

AGM 2026

Agenda

BELOVED

BELONG

BECOME



Port Colborne BIC Church, 10641 ON-3, Port Colborne ON
Saturday, April 25, 2026 | 10am - 3pm

Welcome to our 2026 Annual General Meeting

We are so glad you are here for our annual BIC extended church family get together. Our thanks to Pastor Ken Holley and the congregation of the Port Colborne BIC Church for hosting us this year. We come together to do the business of the church, to receive reports, to think about where God is taking us in the future and to give thanks for the Lord's goodness to us. But we also come together to connect. We hope you will take time today to greet old friends and meet some new ones. We also trust that you will be encouraged by the stories of how we have seen God blessing people through the work of our churches here in Canada and around the world.

For the past 3 years we have been focusing on our three BIC descriptor words you will see in the logo above. Our theme this year is "Become." "Become" is a future oriented word that speaks to potential. In Philippians 1:6 Paul writes: "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." The wonderful news is that Jesus takes us as we are but he does not leave us as we are. He is committed to our improvement – what the Bible calls "transformation." In Matthew 16:18, Jesus declares, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." This promise of becoming is not just for us as individuals but also applies to our congregations. Jesus is the primary builder of the *ekklesiā* (assembly/church). The church is an unstoppable force of good – a divine and eternal work not dependent on human effort alone, ensuring the church will endure despite opposition. The always becoming family of God we "get to" be part of.

This AGM also marks a leadership transition with the upcoming retirement of our Executive Director, Charlie Mashinter, and the recognition of our new ED, Todd Lester. We look ahead to all the good things God has in store.

May you be encouraged and challenged as we gather for AGM 2026.

Table of Contents

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
WELCOME TO THE 2026 AGM	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
BE IN CHRIST CHURCH OF CANADA	
- Board of Directors Report	4
- Executive Directors' Report	6
- Staff Team Reports	10
- New Congregation Profiles	17
BIC CANADA-GLOBAL	
- BIC Canada-Global Report	21
- International BIC Association (IBICA)	23
FINANCIAL REPORTS	
- General Financial Report for 2025	25
RECOMMENDATIONS	
- Financial Recommendations	
- BIC Canada 2026 Spending Plan	27
- BIC Canada-Global 2026 Spending Plan	29
- General Recommendations	31
ADDITIONAL REPORTS	
- Archivist Report	33
- Camp Kahquah Report	34
OUR PARTNERS	
- Canadian Cuban Projects Team (CCPT)	36
- Niagara Christian Collegiate (NCC)	39
- Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)	42
- Mennonite World Conference (MWC)	44
CONNECT	47



Dear Friends,

As I write this final report, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on the gift it has been to serve alongside you. When I joined the board in 2016, I could not have imagined the journey ahead: three full terms, a special one-year term, and countless moments of prayer, discernment, and shared hope. This past year, in particular, felt like sacred work as we navigated a leadership transition and sought to provide stability for our wider church family.

One of the most meaningful responsibilities we undertook was discerning who would serve as our next Executive Director. We approached this process with open hands and open hearts, sincerely wanting to follow the Holy Spirit's lead. The Selection Committee, made up of both board members and voices from across our churches, embodied that posture beautifully. Their patience, prayerfulness, and willingness to listen stood out to me again and again.

When their work concluded in fall 2025, they recommended Todd Lester to be our next Executive Director. The board received that recommendation with deep appreciation, and I remain grateful for the clarity and peace that surrounded that decision. My heartfelt thanks to Paul Kiss, Heather Fretz, Fiona Miles, Jeff Aitken, Wesley Hillis, and Charlene Neuman. You carried a significant responsibility with grace.

This year also brought pivotal moments in our broader denominational life. The funds received from the sale of The Meeting House property represent both a stewardship opportunity and a reminder of God's faithfulness in seasons of repair and rebuilding. As shared at last year's AGM, allocations were made to address future legal needs, provide for a future building for the Halton-Peel (now Waypoint) congregation, support the congregations emerging from TMH sites, and strengthen our wider BIC ministry. I have already seen how these resources are allowing our staff to walk more closely and more helpfully with our churches.

