

## **President's AGM Report May 3, 2025**

### **National Team Update**

The National Team aims to support, encourage, resource, and facilitate networking and development alongside our member churches, credential holders, and global workers. This team of quality, qualified individuals serves by example and selflessly. We are blessed to have them, and I extend our gratitude to them on behalf of us all.

Since the last Assembly, we have strengthened the team by adding Scott Clubine as our Vice President. For the past year, Scott has generously shared his time as the pastor of Hillside EMC in Mount Albert, Ontario, and EMCC. As of May 1, 2025, Scott will assume the VP role full-time. He oversees our operations, which include HR, finance, communications, properties, benefits, historical archives, and incorporations. Heidi (HR), Cal (Properties), Jennifer (Benefits), and Stephanie (Communications) are key players on our team. We thank and honor Pauline Zondervan, who recently retired, for her excellent service to the EMCC staff, credential holders, and churches. Our full-time Regional Ministers- Brian, Lynn, and Jeff- and part-timers Marty, Deve, and Randall, who also pastor their local churches, along with Claran (retired), deserve commendation for their timely “how can I help” support. Special thanks go to Simon Beadle, who volunteered his time to serve the pastors in his region of North Bay. Krista Bennett has encouraged our female credential holders with care and coaching. Behind the scenes but incredibly valued, Shannon manages our database and credentialing system. Nicole leads our World Partners team, along with Pam and David, in serving our global workers and partners and in resourcing our member churches as we mobilize to be on mission everywhere.

A special thanks to Janice Franzen and Shauna Albrecht for quarterbacking our General Assembly and other national, regional, and staff events. Janice will retire after this Assembly, so please express your appreciation to her. Last, but certainly not least, in recognition of her tireless contributions, the National Board would like to thank Lillian Whitmore for her service as assistant to the National Board. Her preparation and care in coordinating our AGM have been outstanding.

### **Credentialing Update:**

As of March 1, 2025, we currently have 352 Active Credential Holders (378 in 2023).

- Provisional Licensed Minister Credential – 36 (32 in 2023).
- Licensed Minister Credential – 77 (86 in 2023).
- Ordained Minister Credential – 239 (260 in 2023).
- Retired Ministers – 131 (17 retired since 2023).
- Deceased – 17 since 2023.
- Applicants for Credentials – 53 (58 in 2023).

## **Membership Update:**

In 2024, we developed a Credential Holder Manual to guide new credential holders in orienting themselves to EMCC and to remind current credential holders of our policies and practices. The updated Credential Policy reflects our current practices. Elements of the credentialing policy have been incorporated into the proposed 2025 bylaws.

The National Team is creating a Member Church Manual informed by our Engagement Tour in 2024. This manual will assist member church boards in understanding the EMCC ethos and polity. It is expected to be finished this year.

Here is a draft table of contents for the Member Church Manual:

- Welcome
  - Who We Are – Mission, Vision, Values
- History of EMCC
- History of World Partners
- EMCC Governance Structure & Relationship to Member Churches
  - National Board Purpose Statement
  - Member Church Covenant & Reporting
  - Member Church Benefits & Responsibilities (Delegates)
  - Member Church Contributions & Fees
  - Status of Corporate Membership
    - Active, Under Review, Intervention, Suspended, Withdrawing, Terminated
  - Member Church Application Process
  - Member Church & EMCC Properties Policy
  - Member Church Incorporation Process
- Services & Support
  - National Team Purpose Statement
  - Regional Minister First Response and Alongside Support
  - Pastoral Search & Selection Process
  - Pastoral Compensation Guidelines
  - Pension & Benefits Plan
  - Member Church Grants Available & Process
  - National Team Resources
  - Abuse Prevention, Victim Reporting and Investigations

## **EMCC Papers Update:**

The EMCC National Board and National Team have commissioned the writing of Position and Perspective Papers to aid our members (credential holders and member churches) in understanding EMCC's stance on various theological themes and EMCC

distinctives and practices. These papers are not intended to be exhaustive or academic; instead, they aim to be accessible to those who attend our congregations. Position Papers unpack EMCC's theological position on items in our member-approved Articles of Faith. We look for agreement from our members.

Perspective Papers unpack EMCC's historical and theological "perspective" on matters and distinctives not directly included in the Articles of Faith. While there may be a variety of interpretations and applications on a subject, these papers seek to articulate EMCC's perspective—our viewpoint, practice, and attitude. These papers and topics are not "break fellowship" issues for EMCC. We exercise respect and grace on these matters and ask all to seek to understand and not teach against them. Perspective Papers do not necessarily reflect our collective interpretation but rather our general perspective and practice as determined by our appointed leaders.

