



112th ANNUAL REPORT

Evangelical Covenant
Church of Canada





The Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada

Dear ECCC Delegates and Friends:

It is my pleasure and privilege, on behalf of your Leadership Board, to invite everyone in our Canadian Covenant family to the 112th Canada Conference – Annual General Meeting. This year will be the third rendition of our bi-annual, dual meeting format as demanded by our Constitution. We will be gathering in Breton, Alberta (rural focus) and Toronto, Ontario (urban focus) under the theme of “Community”.

Well, now that the necessary, but formal stuff is spoken, let’s look closely at the word “Community”, a word that isn’t even mentioned in many of the more common Bible versions. Without going to dictionaries or lexicons it seems obvious that the word is a formation of two powerful themes, “Commune” and “Unity”. We know we don’t need to go too far into the New Testament before we encounter these themes in our relations with the Trinity, our spouses, family members, fellow believers, neighbours and the world at large.

The writer of Hebrews exhorts us, for the sake of those relationships, to, “consider how we can stir up one another to love. Let us help one another to do good works.” This urging lies at the heart of why we gather each year. Your Canada Conference (which is all of us) is heavily invested in our Ministry Priorities:

Make and Deepen Disciples
Start and Strengthen Churches
Leadership Development
Love Mercy, Do Justice

But in effecting the above, we need to commune with God through Jesus Christ in the unity of the Spirit that we might be a “Community” stirred up to love and do good works. The next part of the verse relates that by saying, “let us not give up meeting together...instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope.” We meet together to “stir”, to “help” and to “encourage”. God calls us to meet. Come and be a part of the blessed work He is doing through our Conference.

Peace and grace,
Rich Drinovz
Leadership Board Chair

ECCC LEADERSHIP BOARD

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Greg Pauli	Member at Large	Blackstrap CC, Dundurn, SK



The Evangelical Covenant Church

Grace and peace to you as you gather in the bond of Christ.

Moving the Needle for the Kingdom of God. That's our hope every day.

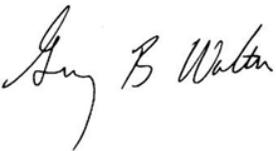
There are five mission priorities around which we seek to follow the heart of God into the world. Together, we start and strengthen churches, make and deepen disciples, develop leaders, love mercy and do justice, and serve globally. That mission is only possible because of the combined efforts of the congregations in your region, together with all of the 875 churches that make up the ECC today in the United States and Canada.

Because of our strong partnership in our shared mission, we accomplish much. We invite you to visit www.CovChurch.org for information, stories, videos, and resources on all that is happening with the ministries and initiatives of the Covenant all around the world. While you're there, be sure to check out the 2016 Mission and Ministry video (<http://covchurch.tv/2016-mission-and-ministry/>). It's an inspiring look at the compelling Kingdom impact through our combined efforts.

In addition to this regional gathering, we'd love to have you join with hundreds of other Covenanters for **Gather 2016**, June 23-25, to participate in the Evangelical Covenant Church's annual business meeting, with additional options including mission and service projects as part of Explore Phoenix, as well as the annual meeting of the Ministerium.

I am grateful to serve this movement in partnership with people like you. With God's help, may we continue to *move the needle* in our shared mission and ministry.

In It Together,

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As our ECCC family of churches gathers in May for our AGM we are coming together around the theme of “community”. We can’t deny the fact that there are differences and diversities of experiences within our congregations. Urban congregations tend to have access to more highly developed technologies than do our rural congregations. Rural congregations will have quicker access (typically) to places of quiet and solitude. Community, however, is a gift common to all locations. Johnathan Wilson-Hartgrove in his book “The Wisdom of Stability – Rooting Faith in a Mobile Culture” states the following: *“Our hunger for ‘community’ may be the clearest contemporary expression of the heart’s yearning for its true home...We ache with desire for true community...”* (2010, 20).

We live in a world that is a fractured community. We see this in countries where we have global engagement partnerships and we see it in our local Canadian communities. As such, this good gift of the Good Father is a gift worth claiming and cherishing.

One of our ministry priorities is to Start and Strengthen Churches. Strengthening churches involves discussing, evaluating, and seeking faithful and fruitful growth within our churches. During the past year a team of lay and pastoral volunteers came together to think about church health and congregational vitality. In the end they concluded that there were three essential areas we hope each local church will consider carefully: Community (the various dimensions of life together as a congregation), Leaders as Disciples (first and foremost leaders who follow Christ) and Kingdom Engagement (locally, nationally and internationally).

There are a multitude of tools that can be used but the New Testament concludes that the gifts necessary for the Body to function are given through the Spirit of God. The team working through the call to strengthen the local church felt that a healthy and honest conversation is one of the most natural ways to work for health within the local church. The leadership of the ECCC is committed to finding or developing useful tools that can be of practical assistance to every congregation regardless of whether they are urban, town or country.

I encourage you to consider your local church. What are the evidences of deep community? Are there barriers to deep community? What does it mean for your personally to pursue community? Finally, how do we as a diverse group of people from diverse settings need to be in order for community to be a reality within the life of the ECCC?

