

CARIBBEAN BRETHREN ASSEMBLIES CONFERENCE

FOLLOW-UP ACTION PLAN

This note attempts to put flesh on some of the proposals which have been made and discussed at the conference, in order to help in ensuring that concrete action is taken as a result of the conference. It draws on experience in IBCM.

I. *Further conferences*

A. We agree that there should be further conferences at regular intervals.

B. What should be the frequency of further conferences?

This needs to bear in mind the resource cost of mounting conferences and the danger that conference fatigue may set in if they are too frequent. But they need to be frequent enough to ensure continuity, and monitor and encourage collective, inter-country action which has been taken place in the interim.

We propose 2017, then thereafter every four years, to avoid any clash with IBCM's quadrennial cycle (2015, 2019, ...).

C. Establish a **Continuation Committee**:

Main functions:

- i. Developing networking between the different countries and strengthening leadership
- ii. Evaluating Conference 2014 and identifying key lessons for future conferences from feedback from present conference
- iii. Planning future conferences (in co-operation with a national group, once a location has been selected):
 - a. identifying *preferred location*, taking into account conference costs, travel costs for participants, local organisational capacities etc (minimising costs so far as possible, consistent with tolerable standards of accommodation). This may mean evaluating offers from different territories.
 - b. devising programmes, selecting main speakers and workshop introducers
 - c. advertising and promoting the conference
 - d. ensuring effective, prompt communication with possible participants
 - e. supervising conference administration.
- iv. Improving communication by 2017 by supervising and providing accountability for executive action by sub-groups and individuals on, e.g.,
 - a. Caribbean assemblies website (development of www.caribbeanbrethren.com)
 - b. Caribbean Brethren Directory (details of national organisations serving Brethren churches, magazines, websites, and addresses of assemblies (if judged appropriate))
 - c. Caribbean Brethren Newsletter
- v. Reporting to succeeding conferences on progress with specific action (e.g., (iv)(a) – (c) above)
- vi. Considering and promoting sectoral conferences, e.g, for youth.
- vii. Youth: developing and promoting youth ministries
- viii. Women: developing and promoting women's ministries.
- ix. Children: developing and promoting children's ministries

Membership

- x. Chairman (Dr. Hadyn Marshall)
- xi. Secretary (*to be selected by the committee – needs to be a competent administrator*)
- xii. Members: one nominated representative of each country/territory
Countries and territories should preferably nominate in the first instance individuals who have attended the present conference. It would be expected that individual members would consult as necessary in their country about matters within the committee's responsibility.

xiii. The committee to have power to co-opt up to three additional members, including one person with Caribbean connections currently residing in the U.S.A., at least one of whom should be a sister.

Ways and means

xiv. The Continuation Committee would meet at least four times a year (or more frequently, as required) by Skype or similar electronic meeting system, with pre-circulated agendas and papers. It will be for the committee to decide the details of how it will operate, but it is assumed that that it is likely to have an executive group.

xv. Secretariat: we recommend that, if they are willing, the secretariat of the present conference should continue to serve the Continuation Committee

xvi. Funding: realistically, it will be necessary to minimise the cost of this new infrastructure, by identifying competent people who see participating in it as part of their ministry and calling. This does not preclude approaching bodies and individuals for small grants to meet secretariat, website and printing costs. Modest contributions may well be needed from countries and territories.

xvii. Conference organisation: occasional visits by representatives of the Continuation Committee to the conference location, for discussion with local organisers, are likely to be needed. *Frequency of meeting, secretariat and funding would be matters for the Continuation Committee to discuss and decide at an early stage*

Designation

xviii. Caribbean Brethren Assemblies Conference Committee (CBAC)

II. Youth ministry (? Sub-Group)

Developing and strengthening youth ministry, e.g., through

- leadership training
- missions awareness
- succession planning
- mentoring
- camps
- etc

III. Website

A. Proposed that www.caribbeanbrethren.com be developed to provide this function

B. Could be developed by a sub-group which is accountable to the Continuation Committee

Note that this is not simply a matter for technicians, though technical advice is needed. It has to be decided

1. *what the functions of the site will be, i.e, what information should it provide and how far it will be a portal to other relevant sites*
2. *how and in what respects the design and functionality should be improved*
3. *what text is needed*
4. *how it will be kept up to date as to text, downloadable material and links*

C. Identify costs (rental, design and maintenance) and possible means of funding (e.g., ? a small annual charge on countries/territories)

(D. Editing and production of papers and other material from 2014 conference)

IV. Directory

A. Determine scope, content and means of collecting and editing information, and frequency of updating

B. Identify editor and collator

C. It is assumed that it would be in electronic form; countries would have the option of printing out copies for those who do not have access to electronic documents

V. **Newsletter:** Co-ordination, editing and distribution, in electronic form; with the option of local printing

VI. **Training (? Sub-Group)**

A. Collate information on existing, accessible training available in the Brethren movement in the Caribbean for local church leaders and potential leaders

B. Provide information about relevant websites and key reading materials which can be used for self-tuition by local church leaders and potential leaders

C. Provide information on suitable distance-learning opportunities for local church leaders and potential leaders

D. Promote and develop training institution of choice for the Brethren movement in the Caribbean (e.g., Midland Bible Institute).

There should be particular regard to training for youth and sisters.

These proposals were agreed for action in this form at the final session of the conference

17 July 2014