These papers undergo a thorough writing process, including reading, editing, receiving feedback, and re-editing. This process involves the National Board, National Team, EMCC credential holders, church leaders, and the Theology Commission, all under the President's oversight.

The Women in Leadership Perspective Paper has carefully followed this process, receiving valuable feedback over the past year. A revised version has been prepared and is undergoing a final review by the Theology Commission. The National Board will adopt the paper with the intent of making it available at the General Assembly. The Board wants to remind everyone that it is a perspective paper and that no member church or credential holder with differing interpretations will be removed from membership or participation in the EMCC family. The Board has established a process for paper approval that does not involve a vote by the members; instead, there is an ongoing invitation to submit comments to be considered in future versions. The Board also wishes to acknowledge and celebrate our female leaders—past, present, and future. The paper's key point is that despite differing interpretations, we are stronger together, and it will take all of us cooperating and collaborating to fulfill the Great Commission.

The following Position Papers are currently in the writing phase: Theology of Marriage, Theology of Singleness, Theology of Human Identity, and Theology of Divine Healing. We also have plans to update our two existing position papers: Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Assurance of the Believer. We are continuing to recruit writing teams for more papers.

### **EMCC Committees – 2025**

We wish to express our gratitude to all who volunteer and serve faithfully, prayerfully, and helpfully on our various denominational committees—so many good people engaged in our shared mission.

### **National Board Appointed Committees:**

Theology Commission:

To ensure that the official theological documents of EMCC remain orthodox, evangelical, and in harmony with the historical interpretations of EMCC.

Rev. Charlie Bowen, Rev. Brad Broadhead, Pastor Christine Waring, Rev. Lynn Deitz

### **President Appointed Volunteer Teams:**

Investment Committee:

Managing our EMCC investments according to our Investment Policy.

Wendell Schlumberger, Paul Hazzard, Doug Lindsay, Scott Clubine

World Partners Advisory Team:

Providing wisdom and discernment to our Director of World Partners and team.

Ken Benson, Jedediah Gorman, Joey Anderson

World Partners Member Care Team:

Providing care and coaching for EMCC-supervised global workers.

Lois Derkson, Lucas van Boeschoten, Murray and Lori Swalm, Robert and Ruth Erion

Next-Gen Team:

Resourcing next-gen leaders and participating in the Growing Young Initiative.

Genevieve Epp, Martin Nieuwets, Charity Metcalfe, Nicole Nowochin, Tony Baker, Libby

Peters. Thanks to former members Marty and Krista Bennett for their significant contributions to the work of the Next Gen Team.

Right Relations Team:

Resourcing the EMCC to learn to walk in the right relationship with Indigenous people.

Alison Lefebvre, Rob & Darlene Dilts, Stan & Sally Bragg, Dave & Stephanie Young, Nicole Jones Qandah.

Grant Adjudication Teams:

Volunteer teams tasked with receiving grant applications and determining disbursements.

The following grants are available to credential holders and member churches.

Your Regional Minister is your point of contact.

Build Development, Leader Development, Victim Advocacy Counselling, Emergency Care (Benevolent), and Multiplication grants.

The President appoints all Credential Interview Teams (CITs), which conduct credentialing interviews and recommend credentialing to the President.

The CITs are regional. We thank all those who serve on these teams with discernment.

The President appoints Steering Committees as necessary or as requested by member churches. These temporary committees aim to serve the interests of the member churches. Steering Committees may be appointed for the following reasons:

- To aid a congregation through crisis or conflict.

- To step in when a congregation can no longer self-govern.
- To intervene in the case of discipline.
- To help a church determine the next steps.
- To steward the process of closing and dissolving a congregation.

**Collaboration:**

We aim to strengthen our partnership with organizations that assist us in pursuing our vision and mission. We are exploring ways to formalize our relationships with our camps and Rocky Mountain College. We are incredibly grateful for our enduring ties and the invaluable contributions these organizations make toward discipling, leadership development, and community building. We encourage our member churches to reassess or establish new connections with these important partners.

The EMCC is a member of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC), the Canadian Centre for Christian Charities (CCCC), Plan to Protect, Church Planting Canada, Ignite Prayer Canada, and Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB). We recommend these organizations to our members and also endorse a growing number of helpful organizations that serve our churches and credential holders. Please consult your Regional Minister.

Recently, we have revitalized our working relationship with Missionary Church USA. Although we may encounter challenges due to the current political climate between the US and Canada, the Lord, in His wisdom, has brought our two historical organizations together around our shared missions.