

AGM 2025

Minutes

BELOVED
BELONG
BECOME



Sixth Line Church | 1152 Nottawasaga Concession 6, Stayner, ON
Saturday, April 26, 2025 | 10:00am to 3:00pm

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Be In Christ Church of Canada
Board of Directors Report

Dear Friends,

I look forward to welcoming you in person to our 2025 AGM.

From the perspective of the board, I am thankful for our board members. Many of you in local church leadership know the difficulties of leading a ministry organization. The challenges of providing good governance, overseeing finances, ministry staff, and deciding on strategic priorities are challenging. We are motivated as a board to do what we can to provide good governance for our conference so denominational staff can provide the necessary direction to ensure our churches are healthy and advancing the mission God has called us into.

I am grateful for those who serve on the board of Directors at BIC Canada. Current members are Stephen Roy (Pathway), Heather Fretz (TrinityLife), John Gilmore (Wainfleet), Fiona Miles (East Toronto BIC), Heather Field (Westside), Paul Kiss (New Life), David Lees (Halton Peel BIC), Doug Braun (Westheights) and Keeley Powley (Westside). Each of these individuals bring their own perspective, experience and insights to the work we do together. Our board works well together; I am grateful for each one and the positive environment we create to do the work we believe God has called us to do.

I want to say thank you and pay tribute to John Gilmore who has served on the board for the past nine years. John brings a reservoir of vast experience and wisdom to the board table; we are grateful for his faithful contribution and service over many years to the work of BIC Canada. Thank you, John, and may God continue to bless you.

One of the most significant roles of the board is to hire the executive director of BIC Canada. Our current ED, Charlie Mashinter, has informed us of his decision to retire in mid-2026. In response, the board has struck a Selection Committee to explore the role and seek input into the qualities we should be looking for in the next ED. We will share more about this at the AGM but are so appreciative of Charlie and his work in leading our denomination over these past few years.

Of course, he does not do that alone and we are equally thankful for the work of Todd, Melanie, Charmaine, and newer staff member, Jimmy. We may not have the largest staff group for a denominational office, but we do have a hard working, skilled and talented group for sure.

The most significant event that took place this year in our family of churches was the completion of the ministry of The Meeting House. For many years, this church community has been the largest in our denomination and has contributed much to our life together. A few congregations have emerged from this church, and they have been working together under the name of the BIC Church Collective as they transition from TMH sites to

independent churches. The staff and boards of these churches have done an excellent job and deserve our appreciation for the work they have done. The BIC board was involved in providing input and guidance as to how the money generated from the sale of the TMH property could be used to support the Collective churches and provide resources for future church planting efforts. We are grateful to God for this gracious provision.

We would seek your prayers for wisdom as we carry out our board responsibilities, for good relationships and connections between board members. When things are going well, it's easy to take that for granted. Those strong relationships then help as we perhaps face more challenging issues and stresses that can develop. I'm glad to say we have an excellent board, and I express my deepest thanks to each of them for their valued contribution to the work we do together.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at AGM.

Grace and peace,

Stephen Roy

Chair, BIC Canada Board of Directors

For 25 years, Jon and Angie Limmer have dedicated themselves to full-time local church ministry. Raised in Cambridge, ON, Jon has had lifelong involvement in the local church. He pursued ministry after high school, attending Bible college (where he eventually met Angie) and serving part-time alongside a seminary professor. He entered full-time ministry in 1999, overseeing youth and worship in London, ON. He has since gained experience in virtually every facet of local church ministry (even overseeing women's and seniors' ministries). Their service has taken Jon and Angie to London, Kitchener/Guelph, Stratford, Peterborough, Burlington, and Penetanguishene.

Jon started his faith journey focused on knowledge of God and working "for" God. Slowly, God has led him into a focus on life with God, rooted in the love of God. From that foundation, growing knowledge of God and partnering with God's work in the world have become great joys.



A natural seeker, Jon developed Anabaptist leanings long before discovering the term. The Limmer's joined the BIC Canada family in 2015 when Jon became the Lead Pastor at Covenant Christian Community Church in Penetanguishene. For Jon, the connection to BIC Canada and its Jesus-centred approach has felt like an unexpected homecoming. For Angie, who grew up at Heise Hill BIC (now Reunion Stouffville) and Camp Kahquah, it was coming home. They've experienced Covenant Church as a beautiful local example of our extended BIC and Anabaptist family.

Jon and Angie have two sons. Micah (21) is a student at Brock University. He plays for their Ultimate Frisbee club and is an active leader in a vibrant Christian student community. Josiah (17) is a grade 11 student. He is involved in his school's music program and is a student leader in Covenant's youth group. Both sons are actively involved in camp ministry as well. Angie works at a chiropractic and wellness clinic while also dedicating considerable time to Covenant Church and their broader community. A doula of over two decades, she is active in the Huronia birthing community and beyond. Outside of church ministry, Jon also previously served on the board of a local separate school.

Jon enjoys engaging with all kinds of stories and learning about diverse subjects. The authors he's been most influenced by include Henri Nouwen, N.T. Wright, and Eugene Peterson. He earned his Master of Theological Studies degree from McMaster Divinity College in 2023. A lifelong sports enthusiast, he cheers for the Blue Jays and the Cleveland Browns. Jon also appreciates a wide range of music and plays several instruments.

Thank you for the ongoing privilege of giving leadership to the work of the Be In Christ Church of Canada. While we know there are always challenges in ministry we choose instead to focus on the good things that are happening. As a church family we leverage the power of "together" knowing that in community our burdens can be shared, our joys intensified and our efforts multiplied. We are better together!



Mission And Strategic Initiatives

We are a growing faith community - following Jesus, sharing his message, and extending his peace around the world.

As a Denominational Leadership Team working along with our Board of Directors we have developed six strategic initiatives that give focus to what we do:

#1 - AMPLIFY IDENTITY

Leverage the advantage of our unique theological "blend"
(Anabaptist / Wesleyan / Jesus Centered)

#2 - SUPPORT MISSION

Offer programs and services to
help local churches fulfill their purpose

#3 - DEVELOP LEADERS

Recruit, train, empower and coach gifted Jesus-followers for
Pastoral and lay ministry in the church

#4 - CULTIVATE CONNECTION

Lean into our relationship as a family of churches
rather than individual outposts.

#5 - DISCERN OPPORTUNITIES

Look for the new ministry "things" that
God might be birthing through us.

#6 - ENGAGE GLOBALLY

Partner internationally in relief, development, peace,
evangelism and establishing churches.

So let me use this paradigm to share a few examples from the past year:

#1 - AMPLIFY IDENTITY

- We strive to emphasize our Anabaptist values in choosing speakers and in our communication.
- We partner with our Global Anabaptist family through Mennonite World Conference and keep strengthening our ties with Mennonite Central Committee.
- We partner with the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Pastoral training .
- In our communications we work to emphasize our values. In onboarding new Pastors we search for those who resonate with our "draft." We maintain a quality website so people can find out more about who we are.

