



Evangelical Missionary
Church of Canada
Following Jesus Together

The background of the entire page is a photograph of hikers on a mountain trail, overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The hikers are seen from behind, carrying large backpacks and walking up a dirt path. The terrain is rugged and mountainous.

2019

EMCC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FOLLOW-UP PACKET

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Following Jesus Together

Kervin Raugust

EMCC President



THE PORT MANN BRIDGE

The Port Mann Bridge located in Vancouver BC crosses the mighty Fraser River. This bridge is the third largest cable stayed bridge in North America. It is over 2 kilometers long and carries 10 lanes of traffic made to transport people, goods and services from one side of the Fraser to the other and beyond. The bridge is held by two major pillars with multiple towers of concrete and bedrock foundations invisible to the eye. There are 264 massive cables all of equal diameter but of differing lengths upholding the bridge deck.

The Port Mann bridge, beautiful and strong, stands as a symbolic reminder of who we are as a community of Churches we call the EMCC. One particularly interesting feature of this symbol is the cables. "Which cable is the most important?", one might ask. Engineers know that there is no one cable more important than any other. Removing any cable would bring such strain on all the other cables that over time the cables would snap under the extra load bringing the bridge down.

So, it is with the EMCC! There is no one church more important than another. Small, medium, large and extra-large churches are all important to the Kingdom of Jesus. We are "Following Jesus TOGETHER."



What does it mean to Follow Jesus Together?

This was the question posed at the April General Assembly. It is the question now posed to you as leaders in your church. You see, we have a good model for following Jesus. But, we need to get better at understanding what it means to follow Jesus together.

Just as the Port Mann Bridge cables are connected, bearing the load together and thereby causing the bridge to do what it was designed to do, so are we compelled to be "bridge-like"!

WHAT DOES TOGETHERNESS LOOK LIKE?

The question, "What does togetherness look like?" was also posed to the Assembly delegates. It led us into an important discussion around the following:

IF the EMCC National Office were to receive a Letter of Good Standing from your church, *what criteria would you expect the EMCC to be assessed against?*

IF the Churches of the EMCC, your church, were to receive a Letter of Good Standing from the EMCC National Office, *what criteria would you expect your church to be assessed against?*



Instructions For Church Leaders

1

Familiarize yourself with the contents of this Assembly Follow-Up Packet.

2

Reflect on what you have read, asking Jesus by His Spirit to give you knowledge, understanding, and wisdom as you ponder what it means to the question of “Togetherness.”

3

Consider the Good Standing Criteria by reviewing the Good Standing Summary Charts, giving thought to each of the criteria as you deem appropriate.

4

When your leadership group gathers, be prepared to offer your comments and insights arising out of your own reflections on “Togetherness” and on the Good Standing Criteria. As a group, agree on the response you will offer to the EMCC National Office.

5

Respond to “The Ask” if possible by *October 15, 2019*.



WHY THIS ASSEMBLY FOLLOW-UP PACKET?

This Assembly Follow Up Packet is provided to replicate the Assembly Saturday afternoon experience in printed form. At Assembly delegates discussed the question of “Togetherness” providing feedback in round table discussions and in written form. As 80 of the 137 member churches were represented at Assembly 2019 the opportunity is extended through this Assembly Follow-Up Packet to achieve full engagement in the discussion by leaders from all member churches. By engagement, it is meant, interacting with the Packet contents and responding to The Ask (p. 14).

Celebration & Focus

Kerry Belt

EMCC National Board Moderator

Celebration

Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner, highly recognized North American leadership experts, tell us that healthy organizations pause to celebrate their accomplishments.

The same exhortation is in both the Old and New Testaments where God instructs His followers to pause and celebrate the many good things that He has done for them. As part of that exhortation, God often gave clear and specific directions on how and when they were to practice that celebration.

Applying that kind of disciplined thinking to the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada leads us to a list of items that we can celebrate quickly and easily. Some of them are noted below. We trust that the list resonates with you.

- The recent Discovery Assessment Project clearly showed that we are a welcoming, warm and relational denomination - we like each other a lot. We can do a lot if we like each other!
- The EMCC has a long history of denominational mergers, not splits. That is healthy and allows us to put energy toward strategies that are healthy!
- The EMCC has recently worked hard at becoming a single national entity accredited by the Federal Not for Profit Act. That action is allowing us to craft a singular national identity in Canada!
- We are continuing to develop the Way of Jesus as a disciple making movement. Ministers in other denominations have described this as a spiritual "gift to Canada".
- Sacrificial leadership has long been a part of our spiritual DNA. This sacrificial gift has given us this moment of time in 2019 to continue influencing Canada for the Kingdom of God.



