



**World Partners**

Following Jesus Together

April 2019

**Dear EMCC Assembly Delegates and Participants,**

The future of World Partners, the global mission arm of our denominational family, is being presented to you, for your consideration. What is proposed is a model of global mission engagement that, we believe, is right for our time, and is a common trajectory for our diverse congregations to move in, centered on being and making disciples, and on an integral mission that flows from there.

It will only go forward if you respond favourably to the motion presented by the National Board. Therefore, we encourage you to pray through and wrestle with what is presented here, so that you can respond to the Board's motion in the Business Session, and thoughtfully take it back to your people. The Vision materials in this package are thorough. We have also created a synopsis which will be included in the Package AFTER Assembly, and are hopeful that you will pull together input from across the generations in your congregation and then respond to us with your commitments.

I am grateful to be giving leadership to World Partners, in a way that models what I believe Jesus is inviting all of us into as his followers – so that a ripple can grow into a movement of participation in His mission, resulting in Jesus' transforming Kingdom bringing a restoration of all things to God. So, in endorsing this model, we must neither be hurried, nor apathetic. Our posture of learning and serving mutually under the guidance of the Holy Spirit will continue as a faithful journey of listening, trusting, and obeying Jesus, who is calling one people from every "nation, tribe, people, and language" to be with Him forevermore. (Revelation 7:9)

*"Desire without knowledge is not good – how much more will hasty feet miss the way!"*  
Proverbs 19:2 NIVUK

This proposal builds on the work of the last two years. The World Partners Report in the Assembly Book reflects the current picture, but this document paints a picture for the future. There is no fancy website launch and no slick marketing campaign. The Proposed Vision and Strategic Direction document is a dream which comes out of two years of prayer and discernment, listening and consulting. But it only happens if we go together. If it seems good to us and the Holy Spirit, and we agree on this vision and direction, then the next chapter will open, and changes will begin to take effect.

Thank you, EMCC family, for the challenge you presented to World Partners, to embrace a new model. What is presented here has come with thoughtful investment from our staff team, our Global workers, Church leaders from around the world, our Global Mission Task Force, and some of you, our constituents, who took the time to respond out of our 'Day With' Tour in February–March 2019.

Below, you will find information to be discussed in our Saturday morning session. Please read through it, and come prepared for table-group interaction. We await the Lord's clear voice through His people. For Jesus' sake,

Joel Zantingh  
Executive Director, EMCC World Partners

# World Partners

Following Jesus Together

## Proposed Vision and Strategic Direction

April 2019

### Table of Contents:

Executive Summary .....	3
Introduction .....	4
Mission, Vision, and Core Values .....	6
Strategic Direction .....	8
Practical Implications .....	14
1. Leadership Structure .....	14
2. Integration and Funding Models (discussion at Assembly).....	16

## Executive Summary

World Partners has a unique role in Jesus' mission in the world: one of assistance. Connecting the local congregations of the EMCC to participation-mindset, and to cross-cultural learning and serving opportunities. Learning together from Church leaders from the Global South, so that our mission mobilization is done in a way that celebrates and honours the beautiful tapestry of diverse cultural expressions God uses to advance His Kingdom. In all these connections, World Partners is like a communication-assistive device, trying to address barriers of understanding and access, and working to cultivate the mobilization of all God's people.

### **A Mission to support you.**

World Partners is here for the EMCC congregations and individuals.

Assisting in your learning journey about what God is up to in the world,

Supporting life-giving connections in mission participation, and

Mobilizing the whole church to participate in Jesus' global mission.

### **A Nimble, Listening Community**

Renewing vision requires adjustments. We are being called upon by God to stay fully awake and alert to His Spirit's leading in our lives, in order to participate fully as followers of Jesus on mission in the world. World Partners is going to serve our churches as a connected listening-device. What does God require from the Canadian church as we serve Him in the world? A posture of humility, and a recognition that God's mission advances in ways that surprise us, that can't be contained or controlled, but in which we get to play a beautiful part. We participate in a network that connects and learns and grows together as we are sent into the world together with followers of Jesus around the world.

### **An Integrated Model**

We are responding to your strong desire to integrate global with local, church with mission. What is written here can be lived out in your "Jerusalem" (local community), and beyond, to the "Ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8) with consistency. The question remains whether this integration extends to how you see it operationally funded as a part of our Denominational life.

