

# EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF CANADA



119th ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Canada Covenant Delegates and Friends,

I'm delighted to invite you to the 119th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada hosted by Emmanuel Covenant Church in South Surrey, B.C. May 5-7. It was such a joy to be able to join in person together last year in Strathmore. We become stronger as we tell stories, celebrate kingdom work, worship, and vision together. We see kingdom flourishing when we MULTIPLY our efforts and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and devote ourselves to prayer as the Body.

I am so grateful for the members of the Leadership Board and their commitment to Canada Covenant ministry. I want to especially thank Erik Anderson, Lori Snoxell and Natasha Westerhoud who will be finishing their terms on the board as of this AGM. I also want to thank Glenn Peterson, our Superintendent/President for his faithful leadership as well as our staff: Rob Peterson, our Associate Superintendent, Hanne Pihowich, Brandi Bobbi and Adam Furfaro who left us at the end of 2022.

I pray that as you listen to the stories, worship, and fellowship with Covenanters from across Canada, you will be encouraged and inspired by God's amazing work in and through the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada. Our prayer is that you will be able to carry that hope and light back to your church family.

In Christ's Love,

Jenell Pluim  
Leadership Board Chair  
Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada

# LEADERSHIP BOARD

Jenell Pluim	Chair	Malmo Mission Covenant Church (Wetaskiwin, AB)
Erik Anderson	Vice-Chair	Faith Covenant Church (Winnipeg, MB)
Paul Campbell	Treasurer	Lighthouse Community Church (Sarnia, ON)
Lori Snoxell	Secretary	Hope Community Covenant Church (Strathmore, AB)
Natasha Westerhoud	Member at Large	Faith Covenant Church (Breton, AB)
Viviane Ndiom	Member at Large	Green Timbers Covenant Church (Surrey, BC)
Ira Carty	Member at Large	Avenue Community Church (Toronto, ON)
Jennifer Mitchell Fetch	ECC Liaison	Faith Covenant Church (Winnipeg, MB)



# STAFF

Glenn Peterson	President/Superintendent	Strathmore, AB
Hanne Pihowich	Administrator	Breton, AB
Brandi Bobee	Finance Manager	Strathmore, AB
Rob Peterson	Associate Superintendent	Grand Rapids, MI

# REPORTS

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- + Church Reports
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MARCH 2023

*Dear Canada Conference,*

Greetings and grace to you all as you join together in Jesus's name to celebrate all that God has done within your conference this season.

**As you gather, please know how much I appreciate your partnership in ministry and how deeply I value the stories of ministry experiences that you share with me. It is encouraging to know that we do not journey alone.**

I am grateful to be surrounded by so many people praying for me and for the church. Thank you for joining in the call to prayer each month as we pray together as a church body and set ourselves in a posture of listening to God. It has been a privilege to pray with you and for you. Please continue to remain steadfast in your prayers. I truly believe we must be in a spirit of prayer to find a way forward together.

**In this first year in the role of president, I have been focusing my time around three main areas:**

**Listening:** This has centered around listening to staff, conference personnel, the ministerium, and local church members. We have conducted a global church needs survey to help inform where the needs currently are and how local churches need resource support.

**Praying:** As we root ourselves in a posture of prayer, we seek to create a climate in which we have space to pause, breathe, reflect, and begin to re-enter spaces of collegial respect and love for one another.

**Discerning:** How do we move forward together as a church body? I was tasked with identifying a path forward through the discerned position on human sexuality and its impact within the Covenant as a whole. During my president address at Gather 2023, I am looking forward to sharing how, through much prayer and a collaborative effort of our many governing bodies, this task has been going. Covenant Offices leadership has also been entering a time of discernment around re-organizing our ministry model to better align God's mission with the resources he has provided in this season for a thriving future.

Thank you for showing up in Jesus's name to be good news for God's glory and neighbor's good. I look forward to many more opportunities to share stories of how God is moving within your ministries in the coming year. To him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, be the glory in the church throughout all generations forever and ever.

*In prayerful hope!*

Tammy Swanson-Draheim, PRESIDENT, EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

# SUPERINTENDENT PRESIDENT REPORT



*As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."*

As we gather for our Annual Meeting, to connect, to celebrate, to pray, to give thanks, to look forward and back - we remind ourselves as Jesus followers that we are invited to follow and join with Jesus in the work of multiplication — for the sake of our towns, cities, provinces, nation, and world. More than ever, we see the need to encourage pastors, leaders, and churches towards health and life across Canada and around the world.

Like the disciples noticing hungry people, we see the need. We see: churches pursuing health but struggling, lack of volunteers and leaders with capacity and heart to serve, young people who are disengaging from the local church, and pastors who are working hard but who are weary. Personally, I continue to see churches, pastors, and leaders who are feeling exhausted, anxious, and alone. The need is real.

But there is hope. Jesus says to his disciples, "you feed them"... and then proceeds to take a simple but faithful offering of bread and fish, multiplies them, and meets the need. Friends, I dream of joining God in the work of meeting the needs of the day. I see our family of churches participating in an eternal extension of Jesus' "you give them something to eat" as

pastors are nourished, disciples are developed and deployed, and communities are transformed across Canada and around the world.

*"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves."*

Here are some of the ways we are joining Jesus and seeing results:

## **Start and Strengthen Churches**

We give thanks for the faithful and fruitful works of churches and church plants across our country. Our church planting team continues to come alongside faithful women and men who are responding to God's call to gather communities of worship, connection, and mission. We are excited and committed to seeing churches planting churches. Simultaneously, we are grateful for churches who faithfully pursue health, do the hard work of re-imagining life together coming out of a season of disruption, and missional vitality. Renewed efforts, tools, and resources are being developed for the health of local churches.

## **Develop Leaders**

The statistics aren't pretty. The reality behind them even less so. We are unwavering in our commitment to connect, encourage, care, develop and equip pastors and leaders who build up the church. The effect of encouraging emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual health among pastors and leaders is vital. The need for noticing and investing in pastors and leaders under the age of 35 is critical. Activating gifted women and men across generations is unapologetically necessary.

## **Make and Deepen Disciples**

On Easter Sunday, Pastor James Yu will baptize 3 people who are growing as followers of Jesus having come out of Atheist and Buddhist

backgrounds. We give thanks for a young woman from Iran who was recently baptized as a part of Zoe Toronto who joyfully danced in response to new life proclaiming “I get to be a missionary”. We celebrate renewed efforts to see kids, youth, and young adults find and follow Jesus. We are encouraged by the ongoing significant and intentional work of Covenant Heights, Covenant Bay, Kootenay Covenant Camp, and the Harbour.

### Love Mercy, Do Justice

The work and need to raise awareness, stand in solidarity, seek to serve, and make a difference has not and does not stop. Anti-racism efforts, human trafficking, domestic violence, care and concern for creation, poverty, and homelessness are a few of the ways individuals and churches continue to live out the Micah/Matthew Challenge.

### Serve Globally

We continue to support and partner with efforts in Alaska, Argentina, Ecuador, Europe, Haiti, the Middle East and North Africa, and South Korea. Last November, I had the opportunity to visit a number of ministries in the MENA region. Most of our conversations concluded with the question, “are you optimistic?” Repeatedly the answer was “No... but I am hopeful.” I pray that we can continue to be agents of hope to a broken world as Jesus multiplies our efforts.

*Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.*

As we look back at 2022, I am reminded that God cares about the mission we are called to more than we ever could. What is our posture and attitude towards this work? Abundance? Trust? Hope? Scarcity? Anxiety?

Jesus, by the power of the Spirit, is multiplying the work. This reality fuels hope, courage, and commitment to keep going. Please continue to pray for the work that is happening and the work that is yet to come. Pray for the Covenant Church and pray for the Canadian Church. God is at work - let's join him in it! Jesus takes our efforts and multiplies them. We cannot do this work alone.