- Matt Clever to Sarnia, Ontario as Youth Pastor
- Sean Dyck to Minnedosa, Manitoba as Youth Pastor
- Andy Gilkinson from Minnedosa, MB as Youth Pastor to Dundurn, Saskatchewan as Pastor
- Jeff Lowen to Minnedosa, Manitoba as Senior Pastor
- Steve Menshenfriend from Dundurn, Saskatchewan
- Phil Nethagani to Brampton, Ontario as Church Plant Pastor
- Joe Orr from Emo, Ontario to retirement
- Julia Sandstrom from ECCC Director of Ministry Support to Winnipeg, Manitoba as Associate Pastor
- Phil Wright from Edmonton, Alberta



COVENANT CHURCH PLANTING

C A N A D A

In Luke 14, Jesus offers a charged word on the “cost of being a disciple”. He compares the journey of discipleship to that of laying the foundation for a building project, but being unable to finish it... for lack of counting the cost. Five years ago, our community of churches began laying the foundation for a movement of church planting within Canada. *What are some of the positive signs of this growing movement? What are some of our continued challenges?*

Positively, we see continued health and vitality in our existing church plants. Lake Ridge, Avenue, Holy Community, the merger which has become Commons Church in Calgary, all

embody diverse yet vital movement forward. God continues to open opportunities for us in Montreal and Quebec through the Keeners. We continue to be approached by planters, existing congregations, and groups about opportunities for partnership and ministry with and within the ECCC. 2015 saw continued donations and over and above gifts to church planting projects. There is so much to be thankful for. We are not looking at a building site that has been abandoned.

There are many challenges also. Our geographic distance can foster isolation in planting. The sheer number of choices and opportunities can be distracting- sometimes too many options can create too much confusion. Increased costs and depressed economic realities can create tension. Working within our limits of finance, time, and resource to maximize our response to a Kingdom call can be challenging.

As Director of Church Planting, I am thankful for the growing sense of partnership I see developing between existing churches and church plants. As we live into our priority of “Starting and Strengthening Churches”, may this be a mutually beneficial realization: that **Strong Churches Start Churches** and **Started Churches become Strong Churches**. I have a growing prayer that every existing church in the ECCC would find some meaningful way to connect, support, and be involved with a church plant.

I am thankful for the support of the ECCC staff and Leadership, ECC staff, Hope Community Covenant Church (where I also serve as lead pastor), and the consistent support and encouragement of my family (Bekah, Ella, Soren, Jonas, and Greta).

The consequence of starting something that cannot be finished (according to the parable in Luke 14) is ridicule- people will say “how foolish” that builder was. May the testimony and witness of our continued church planting efforts be ones of praise, celebration, thanksgiving, and blessing to God for the great things he has done! May the testimony of lives changed and communities transformed continue to grow as we continue to respond to the call of God on our lives.

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Triennial	July 28-31, 2016
Adventures in Leadership	August 11-18, 2016
Pastor & Spouse Retreat	October 3-5, 2016
Alive	October 28-30, 2016
Israel/Palestine Trip	June 7-17, 2017

Hello Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada! Welcome to Toronto!

It's hard to believe that it's only been four years since Avenue signed the Covenant Agreement and were accepted and welcomed into the ECC. In January, 2016 Avenue celebrated its third anniversary and in April completed our four year Church Planting Agreement. In June we hope to be inducted as a full member church at Gather 2016 in Phoenix. We can't wait to celebrate this with you, especially with Lakeridge Community Church and Holy Community Covenant Church who will be inducted at the same time as Avenue!

We want to say "Thank You" to our Canadian conference family for all your support and prayers. We are so glad that we found a home with the ECC and that we were welcomed so warmly and included in the work that God is doing through the conference and denomination. Your support has been amazing and has really helped us successfully plant a Covenant Church in Toronto! We prayerfully await a larger ECC presence in our city and are anticipating several more churches here.

This has been a big year for Avenue as we are experiencing growth in so many ways. We are welcoming visitors and new comers each week and our membership is growing. There seems to be a wedding, pregnancy or birth announced every other week and our Sunday School has ballooned. We are so excited for this September as we will begin our first Youth Program ever!

It's been an exciting time for missions as we continue to participate in God's work around the world. Working with Zimele Community Canada in South Africa has been a tremendous blessing! We are seeing a self-sustaining and self-reliant model of charity work succeed and make a difference in individual and community life. We were able to send teams out to Maneadero, Mexico and Cerca-Carvajal, Haiti where we participated in two church builds and various outreach ministries in these rural communities. Our partnership with Zonaj, Colombia and REAH, North Korea continues and we have been blessed to work with amazing missionaries.

Please continue to pray with us as we continue to search for a permanent location for us to meet on Sundays. Having to move three times in the last several years has been difficult and we are praying for a place we can call home and a community that we can serve. It has been challenging with the soaring real estate prices in Toronto but God is good and we know he has a plan and home ready for us.

