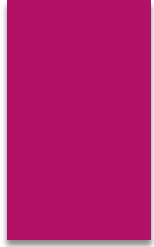




**AMBS**

**Presidential Search Committee  
Announcement:  
Candidate of Choice**

June 10, 2019



# AMBS

## Presidential Search Committee Process



## Prayer used by the Search Committee throughout the process:

Eternal Light,  
shine in our hearts.

Eternal Power,  
be our strength.

Eternal Wisdom,  
guide us as we serve you.

Grant that with all our heart  
and mind and strength  
we may seek your face.

Help us to keep the needs  
of AMBS,  
the church,

and the world  
in view  
through every step  
of this discernment process.

Let your Spirit  
blow fresh and free  
among us,  
bringing insight,  
good judgment,  
guidance, and light.

In Jesus' holy name we pray.

AMEN.

*(Adapted from a prayer of discernment,  
St. James Episcopal Church,  
Arlington, Vermont)*

# AMBS Presidential Search Committee

**Miriam F. Book** (chair),  
Lititz,  
Pennsylvania

**Addie Banks,**  
Bronx, New York

**David Brubacher,**  
Vineland,  
Ontario, Canada

**Myrna Miller Dyck,** Baden,  
Ontario, Canada

**Marlene Kropf,**  
Port Townsend,  
Washington.

**Jewel Gingerich Longenecker,**  
South Bend,  
Indiana.

**Jamie Pitts,**  
Elkhart, Indiana

**Marisa Smucker,**  
Elkhart, Indiana

**Patrick Vendrely,**  
Goshen, Indiana

**Carlos Romero,**  
M.B.A., Goshen,  
Indiana

**Twila Albrecht**  
Goshen, Indiana

# Conducted constituents survey

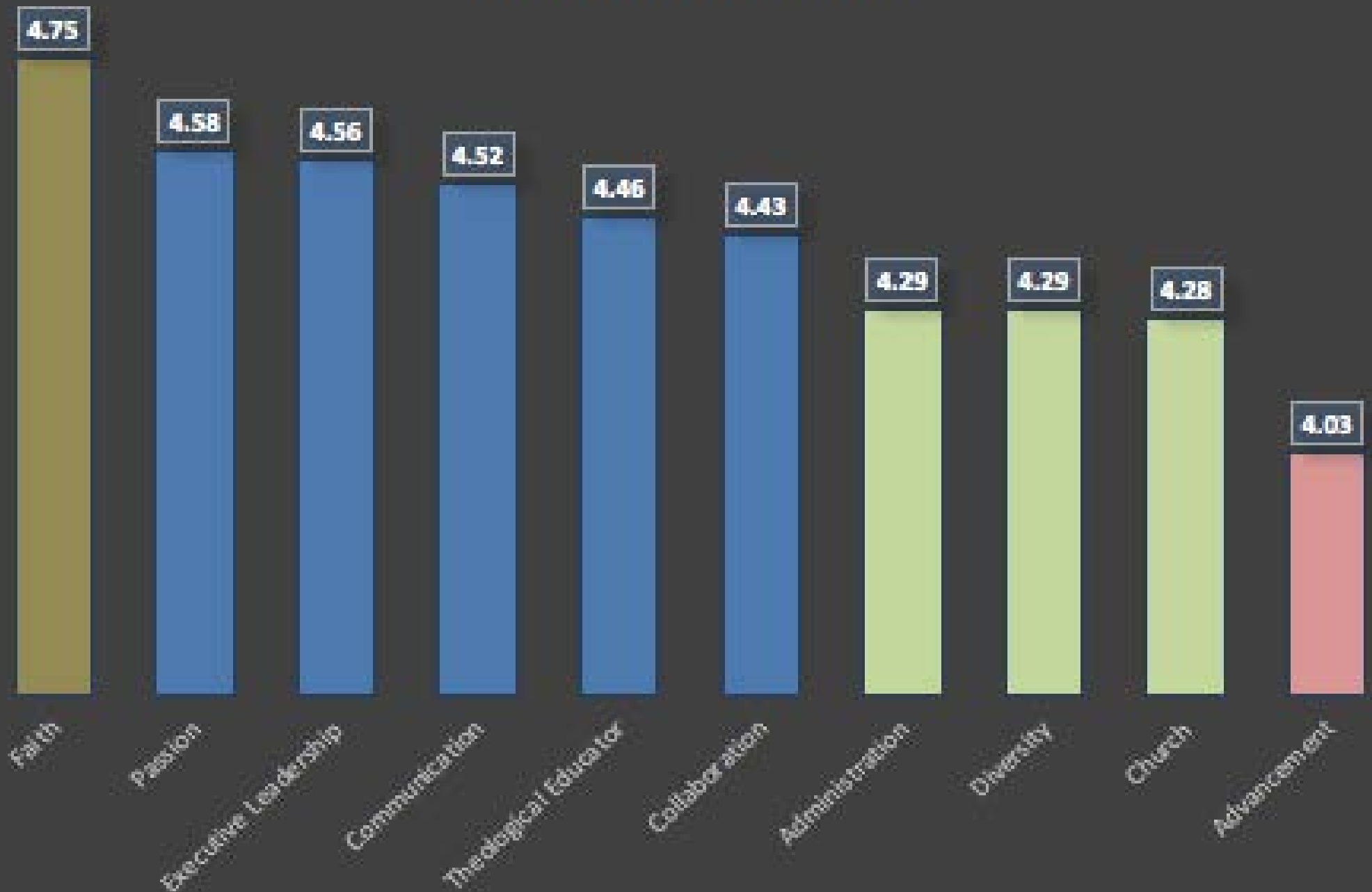
- 374 total responses
- Students
- Faculty, Staff & Board
- Alumni
- MC Canada and MC USA Pastors and Conference Ministers
- MEA Board



