

April 2021

INTRODUCTION TO THE COLLABORATIVE UNIFIED STRATEGIC PLAN

Preamble

One of the pillars of our new Collaborative Governance Model is “common mission and agenda.” To function in a coordinated and cohesive way as a family of churches in Canada, creating a Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP) was necessary. It represents the collaborative work between provinces and national agencies. The National Ministry Team developed the CUSP in consultation with National Council, National Town Halls, and focus groups. The CUSP encompasses all parts of our Canadian MB ministry and emphasizes a strong focus on discipleship as the core focus for our mission in Canada and beyond.

The CUSP identifies four priority areas that provincial conferences and national agencies will invest into resourcing our churches in ministry. These priority areas are Spiritual Health and Theology, Leadership Development, Mission, Organizational Health. To engage a broad audience, we have created supplementary documents: CUSP (full version), CUSP Sidewalk Version, CUSP Placemat, Who is the CUSP for, and Operationalizing the CUSP (Phase 1).

At this AGM, we present the CUSP (Full version) for approval. The Operationalizing of the CUSP is seen as “still in process” and will change as National Implementation Task Forces get to work. We have included some of the development costs in the 2022 Proforma Budget; its implementation is not included in the 2021 Budget.

To help you address some key issues or concerns which tend to come up, we have included a few Frequently Asked Questions and Responses below. If there are other questions you have, please feel free to address them to us BEFORE May 29, 2021 at FAQ@mbchurches.ca.

Is it just another National idea?

The CUSP is attempting a new concept – the CUSP is not a national program; it is a cooperative of all the partners. While CCMBC will serve as the coordinator (Principal Organization) to facilitate the planning, coordination, and evaluation of the CUSP, it is not CCMBC’s program.

How do all Partners engage with it?

First, all partners have a strong, virtually equal voice in shaping and developing the plan. All provinces and ministry partners are part of the creation of the CUSP.

Second, all partners will be engaged in a National Team focussed on implementing a significant area like Leadership Development in a special task force. Each partner will look at what they can contribute to the goal in their region and possibly beyond. This might mean sharing program resources, expertise, people-time, and training, or maybe some funds.

How is the CUSP Funded?

Single-stream donations for our common work will primarily fund the CUSP. Contributions toward programming and people’s time will be factored in as provinces and partners can offer them.

Eventually, when Legacy’s financial conditions permit, we will see some annual “donations” coming to the CUSP to assist with its costs. We will need to carefully treat these funds to avoid creating dependence on these “annually-determined donations” that may vary from year to year.

We invite your participation as a delegate at the MB Church of Canada National Assembly (AGM), where we will vote on the approval of the CUSP.