

# CCMBC National Director 2023 Provincial Assembly Report

*December 2022 marks four-and-half years since I started my National Director role with CCMBC. During these past years, we (the MB family) have experienced many upheavals and unexpected challenges. Through it all, God has been faithful. As I begin this new year, I do so with great expectations, knowing that yesterday's challenges strengthen our faith and dependence on God.*

*I want to highlight how every part of us is moving towards health and strength, allowing us to focus on developing new initiatives and re-engaging mission and disciple-making endeavours.*

## A year in review:

In many aspects, 2022 was a challenging year. It was somewhat apocalyptic, with wars, rumours of wars, pestilences, and fires (both physical and symbolic) burning around us. Church and industry had to rediscover what normal looks like causing fear and anxiety for many. For CCMBC, 2022 was a mixed bag of good and challenging situations. Here are a few of the highlights:

### **POSITIVE FINANCIAL POSITION:**

As of this writing, a preliminary year-end financial statement indicates that CCMBC ended its fiscal year in a positive financial position, marking the fourth consecutive year that the national conference has managed to operate within the approved budget. Furthermore, this year will be the first time we allocate moderate funds toward developing the priority areas identified in our strategic plan. Complete audited financial statements will be available during our AGM in June.

### **THE SEMINARY ENDS ITS EXIGENCY AND LAUNCHES TEACHING CHURCHES:**

2022 was a good year for our MB Seminary, and it is now operating with a model of financial sustainability. Furthermore, it has launched a program to bring seminary-level courses to the local church. For more information about teaching churches and a more in-depth look at the health and ministries of our MB Seminary, please refer to their report in your Assembly booklet.

### **MULTIPLY FULFILLS THE 18 RECOMMENDATIONS AND HIRES A NEW GENERAL DIRECTOR:**

Our MB mission agency has worked diligently to complete and implement the 18 recommendations given to them by the board of the owner conferences through

a combined task force. We see significant progress and healing throughout Multiply and are encouraged and excited to work with our global mission agency to develop strategies for Canada and worldwide. We are also blessed to have found a new General Director. Bruce Enns has vast experience in the local church, conference work and global mission engagement.

### **CCMBC CALLS A NEW NFL DIRECTOR:**

After an open search process, including input and discernment from all national agencies and provincial conferences, CCMBC called Ken Esau to National Faith and Life Director. Ken brings a wealth of theological, teaching and ministry experiences to this role and will work closely with national and provincial Faith and Life Teams.

### **THE MB HERALD CONTINUES TO GROW:**

Our denominational magazine is experiencing slow but steady growth in subscriptions and a renewed interest from writers and contributors. I encourage you to subscribe to our monthly E-magazine and keep apprised of the stories and articles relevant to the national and global MB churches.

### **CCMBC LEGACY HIRES A NEW CFO:**

We are pleased to see Legacy take significant strides as our national partner in organizational health. This partnership allows churches and pastors to pursue mortgages, utilize payroll and accounting services, join a national pension plan and participate in employee benefits. CCMBC Legacy has also hired Jim Bell as its new CFO. Jim replaced Bertha Dyck, who retired after 32 years of service. Jim brings a great deal of experience to the role, including the expertise acquired by being the CEO of two large not-for-profit organizations.

### **THE NMT SOLIDIFIES ITS WORK:**

This past year, the National Ministry Team began creating tactical plans for each of the Priority areas approved in the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP). We hope to announce new ideas and programs in 2023.

### **THE NFLT SERVES THE CONFERENCE BY PROVIDING US WITH THEOLOGICAL CLARITY:**

In keeping with its mandate, the National Faith and Life Team—in collaboration with Provincial Faith and Life Teams—created several new documents to

clarify our theological understandings and respond to common questions about our Confession of Faith. Valuable resources are being made available to our Canadian MB family such as “Loving Well our LGB Neighbours, Friends, and Family;” a new revised introduction to our Confession, explanatory notes for Article 1, and collaborative policies related to pastor credentialing and local church affiliation.

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD UNDERGOES TRANSITION:**

Due to personal reasons, Ron Penner resigned from his position as CCMBC Executive Board moderator. CCMBC is grateful for Ron’s diligent work and dedication to the mission of our family of churches. CCMBC has appointed Cam Stuart as interim Moderator as it pursues candidates for the role.

**PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES DEAL WITH**

**THEOLOGICAL DISSONANCE:**

Provincial conferences have experienced pressure from churches whose theological position is inconsistent with our articulated Confession of Faith, leading to the suspension, removal, or withdrawal of a few churches from active membership within our denomination.

Although pressures and challenges are constant, I hope that by providing you with a general overview of the current state, you sense that, as a whole, we are moving towards health and strength. All Glory be to the Lord for His unfailing grace. We are excited and anticipate a time of missional growth for us as we enter this new calendar year.

