



## A Joint Message

**EMC is a movement of people advancing Christ's Kingdom culture as we *live, reach, gather and teach.***

Six years ago, at a Conference Council meeting in La Crete, Alta., we agreed on the vision shown above. Our experience as EMC churches were already enriched by multiple cultural experiences, and in this vision statement we expressed our desire for God to do more. We did not ask God only to help us reach out to more cultures in our Churches, or that we would only be better at relating inter-culturally; we asked that God would take all that is good in all of our varying cultural backgrounds and transform us in unity into Christ's Kingdom people.

Since adopting this vision statement, we have continued to see growth among our Spanish-speaking churches in cities across Canada. We have invited several Korean pastors into our fellowships in Pelly and Arborg. The Winnipeg Logos Church became the first Mandarin-speaking congregation in the EMC. Low German outreaches in southern Alberta continue to grow in both size and number. Two Ethiopian church plants have started in Edmonton and Toronto. Relationships with various First Nations continue to be extended.

Much of this growth has happened even though we did not overtly seek it or plan for it. It would be true to say that God has accomplished this growth and that we are simply trying to keep up with His agenda. Yes, it is still in its early stages, but already we can say that God has done "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Eph. 3:20).

*Barry Plett, Moderator  
Tim Dyck, Executive Director*

# Annual Report 2019

## Nominations for EMC Boards

### Vice Moderator

- Ward Parkinson, Rosenort EMC\*

### Board of Church Ministries

- Heidi Dirks, Aberdeen\*

### Board of Leadership and Outreach

- Chris Hughes, Abbeydale\*
- Irma Janzen, Fort Garry\*

### Board of Missions

- Art Koop, Anola
- Joanne Martens, Kola

### Board of Trustees

- Isaac Dyck, La Crete
- Ruth Penner, Aberdeen\*

### Nominating Committee

- Jake Dick, Leamington\*
- Frankie Kim, Pelly
- Waldon Plett, Riverton

### Church Planting Task Force

- Donna Moman, Portage\*
- Abe Bueckert, Redcliff
- Anna Bueckert, Redcliff
- Antonio Pitta, Emanuel

\*incumbent

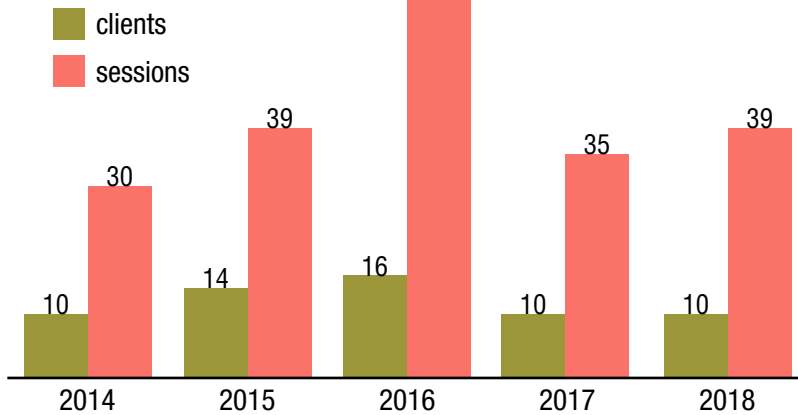
**Delegates—Please see nominee biographies on our website at [www.emconference.ca/2019AnnualReport](http://www.emconference.ca/2019AnnualReport).**

# live

## we value discipleship

*Core Value: We value people growing in maturity as they follow Christ in a life of worship, prayer, and deepening faith. We value the calling and developing of mature Church leaders. We want our faith to be seen in a life of integrity and authenticity. We want to discern God's leading for our lives, individually and corporately.*

### Counselling Program



### Counselling Program

Too many pastors struggle in or leave ministry because the challenges overwhelm their capacity to manage. The BLO encourages counselling for them and their families by providing up to \$600 to help cover costs.

### Home Team

Each missionary unit under EMC administration is to form a support team in Canada to give encouragement, assist, pray, help in funding needs, and make connections. It is to act as an advocate between constituency and workers and complements the sending church's missions committee.