We look forward to hosting you all here in Toronto any time of the year and we are excited to have you here for the AGM. -John Cho



Upper Left and Bottom Left: Mission trip to Mexico.
 Upper Right: Avenue Pastors and families
 Bottom Right: Sunday Morning Worship at Avenue

“Passion for God, Family, and Discipleship”: There is nothing small or easy about such a three-fold vision. It pushes me to a deeper dependence on God’s Spirit to be at work in my “day-to-day” and in the people who cross my path. It requires a group effort. This vision challenges our bent towards individualism, and asks questions like “What is best for Faith Covenant Church?” or further yet “What is our part in the greater church of God?” I realize this is not a vision that can be completed in our timing, but it’s one that develops patience, perseverance, and a yielding to what God is doing in and around us. “Faith” is our name, and I am learning to trust God with faith that He is sovereign over all things.

This past year, God has been calling us to a deeper walk, both privately and corporately. Passion for God is what fuels discipleship and fruitful discipleship yields even more passion. Sermons based on the book of Hebrews reminded us that Christ is our high priest and serves as our mediator. The importance of strong fellowship is taught as well in Hebrews. God walked us through a season with several internal conflicts, offering us the power of grace and reconciliation. Our “Family” vision is two-fold: strengthening households and becoming a unified church family. Sticking together means properly handling conflict, and we learned that together. Hebrews also teaches us that Christ is an anchor of hope to cling to in all circumstances. We have been clinging to that hope as the economic and political landscape has shifted and offers less hope. Our food bank ministry has greatly increased and new families are showing up each week. It’s a ministry that binds our entire community, and we pray God will use it to bring more into His kingdom.

Our latest news is that our congregation voted to pursue sponsoring a Syrian refugee family. There is a great deal of excitement as well as uncertainty in taking on such a task. We seek your prayers as we discern next steps in the process.

We are seeing that God is our Provider, “Jehovah Jireh”.

We are very grateful for the partnership we have as a body of churches, and we are glad to have the chance to host our portion of this year’s AGM. -Marc Lantz



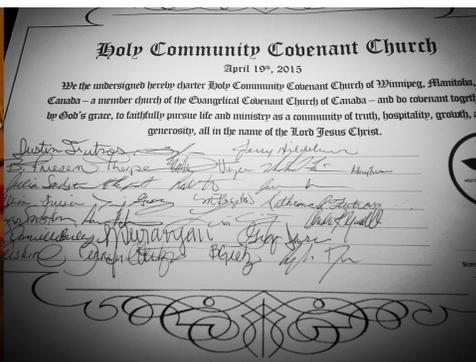
CHIC Group 2015

Young children are celebrated when they take their first steps, when they say their first word, get their first haircut, and go to their first day of school. Doting parents photo-document those landmark days of their children's lives and plaster them all over Facebook so Gramma can 'like' them. Those milestones and landmarks of life are worth celebrating and being excited about. They are joyous occasions and many will become significant memories.

When you're a young church (and we just began our life together a few short years ago) you also have the joy of experiencing a lot of firsts and landmarks in life and ministry together. 2015 was a big year for Holy Community: we welcomed charter members at our first annual meeting, elected our first formal lay leadership team, and were approved and recognized as a registered charity by the government of Canada. These milestones are worth celebrating, and we did (and some even made their way to Facebook)! The landmarks ahead, too, will be cause for celebration as we look forward to being received as a proper member church of the Evangelical Covenant family this coming June at the ECC annual meeting (Gather '16) in Phoenix.

But so much of life happens *between* the landmark moments. The first day of school is a nervous thrill for both parent and child, but the real experience of education takes place over the other two hundred or so days a year where the child learns and grows, bit by bit, day by day. Likewise for our congregation, so much of life happens between the milestones in the holy ordinary of our regular day to day life as a local church community. Our week to week small group ministry sees the majority of our congregation gather in one another's homes for prayer and reading Scripture together. Each week we gather to worship the God who raised Jesus from the dead and are nourished by fellowship, the Word, and the Table so that we might carry on living lives of witness, day to day, in the West End of Winnipeg. Each week people seek to engage their neighbours through acts of genuine hospitality and humble service.

At times I wish that Holy Community had more flashy stories to tell - more landmark moments to share on Facebook and whip our friends into a "thumbs up" frenzy. Those moments come - the landmarks and milestones come. And we celebrate them, giving thanks for the God who orchestrates and provides for those significant moments. But that same God is with us day by day as we seek to be a Holy Community in the holy ordinary of our life and ministry together. -Gavin Jensen



Upper Left: Burger Mania sampler plates.
 Bottom Left: Members of Holy Community participating in karaoke night with community members.
 Middle: Baptism
 Upper Right: Holy Community's Charter with member signatures

We look a lot different now than we did at the beginning of the year! The people of the church are mostly the same with the addition of a few people, yet they all look about twenty years younger! There was something about the tan hues on the walls and orange material that aged everyone. Now that those are gone the place and people look much better!

The year began with a Friday night work party in which we removed all of the old, orange pews from the sanctuary. That was just the beginning of the change. By the end of the year we had new chairs, new colours on the walls, a new projection system with two screens, new carpet in the sanctuary, tile in the foyer, stonework around the stage, and a new media booth. The place looks wonderful, but we didn't do it just for the looks. We did it for God's glory and neighbour's good.