I am grateful for the generosity of churches and individuals that continue to offer whatever they can to pursue our shared and given mission. Thank you for your ongoing faithfulness. Thank you for expressions of generosity that continue to fuel our shared mission and ministry. I am grateful for you and pray the reality of Jesus' invitation to “feed” the multitudes might be fully realized. The Canada Covenant Team remains committed to doing anything and everything we can to support, equip, care, and connect you. We remain committed to joining with you and the Spirit to catalyze new expressions of God's Kingdom in Canada and around the world. I am grateful to be on the journey with you.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership!

Glenn Peterson  
President/Superintendent  
Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada

# MULTIPLY

# EMMANUEL COVENANT CHURCH

SURREY, BC

As I write this, we have just celebrated a Sunday service that included the reception of new members at Emmanuel Covenant Church. We heard specific examples of how God is moving in the lives of those who attend Emmanuel, how our congregation sees our church community as family, how we love each other in tangible ways, and how together we feel like home.

We see our love for our community in many ways, such as in our current campaign to collect Bible study supplies and paper goods for Patricia Hope House, the new BC Adult and Teen Challenge Women's Centre located just down the street from our building, with boxes and boxes of goods on the first day of collecting goods, including creative gifts above and beyond what was requested—a 26-pound turkey, anyone?

For years, Emmanuel has been located on the edge of the central South Surrey community, but those days are quickly ending as new houses and townhouses are being built ever closer. We are in the process of selling a portion of our land for two new land uses: conversion to

City parkland to create a biodiversity corridor to protect God's creation, and new townhouses to welcome families into our community, right on our doorstep. The redevelopment process is both fast-paced and slow, and we are continuing our church-wide visioning process so we will be prepared when the development application approval process is complete and we receive the full proceeds from the sale.

Through the visioning process, our aim is to develop a plan so we can use God's money wisely to address global needs, to serve our immediate community, and to steward our property responsibly. Pray for us that we would be like the first two servants in the Parable of the Three Servants, who invested their master's money wisely and so the Master said, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities.

Let's celebrate together!"

Kristen Tiede





# NELSON EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

SURREY, BC

As 2022 ends and 2023 opens up, our church finds itself coming back to life after several years of stalled and suppressed momentum. 2022 was a year where pandemic restrictions ceased for the most part, but pandemic fatigue had very much settled in. As the spring rolled into summer, we found ourselves struggling to rebound. We experienced diminished giving, diminished volunteerism, and diminished enthusiasm across most of our ministry areas.

Discerning how to best address this was challenging to say the least. We decided to keep things simple, and instead of pushing the community forward, we trusted that in time, new life and energy would emerge. This felt like a risk at times, but we doubled-down on patiently and consistently pointing people to the truths and practices grounded in trusting and knowing Jesus. Our leadership team was deeply supportive of us and our church, and showed patient resolve to remain faithful even though our church wasn't bouncing back the way we thought it would by the summer of 2022.

In the summer I took time off in order to catch up on vacation time and then took a three-week sabbatical in August. It was an important turning point for me, as it allowed me to come up for some air after several demanding years of ministry. It was deeply restorative and helped me enter the fall with a much fuller cup.

This fall we've experienced what we believe to be the first groundswell of ministry momentum for quite some time. We are very thankful. Giving, volunteerism, and overall enthusiasm has increased, and we have more people seeking to use their gifts to serve and care for one another. Our challenges persist, but they seem more manageable--both logistically, spiritually, and relationally. New people are discovering our church and our faith, and there is generally a lighter, more positive vibe that infuses our gatherings and get togethers.

After receiving a role promotion to Associate Pastor earlier in 2022, Pastor Rick Penner has

continued to do excellent work with our students and young adults. Additionally, he has been invited into more preaching, teaching, and discipleship formation initiatives. His ministry continues to be deeply fruitful, and we are thankful for his leadership and influence on our entire community.

As always, we are seeking to discern what priorities God may be asking us to lean into this next year, and recognizing that in this post-pandemic world, reliance on God is the best strategy we have to build and maintain a faithful, thriving, and healthy church.

Pastor Jeff Strong

# LAKE RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

CHESTERMERE, AB

*“What is important is faith expressing itself in love.” — Galatians 5:6*

Lake Ridge Community Church went on a journey to explore what it meant to move “from residents, to citizens and neighbours.” The life of Jesus continues to invite us to be citizens of the Kingdom of God, marked by our love and real relationships with others here in Chestermere. This season of discovery has prompted more people to connect, more groups to self-organize around each other, meals and gatherings in homes, and new friendships to emerge. We are asking big questions about how we live this one and beautiful life marked by the hope of Christ in us.

Coming out of the pandemic was an experience of loss for many of us. A number of families moved away from Chestermere, illnesses have taken much from others, and projects that used to thrive have had to change and regrow in new ways. Also in 2022, Pastor Evan Dewald and Tara Linsley, our ministry support leader, stepped down from our staff team which has led to a season of transition and new purpose for our community. We welcomed Shane Pearsall, the chair of Vantage Point 3, to join our team in this transition season, while I’ve continued on as our pastor. We’re grateful to

our staff for caring well in this season, and our leadership team for their wisdom and intentional work.

This past year we opened an office at the invitation of the RCMP to offer chaplaincy care, we hosted our first church-wide spiritual formation retreat with Rob and Rod Peterson, we sponsored art shows, a Kyle Church concert, created new resources, had a baptism celebration, created our first “Neighbour Day,” and hosted a study tour to Israel. It’s been a beautiful season.

In 2023 we will continue to attend to the move of the Spirit in us, and for our city. We have welcomed new members from diverse backgrounds with gifts and stories of grace to share. We continue to be the only evangelical church in our city of 25,000 people and sense a deepening invitation to grow in faithfulness, and fruitfulness. Please pray for us as we listen again to the invitation of Jesus, connect with our neighbours, and may we “grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,” for us.

Peace and all goodness,

Pastor Preston Pouteaux



# MELFORT EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

MELFORT, SK

*“So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him,”  
— Colossians 2:6, CSB*

Over the year 2022 here at Melfort Evangelical Covenant Church we were reminded again of how great and awesome the one true living God is. We are part of the local body of Christ that seeks to *Know Jesus and to Make Him Known*. It is great to be part of the larger movement of Christ followers in the ECC and ECC. We have been grateful to God for His work in our midst as He continues to grow His church and His people.

We invite the large Covenant family to join with us as we praise God for all He is doing here in Melfort. Thank you for your continued prayers for the believers here and for those in our community. One of the many exciting things in 2022 occurred in August when Pastor Nate Coulson began serving here as our Assistant Pastor. It has been a period of transition for Pastor Nate and us as a church but God continues to reveal His faithfulness in our midst.

Last year most of our ministry initiatives were up and running, however, coming out of the pandemic and relaunching have caused some to examine some of the ministries moving forward. These are always welcome times when examining the Lord's leading and directing but they are also times filled with some uncertainty

and some deep-rooted feelings. We continue to meet weekly for our corporate time of worship and last year we spent a great deal of time digging into the truths found in the book of Colossians.

We praise God for His working in the lives of our church family. God is good!

We praise God for many who allow God to use them to invest in the various areas of ministry, from the youngest to the oldest.

We praise God for the Youth and Tweens programs here at MECC. Their weekly bible studies as well as other strategic events throughout the year.

We praise God for the various music team leaders who faithfully serve in our Worship Service each week provide a range of music styles.

We praise God for the opportunity to serve our community by many groups using our facility for a variety of activities.

