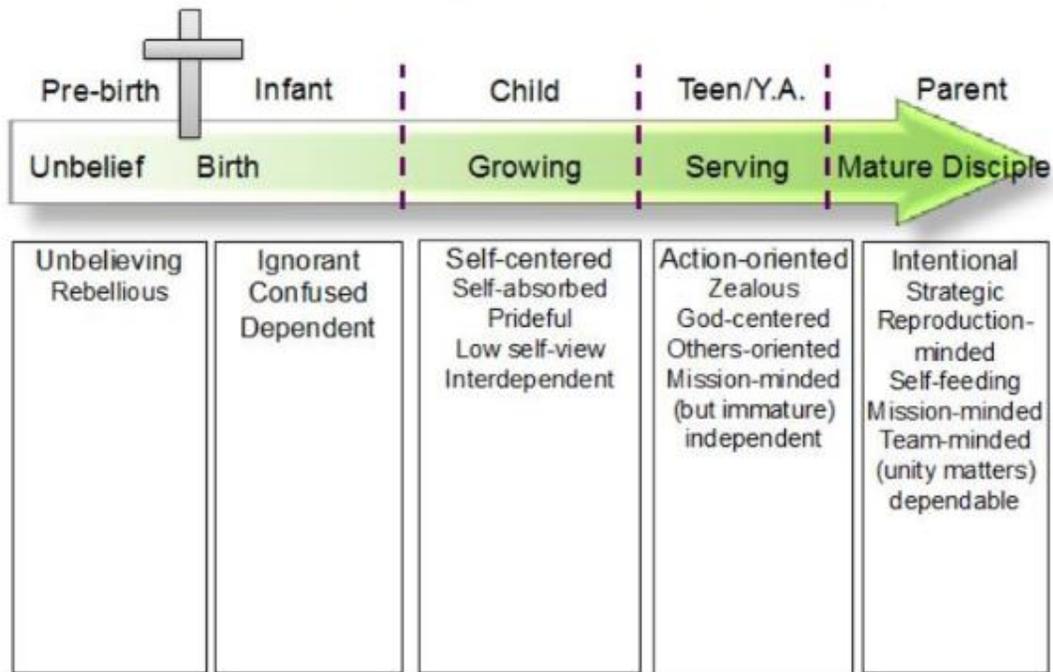
Spring is in the air...and the rabbits are beginning to morph back from white into their summer colors. Speaking of rabbits, did you know that a pair of rabbits, based on average litter size and reproduction gestation times can produce 184 bunnies in 18 months? That's right! Now the original parents don't birth 184 bunnies, but in 6 generations, if every pair births litters at the same average rate, there will be 184 bunnies and rabbits eating your garden next fall! Unless of course coyotes and cats and cougars have a few snacks along the way.

What's the point of this? Well, it's really a model of disciple-making. If one person disciples one new person each year, who disciples another, who disciples another, and that process is repeated every year, in 10 years there will be 1000 disciples. And in 30 years, there will be over 1 billion! Jesus' final command to his disciples was that they go and make disciples who will make disciples (Matthew 28:19-21). The apostle Paul instructed his disciple Timothy to do the same (2 Timothy 2:2). It makes sense, doesn't it?

Reproduction of any kind is always dependant on the ability to become a "parent" (1 John 2:12-14). The same is true spiritually speaking; many people have may have been Christians for a long time but in many ways are still functioning like children or even teens in the faith. Parenting - mentoring, coaching, "birthing"

spiritual infants - may be a long way from their experience, or even their desire. Mature disciples are parents - intentionally, strategically, being reproduction-minded, always looking for ways to “grow the family”.

Characteristics of each Stage



Jim Putnam, Disciple-making in the Local Church

Jesus' command was to make disciples, and he placed upon himself the responsibility of building the church (Matthew 16:18). Church leaders need to think about how the church as a whole unit can be a “family” working together to make disciples - a full, systemic, integrated way of making sure that every member of the family is properly nourished, educated, resourced, and challenged at appropriate levels to the end of actually becoming mature disciples who are intentional about reproducing kids in the faith, who eventually will do the same!

Do each of your ministries in the church have a disciple-making strategy, with the right relationships in place to assist people to move from one place in their journey to the next? Over the next year we will focus on this area of church life, and encourage every pastor to attend at least one disciple-making training event. In the mean time, I'm setting my alarm on my phone as a reminder to pray toward this end. Will you join me?

Luke 10:2

Pray at 10:02AM for more
“workers in the harvest field of
Alberta

2 Timothy 2:2

Pray at 2:22PM for a disciple-
making DNA to permeate my
own life and that of all of our
leaders and churches.

**2015 Convention Equipping Day**

The Convention this past March 20-21 was at Dalhousie Community Church in Calgary. Friday's "Equipping Day" was attended by over 75 people, and presenters came from as far away as Waterloo, Lethbridge, and Winnipeg. The theme for the day, "Disciple-Making that Transforms" included: a plenary session on the transforming work of Christ in our lives, workshops aimed at providing practical "how-to" lessons on disciple-making in the local church, and TED talks by many of our own pastors and leaders. We also heard personal stories from a panel on how our own personal discipleship journeys are now part of our leadership influence. We were challenged and encouraged to continue to take the transforming person of Jesus to our churches and communities!

