

**AGM 2022**  
Reports & Recommendations

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# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Information and Registration

Dear Delegates and Guests to our 2022 BIC Annual General Meeting,

Well – here we are again. Online for our AGM for the third year in a row. There are some advantages – you can participate in the comfort of your own home and the timeline is certainly efficient. However – we miss being together and hope this is the last year of being only online for our AGM. That being said, we are glad you can join in. In spite of all the stops and starts we have experienced, good things are happening. As we come out of the pandemic, we will take stock and seek to discern direction for the future. Above all, we always can bank on the promise that this is Jesus' work and He will keep building His church, even in the face of difficulties of all kinds.

Several years ago now I took a bad fall on some black ice and did some serious harm to my left elbow. Basically – what is called the “radial head” of my elbow – the main part of the joint had to be replaced as it was shattered beyond repair. It was a painful injury. Through the process of adjusting to my new titanium elbow, I learned some things about recovery – namely – it's not easy, it's slow, you can't rush it, you build on small steps day by day, you just will not be quite the same as before, and eventually you find a new normal. My arm is a bit bent now and I can't hold a hockey stick. I can still play golf – just not very well (but I didn't play very well before anyway). The somewhat pithy parallel is this – this, I think, will be a season of recovery. The “effects” of the pandemic will be long with us. We will need to pace ourselves and adjust our expectations. But this can be a good season of new beginnings. And so may we embrace this time we are in, trusting God to help us.

AGM is a time to pause, give thanks, and celebrate what God has been doing across our church family. We share in the things we do together while enjoying being part of an extended kingdom family. Please read over the Reports and Recommendations included in this AGM booklet. Audited financial statements for BIC Canada and reviewed financial statements for BIC Canada-Global will be sent out as an Addendum and also posted at [beinchrist.ca/agm](http://beinchrist.ca/agm). You will receive notice when they are ready. Plan to join us online utilizing the link that will be sent out to you. We will have some pre-recorded reporting, a short worship segment and then our business will be in real time. Instructions will be given by email to allow delegates to both register and vote. Those named as alternate delegates should participate only if they have been notified by their pastor/church that they are to be delegates. Only registered individuals, who have been identified as a delegate by their member church, may vote.

Any questions may be sent to [office@beinchrist.ca](mailto:office@beinchrist.ca) and will be directed accordingly.

I look forward to being online with you for our 2022 AGM.

Yours in Christ,



**Charles E. Mashinter**

Executive Director  
Be In Christ Church of Canada

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
BE IN CHRIST CHURCH OF CANADA	
- Board of Directors Report	4
- Executive Director Report	6
- Staff Team Reports	9
BIC CANADA-GLOBAL	
- BIC Canada-Global Report	21
- International BIC Association (IBICA)	23
- Canadian Cuban Projects Team (CCPT)	25
FINANCIAL REPORTS	
- General Financial Report	27
RECOMMENDATIONS	
- General Recommendations	30
- Financial Recommendations	
- BIC Canada 2022 Spending Plan	31
- BIC Canada-Global 2022 Spending Plan	33
ARCHIVIST REPORT	37
CAMP KAHQUAH REPORT	38
OUR PARTNERS	40
- Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)	40
- Mennonite World Conference (MWC)	42
REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES	45
CONNECT	46

Be In Christ Church of Canada  
**Board of Directors Report**

Greetings, Be in Christ Church of Canada Family!

We come together at our Annual General Meeting to celebrate all God is doing in and through our diverse expressions and complete the official business that is required based on our charitable status in Canada. As we do so, we are reminded of the privilege and responsibility we have to serve God and each of our community members faithfully and diligently. The Board of Directors exists to serve the church in Canada through governing and overseeing its operations between the meetings of the members of Be In Christ Church of Canada. We work within the parameters of the General Operating Bylaw One and any motions passed by the meeting of the members (AGM). We carry the responsibility for oversight and succession planning of the Executive Director and to ensure that fiduciary and regulatory obligations are met by board committee or staff.

The current Board of Directors includes ten men and women from across our denomination. We thank them for their ongoing commitment to the work of our denomination and for the dedication to the work of the Board. They are as follows:

- Stephen Roy (Chair), Pathway Community Church
- Heather Fretz (Vice-Chair), Trinitylife Church
- Judy Maranta (Treasurer), The Meeting House
- Keely Powley (Secretary), Reunion Oakville
- John Gilmore, Wainfleet BIC Church
- Fiona Miles, The Meeting House
- Ron Shirton, Wainfleet BIC Church
- David Lees, The Meeting House
- Paul Kiss, New Life Collingwood
- Heather Field, The Meeting House

Since our last AGM in April 2021, the Board of Directors have continued to provide governance oversight to the work of BIC Canada. This involves receiving regular reports from staff, reviewing financial statements and ensuring the board continues to function properly. The board has made decisions around recognizing some congregations as being "in distress" and have dealt with a number of property sales through the year.

We were glad to have Keely Powley and Heather Field join the board following last year's AGM. They have both made an immediate impact and are contributing well to the work of the

board. This year two members conclude their second term of board membership and have agreed to let their names come before the AGM for election to a third and final term. Those individuals are Stephen Roy and John Gilmore.

The board was able to meet in-person in November 2021 and then again in March 2022. It was wonderful to be together and interact while being in the same room. We look forward to a reduction in restriction that will allow us to continue enjoying more in-person activities.

We reported to you last year that the board was working on a number of issues including the development and implementation of strategic initiatives. Part of our work in the past year has been to reformulate our strategic initiatives as well as review our core values. That work stalled during the year due to the demands of the pandemic and we look to pick this up again as we move forward through 2022. A draft set of core values has been developed and will be shared with pastors in their regional groups.

The board are incredibly grateful to Charlie as he leads the staff team in responding to the continuing challenges brought about by the pandemic. We also need to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to the Leadership Team and the staff for their dedication and commitment in the past year and for their flexibility in adapting to the ongoing pandemic situation.

Thank you for your continued commitment and generous support of Be In Christ Church of Canada and our growing faith communities as we partner together – following Jesus, sharing His message, and extending His peace around the world. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as BIC Board Chair and Vice-Chair for the past year.

Blessings on behalf of the entire BIC Board,

**Stephen Roy | Chair**

**Heather Fretz | Vice-Chair**

A warm hello to all of you across our BIC Church of Canada family! Together we exist as 3 expressions with 1 purpose:

**“To be a growing faith community - following Jesus, sharing His message and extending His peace around the world.”**

Whether you are part of a Community Church, a Network Church planting or The Meeting House, we are **all** united by a grace-filled Anabaptist vision of a Jesus centered life. We believe we have a unique perspective on what it means to be a follower of Jesus. As we move into the future, we continue to be people of “good news”.

With the deployment of vaccines in 2021 there came the prospect of an end to the pandemic. Late in the year the effects of a new COVID variant brought more complications. As church communities we experienced a year of stop and start gatherings making it difficult to build much momentum. Discord around vaccinations, masking and social restrictions as well as the sheer length of the pandemic revealed the stress that has taken its toll on many. We were “done” with COVID but it was not done with us.

In spite of these “complications” we cling to the sure and certain hope that Jesus is building His church. These days I draw encouragement from Isaiah 40:31 - **“but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.”** I am so proud of how our Pastors have led through what has been the greatest leadership challenge they have ever faced. When people ask me how the church is doing, my answer is simply: “We have been resilient and adaptable. We’re a bit beaten up – some worse than others – and we are in recovery. We’ve learned we can do hard things. We’ve observed that in some areas we were not doing as well as we believed. We know God is with us. We look forward to the new normal that will emerge.”

Here are a few of the good things that happened through the BIC Church in 2021:

- Churches found creative ways to reach out in compassion to their surrounding communities. Strange as it may seem – new people were checking us out online or in person.
- We continued to raise up new leaders for ministry through our Pastoral Residency and Flow programs. We launched our new Elevate Development Collective training program and formed our Emerging Pastors Cohort to help develop new leaders.
- Though not able to run kids summer camps, Camp Kahquah pivoted to offer expanded ministry to families. Facilities at camp continued to be improved and finances were positive.

