

ABMB AGM April 23, 2022 Minutes

Linden MB Church

Linden, AB

1. Call to Order 9:07am
 - a. Welcome – Tim Doerksen, Moderator of ABMB.
 - i. Welcome to delegates and guests.
 - ii. Expressed gratitude for ability to meet in person after the last 2 conventions were virtual.
 - iii. Thanks expressed to Linden for hosting and serving.
 - iv. Introductions of board members, partner agency representatives and special guests.
 - b. Bible Focus & Prayer – Kris Peters, Pastor of Linden MB church
 - i. Kris reflected on 2 Samuel 10
 1. Coming through the covid pandemic has been challenging for all, including the church. Information around the pandemic has led people to conclusions that can cause division within groups.
 2. In 2 Samuel 10, the Israelites are faced with enemies from both sides, and Joab leads the Israelite army by addressing them with verse 12 - *Be strong, and let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. The LORD will do what is good in his sight.*
 3. As leaders we are challenged to show courage and lead the congregation as one flock as we go into the fray.
 4. For the church family to endure the pandemic, we must live courageously without fear. “And may the Lord do what seems good to Him.” Vs. 12
 - c. Meeting called to order at 9:26 a.m.
 - i. Quorum has been reached with seventeen of eighteen churches represented.
 - d. Parliamentarians
 - i. Donna Janz (Crestwood), and Dave Chow (SunWest) to serve in this capacity.
 - ii. **Motion 22-03:** To approve parliamentarians as presented. **Seconded and CARRIED**
 - e. Ballotters
 - i. Phil Born (LaGlace), Jason Schellenberg (Vauxhall), Marilyn Riediger (Gem), and Chris Wood (Linden) to serve. Both Carey Willis (Linden) and Drew Johnson (Summit) who are listed in the program agenda are not able to serve.
 - ii. **Motion 22-02:** To approve ballotters as presented. **Seconded and CARRIED.**
 - f. Agenda
 - i. **Motion 22-01:** To accept agenda as presented. **Seconded and CARRIED.**
 - g. Minutes 2021
 - i. **Motion 22-04:** To accept minutes from 2021 Convention. Received adjustments:
 1. Matt Dyck, not Mark
 2. Pg 8 ii Faith and Life “team”**Minutes as adjusted Seconded and CARRIED.**

2. Reports

- a. Board Report – Tim Doerksen referred to the written report and added the following:
 - i. In the story of the Road to Emmaus in Luke 24, Jesus meets 2 depressed and downtrodden individuals. Jesus has a conversation with them and at the end, they realize that Jesus is alive. Their hearts burned and they rushed back to Jerusalem to share the story. When we encounter Christ, we have a desire to gather and share and the event is of great encouragement.
 - ii. We have missed having physical fellowship together – the sharing Friday night, of individuals on behalf of their church, was very encouraging.
 - iii. The Board continues to emphasize the importance of connection and intentionally connected with Church board moderators during the year.
 - iv. Executive Director, Paul Loewen continues to connect with pastors and boards. Paul is skilled at helping boards with leadership and governance and is available to do more of that.
 - v. There was a Town Hall meeting on Feb. 7, 2022, which is an important tool for feedback, input and connection with churches and their members. We are hoping that participation increases in the coming year.
 - vi. We are thankful for a healthy financial situation but also see the need for more resources to help churches. This will be pursued as funds are available.
 - vii. The Board conducted an evaluation of the Executive Director and a self-evaluation of the Board during the year.
 - viii. The Board will continue to use Zoom to conduct meetings with the intention of meeting in person at least twice a year.
 - ix. Thanks to outgoing board members Randi Martens and Chris Guenther as well as the ongoing work of Paul and the Faith and Life teams.
 - x. Also, thanks to Laurence Hiebert who is serving in a new capacity as Conference Minister to church leaders and their Boards.
 - xi. Following the report there were no questions or comments.