We have been focused on living into our affirmative statements that we created at our Appreciative Inquiry Summit (AI) in 2013. One reads: "Create a multipurpose, welcoming and updated physical (internal and external) space which is aesthetically appealing." The sanctuary is certainly aesthetically appealing now but the real benefit is that we have created flexible space for ministry. With chairs now the sanctuary becomes not only a great place to worship, but one that can be used for other ministries.

We hope to see the same sort of great results with the rest of the statements that we created at our AI summit. With that we will see our church become more of a neighbourhood centre serving the diverse community around us, continue to reflect the community around us growing as a multi-cultural, multi-generational Christ centred community, develop vibrant ministries to youth and children seeing them become leaders, and continue to provide an environment for creative outlet.

Here are some other highlights of our year at Green Timbers:

We serve a growing number of households every other week as a depot for the Surrey Food Bank. Currently about fifty households are served.

We entered into a contract with another telecommunications company to have a "tower" in our parking lot. The new Josephson Fund (from Telus) gives money to our evangelism and outreach. This joins the Fullerton Fund (Rogers) which grants money to organizations in the community and beyond doing missional work.

Our youth ministries are growing again with the faithful work of volunteers

We said goodbye to our minister of outreach and his family at the end of the year, Andres, Ale, Violetta and Lucas, to serve back in their hometown. -Andy Sebanc



Summer Day Camp

As in most places on the Prairies, this past year was not a great season for the agricultural community — we experienced a severe shortage of rain in the Spring and then a devastating hail storm delivered another brutal blow in the Summer. Surprisingly, there was a crop to harvest in the Fall and we are grateful for our Lord's continuing care for us and His strong assurances that He is still in control!

Weekly ministries of the congregation include early morning men's gatherings, an evening congregational prayer time, and a morning women's study and prayer time — the women have really been challenged and enriched this past year through the study of a series of books by James Byron Smith. Also, once a month the church family hosts a "Soup Sunday" — it continues to be very popular with congregants and guests alike.



Polka Mass

In the Summer of 2015 we supported a couple of significant care and outreach ministries in a neighbouring town; in July, a Summer Day Camp saw over fifteen children attend an exciting few days of activities, lessons, and music centered around life in Christ. Each child in attendance received at least one new Bible! In August, a mini arts camp was offered and twelve children gathered for the week of drama and dance — again, with the focus directed toward giving praise to our great God. We are truly grateful for the efforts and creativity of Anita Winteres in leading these ministries.

In late fall Rosebud Church hosted the *“Art Dahlen Memorial Polka Mass.”* This was the fifth year of this great event in our church/community and a great polka band, comprised of folks from our community and guests from abroad, led the congregation in a great morning of Scripture readings, communion, and worship — polka style! Thanks to Shauna Murphy for her continuing leadership for this joyful annual event.

As a congregation we continue to enjoy our close association with the Rosebud School of the Arts. School founder, LaVerne Erickson, still resides in our community and is an active member of our church, as are many of the resident actors of Rosebud Theatre. Our facilities regularly serve as classroom space for Rosebud School and Rosebud Theatre rehearses most of their main stage productions in our fellowship hall. Further, our Sunday gatherings are often enriched by the many patrons of Rosebud Theatre who choose to stay over and then join us for worship in the morning. Each fall we’re privileged to welcome the new crop of Rosebud School students and many of the students choose to be involved in our “adoption” program whereby they are teamed up with one of our church families for care/fellowship. -Ray Wall

What a privilege to see God at work! Amidst the uncertainties of this age that isn't always easy to do. Yet as we pay attention with eyes, ears and hearts tuned to the right frequencies, our awareness and wonder at God's handiwork will awaken. Not only are we then able to proclaim His handiwork, we are able to participate with Him as He reconciles creation to Himself. Hallelujah!

As I asked the church council what to include in this report, one member stated that "we are the coolest church, ever!" While that may be hard to quantify, there is an undeniable sense that God is at work here at Norquay Covenant Church and we are excited to be joining God in this journey.

Natasha Westerhoud came in the fall of 2013 as Associate Pastor and I returned to Norquay in the spring of 2014 as the Senior Pastor after having served here before from 2002-08. A newly minted Internship Program is underway with the help from a Trellis Grant and Micah Friesen from Malmo is our first intern for the 2015-16 school year. The intent is to introduce Bible college students to rural ministry, showing them the unique aspects of serving in such a context. We hope to continue this unique discipleship program and already have a student committed for 2016-17. God is at work!

We continue to have a vibrant kids and youth ministry program. Kids Club runs weekly with the help of some amazing volunteers, and our youth ministry continues to gather and disciple students, also with the help of amazing volunteers. Our summer Bible Camp emphasis provides scholarships for those who want to go to either of the two camps we support and we always have a large number of students attending, both from the church and from the community. There were 12 students from our little place that went to CHIC last summer. We just finished hosting Snow Daze which gathers Covenant students from Manitoba and Saskatchewan for a weekend and all of us adults were impressed with the calibre of these future leaders. God is at work!