- In our office we made a major shift in our accounting and payroll services. Over the fall this was a very intensive time of adjustments for our staff. Going into 2022 we feel we are in a much better place to serve our Pastors and churches. We worked diligently with our auditors and we able to address key identified areas of risk management and good governance.
- We onboarded 2 new members for our Board of Directors team.
- We offered ongoing direction and resourcing to our Pastors regarding COVID guidelines.
- We came alongside a number of our smaller churches adversely affected by the pandemic to offer direction and support for recovery. In 2022 we will continue to explore new and more workable models of governance for some of these smaller congregations.
- We worked to support our team of church planters and explore new ways of church planting such as the Dinner Church model (one of our LEAD Days focused on this model).
- We entered into the grief of our indigenous neighbors about the tragedy of residential schools. Our churches worked to build bridges in this area, craft land acknowledgements, and explore ways to learn more. Our Holy Week guide this year had this particular focus.
- We produced Holy Week and Advent devotional guides to help us enter more meaningfully to these important celebrations in the Christian calendar.
- While giving to our shared general fund was down due to the pandemic, we also had fewer expenses. As a community we were able to support staff, provide support ministries for Pastors and congregations, and share in ministry partnerships financially.

This is just a small sample in addition to what local churches accomplished.

As we come out of the pandemic, I believe our key focus will be on 3 things:


1. Re-building our congregations. Deciding who is with us, who has joined us, and how we might reach out to those who have drifted away from their faith during this season;
2. Re-establishing healthy giving patterns for our congregations to carry forward the work of ministry;
3. Embracing new ways of connecting with people that include those who attend a Sunday gathering as well as those who participate in other settings. To use Lego terms – the pandemic has allowed us to increase our “snap-on” points. How will we build on what that might look like in the future.

At year-end a story came my way that reminded me of what it means to be BIC. One of our chaplains conducted a funeral for a family where the mother had lost her life in tragic circumstances leaving behind small children. The funeral was a time of deep grief. At the graveside that Chaplain whispered a prayer asking simply “Lord is there more you want me to do?” God’s still small voice replied “yes”. Consequently, he shared the burden the Lord had given him with his home church. In a really amazing way the idea “caught” and the group

rallied around to help the family. He sent me pictures of the group delivering gifts to overjoyed people, quite taken back at this unexpected kindness by people previously unknown to them.

And so may we, as God's people, keep listening to God's voice. May our churches be outposts of hope and joy. And may we all take hold of the opportunities God gives us.

God's richest blessing in 2022!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles E. Mashinter".

**Charles E. Mashinter**

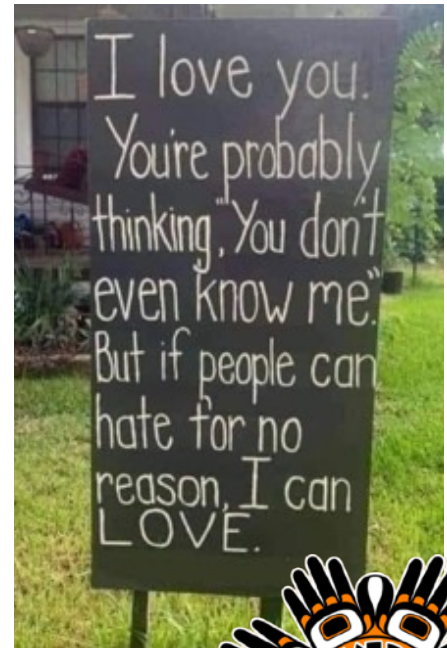
Executive Director

Be In Christ Church of Canada



## COMMUNITY CHURCHES

The story for 2021 was the ongoing adaptations on the part of local churches arising from the pandemic. With the cycles of opening and closing along with ever changing restrictions, building momentum has been difficult. Our Pastors have done a fabulous job ministering through these very challenging circumstances. Giving has remained consistent for the most part and we are grateful for government wage subsidies that helped. Trying to find volunteers to operate ministry is one of the key issues being faced. Going forward these two areas of giving and volunteerism will be major areas of focus. Most of our churches have done very well embracing an online presence which will serve us well in the future. We have also worked hard at Pastoral care, trying to keep people "together" even though we were often apart. The discord caused by the issues of vaccinations and pandemic restrictions have been a rather unexpected source of heartache affecting many of our churches and families. It will take some time to heal these relationships. In all these things we need God's help for the task of rebuilding after this storm.



Here are just a few of the significant developments that happened over 2021:

- We welcomed a new congregation – **Brooklin Village Church** – as an affiliate congregation. BVC has a wonderful ministry in the village of **Brooklin** (just north of Whitby ON) and meets in rented spaces. Their new Pastor is Steve Jensen. They are a vibrant congregation and we are so glad they have chosen the BIC as their denominational home. Welcome, BVC!
- **Westside Church (Hamilton ON)** has voted to become a full member congregation of the BIC effective January 1, 2022 and to be ratified at AGM. Pastor Dave Stimers is doing a great job leading this church which is located close to McMaster University.
- We grieved with our indigenous brothers and sisters as the reality of the tragedy of residential schools was brought home to us in fresh ways at the discovery of the mass graves in Kamloops and other places across our land.
- Our **Pastoral Residency program** continued. Participants were Grant Cotton (Sixth Line) and Brandon Claveau (Trinitylife). Corinne Jones Chua (Bluewater) and Dan Middlemiss (Orchard Creek) graduated from the program to enter ministry assignments.
- **Pastoral Cluster gatherings** continue to meet 4 times a year. This year we got back to some in-person meetings as well as ZOOM gatherings during lockdowns.

- In September we held our **Pastors Staff Meeting** with guest Dr. Stephen Andrews from Wycliffe College speaking on the value of liturgy for people from a non-liturgical tradition. In November we hosted our **LEAD Day** with Verlon Fosner from Fresh Expressions talking about the concept of Dinner Churches.



- As of January 1, 2021 **Bluewater Church (Kincardine ON)** became a self-sustaining congregation with their own charitable status. Corinne Jones Chua transitioned to the role of Lead Pastor in April 2021. Corinne continues her seminary studies as well to further her ministry training. Marilyn Wadge-Bannerman also serves on staff in Pastoral ministry. Chris Higginson transitioned out of the Lead Pastor role in April to begin ministry at Sauble Church.
- Pastor **Matt Laker** concluded ministry at Sixth Line Church (Stayner ON) at the end of the year. **Bill Johnston** is serving as interim pastor while the search for a new Pastor moves forward.
- We were blessed by our Holy Week and Advent guides that helped us focus our observations of these important seasons in the life of the church.
- In the fall the **Welland BIC Church** was able to purchase a property / facility on the outskirts of the city that will be a great new home for the church. The congregation is in the process of getting permits to make some alterations to better house church ministry on the new site.
- Pastor Lloyd Griffith (**Clearview Church, Kindersley SK**) retired in April 2021. Rev. Ron Baker took up service as Interim Pastor in May. The church has called Grant Cotton to be their next Pastor. Grant will be moving to Kindersley and commencing ministry in May 2022. Grant has been part of our Pastoral Residency program.
- **Chris Higginson** began service as the Acting Lead Pastor at Sauble Christian Fellowship (Sauble Beach ON) in June. Pastor **Dave Brotherton** remains on long-term disability, dealing with pancreatic cancer. **Andy Disher** resigned in August and accepted a position on staff at a church in Orangeville. **Dave Hamill** returned to ministry on staff at Sauble in the fall.
- **Riverside Church (Fort Erie ON)** found a new home to meet for Sunday services at the Lions Hall in Ridgeway. Towards the end of the year there were a number of staff transitions in the church. We have applied our "congregation in distress designation" and are working to come alongside this congregation and restore health. Cindy Atkins (children and seniors ministry) and Heather Kucman (youth ministry) resigned to seek other opportunities for ministry.
- Throughout 2021 the **Heise Hill congregation (Stouffville ON)** has been going through a time of discernment to sort out future ministry focus. In the summer the congregation began meeting outside their building in the town of Stouffville and began shifting their ministry there. In 2022 the congregation will be voting to sell their building on Woodbine



Avenue and hopefully acquire a new ministry centre in town as they shift ministry to gathering around a meal and having more of a community hub focus.