Thanks for joining us in this discernment.

Joel Zantingh  
Executive Director of EMCC World Partners

## Introduction

In this season of renewing our vision, World Partners wants to preserve historical strengths that God has used so powerfully. At the same time, we recognize that God is calling us to make some adjustments in order to meet the challenges He is putting before us in our fast-changing Canadian and global context.

Many of the changes we are recommending have been apparent for quite some time. Our surveys and interactions have indicated that many of our leaders in Canada and around the world have been pioneering new practices that we would be wise to adopt more broadly in a cohesive portfolio. Input from the Global Mission Task Force, global workers, leaders from the Global South, and the EMCC constituents, first in the Assessment feedback (2017-2018) and then in the Mission and Culture Tour (Feb-Mar 2019), have all contributed to aspects of this vision, and have helped us in our clarity.

There are 5 themes that have been affirmed, and which underpin this proposed vision:

1. **Disciple-making focus within ALL our work.** A “Theology of Integral Mission” has been crafted as a foundational document. It is intended as an outworking of our Articles of Faith and our ethos of living out the way of Jesus, being sent by Jesus to join Him in His mission in the world. Integral mission is vital, as proclamation and demonstration work hand in hand, to see the advancement of Jesus’ Kingdom. This is our focal point, which informs everything we are and do.
2. **Global Mutuality.** The majority of people following Jesus on the planet are in what we now call “the Global South”, in South and Central America, Africa, and South East Asia. As Canadians, we also acknowledge the gift of increasingly diverse cultural perspectives from immigrant and Indigenous peoples on how they are coming to know and follow Jesus. The sending of Canadians as Global Workers is best determined in collaboration with our Global Partners. We, in turn, will receive Global Workers from other countries, to serve alongside us in Canada. This new chapter of our mutual mission participation must be marked by teachability, the posture of a guest (Luke 10), and the servant-heartedness of Jesus’.
3. **Organizational Collaboration.** We are entering an era of increased collaboration in mission work, sharing services and resources. This creates synergy. But in starting with our conviction that “God calls, the Church affirms, and the Agency facilitates”, EMCC World Partners will be a doorway, opening up to the networks around the world. This helps us enable our people to access an on-ramp which includes connections within our own mission contexts, and collaborative opportunities to a wider pool of mission agencies.
4. **Faithful Stewardship.** We are called to be stewards of God’s many resources. For every aspect of our resources (natural, physical, human, social, spiritual, financial and time), we commit to honesty about our current capacity, and will build for the future sustainably. This allows us to see growth beyond dollars, fuels how we engage in creation care as a natural part of living for Jesus, and underpins how we ensure member care for the physical, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of Global workers.

5. **Intergenerational Diversity.** God is at work nudging people of all ages to be engaged in His Mission cross-culturally and internationally from across generations. And different generations think, feel, and support out of different values altogether. We celebrate that the Lord will provide what's needed for His Mission. We will adapt and vary our models for supporting sent Global Workers. We will lift up 'Integral Development' as the demonstration of the good news of Jesus' Kingdom realities for restoring all things to Himself, as the Church lives out the way of Jesus around the world, and we celebrate intergenerational engagement.

We are pursuing a common trajectory together around these themes. For many of our people, there is affirmation for the way mission is already being lived out. For others, there's some help for aspects which feel quite unfamiliar.

**An Example: A church of 200 people in a rural town in Canada...**

For years, the "Community EMCC" has been giving funding to 6 missionaries. The congregation has a Missions Committee, who desire to see a deeper relationship with these missionaries and their work, but haven't invited them to their church in over 5 years. For some, there is concern that without an agreed-upon review period, they must renew their support. The congregation feels 'locked-in', and without recent updates or face-to-face interaction. This is also complicated because they are supporting missionaries who are related by birth to church members. They don't want to offend, but they want things to be better. They want to know more about mission work. They are looking for guidance.

The church has also responded to a Denominational invite to give to relief and development work. They send an offering in, and look for the story of impact, so they have confidence that what they've contributed is making a difference.

There are young high-schoolers who are learning about water projects in rural Rwanda, and who want time in a worship service to share. Pastors are wondering how best to coach them. Do they see a link with these projects to making disciples and following Jesus?