# RANKED EXPERTISE

## Ranked area of expertise

Here is a listing of ten areas of expertise that the search committee believes are important in our next president. Please share with us your opinion of each area of expertise using the following scale: 1 = low priority to 5= high priority



# Highlights from aggregating themes from the survey (not prioritized) - Observations

## Executive Summary

- ▶ Constituents ranked the candidate's **faith** as the most important 'expertise'. Often described as a deep personal and practical faith verses one of dogma or doctrine in orientation.
- ▶ Experience in **pastoral and church leadership** was ranked highest.
- ▶ Survey respondents commented that all areas of expertise are important. Their comments added color, namely that the president has the ability to:

**Engage**

**Relate**

**Inspire**



# Highlights from aggregating themes from the survey (not prioritized) - Observations

- ▶ Respondents provided insight into the challenges facing AMBS, the broader church, and its associated systems. These comments outlined a sense that:
  - a. what has worked in the past will not work in the future.*
  - b. creativity, entrepreneurship, and innovation are essential.*
  - c. a renewed vision and unique sense of purpose is needed*
- ▶ Approximately 25% of survey respondents provided the search committee with candidate names.
- ▶ People are **praying for you** and acknowledge the significant challenges ahead.



# Listening Sessions consisted of:

- ▶ Faculty, Ad Cabinet, Staff and Students
- ▶ Local Business Leaders
- ▶ Donors
- ▶ Denominational leaders (MC Canada and MC USA)
- ▶ Leaders of Color
- ▶ MEA Board

# Summary of the Listening Sessions with Individuals and Groups

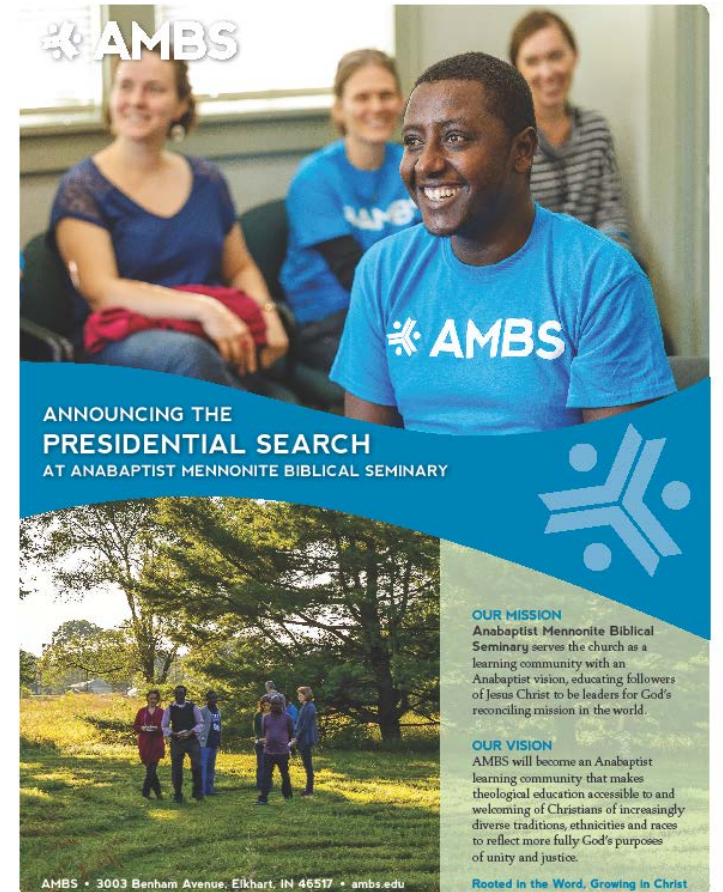
- ▶ Good communicator – preacher, writer, inspires others, evangelist for the seminary
- ▶ Visionary, a strategic thinker
- ▶ Theologian, thought leader, scholar, knows the Bible well and makes it relevant
- ▶ Collaborator, relational, connector of faculty, students, constituents
- ▶ Intercultural competence
- ▶ Holds polarities, paradoxes and complexities in positive ways