We have become more intentional with our financial and asset budgeting, seeking ways to serve outside our local church context. Over 20% of our budget is committed to such endeavours as supporting Becky (Johnson) and Pavel Barniciuc in Moldova, the Santiago Project in Ecuador, and other mission projects. Natasha and I have been given the freedom to coordinate the yearly Conference missions trip to Ecuador. Our people have been encouraged to find ways to serve in the local community and we see them serving in our school, on town council, the local volunteer fire department, running community events and much, much more. We believe the more we step out beyond our walls, the more we will see change and will be changed. God is at work!

"Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope!" Ephesians 3:20 -Arden Gustafson

The ECCC is committed to growing as a group of churches that engage globally. Michael Oh, the Executive Director of the Lausanne Movement has reflected on the 2010 Cape Town gathering related to global engagement and mission saying that: "...it is too important to ignore and too difficult to do alone."

Our dedication to following Scripture and the Kingdom priorities included within its pages demand that our engagement is more than token. Being a small group of churches we are also compelled to find good global partnerships. At present we have agreements in four global settings: Ecuador (see detailed report below), Haiti, Israel/Palestine and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This is in addition to some significant locally based connections such as Zimele, South Africa that has been supported by ECCC Women Ministries.

In each case, with the exception of DR Congo, part of the engagement has involved sending not only financial support but also teams of people. These engagement trips are often significant in the personal spiritual journey of the participants. Many will comment that what they gain and learn is far more than anything they contribute to the partnership. If each ECCC congregation



would consider at least one of these partners as a way to engage globally the mutual benefits and enhancement of our goal to pursue biblical Kingdom priorities would be multiple.

One of the desires we have had is to provide pathways for congregations that are not able to field a complete team of people for a global engagement experience. At present the Ecuador trip has provided this option. The Study Tour (June 2017) will provide opportunities to meet with ministry partners in Israel/Palestine. With multiple churches considering trips to Haiti the opportunities are plentiful.

Our world is complex. At times the cultural differences seem overwhelming. The bottom line for us as a group of churches is the command to engage with the world God loves and the potential for incredible growth that happens as we obey. -Jeff Anderson

Global Report

Ecuador

The Evangelical Covenant Church of Ecuador has invited the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada to partner with them in ministry. With excitement this past February we had the opportunity to go and serve with our Ecuadorian brothers and sisters in Christ.

This year we had the privilege of taking a team of six individuals which represented four different Covenant Churches. The team may have been small but nonetheless the ministry that we were involved with was powerful and mighty.

We once again partnered with The Santiago Partnership. We spent the mornings building rooms above the supporting church, in order that they may host doctors and dentists at the medical clinic that we support as a conference. We had a tour of the medical clinic, which will be ready to open by the end of March. Our support has helped to buy important equipment in order for the centre to begin serving the community. 'The Home for At Risk Kids' is almost completed and they will be looking for permanent foster type parents to run this home in the near future.

In addition to working with The Santiago Partnership, we spent the afternoons serving at the San Antonio church up in the Andes. We worked alongside them with their retaining wall building project, and also hosted a vacation Bible school to over 130, 3-5 year old children. Two of the afternoons also consisted of pastoral care, providing personal counselling to over 10 individuals. We also had an opportunity to visit homes and pray with the families in that area.

We had an amazing time together as a team. We worked hard and we laughed into the night as we put well over 100 puppets together, we managed to sing together a capella, and the list goes on and on. As much as this is all about partnering with the Evangelical Covenant Church of Ecuador and building relationships, it is also about us. These experiences change us in a way that we can not explain. We come back home understanding more about who we are in Christ as we allow ourselves to be stretched in ways we could not imagine. It is good to be stretched and to be made uncomfortable because it changes our perspectives in so many ways. It was a great week of serving and leading and we can not wait until our next adventure in Ecuador. –Natasha Westerhoud



Photos from February 2016 trip to Ecuador



Kernels of Hope for 2015 grew again! We grew crops and hope. Hope is such a big word and having none is the worst thing that can happen to anyone.

Canadian Covenant Farmers are the hands and feet of Kernels of Hope. The Johnson Tween Lakes Farms of the Norquay Church produced 1,700 bushels of wheat on 44 acres on their Kernels field this year. Gerald and Darla of the Melfort Church put in 50 acres of wheat and it ran 55 bushels per acre. The weather was much better there this year than some recent soggy years. The Nelsons of Malmo turned what I thought was a drought into a great yield of canola! We had other farmers near Brandon contributing substantially to the totals and we had other anonymous donations of crops! Virtual farmers contribute towards the expenses and when you put it together with the Canadian government matching money we as a team will have created about \$225,000 CDN to help our friends in North Kivu of the Democratic Republic of Congo through World Relief Canada and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. We have helped them improve cassava, banana, and vegetable production. Conservation agriculture, livestock distribution, and animal health education were some of the keys to helping Congolese farmers.

The Kernels Team recently received a heartfelt thank you letter from World Relief Canada that says it all better than I could: "It's been a partnership measured in meals eaten, harvests gathered, lives saved, tomorrows experienced, hopes restored and Kingdom impact".

Thanks so much if you were able to help out in anyway in 2015. Please help us grow again in 2016.

-Ray Baloun

For nearly one hundred years, Covenant Heights Bible Camp has been offering a summer camping experience that has introduced people to Jesus Christ and encouraged and equipped them to live as his disciples. Many from your churches (maybe even you!) have attended Covenant Heights as campers or served as staff and experienced the unique blessing and challenge of summer camp ministry.