Coffee Break 9:45 – 10:15 am

- b. Executive Director Report – Paul Loewen
 - i. Psalm 27:1 gives us the reason to be strong and courageous and to move forward despite fears around us. Our mission/vision is *to cultivate a community and culture of healthy disciple-making churches and ministries, faithfully joining Jesus in His mission*. We are using Four ministry areas to pursue this (Spiritual Health, Leadership Development, Mission Mobilization, Organizational Health)
 - ii. Paul referred to his report on The Tougher Stuff, The Brighter Stuff, The Future Stuff, and the Cultural Stuff.
 - iii. Paul showed the video “Watch for Burnout” and mentioned the website “Break-through.ca” and encouraged pastors that there is counselling available if they are in a challenging time. Paul and Laurence Hiebert continue to connect with pastors and are praying for them.

- iv. Paul challenged the delegates to commit to faith in God, to be messengers of truth and grace and to pray courageously.
 - v. Following the report there were no comments or questions.
- c. Finance Report - Donna-Lynn Ratzlaff
- i. Donna-Lynn presented the report from Convention Booklet
 - ii. Following the report there were no questions or comments.

Motion 22-06: To receive the 2021 financial statements as presented. **Seconded and CARRIED**

- d. Nomination Report – Scott Koop (Highland)
- i. Scott presented two nomination candidates as introduced in the Convention booklet.
 - 1. Courtney Armstrong
 - 2. Kendall Feenstra – Kendall has requested to be a “director in training.”
 - ii. Question: Sherri Gunther-Trautwein asked why Kendall is nominated as “director in training”

Answer: The Nomination Committee’s desire is that Kendall serve in full capacity. This was a personal request by Kendall, therefore the nomination is being brought forward this way.

Motion 22-05: To receive the 2021 ABMB reports as presented. **Seconded and CARRIED**

- e. National and Legacy Report – Jason Krueger & Paul Loewen
- i. Jason Krueger, CEO of Legacy reported, updating the group on Legacy’s ability to provide investment opportunities and also offer loans to churches and pastors. Jason emphasized the return to strength that Legacy has experienced over the last number of years.
 - ii. Paul reported on behalf of Elton DaSilva, CCMBC Executive Director, who is in Mozambique at a celebration that is welcoming 1100 churches into the MB family. The National Assembly is online June 9-11. There is a Fall Equip study conference being planned for November 2 in Abbotsford. May consider provincial sites to “join-in” with the Equip conference in order to reduce travel requirements.
- f. Seminary Report – Terry Kaethler
- i. Terry brought greetings from President Mark Wessner. It is MBBS graduation this weekend.
 - ii. MB Seminary is offering a Teaching Church program in order to bring seminary to the people. It is a course that can be taken for credit or audited. The Alberta church will be SunWest in Calgary.
 - iii. A livestream study called *Navigate*, happening May 2022 and teaching on Ruth - The King is Coming, will be available on the website.
 - iv. Terry expressed gratitude for donations and a balanced budget. Seminary students pay about 27% of the education cost and the rest is covered by donors.

- g. MCC Report - Donita Neufeld (MCC Church Relations) reported that MCC connects with churches and people to help people all around the world. She highlighted the Ethiopia project where people continue to suffer.
- h. MDS Report - Don Plett reported.
 - i. Don invited pastors to consider the “Pastors to Projects” program where MDS will pay for a pastor and spouse to join a project.
 - ii. There are youth projects, family projects, and individual opportunities to join in helping build, repair, or rebuild.
- i. Mennonite Mutual Insurance—Marguerite J. (Alberta Rep)
 - iii. MMI exists to help bear each other’s burdens. Marguerite highlighted the “Compassion Fund” project that helps churches offer assistance to patrons with a matching grant.