- **New Hope Christian Church (Belleville ON)** changed its name to **Grafted Church** in the fall. The pandemic has been particularly challenging for this congregation and giving has been impacted. After consultation with denominational leaders it was decided to sell the church building and move to meeting in rented facilities. Hopefully this will provide a more sustainable model for ministry. Pastor Steve Paterson has transitioned to being co-vocational.
- **Delisle Community Chapel (Delisle SK)** did some major upgrades to their facility this past year which will better enable them to minister to their community.
- Finally – we lost some beloved retired Pastors this past year – **John Sider, Harvey Sider, Charlie Byers**. We thank the Lord for the legacy of love and leadership they have left us.



In May of 2022 we are planning for to hold our **Pastors & Spouses Retreat** at the Nottawasaga Inn (Alliston ON) with special guest Phil Callaway speaking. We have not had one of these retreats in recent years and coming out of COVID we are praying this will be a great time of refreshment for our Pastors, chaplains, and other ministry leaders.

We thank the Lord for His faithfulness across all our churches even as we count on His help to be the churches He wants us to be.

## Charlie Mashinter

Team Leader, Community Churches

*Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? 31 It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, 32 but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade." (Mark 4:30-32)*

Serving as pastors in the local church is never a simple or easy task. It's a daily choice to follow Jesus, stepping forward at his invitation to love and shepherd those entrusted to us. There are moments of joy and celebration, where everything seems to fall into place and come easily. We also know there are times where it feels more like a never-ending struggle, when there are far more valley experiences than mountain top moments. In all these times, we remind ourselves that Jesus is the head of the Church and his love for us and those in community is full and complete. We submit ourselves to his leadership, and work to faithfully do our part.

This past year has been a difficult one in our church planting efforts. There are certainly many things to celebrate and give thanks for, but if we're able to be completely honest – it's been tough. Trying to navigate the challenges of this ongoing Covid pandemic with only months or a few short years of history together, makes the task even more difficult.

And yet – God has been present and faithful. We have witnessed the small seeds of the Kingdom, knowing that it is an honour to serve the local church. Below is a short list of the ups and downs we've experienced across the REUNION Network. I am so incredibly proud of the women and men who have given all of themselves as they welcome apprentices of Jesus to join in the mission of the church, while also creating safe space for curious seekers to encounter the beauty of the Gospel. In many regards these are small seeds, but our hope and prayer remain that God would work to bring new life, growth and blessing to those around us – for His glory.

I continue to be humbled to serve with this team.

## **Seeds of The Kingdom – Together We Give Thanks**

- For the ways we've experienced growth, not just about numbers but in seeing people discover their gifts and serving in ways that are new to them.
- Witnessing grace and reconciliation in community where there was once division and pain (people asking forgiveness, relationships restored).
- Though not what it once was, we are thankful for consistent attendance across the zoom platform, even providing opportunities for friends outside of the country to connect and track along.
- Increased sense of engagement and ownership of the church – people being willing to step up and serve together as a team.

- New people finding our churches and engaging – sharing how meaningful our gatherings and discussions have been.
- Small but steady growth of people listening and sharing on a weekly basis, trying to live out the teachings of Jesus together.
- We celebrate new people coming to check out the church and adding 50 members in the last 6 months.
- Growing engagement with homeless population – people stepping up to love, serve and connect.
- Reimagining a discipleship pathway – spiritually and emotionally healthy apprentices of Jesus.
- The growing engagement of young families, now having over 50 kids at our weekly gathering.
- Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we give thanks for those who have partnered financially allowing to end the year ahead of budget (not an easy thing for a new church).
- Making the most of online connections – helping and supporting people even when physically distant.

## **Praying Together**

- That we discover together what “being the church” looks like in the season ahead, as many new patterns and rhythms have been established where some no longer are looking to re-engage.
- That people are once again captivated by beauty and invitation to participate in the unfolding Kingdom of Jesus, and new people discover this for the first time. That the seeds of curiosity and hope take root and grow, leaving behind disillusionment and fatigue.
- That Jesus would provide new leaders to help us navigate growth and future opportunities to plant new churches in our city.
- New leadership in places where transition is on the horizon.
- For direction in establishing a church planting network in Latin America – Sensing that this is the invitation of Jesus for us on the local level.
- Navigating the complexity of co-vocational ministry, believing this is both an opportunity and challenge, but a necessary way forward for sustainable church planting.

## Beyond the REUNION

We often have the privilege of connecting and journeying with pastoral leaders who are not formally part of BIC Canada or the REUNION Network. We love these opportunities regardless of whether they should join our team or move out into new things beyond our family. We believe we have something meaningful to welcome them into, and bless them as they explore where Jesus is leading. Here is some feedback from leaders like these:

- The REUNION Network has provided the kind of much needed support and encouragement that can unfortunately be difficult for pastors to come by.
- It has encouraged me by opening my eyes to how God is moving and working in other parts of the world.
- It creates opportunities for the wounds acquired from the trenches of ministry to be discussed and begin to heal.
- It creates space for those stepping into and out of formal leadership roles to belong and find rest in the present, while dreaming about what God may be calling them into in the future

Thanks so much for all your support and encouragement. It is a privilege to serve within this amazing denominational church family!

Peace,

## Matt Vincent

Team Leader, Network Churches

**REUNION Oakville | REUNION Richmond | REUNION Hamilton | REUNION Brockville  
REUNION Kuwait | REUNION Belleville | REUNION Kingston | REUNION Colombia**





We've continued to live in the tension of significant challenge and discovery this past year. But even in those hard places, we also experienced God's presence with us in finding new ways to serve others, connect with our church family, and pursue our vision as a church.

God has led us to a new determination to GO – to embrace our local communities by being parish-minded; to grow together as disciples by connecting in Home Churches online and in person; to generously invest our gifts and finances to have a Kingdom-impact; to share the irreligious message of Jesus locally and beyond our borders through livestreaming; and to engage our kids, youth, and families by providing discipling experiences and resources.

## **Engagement:**

- 765 attending home church weekly
- 6568 weekly views of the Livestream
- 3568 attended Easter services
- 1847 joined our online Christmas Eve service
- 25,400 YouTube subscribers

## **Compassion - <https://www.themeetinghouse.com/compassion>**

In addition to our commitment to supporting Cooperative Ministries (BIC Canada), we were able to provide support to these important initiatives:

- \$250,000 to 22 local non-profits
- \$100,000 to relief & development in fragile states, through World Vision's Raw Hope Program

- \$287,000 to our Peacemakers Campaign in support of MCC
- \$30,000 to support MCC's Indigenous Neighbours program
- Sponsored 15 people from 3 families to move to Canada from Syria

## Diversity & Inclusion

We were able to take several more steps this year along this important journey:

- Conducted a second Focus Group, this time with Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour virtually across various parishes (Spring 2021)
- Put forward a strategy for building racial reconciliation in TMH parishes that demonstrates diversity, inclusion and anti-racism in the congregational space.
- Rolled out racial training for elders (Fall 2021)
- Increased hire of racialized staff on the pastoral and administrative teams

## Jesus Collective - <https://jesuscollective.com/>

- Our Jesus-centred values continue to foster growth through this relational network
- 25 churches & 60 individual Partners active or onboarding in our first year, representing 12 countries and 5 continents
- One Story kids and youth curriculum, now distributed by Jesus Collective, has reached nearly 200 subscribers
- 18,284 Podcast downloads
- 1,332 People engaged in Jesus-centred events and trainings



## Parish minded:

Despite the challenges of the last year, we have continued to embrace a "parish minded" approach. Rather than stressing the facility location, we want to engage whole communities, wherever we find ourselves. This involves:

- Moving from primarily a 'come to us' church to a 'go to them' church that mobilizes our people.
- As a community: We are called to serve both those within and beyond our church community.





- As a community / individually: We are called locally to take spiritual responsibility for a people and a place.
- Individually: We identify the places we live, work, and play as the 'parish' we are called to.

**Prayer:**

- For peace and wisdom from our loving God in challenging times.
- For renewed clarity in our vision to introduce spiritually curious people to Jesus.
- For new life in our gatherings, both on Sundays and beyond.
- For love, grace, and unity in this next season for our church family.