#2 - SUPPORT MISSION

- We provide payroll services for all our churches / Benefits and Pension programs for Pastors.
- We provide accounting services for our denomination. We also provide insurance coverage and accounting for our church plants.
- We do the very important work of credentialing Pastors for ministry and giving oversight to our team of Pastors as they do their work.
- We continue to build pastoralway.com resource website for church leaders and Pastors.
- In 2024 we developed new Policy Statements for Clergy Sexual Misconduct. We are also working on new General Clergy Misconduct / Workplace and Church Harassment statements as well as a revised Abuse Prevention policy for our churches.
- We provide coaching and mentoring to Pastors and churches by denominational Leaders.
- Pastor Curtis Zoerb (Massey Place Community Church - Saskatoon, SK) continues to assist with oversight and coaching of our Saskatchewan churches.
- We continue to oversee all Lead pastoral searches and provide designated Pastoral reviews of Lead pastors on a regularly scheduled basis.
- Our churches found many creative ways to bring blessing to their "place" - food banks, shelters, helping people who experience illness or job loss, contributing to MCC, funding water wells, and many more.
- Most of our churches had at least one baptism. We had baptisms at camp and at least one person who even got baptized on a mission trip. We celebrate new life in Christ and all the important decisions people make to follow Jesus.

#3 - DEVELOP LEADERS

In 2024 we...

- Held 2 New Pastors Orientation retreats.
- Sponsored regional Pastors clusters which meet 5 times per year.
- Ran the Leadership Development Program at Camp Kahquah.
- Trained people for ministry success through our Pastoral Residency (3 spots each year) and Emerging Leaders programs (over 20 people involved this past year).

#4 - CULTIVATE CONNECTION

- We produced our Christmas devotional guide "Who Did Jesus Come For?"
- Camp Kahquah - Through retreats, Kids camps, Family camps, and opportunities to serve live are changed and memories are made! It's also a great place to connect with folks from other BIC Churches.
- We connect Pastors for training and relationship.
- We share communication about things going on across our church family.

#5 - DISCERN OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to plant new churches and work to re-ignite ministry in other congregations who have struggled. Church plants we supported: Westside Burlington, REUNION Kirkland Lake / REUNION Alliston / REUNION Brockville / West Toronto / BIC Church Collective Churches. Churches we lent support to: Fallsvieiw / Grafted / Sauble.

#6 - ENGAGE GLOBALLY (Please see our Global report)

The Meeting House / BIC Church Collective

Over the last 3 years, I have been invested on your behalf in journeying alongside the Meeting House family of churches through a very painful and challenging season. I commend the faithful work of their Pastors and leaders in navigating so many changes, many of which we just could not have seen coming. Throughout this journey God has been our helper bringing blessing even in the midst of difficulty. As we moved into the fall it became clear that the best course of action for moving forward was to bring the ministry of the Meeting House as a charity to conclusion. In a nut-shell this means moving the congregations who were part of the Meeting House towards getting their own charitable status and becoming self-sustaining BIC churches. Most of these are well on the way to doing that. In the short term staff has been moved over to the Sandbanks BIC Church to enable continued operation of the churches who are part of what we called **The BIC Church Collective**. A significant part of winding down the Meeting House charity was the

sale of the Oakville property. This sale was finalized on March 17 and will allow the Halton Peel congregation to continue to use the building for up to 2 years while they look for a new place to meet. In accordance with the articles of incorporation of the Meeting House, all remaining assets after debts are paid will come to the denomination. Obviously this is a generational gift and we want to be good stewards.

Designations for use of the funds are as follows:

1. Some funds will be utilized in the first year to support the operations of the BIC Church Collective through Sandbanks Church. Some funds will be set aside in a legal reserve fund should they be necessary since we are the residual charity of the Meeting House. Interest for these funds would be available annually for denominational operations.
2. Approximately 40% of the funds will be held in trust for the Halton Peel congregation which they can use to acquire a new facility or utilize the interest annually for their operations.
3. The balance of the funds will be set aside and invested in order to generate annual interest which can fuel our efforts to start new churches and re-ignite others. This will include adding staff and providing a weekly teaching piece available to all our churches but particularly for the Collective in the short-term. Our vision is to provide a good path forward to health for the churches that have emerged out of what was the Meeting House and then to oversee a significant movement of church planting / re-igniting using a collaborative model.

New Pastors

- **Oak Ridges BIC** – Pastor Greg Whyte (began December 1, 2024)
- **New Life Christian Church (Scarborough)** – Pastor Jacob Nuh (began January 2025)
- **Common Ground Church (Alliston)** – Pastor Brenda Powling (currently on a 1 year contract) will begin as the official Pastor July 1, 2025
- **Sauble Christian Fellowship** – Pastor Nathan Shipley (Began in March 2025)
- **Welland BIC Church** – Pastor Neil Cudney (Began April 1, 2025)
- **New Life Church Collingwood** – Pastor Chris Higginson (Lead) and Pastor Adam Nickell (Associate Pastor) were commissioned at the end of March 2025.

Pastoral Transitions

Pastor Paul Kiss - New Life Collingwood (resigned) / Pastor Andrew Stulp – Welland BIC (resigned) / Pastor Tim Quek - New Life Scarborough (concluded ministry with this church) / Pastor Keith Montgomery - Oak Ridges BIC (retired)

Other Transitions

- Rick Cober Bauman has retired as MCC Canadian Director and we wish him well in retirement. Kenneth H. Kim began March 3, 2025 as the new Director. You will hear more about the work of MCC again this year at AGM.
- REUNION Belleville decided to leave the BIC as of the end of 2024. We bless them and give thanks for the opportunity to invest in the establishment of this congregation.
- We are in the process of bringing the BIC Fund to conclusion. Extracting funds from investments prudently has taken longer than anticipated but is proceeding.
- The Welland BIC congregation has begun construction on developing their property and new church home.
- Niagara Christian Collegiate is working to rebuild their ministry after a financial and enrolment crisis coming out of the pandemic. Many alumni have stepped up to help.

In Conclusion

In 2025 we will observe the 500th anniversary of anabaptism. A gathering is being planned in Switzerland that you can be part of online. You'll hear more about that from our guest Gerald Hildebrand from Mennonite World Conference at AGM. What a wonderful thing those early anabaptists started that we get to be part of continuing.

In 2024 I enjoyed 6 weeks of sabbatical time in the spring. On a personal level, I am so grateful to my wife Becky and to my family for their support. I have informed the Board of Directors that I plan to retire as Executive Director as of the end of June 2026. I hope I have left things better than I found them and look forward to working with new leadership in transition.

