



119th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF CANADA
May 5, 2023 | Surrey, BC

Saturday @ 9 am PDT

Worship: City Collective

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Remarks by Chair

- a. Jenell Pluim called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.
- b. Chair Remarks: Thanks to delegates and participants for being willing to engage in the work of the Kingdom across Canada. Thanks to Emmanuel and Pastor Eric Hedberg for hosting us this weekend. Many thanks to our staff: President Superintendent Glenn Peterson, Assistant Superintendent Rob Peterson, Office Administrator Hanne Pihowich and Financial/Bookkeeper, Brandi Bobee. Our theme, Multiply, reminds us that we are co-partners with the Father, Son and Spirit, who live within us, are displayed through us, and are tangibly present in our midst. When we gather together God's purposes are multiplied, his presence is multiplied, and we leave carrying the life-giving presence of our God. "I have come that you might have life, and have it to the full." Prayer.

2. Organization of the Meeting

- a. Acceptance of the Agenda

MOVED: Jon Drebert moved and Paul Campbell seconded that the agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

- b. Credentials Committee Report: Jaisy Tam-Harbridge
 - i 39 General Delegates
 - ii 25 ministerium/pastors
 - iii 5 Affiliated Ministry Delegates
 - iv 7 Leadership Board Delegates

MOVED: Ira Carty moved and Kors Pater seconded that the Credentials Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

- c. Standing Rules of Order

MOVED: Carol Anderson moved and Randall Friesen seconded that the Standing Rules of Order be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Acceptance of 118th AGM Minutes
- b. Approval of Affiliated Ministries
 - City Collective Church Plant (Langley, BC)
 - Encounter Covenant Church (Mississauga, ON)
 - Stonehouse Covenant Church (Steinbach, MB)
 - Zoe (Toronto, ON)
 - Covenant Bay Bible Camp (Pigeon Lake, AB)
 - The Harbour (Riondel, BC)

- c. Approval of Advisory Delegates
 - Brandi Bobee – Staff, ECCC Finance Manager
 - Hanne Pihowich – Staff, Administrator
 - Stella Penner – Financial Consultant & Accountant
 - Tammy Swanson-Dreheim – Guest, ECC President
 - Angela Yee – Guest, ECC Chief Ministry Officer
 - Sarah Cowan Johnson – Coach, Trainer, Consultant
 - Jason Condon – Canada Covenant Church Planting Team Leader
 - Ray Baloun – Kernels of Hope
 - Philip Reill – Tearfund Canada
 - Chris Schroeder – World Vision Canada
- d. ECC Delegate Approval
 - Ira Carty
 - Alex Song
- e. Committee Appointments
 - Minutes Approval: Edward Lee, Heidi Wiebe
 - Parliamentarian: Andrew Gilkinson
 - Tellers: Jonathan Scrivens, Dwayne Anderson
 - Sergeant at Arms: Shannon Johnson-Friesen, Jesse Kane
 - Credential Report: Jaisy Tam-Harbridge
- f. Organizational Reports

MOVED: Tom Greentree moved and Kirsten Waldschmidt seconded that the Consent Agenda be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

4. Reports

- a. ECC Greeting: Tammy Swanson-Draheim

Tammy expressed that she is so grateful for our ministry partnership. These times have been so challenging; churches are asking for resources around mental health, how to do ministry in a post-Covid world, and how to do ministry in a post-Christian world. Even in this space, we need to live in the current reality that God has placed us in; we have a fresh opportunity to engage with Jesus, be faithful in prayer, listen to the Word, and ask, “where is God leading us now?” Be encouraged to lean in to God, and be faithful to what God has called us to as a denomination. She left us with these words of encouragement and admonition:

- 1 Thessalonians, we pray for you, we remember you, we are grateful for your endurance
- Share with us what God is speaking to you as we seek to follow God together.
- Pray for your pastors.