**Darrell Winger**

Lead Pastor, The Meeting House

## MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT & OPERATIONS

It is a wonderful privilege to serve our church family in my role as Director of Leadership Development, Operations and Global Programs. I am grateful for the staff team of highly gifted and committed employees who continue to flourish during the challenges of a pandemic.

Again, 2021 continued the trend of virtual events and constantly changing restrictions for church gatherings. And to this point, 2022 is still trending the same. Therefore, once again, our denominational AGM will be online to ensure broad participation and accessibility to all.

Although the 2022 AGM will be virtual, once again we will be using a real-time voting system with a live question and answer session as part of the online experience. It will not be the same as being in-person but it will allow as many people as possible to participate in the event.

We invest heavily in our leaders. Investing in people seems like the right strategic use of our resources for a denominational family. In my role I continue to provide oversight to our LEAD Events and overall leadership development initiatives. LEAD Events are development days where we engage with leading speakers who challenge and develop us theologically, pastorally, and intellectually.

Melanie Wigg and I have been working hard to develop new leadership development programs for young adults and leaders in our church, both those who are lay leaders and those who are feeling called to pastoral ministry. You can read Melanie Wigg's report for all of the exciting details about the transformation happening in the lives of young adults.

As I oversee our credentialing process, I am reminded that becoming a credentialed minister is a high calling with both privileges and responsibilities. Through the credentialing process, the Be In Christ Church of Canada recognizes individuals who have theological alignment with our denominational family.

I provide leadership and oversight to some awesome staff and programs. Those programs include Camp Kahquah as lead by Ryan and Amy Terpstra and Elevate Development Collective as lead by Melanie Wigg. I encourage you to read their reports. Sheryl Clark has done a masterful job assuming many of the human relations responsibilities after the passing of Janet Manafo in 2020.

We have experienced a significant overhaul in our financial accounting systems. To minimize our risk as an organization, we have shifted to a large accounting firm to manage the bookkeeping and accounting services for BIC Canada. This has been a very large undertaking but over time this will save BIC money and provide mores security as our finances are managed by a team of people.

### **Todd Lester**

Director of Leadership Development, Operations, Global Programs

# NEXT GENERATION ENGAGEMENT

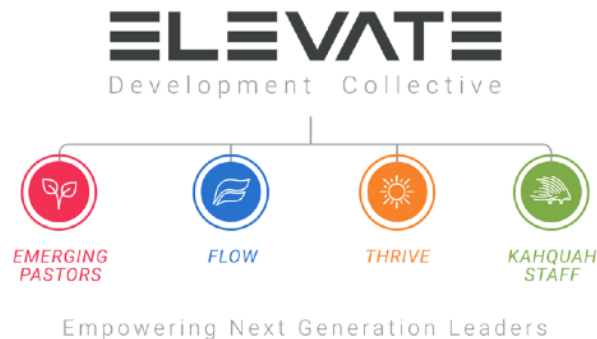
We place a high value on the development of next generation leaders. We commit a significant amount of our resources - time, finances, and energy - in this area. As we look to the future of the church with its many unknowns and great possibilities, we recognize the central role that leaders will play. We need Jesus-centred leaders who demonstrate a deep faith in God and are equipped with the practical skills to lead through a time of change and innovation.

To this end we are committed to ...

- Collaborating with our churches in identifying and developing young adult leaders
- Teaching practical evidence-based leadership skills that often aren't a part of a seminary or Bible college curriculum
- Equipping our young leaders to lean into their strengths and become the best version of themselves
- Helping our young adults to experience the significant role they can play in the church, whether vocationally or in lay leadership
- Communicating to our young adults that we believe in them through providing opportunities for growth, mentorship, and exploring new areas of ministry
- Providing the opportunity for young leaders to build relational connections that will support them in ministry and lead to natural opportunities for collaboration

## Elevate Development Collective

In September 2021 we introduced Elevate Development Collective, a comprehensive and coordinated approach to empower next generation leaders.



This approach involves a collection of initiatives which function in an intentional and coordinated way.

Each program consists of two key ingredients: 1) practical leadership and ministry experience in a local church or Camp Kahquah and 2) participation in learning cohorts. In these learning cohorts a small group of emerging leaders come together on a regular basis to learn and process together.

The **Emerging Pastors** cohort is comprised of ministry leaders who are in the earlier stages of their leadership journey in ministry. These are leaders who have already started down the ministry path in some form. They are often already on staff in their churches.

The **Flow Internship Program** is a summer program for young adults aged 18-25. Participants are hired for meaningful ministry roles in our local churches and come together for development retreats throughout the summer.

**Thrive** is a new initiative beginning in Fall 2022 and is a variation of Flow. Young adults will serve in either a paid or volunteer capacity in local churches from September to April. Similar to Flow these young adults will come together for development retreats during that time.

**Camp Kahquah** is highly committed to the leadership development and spiritual formation of their staff. We are collaborating with the Kahquah directors, Ryan and Amy Terpstra, to provide development workshops as a part of their staff training experiences.

## Highlights from 2021

- The Emerging Pastors cohort launched in October with 12 participants. The participants represent a wide range of roles and experiences, including lead and associate pastors, youth and children's ministry leaders, and more.
- The Flow Internship Program was able to go forward with 13 participants, despite the ongoing pandemic. Holding development retreats online made this possible.
- We had the most Flow interns we have had in a single internship season to date. The fact that this was true during the pandemic speaks volumes about the commitment of our pastors and churches to invest in developing young adults.
- We supported four pastoral residents during the year, both financially and through training experiences.

## Celebration

There is much to celebrate!

- Former young adult interns moving into staff positions in our churches
- Pastoral residents transitioning to lead pastor roles
- Meaningful connections developing between young leaders across our churches, which is opening up natural opportunities for collaboration and support

All of this is possible through the collaboration and support of our local churches and pastors. We are working together to accomplish more than any of us can do on our own.

It is a privilege to partner together in empowering our emerging leaders.

## Melanie Wigg

Director of Next Generation Engagement & Special Projects

The pandemic continues to affect every aspect of church, including the global family of churches. We focus our funding in three areas of service to the global church: Church Planting & Evangelism, Relief & Development and Leadership Resourcing. Not surprisingly, the systemic challenges of the pandemic have shifted requests for funds away from church planting and leadership resourcing into the area of relief and development.

I want to thank each of you for your generosity to the efforts of BIC Canada-Global. Because of our globally-minded, generous donors and churches in BIC Canada we are able to encourage and partner with our international family as they desire to share the good news of Jesus to the nations. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.

To help you be aware of the needs within our international family, we have again created an annual Giving Guide found here: <https://beinchrist.ca/ministries#global> for you to use throughout the year. The Giving Guide is not just for Christmas, it is small catalogue that you can use year-round. Rather than give your special someone a gift they may not need, consider giving a gift in their name from the BIC Giving Guide.



One of our amazing international workers is Amanda Schwartzentruber. This past year, Amanda was married to George Moono, a Zambian national. Thanks to everyone who is supporting Amanda prayerfully and financially as she serves in nursing care at Macha Mission Hospital in Zambia.

More than ever, we continue to use the Global Relief Fund (formerly the World Hunger Fund) to support disaster relief. We cannot thank you enough for your support of this fund which totalled almost \$30,000.

An important (and unique) program for our denominational family is the Nepal PEACE Project. Our denomination has a long history of support for education in the far east region of the world. The church leadership in Nepal has a clear and compelling vision to provide education and spiritual formation for children in Nepal through the Nepal PEACE Project. We have increased our support of this project and we need your help to fulfill our commitment. We ask

you to consider becoming a monthly donor for \$39/month and partnering with us in this program that impacts students and communities. Visit <https://nepalpeaceproject.com/> to learn more!

It is our hope that, as the pandemic travel restrictions are removed, we can offer short-term service teams and learning tours. Watch your local church news and events for upcoming opportunities with Trevor Main. We would love for you to go and experience the work of our global family first hand.