The church people pull together for a conversation, to celebrate what they've accomplished, review what they are doing, and explore the questions they have about the future. Calling the church to pray, they gather news from various sources, and get assistance from World Partners and Samaritan's Purse on where to reach out for information about how God is at work. They find that they have a couple who are passionate about connecting with the church's supported missionaries. Also, a newly-retired couple, feeling a nudge to volunteer at the local community center, are supported in prayer. A family who are exploring relocation to South Asia, and the church rallies to send them on a vision trip to help in their discernment. And the high school class? They are invited to a Sunday worship service to talk about water, and the Church chooses to pray for communities affected by environmental changes.

WRAP UP STATEMENT: Having many individuals responding to the nudging of God's spirit to participate is a beautiful picture of a mobilized church. Global mission connections provide ongoing learning so the whole church community can continue to engage in Jesus' mission.

# World Partners

Following Jesus Together

## Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Building on our long history and our strengths, World Partners will start by broadly engaging the EMCC in mission participation (learning and engagement, God's call to participate, disciple-making focus), and then providing support with people who are sensing God's nudging to serve internationally (on-ramp), and strengthen our support for Global work of various kinds, together with our churches (strategic presence, integral development and compassionate action). This is the model for Global Mission engagement that we envision, and how your Church can benefit from our support.

### Our Mission (what we do + why we do it)

*World Partners – following Jesus together*

Learning with, connecting, and mobilizing the EMCC to adaptively participate in Jesus' mission everywhere.

*Learn. Connect. Mobilize.*

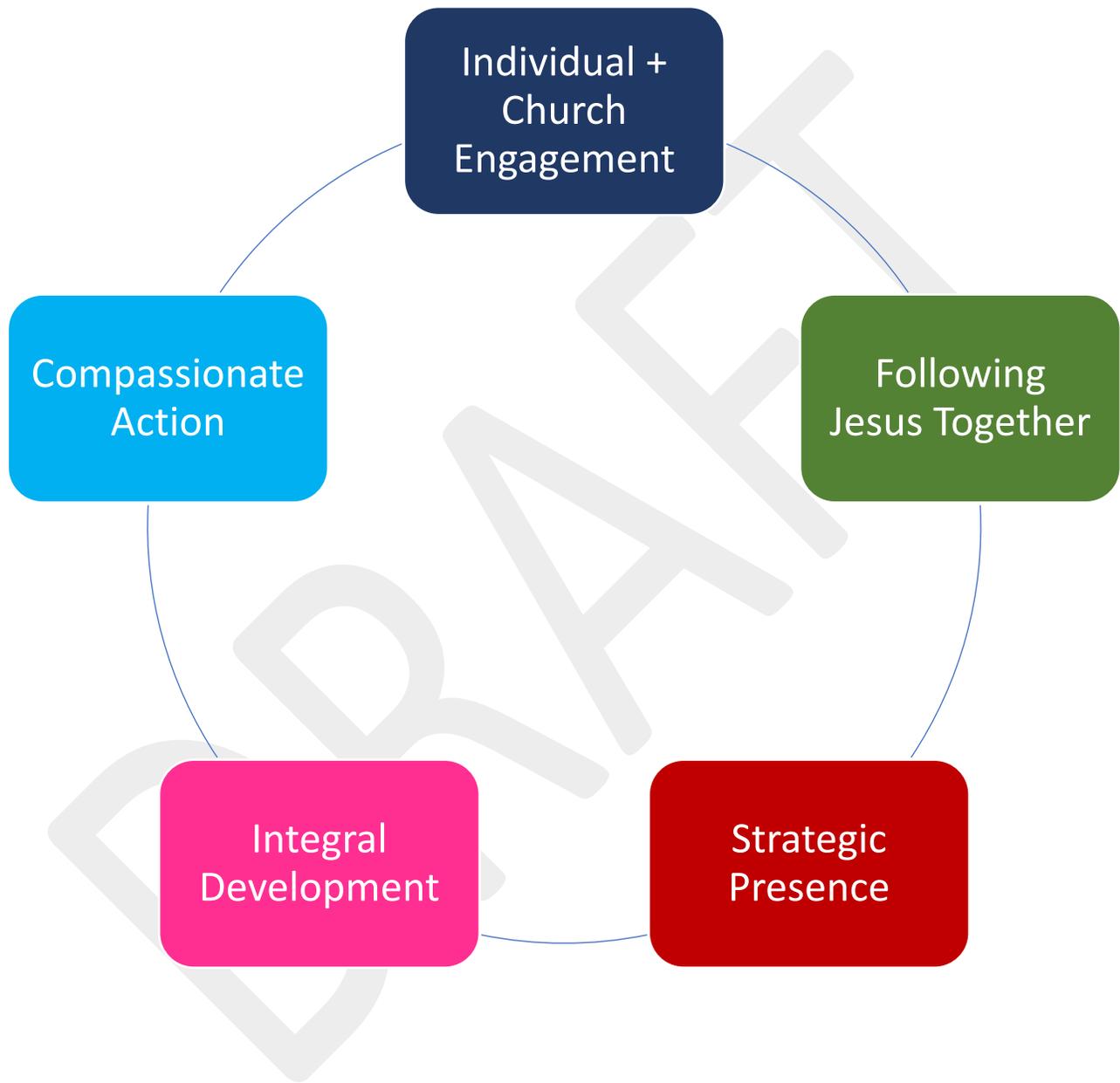
### Our Vision (where we are going)

