



CANADIAN
BAPTISTS
of Ontario
and Quebec



Pouring In

Equipping each other in
the fullness of Christ

CBOQ ASSEMBLY 2017 SUMMARY

This has been a wonderful time together. Thank you for making the time to come and be with your fellow Canadian Baptists at this year's CBOQ assembly. It has been good to be together. No matter where I went throughout our time together, I sensed God's presence in relationships, old and new. I saw laughter, reminiscing, praying and the joy of new friendship!

Our hope from the outset was that you would feel as though God was pouring into you while you were here this week. We are so

thankful for the wise, thoughtful, and powerful words of Gordon McDonald as he led us and encouraged us to never walk alone, to know how to manage ourselves, and how to have an active imagination on this journey of mission and ministry with God.

For those of you who served as delegates this week, thank you for playing your part in carrying out the business of CBOQ. We are better when we put our minds and hearts together, seeking to honour God with all of our decisions as a family of Baptist churches. Thank you for your faithfulness to this tried and true process of coming together as an assembly, and building on our unique skills and gifts to seek ways to better prepare our churches and leaders to share the good news of the gospel of Christ.

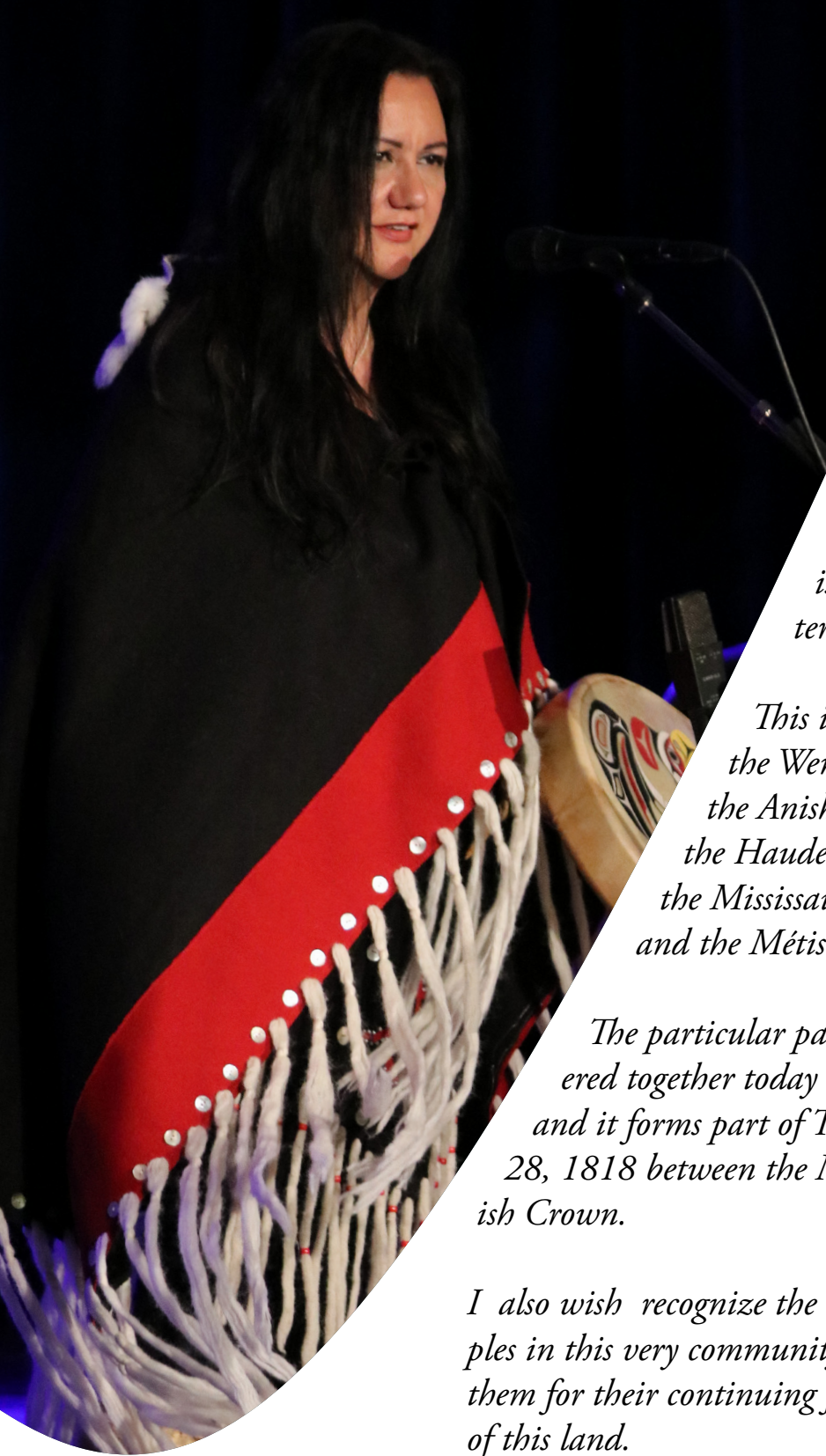
We are so thankful for the partnership we feel with you, our CBOQ churches. Having the opportunity

to walk alongside you on your mission from God in your community is a great highlight and true privilege to me, our CBOQ board, and our CBOQ staff team. We pray for you and remember you throughout the year, and commit to being available to you as needs arise in the coming year.