### Mental Health Initiative

Throughout 2018 an MHI committee published articles and held workshops to decrease the stigma of mental illness, increase understanding of caring strategies and resources in the church and broader, and how spiritual and mental health relate. Resource people remain available to churches.

All of us experience stress. Training and practical support assist workers to serve and care more effectively.

### Online Discussions

Layton Friesen is engaging in an online study/discussion group with young pastors in spiritual

formation, self-care, emotional and cultural intelligence, marriage and family, and leadership and management skills. Pastors can decide if they are young enough.



### Strengthening Ordination

Rather than a "pass the exam" process, the BLO proposes candidates meet as a unit for a seven-month training program that includes readings, reflections, mentorship, and periodic forums. Other adjustments are being considered for ordination transfers, inactive ministers, and deacon exams.



# reach

**we value people**

*Core Value: Human beings are created in God's image, and his desire is for all people to be reconciled to himself through Christ. That is our desire, too. With compassion we seek to carry the good news of salvation in Christ to people near and far.*

## Canada

We are working in 17 church plants and outreach ministries, in various degrees of maturity, across Canada. More workers are sought because the need to know Jesus is huge (Luke 10:2).

## Minga Guazú, Paraguay

Iglesia Buenas Nuevas is growing. Joanne Martens retired. Chris and Revita Kroeker moved, but still help with Sunday School, preaching, visitation, and marriage courses. With more responsibility on us, it is exciting to see families and teenagers join the congregation.

– Travis and Rosey Zacharias



## San Jose, Bolivia

Benny and Ester Fehr, of Mount Salem church, felt called to serve in Bolivia. Their giftedness was affirmed by the church and the BOM accepted them to lead the Low German radio work in San Jose. They arrived in Bolivia in January 2019.



## Paraguay

A man said that he, like Lazarus (John 11:44) had needed help to be cleaned of the moral filth, sin, and death in him. Now he is truly free to love God, his wife, and his kids. He praised God for our help.

– Chris and Revita Kroeker

## Churchill, Manitoba

The 7th annual Polar Bear Marathon on Nov. 24, 2018, had 17 runners from Canada and the U.S. I shared my faith and the love of God. About \$1,000 was given by the runners to the kids' food and toy hampers, a meaningful angle. Thank you for your support, prayers, and help.

– Albert Martens,  
*Athletes in Action*

## Guadalajara, Mexico

In 2010, the EMC started to establish cell churches in Guadalajara, a major city in southwest Mexico with less than two per cent evangelical Christians. The team makes contacts, runs Bible studies, disciples and develops leaders. Several believers have been baptized.

## A Global Presence

The EMC has...

**95** missionaries in  
**26** countries on  
**5** continents serving about  
**95** people groups in  
**45** languages.

## Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Paraguay

In Jan., Phil Hamm, Arlyn van Enns, and Ken Zacharias travelled to Nicaragua and saw its maturity and challenges. In Oct., a prayer team, led by Anthony Reimer, served in Bolivia. In Nov., Ken Zacharias, joined by Abe and Anna Bueckert, visited Paraguay.

## we value relationships and Christian community

*Core Value: As a family of churches we affirm that, in Christ, we are part of a shared faith story, historically and theologically, and that this fellowship builds us up. In offering mutual support, we learn from one another and are enriched together. We value the cooperation this relationship affords, realizing we can do more together than we can individually.*



The  
EMC lives by  
friendships, not a  
bureaucracy.  
– Layton Friesen



### Young Adults Retreat

On March 9–11, a Young Adults Retreat was held at Camp Cedarwood, in central Manitoba, with Gord Penner providing lessons from the life of Elijah. Local leaders across the country are encouraged to plan similar retreats.

### A Convention Highlight?

Based on evaluations received about the 2018 convention in London, Ont., a highlight was “connecting with people”:

- » Getting to know and chat with new people.
- » Meeting with people and seeking positive attitudes toward the conference.
- » Meeting people.
- » Connecting with fellow pastors over meals.
- » Fellowship with so many wonderful colleagues.
- » Making five new friends during conversations over meals and during breakfast.
- » Connecting and reconnecting with faces from around the EMC.
- » Meal times and visiting in the evenings.
- » Visiting and connecting with others through worship and meetings.
- » Networking and some good discussions with various people.
- » The conversations that happen at meals, breaks, etc.—some of these were very inspiring.