World Partners engages the church to participate in Jesus' mission through commitment to learning, strategic global presence, integral development and compassionate action, resulting in individual and social transformation.

### Our Values (what we live out)

These values are core to our choices and our behaviours in the world:

- Living out the way of Jesus, by listening, trusting and obeying the Spirit of Jesus, and practicing sacrificial love.
- Fostering mutuality with Canadians and our Global Partners around the world.
- Collaborating with like-minded partners in Canada and internationally.
- Engaging churches and individuals in Jesus' mission, offering experiences that combine Mission mobilization with personalized discipling.
- Increasing the ability of all partners to serve each other with cultural awareness and sensitivity.



## Strategic Direction

World Partners is referred to as “We” in this section, looking at what we are capable of providing, with your support to enable us in our work. This integral mission portfolio will provide key aspects of support for different churches (some are involved in many of these aspects of mission engagement already). We’re here to help you on your journey, as participants in Jesus’ mission in the world.

### Engaging Individuals and Churches

We will work with individuals and churches in pursuing how God is nudging them to participate in His Mission in the world.

#### Church Engagement

Through engagement conversations, resources, and training, we will serve the EMCC, inviting people towards healthy awareness and involvement in God’s work in the world.

#### We help facilitate your church in

- Prayer
- An understanding of resources common to all
- Guidance to Funding / Budgeting
- Education Resources around Integral Development, including a Holistic Development Rubric
- Integration at EMCC Events, for inspiration and challenge
- Tailored equipping for pastors and mission-leaders
- review of your current mission engagement, and guidance towards the future.

#### Our On-Ramp.

Through personal coaching and experiences (internships, immersion learning, facilitated Vision trips and tailored Short-term-Mission trips), individuals will be supported in clarifying their place in God’s mission.

#### For 2020, we will begin to offer:

- Select internships and immersion learning experiences, and vision trips with our Global Partners.
- Guidance / tools for your church to introduce this concept to your current partner churches.
- Short-term Mission (STMs) options, Best-Practice Guide, and facilitated coaching.
- Joining with your church in the discipling and discerning of God’s call in the lives of your people.
- Integrating immersion learning experiences with certificates and degrees for increased effectiveness for short-term and longer-term Global workers.

#### Partner, Agency + Church Together.

We will enable best-practice in Church-to-Church Partnerships by linking them to Global Partners’ vision and leadership, and to our posture of engagement, with support.

#### We provide guidance and counsel for Best-practice.

- Exploring possible partnerships with your church by helping you learn about Global partners.
- Enhancing your existing church-to-church partnerships with insights received from Global Partners
- Brokering resources like the EFC’s Best Practice Guide for Partnerships
- Providing “charter” documents between EMCC local churches, national-led churches, Global Workers and WP to provide clarity and realistic review periods to partnerships
- Less duplication, when churches are working in the same region or with the same partners.

## Following Jesus together

We are committed, with expectation and hope, to share the good news of Jesus' salvation and new life throughout the world, in word and deed. EMCC participates in the Mission of Jesus with the Global Church, that those from every people group may follow Him too.

### Disciple-making Focus

We participate with Global Partners, Global Workers, and the EMCC to enable a growing movement of followers of Jesus on mission together.