Focus

These key components allow us to focus on writing the next chapter of our EMCC history. As part of that process the EMCC National Board recently approved the following *Ends Statements* to guide our efforts. As you will see, the *Ends Statements* are all aimed at helping the local church be all that it can be so that we can share the gospel around the world. Those statements are preceded with a **Reason for Being**:



We are a community of like churches. Our uniqueness is that we are centered on living like Jesus, for Jesus, and in the power of the Spirit of Jesus. We are called by God to become a movement of followers of Jesus deeply invested in the world around us, so that individuals, churches, communities, and nations will flourish as God intended.



Our Daily Commitment:

We will pursue with rigour the following activities:

1. We foster increasing spiritual maturity, authority and capacity in our leaders by discipling them into a deeper understanding of God's character and their identity in Jesus as revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures.
2. We foster increasing ministry health in our churches by nurturing a discipling movement that results in a growing number of people realizing their desperate need of Jesus and now experiencing the fullness of life promised by Him.
3. We foster increasing organizational health in our churches by facilitating best-practice thinking and execution in organizational leadership, systems and management.

Going Forward **Task Force**

Assembly 2019 approved the formation of a Going Forward Together Task Force which would review how the EMCC does business (the resolution is in Appendix 8.1). This is another strategic step in determining what our future should be as we go forward together as a denomination. The EMCC National Board is currently engaged in creating that task force from our membership across Canada to do the assigned work. Their goal will be to begin reporting back to us as a constituency at our Regional Gatherings in 2020.

Please join with us in praying for them as they gather information, review our current processes and think strategically about how we address the future together.



Together: Past, Present & Future

William Knelsen

EMCC Director of Communications

Who We Have Been

If you have read the book *Common Bonds* you will know there is a long history of organizational changes in the various denominations that make up the EMCC. As the title of the book suggests, there are common bonds that have brought the EMCC together and continue to keep us together.

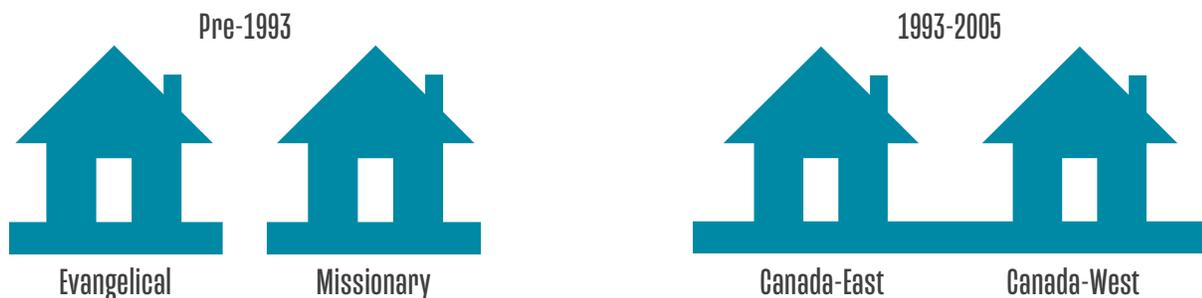
Who we have been in the past matters because it reminds us of what brought us together in the first place. It gives us perspective and a level of gratitude for those who have worked so hard to bring us together.

It also serves as a sort of wise elder. For example, before The Missionary Church of Canada was even established, in 1979, Rev. Alf Rees is quoted as stating about the future of the General Assembly, that it will be a time primarily focused on prayer, praise and fellowship and less on business. We will be wise to consider his commitment as we continue to plan our events together.

Who We Are

Sustainable “togetherness” requires us to think not only about who we have been. We also need to be intentional about who we are, and who we are becoming. While we look back to those who have gone before us and appreciate the work they have done, we do not linger there. If we spend our days only pointing to the history of the EMCC for answers about our common identity, we will fail to imagine what we could become.

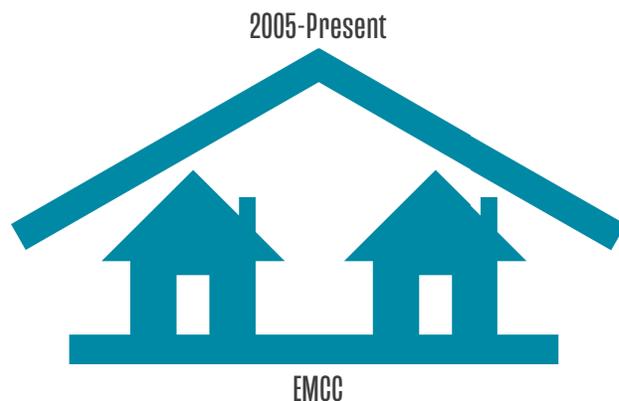
This may require imagining the EMCC in a different way than how we currently exist. The question is, what currently exists?