We have a wonderful staff team who work diligently on your behalf. Thanks to Todd Lester, Melanie Wigg, and Charmaine Stulp for your partnership. We look forward to welcoming Jimmy Rushton to our team in 2025.

Grace and peace to each of you!



Charles E. Mashinter

Executive Director

Be In Christ Church of Canada

THE MEETING HOUSE AND BIC CHURCH COLLECTIVE

Giving Thanks

We're thankful for the gifts of renewal and new beginnings - even when they are not what we would have asked for or imagined. In the summer of 2024, we learned that our network of Meeting House churches could no longer access the insurance required to operate responsibly, but that also coincided with the Holy Spirit leading our churches in a new and hopeful direction.

We're especially grateful for:

- The transition of many former Meeting House locations to new beginnings within the BIC Church Collective, in supportive partnership with Sandbanks Community Church and BIC denominational leadership.
- That Jesus-centred church ministry continues. One area we are particularly grateful for is our ongoing compassion ministry; in the last fiscal year we supported and partnered with organizations in children and family services, refugee resettlement, food and meal provision, skills training, and more. We distributed over \$112,000 through 17 local partners based in communities where we worship. We also gave over \$130,000 through our MCC Peacemakers Campaign, the MCC indigenous neighbour program, and the Woodland Cultural Centre.
- For God's abundant and generous provision throughout our journey. By his grace we have committed people and gifted volunteers, access to resources, a supportive denomination, a fresh dependence and focus on Jesus, valuable learnings from our past, and hope for a bright future as local churches.
- For our staff, pastors, ministry leads, many faithful volunteers, and our Transition Board of Overseers who have served so tirelessly to see us through this transition.

Looking Ahead

- Because we cannot return to ministry at The Meeting House, we are in the process of winding down the Meeting House charitable entity. We expect that work to be mostly complete by the end of June 2025. While this comes with grief and sadness, we are reminded and encouraged that the church is not a building or a charity, but the people of God gathered with a purpose. As one chapter of our story ends, another begins!
- Our congregations are at various stages of (re)establishing themselves as local, Jesus-centred BIC churches. For many, this includes incorporating and obtaining their own charitable registration. We are cheering them on and will continue to provide shared support through the BCC and BIC for this process until each church has established themselves as a new charitable entity.

- We're thrilled that Jimmy Rushton has joined the BIC Canada leadership team in a new role that will provide denominational oversight for the BCC churches, Reunion churches, and any new future church plants within the BIC. Jimmy will continue to provide shared teaching for this collective of churches, and offer support and accountability to our pastors and leadership teams while our churches get (re)established.
- We are partnering with our Halton Peel BIC congregation to support the work of building church health in partnership with the experienced team at Credence & Co. This includes a congregational health assessment that will generate pathways for the congregation to pursue ongoing peacemaking and healing going forward.
- The Meeting House's property at 2700 Bristol Circle has been sold. We have leased the facility back to allow for continued use by our Halton Peel BIC congregation until later in 2026, while they search for a new location. Our facility rentals ministry will continue in the meantime.
- We're cheering on some former Meeting House locations that found a new home and identity as local churches through this season of transition, including Mosaic BIC church (formerly TMH Richmond Hill), West Toronto BIC (formerly TMH High Park), The Harbour Newmarket (formerly TMH Newmarket), TMH Waterloo (who has merged with Pathway Community BIC Church), and the emergence of Westside BIC's Burlington location out of the former TMH Burlington congregation.

Prayer

- Thanksgiving for new beginnings, and the ways Jesus is growing in us a spirit of humility, trust, and full dependence on him.
- For our local churches as they cast vision, discern direction, and do the work to (re)establish themselves as healthy, local, Jesus-centred churches.
- For continued healing, peacemaking, and reconciliation where there is hurt, conflict, and grief.
- For wise stewardship of The Meeting House's resources, and that the wind down of TMH will sow the seed for generations of fruitful Kingdom ministry yet to come.

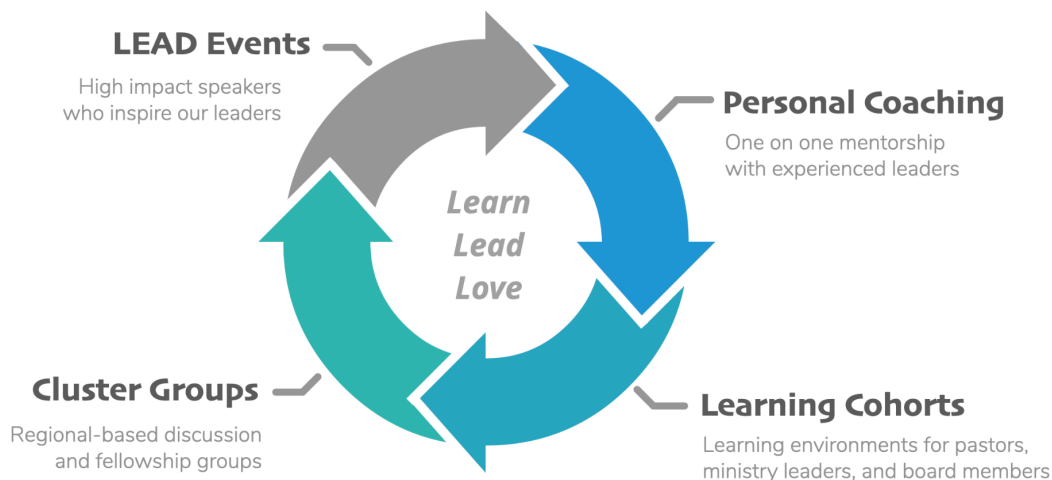
Tonia Blenkarn

LEADERSHIP

Staff Team Reports

I have the wonderful privilege of serving our church family in my role as Director of Leadership and Global Programs.

Given the importance of leadership in building faithful communities, it makes strategic sense that we should invest heavily in our pastors and lay leaders. To that strategic end, I create leadership content and curriculum that aligns with our leadership development strategy and BIC values. We approach leadership development from a conventional development cycle (see diagram below) that includes four different programs to address the various needs and stages of our pastoral leaders.



I have been working hard in developing high quality, uniquely anabaptist, evidence-based approaches to leadership development for BIC pastors. I have renamed the program to Elevate Collective because we have found the program is appealing to a wider audience of church leaders than we originally thought it would be. I have created three years of curriculum and plan to create a fourth and fifth year by 2027. The development program for pastors focuses on four growth areas: spiritual formation (BIC theology and identity), personal development (emotional intelligence, etc.), transformational leadership, and ministry skills (preaching, etc.). I am also providing leadership training for Camp Kahquah staff and, increasingly, for local church boards in the areas of strategy, vision and governance.