Hopefully, our paths will cross in the year to come and I look forward to hearing and seeing how God is using you in your community. Know of our deep love and care for all of you.

Whether you were here at assembly this year or not, we hope to see you next year at assembly June 7-9, 2018.

Tim McCoy
Executive Minister, CBOQ



In keeping with Indigenous protocol, I would like to acknowledge that we are assembling on land that is situated upon traditional Indigenous territories.

*This is the traditional homeland of
the Wendat,
the Anishinabek Nation,
the Haudenosaunee Confederacy,
the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation,
and the Métis Nation.*

The particular parcel of land upon which we are gathered together today is referred to as “The New Survey” and it forms part of Treaty 19 which was made on October 28, 1818 between the Mississauga First Nation and the British Crown.

I also wish recognize the enduring presence of Aboriginal Peoples in this very community and I extend my thankfulness to them for their continuing friendship and for their love and care of this land.



Tim McCoy
Executive Minister, CBOQ
Assembly 2017 Opening

THURSDAY

Assembly 2017 began on Thursday, June 7, with Executive Minister, Tim McCoy. As we celebrate Canada's 150th, there is no better time than to acknowledge that we have a great debt to those who were here before us.

After prayer, Tim welcomed Steve Bell, our worship leader. For those who have experienced Steve before at Assembly 2015, his return was much anticipated! Steve has a unique ability to integrate music and storytelling, and brought us together in song and harmony—a fitting beginning for our family gathering. Steve drew from his “cradle Baptist” history, and the many expressions of the kingdom that he has participated in throughout his life, music and ministry. We were blessed



to have him with us.

After worship, the business session began with Murray Kohler, our outgoing board president sharing his remarks. Murray reminded us that pastors also need to be nurtured, and congregations are responsible for caring for our pastors. He encouraged us to greet each other, and, as is the way with Baptists, found it an amusing challenge to get us all to stop socializing and sit down.

The Assembly welcomed two new churches into our midst: Tapestry Church, Burlington, and Chartwell Baptist Church, Oakville, have joined our family of churches. We welcome them and are excited to see what God will do through them.

Murray Kohler presented the board report, and reminded us of the board's mandate: to direct and pro-

tect CBOQ. We are grateful for the time and care that they give to their positions.

Our Director of Administration and Finance, Peris Kamotho, shared the treasurer's report with us. While income from churches has decreased and stressed our budget, we are grateful for the ways in which God has provided for us through our investment portfolio.

Two new items of business were brought forward for this year's Assembly. The first was to allow churches to send an extra delegate to Assembly who is a young adult. We are excited for the ways this will allow us to include the voice of the next generation in our churches at next year's Assembly. We are confident that young people have so much to offer our churches. As well, a second motion was introduced, the content and results of which are below.

On Thursday, June 7th, 2017, a motion (printed below) was referred to the CBOQ Board of Directors by Assembly. The Board met on Friday, June 8th and directed Tim McCoy, Executive Minister to consider the motion as he and staff develop a plan addressing issues and challenges which may include social, philosophical and theological perspectives related to CBOQ identity and beliefs. The Board is scheduled to receive and discuss the Executive Minister's proposed plan at its fall 2017 meeting.

The Board will bring an update on CBOQ identity and beliefs to Assembly 2018.

Motion from First Baptist Church Orillia at the June 7th CBOQ Assembly

“In recognition that our current covenant, membership requirements and policies are not adequate for the new challenges we are facing as a family of CBOQ churches we propose that a committee be struck with the following mandate:

- i. To study, discuss and detail how churches can reach out to LGBTQ persons in love and Gospel concern without contradicting the clear teachings of the Bible concerning the sinfulness of homosexual behaviour and the essential goodness of God's design for sexuality and gender.*
- ii. To adapt and update as necessary the document known as “This We Believe” towards the end of it serving as a summary of our core doctrines and practices and as the standard for church and clergy discipline within the CBOQ.*
- iii. To submit updated policies, covenant agreements and membership requirements in light of the above.*

It is further proposed that said committee have representation from the full spectrum of CBOQ churches and that it be chaired by the Executive Minister Tim McCoy. The committee to report and to present the above requested documents for general discussion by March 1st 2018 towards the end of affirmation and adoption at Assembly 2018.”



