

**Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches**  
**Special General Meeting Minutes**  
**November 1, 2017 (3:30pm-5pm)**  
**Northview Community Church, Abbotsford, BC**

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**1. Meeting called to order – welcome & introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm. Moderator Bruce Enns (SK) welcomed all to the Special General Meeting and provided an overview of the session. Moderator Enns advised that a quorum has been reached for this meeting. Michael Dick, Assistant Moderator for the Canadian Conference will be co-leading the meeting. Voting will take place simultaneously. Marilyn Hiebert, Executive Secretary will be presenting the motions.

**2. Motion to appoint ballot team & parliamentarian**

**Motion 2017-11-01:** It is moved that the following names be appointed as the ballot team: - Janessa Giesbrecht, Fort Garry MB - Jonathan Janzen, Highland Community - David Chow, Killarney Park - Konrad Loewen, Westside Community **SC**

**Motion 2017-11-02:** It is moved that the following names be appointed as the parliamentarians: - Vic Martens, Ross Road - Reg Toews, Greendale Church (working as transitional pastor) **SC**

**3. Motion to approve agenda as presented**

**Motion 2017-11-03:** It is moved that the agenda for the special general meeting be approved as presented. **SC**

**4. Elections by ballot:**

**a. Board of Faith and Life**

**Motion:** It is moved to approve the election of Ingrid Reichard (Glencairn, ON) to the Board of Faith and Life.

This motion will be brought to the summer Gathering 2018.

**b. Legacy Board**

**Motion 2017-11-04:** It is moved to approve the election of Dan Guggenheimer, Faith River Fellowship, SK to the Legacy Board. (performed by secret ballot)

**Dan is confirmed (announced at 4:20pm).**

**5. Motion to approve Legacy ballot result**

**Motion 2017-11-05:** It is moved that the CCMBC Member Representative vote in favor of the Legacy nominations as approved by the ballot. **SC**

Marilyn Hiebert, Executive Secretary has been appointed as the representative for CCMBC.

## 6. Motion to approve C2C and MB Mission Merger

Michael Dick reviewed the process that had taken place to arrive at the motion to approve the C2C and MB Mission Merger. A request was made to conduct this vote by secret ballot.

- Q Janette Giesbrecht (Fort Garry Wpg) – different cultures are merging. Will there be a means of updating as the bodies merge and as we figure out what that looks like? Is there a way for us to be informed as the process takes place?
- A Questions can be brought to the Gathering. Staff and the Executive Board are continually open to questions. The role of BFL will need to play a greater role as we go forward.
- Q Ed Goertzen (Maple Ridge Community) – how many churches are there in BC today?
- A 106.
- Q We have gained 6 churches in 17 years – Why are our goals not met with more churches? We are talking about merging two entities with work for the kingdom of God. What happened?
- A Rob Thiessen (BC- PCM) – we would love to see more churches planted and better growth. We need to look, pray, and seek the Lord for a fresh vision, and ask God to call out planters. Churches are looking at different ways of reaching out – Northview has multiple services, supported a church in Mission, etc. Some churches have shut down. A challenge speaks to our hearts for conviction. There is no simple answer.
- A Bruce Enns – Accountability needs to be with the conference and the local church – how are we doing with making disciples?
- Q Dave Esau – Maple Ridge – If the merger goes ahead as planned, how does that work with reps coming to our churches? Communication will be an important part.
- A There are leadership teams that are already existing with MB Mission reps, provincial and national reps. Their responsibility would include communication with the churches.
- Q Herb Neufeld (North Langley) – seems that accountability happens best when it is closer to home. Concern with the merger is that we are getting further away from the local church and members of our body. Consequently, the accountability is decreasing. C2C has become a Canadian umbrella. Often, we do not have reports closer to home. We are losing a sense of ownership, accountability and support. Formal organizations in merging has proved in many instances that it usually does not result in progressive growth.
- A Regarding financial support over the last number of years; There has been an overall growth to church planting. Accountability has been looked at. A closer development of a MB focused church development team connected to the provincial boards so that decisions around church planting, funding, etc. are made at the provincial body.
- Q John Redekop (Bakerview – Abbotsford) Probably everyone is supportive of MB Mission and C2C. We have had a lot of experience with the conference. I see some merit in the proposal but like Herb I see some difficulty. What do we gain and what do we lose, particularly when we get big. Complexities exist when organizations become national, international, interdenominational. They need a clear vision. Despite all our efforts there is confusion. Fundamental reservation is that there is virtue in diversification. When you bring things together you have greater difficulty with a bigger organization; i.e. the Gideon's, Wycliff – we have a clear vision. My fear is that when we combine ministries with the older generation who support in prayer and financially, people will look to foreign missions they understand. Merger may not be as successful in practice.
- A Diversity is important in the family. C2C and MB Mission are doing the same kind of work. The world is drastically changing – it is all church and mission work. This will help with clarity as there is purpose with this merger.