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 beliefs and doctrine. I continue to develop a website called Pastoral Way (pastoralway.com) that provides uniquely BIC resources for our credentialed pastors. In my role, I also get to provide leadership and oversight to lots of amazing staff and ministries. One of those ministries includes Camp Kahquah as led by Ryan and Amy Terpstra. Camp Kahquah continues to flourish and this year is especially exciting given the significant renovations to the upper lodge building last year and the main floor this year. I encourage you to read the Camp Kahquah report to learn about the exciting impact camp is making on people of all ages.

Charmaine Stulp is a constant presence in our office and works primarily in human resources and event management. Charmaine also helps with global bookkeeping and financial transfers and wires to our international partners.

Thank you for providing me with the privilege of serving you, our pastors and our churches.

Todd Lester

Director of Leadership and Global Programs

OPERATIONS

I am grateful for the privilege to serve our BIC family in a variety of capacities. Each person on our staff wears many hats and I am thankful for the wonderful sense of collaboration on our team.

OPERATIONS

Operations is my primary area of responsibility. While operations may not sound like the exciting part of organizational life, smoothly operating systems support the vision and purposes of the organization and allow us to move forward without unnecessary encumbrances. Our denomination is committed to supporting the flourishing of our pastors and our churches, and clean operational systems help us to achieve that goal.

To that end we have been working hard over the past few years to clean up and streamline our operations in the areas of finance, human resources (payroll, health benefits, pension), database management, record keeping, and information technology. We aim to create systems that are efficient, collaborative, and transferable. This allows us to function well as a smaller staff team and also prepare properly for those leaders that will eventually fill our roles. We have made enormous strides forward and we will continue to evaluate and adjust over the next several years.

Over the past year I have also been assisting churches in applying for charitable status. We are strengthening our knowledge in this area and seeking legal direction to ensure best practices.

NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We place a high value on the development of our pastors and leaders. Todd Lester and I have been working hard over the past four years to create training experiences for our pastors and ministry leaders. You can read more about this effort in his report.

I am encouraged by the quality of our emerging leaders as well as the commitment of our churches to intentionally support their growth. Many of our churches continue to hire young adult interns each summer. I commend our pastors for their initiative and leadership in this area.

Our pastoral residency program continues to provide opportunities for individuals heading into pastoral ministry to gain practical experience in a local church context. Pastoral residents are mentored by the lead pastor of their church through an intentional, goal-oriented approach. They also participate in our Elevate Collective cohort program.

I am grateful for the collaboration and support of our churches as we continue to equip our emerging leaders. Building a strong leadership future is not the work of a few. It takes all of us working together.

The BIC has been my home for my whole life and I love this church family. Thank you for the privilege of serving you in these ways.

Melanie Wigg

Director of Operations

In our Global work, we focus our resources and energy in three areas: Church Planting & Evangelism, Relief & Development and Leadership Resourcing.

As you likely understand, the BIC Church is smaller in Canada than many other parts of the world but we have a disproportionate amount of resources compared to others. When disasters strike the developing parts of the world, their difficulties increase exponentially due to a lack of resources and infrastructure. In the past year, our brothers and sisters have faced continental droughts and many other natural disasters. It is our desire is to help our global family when the basic necessities of life are taken away and we do this through our Global Relief Fund. When you contribute to the Global Relief Fund, we dedicate those resources to act quickly when the need arises. We cannot thank you enough for your support which totalled almost \$19,000 in 2024 for relief needs.

To help you be aware of the needs within our international family, we have a donations page with projects listed that are approved for donations. The website is at biccanadaglobal.com. We have discontinued the printed Giving Guide due to the high cost of printing and distribution. Our focus will be to develop the website and provide more information as we receive it from international partners. Obviously, inflation and currency changes can make information out-of-date quickly so send me an email for up-to-date information if you are planning a fund raiser. I have seen first hand that the gifts that you give are literally life-changing for the recipients.

I continue to be in touch with Amanda Moono (née Schwartzentruber) and I will share an update with you via video at our Annual General Meeting. Another couple, who are working in cross-cultural ministry are Jacob and Leidy Paul who serve in Colombia. We are excited to get to know them better as they will be home in April and sharing at AGM about the work of God in Colombia.

Over the past six years we have been supporting a child sponsorship program in Nepal that allows 100 children to attend local public schools and receive an education. The BIC denomination has a long history of support for education in the far east region of the world as we recognize there are very few things that lift children out of poverty more than an education. If we want to include more children, we need your help to achieve that vision. 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 exciting to see a number of our churches reignite their passion for the global work and to begin building relationships with international congregations in Cuba, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic to mention a few. We believe each local church should be involved in an international partnerships. Engaging in global partnership will expand your heart and refine your priorities as a church and as individuals. And most importantly, it fulfills the directive given to us by Jesus to go into all the world.

We strongly encourage this activity for our churches and 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 overseas in a coordinated way, to please let our office know. It is critical for us to be aware if any of our churches are involved in global ministry.

Timothy Horne has been serving as the Latin Region Coordinator for the past two years but Timothy has moved to Halifax to be closer to family and is no longer able to serve in this role. During 2025 I hope to find someone who can replace Timothy in that capacity.

Finally, we ask you to pray. We desire to use our resources to make wise, intentional decisions that reflect the heart of God for this world. We appreciate your prayers for wisdom and discernment as we make these decisions. We also encourage you to pray regularly for our ministry partners around the globe who face difficult ministry conditions. Know and be encouraged that they fervently pray for us. May we be found faithful in the same way we look ahead with expectation for 2025.

Todd Lester

Director of Leadership and Global Programs

International BIC Association (IBICA)



INTERNATIONAL Brethren in Christ ASSOCIATION

The International Brethren In Christ Association is a network of national conferences of the Brethren in Christ Church. Established in 2006, our goal is to facilitate communication, build trust and cooperation within our global community, and to establish common and mutual understanding through our set of core values. We wish to be the common voice for the international BIC community in speaking to issues of shared interest. We believe our role is to provide support and fellowship among international BIC church leaders.

The International Brethren in Christ Association (IBICA) Executive is chaired by Thuma Hamukang'andu [Zambia] and includes the following members at large: Alan Robinson [US], José Otamendi [Venezuela], Todd Lester [Canada], and Danisa Ndlovu [Zimbabwe]. Sadly, the IBICA lost a long-term member when Bijoy Roul passed away.

During 2024, IBICA gathered in Madrid, Spain to plan the next three years of gatherings for the international BIC family and to plan for a leadership transition of the IBICA executive as a number of members are retiring from service.

The 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, Colombia, Liberia, Eswatini and Italy. It is exciting that the worldwide BIC family is experiencing growth as groups around the world are drawn to our anabaptist theology and values.

As I represent Canada at IBICA gatherings, I often brag (humbly, of course) about the globally minded pastors in our BIC Canada churches. I am proud to be able to speak so well of the passion I see in our local congregation for the fulfillment of the Great Commission. In my work with IBICA I am constantly reminded of the wealth gap that exists in our world between the wealthy nations and the developing nations. I continue to advocate on behalf of the BIC churches in the developing part of the world and to communicate to you their needs and the ways that we can support our brothers and sisters.