But above all, it is the people I will remember most. This board has been marked by thoughtful discussion, humility, laughter, and a deep shared love for the church. Thank you to Heather Fretz, Fiona Miles, David Lees, Paul Kiss, Heather Field, Jon Limmer, Keeley Powley, Doug Braun, and Tonia Blenkarn. Serving with you has been one of the great privileges of my life. As Fiona, David, and I step off, I do so with deep confidence in those who will continue the work.

I would like to express sincere appreciation to our dedicated staff, Charlie, Todd, Melanie, Jimmy, Emma, and Charmaine, who continue to grow as a team and lead with excellence. Finally, to all BIC church members, pastors, and leaders, I am grateful for your continued service and commitment to leading the people of God in this day through local expressions of faith and witness.

Thank you for trusting me to serve as chair over these past six years. It has been an honour, a joy, and a blessing.

May God's peace be with you.

Stephen Roy

Chair, BIC Canada Board of Directors

This is my final report as Executive Director as I retire at the end of June. For thirty-four-years now I have served in Pastoral ministry with the BIC Church, the last six of those years as Executive Director. What a great journey it has been.

Some time ago I participated in one of those experiences where you seek to identify your life mission. What I discovered is that my unique "bent" was centred around two key values which I have tried to live out. They are:

- 1. Creating safe places for people to explore and/or re-engage the Christian faith.*
- 2. Leaving things better than I found them.*

1. Creating safe places for people to explore and/or re-engage the Christian faith.

If I could leave a message to the church it would be this: *Make room for lost people. Honour their journey and questions. Try to make sure your congregation and your gatherings are infused with an expectation people will come who either do not yet believe or who have serious doubts they are working through. Create safe places and challenging messages that will engage them.*

2. Leaving things better than I found them.

The last few years have been a challenging time in which to lead. I am grateful to the Lord that our church has kept moving ahead and is in a good place. Here is a re-cap:

- Doing a badly needed makeover to our accounting, audit and admin systems.
- Moving to a virtual office for our staff (fortunately we did this before the pandemic).
- Navigating through the difficulties of the moral failures associated with several Pastors of The Meeting House and then the eventual closing of this church.
- Guiding the church through a global pandemic. The losses, disruptions, conflicts, pain and toll on Pastors ran deep. In many ways we are still recovering.
- Helping former Meeting House sites to emerge as self-sustaining congregations.
- Addressing changes in giving patterns resulting in reduced congregational giving. We have moved beyond the baby boom generation as the predominant age group.
- Raising up new Pastors. As a large number of our Pastors move into retirement we need to continue to help younger leaders hear God's call to ministry.
- Renewing engagement with key partners: Mennonite Central Committee / Our global Anabaptist family / The BIC Church USA.
- Setting up effective systems to manage our denomination's financial resources to provide additional income for ministry well into the future.
- Working through staff changes as priorities and giving both continue to shift.

What has been accomplished in these years was only possible because of the skilled team of people I have worked with. As the leadership passes now to Todd Lester, I believe we are strong and ready to face the future.

As we come together for AGM this year I want to note several important developments:

New Churches

Over the last 3 years we have been supporting the BIC Church Collective to prepare former Meeting House sites in the journey of getting charitable status and becoming self-sustaining BIC churches. Our gratitude goes out to Matt Miles for his leadership as well as to Tonia Blenkarn, Brent Babcock, and Jimmy Rushton for their contributions.

As a result, at AGM this year we will be recognizing the following congregations who have been approved by our BIC Board Of Directors as full member congregations:

- **Waypoint Church** (Oakville ON) (formerly The Meeting House Oakville)
- **East Toronto BIC Church** (formerly The Meeting House East Toronto)
- **West Toronto BIC Church** (formerly The Meeting House High Park)
- **Parry Sound Community Church** (formerly The Meeting House Parry Sound)

It should also be noted that:

- **The former Waterloo Site** of The Meeting House elected to join in with Pathway Community Church in Kitchener and this community of faith is thriving.
- **The former Burlington Site** of The Meeting House elected to move to become a site of Westside Community Church in Hamilton.
- **Peace Community Church in Hamilton** (formerly The Meeting House Hamilton site) continues to operate under the auspices of Sandbanks Community Church while it advances the work of preparing to be a full member congregation (2027 hopefully).
- **Sandbanks Community Church** (formerly The Meeting House Sandbanks) in Prince Edward County ON was already a full member congregation and continues.
- **Common Ground Church** (for a time known as The Meeting House Alliston) was already a full member congregation and continues.
- **Mosaic Church** in Richmond Hill ON (formerly The Meeting House Richmond Hill) is now operating as a church planting under the BIC.
- **Grafted Church** in Belleville ON ceased operations as a charity at the end of 2025. The remaining group is now operating as a church planting under the BIC.