Lastly I want to draw your attention to a major change we are making to the National Assembly format. In response to feedback, we wish to strengthen engagement and bring people together in-person by splitting the event into two parts: a June 8 online AGM and a hybrid gathering in connection with the EQUIP Study Conference in Abbotsford, BC on October 28, 2023. We expect to bring news of exciting new programs to assist the local church in faithfully making disciples at both meetings. Please encourage your delegates to register early. More information on this two-part event is included on the next page.

Here are some national event dates to mark in your calendar:

**May 9-14, 2023** – ICOMB meetings in Abbotsford, BC (Our international community of Mennonite Brethren will meet in Canada this year)

**June 6-8, 2023** Pastors Credentialing Orientation (PCO) in Winnipeg. Visit [pco.mennonitebrethren.ca](http://pco.mennonitebrethren.ca) (Part of the credentialing process for new pastors in our denomination)

**June 8, 2023** - Online National AGM (For the approval of audited annual financial statements, annual reports, and election of board members) Visit [na.mennonitebrethren.ca](http://na.mennonitebrethren.ca)

**October 26-28, 2023** – EQUIP, Abbotsford, BC.

**October 28, 2023** – Hybrid National Assembly, Abbotsford, BC (New developments, new programs, approval of budget and major policy or Confession of Faith changes)



*Elton Dasilva*  
National Director

**NATIONAL MINISTRY TEAM**

RICHARD LOUGHEED

AEFMQ Representative

RYAN JANTZI

ONMB Interim Executive Director

CAM PRIEBE

MBCM Provincial Director

PHIL GUNTHER

SKMB Director of Ministry

PAUL LOEWEN

ABMB Provincial Director

ROBERT THIESSEN

BCMB Conference Minister

DENIS FEDERAU

BCMB Director of Resource Ministries

BRUCE ENNS

Multiply General Director

MARK WESSNER

MB Seminary President

JASON KRUEGER

CCMBC Legacy Fund CEO

KEN ESAU

National Faith and Life Director

ELTON DASILVA

CCMBC National Director



## CCMBC MAKES CHANGES TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FORMAT

The annual CCMBC National Assembly event will look different in 2023. Recently offered as a Thursday and Friday evening online workshop and worship gathering followed by a Saturday of online reporting and voting, it will now be broken into two events. The first will be a Zoom Annual General Meeting in the late Spring and the second will be a hybrid National Assembly in the Fall.

As a registered Canadian charity, CCMBC must hold an AGM and approve its financial statements within six months of its fiscal year-end (December 31). To ensure alignment with this requirement, CCMBC will invite delegates to an online AGM on Thursday, June 8, 2023, from 4-6 pm Pacific Daylight Time. This will involve the important work of reporting on the year, as well as approving financial statements and Board members.

Feedback gathered from our recent format of multi-day online National Assemblies showed a strong desire to return to some form of in-person meeting. As a result, CCMBC will host an in-person National Assembly on October 28, 2023 (8:30 am-Noon PDT) at Northview Community Church in Abbotsford, BC. (While in-person participation is preferred, delegates from across Canada unable to attend in-person will be able to participate online.)

The National Assembly will take place on the last day of the 2023 EQUIP Study Conference on the theme “Fire & Ashes: Why Church? Why MB?” The National Assembly will focus on larger themes related to the future direction of CCMBC especially in the four priority areas—spiritual health and theology, leadership development, mission, and organizational health.

“We encourage people to join us for both parts,” says national director Elton DaSilva. “It’s crucial that churches send delegates to speak on their behalf and shape the future of the MB Church in Canada. After all this time, being together as a family should motivate delegates to engage on a deeper level, to rekindle friendships and to strengthen relationships between churches from all over the country.”

### PART ONE: CCMBC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**When:** Thursday, June 8, 2023, 4-6 pm PDT

**Where:** Zoom meeting. A link will be provided upon registering.

**What's on the agenda?**

Approval of audited financial statements, election of Board members, Conference and partner updates

**Registration for June 8, 2023, AGM is now open.**

[Delegates can register here](#)

[National Council delegates can register here](#)

[Guests can register here](#)

### PART TWO: CCMBC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**When:** Saturday, October 28, 2023, 8:30 am-12 pm PDT

**Where:** Northview Community Church, Abbotsford, BC (For those not able to be present in person, a Zoom link will be provided upon registering.)

**What's on the agenda?**

Updates and conversations about CCMBC’s initiatives toward the four priority areas, as well as approval of the 2024 budget and any new policies (if necessary).

More information will be available on the National Assembly website, MB Herald social media, and email newsletter.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

[What is a delegate?](#)