A mere 26 years ago, in 1993, the EMCC was formed through a merger between The Evangelical Church in Canada and The Missionary Church of Canada.

The EMCC existed for 12 years as two districts: Canada East and Canada West. Each had their own leadership structure.

In 2005, the denomination united under a single leadership structure: a single national board and a single full-time paid president.



In 2005, the removal of the east/west district structure should have brought a united national identity. But, while we have a common foundation and a common covering, we still have remnants of multiple structures between the foundation and the covering. This is part of a natural growth process, but it still needs to be addressed as we seek to be a strong and mature organization.

Who We Are Becoming

After presenting this at the 2019 EMCC General Assembly, I have been approached by many EMCC leaders with questions. While there is an acknowledgment that we have struggled to truly unite, the question has been, what do two houses represent? Is it Evangelical and Missionary? East and West? My observation is that it's both... and more.



However, I am more interested in this question: **what does one house look like?**

What is our common identity and purpose? This has been answered in the past: our identity is "Evangelical" and our purpose is "Mission." (*Common Bonds*, p. 205) However, as I said earlier, sustainable *togetherness* is not so much about who we have been, but about who we are becoming. Consider what a common future identity might look like. What sort of remodelling will need to happen?

This is not a unique time in history. Our family is not unfamiliar with the remodelling of our house. And, the remodelling will never end until Christ returns. The Kingdom of God is an eternal and mostly unseen realm that manifests dimly through our efforts to build a church here in Canada. We will never get it exactly right, and so Jesus redirects us as needed.

I go back to those words from Alf Rees. If we heed his advice and focus our togetherness around prayer, praise and fellowship, we will see more clearly the blueprints that Jesus is drawing up for us. The agenda and the plan are His.

World Partners

Joel Zantingh | Nicole Jones-Qandah

EMCC WP Executive Director | EMCC WP Engagement Strategist

Missions is Changing!

God is continually revealing himself around the world and followers of Jesus everywhere are making disciples in their contexts in creative ways. The mission landscape is changing and new ways to engage continue to reveal themselves. Those agencies who respond well to trends will survive and thrive. While those who don't won't!

9 MISSIONS TRENDS

- 1 Success is no longer measured by the number of "missionaries sent." Success is increasingly measured by people mobilized for whole-life restoration.
- 2 Evangelism still matters plus discipling people in the way, the truth and the life of Jesus. Both are interwoven more than ever in modern missions.
- 3 Missions is increasingly seen as being everywhere with opportunity to be a neighbour... "Everywhere! To Everyone! All the time!"
- 4 Canadians are responding to Jesus' mission with increasingly creative, diverse, individualized and non-traditional ways. This is especially true of Next-Generations.
- 5 Reliance on others for financial support is declining while dependence on one's own vocational skills is increasing. Bi-vocational global workers are increasing.
- 6 Apprenticeships are big.
- 7 The global church south of the equator is on the move, giving Canadian Christ followers opportunity to learn from and with them; to become partners in missions causes.
- 8 Missions increasingly includes community development, disaster response, poverty alleviation, righting the wrongs of injustice, refugee care, immigrant support, creation care.
- 9 Integral development as whole-life restoration is growing.

EMCC World Partners is responding to change in this way...

Our heritage and our future is
EVANGELICAL & MISSIONARY

learning with, connecting, and mobilizing people to participate in Jesus' mission everywhere... adapting as we go!

**Learn.
Connect.
Mobilize.**

A BROKER AND A GUIDE

Have you ever gone into a big box store full of products and services to be greeted by a person whose sole job it is to direct you to the right aisle where you will find what you need? That's the future of WP!

**WORLD
PARTNERS**



Empowering your church's mission participation through learning together, connecting one another, and mobilizing churches into partnerships with one another inside the EMCC and outside internationally!

Engagement with Churches

Providing greater support for your church in achieving your Global Mission aspirations – learning, connecting, and mobilizing together.

Apprenticeship Opportunities

Providing clarity and support for people of all ages who are responding to God's nudging to follow Jesus everywhere through "hands-in and feet-on-the-ground" experiences.