It is the desire of the BIC Canada-Global team to help each church fulfill its vision for the global community. We want all churches to do this well. If we can help please don't hesitate to contact us. We do require that, any time a local church is traveling in a coordinated way overseas to please let our office know. It is critical for us to be aware if any of our churches are involved in global ministry. As we look forward, we believe each local church should be involved in an international partnership. Engaging in global partnership will expand your heart and refine your priorities as a church and as individuals. And most importantly, it fulfills the Great Commission given to us from Jesus.

Finally, we need you to pray. Pray for our team and those that we try to support. The needs can feel overwhelming at times. We can only help some of those that ask. As you consider your response to the global needs, please pray for our team as we face the challenging decisions of how best to support the international church family. Thank you.

**Todd Lester**  
Executive Director

**Charmaine Stulp**  
Donor Relations

**Trevor Main**  
Short-Term Specialist



## International BIC Association (IBICA)

*"The International Brethren in Christ Association exists to facilitate a common theological core, and relationships between national member conferences - thereby encouraging and strengthening our common mission together to reach the world for Jesus. We are the common network for all national conferences of the Brethren in Christ Church."*



## INTERNATIONAL Brethren in Christ ASSOCIATION

The International Brethren in Christ Association Executive [IBICA] is chaired by Thuma Hamukang'andu [Zambia] and includes the following members at large: Alan Robinson [US], José Otamendi [Venezuela], Bijoy Roul [India], Todd Lester [Canada], and Danisa Ndlovu [Zimbabwe].

During 2021, the IBICA executive team met regularly through online video conferencing to facilitate coordination of the work of the global BIC church. The discussion among the IBICA executive focused on the humanitarian challenges faced by developing countries related to the COVID pandemic and its negative affect on health and financial systems. Once again, the pandemic has demonstrated the wealth divide that exists in our world as wealthy nations were able to respond and poorer nations struggled to provide vaccines and treatments related to the disease.

IBICA continues to be an organization in development. Due to the fact that in-person meetings have not been possible, the morale and development of the group has certainly waned. The IBICA leadership plans to present for discussion an updated series of governance documents for the 2022 gathering that reflects the current realities and practices of IBICA.

An ongoing challenge and responsibility of IBICA is to help bring new countries into the wider BIC family as new BIC churches continue to emerge in places like Haiti and Columbia. It is exciting that the worldwide BIC family is experiencing growth and IBICA is working to make the process smooth and clearer for all prospective new members.

I am reminded that the BIC family is larger outside of Canada and, therefore, it is our practice to keep a global perspective forefront in our denominational family. I pray that we will not lose that legacy of being a global-minded church. Paul reminds us, "For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all." (Ephesians 4:4-6).

We are hoping to have a gathering of the larger IBICA membership family in 2022 if the pandemic conditions allow. Some initial planning is well underway but details are not yet fully formed due to the ongoing uncertainties of international travel.

If you have never experienced the global anabaptist family, a unique opportunity is coming in 2022 with the international assembly of Mennonite World Conference (MWC). Although some people will join in-person, MWC 2022 will be available entirely online. If you are interested in observing the larger worldwide Mennonite church in action, join this unique event that only happens every six years. Visit MWC's website for more information.

## **Todd Lester**



## Canadian Cuban Projects Team (CCPT)

A banner featuring the Cuban flag waving against a blue sky with white clouds. The words "CUBA WATCH" are written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters on the left side of the banner.

CUBA  
WATCH

The CCPT appreciates the opportunity to share this report about our work in Cuba to the AGM Be In Christ Church of Canada. We also appreciate our partnership with BIC Canada Global in supporting leadership training and church planting through construction projects to provide adequate space and facilities for future growth and expansion of pastoral/missionary homes that are often used as house churches. The CCPT also supports farm and gardening projects as well as children, youth and marriage enrichment ministries. We also seek to work closely with the BIC National Church leadership team to select, identify and approve new projects and finish approved projects.

### **Following are some highlights and announcements from 2021:**

1. Encourage our pastors and leaders in Cuba to work through the Covid Pandemic and difficult government reforms and high cost of living and scarcities.
2. Sent economic support for three ongoing projects in Bayamo, Cruces and Santa Amelia, Cuba.
3. Repairs to church building and pastoral apartment, development of a new farm ministry to become more self-supporting, renovation of a bathroom and kitchen in a house church.
4. Worked with BIC Cuba Junta to identify 7 new projects for 2022 that are now under consideration and in the process of providing all of the information required for approval. These projects are located in a variety of locations - Santa Clara province (2), Cienfuegos province (3), Havana (2).
5. CCPT prepared a document regarding the "Selection, Approval, Financing, Supervision and Reporting of Projects" to better work in harmony with BIC Cuba Leadership in the process of identifying, starting and finishing projects. Roles and responsibilities were defined for both groups- CCPT and BIC Cuba. A heart felt thank-you to the CCPT Board of Directors for their loving support.

6. The CCPT carried out a successful fundraising campaign in the later months of 2021 and first month of 2022 to support our work with new projects and continue work with several approved projects. Promotional materials were sent by mail and by personal delivery to supporting churches. A big thank you is expressed to Tom Davies our CCPT Treasurer and to Mark Lundy our Fundraising Coordinator for the excellent job they did in making this Fundraising effort such a great success. A big shout out to many faithful CCPT supporters across Canada and the USA for their generosity, financial support and prayers.
7. If you would like to be more involved with the CCPT ministry come with us to Cuba on a work/ministry team November 12-26, 2022. Put the talents that God has given you to a wonderful use by helping to develop and repair churches in Cuba. Contact Gord Gilmore (pstrgord@gmail.com) or Tom Davies (tdavies@bell.net)
8. Mark your calendars to attend the CCPT Celebration Supper to be held Saturday, October 22, 2022 at the Port Colborne BIC Church. Hear about all the work the CCPT is involved with in Cuba.
9. Please pray for our CCPT Cuban Projects Coordinator, Ricardo Oropesa who is seriously ill at the present time. Thank you.

Blessings to all of our supporters!

## **Gordon Gilmore**

CCPT President

### **MOTION 1: RECEIVING REPORTS**

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve the receiving of the reports from Be In Christ Church of Canada and BIC Canada-Global.

ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_

## General Financial Report

**Note: Audited financial statements for BIC Canada and Reviewed financial statements for BIC Canada-Global will be sent out as an Addendum and also posted at [beinchrist.ca/agm](http://beinchrist.ca/agm) no later than April 29th, 2022. Comments below refer to these documents and also to the 2022 spending plans (budgets).**

We want to thank everyone across all of our community of churches for their giving commitment to our common ministries in 2021. The financial reports provided are more than just numbers but represent an investment in people's lives. 2021 will be forever remembered as a pandemic year. COVID affected our local congregational life and our denominational work. We did our best to adapt. Like many of our churches, revenue decreased but spending did as well. Our staff did great work to respond to all the changes. We thank the Lord for help.

In 2021 we took advantage of the "lull" of the pandemic to do a complete overhaul of our financial services. This has been a daunting task that took much more work than we ever could have anticipated. We feel as we head into 2022 we are now much better equipped to manage our funds using the latest accounting methods and giving good attention to risk management. We also addressed upgrading our payroll and benefit services to better serve our congregations. Our staff has gone above and beyond in pulling all this off. We are enjoying the services provided by our new accounting firm Taligent and look forward to a long relationship with them.

In reviewing these reports, we want to call your attention to the following:

- General shared giving was just over \$1,000,000 which represents about a \$100,000 decrease from when the pandemic started.
- Expenses in the 2021 fiscal year were down slightly as we programming was reduced. Changes to our accounting service though did result in increased spending on this budget item.
- One major area of savings was realized from a decision made last year was moving to a virtual office concept with staff working from home. We believe this is a workable longer-term model to continue with. We are learning how to make this work well for meetings.
- Our commitment to planting new churches and starting fresh expressions of church costs us more right now than our budget can provide. Our Growth Fund (made up of funds accrued in designated givings and property sales over the last number of years) makes up for the shortfall. We realize that eventually these funds will run out and have to be replenished but want to deploy resources well in starting new congregations.
- Funds from our General Fund that we give to BIC Canada-Global basically cover administrative costs allowing us to pass through 100% of donations to Global (missions) programs and global worker support. It is important to realize that our General Budget

numbers only tell a small part of the story of how much our people give to our global work. Please take note of the BIC Canada-Global financial reports to take all of this in.