I also have the privilege of representing IBICA at Mennonite World Conference (MWC) meetings. MWC is a gathering of anabaptist leaders from all 108 member groups for the purpose of fostering unity and development of the global anabaptist church. We meet once per year to discuss how to foster the growth and unity of the worldwide anabaptist family. In 2025, the anabaptist movement will celebrate 500 years and a few of us from BIC will be there. Thousands of anabaptists from around the world will gather together on May 29, 2025 in Zurich Switzerland. These celebrations will honour those early anabaptists who began their

quest in 1525 to be a church committed to following Jesus fully, free from compromises and concessions they observed in other movements. May we continue in that tradition and with the same passion of those who came before us.

Todd Lester

Director of Leadership and Global Programs

MOTION 1: APPROVAL OF GENERAL REPORTS

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

ACTION: **APPROVED**

Be In Christ Church of Canada / BIC Canada-Global
**General Financial Reports for 2024
and Spending Plans for 2025**

Each year we ask our member congregations to commit 10% of their annual general budget giving to what we call "BIC Co-operative Ministries" – our general fund. We strive to use the funds you send us to support the work of the church and pursue our shared strategic objectives.

Included in these reports you will find our audited financial statements for 2024 and our spending plans for 2025. In reviewing these reports please note the following:

1. Congregational giving to BIC General Fund was \$988,671 which represents a positive increase from 2023. Total revenue in 2024 was \$1,398,360 - up significantly from last year. The pandemic affected what our member churches were able to send us but we are seeing a gradual recovery.
2. Giving from the Meeting House (our largest contributor) has reduced significantly what they are able to contribute.
3. Expenses in 2024 were \$904,757 which represents a positive surplus. This is a tremendous improvement over previous years.
4. In addition to the funds we give to support BIC Canada-Global and additional \$365,355 was given to global work.
5. Out of our General Fund givings we were also able to send \$50,000 to Global and \$24,000 to Camp Kahquah.
6. Our church planting subsidies were reduced this past year as some of our church plants reached sustainability. We also have sought to develop more cost effective ways of planting churches with a bi-vocational approach. We expect momentum to grow in years to come for planting new churches and re-igniting struggling ones through the increased revenues we will be receiving out of the assets of the Meeting House closing. We are glad to be able to re-establish a staff role for this ministry with Jimmy Rushton joining our staff in 2025.

Regarding the 2025 Spending Plan please take note of the following:

The Meeting House will be ceasing operations as a charity at the end of June 2025 and the Bristol Circle property has been sold. The assets from the dissolution of this charity will be directed to the denomination as was called for in their articles of incorporation. Significant portions of these monies are internally restricted to support the ministry of the Halton Peel congregation and to provide funds for any future legal work that may need to be done. This leaves us with a significant fund which we plan to invest and then utilize the annual interest revenue to fund church planting / church development in years to come. Partly this will occur through one full time and one part time staff role provided for by these funds. We want to be good stewards of this generational resource to bless the church for years to come. The Board of Directors has approved a strategy for investment and we are working with trusted advisors. We also have taken into account support for the remaining churches of the BIC Church Collective

over the next 2 ½ years as they move to be self-supporting full member congregations of the BIC.

In 2025 you will see a significant budget amount for our Pastors and Spouses Retreat. We hold this retreat every 4 years and believe it is a real encouragement to our Pastors.

Each year we commit significant funds to raising up leaders through our emerging Pastors & Leaders Program and our internships for new Pastors. This flows directly out of our strategic objective of raising up new leaders.

Each year we also budget for assistance for Pastors and congregations going through struggles as a means of helping to re-ignite ministry.

Our payroll, benefit and credentialing services provide key support to our churches. Our BIC Staff provide a wide range of services to help facilitate ministry in our local churches. We deploy staff to assist in oversight of our Global work and Camp Kahquah.

In the following pages you will find audited financial statements for BIC Canada and the Compilation Engagement for BIC Canada Global as well as 2025 spending plans for BIC Canada and BIC Canada Global.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie E. Mashinter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlie Mashinter

Executive Director

MOTION 2: 2024 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve the 2024 Audited Financial Statements of BIC Canada and 2024 Compilation Engagement for BIC Canada-Global, prepared by management of the denomination and audited by Adams & Miles LLP Chartered Professional Accountants.

ACTION: **APPROVED**

MOTION 3: BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve the following persons to serve on the Board of Directors:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Jon Limmer	AGM 2028 (1st term)
Stephen Roy	AGM 2026 (One year extension to 3rd term)
To Be Determined	Board is still searching for an additional candidate who will be ratified at AGM in 2026.

Current Other Members of the Board

Paul Kiss	AGM 2026 (2nd term)
David Lees	AGM 2026 (2nd term)
Fiona Miles	AGM 2026 (3rd term)
Doug Braun	AGM 2027 (1st term)
Heather Fretz	AGM 2027 (3rd term)
Heather Field	AGM 2027 (2nd term)
Keely Powley	AGM 2027 (2 nd term)
John Gilmore	(Term on Board expiring at AGM 2025)

ACTION: **APPROVED**

Financial Recommendations

BIC Canada 2025 Spending Plan

	2025	2024
REVENUE		
Shared Giving	770,000	765,000
Church Plants Income	110,000	177,300
Interest/Transfer from Reserves	398,000	94,500
Other Income	20,000	88,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,298,000	\$ 1,124,800

EXPENSES

Denominational Leadership

Staff Team	650,000	509,500
Leadership Meetings	1,000	1,200
Board of Directors	1,600	1,600
Annual General Meeting	5,000	5,000
Archives	4,000	4,000
Historical Society	800	800
Membership Fees	1,900	2,500
	\$ 664,300	\$ 524,600

Pastoral & Congregational Services

Leadership Development	20,000	15,000
Pastors & Spouses Retreat	25,000	
New Pastors Orientation	11,000	8,000
Pastoral Support	4,000	4,000
Devotional Guides	10,000	11,000
Payroll Services	54,000	42,000
	\$ 124,000	\$ 80,000

	2025	2024
Next Generation Ministries		
Elevate Collective	30,000	32,000
Pastoral Residency	33,000	33,000
	\$ 63,000	\$ 65,000
Home Mission		
Church Planting Spending	136,000	212,800
Church Subsidies	26,600	39,800
Teaching Ministry	4,000	
Church Planting Subsidies	29,900	1,000
	\$ 196,500	\$ 253,600
Partnerships		
BIC Canada Global	75,000	50,000
Camp Kahquah	24,000	24,000
	\$ 99,000	\$ 74,000
Administration		
Office	20,000	18,000
Communications	1,200	600
Phone & Internet	12,000	10,000
Financial Services	52,000	44,000
Audit Services	30,000	30,000
Legal Services	15,000	10,000
Insurance	15,000	10,000
Banking	3,000	3,000
Contingency	3,000	2,000
	\$ 151,200	\$ 127,600
TOTAL SPENDING	\$ 1,298,000	\$ 1,124,800