# teach

we value the truth

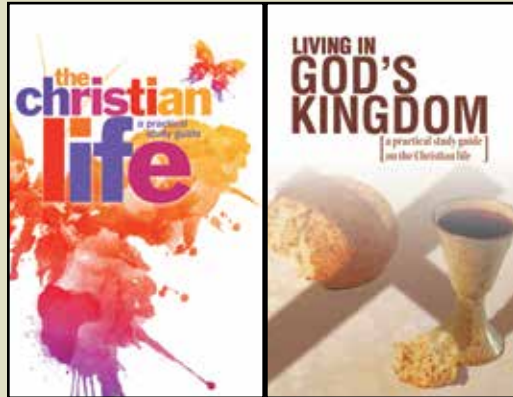
*Core Value: Jesus is the Truth, and he is faithfully revealed in Scripture. We hold Biblical doctrine to be of primary importance, and seek to interpret the Scriptures together. We value the theological approach of the early Anabaptists who read Scripture through the lens of Christ.*

## Minister's Manual

Through worship services, baptisms and communion, weddings and funerals, commissionings and ordinations, our churches express Christian truth and life in our practices. Produced first in 1983 and revised in 1999, the minister's manual is being updated by the BLO in language and resources to assist veteran and first-time pastors.

## History Book

Protestants and Catholics have persecuted Anabaptists-Mennonites, leaving scars that have lasted for centuries. Today the EMC sees itself as part of a much wider Church family, works together with many parts of Christ's Church, and has a global influence. How did this come about? In a few months we'll be able to read Doris Penner's new EMC history book.



## Two Guides

At the request of some churches, the EMMC and EMC reprinted *The Christian Life: A Practical Guide*. Along with *Living in God's Kingdom* (2017), we have two guides for baptism and membership. Both reflect our shared faith and life together.

## What Then?

What's available for after baptism and membership classes? *Holy Wanderings: A Guide to Deeper Discipleship* was published by the EMC, CMC, and EMMC. The 13-lesson guide discusses topics to lead believers into deeper ways of being the Church, developing practical, biblical underpinnings for our beliefs and behaviours, says project chair Bill Rambo.



## 'Most Hated People'

Raised to think that Anabaptism was the "culmination" of the Reformation, Layton Friesen wondered why, then, Anabaptists were the most hated people in Europe. Suspecting there was more to the story, he explored the threat they posed. The Board of Church Ministries plans to publish his book about this.

## Hearing from God

When an article by the speaker of SBC's upcoming Leadership Conference received negative responses, the March 2018 event was cancelled—a decision getting mixed reactions. The decision-making process could have been improved, it was later said. The discussion on hearing from God continued in *Theodidaktos*, *The Messenger*, and at a workshop (presenters and moderator pictured) co-sponsored by Blumenort and MacGregor churches.



# looking forward

**we value obedience**

*Core Value: We believe to love Jesus is to walk in reverent obedience to him. He calls us to a life of love. Within this calling we are to obey the commission of Christ to make disciples of all nations.*

## Where to Go Next?

Pray about whether the BOM should expand into a specific field in Europe or a country where the population is predominately Muslim. If so, should the work focus on Muslim, Spanish, or transient peoples? Could we do them all? Where would these ministries be? What would they look like? The committee is also concerned about sharing the Good News of Jesus among First Nations peoples in Canada. Is it possible for us, as the EMC, to place more servants in the north and to present Jesus as Saviour and Lord? How would we best do this? A proposal will be presented to the Conference Council in July 2019 as to these and other suggestions as to how we might grow the Board of Missions Administrative mission program.

*– Ken Zacharias,  
Director of Global Outreach*

## Inspiring Partnership in Ministry

Women have served in ministry overseas with EMC for decades. The first task of the IPiM, in response to council feedback, is to share accounts of their effective work and impact on men and women under their leadership. Cathy Thiessen's story was presented to council. The Task Force, under the General Board, seeks to create true partnership between men and women and increase involvement of women in influential roles throughout the EMC.