We praise God for the salvation through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ and the continued indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings,

Pastor Kors Pater



# HOLY COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

WINNIPEG, MB

For Holy Community, 2022 marked not just another year of life and ministry together, but a whole decade as well! This past May we celebrated 10 years since a small group was commissioned from Faith Covenant Church to begin a new work in the West End of Winnipeg. We invited the neighbourhood over for live music, hot coffee, and fresh baking. We gathered for worship and thanksgiving. We gathered around tables to share a celebratory meal. The occasion was marked by deep gratitude for all that God has done in our midst, by joy and laughter as memories were shared and made with friends, and a holy kind of pride for what we've been able to do together. To speak honestly (we're family here, right?), there were keen feelings of missing those who had journeyed with us but no longer do, and frustrations over expectations and hopes not yet realized. The joys and the sorrows were mingled with a deep sense of longing for God's Spirit to continue to move in our midst and make of us as a blessing to our neighbours.

It was a year of movement. At the beginning of 2022 we gathered together exclusively on ZOOM for our Sunday morning worship with much of our other ministry programming suspended or shifted to online participation. But things changed and moved, and we finished the year by inviting neighbours into our building for free Christmas swag bags and to come sit on Santa's lap, celebrating the birth of Jesus with

family and friends, singing carols, and eating breakfast together. In between we met practical needs of our neighbours through a community garden and food pantry, we ran a very fun day camp (beach party!), we began regular men's and women connection events, we invited our community to generous sharing in our annual fall food drive, we wrangled kids and loved them in Jesus' name, we gave ourselves to the reading of the Word, prayer, and the breaking of bread. We leaned into our calling as a Holy Community of truth, growth, hospitality, and generosity. Movement: upward into a closer and more intimate love relationship with God, inward into deeper connection with one another as brothers and sisters, and outward in service and care for our neighbourhood and our world.

We now look ahead to more movement as we invite a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit. Pray with us and for us; we trust that in prayerfully seeking the Spirit, God will continue to move in our midst and lead us in mission as His people.

Pastor Gavin Jensen



# RAINY RIVER EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

RAINY RIVER, ON

*"Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."  
— Psalm 34:8*

Though small in size, the Rainy River ECC is large in spirit, and it has been encouraging to see a steady and deepening faith in Jesus taking root among us. Though COVID brought with it significant challenges, it also necessitated valuable times of personal examination and reconciliation among our congregation, and even in the difficulty, it has not been for nothing.

I began serving at the church in May of 2021, following the unique path of pastoring the same church community I was raised in (following six years of study in Chicago)! Since arriving home, I have seen more deeply than ever before God's goodness through those who have "walked further down the sacred path," encouraged by their examples of kindness, generosity, and sacrifice as they serve Jesus here in Rainy River.

One highlight of the past year has been an expanding outreach to children and youth, with our Summer Adventure Week attended by 32 children from the community, the majority of them unchurched; for the tiny town of Rainy River, this was deeply encouraging to us.

Another highlight was walking as a community through the book of 1 John, finding there both the call and the provision to walk in deeper and greater love towards one another. More recently, we have begun sermons on the Gospel of John, seeking to be encountered more and more truly by the life-satisfying, category-shattering person of Jesus Christ.

A personal highlight for me has been doing all of this alongside my wife Ireland. (We met during our time at Moody Bible Institute and were married in July of 2020.) Though she is not formally employed by the church, all that I do is accomplished hand-in-hand with her, and she deserves such recognition, honor, and encouragement for the selfless work she does: mentoring, leading, teaching, and caring.

As the Spirit leads you, please pray for the Rainy River ECC: for endurance and discernment for those who serve, openness and curiosity for those in the broader community, and an outpouring of the Spirit of God on myself, Ireland, the church's leadership, and the entire congregation. All glory be to Christ!

In Christ,

Pastor Ben Mast



# ZOE

TORONTO, ON

Zoe Toronto has just begun to blossom downtown! Our Global Community microchurch has had personal gospel conversations with more than a dozen international students this year, resulting in 3 new professions of faith and 2 baptisms. Our Parkdale microchurch ran two youth camps for their neighbourhood, serving 80 youth in total. Last summer we piloted a discipleship program, Greenhouse, which was deeply impactful for the young adults who participated. This year we will add summer interns, and last year's participants are bringing their friends along for what is shaping up to be a program 3 times as large! We also have over a dozen hungry young people eagerly training right now in sharing the gospel, making disciples, and planting churches (far beyond our capacity to train them!).

Also, a story: S was born and raised in Iran, and had just hit rock bottom. Her parents were divorcing each other and abandoning her. She was depressed, overweight, and without hope. One night she had a dream in which she was lying motionless on the floor and a man with an exceedingly kind and trustworthy face approached her, offered his hand, and lifted her

up. She looked in his eyes, frozen and speechless. He said "Follow me" and she woke up. She rarely dreamt, and had no idea what this meant, so she asked her grandmother for help understanding. Her grandmother told her "That was Jesus." Not knowing who Jesus was, S asked her what to do, and her grandmother said she would help her leave Iran because her life was now in danger, especially if her father found out. S soon arrived in Toronto as a refugee, and within weeks met a sister from our community, M. Just one year prior, M had arrived in Toronto, having fled Egypt with her mother and sister because her own father sought her life for her having become a Christian. M (20 years old) shared the gospel with S (19 years old), baptized her, and is here blessing her new faith and identity in Christ immediately after her baptism. M's mother also came forward to bless this new sister in Christ with the authority that only comes from having likewise left everything in this world for Jesus's sake. It was hard to find a dry eye in the room, and we are so grateful for having been placed by God downtown where we can be a part of such stories.

Pastor Michael Filicichia



# PASTOR TRANSITIONS

Manfred Boller	To Evangelical Fellowship Church (Edmonton, AB) From Evangelical Fellowship Church (Edmonton, AB)
Nate Coulson	To Melfort ECC, Assistant Pastor (Melfort, SK)
Evan Dewald	From Lake Ridge Community Church (Chestermere, AB)
Riley Enns	To Church Planting (Winnipeg, MB)
Arden Gustafson	From Norquay Covenant Church (Norquay, SK) To Retirement
Marty Johnson	To Norquay Covenant Church (Norquay, SK), begins July 2023
Linea Lanoie	From Gateway Covenant Church (Prince Albert, SK) To Retirement
Snowy Noble	To Faith Covenant Church (Breton, AB)
Julia Sandstrom	From Holy Community Covenant Church (Winnipeg, MB) To Thornapple Covenant Church (Grand Rapids, MI)
Jaisy Tam-Harbridge	To Avenue Community Church (Toronto, ON)
Ray Wall	From Rosebud Church (Rosebud, AB) To Retirement

# CBC LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

Lydia Bend (Breton, AB)	St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission
Lucas Driedger (Nelson, BC)	Columbia Bible College, Columbia One
Alexa Olson (Norquay, SK)	YWAM Hawaii
Abby Prier (Erickson, BC)	Capernwray New Zealand

*Learn more and apply at [covchurch.ca/cbc-legacy-scholarships](https://covchurch.ca/cbc-legacy-scholarships)*

# MULTIPLY

HEALTHY PASTORS HEALTHY LEADERS HEALTHY CHURCHES HEALTHY TOWNS HEALTHY CITIES HEALTHY COUNTRY

## START & STRENGTHEN CHURCHES

We want to see vibrant and life-giving churches started AND existing churches grow more faithful and fruitful for the renewal of Canada. Together, we pursue health. The Canada Covenant, along with the Evangelical Covenant Church as a whole, believes the local church is God's foundational strategy to carry out mission in the world.

We connect, catalyze, care, and equip churches, pastors, and leaders from conception through all phases of congregational life, to end-of-life and legacy opportunities.

## PRAY

Across the pages of Scripture and time, we see the power, precedence, and priority of God's people gathering to pray. We want to encourage and deepen a posture of prayer across the Canada Covenant. We remind ourselves that "prayer goes before the plow".