The past two years have been years of renewal for Covenant Heights and we are grateful for the exciting signs of growth we are seeing. Both our junior and teen camps in 2015 were well attended and made for a couple wonderful weeks of the kind of adventuresome discipleship that takes place at CHBC. Our family camp had a huge turnout and was packed full of families with young children - a good sign for the future. Seeing opportunity to include and build some connection with these younger children, we added a new two day camp for younger kids - four years old to those who have completed grade 2 - which was extremely well received. As the fall season rolled around, Covenant Heights added a young adults retreat and a contemplative prayer retreat to the fall retreat we already hosted for junior and senior high students. These expansions on the previous roster of camps and retreats is so exciting and we continue to look for how God is already at work providing opportunities for us to participate in His work.

In order to ensure that our facilities can continue to host the lively ministry we see take place each year, we began making plans for the "New Heights" campaign last fall. This capital campaign is seeking to raise approximately \$100,000 dollars over the next three years, addressing, firstly, some larger maintenance issues with current structures, including re-siding and roofing the chapel building, as well as installing upgrades to the kitchen and bathroom facilities (phase #1). Further, we're looking to build a large, timber-framed, covered shelter that can serve multiple purposes for our camp throughout the summer (phase #2). The efforts to raise funds kicked off in the new year and individuals and churches are welcome (and encouraged) to participate by giving now. Our timeline goals has us finishing the building projects by the fall of 2018 - in time to celebrate our 100th anniversary of ministry together the following season (2019).

Please, continue to pray for Covenant Heights as we prepare for this exciting new endeavour and look to reach "New Heights" in our ministry with one another.—Gavin Jensen (chair)



Psalm 36:5 “Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.”

God’s faithfulness just keeps on going - it is amazing! People who attend Covenant Bay get a break from routine and enter into play, rest, biblical teaching, and worship. In the midst of our very human efforts God works in the hearts of people creating them according to his design, it is absolutely incredible to observe! God proves Himself faithful at our day camps, summer camps, family camps, and retreats at Covenant Bay. He is very much the One doing the ministry - we simply have a great vantage point as we participate with Him in ministry.

In 2015 we hired Kendra Freeland as Director of Ministries! We are so grateful for the Trellis Foundation who made this new position possible. Kendra comes with over a decade of camp ministry experience and has led us well in our programming this past year. The legacy of Covenant Bible College is having a significant impact today.

A request for proposals was issued to construction firms on Nov 15, 2016. This request detailed our expectations in regards to a new accommodations building. This new building will serve a wider demographic (relative to our existing cabins) and be able to accommodate people year round. For details and updates on this project please visit our website www.covenantbay.ca.

New in 2015 was a marriage retreat and a guy's winter weekend. Both were successful and we look forward to doing this again in the future. This past year we saw significant growth in our summer camp attendance. Looking at our registrations for 2016 we see this trend continuing. New for 2016 is a late summer camp called “Gush” for kids entering grades 2-6.

Covenant Bay Bible Camp comes alongside churches. We would love to chat with you about how Covenant Bay could support your efforts in ministry. Take some time and connect with us.

While our programs are significant for the participants it often is even more transformative for our summer staff. Encourage Christian young adults to take time to serve at summer camp this year. It will be a win, win, win! Camps will have excellent staff, young adults will be transformed, and your campers will remember these very cool and loving young adults for a lifetime.

Thanks for supporting Christian Camping. -Jon Drebert (director)

In his book, Richard Sterns’ “The Hole in the Gospel” states that only 6% of Christians have made a declaration of faith in Jesus after the age of 18. That means that 94% come to know our Lord before that age. 6% is shocking but the reality is most people come to know the Lord before the age of 18.

How important are camp programs for our youth? We’ve always known the effect of a youth camping experience in our own lives as well as our kids but now we see it is so important in today’s world.

This year was another wonderful year for our small camp of 39 children and 27 volunteer staff. We praise the Lord for safety, decent weather, good food, and inspiring messages of challenge and encouragement to



our campers and staff. Finances are always a balance between keeping the registration costs low to allow all kids to participate and yet have all the bills paid. Without the service of so many wonderful volunteers, KCBC would not exist.

Here's a note from our Speaker this year: "During the last evening when we were talking about being accepted, one of the boys handing me a drawing of what he saw in his dream the night before. Before I could talk with him about it he had seen a vision during the singing time which brought some clarity to his dream. The essence of his dream was; he saw a door wide open, but there were chains across it. After processing it with him and explaining that his acceptance comes from Christ and not from his lack of sin, he saw the chains come away, and Jesus reach out and take his hand."

Prayer Requests:

Volunteers for next year

Balanced finances

The Holy Spirit to continue working in the lives of this year's 39 campers

Many more campers to come to know the Lord in 2016

A successful second year for our Family Camp

-Rick Dickieson (chair)

Additional Report

Covenant Bible College Bursary Awards

The Covenant Bible College Bursaries are awarded in December of every year. The bursary (\$500) provides assistance to students in a discipleship school or program. The recipients of the 2015-2016 awards are below.