## Planning for the Future

The EMC National Office has had many experienced people serve our churches and boards. Several directors will retire in the next few years. The Personnel Committee and Executive Director Tim Dyck are planning for this change. Our desire is to enhance the EMC's core ministries in innovative ways in the future.



## Indonesia 2021

In 2021, Mennonite World Conference will hold its Assembly in Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia on July 6–11. Indonesia is a country with rich cultural and historical background. Come to Indonesia, to Semarang City, where all attendees will taste and see how the Lord is good. Save the date, pray, come. Experience the Lord's goodness!

*– MWC*

# finances

**we are stewards**

*Church Practice: Biblical stewardship involves faithful proclamation of the Gospel, careful exercise of our gifts and abilities and proper use of our powers, possessions and time, to accomplish God's will "on earth as it is in heaven."*

## Financial Report 2018

Thank you to the many churches and individuals who generously supported EMC ministries through 2018. We finished the year with a deficit of about \$42,000, which will draw down our reserves.

The chart on the right shows expenses. The budget expenses are in a light green colour. The additional funds raised and spent by boards are in darker green.

The pie chart (below) shows where the budget funds come from to support EMC ministries: directly from churches (67%), individuals (22%), estate funds (10%) and sources such as sales and interest income (2%).

The BOT began a new model of grant funding for church building projects. The balance in the fund is about \$1,300,000. The goal is to distribute about 10% of the principle to churches with mortgages. Some churches have applied and there is room for more.

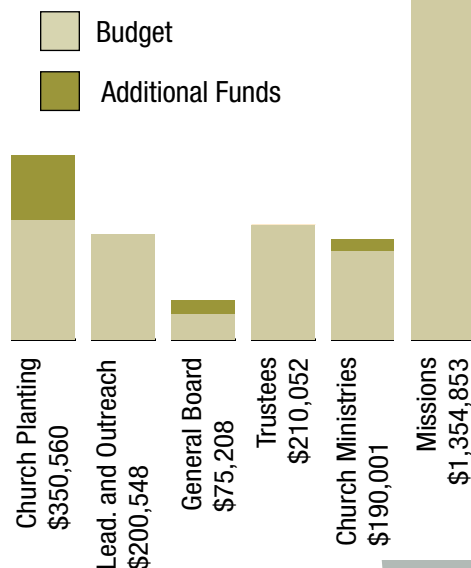
Thank you for supporting the work of your church as well as the work we do together. Your contribution makes a huge difference! The EMC financial statements have been audited by On Business Solutions. A copy of the report is available.

## Revised Support Model for Workers

The EMC conference council approved a major change for workers currently serving under direct full support in Bolivia, Mexico, and Paraguay. By 2022 missionaries will raise 40% of their income and ministry costs. The process will be phased in: develop home teams (2019), raise 10% (2020), raise 25% (2021), and raise 40% (2022). What are the goals? To strengthen relationships among missionaries and churches, further develop support networks, and deal with financial realities.

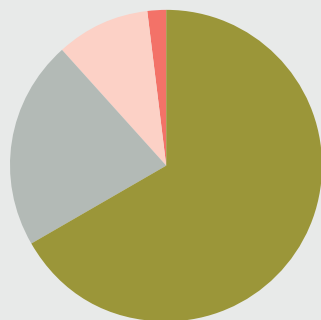
## 2018 Budget and All Funds Disbursements

\$2,381,222



## 2018 Budget Receipts

Total Budget: \$1,799,985.57



- Churches (67%)
- Individuals (22%)
- Estates (10%)
- Other (2%)

## Sustainable Funding Model

In the past, individual churches and members gave to a centralized budget to accomplish our shared ministries. Recently giving toward a general budget has decreased, while funds for specific ministries are increasing. Designated funds do not cover some ministries the EMC together decided to support. The General Board and the Board of Trustees are forming a task force to ensure the EMC has sustainable funding into the future. This task force is looking for members. Are you interested?

Register now at [www.emconference.ca/convention2019](http://www.emconference.ca/convention2019)

**EMC Convention 2019**

# SIMPLY CHRISTIAN



*an ancient faith to unite us now*



**July 5–7**

**Picture Butte, Alberta**

**Speaker: Layton Friesen**



**emc**