God our Protector

*God our protector
Keep us in mind
Always remember your people
For if we could be with you
One day in time
It is better than a thousand
without you.*

Steve Bell

In the afternoon, we recognized the long years of service of many in ministry, expressed our gratitude to this year's retirees for their service and welcomed many new ordinands and transfers to CBOQ. The stage was packed full of people who are dedicated to sharing the Good News of Jesus in their communities.

Tim McCoy's executive report took a different turn this year as he interviewed several of our pastors about their ministry and how CBOQ has been able to equip them as they engage with their mission from God in their community. This included churches from Kanata, to Montreal, to Chatham and beyond. Whether our churches are planting new faith communities, serving marginalized people or welcoming refugees, we are grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside our churches as we live out our mandate and calling together.

As we do every year, we also marked the transition of board presidents. Murray Kohler welcomed Heath-

er Rumball into the presidency. We all were encouraged to hear her share her faith journey and how she came to love Jesus and the church—through the most amazing concept she had ever heard: grace. “The unearned, undeserved and eternal love of God for us, his children.”

God has his hand on our leadership, and we encourage you to pray with us for Heather and the Board in the year ahead as they direct and protect CBOQ.

In the evening, we enjoyed worship with Steve Bell who shared the stage with a special guest—Cheryl Bear, an indigenous musician, activist and storyteller. Her music was a welcome addition and we look forward to the ways we can continue to include and learn from indigenous Canadians in our family of churches.

Gordon MacDonald opened his talk, “**Better Together,**” in the evening with a good amount of Baptist humour. He shared his history, serving

rural communities, factory workers, well-off university graduates and in the heart of urban America: NYC.

A new
commandment I give
to you, that you love one
another as I have loved
you... so the world will know
that you are my disciples
if you have love for one
another.

John 13:34

He encouraged us all to develop deep friendships—to cultivate relationships with people who will pray with us, who will drive us to be honest with ourselves and others, who will believe in us and encourage us. He shared from his personal friendships with people who will challenge us, defend us and forgive us when we fail. In a world where many of us feel isolated, Gordon's words were both an encouragement and a challenge.

FRIDAY

After worship, Friday began with our CBOQ director presentations. **Melody Currier, Director of Operations and Membership** had a significant announcement to make! Over the last year we have been developing our look, which has included consultations with our pastors and churches on our look and feel. With your help, we've chosen new fonts, new colours and developed a new website—reorganized with you in mind. Melody also shared with us a video of a big change—CBOQ has a new logo! The logo is the final piece in a much bigger project to develop our CBOQ identity. See page 7 for more information.

Matt Wilkinson, Director of Next Generation Ministries, also has a significant launch of his own. In collaboration with Canadian Baptists from across the country, CBOQ Next Generation developed a new resource, *Imaginative Hope*. The resource is designed to help churches connect with the young people around them.* Also, starting in 2018, CBOQ Youth will be offering a new CBOQ Youth Ministry Training Certification Program which includes readings, group work, mentorship and will be taught by CBOQ staff and invited youth ministry professors from across the country.

Peris Kamotho, Director of Finance and Administration, explained how pastors and ministry leaders are cared for

through CBOQ's benefits and pension. From counseling to physiotherapy, CBOQ supports pastors, leaders and their families when things are difficult. She also let the Assembly know about the pre-retirement workshop, a biennial opportunity designed to help those who are heading toward retirement to prepare well for the next stage of life.

Finally, **Dallas Friesen, Director of Congregational Development** highlighted some of the important new resources that have been developed, including a full slate of board resources and *Transforming Churches*, a resource to help struggling churches and those seeking to grow. Along with Cid Latty, Congregational Development Associate, Dallas introduced *Worship for the World Symposium*, coming in the fall, and *Cafechurch*, an opportunity for churches that want to reach into the community to take church into coffee shops. (Details are available on p. 8.)

Afterward, we heard from our partner organization, CBM. Once again we had the opportunity to hear from those who have been called to serve

CBOQ offers missional initiatives grants that can help churches start and grow new things—to plant new churches, reach out in new ways and more. If your church family would like to apply for a grant, the next deadline is October 15, 2017. For more information, visit baptist.ca/grants.

Jesus in other places in the world. Their stories of impact and hope encouraged us in our partnership.



Stan Porter, from McMaster Divinity College, our partner seminary, explained how the statue of a 5th century pope ended up gracing McMaster's lawn as a donation from a generous patron. McMaster continues to serve the Canadian Baptist family through their educational opportunities.

