



Motion # 1: Be it resolved that we, the member churches of the CBWC, affirm the Identity Statement

Dialogue on the Identity Statement – MOTION 1

What is the tie that binds us together as the CBWC? Is it simply our relational history in how churches were planted? Certainly, we are Baptist, but what kind of Baptist and which values specifically mold and shape us? Are these values strong enough to keep us working together for God's mission in each church's particular context?

These questions led the CBWC leadership to create a brief document that might summarize an agreed upon identity or values statement. It is meant to describe who we are today based upon Assembly approved statements and resolutions. The Statement of Faith included is one Carey Theological College adopted and was later also adopted by Canadian Baptist Ministries and has appeared on our website and been used with our ordination candidates but never officially adopted at a CBWC assembly. It has not been altered.

Every year our CBWC staff interacts with churches from other backgrounds who are exploring joining our CBWC family, and pastors who are new to our CBWC churches and are needing an orientation to who we are. If affirmed by the Assembly, the Identity Statement will be used in all new ministers' orientations, ordination preparation workshops, and in conversations with churches exploring affiliation with us.

Questions for dialogue:

1. In what ways is the Identity Statement an accurate reflection of how we have functioned as an assembly of churches?
2. What are the strengths of our identity that you celebrate?
3. Which values will continue to be important in guiding the CBWC forward in mission and ministry?
4. What values have not been accurately stated or missing that either
 - a. need to be affirmed and strengthened or
 - b. need to be acknowledged through confession and repentance?
5. Do you expect that some of our stated values will shift going into the future or should only those that are timeless be included in our ID statement?
6. Is there value in the CBWC having such a document as a center on which to gravitate toward, or is there a greater danger of viewing such documents as "written in stone" and hindering our unity going forward?