- R. Rob Thiessen (North Langley) – in favor of the motion. This is a partnership that makes sense. Do our churches know about C2C? C2C worked hard to connect with local churches; multiply conference, communication with churches, etc. Theological positions are being addressed. This has been well governed. Let's move forward.
- Q Dan (Fraserview in Richmond) – is it possible under Robert's rules for the delegation to ask for a special resolution for a motion such as this? We could ask for a higher than 51% so that we know that when we voted for this we got 75%. Move to make a motion that we make a resolution with a 75% so that the congregation of churches are clear that we want this.
- A. The Parliamentarians took a moment to respond to this question of a new motion.
- Q Ken Peters (Saanich) – C2C report – 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph – we celebrate disciples... through 114 church planters – is that 114 church planters couples or individuals?
- A 228 church planters including spouses.
- Q Ken - of those 114 how many would be MB?
- A Metric sheets are available at the back. Of the 89, 38 planters are MB,
- Q Ken – how many of these will plant MB churches as opposed to other denominations?
- A There are 8 at the moment.
- A Regarding the previous question about making a new motion: Reg – Parliamentarian response  
Suggestion that because this will be a secret ballot vote, the percentage be announced so we do not set a bar. If it is not high enough, please take it up with the Executive Board.
- Q Norm Funk (Vancouver) – speaking in affirmation – There was a church planted in 2005 and others that were all MB churches. These could not have been planted without the role of C2C. All churches are flourishing. Gord Fleming and Randy Friesen have been great to work with in planting churches and otherwise. He loves that we have fear and doubt.
- Q Chris Stevens (WMB Church) – celebrated 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church. MB Mission has been a crucial partner. Excited about what C2C will bring to the table. Excited to have expertise of MB Mission brought in with C2C to have one mission locally and globally.
- Q Mike Peninga (Kelowna) – blessed from working with C2C and MB Mission This generation sees church planting and missions as hand in hand. We are making disciples around the world.

The BFL distributed ballots for the vote.

**Motion 2017-11-06:** It is moved that that MB Mission assume responsibility for the mission and ministry of C2C network. This change would be effective January 1, 2018 if approved. **SC**

Vote was conducted by secret ballot

Result - 226 votes cast – 192 yes, 35 no, 85% in favor

## 7. Motion to approve the Audited Financial Statements as presented:

Howie Wall provided an overview of the financial statements. Copies of the financial statements were made available.

- a. CCMBC Pension Plan

**Motion 2017-11-07:** It is moved that the 2016 audited Financial Statements of the Canadian MB Pension Plan be approved as presented. **SC**

- b. CCMBC Consolidated Financials

**Motion 2017-11-08:** It is moved that the 2016 audited Consolidated Financial Statements for CCMBC be approved as presented. **SC**

## 8. Motion to approve KPMG as Auditors for CCMBC

**Motion 2017-11-09:** It is moved that KPMG be appointed as auditors for CCMBC for fiscal year 2017. **SC**

## 9. Motion to approve KPMG as Auditors for Legacy

**Motion 2017-11-10:** It is moved that the CCMBC Member Representative vote in favor of KPMG being appointed as auditors for CCMBC Legacy Fund Inc. for fiscal year 2017. **SC**

Q John Redekop (Bakerview – Abbotsford) expressed concern that matters are done right with the voting. This is a matter of process. The question should be worded ‘Since you have cards now you can vote –not asking for ‘those in favor’.