Prayer for the ECC and Tammy Swanson-Dreheim: Sarah Cowan Johnson and Randall Friesen

- b. Superintendent/President Report: Glenn Peterson

Glenn shared a profound experience at the Sea of Galilee on his trip to Israel in November, which began a journey of turning and returning to the image of the storm in the Gospels. Often in the midst of the storms there is disruption, anxiety, fear; we are encouraged to stay in the boat, to hear the words of Jesus, to be courageous. As leaders, a good and timely question to ask is “Where are we?” In many cases we have returned to a space of calm. As a relationally connected, kingdom minded, Jesus-centered church, we are called to do the work together. What does multiply look like to you for your church? Leadership development, enough, abundant provision, spiritual friendships, families. Many thanks to our Core Team and many leaders.

Ministry Reports:

Clergy and Church Health - Rob Peterson: Thank you for the ways you care for your pastors and staff. As a CC we are investing in our pastors, resourcing and caring for them through counselling, spiritual direction, learning opportunities, ministry coaching. We are also investing in congregational health to help our churches to flourish: Are you moving toward health? The mission of God is advanced through healthy, vibrant churches. A new initiative being offered is a framework to discern the ways you are becoming a flourishing church: Moving Forward: Congregational Health resources. (Inward, Outward,

Upward, Forward). Congregational Health requires clergy and staff to regularly ask: Are we healthy? Do we have an intentional discernment and planning process? Are there resources we need to move forward in these areas? Our role as a staff is to support you as you do this work.

Church Planting – Jason Condon: (Team Leader for church planting in Canada). Over this last year Jason has visited several church plants. In Southern Ontario there are 10 churches that were not there 10 years ago! Time with City Collective, visiting key potential leaders in the GTA, and an upcoming visit to the Winnipeg area have allowed time for connection and encouragement. In the next five years we hope to advance boldly through leadership development and geographical spread, multiplying by about 5% per year. We welcome new churches who are looking for a deeply relational and generous family approach to multiplication to join us.

Internship Intro – Jason Charles: In response to the question, “What is the next step for our family of churches?” we realized that we have a leadership deficit. We are launching an internship program in the fall to help develop leaders in partnership with Canadian Churches. This initiative will come alongside churches, resource them, and help them to identify leaders within the church, providing them the opportunity to develop their calling. There is a development, financial, and one-on-one coaching component that will be available for churches.

Prayer: Gavin Jensen: Gavin does some catalyzing work with the CC. At a conference the team attended on catalyzing church growth we felt a deep call to prayer, and the need for the Holy Spirit to move in our churches. Information on how we can engage in strategic prayer for the Covenant Church will be available on both the ECC and the Canada covenant websites.

Trellis – Phil Adkins: A catalyst for Biblical and innovative work for discipleship, multiplying the investment from CBC by supporting churches initiatives.

Headwaters – Karen Edgar: We are helping young adults to become established in their faith, to benefit churches and the world. Pray for the students, staff, and speakers as a new group begins this discipleship program.

CBC - Brayden Pihowich: The term “third place” refers to a place where we are able to belong, feel at home and be at peace. That is what camp does, welcoming children and helping their relationship with God to grow. Our aim is to have a barrier free openness for people to come. This year we are building a new dining center and have 8 weeks of camps planned.

Unite – Rick Penner: Last summer we sent 8 Canadian youth groups to the Unite Youth conference. Unite will happen again in July 2024 in 2 locations. Let your churches know so they can plan for this.

Green Timbers – Glenn Peterson: Congratulations on 50 years of ministry, planting Emmanuel.

Multiply: Is there someone within your neighborhood or sphere of influence that you are praying for in this season? Ask God where he is at work and who you might pray for.

Kernels of Hope – Ray Baloun: You can help support farmers and multiply the harvest of grain. The Canadian government contributes more money – multiplication. In Africa we are helping with water projects that are leading to more food being produced – multiplication.

Tearfund – Philip Reill: In the past year we have responded to several humanitarian crises. We have been enabled to empower, resource and equip local churches around the world. Right now, 91% of young people are looking for resources on climate change and creation, which we are able to provide.