# Summary of the Listening Sessions with Individuals and Groups

- ▶ Embraces a global perspective
- ▶ Passion for the church and rooted in a Mennonite congregation
- ▶ Fundraiser, work at advancement
- ▶ With pastoral experience, both institutional and pastoral in leadership
- ▶ Spiritual depth – love Jesus, the Bible and the church, a piety noticed
- ▶ Patient, hopeful, kind, humble, rooted in grace
- ▶ Appreciates diversity – cultural, racial, gender, sexual orientation

# Creation of the Presidential Profile

- ▶ Finalized Profile & Approved by AMBS Board
- ▶ Advertisement
- ▶ Time of “shoulder-tapping”



# Presidential Profile

- ▶ **Faith.** Devoted follower of Jesus Christ, committed Anabaptist and actively engaged in a local congregation.
- ▶ **Theological Educator.** Theological depth with ability and passion for theological education and pastoral formation that includes new models of church, ministry and pedagogy.
- ▶ **Passion.** Embrace and promote the mission and core values of AMBS in a diverse theological, denominational and faith context.

# Presidential Profile

- ▶ **Executive Leadership.** Creative, entrepreneurial, visionary leadership with ability to implement strategic priorities of the institution.
- ▶ **Collaboration.** Exercise collaborative leadership within AMBS and with other partners across the church in the development of leadership and theological training.

# Presidential Profile

- ▶ **Administration.** Adept at managing organizational dynamics and able to deal effectively with conflict.
- ▶ **Diversity.** Demonstrated intercultural competency and attentiveness to the church in a global context.
- ▶ **Communication.** Communicate effectively, listening to the constituency, and articulating the mission of AMBS as speaker and preacher in the church and beyond.

# Presidential Profile

- ▶ **Advancement.** Ability to attract substantial support, including both financial and human resources, and to steward those resources.
- ▶ **Church.** Understand and be committed to the mission of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA.



- **Names**
  - **Nominations**
    - **Applications**

## The Search Process included:

- ▶ Over 100 names were suggested/nominated
- ▶ Those nominated received a letter/call on behalf of the AMBS Presidential Search Committee
- ▶ Over a dozen persons applied for the position

# The Committee...

- ▶ Reviewed names and applications
- ▶ The Candidate assessment grid (based on the Presidential Profile approved by the board) was used to evaluate candidates
- ▶ The Committee created a small list of persons to check references (four references per candidates). References are interviewed approximately one hour by a committee member using the Reference Interview Protocol developed by the committee.

# The Committee...

- ▶ Held Zoom interviews (approximately 3 ½ hours each)
- ▶ Candidates were asked to provide written responses to questions like:
  1. Please describe your spiritual journey and how your faith will shape your presidency.
  2. What are the key opportunities and challenges that you see for AMBS?
  3. Describe how your leadership style would impact the first 12 months as president of AMBS?
  4. Please reflect on how your life experiences and vocation have prepared you to advance the mission of AMBS.
- ▶ Candidates were asked to prepare a presentation for the Search Committee
- ▶ In-person interviews

# Presidential Candidate of Choice

Dr. David W. Boshart

Central Plains Mennonite Church Executive  
Conference Minister

Mennonite Church USA Moderator

Wellman, Iowa



# Next Steps

- ▶ June 17-18
  - Campus visit for interaction with the AMBS community
- ▶ Follow by meeting of AMBS Presidential Search Committee to review feedback received and prepare final report.