- Early in 2022 we received word that the firm we thought was going to do our Audit for 2021 would be unable to do so. Fortunately, we have been able to engage the services of Adams & Miles LLP to do our Audit. We are grateful. The lateness of this change, however, has put us somewhat behind. All of our Be In Christ Church audited financial statements will be available online closer to AGM. We remain committed to an annual audit for BIC Canada and Camp Kahquah and a financial review for BIC Canada-Global.

We continue to encourage churches to send in their Shared Giving contributions on a monthly basis, helping us to manage our finances in a healthy way.

Moving to our 2021 Spending Plan, here are several things to note:

1. We are anticipating challenges again this year to congregations being able to give as usual to our General Fund as we come out of the pandemic. We have reduced our general spending plan accordingly. This, of course, does not allow us to do as much as we were able to do before. Fortunately, we have reserve funds to help us and anticipate increased giving in the future as congregations rebuild. We will monitor spending closely throughout the year to adjust to giving levels. We are committed to a balanced budget and the spending plan reflects this.
2. Our spending plan reflects more than numbers on a page. These are investments in the work of the church and in changed lives. We continually strive to be good stewards of the funds you share with us.
3. The 2022 spending plan includes funds to provide for a financial audit of Camp Kahquah's books / travel subsidies for Pastors from remote areas coming to denominational LEAD Events / funds for a Community Church Pastors & Spouses retreat in May / increased funds for our Next Generation Ministry to reflect our strategic plan to raise up new younger leaders / funds for producing our annual Advent and Holy Week guides / ambitious subsidy for the pioneering work of starting new churches and fresh expressions of church / leadership development resourcing for Pastors / payroll support for churches / staff to guide and oversee pastors and congregations.

As always, we aim for transparency and good accountability.

## **Charlie Mashinter**

Executive Director

**MOTION 2: 2021 Auditor / Financial Reviewer**

*Whereas as of January 2022 the firm of Hogg, Shain & Scheck Professional Corporation notified the Board of Directors that they were unable to provide service as Auditors for the 2021 operations of the Be In Christ Church and Financial Review for BIC Canada-Global;*

*Be it recognized that the Board of Directors of the Be In Christ Church of Canada engaged the firm of Adams & Miles LLP Chartered Professional Accountants to be the auditors for the 2021 operations of the Be In Christ Church of Canada and to provide a financial review for the 2021 operations of BIC Canada-Global.*

ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION 3: 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve the 2021 Audited Financial Statements of BIC Canada and 2021 Reviewed Financial Statements of BIC Canada-Global, prepared by management of BIC Canada, and audited by Adams & Miles LLP Chartered Professional Accountants.

[Reference: 2021 Auditors Report addendum]

ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION 4: BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES**

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve the recommendation from the Board of Directors regarding the following nominees to serve on the Board of Directors for a three year term (2022 – 2025):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Stephen Roy	2022	Stephen Roy (3)	2025
John Gilmore	2022	John Gilmore (3)	2025

ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Recommendations  
**BIC Canada 2022 Spending Plan**

	<b>2022 BUDGET</b>	<b>2021 BUDGET</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Shared Giving	1,035,000	1,035,000
Investment Income	35,000	35,000
Designated Income	2,000	4,000
Reunion Network Giving	140,000	140,000
Transfer From Growth Fund	210,000	210,000
Other Income	3,000	3,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,425,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,427,000</b>

**EXPENSES**

**Denominational Leadership**

Staff Team	715,000	675,000
Staff Meetings & Development	8,000	8,000
Board of Directors	2,400	2,400
AGM	6,000	6,000
Archives	4,000	4,000
BIC Historical Society	2,000	1,600
	<b>\$ 737,400</b>	<b>\$ 697,000</b>

**Pastoral & Congregational Services**

Leadership Development	15,000	15,000
New Pastors Orientation	10,000	10,000
Pastoral Support	7,500	4,500
Advent / Holy Week Guides	16,000	16,000
Payroll Services	27,000	35,000

	<b>2022 BUDGET</b>	<b>2021 BUDGET</b>
<b>Pastoral &amp; Congregational Services Continued</b>		
New Initiatives	4,600	4,000
Education Support	1,000	4,000
	<b>\$ 81,100</b>	<b>\$ 88,500</b>
<b>Next Generation Ministries</b>		
Elevate Development Collective	53,000	36,000
Residency Program	22,000	22,000
Youth Ministry	3,000	3,000
	<b>\$ 78,000</b>	<b>\$ 61,000</b>
<b>Church Planting &amp; Partnerships</b>		
Reunion Network	292,000	315,000
Camp Kahquah	48,000	48,000
BIC Canada Global	80,000	85,000
	<b>\$ 420,000</b>	<b>\$ 448,000</b>
<b>Administration</b>		
Office	13,500	13,500
Communications	4,000	4,000
Phone & Internet	14,000	14,000
Accounting Services	30,000	54,000
Professional Fees	21,000	21,000
Insurance	15,000	15,000
Banking	3,500	3,500
Contingency	7,500	7,500
	<b>\$ 108,500</b>	<b>\$ 132,500</b>
<b>TOTAL SPENDING</b>	<b>\$ 1,425,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,427,000</b>



Financial Recommendations

## BIC Canada - Global Spending Plan

	2021	2022
Projected Income	\$ 409,000	\$ 435,000
Projected Expenses	\$ 403,090	\$ 435,000
Net Income	\$ 5,910	-

INCOME	2021	2022
BIC Transfer	\$ 105,000	\$ 80,000
Designated People Giving	\$ 65,000	\$ 85,000
Designated Project Giving	\$ 130,000	\$ 158,000
General Giving	\$ 16,000	\$ 20,000
Surplus Funds	\$ 70,000	\$ 75,000
TMH Compassion Fund	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Administration Fees	\$ 2,000	-
Interest	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 409,000</b>	<b>\$ 435,000</b>
GLOBAL TEAM	2021	2022
<b>STAFF</b>		
Salaries	\$ 93,600	\$ 77,500
Total Staff	\$ 93,600	\$ 77,500
<b>TRAVEL</b>		
Staff	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000
Support	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,000
Total Travel	\$ 24,000	\$ 15,000
<b>PATRTNERSHIPS</b>		
Council of International Anabaptist Ministries	-	\$ 1,000
International Brethren in Christ Association	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Mennonite Central Committee	-	\$ 1,500

Mennonite World Conference	\$	10,000	\$	10,000
Total Office	\$	20,000	\$	22,500
<b>OFFICE</b>				
Administration	\$	6,000	\$	8,400
Professional Services	\$	7,500	\$	11,000
Total Office	\$	13,500	\$	19,400
<b>TOTAL GLOBAL TEAM</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>151,100</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>134,400</b>
<b>PROJECTS</b>		<b>2021</b>		<b>2022</b>
Church Planting and Evangelism	\$	29,890	\$	65,000
Relief and Development	\$	104,300	\$	110,000
Leadership Resourcing	\$	33,600	\$	25,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>167,790</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>200,000</b>
<b>PEOPLE</b>		<b>2021</b>		<b>2022</b>
Amanda Schwartzentruber	\$	25,000	\$	41,400
David & Marlene Geiger	\$	30,000	\$	30,000
David & Patti Miller	\$	14,000	\$	14,000
Jay Smith	\$	2,500	\$	2,500
Doug & Barb Miller	\$	4,000	\$	4,000
Bruce & Merly Bundy	\$	7,500	\$	7,500
Chris & Kara Kacmar	\$	1,000	\$	1,000
Mike & Lori Cassel	\$	200	\$	200
<b>TOTAL PEOPLE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>84,200</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>100,600</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>403,090</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>435,000</b>

**MOTION 5: SPENDING PLANS 2022**

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve an estimated 2022 spending plan of **\$1,425,000** for Be In Christ Church of Canada and **\$435,000** for BIC Canada-Global.

ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION 6:**

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve Recommendations 1 through 3 (below) from the Board of Directors.