Family

Connecting you to the WPI church family (22 Countries), by creating awareness of opportunities and mutual interaction both here and there.

Compassionate Action

Bringing relief and development to people made vulnerable by disasters, injustices and poverty.

Personnel

Identifying, preparing, sending and supporting Global Workers (missionaries) with World Partners and other agencies.

Development

Connecting you to the needs that our Global Partner Churches identify in order to walk together with them integrating development with the disciple-making ways of Jesus.

Finances

Churches investing in World Partners as part of their commitment to the EMCC and global missions and to invest in Global Workers called of God to serve.



WORLD PARTNERS IS UNIQUELY OURS

We are family, and you are part of the family.

There are many organizations that offer models, and even methodologies and resources for churches. But they are not tied into our church family where we have said we will “Follow Jesus Together”. Everything World Partners is about comes from this disciple-making focus, which is to encourage one another to live out the Way of Jesus – locally, nationally and internationally.

WP is a doorway to other agencies for you and your people.

There is growing collaboration among Mission Agencies and Denominations to serve and work together. These include learning together, sharing in apprenticeship options, and serving together on long-term opportunities. Because of the connections WP has with other agencies we can serve as a broker connecting you to the people and the opportunities where God is leading you.

WORLD PARTNERS COMES WITH A COST

1. World Partners will need regular, generous and predictable financial support from churches and individuals.
2. World Partners will need churches and individuals to actively volunteer and participate in initiatives that serve to advance the Kingdom Gospel of Jesus.
3. World Partners will need to maintain a reasonable staff contingency that serves the core functions of learn, connect, mobilize.

Good Standing

Brutal Facts (See Appendix 8.2)

The Brutal Facts information represents two kind of information:

- a. Who we are as a community of churches; and
- b. Data which speaks to the “Togetherness Gauge”. It is important to note the following:

1. Event Participation

- The Member Church Covenant commits every local church to delegate representation at gatherings. How then are we to interpret the absence of 35-40% of local church representation at Assembly and/or Regional Gatherings?
- IF credentialed ministers being together serves to strengthen, encourage and support them then how are we to interpret the absence of almost 50% of credentialed ministers at the Annual Pastor Development Days?

2. Annual Church and Credentialed Minister Reports

- The Member Church Covenant commits every local church and credentialed minister to complete an annual report, how then are we to interpret the low completion of Annual Church and Pastor Reports?

3. Health and Pension Plan

- How important is it for the EMCC to provide health and retirement care for its’ credentialed ministers? Take note of the data regarding participation in the EMCC health and pension plan. How might we interpret the data regarding churches in the Kitchener Office Region who are not participating in the Plan? (Note: All churches in the Calgary Office Region are enrolled in the EMCC Health and Pension Plan.)

4. Church Giving (Remember these figures are based on 55 Churches reporting)

- Giving to the EMCC Common Cause Budget at 5% of \$21,000,000 (General Fund & Missions Budgets) would = \$1,050,000. Actual budgeted giving to the EMCC is .82% or \$173,000.
- How are we to interpret this level of investment?
- How is the EMCC National Office to afford to provide the services required if giving remains at less than 1%?

5. World Partners

- How are we to understand the indication that EMCC churches may or may not be too interested in hosting a WP missionary?
- How are we to understand the indication that EMCC-ers may or may not be well informed about the ministry or our own WP mission?

6. EMCC Role

- It appears that EMCC-ers feel accountability matters. What do you think this means for the question of “Togetherness”? Specifically, what might accountability look like?

Assembly Summary Chart - Good Standing Criteria

The Assembly Delegates engaged in a Round Table exercise wherein they rated suggested Good Standing Criteria. Below is the summary of "Good Standing Criteria" as rated by the delegates at Assembly.

EMCC National Office Good Standing Criteria... criteria that delegates identified churches might use in granting the EMCC National Office a "Letter in Good Standing".

Order	Criteria Statement	Average Rating (out of 10)
01.	Provides pastoral coaching, ministry intervention, and support through a Regional Minister Model	8.23
02.	Provides guidance for the hiring of staff and credentialing	8.18
03.	Participates as a member in national agencies such as Canadian Council of Christian Charities, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and others	8.16
04.	Operates under best business practices in the management of EMCC affairs	7.95
05.	Provides direction to legal matters	7.54
06.	Ensures there is a vision for and a common pathway for churches and leaders to be disciplined in the Way of Jesus	7.30
07.	Provides and administrates a common health benefits program and pension plan	7.28
08.	Provides a pathway for nurturing new groups for new people into life	7.12
09.	Has a clear vision for and operates our own EMCC - World Partners global missions ministry	6.96
10.	Participates as a member of WP International Presidents Fellowship group	6.79
11.	Supports EBC and RMC	6.67
12.	Provides scholarship funds for pastoral training	6.51
13.	Staff for specialized ministries - children, youth, young adult, singles, special needs and others	5.44

EMCC Local Church Good Standing Criteria... criteria delegates identified the EMCC might use in granting churches a "Letter in Good Standing."