The Canada Covenant website has a place ([covchurch.ca/get-involved](http://covchurch.ca/get-involved)) to submit prayer requests and sign up for our Weekly Prayer email. Stay tuned for increasing opportunities to come together and prioritize prayer.

## PLANT

### LAST 5 YEARS

Encounter Covenant Church  
ZOE Toronto  
New Wine Church  
Stonehouse Covenant Church  
City Collective Church

### COMING SOON

FuYin  
New Winnipeg Plant  
Riondel, BC Plant





# NURTURE

## COACHING, COHORTS, DIRECTION, AND MENTORING

If you are a pastor or local church leader and are looking for Coaching or Spiritual Direction, contact [rob@covchurch.ca](mailto:rob@covchurch.ca)

Internships: This year, in connection with the Canada Covenant Multiply Campaign, we are launching an **Internship & Residency Initiative**. More details will be shared at the annual meeting, but we want to simultaneously create space to deepen the character and develop core competencies for growing leaders and pastors.

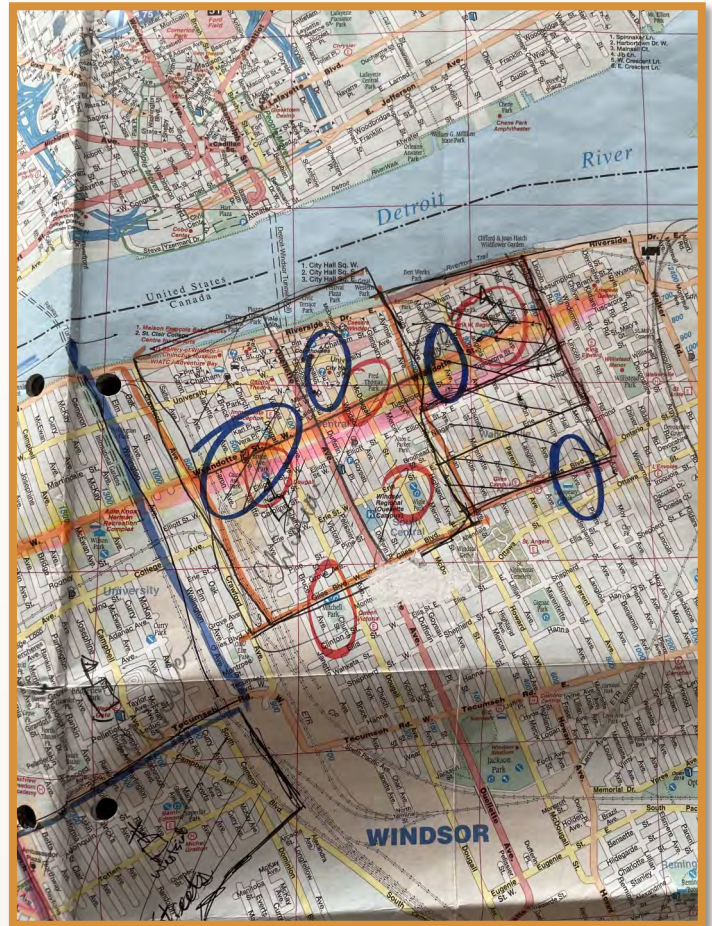
## STRENGTHENING RESOURCES

Learning Labs: Quarterly thematic learning opportunities for pastors

Canada Covenant Staff Support: We mobilize for mission by connecting, catalyzing, caring, and equipping churches in all stages of their life. We are here to help one another. If you're looking for resourcing or support, as a church, please give us a call or reach out. There are lots of (endless) resources and tools out there to help... sometimes a good listening partner helps us identify the right tool or conversation for the moment.

Missional Vitality Resources:  
[covchurch.org/start-strengthen-churches/missional-vitality/](http://covchurch.org/start-strengthen-churches/missional-vitality/)

COMING SOON: We're currently curating and developing some Canada Specific Vitality resources. Stay tuned!



# DREAM

We love Canada (and the world) and are convinced that we are called to come alongside churches, pastors, and leaders across our country... to see individuals, churches, and communities thrive!

We want to see churches started and strengthened across towns, cities, and provinces. We value the women and men who God has and is raising up to start new ventures AND want to see more churches planting churches.

## CHURCH PLANTING TEAM

Jason Condon (Team Leader), Jason Charles (Western Catalyst), Gavin Jensen (Prairie Catalyst), Sarah Cowan Johnson (Coaching and Leadership Development)



# ECUADOR

## 2022 ECUADOR ADVENTURE REFLECTIONS

In late March 2022 two families, the Nelsons (Corey, Heather, Melanie and Riley from Wetaskawin, AB) and the Gustafsons (Arden, Marcia and Elena from Norquay, SK) left Calgary for Ecuador to work with MERGE Ministries and the Santiago Partnership. For 10 days we enjoyed working together with our friends at Casa Hogar (the home for at-risk children) as well as the San Antonio Covenant Church. We played and prayed with these dear friends, helped them build a library/bakery addition, did a VBS for the children and basically joined them in their ministry. Over the years we've built a strong relationship with this church and the Santiago Partnership and it has been a joy to see it grow, thrive and have such a powerful impact in this corner of Ecuador.

Arden Gustafson, Trip Coordinator



We continue to celebrate our story with the Evangelical Covenant Church of Ecuador (*Iglesia Pacto Evangelica del Ecuador*) and The Santiago Partnership, partnering with co-founders Joel and Kim Delp to build up the body of Christ in a global way.

One of the ministries that The Santiago Partnership oversees is Casa Hogar, the Home for at Risk children. This space continues to be a haven for over 20 children who call this their 'home'. The home continues to serve in a holistic capacity by providing physical, mental/emotional, and spiritual care for the whole family involved. For the past few years, they have been working hard with the Forever Flowers initiative by planning, building, and planting the flowers for harvest and we are excited to share that they have had their first harvest and sale of fresh beautiful roses! The sales of these flowers will help to provide a means of self sustaining the ministry of Casa Hogar. So grateful for Esther Moreira who is the Administrator of the Forever Flowers project and our Merge Ministry Trip Coordinator.

The Santiago partnership has been serving in the Cayambe area since 2014 and has seen that domestic abuse is all too common as 2 out of 3 women are experiencing or have experienced such violence. Unfortunately, the impact of this abuse is seen in the Santiago programs as children have come to the Home for At Risk Children due to harm. Since late 2020, the Santiago



Partnership has been serving and caring for 15 + women and their children who are survivors of domestic abuse. One of the greatest difficulties these women have faced in trying to break free is finding economic independence from their abuser. They all desire for a better life yet struggle to find a way to make money for themselves and their children. In the desire to empower woman to know and understand their worth and realize they are loved, seen and cared for by a mighty God, a new initiative was created. The Project Director, Rolando Escola, had the vision to start a social enterprise that will give women the opportunity to find economic independence in a safe and supportive environment. This opportunity is Sumak. The women will be able to come to the Artisan Studio and work together to make Kichwa-style jewelry that can be sold, providing freedom and the ability to receive a fair wage to care for their families.

God is present and in the details of the work that is being done in Ecuador. It is so exciting to see the healing power of Jesus in the many lives of the woman and children who are able to gain access to the ministry that The Santiago Partnership provides. Together, we have privilege of being witness to God's bigger picture, provided care and love through our actions.