BIC Canada - Global 2025 Spending Plan

Projected Income	\$	303,450
Projected Expenses	\$	293,650
Net Income	\$	9,800

INCOME		
BIC Transfer	\$	50,000
Designated People Giving	\$	66,450
Designated Project Giving	\$	120,000
General Fund Giving	\$	30,000
Deferred Income	\$	37,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$	303,450
GLOBAL TEAM		
TRAVEL		
Staff	\$	4,000
Support	\$	8,000
Total Travel	\$	12,000
PARTNERSHIPS		
Council of International Anabaptist Ministries	\$	700
International Brethren in Christ Association	\$	10,000
Mennonite World Conference	\$	500
Total Partnerships	\$	11,200
OFFICE		
Administration	\$	10,000
Professional Services	\$	2,000
Total Office	\$	12,000
TOTAL GLOBAL TEAM	\$	35,200

PROJECTS		
Church Planting and Evangelism	\$	50,000
Relief and Development	\$	90,000
Leadership Resourcing	\$	40,000
General	\$	12,000
TOTAL PROJECTS	\$	192,000

PEOPLE		
Amanda Schwartzentruher	\$	22,000
David & Marlene Geiger	\$	26,000
David & Patti Miller	\$	12,000
Jay Smith	\$	2,450
Bruce & Merly Bundy	\$	3,000
Mike & Lori Cassel	\$	1,000
TOTAL PEOPLE	\$	66,450

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	293,650
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MOTION 4: SPENDING PLANS 2025

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve a 2025 spending plan of \$ 1,298,000 for Be In Christ Church of Canada and \$ 293,650 for BIC Canada - Global.

ACTION: **APPROVED**

MOTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

1. 2024 PUBLISHED RECORD

It is recommended that the published record of the 2024 Annual General Meeting be the official minutes of said meeting.

2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

It is recommended that the Be In Christ Church of Canada 2025 Annual General Meeting be held in Port Colborne ON at the Port Colborne BIC Church on Saturday April 25, 2026.

3. 2024 AUDIT / FINANCIAL REVIEW

It is recommended that the firm of Adams & Miles LLP Chartered Professional Accountants be appointed as Auditor for Be In Christ Church of Canada for the fiscal year 2025 and to provide a compilation engagement for BIC Canada-Global for the fiscal year 2025.

ACTION: **APPROVED**

Archivist Report

Collecting material for the Archives began in 1976; the collection was stored in the homes of the first two persons. Now the Archives fills a large room in the Port Colborne Church, and the collection continues to grow. Several boxes of congregational and family records were deposited this year. If you "wonder" whether something should go to the Archives, please send it, and let me review it.

I have researched quite a number of items during the year: Camp Kahquah historical files; resources for a speaker at the New Pastors' Orientation; the Niagara Christian Collegiate Scholarship lists; the founding of the New Life Church in Collingwood; the service of Hannah Cober Baker as a missionary; the Steckley family origins; the involvement of Bishop Jonathan Lyons in the Welland Mission and more.

A new walkway was installed at the Cairn Site opposite the Bertie BIC Cemetery. The photo shows all three historical markers at the site. The larger stone marker, built in 1967, was also professionally repaired.

The Cross Roads Church building (in Puslinch Township, Wellington County) has been declared a Heritage Site by the Township. It was built in 1874 as a Union Meeting House.

From time to time, a professor from Redeemer University, Ancaster, visits the Archives for research purposes. He contributed an article to the BIC Journal related to this work. I provided a copy of QUEST FOR PIETY AND OBEDIENCE to one of the denominational leaders. An interesting question has arisen as to whom a pastor's sermons belong... the pastor or the congregation? This has not been answered.

I continue to serve as the Canadian Representative for the BIC Historical Society; annual membership can be arranged through me at \$30. The December 2024 journal presented stories and memories by Lester Fretz.

Perhaps you will find material for the Archives in your family homes during 2025!

Leonard Chester

Archivist, BICC Canada





GIVING THANKS: 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Programs

Following the upper lodge renovation, we had the joy of hosting the **BIC Sr. High Retreat**, our largest retreat to date. Over **180 youth and leaders** from various BIC churches gathered for a time of connection and spiritual growth.

Baptisms

Kahquah continues to play a significant role in the faith journeys of many young people. Year after year, campers and retreat attendees choose to take the next step in their faith by being baptized—whether during a retreat, kids' camp, or family camp.

Upper Lodge Renovation

We celebrate the successful completion of the **upper lodge renovation**, which was finished on time and under budget for this phase. The newly designed rooms are **beautiful, versatile, and well-loved** by all our guests.

New Boat

Thanks to funds set aside from past fundraisers, along with a designated estate donation, we were able to purchase a **"new-to-us" Mastercraft ski boat**—a valuable addition to our waterfront activities.

Expanded Ropes Course

This year, we successfully completed the **expansion and redesign** of the high ropes course. The improvements allow all elements to be used simultaneously, ensuring more campers can participate at once.

Seniors' Fundraiser

Each fall, we set a fundraising goal for our seniors' retreats, typically raising between **\$5,000 and \$8,000**. This year, we were amazed by the generosity, as **over \$20,000** was raised! These funds were used to replace "aging" underground water lines and contribute to the special projects fund.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

Facility Enhancements: Continuing to prioritize lodge improvements and year-round sustainability.

Staff Expansion

As the demands of operating a year-round camp grow, we hope to add another full-time staff member to our team.

Prayer Requests

We pray that everyone who visits Kahquah experiences a **safe and spiritually refreshing time** during their stay. We also ask for provision in **financial resources, staffing, and volunteer support** for this coming year.

Since 2018, it has been our privilege to serve at Kahquah. This past year in a meeting with some youth leaders from BIC churches, the leaders shared that every September, as youth programs resume, they can immediately recognize the kids who attended camp over the summer. Their faith appears deeper, more genuine, and more personal—a powerful testament to the lasting impact of Camp Kahquah.

Amy & Ryan Terpstra

Camp Kahquah, Executive Directors

Canadian Cuban Projects Team (CCPT)



Executive Summary

In 2024, the Canadian Cuban Projects Team (CCPT) made significant progress in supporting the Cuban Brethren in Christ (BIC) Church. Focused on infrastructure and community development, we continued funding key projects identified by the BIC Cuba National Church Council. We introduced new giving methods for greater flexibility in contributions, ensuring long-term support for the Cuban church and its mission.

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

Reflecting on 2024, I am deeply grateful for the progress we've made and the relationships we've built with the Cuban BIC Church and its communities. Your support continues to help us strengthen these partnerships and build more vibrant communities. We pray for wisdom and guidance as we move forward, and for strength for the Cuban pastors facing ongoing challenges.

