

USMB Future Story Chronology

- 2013 Fall- Ed Boschman informed Board of upcoming Retirement
The Leadership Board appointed Denominational Review Task Force (Larry Nikkel, Steve Schroeder, Jon Wiebe, and Marv Schellenberg)
- 2014 Spring- Leadership Board and DM's agreed to expand consultation beyond National to include Districts. All agreed to hiring consultant, George Bullard
June- First meeting with Consultant
July- Ed officially retired at USMB Convention
August- Don Morris hired to be our interim Executive Director
George had personal conversations with over 50 USMB leaders
Sept- First Gathering of 40+ USMB leaders with consultant, George. He helped group recognize signs of decline in our denomination and taught about shifts healthy growing denominations are making
Nov-Second Gathering of same 40+ leaders with George-
Group decision on general direction for future. (Note A)
Assigned "writing team" to begin to write future story: (Brad Burkholder, Brenda Hamm, James Bergen, Gary Wall, Rick Eshbaugh, Brad Klassen, Dina Gonzalez-Pina, Larry Nikkel, Tim Geddert)
- 2015 March- Work of the Writing Team presented to: Summit and USMB Leadership Board for feedback. George was present to help lead the process and give guidance. Both MBF and MB MISSION leaders indicated interest in closer collaboration
Assigned "Strategy Team" to continue clarifying details of future story (Jon Wiebe, Karen Bartlett, Dave Buller, Kyle Goings, Dennis Fast, Rich Kriegbaum, Steve Schroeder)
- May- MB Mission Board approved idea of broadening their ministry scope to include North America (Local, national and global church planting).
June- Strategy Team begins to meet with George, divided up the work, held phone conferences
Oct- Leadership Board mtg- Strategy Team presented work to LB (which included ideas for more direct involvement of MBF)
-Decided to ask DM's to re-write portions
Nov. Met with MBF Board. They not interested in our particular ideas for collaboration
Dec. Marv and Steve meet with C2C and Canadian leaders
DM's met w/ Jon and Don to refine Future Story
- 2016 Jan DM's completed Updated Future Story and MB Mission collaboration letter
Feb Conversation w/ Randy F,- He will support increased collaboration
Mar USMB LB meeting to affirm latest version of Future Story and set in motion implementation process.
Apr DM's completed their help on undated National Director Job description.
Distribute the Future Story to USMB Staff.

July- Distribute the Future Story to 50 Retreat participants and church leaders.
Plan strategies with staff for communicating Story before, during and after Convention

Note A- Summary of Points of Agreement:

Clarity about purpose: To empower each local church to reach their full ministry potential.

Three core commitments: Local, national and global church multiplication, Intentional Disciplemaking and Developing Leaders.

Identity: Embracing both our Evangelical and Anabaptist distinctives

Structure and Function: Shift away from traditional 'denominational' structure to more of a networking structure. This entails:

- A shift from building a strong national entity to supporting local churches and Districts
- A shift from demanding 100% buy in from all churches, to working with churches who want to move with us
- A shift from one centralized structure to an organic networking of churches and leaders
- A shift from the national entity providing services to the national entity brokering services