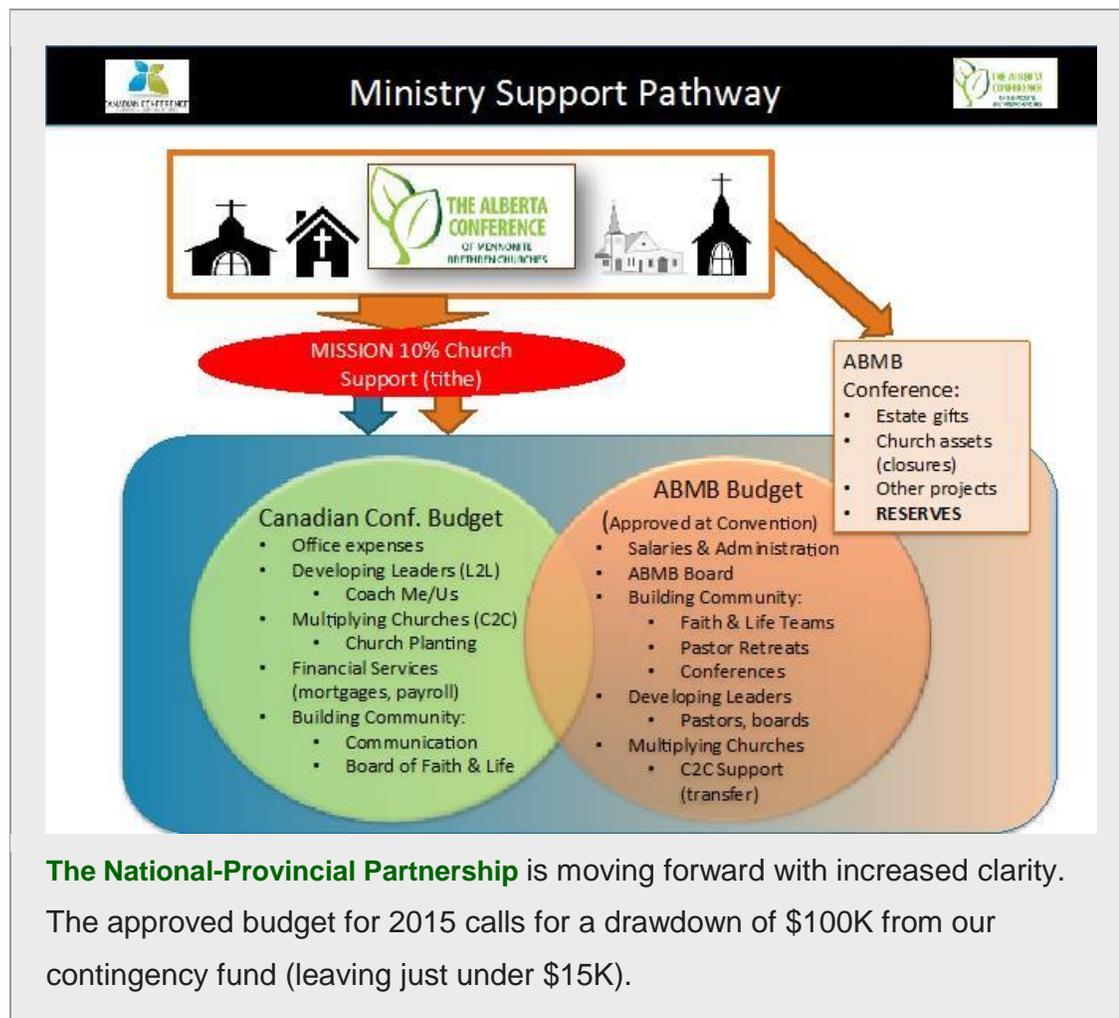
Convention Business

One of the highlights of the business meeting was the breakout "caucuses" during the budget portion of our time together when churches consulted with one another

on how best to support the mission and vision of “*multiplying Christ-centered churches to see Alberta transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ.*” Paul J Loewen, our ABMB Conference Pastor, also provided a “state of the union address” in which he highlighted our collective values, challenges, and the provided the following intentional priorities for this coming year.

1. Commit to prayer
2. Create and model disciple-making leaders and churches
3. Coordinate healthy church systems
4. Provide pastoral support and credentialing
5. Encourage church multiplication
6. Grow financial health
7. Develop next generation ministry and networks

Delegates were engaged and voiced strong affirmation on moving forward together for the greater impact of the mission.



However, if all the churches work toward a 10% tithe of their receiptable giving (based on T3010) there would be about a \$115K increase in church support. We understand that this is not likely to happen this year, but perhaps we can get closer to this long-term objective. This means we would not need to use our contingency and we could become givers rather than receivers of CCMBC support. Currently other churches outside of AB are now supporting us through a CCMBC shortfall transfer.

We are encouraging each church to consider how they can come closer to the 10% tithe if they are not there already there. Thanks for your support of our collective mission in Alberta!

Please make tithe/donation cheques out to
"CCMBC" and have them marked for the **"Alberta Project"**.
Mail them to the **ABMB Ministry Centre** at the address listed below.

If you attended the **ABMB 2015 Convention and/or Leaders Equipping Day** we greatly appreciate your feedback! Please take the short survey by clicking on the button below. Thank you!

[Click Here to take the ABMB 2015 Convention Survey](#)