*Meet Maria Quilumbaquin. She is a doctor who lives in Cayambe and serves the people of Ecuador as a politician. Maria is also a survivor of domestic abuse. She was able to free herself from violence and now she wants to help other abused women know that abuse is not acceptable and that these women can find freedom as well. Maria shares her story to inspire others to break free from violence.*



Are you **ready** to come on an Ecuador Adventure? Our next trip is takes place Nov 3 to 13<sup>th</sup>.2023. We will spend time in with The Santiago Partnership, working along side the Home for at Risk Children/Medical Clinic and we will also spend time with our sister Covenant Church in San Antonio up in the Mountain region. The 10-day trip will include a construction project of some sort, VBS with many enthusiastic children waiting to have some fun, and of course a bit of sight seeing, shopping and amazing fellowship and food. There will some awesome coffee too...I can't wait to go! Will you join me?

Blessings my friends

Natasha Westerhoud, Trip Coordinator

# HAITI

Thank you for bringing hope with Here 4 Haiti this year. As we reflect on the yearly campaign we want to thank you for everything you've read, watched and donated. You showed up in 2022 big time! Thanks to your overwhelming response in prayer, shares and gifts you helped raise \$94,214.

When you invest in leaders, food and medicine, you help create opportunities and transform communities. And because of you - people like Madame Mark and Pastor Dorsenville in Haiti see the unbelievably generosity of strangers in Canada who share their hard-earned funds for the Sarepta Project. Over 160 children were fed weekly and more than that children's nutrition was made a priority thanks to you this will help support their brain development. This could not be done without the creative leadership of Ysmanette and Pastor Dugee. It's lifesaving medical care for over 1600 patients struggling with diabetes and more than 5400 individuals with other conditions receiving the medical expertise of Dr. Manno's Clinic Sante 2000 thanks to you. Plus, more than 14 ponds and farmers in the community of Haute Limbe created sustainable food sources and product to sell because of the educational leadership from Jeff.

They see the hope and the joy on the faces of their neighbours and community and are reminded they are not alone in the world. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We want you as our supporters to feel connected to the work of our local leaders and projects in Haiti. In Canada, we know it can be difficult to imagine without videos and being present in Haiti yourself, but we hope you know beyond the impact of food and medical care your donation creates a sense of love and security to help the leaders in Haiti thrive.

As we look forward to 2023, there is nothing more generous, life-changing or more urgent than clean water. We have shared there has

been a recent resurgence of Cholera in cases are coming into Sante 2000, Dr. Manno's Clinic and a separate campaign has been set-up. And prevention and quick work is key to stopping the spread and saving lives. With the recent resurgence of Cholera cases coming into Dr. Manno's Clinic, a separate campaign has been set-up. Prevention and quick work are key to stopping the spread and saving lives.

A team has been formed (they call themselves the Brigade) to provide treatment, decontamination and prevention systems (water filters and chlorine tablets) and community education. Many households have been provided with chlorine tablets and taught how to use them to clean their water. And it's working! In just the first month in Haiti, 20 education agents visited over 600 houses in 3 communities with between 5-10 family members each. Over 100 homes were evaluated and received a water filter.

This is a story of hope. Prevention programs like this one are cost effective and more importantly save lives. Just 1 gallon of Chlorine for \$10 US can prevent more than 100 people from needing treatment for Cholera. Treatment for just one patient with Cholera costs up to \$100 US. Prevention is key to saving lives.

Thanks to you, more than \$6755 CAD has been raised out of the \$13,600 CAD needed. Thank you again -to you, your churches, communities and families!

The ECCC remains committed to support these projects and partnerships in Haiti. We continue to stay in contact with our partners and friends: Dr. Manno, Ysmanette, Madame Mark, Pastor Dorsenville, Pastor Dugee and Jeff. The projects continue to run even while trips are not an option as Haitians continue to deal with powerful gangs, political unrest, fuel shortages and lack of medical care.

Funds raised go towards supporting the following Haitian projects. The ECCC has committed to supporting:

- + Sarepta Project: is a food program for elderly people and disabled young people in Haute Limbe. Each month, groceries are given to approximately 105 people. Yearly Financial commitment: \$8000 US (\$11,000 CAD)
- + Petite Anse Feeding Project: is an area in Cap Haitian known as a slum. The ECCC in partnership with College Park Covenant Church and a team in Haiti provide a rice and beans meal twice a week for approximately 160 children. Yearly Financial commitment: \$14,700 US (\$19,900 CAD)
- + Sante 2000 (Health 2000) Clinic: is a clinic run by Dr. Manno and specializes in diabetic care. Diabetes in Haiti can often mean death as the proper care and Insulin is extremely difficult to find. With the financial help of the ECCC, Dr. Manno and his staff care for over 1600 people within a 1-2-hour drive of Haute Limbe. Yearly Financial commitment: \$27,000 US (\$36,100 CAD)
- + Aquaculture Project: is a way of raising fish in enclosures or ponds to be consumed or sold as food. The project teaches and trains farmers to produce fish. Yearly Financial commitment: \$2,200 US (\$2900 CAD)

Please continue to pray for the people, God's people, our friends. Please pray for health, safety, restoration and encouragement.

You can be part of this story. Below are 3 ways to get involved.

Join the community online. #here4Haiti Facebook Group. Share your experiences in Haiti, invite your community (church, neighbours and family) to share your heart for Haiti.

Get updates straight to your inbox. Stay informed and sign-up for the newsletter at [covchurch.ca/haiti](http://covchurch.ca/haiti)

Give and fundraise: Choose to donate regularly as a family or as a church at [covchurch.ca/haiti](http://covchurch.ca/haiti). Find fundraising resources for your church at [covchurch.ca/haiti4churches](http://covchurch.ca/haiti4churches)

It is such a privilege to be partnered with our Haitian friends in God's kingdom work. Thanks for the chance to be representing you and leading in our conference in these efforts.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pastor Kirsten, Janelle Peterson, Jessica Geffrard, and Evan Dewald



# MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA

*Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ... Egypt and parts of Libya ... Cretans and Arabs. — Acts 2:5, 10*

The MENA region is vast in that it encompasses countries on the continents of Asia and Africa. The MENA region is diverse with multiple dialects of Arabic, different cultures, and different faith communities even within those countries that are predominantly Islamic. The MENA region is defined by Serve Globally as the 22 countries of the Arab League plus Iran, Turkey and Israel.

Over the past year the ECCC has been reengaging with the region in some significant ways:

+ Dave and Trudy McIntosh from Sarnia Lighthouse Church served as guesthouse volunteers at Bethlehem Bible College for over two months. Serving is a great word as they cooked, worked in the gift shop, cleaned and calked showers, tile floors and many other jobs based on their skill set. In addition to this, they immersed themselves in the Palestinian culture and found it to be a wonderful growing experience in their walk with Christ. This is an opportunity that is open to anyone willing and able to spend at least one month (up to a maximum three months) serving in this way. Contact Jeff for more information.



+ Several individuals and one congregation raised funds to support Syrian refugees with much needed food parcels. Many of these Syrians had to flee over ten years ago and some are still living in temporary housing, with others in sub-standard housing. Over \$10,000 was raised in this effort meaning that over 150 households will receive food that will help sustain them. In addition to what we raised, our partner, the Bible Society of Jordan, received matching funds from another donor so that double the number of homes will receive through their Bread and Bread program that offers food and if desired by the families, a copy of the Scriptures.



+ In November a group from across the Covenant, including four from Canada traveled to Israel/Palestine to learn from individuals and organizations about peace and reconciliation. During this ReVision trip, we heard from partners like Bethlehem Bible College, Nazareth Evangelical College and Musalaha but also from an Israeli justice education organization, a Rabbi and an Orthodox Rabbi who works with a Muslim leader to bridge the gap between two different people groups. It was a profound time of seeing the commitment level of people to not let the cultural and political environment stop them from pursuing a just peace and reconciliation.



Spoiler Alert for the 2023 Report: Although it will be addressed in next year's report, seven of us are in Egypt for a discipleship-oriented journey to better understand the "other" (May 2-12). We are grateful for a Trellis grant that is making this trip a reality.