Elmvale Community Church Possible Affiliation

During the last year, we were approached by the leadership of Elmvale (ON) Community Church about the possibility of their church becoming part of the BIC. A number of people in their fellowship have had connections with us and they felt the BIC would be a good fit

for them as they sought out a denomination to belong to. Up to this point, they have been operating as an independent. We continue in discernment with them. We welcome some of their leaders as visitors to our AGM this year.

New BIC Sexual Misconduct and Harassment Policy

Over the past year we have been engaged in creating BIC Sexual Misconduct and Harassment Policy which will apply to all of our churches. This is an important and necessary tool for each of our congregations to have in place. The final draft of our policy is complete and awaiting final approval by our Board of Directors at their June meeting. At that point we will make it available through our web-site. Each of our congregations will need to become familiar with it and make it part of their local church policy manual.

In Conclusion – With Gratitude

We have a wonderful staff team who serve on your behalf. Thanks to Todd Lester, Melanie Wigg, Jimmy Rushton, Charmaine Stulp, and Emma Field for your professionalism and the optimistic spirit you continue to bring to all you do. It has been a privilege to work with you.

Thanks to the people who have served on our Board of Directors during my time in leadership. My friend and colleague Stephen Roy has done a tremendous job as Board Chair and I will miss our regular conversations in working out the “issues of the day”.

My gratitude for all the Pastors, all the local church leaders, and all of you who I have had a chance to work with over these years. I love our church. Thank you for being my people.

Finally ... I am forever grateful to my wife Becky and to my family – Darcie, Greg, Josh & Maddy (and of course my granddaughters, Maren and Sylvie, and one more soon to join us) - for the joy you bring me and for your support. I look forward to having more time to spend with all of you in this new season of life.

Grace and peace to each of you. Please know I am cheering you on!



Charles E. Mashinter

Outgoing Executive Director
Be In Christ Church of Canada

A Word From Our Incoming BIC Executive Director

As I move into the role of Executive Director of the Be In Christ Church of Canada on July 1st, I recognize I have big shoes to fill as Charlie Mashinter retires. I'm very grateful for Charlie's faithful leadership and the strong foundation he's helped to build.

For those who don't know me, here is a quick overview of my career.

- For the past nine years, I've served within our BIC denomination, giving oversight to Leadership Development, our Global programs, and Camp Kahquah.
- I was a pastor for 30 years—most recently with 16 years at Westheights in Kitchener.
- My formal education is in theology and leadership studies.

As I have said at other times, I'm convinced this is a season that calls not simply for maintenance, but for wise discernment, courageous imagination, and steady resolve as we seek to serve Christ in a changing world and uncertain times.

As I look to the future for BIC, I will do my best to serve our churches with the strengths that the Lord has given to me. My strengths are visionary and strategic leadership. I love building teams and helping people feel empowered to take on big ideas together. I'm energized by imagining new possibilities for mission and collaboration that remain faithful to our theological convictions.

I step into this role with gratitude for God's faithfulness to our denomination, and with a deep passion and belief in the importance of the BIC vision of what it means to follow Jesus.

Please pray for me—that I would be an effective servant leader to our pastors and churches.

My wife, Kim, serves as Associate Executive Director at Mennonite Central Committee Ontario. We have two daughters, Brittany and Brooklyn, and we're grateful that both live close by in Waterloo.

Thank you for the trust and honour of serving you and our churches.

Todd Lester

Incoming Executive Director
Be In Christ Church of Canada

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Todd Lester

Given the importance of leadership in building faithful communities of love in our cities, it makes strategic sense that we should invest heavily in our pastors and lay leaders. Even as I transition to the role of Executive Director, I hope to continue to lead our leadership development programs. We approach leadership development from a conventional development cycle (see diagram below) that includes six different programs to address the various needs and stages of our pastoral leaders.



Melanie Wigg and I have been working hard in developing high quality, uniquely Anabaptist, evidence-based approaches to leadership development for BIC pastors. Interest in the program continues to grow as this year, we operated a leadership cohort in Ontario and also a new cohort in the west (Saskatoon).