World Vision – Chris Schroeder: Through Covenant Kids Congo we have supported many, many kids. CKC is moving into Karowa this year.

AVA - Glenn: Thanks to Karen Bayley and Brenda Impey for their work on AVA, helping with domestic violence training and advocacy across our country.

Ecuador – Natasha Westerhoud: We seek to develop relationship with the Santiago Partnership, walking alongside Joel and Kim Delp, joining them in ministry to the people. Multiply: I want to share Jesus with everyone I meet, in my community, and in Ecuador. Consider joining our November trip.

Haiti – Kirsten Waldschmidt: The Haiti team is so grateful for generosity and partnership in Haiti; our giving goal was exceeded. When you invest in food, leaders and medicine, you transform lives. Even in a season of tightening funds, consider doing a fund-raiser in your community; we have resources to help you plan a Haiti fund-raising event.

Israel – Eric Hedberg: Consider going on the Israel Palestine trip in 2024, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, to meet leaders for Bethlehem Bible College, and connect with people wrestling with the conflict in this area.

Alaska – Mark Lanz: Mark and his family serve youth and young adults in Alaska. The greatest need is discipleship; we covet your prayers for these people living in isolation and despair. But we see young people hungering for Jesus in the indigenous villages; new life in Christ is evident.

Glenn: The above is a snapshot of how God’s Spirit is at work through our pastors, churches and leaders across Canada! What does MULTIPLY look like? More disciples experiencing deeper community through the church in more spaces and places across Canada and around the world.

Prayer for the Canada Covenant Staff: Lori Snoxell

Prayer for the Canada Covenant: Gavin Jensen

Coffee Break

c. Financial Report: Stella Penner

Thanks to Adam for introducing me to the Canada covenant. Thanks to Brandi who did all the heavy work with the changeover of accounting systems, and is working with a new auditor. There was a small deficit, which was anticipated, but there are no concerns.

i 2022: Very thankful for God’s provision and for the faithful giving this past year.

Total Income - Operations: \$624,175

Total Expense - Operations: \$656,353

Net Income - Operations: **-\$32,178**

ii 2023 Budget: Seeing positive trends and trusting God to provide. We will be looking at how to invest resources in the coming year.

Total Income - Operations: \$586,500

Total Expense - Operations: \$575,594

Projected Income - Operations: \$10,906

5. Essential Business

a. Approval of 2022 Financials

MOVED: Andy Sebanc moved and Natasha Westerhoud seconded that the audited financial statement for 2022 be approved as recommended by the Canada Covenant Leadership Board. **CARRIED.**

b. Approval of 2023 Budget

MOVED: Ira Carty moved and Jason Charles seconded that the 2023 Budget be approved as presented. **CARRIED.**

c. Presentation of the 2023 Leadership Board Ballot: Natasha Westerhoud

Mark Vandersluys, Bethany Abramson, Rob Horsley are recommended for a three year term (2023-2026) on the ECCC Leadership Board. All were **AFFIRMED** by ballot vote.

d. COMS Report

The Ministerium recommends **2** first term licenses: Ira Carty and Alex Song

The Ministerium recommends **15** licenses for renewal.

The ministry licenses recommended by the Ministerium, as listed in the Committee On Ministerial Standing Report was presented for approval. APPROVED.

Prayer for the ordinands and pastors: Rob Peterson and Andy Sebanc

- e. Bylaw Amendment: Glenn Peterson

The bylaw amendments are to clarify the bylaws to allow for digital gathering and digital voting.

MOVED: Ray Wall moved and Tom Greentree seconded that we accept the proposed bylaw amendments as presented. **CARRIED.**

Prayer: Jenell Pluim prayed for the outgoing Leadership Board members.

Erik Anderson prayed for the current Leadership Board.

6. Prayer & Doxology: Eric Hedberg and Phil Adkins

7. 120th Annual General Meeting and Adjournment

Jenell Pluim declared the meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm PDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Snoxell
Secretary to the ECCC Leadership Board