We are so very grateful for the prayer and financial support that allows us to do this work in the MENA region. If you would like more information please email me: [jeff.anderson@covchurch.org](mailto:jeff.anderson@covchurch.org).

Jeff and Darlene Anderson

# ALASKA

Angela and I (Marc) sincerely thank you for your ongoing support as we've served youth and young adults in Alaska the last 5 years. We find ourselves a bit weary as we come out of the winter months. Last fall was unsettling as we discerned the next steps after leaving CYAK in June. It's been a good landing place with Amundsen Educational Center, though we're still dealing with financial setbacks that came during the long transition. We've also been helping lead our local church through a pastoral transition that began last August. Angela serves on the church council, and I'm chairing the pastoral search committee. Please pray for God to provide us with the energy and resources to continue to serve in full-time ministry.

At Amundsen, I'm now working with a gifted and humble team of ministry leaders. AEC has mostly dwelt in the shadows of other Alaskan ministries since it began in 2001, yet their mission and purpose are solid and worth sharing with the world. More students need to experience this hands-on form of discipleship, learning practical life skills alongside life-giving Christian relationships. That process is not flashy but often messy, especially in young adulthood. Those who engage in living for Christ, though, find joy and strength for the journey.

Two young men engaged well this past year and they are being transformed by Christ. Next Fall, we also hope to welcome 6 construction students who are ready to fully engage. In Fall of 2024, we hope to additionally welcome 12 high school students into our aviation and technical school programs. We are also looking at expanding the program to another location here in Palmer/Wasilla. Thank you for your prayers and support. You have our prayers as well. We look forward to seeing you again!

Marc and Angela Lantz





# ARGENTINA

*The Lord says, I will guide along the best Pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. — Psalm 32:8 NLT*

Every year God seems to bring forth a few scriptures again and again until they're a theme... or until I truly get it through my strong willed skull. That ever happen to any of you? When it does get through and goes deep into the heart and soul; it brings along a joyful reassurance and conviction. 2022 and now already into 2023; He has been guiding, leading and instructing me in the ways to move forward. In ministry and in life.

2022 was a year of changes in IPEA (Covenant Churches of Argentina). We have a new President and Vice President, Pastor Juan Paineneo from Jacobacci and Pastor Luis Perez from Bariloche (Congregation Nissi where I currently congregate). Together we have continued to refine my role; add new ministries, expand others, and change a few things. This past year was definitely challenging in it's own way but at the same time very encouraging and affirming. The congregations spoke very clearly (cheered and clapped the loudest) and affirmed my presence with them at the last Asamblea in December.

I had the opportunity to attend CIPE in Ecuador as well as visit a few areas and pastors that Max and I had visited in 2016. It was so encouraging to spend time with Tammy Swanson-Dreheim the new ECC President and Grace Shim the new Executive Director of Serve Globally. After CIPE, finally, I had the privilege of serving alongside the Covenant Churches in Antafogasta and Calama, Chile. We had this planned back in 2019 but then their unrest prevented that visit. It was an amazing time of teaching about missions; sharing my testimony, seeing how God continues to use that in so many ways; and building new relationships and partnerships for future ministry. And there was the youth retreat in Chile and there is such a connection and ministry that flows when I get to participate, teach and learn with them.

Within Argentina I have traveled as far north as Las Toscas to visit each and every church that is a part of IPEA, in the process of joining, or in the process of learning about the Covenant. It is an honor to share from experience about the family of the Covenant, the affirmations, the administration and the little details. I had the blessing of coming alongside

some new pastors as they planned a music concert with the group Montesanto; as well as planning their youth retreat.

I am refining the English classes while I still tutor and have times of Lattes and English with several. With the challenging economy, there are some people who are teaching English from their homes. I want to be respectful of that, supporting it not taking away work.

It has been a year of visitors as well; although there is plenty of room for more!! Eugenio Restrepo (the Regional Coordinator for Latin America) attended the Asamblea in December; Arden and Marcia Gustafson spent almost 2 weeks with me in January; and recently Dale Lusk from Merge and his family spent a few days in Bariloche and Jacobacci. Jacobacci will receive a Merge group from Brighton Michigan the 25-31 of March. I am so excited to be part of the planning and work with Merge. My house has been full of guests on several occasions. It is so life giving to be able to host people.

2023 will be the final religious visa renewal and then residency can be done!!! Ministry will continue to grow and be shaped in all areas as previous years. I pray that many of you will come to Argentina and experience the ministry, life and culture here.

A goal of mine is to remain and improve communication as well as update my blog and profiles. Anyone wanting to help with that its appreciated. I have been uplifted, challenged, and encouraged by texts and video calls.

Personally I am a stronger, surrendered in faith daughter of Christ who is learning to truly enjoy life. And I am so grateful for all that God has brought me through and all who have and are walking with me. It's not always easy, I am still learning to take those moments and recharge and that never ending lesson about balance of ministry, education and studies. But I know that joy is possible and can't wait for what God has already prepared in this next year.

I will be praying for your time at the AGM and hope you leave there with a renewed conviction and excitement for this next year!

Colleen Nahnychuk

# GREAT BRITAIN

This is now year two of life and ministry in Edinburgh. Time has passed so quickly! It has been a year of living and learning in Scotland, relationship building, deepening and broadening partnerships, earning trust, and seeing a ministry emerge that is deeply satisfying and, we believe, compelling.

Rae really loves WSP, the company she works for, but decided to go part-time in January of this year. She has started her own geography-themed business: "Across the Pond: Products for the Geographically Curious" along with another business, "Tartan Barbies." This has been a great way to rejuvenate her creative juices and give her the space to imagine ways in which she can be more involved in ministries of her choosing. She recently became a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society. Although it doesn't come with any salary change, it is a high honour! She became the S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Learning Ambassador and had an opportunity to work in the Scottish Highlands with twelve and thirteen year-olds, teaching them how to use GIS (geographic technology) to create their own towns for World Planning Day.

I continue to spend much of my time leading contemplative recovery events. These include *The Well*, a monthly open mic night aimed at

mental wellness and recovery, *Siloam*, and *Recovery-Healing-Spirituality*. Both are monthly events at St. James Episcopal and St. Cuthbert's Church of Scotland, respectively.

I am now a facilitator for the *Wellbeing Space* at Granton Baptist Church. It is part of the *Renew Wellbeing* ministry started by Ruth Rice from Nottingham, with the tagline: "where it's OK to not be OK." I regularly preach, lead music and worship both at *St. James Scottish Episcopal Church* and *Granton Baptist Church*.

This has been a very good year and we remain deeply grateful to the God of healing and grace, and to our lovely supporting friends, colleagues, and churches.

Tapadh leibh mile uair thairis (thank you a thousand times over)!

Robert Rife & Rae Kenny-Rife



# NORTH EAST ASIA

Exciting things are happening in Asia as regards the missions movement. Arise Asia is a conference whose purpose is to ignite the hearts of the younger generation throughout Asia to bring the Gospel where there is no Gospel witness in Asia and beyond. I have the privilege of heading up the Follow-up to Arise Asia. The students will be given 1-2 year service opportunities in regions where there is less than 2% of Christians.

Korean churches are desiring to host the global church to set up a base of operation in South Korea for North Korea. In the past, the base of operation was in China; however, with Xi Jinping's policy against foreign Christian activity in China, it's next to impossible to set up a base of operation for North Korea in China. As a result, some of the Korean churches are desiring to help the international workers working inside North Korea. To that end, there is a conference on North Korea called Empower Korea 2023 from July 13-16. Registration is available at [www.reah.org/empower](http://www.reah.org/empower). For more information contact Jamie at [jkim@reah.org](mailto:jkim@reah.org).

