

# Keeping Our Promises

## National Assembly Executive Moderator Report

One of the things I love about our MB family is the strong personal relationships that tie us together. Every time there was a break in our last conference in Waterloo, the conversations got so loud, it was hard to hear anything! We seem to really like each other — and that’s a good thing.

One of the things I don’t love about our MB family is that we are not particularly good at holding each other accountable. I think we all want accountability in theory because we know it’s good and important, but it’s far easier to talk about than it is to implement in healthy and effective ways. Accountability is in fact, an expression of love.

Accountability was a key theme in *Our Financial Story* that was presented in Waterloo by the National Assembly Executive. We compiled that document to remember the past, learn from it, and make necessary changes in order to move forward.

We made promises about how we, as an National Assembly Executive, would function differently in the future — 22 promises to be precise. We have now extracted those promises, put them in a new document, assigned responsibility for each one and developed specific action steps to follow through on them. Each promise is colour coded – red for not started, yellow for underway and green for completed.

During our last National Assembly Executive meeting, we reviewed progress on the 22 promises. To be honest, it was a bit sobering to see the breadth and depth of our commitments. Nevertheless, I am pleased to report that the colours on the document have started to change from red to yellow to green. We will review the document at every National Assembly

Executive meeting and will report progress to the MB family in the coming months. Your feedback on our actions is an important part of this process.

Did you need to know all that detail? Maybe not. But accountability is often about following up on the details of our promises and we wanted you to know that we committed to doing that.

While much work remains, we also know that much collaborative work has been done in so many areas already. We are grateful for the volunteers, church members, board and committee members, pastors and conference staff who faithfully contribute to our collective work of multiplying healthy leaders and disciple-making churches in order to see people transformed by Jesus. Let’s continue to press into this important work together – and to do so committed to loving each other deeply.

“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”  
(1 John 4:11-12)

There is no doubt that we are continuing to significantly change as a conference, but I believe we can step into the future with confidence and faith – not because I’m expected to say that as moderator — but because I know God has been faithful in the past and I have every confidence to expect God’s faithfulness in the future.



Blessings for the journey,

**Bruce Enns**  
National Assembly  
Executive moderator

# Seasons of change

## National Director Report

Greetings to you in Christ. As we enter this season of provincial conventions, we do so with a fresh perspective. This is a season of transition, and as we transition to new ways of doing things, we want to do it well. The past few years have proven to be challenging and, at times, frustrating. But you have remained committed to this family. The disappointing end of L2L, the MB Herald Quarterly magazine, the demerger of C2C Network from Multiply, and the hard truths disclosed in Our Financial Story could have broken this family beyond repair. Yet you chose to stay. Thank you for your commitment and prayers throughout this challenging season.

In October 2019, you approved a new way of collaborating — a governance system that we've been calling the Collaborative Model. Now we begin the process of implementing it.

A new governance model requires updates to the existing governance bylaws. The National Assembly Executive (formerly the Executive Board) has commissioned a team to write a robust governance library of manuals, identifying roles, relationships and policies. We aim to present a draft to the National Assembly in June 2020, before submitting it to churches for feedback and refinement. We hope to have a final draft presented for approval at conventions 2021.

The National Assembly Executive discussed the promises made in Our Financial Story and designed a process by which to fulfill them.

It starts by being more transparent with our churches. In February 2020, we deliver the first monthly financial report to our e-news subscribers. It presents a dashboard outlining key metrics that shows what CCMBC and Legacy are doing with your money.

In April 2020, we will host our first bi-monthly virtual town hall meeting, where open dialogue between churches and leadership takes place.

Losing the MB Herald print magazine and its editorial staff, forced us to rethink how we communicate. In December 2019, we formed a collaborative communications team with representation from provincial conferences, our partners Multiply and MB Seminary, and local churches across Canada. This team meets monthly to tell and share stories and work together on publishing new content that informs and inspires.

The National Faith in Life Team (formerly the Board of Faith and Life) continue the process of working through a rewriting of Article 8: baptism and membership. We present the Article 8 revisions for your approval through the provincial conventions 2020.

The National Ministry Team — representing our provinces and partners Multiply and MB Seminary — began work on a 10-step, 18-month decision-making roadmap. This new process expands the feedback loop and lengthens the runway for decisions that require the approval of the National Assembly.

That brings us to today: the Collaborative Model is our new reality. It's early-stage and incomplete and far from where it needs to be. Getting to the point where the Collaborative Model adequately serves the needs of the MB family of churches in Canada requires a lot of work and the help of many. We seek your participation and feedback, and we ask for your prayers and support as together—by the grace of God—we face the future.



Respectfully yours,

Elton DaSilva  
National director