**To download the report or watch the video, go to imaginativehope.ca.*

Finally, CBWOQ was able to let us know about many different opportunities for partnership. Through various justice campaigns, ongoing workshops, conferences and publications and a new prayer resource, CBWOQ continues to serve Baptist women.

Tim began his afternoon session, “Nurturing Your Soul” in silence and darkness. He allowed us to be silent for some time, reminding us that “silence is good.” He then walked us through a series of Scriptures that talk about the different ways our souls can be suffering, and offered ways to help counteract some of those vulnerabilities. If you would like to receive a copy of Tim’s outline, send an email to nys@baptist.ca and you will receive an automated response momentarily.

After Tim’s talk, we split into separate groups for our learning sessions, “Approaches to Nourishing the Soul.”

“A good, devout person first arranges inwardly the things to be done outwardly. Who has a more fierce struggle than the person who strives to master himself?”

Thomas à Kempis

In the evening, we reconvened for worship and Gordon MacDonald’s second talk, “*Intentions:*



A Leader Knows How to Manage Him/Herself.” Gordon pointed out to us that Jesus, despite the many crowds who wanted his time, withdrew early in the morning to spend time with God. He encouraged us to develop similar patterns of discipline—of the mind, body, emotions, finances and more. Like Tim in his earlier talk, Gordon also recommended developing a personal board of directors—a team of people of wisdom who can advise us and give us guidance in our lives.

SATURDAY

Saturday commenced with our small group learning sessions designed to help us heal and protect our souls as well as practical ministry tools. On topics ranging from benefits and

pension to reaching the next generation, our attendees had the chance to delve deeper into the things that interest them.

After our final worship time with Steve Bell, Gordon MacDonald presented his last talk, “*Intentions: A Leader Knows How to Manage Him/Herself*”. Gordon gave practical and helpful guidance on how to improve our leadership styles by ensuring our own spiritual wellbeing.

And just like that, Assembly 2017 came to a close!

We hope that you had an inspiring time at Assembly 2017. Next year’s Assembly will be on **June 7-9, 2018**. We want to see you all there, along with a young adult from your church family!



CANADIAN BAPTISTS OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC are a family of churches, transformed by Christ, revealing God's kingdom. We are a vibrant community, rooted—but not stuck—in our history. We are diverse in our expressions, meeting in high school gyms, centuries-old buildings, homes and coffee shops. We share common Baptist distinctives, but each of our churches has a unique character and call.

To help better reflect our Baptist identity, over the last couple of years we have embarked on a process of changing our look and feel, but we didn't do it alone. We asked many of you—Canadian Baptists—for your feedback. What images are important to you? What do you feel best sums up our Baptist identity? What makes us unique? What kind of look and feel appeals to you?

And you told us! With our stakeholder input, we have crafted our new standards, chosen new colours and opted for new fonts so that you know that it's "us" at first glance. We've even launched a new website to help you better engage with our resources. It's been a long process, and the final step is this: we have launched a new logo.

Like the old logo, we've kept our key elements, and added a few new pieces. What do they mean?



THE CROSS

The cross is central to who we are as followers of Jesus and who we are as Baptists. Foundational to our faith is our redemption by Christ through his suffering and resurrection.



THE CIRCLES

The circle is eternal. We worship a God who was, is and is to come. We believe that his kingdom is without end and through him we have eternal life as well.



THE ICHTHUS

The ichthus, or fish, has long been associated with CBOQ. We are fishers of men and women—missional people, responding to the great commission in sharing the Good News of Jesus with our neighbours and around the world.



THE COLOUR

Blue represents water. We are Baptists, and as such the Believers' Baptism remains key to our commitment of faith. It is our public declaration of belonging to Jesus.

THE LETTERS

While it may be hard to see at first, our logo is made up of the letters C, B, O and Q.



To find out more about the logo, to get the files to use in your church, or to get help with updating your church's CBOQ signage, go to **baptist.ca/logo**.

We know that any change can be unsettling, but some things never change. Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec will continue to reach our changing world with the unchanging Good News of Christ.

For more information or to request a logo file, go to baptist.ca/logo.

imaginativehope.ca

IMAGINATIVE HOPE

Reaching and Engaging the
Next Generation with the Gospel

A Report from the 2016
Canadian Baptist Youth & Family Forum



Oct. 30-Nov. 1 Reignite 2017

baptist.ca/reignite

Leading Me

*Biblically-based, best practices on increasing
resiliency in ministry leadership*
with Steve Brown



WORSHIP FOR THE WORLD

October 5, 2017

baptist.ca/worshipfortheworld



Cafechurch Envisioning Day

November 30, 2017

Find out more at baptist.ca/cafechurch

March 5, 2018 - baptist.ca/cboqsunday

CBOQ SUNDAY



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