



District Conference Report 2017

THANK YOU

What a privilege it is to serve the churches of the C&MA in Eastern Canada! We are so excited about the continued opportunities that are emerging from the synergy of our three districts, working together towards the common goal of seeing new churches planted in communities that need to know Jesus. We continue to move towards a collaborative structure amidst the challenges of changes in District leadership. Thank you for allowing us to operate and learn in this unique way. Our tri-district relationship make New Ventures like the 180 and the Atlantic Regional Initiative possible.

NEW CHURCHES, NEW LEADERS, NEW PLACES

Since 2015 we have witnessed incredible growth in the number of our New Ventures. From 5 new New Ventures in 2015, to 11 in 2016 and already 6 in 2017, we are excited about the increase in numbers of new communities over the past three years. We are anticipating 15-20 New Ventures in 2017.

The number of new churches often correlates with the number of New Ventures. There were 4 new churches started in Eastern Canada in 2015 and 2016. We anticipate a growing number of new churches in 2017 in light of the projected increase of New Ventures over the next two years.

PARTICIPATION IN NEW VENTURES

People and organizations are participating through regional leadership, coaches, and training, in addition to leadership at the ground level of the New Ventures themselves. Refer to our “Who Is New Ventures?” sheet to see these numbers and a visual breakdown of the various relationships involved in New Ventures.

In these last two years we’ve seen an increase in the number of Alliance churches participating in New Ventures: approximately 38% of churches in the CCD, 31% of churches in the ECD and 12% of churches in the SLD are participating so far.

One of the questions for us in the next season of New Ventures is, “How do we respond to growth and opportunities while still engaging the non-participating churches?”

DISCERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Discernment and development begin during an initial conversation about a New Venture idea and continue throughout the journey of developing a new church. The posture of ongoing discernment has three strategic anchor points of: licensing within the district, Grip-Birkman discernment, and the ongoing coaching relationship with the New Venture leader. The development of the New Venture leader is primarily delivered through their relationship with a coach and resources that best suit the leader’s development needs. The cornerstone for the development of the New Venture itself has been the Design Shop that is provided in partnership with the New Leaf Network.



Moving forward it is our desire to build out the areas of discernment and development to increase our ability to customize personal development plans for each New Venture leader and to provide the foundational knowledge, skills, and resources for the development of the New Venture.

NEW VENTURE ENVIRONMENT

New Ventures language has become the language of multiplication across each district of the C&MA in Canada. Over the past two years we have continued to refine our model of partnership and collaboration. Key aspects of the New Venture Environment are Start-Up Agreements which clarify the relationships and regional leaders who are identifying new leaders and new communities.

LEARNING, LISTENING AND STORIES

We are excited to present some of these stories via video this year and hope that you will follow along on social media or through our weekly prayer note to celebrate what God continues to do throughout Canada.

Supporting new leaders of new churches in new places yields incredible stories. Consider The Manor, a church operating in a running strip club in Guelph whose leaders Jack and Sharon Ninaber are making great headway in a relationship with its owner, or Christian Motel Missions where Adam Ane is faithfully gathering those who live on the margins in motels in Niagara Falls for food, relationship and hearing God's word. We have recently witnessed the growth of many Mandarin churches who network together for accountability and support. Once a small group gathering in a warehouse in Quebec, the 180 is now looking forward to hosting a conference on mental health and is quickly filling its space!

FUTURE STEPS

These are encouraging times, and I (Dave) am thankful for the New Venture Team that continues to grow in numbers and influence. I want to say a special thanks to Greg Langman who leads New Ventures Development and shapes our denomination through developing leaders. Thank you also to our Regional Leaders, coaches and administration team. What a gift to have such gifted people connected to New Ventures.

The growth of New Ventures will continue to challenge our support structures of development and finances. We anticipate a pace of a new New Venture every 3 weeks and a new church every 2 months. These are exciting times that will require increased discernment and collaboration. We encourage you to think regionally and work together at this level to impact the least reached areas of our country and our world.

With gratitude,

Dave Enns
Director of New Ventures