Sharmyn Abrahamson (Norquay, SK) at Nipawin Bible College

Justin Arndt (Nelson, BC) at Prairie College

Stephanie Bolinger (Gleichen, AB) at Capernwray Bible School

Claire Brandenburg (Edmonton, AB) at The King's University

Dylan DeVries (Nelson, BC) at YWAM DTS, Belize

Josiah Dewald (Chestermere, AB) at Canadian Mennonite University, Outtatown

Heidi Frei (Breton, AB) at The King's University

Micah Friesen (Wetaskiwin, AB) at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute

Matthew Kent (Winnipeg, MB) at Canadian Mennonite University

Ben Mast (Rainy River, ON) at Moody Bible Institute

Shylo Rosborough (Edmonton, AB) at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute

Madelyn Reid (Surrey, BC) at Tauernhof Bible School

Leah Spaulding (Warburg, AB) at Prairie College

Hannah Thiessen (Winnipeg, MB) at Booth University College

Luke Wahl (Strathmore, AB) at YWAM Los Angeles, Justice DTS

Deb Walters (Wyoming, ON) at The Haden Institute

Avaline Wright (Edmonton, AB) at Booth University College



Trellis Foundation exists to be a catalyst of biblical, intentional, and innovative discipleship in the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada. In the Fall of 2015 grants were made to Norquay Covenant Church for an internship program, Gateway Covenant Church for volunteer training, and Holy Community Covenant Church for a modular spiritual formation group. There are many questions out there about Trellis Foundation. The following FAQ seeks to answer some of those. More information is always available on the Trellis Foundation website: trellisfoundation.ca. Also, take note of the number of times Trellis Foundation is mentioned in the ministry reports throughout these pages.

Who is Trellis Foundation accountable to?

Trellis Foundation functions as a separate entity because Covenant Bible College was a separate entity. However, our accountability to the wider community is through the appointment (and removal!) of board members by the ECCC Leadership Board. All of our documents have been vetted through a legal process.

What kind of communication and reporting is made regarding the finances of Trellis Foundation? How is the Trellis Fund managed?

Our financial reports are available to the public on the cra.gc.ca (legally listed under Covenant Bible College). We are planning to have a summary snap shot of income and expenses available on our website. For establishing the foundation we have had significant and required legal and accounting costs but are starting to see how the regular operations are going to go.

The Trellis Fund is held and managed by a reputable asset management firm based in Calgary, AB QVinvestors.com. We also have a financial advisor who assists us in navigating this responsibility.

How many churches or ministries make applications and who are they? How much is dispersed?

Every year we distribute the government mandated 3.5% of the Fund to qualified donees. Every Canadian Covenant organization with a charitable status is a qualified donee. We have dispersed \$151,435 since the spring of 2014. This includes 15 organizations. (Some have applied twice.) The grants have ranged in amounts of \$500 to \$15,000. For a full list of donees, check out our website trellisfoundation.ca. In addition to these specific donees, we also approved a block grant of \$20,000 each year (from 2014-2016) to the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada (ECCC). These funds go to various discipleship initiatives happening among the ECCC churches and camps. From 2017 to 2020, this block grant will equal roughly 30% of the dispersed funds each year. This is administered through the conference office. CBC Bursary Scholarships are also dispersed through the conference office and they total around \$5,000 each year.

How are decisions made regarding who receives grants?

The applications are evaluated using a systematic approach or 'rubric' created based on Trellis Foundation values and priorities. In our research, a number of other organizations use this type of system. The number of applications, the amounts requested and the amounts available also effect these decisions. Since our year end is May 31, our first granting cycle of each year is in November. Remaining funds are distributed the following March.

This current year, the 3.5% disbursement amount equals \$55,093.31. The block grant to the ECCC takes \$20,000, the two multi year projects we have commitments to take another \$11,000. This leaves \$24,093 to various grant applications. We have disbursed \$14,810 of that in our November grant cycle. This will leave \$9,283 to be made available for the March 2016 grant cycle.

How much money is spent on administration?

The board is a volunteer board. We have an administrator who is paid for roughly 5 hours per week, a bookkeeper who is paid for 2 hours a month. We have financial management fees, insurance and board travel costs which are kept as reasonable as possible.

Does Trellis Foundation support ongoing and continuing projects?

Currently we are funding two multi-year projects. Because funds are limited, we do not want to reserve a significant amount to any one particular organization indefinitely. However, this is evaluated on a case by case basis rather than a policy. Our hope is that the fund will grow through giving. This would mean more money is available for granting each year in perpetuity.

What does 'innovation' mean as a value of Trellis Foundation?

The question we ask in our evaluation process is: Does this proposal open up the doors for fresh winds of the Spirit in this context? Innovation does not mean the initiative has never been tried before. How does your idea bring something new to your context? What key additions can you make to existing ministry efforts that will make them that much more effective?

Is investment all about the money?

What we are looking for is strong buy in, support and investment from the local community. This would mean more than the one person who is applying is supportive and on board with the project. We are looking for longevity and sustainability. All of this is about much more than money. At the same time, money is often a strong indication of investment and commitment. Financial investment is considered in context rather than evaluated by a dollar amount.

