

## ***Board of Faith and Life Report***

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). The essentials of the faith, as we understand the Scriptures, are contained in our denomination's "Confession of Faith," a document for which the Canadian and provincial Boards of Faith and Life are guardians and interpreters. Other duties follow from that.

Presently the members of the Board of Faith and Life are as follows:

Terry Froese, co-chair, Tony Martens, co-chair; Menno Martens, secretary and representative to the Canadian Board of Faith and Life; Gil Dueck, Marshall Janzen, and Clarence Peters. (Ray Ulriksen retired from his ministry during the year and therefore resigned from the Board.)

Our work in the course of the past year can be summed up as follows:

### ***1. Affiliation Policies***

Non-Mennonite Brethren churches which are exploring joining our denomination are subject to guidelines in the process of becoming full-fledged members of our denomination and Conference. We have established a time period for the process to be 15 years, but our Board is considering reducing this to a shorter period and in the process of fleshing out clearly what are our expectations along the way.

### ***2. The January-March, 2007 Sabbatical of our Director of Church Ministries***

Our Board made the necessary preparations to fill in for Ralph where necessary while he is on his sabbatical. In January several members of our Board were involved in working towards reconciliation and a restoring of harmony in one of our churches.

### ***3. Registrations of Pastors with the Department of Justice***

The Board approved giving Ralph Gliege the authority to exercise his own judgment in registering persons other than pastors with the Department of Justice. Examples of persons seeking such registration are Bethany Bible College instructors and retired ministers.

### ***4. The Chaplaincy***

One of our pastors has been offered an opportunity to be a part time chaplain at a military base. Although a chaplain, according to the rules of the military, are entitled to operate within the parameters of their denomination's doctrine and practice, there is uncertainty in our board about the suitability of someone who identifies with the "peace position" working from within the military in the role of chaplain. The question has been referred to the Canadian Board of Faith and Life for further advisement.

## **5. Ministry Questionnaire Forms**

Each Board member responds to ministry questionnaire forms submitted by persons seeking a pastoral position in a Saskatchewan M.B. Church but having not been a pastor in our denomination previously or else not having been a pastor in any church previously.

Ralph collects the responses and uses the information in his discussions with the candidates.

## **6. Pastoral Covenant Forms**

New pastors are required to complete the covenant forms.

## **7. Forms for Nominees to Saskatchewan Boards**

The BFL decided that in the future, nominees to Saskatchewan boards will be asked to complete a short doctrinal questionnaire. The purpose of this exercise is to ensure that people in responsible positions within our denomination are solidly committed to the essentials of the Christian faith.

## **8. "Harvest Saskatchewan"**

To promote the "Harvest Saskatchewan" initiative, BFL has decided to ask churches to light a large candle (supplied by BFL) and to have a special prayer one Sunday a month as giving evidence of our desire to plant and grow more churches in this province.

## **9. Pastoral Recognition**

Twenty-seven pastors have become eligible for recognition since this program began. BFL has expressed appreciation to Ralph for his leadership regarding this program and made the decision to continue with it.

## **10. The Pastors' Retreat**

The venue for the retreat was Dallas Valley Ranch near Lumsden and the guest speaker was Hunter Barnes. The purpose of the meetings was personal renewal. Since that was the case, BFL has decided in future to limit the number of special interest groups at the retreat and also the time allocated for their presentations.

Respectfully submitted,

Menno Martens, BFL Secretary

Tony Martens, BFL Co-chair