



May 2022

Dear Emmanuel Community,

After many months of preparation, conversation, listening, and learning, the votes of our membership have been placed and we wish to share the results with you below.

Once again, we want to reassure our community that it is not our intention for these results to have any impact on Emmanuel's current structure, practices or policies at this time. Their most immediate purpose will be to prepare our delegates to represent our community through their participation in the vote at Assembly, at which time our denomination will also discern the heart of its members on these motions.

Emmanuel Baptist Church - CBWC Identity Statement vote (April 29 - May 8, 2022)
Ballot Tally Form: Number of members voting: **147**

Motion #1: "I affirm the original Identity Statement"

Yes - 57 (39%) No - 89 (61%) Abstain/Spoiled - 1

Motion #2: "I support removal of the paragraph on Marriage from the Identity Statement"

Yes - 94 (64%) No - 53 (36%) Abstain/Spoiled - 0

Motion #3: "I support inclusion of the paragraph on Soul Freedom to the Identity Statement"

Yes - 80 (57%) No - 60 (43%) Abstain/Spoiled - 7

Motion #4: "I support inclusion of the paragraph on The Autonomy of Local Churches to the Identity Statement"

Yes - 95 (66%) No - 48 (34%) Abstain/Spoiled - 4

Motion #5: Note - This is the lengthy motion that states that any church or minister who fails to uphold any Assembly approved statement shall be removed after six months if they don't comply. "I support this motion"

Yes - 35 (25%) No - 103 (75%) Abstain/Spoiled - 9

Details:

- Assembly will be held from May 26-28 in Calgary. Churches are allotted votes based on sizes. We currently have the required delegates to fulfill the 5 votes allotted to us.

- As per a board approved motion from September 2021 when 60% or more of the congregation vote with the majority, all 5 delegates will vote the same way. If less than 60% of the congregation agree, 3 delegates will vote with the majority, and 2 with the minority. Based on this motion, and the results above, our votes will be distributed as such:
 - Motion #1 - All delegates will vote against the CBWC Motion #1 to affirm the identity statement.
 - Motion #2 – to remove Marriage: 64% voted yes therefore all delegates will vote to remove marriage from the identity statement.
 - Motion #3 (Kitsilano) - to add Soul Freedom: 57% voted yes therefore our votes will be split with 3 votes in support of the addition, and 2 not in support.
 - Motion #4 (Prince George) - to add paragraph on Local Church Autonomy: 66% voted yes, therefore all delegates will vote to add the paragraph on Local Church Autonomy.
 - Motion #5 - to support removal of non-compliant churches: 75% voted no therefore all delegates will vote against this motion.

- Motions 2 thru 4 may result in changes to the CBWC Identity Statement prior to it being voted on. The results of the additional motions and questions included on our ballot will provide our delegates with additional insight and guidance into the desire of our community so they can prayerfully consider their vote on the CBWC Identity Statement in its final state at Assembly.

While these results serve an immediate need in preparation for Assembly, they also provide a glimpse into the hearts of our membership on several uncomfortable issues. As a community we have much to discuss and pray about as we discern God's will for Emmanuel Baptist Church, and we ask for your patience as each and every one of us absorbs and contemplates the outcomes of both votes, and their potential impact on the future of our church. Our usual monthly board meeting will take place on Thursday May 19th. Please pray for our pastoral team and elders as we discuss the results of this vote.

As a board, we want to thank the members who participated in the vote, the scrutineers (Ernie Dawson, Ron Basky and Jan Smith) that counted them, as well as everyone who took part in our community conversations and call Emmanuel Baptist their church home. Over the past year our diverse community has displayed patience, grace, and love to one another, and we trust in God's continued guidance and presence as we move toward Assembly and beyond.

As always, you can reach us at elders@ebap.ca with questions or comments.

On behalf of the EBC board of Elders
Jan Nerenberg, Moderator