**1. 2021 PUBLISHED RECORD**

It is recommended that the published record of the 2021 Annual General Meeting be the official minutes and record of the said meeting.

**2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023**

The Board of Directors recommends that the Be In Christ Church of Canada 2021 Annual General Meeting be held at The Meeting House, 2700 Bristol Circle, Oakville, Ontario on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

**3. 2022 AUDIT / FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The Board of Directors recommends that the firm of Adams & Miles LLP Chartered Professional Accountants, be appointed as the Financial Auditor for Be In Christ Canada for the fiscal year 2022 and Financial Reviewer for BIC Canada-Global for fiscal year 2022.

ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION 7: RECOGNIZING WESTSIDE CHURCH AS A FULL MEMBER CONGREGATION**

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve the recommendation from the Board of Directors that Westside Church (Hamilton, ON) be recognized as a full member congregation of the Be In Christ Church of Canada.

ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION 8: RECOGNIZING BROOKLIN VILLAGE CHURCH AS AN AFFILIATE CONGREGATION**

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve the recommendation from the Board of Directors that Brooklin Village Church (Whitby, ON) be recognized as an affiliate congregation of the Be In Christ Church of Canada.

ACTION: \_\_\_\_\_

# ARCHIVIST REPORT

The Archives of Be in Christ Canada are located in the Port Colborne Be in Christ Church, 10641 Highway #3, west of Port Colborne. Visitors are always a welcome feature of sharing the history and artifacts which connect to the denomination. Whether the name was River Brethren, Tunker, Brethren in Christ, or Be in Christ, we are all the same group of believers. Copies of the history of the church in Canada (2019) are available for purchase, as well as numerous other books in which you may have interest. An appointment is necessary to visit the Archives.

Several families have made inquiries regarding ancestors who were, or might have been, part of the church, including from the Stayner area and the former Bertie congregation. Two North American-wide booklets listing all church members, deacons and elders were printed in 1899 and 1903. These documents are a great asset in genealogical research. Please make contact for assistance in this kind of search.

A large collection of photo slides and photos was presented to the Archives by the family of the late Lester Fretz; most of the congregations and many church leaders were included in the slide collection. If your congregation would like to format a brief historical sketch for some special occasion, these slides could make a fine addition to your presentation. Our thanks to Lester's family for this gift. Another wedding dress, with the shoes worn, was donated, with a photo of the couple. This is a lovely addition to the several wedding dresses in the Archives, which were designed in conformity with the uniform dress pattern of the earlier years. A cheese dish, which had been a wedding gift to Anna and Adam Carver was donated. The recipient of this dish later gave it as a wedding gift to Ross and Jean Climenhage, who presented it to the Archives. Our artifacts collection continues to grow. One of the pitchers from the Wainfleet congregation, used for serving the communion juice, was donated by Gladys (Cloke) Shoalts.

The BIC Historical Society issued two complimentary books to all society members in 2021, both written by E. Morris Sider: STORIES AND SCENES FROM A BIC HERITAGE and BROWN SUGAR SANDWICHES. Membership includes three journals and three newsletters annually, as well as the special books which may be released, as above. Annual membership is \$25 which may be gained through myself. Copies of the two books are available for sale.

As you clean out cupboards, closets and files, please keep alert to items which may be connected to the history of the denomination, both written materials and artifacts. All of these are desirable to enrich our historical record.

## Leonard Chester

Archivist

905-834-6924 | [leonardchester@outlook.com](mailto:leonardchester@outlook.com)

# CAMP KAHQUAH

As many of you know, Camp Kahquah is a very important part of the life of the BIC family. Therefore, we continue to work hard as a board and team to ensure that Camp Kahquah has a strong and viable future. In 2022 we plan to take additional strategic steps to improve the facilities of camp for the purpose of increasing rental income in the shoulder seasons (spring and fall). As we better understand the rental market, we can see the upgrades that camp will require to seize the opportunities that exist.

We are continuously amazed at the blessing of God on camp. We are so thankful for the donors that have kept Camp in a great place financially over the past two years of the pandemic.

We look forward to serving you at camp in the months and years ahead.

## Todd Lester

Chairperson Camp Kahquah Board



Below are some highlights provided by Ryan Terpstra, Executive Director for Kahquah.

2021 was another creative year in trying new ideas and making the best out of every opportunity. The year began with some challenges as we were completely shut down from mid-January to early June, but it was during this time that we were able to develop new ideas and prepare for the fall in anticipation of running our adult retreats.

- **In June we reopened with an excellent response to cabin rentals for June & July**
  - Attendance was up 150% from 2020
- **Kahquah's first ever day camp was a great success**
  - Over 100 kids attended

- Our student development programs, Crew & LIT, participated in the day camp with an incredible inspiring faith-building experience for those who attended
- A decision to run day camp was made in May as details to address COVID-19 safety concerns for overnight kids camp were not yet released from public health officials
- **Family Camp was back with Chapel and kids programs**
  - Attendance was up 200% from 2020, almost back to 2019 attendance
- **Our Spiritual Discipleship program returned with some incredible testimonies from our staff on how God worked through them**
- **Donations, Revenue & Expenses:**
  - Donations were higher in 2021 than we budgeted
  - Roughly \$300,000 of donations came in 2021
    - Over \$50,000 were raised in the spring towards our Lodge improvements project, including:
      - New Lodge roof & eavestrough
      - New kitchen flooring
      - New kitchen exhaust fan
      - New garbage shed
  - A contributing factor to such an high donation year were multiple large donations given in 2021
  - With a smaller staff team and generous donations, we reached 100% of our staff support goal
  - Expenses stayed on budget
  - Revenue was higher than budgeted, allowing us to finish the year with a surplus
- **Our fall retreats Breakaway & North of 50 had great attendance and we enjoyed some awesome weekends**
  - North of 50 fundraised over \$5,000
  - An additional North of 50 attendee donated \$5,000 towards replacing both commercial mixers in the kitchen

We have had an incredible year with so much to be grateful for. Thank you to your churches for your continued support and the many individuals who support Kahquah to allow it to thrive during a challenging time.

## **Ryan Terpstra**

Executive Director



*I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. -John 15:4-5*

*In 2020, Pravasini Dehuri of Odisha state, India, received a female goat through a project supported by MCC and implemented through Brethren in Christ-Odisha. The goat provided Dehuri with an alternative form of income – and the animal has already given birth to three lively kids. (MCC photo/Mukul Harishchandra)*

## Walking hand-in-hand

*As we reflect on the past year of ministry, MCC is grateful to walk hand-in-hand with the BIC church to share God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ. Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, changing weather patterns and millions of people forced to flee, our hope and faith rests solidly in Jesus. MCC is committed to "abiding in the vine" so we can continue to bear fruit. Without Christ, we can do nothing.*

*Thanks to your generous support, MCC was able to work with local partners to impact the lives of thousands – and to offer a Jesus-centred vision of peace and reconciliation to communities around the world.*

### Relief

Cuba has been hard-hit by an economic crisis. A variety of factors are at play, including COVID-19 and U.S. embargos. So, when the Brethren in Christ Church of Cuba (BICCC) distributed some 20,000 kg of MCC relief kits, hygiene kits and canned chicken, there was cause for celebration. "We are grateful because today we see the answer to our prayers," says José Gonzalez, pastor of the BICCC church in Santa Clara. "We see that what we thought was impossible is possible."

### Development

Sticky stinky? MCC and our local partners are promoting this unique approach to farming in sub-Saharan Africa. Farmers mix their crops with a smelly grass to drive away pests. (The grass also helps preserve moisture, helping address the effects of climate change.) The farmers then plant a sticky grass around the perimeter of their fields to trap escaping pests. Fewer pests equal more nutritious food for families. And the added benefit? Since the insects no longer migrate to neighbours' fields, peace grows in the community.

### Peace

Peace means many things. For some, peace is a reduction in conflict, better communication, a safe place to live – or healing from personal trauma. In Afghanistan, amid the uncertainties of a new government, one MCC partner has been able to continue its critical work. The partner offers services in psychiatry, counselling and COVID-19 mental health. Here in Canada, MCC continues to support newcomers through our migration and resettlement program, and we are inviting congregations to prayerfully consider sponsoring a refugee family from Afghanistan this coming year.