## 10. Motion to approve 2018 CCMBC Budget

Howie Wall noted that the Board heard clearly regarding budget questions and concerns during the three breakouts held prior to this meeting. Jim Davidson presented an overview of the 2018 CCMBC Budget. They heard concerns regarding promoting leadership training. The Executive Board met at noon today and decided to commit that if during 2018 by the end of the year the church giving exceeds 1.2M in 2018 the first \$160,000 will be allocated to the seminary and to ETEQ on a pro-rated basis. If this is important we look to the churches to make this happen. If we had 5% from our churches we could commit to more ministry.

**Motion 2017-11-11:** It is moved that CCMBC 2018 budget be approved as presented. **SC** (a few opposed).

Q Cheryl Pauls – River East Wpg – There are many layers in this budget. Grateful for the clarity, transparency and the struggling in bringing this to us. Draw attention to the need to lament the loss of the vision and the calling of L2L and the people for who this is a loss of livelihood for a time. She talked about public honoring and thanking if it can be in worship in our time together and if not possible via the MB Herald.

A Some of that happened at the Executive Board Meeting at lunch yesterday. We heard their hearts and prayed with them.

Q Brad Sumner – Jericho Ridge (Langley) – Thanked the Board for their response to our feedback. One of the challenges embedded is that this commitment will not be implemented until Dec 31. This leaves schools in a precarious position. Could the team come back at the July meeting and perhaps give an idea of whether we might be on a trajectory to meet the offer?

A We will come back in July with how it is going.

Mark Wesner – Central Heights, MB Seminary – lots of people are feeling the pain. The impact on MB Seminary is that they can absorb probably \$100,000 reduction for the remainder of 2018 by using their own reserves. Anything beyond that will be difficult. There is now a heightened need for leadership development. We are currently operating at below par. Thanks for keeping the Leadership Matching Training Grant.

Q Kristen Corrigan – ETEQ – cuts came as a surprise, but God is calling us to something much greater. ETEQ is in a period of rapid growth. God is providing and will continue to provide. Calls us to a strong sense of being on our knees. We have a tremendous number of pastors and leaders retiring and do not see the number coming behind to take over our churches. Appreciate the tone of bringing this forward in July.

#### **11. Motion to approve 2018 Legacy Budget**

**Motion 2017-11-12:** It is moved that the CCMBC Member Representative vote in favor of the Legacy 2018 budget as presented. **SC**

#### **12. Motion to destroy ballots (after presenting results)**

**Motion 2017-11-13:** It is moved to destroy the ballots. **SC**

#### **13. Motion to end the adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm

**Motion 2017-11-14:** It is moved to adjourn the meeting. **SC**

#### *Summary of Motions:*

- a. Motion to appoint ballot team & parliamentarian*
- b. Motion to approve agenda as presented*
- c. Elections by ballot:*
  - i. Board of Faith and Life (Summer 2018 Gathering)*
  - ii. Legacy Board*
- d. Motion to approve Legacy ballot result*
- e. Motion to approve C2C and MB Mission Merger*
- f. Motion to approve the Audited Financial Statements as presented:*
  - i. CCMBC Pension Plan*
  - ii. CCMBC Consolidated Financials*
- g. Motion to approve KPMG as Auditors for CCMBC*
- h. Motion to approve KPMG as Auditors for Legacy*
- i. Motion to approve 2018 CCMBC Budget*
- j. Motion to approve 2018 Legacy Budget*
- k. Motion to destroy ballots (after presenting results)*
- l. Motion to end the adjourn.*