There is an opportunity for churches to send short-term teams to Korea this summer called the River of Ahava (RoA) Practicum in South Korea for a journey from July 3-15. The ROA practicum is a collaboration of four organizations and is for English and Korean speaking people from all walks of life between the ages of 18-30 who are committed to peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula from all over the world. Through this practicum, it is our prayer that we will build friendships, break

down barriers, see opportunities for networking and learn more about what God may have in store for us! The practicum ends with attending the Empower Korea Conference from July 13-15.

Jamie and a group of mentors are discipling those who desire to serve the people of North Korea from October 2022 to August 2023. The discipleship program is called Formations and we had a Formations Retreat at the Serra Retreat Center in Malibu, California in January 2023.

Please pray for the following:

- + Arise Asia will ignite a generation of young people who will sacrifice their lives for the gospel to the nations, especially those places where there is less than 2% Christians.
- + Empower Korea 2023 will be an occasion for the global church and the Korean church to collaborate to engage North Korea for peace and reconciliation.
- + River of Ahava would be an opportunity for North Koreans, South Koreans, Diaspora Koreans, and Lovers of Korea to unite and get a vision for reconciliation on the peninsula.
- + Pray for the nine people enrolled in the Formations: Brea, Deir, E.O., Jenny, Josephine, Joy, Steve, Silvia, and Sungsik.

Jamie Kim



# KERNELS OF HOPE

Kernels of Hope 2022 crops were again a combination of so many small seeds!

The seed of so many farmers deciding to plant crops for others,

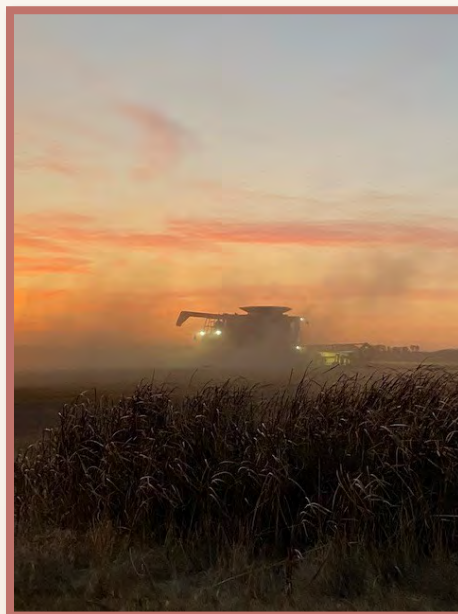
the seed of caring from so many people helping to pay the costs of raising those crops,

the seeds of multiplication both in actual plant growth and the growth of the funds created by those individual seeds,

the seeds in Ethiopia that get planted wisely even in the face of adversity creating the Seeds (or Kernels) of Hope that are letting people better the physical, financial and spiritual lives of them and their families.

I thank you for whatever you have been able to do in working as God's hands and feet in planting one seed at a time making eternal differences!

Ray 'the grain guy' Baloun



# THE HARBOUR

RIONDEL, BC

The Harbour recently held its AGM and it was shared how 2022 was in many ways the burning bush moment for us. When Moses came across the burning bush in Sinai wilderness in Exodus 3, he was drawn in by it. God used this moment to get Moses attention and to call him.

2022 caught our attention as leadership of The Harbour:

- + We set our hands to winterizing and modernizing our facilities (as of writing this- we now have only 2 cabins left to finish and all of our buildings will be 4 season capable). This has been an incredible journey of seeing God's provision through materials and willing volunteers.
- + We launched Ro Neighbourhood Coffee and Roastery in late February. The community response and relationships/trust that are being built have vastly exceeded even our wildest dreams and expectations. We held our first church service on Christmas eve, and packed the building with many people

who would never dawn the doors of a church. We are so excited about what God is building through Ro.

- + Headwaters Discipleship ran for the first time in 2022. We walked alongside 4 young adults as they learned to hear and discern the voice of God speaking through all the various classes, activities, and adventures they partook in. What a gift this first year was. We will never forget it.

The burning bush was also the beginning of Moses' call and journey into leading the nation of Israel out of slavery and into the promise. We believe that 2022 is the same for The Harbour in that this is just the beginning for us. We look forward to seeing God's provisions as we continue to trust and risk for His kingdom.

Thank you for your friendship, partnership, and prayers. You are a gift to us.

Mark & Jessica Hagen  
Executive Directors



# KOOTENAY COVENANT BIBLE CAMP

KOOTENAY LAKE, BC

We had another successful week of kid's camp this summer, July 3-8. Thankfully all Covid restrictions had been lifted for Children's Camps so we were able to return to our normal camp operations. We had 42 campers and a full roster of dedicated staff. Our camp Director was Joy Lukacs and Rick Penner served as Camp Pastor. Andrea Marsland did a great job as our speaker and taught about Jesus as a man - the human characteristics he modeled for us during his life on earth.

Sue Driedger kept us all fed and happy as the kitchen manager and head cook. Tanya Maley served as the Camp Nurse, Josh Evans lead the Games, Kerry Marsland lead the Craft Activities, Bekkah Peterson served as our Worship Director and several Youth and Young Adults gave up a week of their summer to serve and show God's light to the campers in our care. It goes without saying that our camp location at The Harbour was such a blessing and beautiful display of God's creation. Please be in prayer for us as we start to plan our camp for summer 2023!

From the 2022 KCBC Board - Kerry Marsland (Chair), Rick Penner (Vice Chair), Joy Lukacs (Secretary), Anna Wardle (Registrar), Danielle Siegrist (Staffing Coordinator), Rick Dickieson (Facilities Director).



# COVENANT BAY BIBLE CAMP

PIGEON LAKE, AB

Covenant Bay Bible Camp is a Christian summer camp at Pigeon Lake, AB. Our aim is to promote a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. We serve children, youth, families, Churches, schools and other community groups. We believe there is no ministry apart from Christ, and everything we do is centred on sharing the good news of salvation through him. Our ministry is made possible by the support of our many partners, including volunteers, staff, donors, and those who pray for us regularly.

We experienced an incredible bounce-back season for our summer camps this past summer. We safely welcomed hundreds of campers to our grounds for fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth. We are deeply grateful for the fabulous opportunity this year. We are incredibly grateful for our staff and volunteers' dedication and hard work, who went above and beyond to ensure camp sessions were safe and enjoyable for everyone involved. Thanks to their efforts, we could continue our mission of sharing the love of Christ with young people in a meaningful and impactful way.

In addition to our summer camps, we continue to see great success with our Bible Story Podcast. This podcast is designed to make the stories of the Bible accessible to young people, and we are thrilled to see it reaching a growing audience every year. We are transitioning the podcast to be more conducive to small groups, and we are now publishing episodes on youtube. We have received numerous positive reviews and testimonials from listeners. This podcast is an important tool for helping people grow in a relationship with Jesus, and we are committed to improving and expanding it in the coming years.

Finally, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the many donors who have supported this ministry. Your generosity makes a real difference in the lives of countless young people. One of the most exciting developments in our ministry is plans for a new dining hall on our grounds. The dining hall will seat 250 people at round tables and include a new kitchen. Below the dining hall will be new office space for our growing staff. This new dining hall will greatly enhance the experience of our campers and staff, and we are excited to see it come to fruition. We are deeply grateful to all those who have contributed to this project and look forward to sharing its completion with you soon.

We are thrilled to report on the ongoing success of Covenant Bay Bible Camp and the many ways in which God has worked in the lives of young people. We understand that without Christ, there is no means for us to do ministry. So on behalf of every ministry partner, we thank the Lord for inviting us to partner with him in what he is doing.

As we look to the future, we are confident that God will continue to bless young people with the good news about Jesus Christ. Thank you to all who are part of the ECCC family and for the shared ministry work we all contribute toward. We ask for your prayers and look forward to another successful year with young people discovering Jesus and growing in a relationship with him!