For the Elevate Collective (one of the six programs of our leadership development program), I have created four years of curriculum and plan for a fifth year in 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.). Along with Melanie Wigg, 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) which provides uniquely BIC resources for our credentialed pastors. In my role, I also get to provide denominational leadership to many amazing staff and ministries. One of those ministries includes Camp Kahquah as led by Ryan and Amy Terpstra. Camp Kahquah continues to flourish and invest in its properties. I encourage you to read the Camp Kahquah report to learn about the exciting impact camp is making on people of all ages.

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

Todd Lester

Director of Leadership and Global Programs

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT & CHURCH PLANTING

Jimmy Rushton

Since stepping into the role of Director of Network Development & Church Planting in April 2025—and yes, the year has moved quickly!—I have had the deep privilege of learning from, coaching, and walking alongside an incredible group of pastors, entrepreneurs, and local church leaders. These women and men are faithfully embodying the way of Jesus in their communities by bringing his peace, sharing his message, and cultivating spaces of belonging and transformation.

Across our churches, we are seeing not only steadiness in numbers, but a deepening maturity where churches are growing in both **depth and width**. What follows is a snapshot of those stories, markers of God at work among these faithful communities.

BIC CHURCH COLLECTIVE

The 2025–2026 season has been both demanding and deeply impactful for our BIC Church Collective (formerly Meeting House local sites). Each of these communities has been navigating the complex but important journey toward local autonomy—working through incorporation, charitable status applications, and the establishment of local governance structures such as boards and bylaws.

This work cannot be overstated. It requires courage, diligence, attention to detail, and long-term vision. I am incredibly grateful for the steady leadership of our BIC staff team, and in particular for Matt Miles, whose guidance and support have been instrumental throughout this process.

Even more, I want to acknowledge the faithful leadership of our pastors, both full-time and part-time, who have shepherded their communities with wisdom, care, and resilience during a season of significant transition.

As these churches continue to clarify their unique vision, values, and local expressions of ministry, the coming year will be pivotal. It will be a time of intentional planning, renewed visioning, and establishing sustainable rhythms for long-term health and mission.

At present, the BIC Church Collective serves and supports the following seven churches:

- Parry Sound Community Church (Amanda Shaw)
- Peace Community Church (Mike Slack)
- East Toronto BIC Church (Jen McWilliams)
- Waypoint Church (Mike Finnie through April 2026 / Jimmy Rushton, Interim Transitional Lead)
- Sandbanks Community Church (Don Walcott)
- Heart of Toronto BIC Church (Steve Elshaw through June 2026)
- Mosaic Richmond Hill (Chris Pullenayegem through 2026)

Looking ahead, 2026 will also mark a significant transition point. This current iteration of the BIC Church Collective will come to its natural conclusion in late summer of 2026. Matt Miles will continue to serve faithfully as Executive Director through this wind-down phase, while also overseeing The Meeting House Rentals team at 2700 Bristol Circle.

The Summer and early Fall will also mark the closure of the 2700 Bristol Circle facility, as Waypoint Church transitions to an interim location, and new ownership begins redevelopment of the site.

While this represents the end of a long and, at times, challenging chapter, it is also a moment marked by deep gratitude and hope. The team that has carried this work forward has done so with remarkable faithfulness, and notably, each member remains deeply rooted in one of the seven local church communities listed above. This is not an ending of ministry, but a transition of expression.

REUNION

Our Reunion churches have also experienced a season of meaningful change, growth, and discernment throughout 2025–2026.

The Reunion network continues to gather semi-regularly for coaching, encouragement, and shared learning. While there remains a common relational thread, the original vision and structure of Reunion has continued to evolve. Some communities are maintaining a closely aligned culture and identity, while others are stepping into greater local distinctiveness—asking important questions about who they are called to be in their specific contexts.

This is a healthy and necessary process. It reflects a maturing movement, one that is learning to hold both shared identity and local innovation in tension.

We are also encouraged by signs of outward momentum, including the exploration of a potential second location or church plant emerging from our Reunion Colombia community.

Currently, the Reunion stream includes the following five communities:

- Reunion Brockville (Jeremy Conway)
- Reunion Alliston (Michael Kotsopoulos)
- The Spiritual Way Community, Kirkland Lake (formerly Reunion Kirkland Lake – Dolly Dikens)
- Reunion Colombia (Andres Rincon / Jacob Paul)
- Reunion Stouffville (Dale Tollefson)

CONCLUSION

As I reflect on this past year, one word comes to mind: **transition**.