About CCPT

Founded in 2007, CCPT supports the BIC Cuba National Church Council by providing financial, material, and human resources. Our focus is on sustainable development and community infrastructure to help the Cuban BIC Church fulfill its mission.

History of the Brethren in Christ in Cuba

The Cuban BIC Church began in 1954 and has thrived under local leadership since the 1960s. Despite challenges, it remains a resilient and vibrant community today.

Key Achievements & Highlights

- **Renovations & Infrastructure:** CCPT funded renovations for house churches and community centers, enhancing their ability to serve their congregations and communities.
- **Ministry/Work Team Visit:** In November 2024, a team visited Bayamo and Santiago de Cuba to review projects. In Bayamo, they saw improvements including a new cistern and roof at Los Olivos BIC Church. They also began preparations for a stairway to expand church capacity on the second floor. At Emanuel BIC Church, several teaching and accommodation rooms have been completed.

- **New Project in Santiago de Cuba:** CCPT is funding a new initiative in Santiago de Cuba to construct a kitchen that will provide nutritious meals to those in need. Additionally, we are renovating overnight accommodations for patients who travel long distances from surrounding towns to receive medical care at the city hospital, ensuring they have a safe and comfortable place to stay during their treatment.
- **Solar Power for House Churches:** A solar power project was launched to address frequent power outages. The first system was installed in 2024, and we are working to expand this project to other House Churches across the island.

Fundraising Celebration Dinner

CCPT hosted a successful fundraising dinner at Port Colborne BIC Church in 2024, raising \$18,385. The event included a buffet, a silent auction, and a live auction. CCPT shared reports of projects, and Cuban Pastor Modesto Lores shared updates from BIC Emanuel Church and Los Olivos Church in Bayamo. The event encouraged monthly giving from donors.

Partnerships & Collaborations

In 2024, CCPT strengthened partnerships with key Canadian organizations and donors to expand our impact in aid to Cuban Churches.

Thanks to Our Donors

We are incredibly grateful for our donors, whose continued generosity enables us to make a tangible difference in Cuba. We ask for your prayers for wisdom, guidance, and perseverance as we move forward in our mission.

Conclusion

Thank you to all who have supported CCPT's work. Your generosity allows us to bring lasting hope and support to the Cuban BIC Church and its communities. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact.

Mark Lundy

CEO/President, Canadian Cuban Projects Team (CCPT)

Canadian Cuban Projects Team

Our next Work/Ministry trip will be in November 15 to 22, 2025. If you would like to participate and go on this exciting trip, please contact the CCPT Projects Coordinator - Tom Davies - at 905-7345454 or email tdavies@bell.net. Alternatively, you can visit our website <https://ccpt.ca/site/trip-application/> and fill out a request to participate in this Work/Ministry experience.

Niagara Christian Collegiate (NCC)



NCC is a private, Christian school that serves both local and international students. We have a 94-year-old heritage and currently serve students in grades 6 through 12. Our students come from all over the world, including countries such as Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, China, Hong Kong, the USA, and of course, Canada. What makes us unique is that we are a boarding school, with on-site dormitories and live-in dorm directors who ensure the care and well-being of our students. We have a very strong post-secondary prep program, seeing 100% of our graduates go on to top universities around the world.

Giving Thanks and 2024 Highlights

In the summer of 2024, the NCC Board of Directors was very close to selling our 120-acre property. However, in August, the NCC Membership vetoed the sale and a passionate group of alumni and NCC supporters came together to create a plan that would help stabilize the school financially within three years. This plan included a new Board of Directors, restructuring our expenses, expanding international recruitment, offering increased donation and bond-purchase opportunities, and providing greater transparency to our stakeholders. The success of our three-year vision is contingent upon increased enrollment and bond purchases.

We are grateful that the outpouring of support and God's provision meant that we could continue to operate for the 2024/25 school year with full academic, co-curricular and boarding programs. Supporters have come alongside us in many ways: through prayer, donations, bond purchases, and local student sponsorship, all of which have provided encouragement to staff and administration.

NCC continues to be a desired choice for many international and local Christian families, offering small class sizes and teaching from a Christian worldview by deeply dedicated staff. Our Christian Deeper Learning vision, "People of God's story, engaged in real work, that forms self and shapes the world" permeates all we do at NCC. Christian program highlights include the addition of another Bible course, campus ministry and outreach opportunities through our partnership with Lifehouse Church, student discipleship programs, worship teams, and The City youth group; our partnership with YWAM St. Croix saw a group of 15 students and staff travel to the base in March 2024 to deliver children's programs and practical support to the missions team.

The Enrollment office continues efforts to promote our programs, open new networks of communication and recruitment, work with new agents and families, as well as form partnerships in new markets around the world. NCC's CEO travelled to EduCanada fairs in Hong Kong and Africa (including Ghana, Nigeria and Ethiopia) for student recruitment and agent networking meetings. Re-establishing church connections through pastoral luncheons, invitation to tours and open houses have been offered to the BIC community as well as area churches, and the desire to strengthen bonds with local congregations has been a focus over the past two years.

Looking Ahead

The Enrollment Office continues efforts to promote our programs, open new networks of communication and recruitment, work with new agents and families, as well as form new partnerships in new markets around the world.

At a campus level, we are looking forward to our upcoming NCC Open House and Homecoming in May, Grades 8 and 12 graduations in June, English Camp in July, and Summer School in August. We are currently in the middle of a fundraising initiative as well as the end of our enrollment season and will be re-assessing the success of our three-year vision in light of these components of our plan.

Prayer

Since 2020, we have seen a drastic drop in our enrollment numbers—from 275 students in 2020 to just 80 students in 2024. These reductions can be attributed to factors, many outside our control, such as limited international travel post COVID, economic hardships worldwide, and most recently, Canadian immigration regulations imposed on international students.

NCC has received over \$1.3 million in donations and bonds, with more bonds continuing to be purchased. Keeping the fundraising and enrollment targets in sight for the school year ahead is key, as the Board of Directors and Administration continue to seek areas to generate and increase revenue.

Thank you for continuing to pray for NCC students and staff, the Board, and school administration!

Niagara Christian Collegiate, Fort Erie, Ontario
(niagaracc.com)





“Come, and you will see!” - John 1:39

Al-Najd Developmental Forum staff distribute emergency supplies to families caught in conflict in Gaza. Names withheld for security reasons. (Photo/Al-Najd Developmental Forum)

Sharing Christ’s love with all

Dear Be In Christ Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for supporting MCC’s ministry throughout the past year. Our guiding Scripture verse for this year is from John 1:39: “Come, and you will see!” Our prayer is that we would make space to focus more deeply on Jesus and recognize where he’s at work.