Prayer – Dele Ajele

Lunch Break 12:00 -1:15

Prizes and Give-aways – Paul Loewen

- j. Camp Evergreen – Courtney Armstrong & Kevin Thiessen
 - i. A camp information video was presented.
 - ii. Kevin Thiessen gave a positive financial report with strong support from many of our churches.
 - iii. Camp is stronger organization after covid; using the theme “Comeback”. Looking for staff for summer. All are encouraged to serve at camp.
 - iv. Continue to work towards “Reaching Higher” project. Currently working on upgrading the sewer.
 - v. God is moving in huge ways.
- k. Multiply – Lloyd Letkeman
 - vi. Video was presented.
 - vii. Program called SOAR is being offered for 18-22yr-olds, July 8-12 in Calgary, 3 churches have committed.
 - viii. Asked question: How do we do mission in home communities?
 - ix. Reported that \$500,000 given to Multiply for the 25 churches in Ukraine
 - x. There is a large donor who wants to enable young people to be involved in campus ministry at college or university. It is a mentorship opportunity.

Prayer for ministries – Lawrence Hiebert

3. Business

- a. Update of Bylaws – Fred Weiss led the group through the bylaw updates and changes as outlined in the Convention booklet.

Motion 22-07: To approve the bylaws as presented. **Seconded and CARRIED with one vote of opposition.**

- b. Presentation of 2022 Budget – Dele Ajele referred to the Budget Report.
 - i. For ease of understanding, the budget does not include designated funds or flowthroughs.
 - ii. Total budgeted revenue is \$265,000 with \$245,000 coming from the churches. This is the same as last year. Projected expenses are \$249,000 plus \$5000.00 reflected in liabilities to clear a debt to the national conference (CCMBC).
 - iii. One stream funding means all ABMB churches give to the Alberta conference and ABMB passes on 30% of that to CCMBC. This is the result of the CUSP model that was adopted in 2019. Thirty percent is a number set by ABMB which reflects past donations that CCMBC received.
 - iv. Question by Kevin Thiessen – Why not a zero budget?
Answer: Budget items like Leadership Development have been trimmed. We would like to invest in this and other areas if possible. Also, ABMB does not have a reserve fund to cover shortages and would like to pursue this.
 - v. We have asked churches to consider giving 5% of their operating revenue. Some are giving much more, but some are much less. We ask that you do not reduce giving but that if you are below the 5% that you consider increasing in the coming year. It was also mentioned that if a church is struggling financially, ABMB would like to help if possible.

Motion 22-08: To approve 2022 budget as presented. **Seconded and CARRIED**

Notice of Motion for 2023: to approve a minimum percentage target of church operating revenue for ABMB

- 4. Elections/Appointments 2:28 pm
 - a. Board Elections
 - i. No incumbents returning, Courtney Armstrong and Kendall Feenstra are nominated.

Motion 22-09: To elect, by ballot, the presented nominees for the ABMB Board. **Seconded and CARRIED**

- b. Nomination Committee
 - i. Scott Koop and Sharla Friesen have been nominated.

Motion 2022-10: To approve the nominees for the Nominating Committee for 2022 as presented. **Seconded**

Approved by results on ballot. Results for all positions were unanimous.

Motion 22-11: To destroy ballots. **Seconded and CARRIED**

5. Closing Devotional & Prayer – Fred Weiss

Fred challenged us to pursue unity with God and with each other. He referred to Psalm 133 (the Lord loves to see unity) as well as I Corinthians 12 (though many members, one body) and Philippians 2 (not just our own interest but that of others – servanthood). We are to surrender ourselves to what God wants of us.

Fred also shared about what is happening in Ukraine. There are 3000 church partners taking in people in countries like Poland, etc. There are no camps, they are being absorbed into homes/churches.

God is at work, let us work together in unity as the body of Christ.

6. Adjournment – Tim Doerksen

Encouraged us to share stories with pastors and congregation.

Thank you to all who came and shared.

Thank you to Linden for hosting us so well.

Motion 22-12: To adjourn. Seconded and CARRIED

Adjourned at 2:54.