### We help people follow Jesus

- Participate in Way of Jesus Disciple-making training in Canada and with Global Partners...
- Bring influence from Disciple-making Movements into Canada at EMCC events, for inspiration and challenge
- Making disciple-making principles (like Way of Jesus) a part of our preparation for all on-ramp experiences and future Global workers, and link to Disciple-making movements for support and inspiration.

### Theology of Integral Mission

We encourage all our churches to a higher level of global mission engagement as regular practice. Our Theology of Integral Mission seeks to give language, and opportunity for individuals and churches to apply what the Spirit of God is leading them into.

### Our learning journey begins in Biblical foundations

- Theology of Integral Mission as a resource for personal and congregational reflection, prayer, and seeking where the Spirit is leading
- Periodic conversations and round-table dialogues with missiologists & practitioners to help us in our learning and our obedience to the Great Commission.

### Creative Prayer Movements.

We encourage grass-roots prayer movements. When we pray, we align with God's will to advance His mission throughout the earth.

### Let us inspire one another to be praying continually

- Modelling Prayer exercises and experiences that include God's global mission at EMCC events.
- Encouragement for grass-roots movements to begin, learning from the 24/7 movements in the world today, and those from church history.
- Communicating with prayer bulletins and concentrated prayer points for what is happening in disciple-making movements around the world

## Strategic Global Presence

We celebrate the multicultural expression of the global church, and join God's work in each culture humbly and mutually, and take joy in walking the road together.

### Global Workers + Global Partners

We support the sending of Canadians as "Global Workers" where a Canadian is an agreed-upon response to strategic need or opportunity, advancing God's mission.

- Where there is a member group belonging to "World Partners International" with EMCC, we will seek to work with them as a Global Partner.
- Where there is no WPI Global Partner, we will work strategically with a like-minded partner.
- Where WPI and other Partners have people in Canada, we will receive them in the spirit of cooperation and mutuality.

**We will continue to resource and support our personnel, with increased collaboration with like-minded mission agencies.**

- Our current Global Workers will receive ongoing investment and care:
  - participation in our National Church life (Assemblies, communications channels, etc.)
  - Home Ministry Assignment supports from WP, including:
    - respite/retreat time
    - health and ministry check-in
    - requesting tangible supports from our churches (for vehicles and apartments on loan to reduce HMA costs), and
    - advocacy with our churches to embrace our Global Workers and welcome them in our church communities
- Whole-life care for workers (stage of life care, family needs, investments, benefits)
- Continued "Flexible Budgeting" for Global workers

### One "Directory"

We publish a unified directory of all our Global workers under one banner, including Global Workers (serving either with World Partners or other Mission Agencies), along with our Global Partners.

### Global Professionals

Where there is no existing church, we enable and support professionals to live and share the good news, to see the establishment of the community of followers of Jesus among every people-group. These may be un-funded workers, business entrepreneurs, and marketplace workers.

**For 2020, we will begin to offer:**

- Application process and alongside mission support for Global professionals and internationally-placed marketplace workers, in collaboration with Mission-Agency and Denominational partners.

## Strategic Global Presence.

Continued...

### Door to Mission Agencies.

We will serve as a doorway for EMCC individuals, to help them follow Jesus in obedience to by assisting them in considering right-fit, either with like-minded partnering mission agencies, or alongside one of our own Global Partners.

### Keeping a Kingdom-First, Spirit-led approach

- We collaborate with Canadian Mission-Sending Agencies.

- In 2019, we will establish new “Memoranda of Understanding” with key Mission partners, sharing Admin fees and deliverables for our Global Workers.

### Diaspora Link

We recognize our congregations in Canada who are part of “Diaspora” (dispersed) people groups, as they work together to support the advance of Jesus’ mission in their homeland, or around the world. We commend their Global heart for God and people, and encourage them as we are able.

### We encourage our churches

- to discover the cultural groups in their community and to build bridges with them

- to learn from them how they connect globally with their people, and to highlight their examples, pray with them

- to share resources reciprocally (learn how to be a guest)

## Integral Development

We pursue Development initiatives where we play a supportive role to our Global Partners' in recognizing and sharing the resources God provides them to address needs in their own communities. This is an integral part of extending the blessing of Jesus' Kingdom shared with all peoples.