We are grateful to be on this journey of following Jesus with compassionate and generous people like you! Thank you. Together, may we continue to walk alongside our global neighbours, sharing Christ’s love with all.

Relief

Your support has played a crucial role in MCC’s response to the crisis in Gaza. To date, MCC has allocated more than \$1.8 million US to our response. Over the past several months, MCC has been able to get several shipments of food and relief supplies into Gaza. This includes 4,000 food boxes, comforters and relief kits. But humanitarian access is constantly changing, and needs remain urgent.

We continue to advocate for a permanent ceasefire, the protection of civilians and for increased humanitarian access to get supplies into Gaza. Please join us in praying for a just and lasting peace in the region.

MCC is also responding to ongoing conflict and displacement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. MCC is collaborating with Anabaptist churches and organizations on a project in DR Congo eastern region to provide emergency supplies through local churches.

Development

MCC continues to invest in education and learning, ensuring children receive the training they need for secure jobs and healthy futures. In Bolivia, MCC partners with the Bolivian Evangelical Mennonite Church to support Samuelito Daycare. The daycare provides nutrition and rich learning opportunities for the children. It also supports parents through home visits and workshops.



Students enjoy the day in the two-year-old classroom at Samuelito Daycare in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. (MCC photo/Anna Yoder)



Peace

MCC staff accompanied partner Peace Bridges Organization (PBO) in a tree planting activity organized by local authorities and communities. (Photo/PBO)

For MCC, peace is more than a wish. It's our work.

Building bridges of peace can take many forms – from giving young people opportunities to serve cross-culturally, to teaching conflict resolution skills, to creating space for dialogue. In Cambodia, it meant taking part in a tree-planting event that brought together more than 1,200 participants from various walks of life. Staff from MCC and partner Peace Bridges Organization helped plant more than 3,000 trees in one day.



We invite you to learn more about how MCC is learning, changing and growing.



We welcome your feedback or questions.

Thank you for the ways you've helped encourage so many lives. In doing so, you have provided a tangible expression of God's love and compassion. It is a privilege to do this work together, within the wider mission of the church.

With much gratitude,

Kenneth Kim

Executive Director, MCC Canada

Michelle Brenneman,

Executive Director, MCC Ontario





2024

REPORT

YEAR GLANCE

AT A



MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara

ONTARIO PROGRAMS

INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS

305 initiatives strengthened local food sovereignty in northern Indigenous communities.



BRINGING HOPE

194 newcomers were welcomed to Ontario, beginning new lives of hope and opportunity.



Hope Starts at Home

ADVOCACY

15 advocacy initiatives aimed to create meaningful change and improve the lives of the most vulnerable.

THRIFT SHOPS

2,820,965 items, including clothing, furniture and household goods, were thoughtfully reused, helping both people and the planet through MCC Ontario Thrift Shops.

MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara



MCC photo/Paul Spencer

VOLUNTEERS

1,801 volunteers embodied compassion and hope for countless lives.



INTERNATIONAL

45 countries
353 partners
552 projects

MEAT CANNERY

Construction started on Ontario's first stationary meat cannery, which will provide essential nutrients to those in need worldwide.

THE RAW CARROT

The Raw Carrot Soup Enterprise provided over **1,400** hours of employment that matters.



MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara

MATERIAL RESOURCES

116,125 people received hygiene items, including menstrual health supplies*

EMERGENCY RELIEF

Relief aid shipments reached communities in Malawi, Ukraine, Burundi, Cuba, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Palestine, Zambia and the USA, providing critical support to those in need.

299,458 people received emergency food assistance*

DEVELOPMENT

40,726 people trained in climate-adaptive agriculture practices*

46,247 people now have access to an improved water source*

44,358 people globally received training in human rights*



Photo/AMBCU**

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ | mcc.org

*as of March 2024

**Association of Mennonite Brethren Churches of Ukraine

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.



Celebrating Peace Sunday in India

The Courage to Love is the MWC's theme for 2025. Together with our global sisters and brothers, we are following Jesus, living out unity and building peace. **2025** marks 500 years of global Anabaptism, and 100th Anniversary of MWC.

MWC General Council, Commissions, and Networks will be meeting in Germany during the week prior to the May 29 commemoration; and we will gather to worship in local congregations around Germany and Switzerland.

Join us in praying for those that are preparing to welcome the global Anabaptist church to Europe. To gather in Zurich, 500 years after a deep rift formed between Anabaptists and other Christians, is an opportunity to take steps of reconciliation among followers of Jesus Christ. Then join us on the livestream service. A link will be provided on our website.

Pray for those that will gather for the Global Youth Summit (May 30-June 1). We believe that investing in young leaders is an essential part of being the church. GYS is an opportunity for young Anabaptists to encourage each other in their walk with Jesus and be exposed to the global church.

MWC is our Anabaptist global family with more than 1.48 million baptized believers in 110 national member churches, including 13 national BIC churches (5 in Africa, 4 in Asia, 2 in Latin America, and 2 in North America). Total baptized BIC membership is about 140,000 (9.4% of MWC worldwide membership). It is inspiring to hear of the spiritual growth of the global BIC

church and your collective commitment to serve the communities in which God has placed you and in which you generously share the gifts God has given in Christ by the Spirit. We are grateful for the BIC congregations that are joining in worship events with Anabaptist churches around the world. Participate in Peace Sunday and Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday, and take up a **One Lunch Offering** to support the ministry of our global Anabaptist church family.

Learn about our global Christ-centred faith community. Subscribe (mwc-cmm.org/signup) and read about our sisters and brothers:

MWC Info (monthly e-newsletter) <https://mwc-cmm.org/en/mwc-info>

Prayer Network (bimonthly) <https://mwc-cmm.org/en/prayers/prayer-network/>

Courier/Correo/Courrier magazine (quarterly) <https://mwc-cmm.org/en/courier>

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND INTERCESSION

Pray for the ongoing ministry of MWC leadership teams including General Secretary César García, the MWC Executive Committee and Commission leaders. And, pray for BIC's General Council delegate, Melanie Wigg, and participant, Todd Lester, as they represent your church community at these global events.

As communities face uncertain futures due to persecution, natural disasters, political turmoil and conflict, the presence and identification with our global Anabaptist communion is an essential means of support and encouragement. Together we walk in the way of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your enthusiastic participation and generous support of the MWC community through BIC Churches of Canada, from local churches and individual donors!



César García



Gerald Hildebrand

MWC North America Regional Representative

GeraldHildebrand@mwc-cmm.org

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

See how the global church lived out unity as the body of Christ in our 2024 Year-in-Review video:
<https://mwc-cmm.org/en/resources/year-in-review-2024/>

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WEBSITES:

beinchrist.ca

pastoralway.com

biccanadaglobal.com

nepalpeaceproject.com

campkahquah.com

BIC Global Donations:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/86217>

BIC Event Registrations & Donations:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/3969>