Order	Criteria Statement	Average Rating (out of 10)
01.	Alignment with the EMCC Statement of Faith	9.58
02.	Consistent completion of Annual Church Report	9.00
03.	Pastors credentialed with the EMCC or in process	8.73
04.	Fiscal integrity and accountability – Annual Audit	8.45
05.	Contributor to Common Cause Budget at 5% of Local Church Ministry and Missions Budget combined	8.27
06.	Promotion & Participation in EMCC gatherings	8.25
07.	Care and support of pastoral staff – compensation standards	7.75
08.	Demonstrated engagement with EMCC – WP	6.66
09.	Demonstrated engagement with Way of Jesus	6.48
10.	Contributor to EBC or RMC and the EMCC Camp closest to the church	5.79

The Ask

Thank you for persevering through this Assembly Follow-Up Packet. The three ASKS below are inviting a response from you as leaders. After you have discussed the ASKS please appoint someone to submit your responses by going to emcc.ca/togetherness.

The 1st ASK - Feedback on Good Standing Criteria

On a scale of 1-10 please indicate how you as leaders feel about the following two themes.

1 ----- 5 ----- 10
 Unsure Feel very strongly

Number	Theme	Rating Out of 10
1.	How strongly do feel about Good Standing Criteria being used to call the EMCC National Office to higher performance standards and to be held accountable to them?	_____
2.	How strongly do you feel about Good Standing Criteria being used to call Local Churches performance standards and to be held accountable to them?	_____

The 2nd ASK - World Partners Feedback

On a scale of 1-10 how eager are you as leaders to promote, participate and provide for EMCC - World Partners?

1 ----- 5 ----- 10
 Reluctantly Eagerly

Number	Theme	Rating Out of 10
1.	Promote the WP model in your congregation?	_____
2.	Participate in the WP model through - Learning, connecting and mobilizing?	_____
3.	Provide funding for the WP model in some form?	_____

NOTE: The motion presented at Assembly called for local churches to indicate the level of financial investment your church is prepared to make into 2020 to World Partners. If you are in a position to indicate your current and/or future financial commitment thank you! You are not being asked to do so however as the EMCC National Board is not in a position to present a WP Funding/Business Model. This will come as a result of the work of the "Going Forward Task Force."

The 3rd ASK - Indication of Financial Support.

Financial Data	Numbers
1. Projected 2020 total General Fund Income.	\$ _____
2. Projected 2020 total Missions Income.	\$ _____
3. Projected 2020 total investment budgeted for the EMCC General Fund (Common Cause Budget).	\$ _____
4. The percent your budgeted investment represents of your combined 2020 General and Missions Income.	% _____
5. Other investments you are making toward EMCC causes:	
i. World Partners - Missionaries and Projects	\$ _____
ii. Bible College - Rocky Mountain College	\$ _____
iii. Bible College - Emmanuel Bible College	\$ _____
iv. Camp - Name of Camp: _____	\$ _____

Appendices

Appendix 8.1 - Assembly Resolutions

#1. EMCC-WP Ministry and Business Model

Whereas we the members and delegates of this Assembly have heard the presentation on the EMCC-World Partners titled - Proposed Vision and Strategic Direction , herein called "Ministry Model";

Be it resolved that we endorse the same in principle with the understanding that the Model is a living model and will change from time to time.

We further resolve that we look to the EMCC National Board to present a package of information to our Church Boards for the purposes of:

- a. Reviewing the endorsed Ministry Model;
- b. Confirming to the President of the EMCC the ways in which we will participate with the Model and the level of financial commitment to making the Model work and this by October 15, 2019.

#2. Following Jesus Together - Denominational polity, administration, ministry and business model

Whereas we as members and delegates of this Assembly have discussed the question - "What does it mean to Follow Jesus Together?"; and have provided feedback to the EMCC National Board.