Jon Drebert, Executive Director



# COVENANT HEIGHTS BIBLE CAMP

CLEAR LAKE, MB

It was so wonderful to be back at camp for the summer of 2022 after a couple years of not being able to laugh and run and sip coffee and swim and be with God and friends.

Last summer we had a full family camp, a brimming full Junior camp and a very solid return of students to Teen camp and many first time campers at Squirt camp (our littlest campers). We had a Fall retreat up at the camp with Grades 7-12 and our winter Snow Days youth retreat at a neighbouring camp along Clear Lake since ours isn't winterized.

We want to thank each of our member churches for their generosity and commitments to this incredible ministry. Your faithful service in preparing the facility to receive campers, cooking, counselling, speaking, listening, nursing, life-guarding, fixing, programming, planning and loving is no small gift. Your faithful generosity in contributing financially to our collective commitment is received with gratitude.

We thankfully came out of the pandemic well positioned financially compared to so many other camps where fixed costs eroded reserves. We did have to change our septic system to a tank in order to comply with Federal Park requirements related to our lease. This did eat into our reserves and will have associated

maintenance costs going forward but we are grateful for God's provision in these most earthy of matters.

We have many needs upcoming with roofs to be replaced, a kitchen renovation to incorporate a commercial dishwasher, and cabins that are showing their age and limited attention over the pandemic.

We have recently hired Hali Wilson (from Faith Covenant Church in Winnipeg) to be our Camp Coordinator. She is a part time employee (one day per week year round and half time in the camping season) focused on the administrative tasks of running our camp. We are grateful for this provision.

We invite your ongoing prayers as we look forward to a robust camping season. If you live in the region consider how you can get involved. If you live elsewhere consider a trip to beautiful Clear Lake Manitoba to join our family camp or sending your kids to our camp or lending a hand as a volunteer.

Feel free to stay in touch and see what we are up to at [www.covenantheightsbiblecamp.com](http://www.covenantheightsbiblecamp.com)

Pastor Erik Anderson  
Board Chair





# TRELLIS FOUNDATION

In the spring and fall of 2022 Trellis awarded two rounds of Discipleship Grants to these Canadian Covenant churches and ministries for initiatives to make and deepen disciples of Jesus Christ:

- + Headwaters Discipleship, an immersive school of the heart for young adults, for their first year last May-June at The Harbour At Riondel, led by Wild Goose Collective.
- + Rosebud Church, for beginning Vantage-Point3's year-long adult discipleship process The Journey.
- + Holy Community Covenant Church, for their Up In Out celebration and connection events as they begin their 2nd decade as a church; as well as Alternative Small Groups, fostering space for discipleship conversation, storytelling, and deepening friendships.
- + Faith Covenant and Winnipeg-area churches, for their upcoming Jesus Retreat, a new annual journey through one of the four gospels.
- + City Collective Church, for their year-long Discipleship Journal; and their Family Discipleship Retreat, to grow in spiritual formation practices within families.
- + Hope Community Covenant's, for their Let's Talk Tomatoes! initiative with workshops about gardening, spiritual life, and sustainable, healthy community; as well as scholarships to send young adults to the Scott Erickson Retreat.
- + Lighthouse Community Church's Leadership Conference to mature disciples for fruitful service.
- + Green Timbers Covenant's 50th Anniversary celebration and visioning for their next half century of ministry.

- + Plus a range of discipleship projects through the ECCC, including new leadership development pathways for pastoral internships.

Four initiatives from 2019-2021 are still paused due to COVID-19.

Discipleship Grants became available in 2014, and to date more than \$547,000 has been disbursed for 104 initiatives, including CBC Legacy Scholarships and Graduate Bursaries awarded since 2009. Visit [trellisfoundation.ca/stories](http://trellisfoundation.ca/stories) to read more about biblical, intentional and innovative discipleship initiatives funded by Trellis, including our latest Trellis Sunday video *To Perpetuity and Beyond!*

For students and young adults who are considering post-secondary options, check out our directory of discipleship schools and gap-year programs: [trellisfoundation.ca/discipleship-education-directory](http://trellisfoundation.ca/discipleship-education-directory)

The Trellis fund's investments were affected by market volatility since early 2020 but they've weathered the ups and downs, thanks to QV Investors' management. Overall portfolio performance as of Feb. 28, 2023 was 5.95% since inception, with the fund balance growing from \$1.6 million in 2014 to just over \$1.94 million this year, even after disbursing 3.5% each year (as CRA requires for public foundations).

Looking ahead, our next Discipleship Grant applications are due May 1 and November 1, 2023. What disciple-deepening initiative is Jesus growing in your church? Let's get that seedling off the ground! Apply for a grant or make a donation at: [trellisfoundation.ca](http://trellisfoundation.ca)

Steve Waldschmidt  
Administrator

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## & UNITE NORTH

Youth ministry continues to be a high value for the ECCC. Each of our churches have their own unique context in which youth ministry takes place. Some run large mid-week youth programs, some run a youth Sunday-school, others gather monthly for a meal and Bible study, and still others do not have a designated “youth group” but are intentionally integrating young people into the life of the church. Some of our churches are able to employ full time youth pastors, some are part time directors of student ministries, and an increasing amount of youth ministries are run by the saints who volunteer their time to invest in the next generation. While our contexts may look very different, we are united in one mission, and that is to pass on the faith to the next generation. We desire to see young people encounter and follow Jesus, to be transformed by the Spirit, and to be fully alive!

As the Youth Ministry Conference Coach, I have the privilege of encouraging, resourcing, and connecting with youth leaders across our family of churches. One of the highlights of 2022 was helping churches send their youth to our denominational youth conference, called UNITE (formerly known as CHIC) in July of 2022.

The aftermath of the pandemic certainly put the future of the ECC's triennial youth conference into question. While gathering 4000+ students under one roof was not going to be possible in 2021, the ECC decided to host multiple 4 day regional UNITE conferences last summer. The Canada conference (ECCC) was invited to join UNITE NORTH (Bethel University Campus, Minneapolis/St.Paul, MN.)

While the regional conferences were much smaller in scale than previous years denomination-wide UNITE events, they were more feasible in terms of travel and registration costs, and still delivered a high-quality impactful experience for students. The regional conferences also strived to maintain the same ethos – “focusing on Jesus Christ, discipleship and evangelism, fun, Covenant identity and unity, and life transformation.” ([unite2022.org](http://unite2022.org))



These conferences included:

- + Morning and evening sessions with dynamic speakers and worship
- + Experiential learning experiences on and off -campus
- + Sports tournaments, outdoor games, and excursions
- + Small group discussions and personal reflection
- + Great food
- + Opportunities to connect with friends new and old, across our denomination

On top of regular fundraising efforts, each of our Canadian youth groups also had some challenges to navigate in terms of travel restrictions/border crossings at that time. Thankfully, however, eight Canadian Covenant churches still managed to get their youth groups to a UNITE conference (seven youth groups attended UNITE North, and one group attended UNITE West at Biola University, Los Angeles, CA)

**Groups that attended UNITE North:**

Faith Covenant Church (Winnipeg, MB)  
Minnedosa Covenant Church (Minnedosa, MB)  
Valley Covenant Church (Durban, MB)  
Norquay Covenant Church (Norquay, SK)  
College Park Covenant Church (Saskatoon, SK)  
Malmo Covenant Church (Wetaskawin, AB)  
Nelson/Junction/Balfour Covenant Church (Nelson, BC)

**Group that attended UNITE West:**

Emmanuel Covenant Church (Surrey, BC)

We look forward to the next UNITE conference which is tentatively planned for July 2024!

Rick Penner

Youth Ministry Conference Coach - ECCC  
Associate Pastor of Student Ministries - Nelson Covenant Church





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