

Interim President Update – October 2020

Posture Matters

In a world that is hyper-conscious of how our words align with our actions, and hyper-stressed about some serious local and global concerns, posture matters. Our posture, as the Church of Jesus Christ, matters. I recall my parents chiding me, “Your posture matters. Sit up straight.” Jesus modelled and instructed his disciples... posture matters. “And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you” (John 13:14-15). The Apostle Paul challenges us to have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had – a self-emptying posture” (Philippians 2:5-8). “Let your gentleness be evident to all” (Philippians 4:5). “People who do not believe are living all around you and might say that you are doing wrong. Live such good lives that they will see the good things you do and will give glory to God on the day when Christ comes again” (1 Peter 2:12). I am learning to be like Jesus in my attitudes, behaviour, character and posture. “We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church” (Ephesians 4:15).

What posture are we taking as followers of Jesus in this hyper-world? In our next EMCC e-newsletter (December edition) we want to be spurred on by how our churches and people are “posturing” themselves to serve their communities and each other during this pandemic. We believe these stories will be a beautiful Christmas gift to Jesus and each other. Do you have a story like this, just waiting to be told? Please send your story leads to communications@emcc.ca or directly to our editor Jean Winker jwinker@emcc.ca.

Pastor Development Days

During the months of September and October, a number of our pastors gathered both in-person and virtually for encouragement and development. Our time together was valuable on many levels. Many found it welcome refreshment. We followed the theme: In every crisis, there is both threat and opportunity. Pastors related to the heartfelt [reflections of Pastor Rob Loy](#) and were challenged by Danielle Strickland’s push to keep moving through the journey of transformational change. Many simply said, “It was just good to be/talk together.” It’s hard to think about development in the midst of this pandemic; our focus has tended to be on survival. Yet God continues to call us to be life-long learners – together.

Financial Update

Like many of you, we are working through our budget process as a denomination, in the midst of many unknowns for 2021. Thank you for your ongoing gifts to our Common Cause. In a season of scarcity, we celebrate His generosity and provision. As of September 2020, we can report that we are meeting expenses after making some necessary adjustments. In June, we proactively re-budgeted (reducing our 2020 budget by 10%). We are keenly aware of the potential and real economic challenges our churches may face in the year ahead. At the same time, we place our trust in Jesus. During this interim period, we are doing the hard work of reorganizing and right-sizing in order to provide support to our churches. We are asking the

questions: “what are our core services that we should/can provide our churches? In 2021, it is our intent to begin incorporating World Partners Services into our Common Cause thinking and giving. In addition to serving our Global Workers (Missionaries), our World Partners Team members are available to serve our local churches through consultations, learning, connecting and mobilizing with the goal of helping us follow Jesus on mission to the world. As you prepare your budgets this fall, thanks in advance for prayerfully and intentionally including your Common Cause gift. An extra one-time gift would be a timely blessing to us. We do certainly understand the financial challenges you face on the local level and encourage you to steward well the gifts God entrusts to you.

Staffing Update

We thank Jesus for the wonderful service and investment of William Knelsen, Nathanael Ong and Darlene Adolf to the Kingdom and to our EMCC family. William Knelsen has moved to CrossRoads EMC in Red Deer to begin his next ministry assignment as their Director of Communications. He is excited to once again serve in a local context. Nathanael Ong is no longer serving as CFOO. He is seeking God for his next assignment. We have made the decision to reorganize our operations department. Both William and Nathanael remain licensed ministers in good standing. Darlene Adolf is planning to retire on November 30, 2020. Each would wish to express thanks to President Kervin, the National Team and all those who they have had the joy of serving. Please join me in blessing these friends and praying for the Lord’s care and provision through these transitions. Please direct your communications and operations questions to me at jcressman@emcc.ca until further notice.

National Board Meetings

Our National Board meets on November 4-6, 2020. We will look forward to an update from them following their meetings. Thanks for praying for your National Board and National Team as we seek to do the same – regularly lifting you in prayer.

Here to serve,
John Cressman
On behalf of the EMCC National Team