



A Resolution to the Mennonite Church Canada Delegate Assembly July 2016: Future Directions Task Force

Resolution for Delegates:

Whereas the General Board has heard the robust conversation on the Future Directions Task Force Final Report prior to and at the five Area Church spring meetings, giving particular attention to concerns raised; and,

Whereas the General Board has reviewed and affirmed recommendations from the Task Force Addendum to the Final Report on ways to recognize and address core concerns raised on process, structure, national identity, international relations and witness, vulnerable area churches and finance;

In approving this motion, it is understood that:

- Prior to implementation there will be opportunity to vote on a more fully developed proposal no later than July 2018, with ongoing consultation with congregations in between;
- The final proposal will incorporate some form of area church delegate involvement in the governance of national agenda and priorities;
- The final proposal will include provision for national gatherings for study, fellowship, worship and discernment;
- Formal conversation will be undertaken (e.g. via working group, conference or other means) to review our future vision and strategy for international relationships and witness, addressing questions in the Addendum and related ones, to be completed by December, 2017
- The final proposal will include concrete provisions that recognize and respond to the vulnerability of smaller area churches; and
- Formal conversation will be undertaken (e.g. via working group, conference or other means) to build on the Report and engage congregations to: (a) dream about how to live out the gospel of Christ locally, across Canada and abroad; (b) think creatively on how congregations can resource our common life together in being the church; and, in the short term, (c) work together and generously support our mutual ministry and transition from where we are to where God invites us to;

The General Board moves:

That Mennonite Church Canada approve in principle the directions proposed by the Future Directions Task Force Final Report, and collaborate with the five Area Churches (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Eastern Canada) in developing a more integrated nation-wide church body along the lines envisioned to better resource all levels of our church in responding to God's call to live out and share the peace of Jesus Christ with local through global neighbours.

Supplemental Resolution, if the above resolution is approved

That Mennonite Church Canada authorizes the General Board, in collaboration with Area Church boards, to proceed with transition planning along the lines outlined in the FDTF documents. Further, to provide latitude in re-envisioning program approaches in this interim period, parts of Mennonite Church Canada's General Bylaws be suspended (those referring to the Faith and Life Committee and Christian Witness, Christian Formation and Church Engagement Councils), with the understanding that during the transition period one or two individuals from each body will continue on the General Board to ensure representation of each ministry perspective.

Editor's note

The Supplemental Resolution above was subsequently withdrawn as the existing bylaws permit the General Board to make this decision without requiring a delegate vote. This was confirmed by the Parliamentarian.

CARRIED

Note:

For preambles, background, and other information related to these resolutions, see the Discernment Guide at <http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/saskatoon2016>