How much money is in the Trellis Fund?

The Trellis Fund consists of two pools. One pool (roughly \$1.64 million) is invested with QV Investors. The other pool is the endowment fund (roughly \$146,900) which was carried over from CBC's assets. These are externally restricted funds that are invested through Covenant Loans and Investments and are only used for scholarships and bursaries for students attending discipleship programs.

Why is the application so much work?

We are simply doing what foundations do. In order for us to effectively evaluate your application we need enough information to understand it well and see how it matches with the values of the Trellis Foundation. Even if the application is for a smaller amount, we still need to discern well. We are not looking for fancy explanations but rather clear, concise, and convincing applications. We have some good examples on our website. One of these applicants shared that it was an hour of solid writing.

"I don't think this applies to my ministry..."

You never know! You are always welcome to send us an email to get a sense of whether your idea might work with Trellis granting criteria: office@trellisfoundation.ca.

Six years ago I was invited to step into the journey of leading Women Ministry in Canada. Along the way I had to dig deep into my convictions, grow in courage, and continue to develop in leadership. A delightful bonus was the joy of new friendships with women across our conference and in fact, all over the ECC. I am deeply thankful for this significant season in my life.

As I have been praying and seeking out the next person to journey and lead forward from here this verse has come to mind: *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?...I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise" (Isaiah 43:18-21).* I am confident that God is in control, guiding, directing, and selecting according to His great plan. Please pray for and with us for the Lord to raise up women to carry on the vision and lead as Coordinator, Global Ministry Chair, Secretary, and a woman who loves communicating through writing and Facebook.

At last year's AGM a group of over 40 of us enjoyed an energetic and creative conversation with Pastor and group counsellor, Jill Riley, in an effort to redefine our mission and vision. What emerged was a unanimous decision that we exist to meet the needs of women and speak into justice issues that affect women. This has many faces, but we concluded that we will focus on three areas – equipping/education, mission/outreach, and fellowship. This year we're inviting women to tell their stories of how this has become evident in our churches, neighbourhoods, and circles of friends. Our theme for the AGM is "Community", which is so expressive of what we aim to embrace and live.

In July twenty-one of us (so far) will travel to Kansas City to enjoy a rich experience of worship, challenging messages and workshops, excursions, and fun at Triennial XV. With deep gratitude we have accepted the generosity of our conference for bearing the cost of US exchange for registration. We are also grateful to the Trellis Foundation for awarding a grant to grow our scholarship fund significantly. Fifteen \$300 scholarships were made available. Seven have been awarded so far. Please join us! Our team will connect the women from our conference right from the start in KC and we will do this together!

We sent \$1,000 USD to Dina Katanacho this year to help in her ministry at a Bible college in Palestine. Dina sends her love and thanks. Please pray for Dina and her family as they face a life very different from us each day. In her own words: "I am not that old and I have lived through 7 wars. I refuse to say this is natural. We need to address this challenge."

I look forward to exploring more of the "new things" God has in store for us as we gather at the AGM.
-Trudy McIntosh



Jill Riley speaks at Women Ministries meeting 2015



COMMUNITY
112th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MAY 12-15, 2016

Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity

Breton AGM

Schedule:

Thursday:

6:00 pm - Registration opens

7:30 pm - Worship & Fellowship

Friday:

8:30 am - Registration opens

9:00 am - Ministerium

9:00 am - Women's Ministry

9:00 am - Local Activity

(non Ministerium or WM attendees)

Noon - Lunch

1:15 pm - 112th AGM

5:30 pm - Supper

7:00 pm - Worship & Fellowship

Saturday:

9:00 am - 112th AGM

Noon - Lunch

2:00 pm - Seminars

3:30 pm - Break

5:30 pm - Supper and

Entertainment

Sunday:

11:00 am - Worship with Faith Covenant Church

Toronto AGM

Schedule:

Thursday:

6:00 pm - Registration and

hospitality

Friday:

8:30 am - Registration opens

9:00 am - Ministerium

9:00 am - Women's Ministry

Noon - Lunch

1:15 pm - 112th AGM

5:30 pm - Supper

7:00 pm - Worship

Saturday:

9:00 am - 112th AGM

Noon - Lunch

2:00 pm - Seminars

3:30 pm - Break

5:30 pm - Supper and Entertainment

Sunday:

11:00 am - Worship with Avenue Community Church

www.covchurch.ca

Visit our webpage to find more information on the weekend, including meeting locations,

Stay Connected!

Want to stay connected to the ECCC? Here are some ways that will help you follow along with the ECCC all year long.

Weekly Prayer Email

Each week a prayer e-mail is sent with news from our churches and our conference. Request to be added by sending an email to office@covchurch.ca

'Like' us on Facebook

Find us by searching Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada

Visit our Website

Our website is a great resource to everyone. Check-in to stay on top of the most recent events and happenings of the ECCC.

www.covchurch.ca



The Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada

www.covchurch.ca

Phone: 204-269-3437 | Fax: 204-269-3584

Email: office@covchurch.ca

PO Box 23117 | RPO McGillivray | Winnipeg, MB R3T 5S3