We therefore direct the Board to form a *What's Next Task Force Committee* for the purposes of:

- a. Studying our current denominational polity, administration, ministry and business model;
- b. Engaging EMCC churches and leaders in discussion about the model;
- c. Presenting a model for consideration to the Regional Gatherings of 2020; and
- d. Carrying the revised model forward to General Assembly 2021 for ratification.

#3. EMCC Financial Constraints as Opportunity

Whereas we as members and delegates of this Assembly have received information regarding the financial constraints the ministry of the EMCC National Administration is experiencing; and

Whereas these constraints are seen as an opportunity; and

Whereas the Board has determined, on behalf of the EMCC what the outcomes defining fruitfulness as a community of churches will be; and that these outcomes are as follows:

EMCC Board ENDS Policy

(The Ends Statements are located on page 5 of this Packet)

Whereas knowing the level of financial commitment local churches are prepared to make to the EMCC Common Cause Budget is vital to building an achievable budget.

We resolve that the EMCC National Board will communicate with all EMCC church boards before the end of May 2019 asking them to engage in discussion regarding their current level of financial investment toward meeting the established Assembly standard of giving to the Common Cause Budget at - 5% of local church General Fund and Missions income;

We further resolve that as local church boards consider their level of investment to the EMCC 2020 fiscal year Common Cause Budget that consideration be given to -

- a. The ideas generated around the motto of "Following Jesus Together";
- b. The Board Ends statements;
- c. The strategic initiatives shared by our President at this Assembly; and
- d. The services being delivered.

We further resolve that all church boards indicate to the EMCC President by October 15, 2019 the specific dollar amount being committed and the specific % of giving to the EMCC Common Cause Budget; and further that any additional known commitment of funds be communicated to the President at the same time.

Appendix 8.2. - Brutal Facts

Confronting the Brutal Facts

EMCC Assembly 2019 Presentation

Preamble

Jim Collins, in his book titled *Good to Great and the Social Sectors: Why Business Thinking is not the Answer* says...

In my work with non-profits, I find that they're in desperate need of greater discipline - disciplined planning, disciplined people, disciplined governance, disciplined allocation of resources. A culture of discipline is not a business principle it is a principle of greatness.

(Jim Collins, *Good to Great and the Social Sectors*)

The principle of greatness is not new to the world of the church. Paul the Apostle reminds us in Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now to Him who is able to immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen". Knowing there is more ahead is an invitation and a challenge for us to take to heart the wisdom contained in Collin's words. The EMCC will move from being organizationally good to being organizationally great as we, together with the Holy Spirit engage in disciplined praying, thinking and action.

Collins speaks of "Confronting the brutal facts about current reality, yet never losing faith requires disciplined thinking. The kind of thinking needed is the kind that holds an absolute faith that we can and will prevail in the end, regardless of the difficulties." This is true for us because of the power of Jesus Christ that is at work within us and because He is the master builder of His "ecclesia - church". So, we are compelled to confront the brutal facts of our current reality.

The following facts are presented as an invitation for all of us, together to ponder ...

"What does it mean for us to Follow Jesus TOGETHER"?

When seeing each fact consider what it is saying about our togetherness quotient.



Brutal Facts

Who are we?

Number of Full Member churches	119
Number of Associate churches	18
TOTAL	137
Credentialed Active Ministers	355
# of Female	55
# of Male	300
Average Weekend Attendance (based on 55 churches reporting)	113
Membership (based on 55 churches reporting)	4,072

Event Participation

Assembly 2019 - Churches represented	80 of 137
Regional Gatherings 2018 - churches represented	91 of 137
Pastor Development Days 2018	165 of 300+

Annual Reports - 2018

Church Reports	55 of 137
Credential Active Minister Reports	117 of 355

Health and Pension Plan (Based on 55 Churches reporting)

Calgary Office Region - 20 Churches reporting

*All are enrolled in the EMCC Plan

Kitchener Office Region - 36 Churches reporting

*21 are enrolled in the EMCC Plan

Church Giving into 2019 - Based on 55 Churches reporting

Total Church Budget General & Missions	Budgeted to EMCC	% of Church Budget	Total Funds IF giving at 5%
21,000,000	173,000	.82%	\$1,050,000

World Partners (From Discovery Assessment Project - 2018)

58% of participants said, "My church hosted a WP Missionary in 2017."

95% of participants did not know how many WP missionaries EMCC has.

EMCC Role (From Discovery Assessment Project - 2018)

73% of participants said, "EMCC is important for **accountability** for our churches."

65% of participants said, "Church health is best described by **disciple making.**"

62% of participants said, "EMCC plays an **important role in Canada.**"