### Resource Sharing

We foster awareness and gratitude with Global Partners, Global Workers, and the EMCC for the resources God provides to all people everywhere, and how we are called to share them with one another in a way that upholds the Mission of Jesus, and our mutuality in service.

### Helping to cultivate an Integral Development Mindset:

- Educating the Church on the resources God has provided everyone, everywhere (7 Resources Common To All - paper)
- Cultivating awareness of integral development that is in alignment with being and making disciples among our Churches, Global Workers, and Global Partners by 2020.

### Capacity-Building

We assist our Global Partners in their growing and exemplary capacity to serve as agents of God's Kingdom, resulting in community transformation.

### Walking the Road Together with our Partners.

- We will listen to and assist Global Partners in their goals, as defined by them, for their disciple-making focus, their organizational effectiveness and their health towards being a community on mission to the world.
- our response will affect our strategic global presence, on-ramps, and church to church partnerships.

### Creation Care

We defend the importance of caring for creation as a part of God's mandate for us to treat it as a very good gift, and to embrace all of creation in the renewal and restoration plan of God, for His glory forever.

### Participate in the work of Creation Care as Followers of Jesus

- We will work with EFC Partners, in response to the "Jamaica Calls to Action" from Lausanne Movement
- Theology Group discussion on Creation Care
- Teaching our people the Biblical mandates to care for the earth, and uphold the values of simple living as stewards of God's resources entrusted to us.

## Compassionate Action.

We respond to people made vulnerable by circumstances of injustice, poverty, and disaster, with the love and compassion of Jesus.

### Humanitarian Response

We collaboratively respond to emergencies caused by disasters, displacement and other factors. We work with our Global Partners wherever possible, or with our network to respond.

#### Gathering support, responding together.

- we monitor disasters and displacement needs using GDACS and news coverage.
- we inform our churches, resource them for prayer, and provide pathways of response.
- we work collaboratively with like-minded partners in Disaster Response

### Refugee Sponsorship

We encourage and resource the EMCC to support new Canadians as they seek refuge and integrate into Canadian life.

#### Responding to those Seeking Refuge

- We invite the church to pray for those who are displaced
- We educate churches on the opportunities for refugee sponsorship
- We offer counsel, support, and application assistance for a range of Refugee Sponsorship options available to EMCC congregations.
- We advise churches on ways to help New Canadians integrate.

### Restoring Justice

We encourage and resource the EMCC to pray for and respond to injustices committed against human beings.

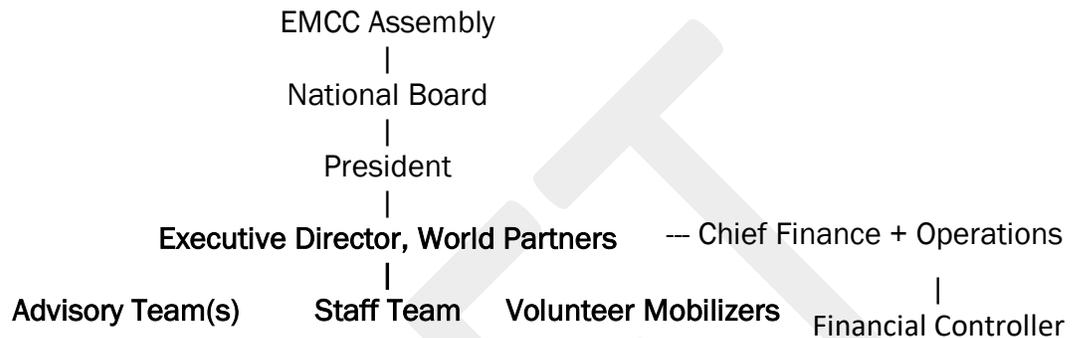
#### Facilitating Responses to Injustice

- Integrated with our prayer resourcing
- recognizing current local and international engagement in our churches
- promoting and learning from those that have facilitated a response to injustice (KAIROS Canada, IJM, work of 'Flourish')

## Practical Implications

### 1. Leadership Structure

This Assembly and our churches will set the tone for how the future structure of World Partners will be formed. Note the following proposed organization of World Partners staff and volunteers:



### WP Staff Team

Staffing will be added only in sustainable ways, in response to the adoption of the Vision & Strategic Plan, and in line with level of Integration chosen out of input from our Assembly and commitments from our churches. It could look like this:

Executive Director, World Partners  
(currently 1FTE, inclusive of Personnel, Compassion & Development)