*Clara Rodriguez from Holguin, Cuba, holds two cans of MCC canned meat. Rodriguez received food and other supplies during an emergency relief distribution in November 2021. (MCC/Ramon Guisa)*

*Thank you for your ongoing generosity! None of this could happen without your gifts of prayer, service and financial support. Thanks be to God.*

*In Christ's peace,*

*Rick Cober Bauman, Executive Director, MCC Canada  
John Head, Executive Director, MCC Ontario*





2021  
YEAR AT A  
GLANCE



**THRIFT SHOPS**

Despite multiple COVID-19 related closures, MCC thrift shop volunteers in Ontario processed, cleaned and priced 1,941,492 items.

The MCC New Hamburg Thrift Centre experienced its highest sale day ever of \$17,913.48 on Dec. 16.

An average of 972 people visit MCC Ontario Thrift Shops each day.

**ONTARIO PROGRAMS**

**INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS**

618 households received necessities that allowed them to shelter in place as COVID-19 swept through the communities of the James Bay Coast.

The Niska Artisans program launched an e-commerce store to better serve customers and promote the artisans' work. Check it out at [niskaartisans.ca](http://niskaartisans.ca).

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

472 individuals were given practical hands-on peacemaking skills.

Supported 111 individuals reintegrating into community following incarceration and holding them accountable for their actions resulting in fewer victims of violent and sexual crimes.

**REFUGEE**

98 newcomers began a new life in Canada through the refugee sponsorship program.

139 sponsorship groups were supported through their refugee sponsorship journey.

**LOW GERMAN**

305 people gained a deeper understanding of how to engage with the Low German-speaking community and others who have alternative views and experiences regarding the current public health crisis.

**WALKING WITH PEOPLE IN POVERTY**

40 Circle of Friends participants experienced inclusion through friendship and support.

12,997 cups of soup stirred up change for six talented individuals who found meaningful employment at MCC's Raw Carrot Soup enterprise.

**MATERIAL RESOURCES**

The Canada central material resources warehouse moved to New Hamburg, Ontario, facilitating a more efficient distribution of relief supplies.

**INTERNATIONAL**

- 47 countries
- 385 partners
- 508 projects
- 968 workers

\*as of March 31, 2021

**MATERIAL RESOURCES**

- 23,013 relief kits
- 210,264 cans of meat
- 60,940 hygiene kits
- 42,418 comforters
- 88,720 school kits

Kits were shipped to Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, United States, Ukraine and Zambia.

5,171 dignity kits containing eco-friendly, washable menstrual pads were shipped to places where purchasing such items is difficult. This has provided sustainable support for vulnerable women and girls.

**HEALTH**

In India, 320 HIV/AIDS patients received food, prescriptions, medicine, regular appointments and follow-up visits.

**FOOD**

Over \$20,000 was raised through the Grow Hope Niagara program and farmers Larry and Marg Dyck. With Government of Canada matching, these funds can grow to \$80,000 to help end hunger.

800 households in South Sudan received emergency food.

# Mennonite World Conference (MWC)



## Mennonite World Conference

A Community of Anabaptist related Churches

## Congreso Mundial Menonita

Una Comunidad de Iglesias Anabautistas

## Conférence Mennonite Mondiale

Une Communauté d'Eglises Anabaptistes

*Mennonite World Conference (MWC) is called to be a communion of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service and witness.*

### GIVING THANKS:

- MWC is our Anabaptist global church with more than 1.4 million baptized believers in 107 national member churches, including Be In Christ Canada. Learn about our global Christ-centred faith community by visiting our website and signing up for the monthly online MWC Info newsletter, bimonthly Prayer Network and the biannual Courier/Correo/Courrier magazine.
- Together we are a global church communion, the body of Christ here on earth, and together we witness to hope in challenging times through the grace of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit. The last two years have been difficult for everyone, but also a time of growth. We have found new ways of being church, new ways of serving societies around us, and new ways of supporting each other. Along with the apostle Paul, we can take comfort in God's assurance: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- Learn how the global church walked alongside one-another in the 2021 Year-in-Review Video.

### MWC GLOBAL ASSEMBLY 17 – INDONESIA, JULY 5-10

Will there be Assembly this summer? Absolutely! MWC assembly this year will have a high virtual component, facilitating interactive participation for thousands of individuals who cannot attend the Assembly in person. Registration for online participation is now open! Following the counsel of our churches and laws of the Indonesian government, we will restrict face-to-face participation to a maximum of 700 attendees. Registration will close as soon as we fill the quota of 700 participants. Each participant will need to pay the cost of their own participation (visa, tickets, lodging, food and registration, and possible quarantine if required).



## **PASTORAL CARE: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND LETTERS OF HOPE**

As churches face uncertain futures due to persecution, natural disasters, political turmoil and conflict, the presence and identification with the global Anabaptist church is an essential means of support and encouragement to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior and brother. How do we do this?

In the past year numerous pastoral letters have been written on behalf of MWC to our sisters and brothers in India, Myanmar, Ukraine, Burkina Faso, Colombia, and British Columbia (Canada) as they have faced displacement, violence, war, and natural disasters.

Many of you have joined the MWC Prayer Network and some have shared in the bi-monthly Online prayer hour. Please continue to pray for the global church communion, and for our leaders, particularly César Garcia, General Secretary of MWC.

## **WORSHIPPING TOGETHER WITH OUR GLOBAL SISTERS AND BROTHERS**

"Sometimes our faith community seems small and insular; [celebrating Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday] helped open eyes to the global family," says Chani Wiens. The math teacher and chapel coordinator at UMEI Christian High School in Leamington, Ontario, Canada, used the AWFS worship resource in a chapel service.

"When a part of the global church invites me to share about MWC, it energizes me knowing that we are connecting," says Cynthia Peacock, MWC regional representative for Southern Asia. "We grow stronger as a family by learning, sharing and walking together to bless and be blessed, extending God's kingdom on earth."

We are grateful for the BIC Canada congregations that are joining Anabaptist churches around the globe in worship by participating in Peace Sunday and Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday, and taking up a One Lunch Offering to support the ministry of our global Anabaptist church family.

## **LOVE NEIGHBOURS: SHARE VACCINES** <https://mwc-cmm.org/love-neighbours-share-vaccines>



In 2021 MWC joined with other faith-based organizations to call its members to share vaccines around the highly interconnected world by donating to the UN's vaccination program through UNICEF. By February 2022, \$66 000 had been given in the name of MWC for UNICEF's campaign for global vaccine equity. By mid-January, the campaign sent more than a billion vaccine doses to 144 countries with a target to deliver more than 4 billion by the end of 2022.

In Africa, the average vaccination rate is only 8 percent, compared with 60+ percent in high income countries. In Tanzania, home to more than 42,000 Mennonites, only 3 percent of the population has been vaccinated.

*"COVID-19 has no borders. The only way to end this pandemic is with global cooperation. The only valid response from the global church is one of interdependent compassion."*

*– César Garcia, MWC General Secretary.*

Thank you for your generous support of the MWC community through Be In Christ Canada, from local congregations and individual donors! So, dear sisters and brothers, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need" (Romans 12:12).

In Christ's peace,



**Gerald Hildebrand**

MWC North America Regional Representative

GeraldHildebrand@mwc-cmm.org

<https://mwc-cmm.org/>

## **REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES**

For many years, we have listed delegates within our Annual General Meeting Agenda. This is not a legal necessity and, with the varying times of congregational annual meetings, it has become increasingly challenging to have the full list by the time the Agenda needs to be published. As such, the full list of delegates is no longer being published in the Agenda but will be in the published minutes. Our By-laws do require that we have all delegates be registered and confirmed by local congregations for the Be In Christ Church of Canada Annual General Meeting.

# CONNECT



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## WEBSITES:

[flowinternship.com](https://flowinternship.com)

[nepalpeaceproject.com](https://nepalpeaceproject.com)

[pastoralway.com](https://pastoralway.com)

[beinchrist.ca](https://beinchrist.ca)

[campkahquah.com](https://campkahquah.com)

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