Director of Engagement  
(current – Engagement Strategist 1FTE)

Director of Personnel  
(current – Missionary Care Consultant, .25 FTE)

Director of Integral Development

Director of Compassion  
(current – Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator .15FTE)

Executive Assistant  
(.35 FTE)

### World Partners Advisory Teams.

*We are going to put advisory teams of volunteers in place, including representatives from across the spectrum of churches, generations, Global partners, and Global workers.*

#### *Roles and responsibilities of advisory team members*

- *developing an understanding of Global and Mission trends*
- *provide “wise counsel” on issues raised by our constituents, our directors or management*

- *provide unbiased insights and ideas from a third point-of-view (not involved in the operation)*
- *encourage and support the exploration of new ideas*
- *act as a resource for executives*
- *provide social networking platform for directors and management*
- *encourage the development of a governance framework that enables sustainability*
- *monitor WP performance*
- *impose challenges to directors and management that continue to drive meaningful change*

**WP Volunteer Mobilizers Team.**

*We are going to train and resource a team of Mission-engaged volunteers from across the EMCC who will represent us at our camps, colleges, and events, and who will help with initial connections between EMCC constituents and WP.*

## 2. Integration and Funding Models for our Global Mission Work

### Where will our WP Operational funding come from?

This Assembly and our churches will set the tone for how the future work of World Partners will be integrated and funded. Whatever the option, we will be looking to you as our churches to support this endeavor. As we have been working towards integration of our Global work, we are trusting you to wrestle with the structure going forward for our global mission resourcing and work.

What is your desired level of Integration for this model? Do you see the work of World Partners as “an essential service of our denominational life and identity”, a department, a faith-based entity, or something else?

ESSENTIAL SERVICE MODEL	GLOBAL DEPARTMENT MODEL	MONEY IN MONEY OUT MODEL
<p><b>Integrated</b>, giving ONLY to Common Cause, but a percentage of that total is allocated to WP (for Cross-Cultural and Global engagement operation)</p>	<p><b>Churches give to “Common Cause”</b> (for National Ministry) <b>and “WP”</b> (for Cross-Cultural and Global engagement operation) separately.</p>	<p><b>Churches give to “Common Cause”</b> (for National Ministry)</p> <p><b>“WP” is entirely funded through free-will offerings.</b></p>
<p><b>Local Church asked to give ___% Common Cause</b>, which includes World Partners Operations/Staff/Resourcing/Communications</p> <p>AND</p> <p>\$_____ Local Church empowered to organize their Global Mission support with flexibility.</p>	<p><b>Local Church asked to give ___% Common Cause</b></p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>___% World Partners Operations</b></p> <p>AND</p> <p>\$_____ Local Church empowered to organize their Global Mission support with flexibility.</p>	<p><b>Local Church asked to give ___% Common Cause</b></p> <p><b>World Partners continuously asks for \$_____ support for its own operations and ongoing work.</b></p> <p>\$_____ Local Church empowered to organize their Global Mission support with flexibility.</p>
<p><b>Who Does it this way?</b></p> <p>Christian and Missionary Alliance is similar to this.</p>	<p><b>Who does it this way?</b></p> <p>Canadian Baptist Ministries functions somewhat like this for Baptist Denominations.</p>	<p><b>Who does it this way?</b></p> <p>This is less like a denomination, and more like a “faith-based mission” within a denomination.</p>

### **Facilitated Discussion at Assembly**

With a strong affirmation coming into this Assembly that following Jesus together is core to our identity, and having heard and considered the need for change, driving our model for World Partners' future, we know that the conversation of sustainability ultimately rests with you, our churches. At the local church level, where budgets face many pressing priorities, all provision of Denominational staff and resources must be delivered within what God provides through the generosity of our constituents.

When thinking about the Essential Service Model, the Global Department Model, and the Money-In, Money-Out Model:

Who do we want to be as a Denomination engaged in Global mission?

If we believe this is the correct future for our Global Mission engagement, how do we fund it?

### **Multi-year Commitment requested.**

As with any business in its establishment, we are asking our churches to think of the first 5 years required for a new business to become viable. We are confident that the grass-roots engagement will create momentum for a healthy new season, but it will take 2 to 3 years to achieve results of more churches feeling supported in their participation in Jesus' global mission, and getting traction in our on-ramp.