But this is not transition marked by loss—it is transition marked by **movement**. Movement of the Spirit. Movement of people stepping into calling. Movement of churches becoming more deeply rooted in who God is inviting them to be. For this I am deeply thankful to be serving, supporting, and walking alongside these faithful sisters and brothers and their church communities.

Jimmy Rushton

Network Planting & Development Director

OPERATIONS

Melanie Wigg

Be In Christ is dedicated to the flourishing of our pastors and congregations. An integral aspect of our support is centralizing key operational services. I am deeply grateful to work alongside Charmaine Stulp and Emma Field in this vital area of ministry.

GROUP BENEFITS, PENSION, & PAYROLL SERVICES

The cornerstone of our operational support is managing group benefits and pension programs at the denominational level. In doing so, we ensure our pastors and their families are cared for today while being prepared for the future. This collective approach relieves individual churches of the burden of establishing these complex programs independently. Additionally, nearly all our churches utilize our central payroll services. By administering payroll (including employment law and CRA compliance) on their behalf, we lighten the administrative load on local treasurers. We are grateful to Charmaine Stulp, whose diligence in these critical services provides invaluable support to our entire church family.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

In addition to overseeing the financial accounting for our denominational office and core programming, Be In Christ also provides this service for BIC Canada Global and our church plants. By managing this key administrative area, we enable BIC Canada Global to direct 100% of all project donations toward the international initiatives they support. Furthermore, this financial service allows our church planters to remain focused on ministry and community development as they work toward establishing themselves as independent congregations.

NEW CHURCH SUPPORT

Our vision for every church plant is to see them flourish into independent, self-sustaining member churches within the Be In Christ family. When plants are ready, we walk alongside them through the technical and legal milestones of incorporation and obtaining charitable status.

This partnership has been particularly vital this past year as former Meeting House sites transitioned into individual member churches. We celebrate the resilience and progress of these congregations and wholeheartedly congratulate those who have officially crossed the finish line into independence!

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

We are continually striving to resource our churches with excellence. This year, we conducted a comprehensive review of protection policies across our denomination. This initiative resulted in a robust Protection Policy Template, now available for local churches to download and customize for their unique contexts. The feedback from our churches has been overwhelmingly positive, and we extend our sincere thanks to Emma Field for her dedicated work in developing this essential resource.

It remains our great joy to equip our churches and pastors as they follow Jesus, share His message, and extend His peace in their local communities and throughout the world.

Melanie Wigg

Director of Operations

Welcoming New Congregations

Parry Sound Community Church

Parry Sound Community Church has been gathering together in different forms for over twenty-five-years. What began as a non-denominational community church transitioned to The Meeting House in 2009, and now we are back to our community church roots.

At Parry Sound Community Church, we are committed to being a Jesus-centred community that loves deeply, extends radical hospitality to all, and seeks to live authentic, everyday faith together.

In 2016, we joined as a partner at the Sound Community HUB. We share the space with an Indigenous Day Care, children's treatment services, the provincial Early ON program, and forty-four Not for Profit housing apartments and ten Native Not for Profit townhouses. In 2018, our church started hosting a monthly dinner for our neighbours who live at the HUB. The focus is on building relationships, providing them with a space to connect, and sharing a meal together. God is working in the HUB! We have HUB Neighbours who join us for our Sunday services, weekly prayer nights and our HUB Home Church.

We have five home churches that meet weekly and continue to thrive with ninety-nine percent of people who are engaged in a Sunday service also regularly attending a home church.

We embrace a model of shared leadership and know from experience, with two part-time staff, that many hands make light work with over eighty percent of our church community serving in various roles.

You can be praying for us as we continue to build our Youth Ministry and affirm our Board. We pray that our church would be a light in our community and a place of safety and connection where people can meet Jesus and grow in their faith.

We are deeply thankful for God's provision and faithfulness, and the place that He has led us to.

Amanda Shaw

Ministry Lead

West Toronto BIC Church

Our church community has been gathering in West Toronto for over 12 years. For many of those years we met at a school in the High Park area as part of The Meeting House network. I have been privileged to be the pastor of this congregation for the past 10 years. My desire is to help people grow closer to Jesus by providing opportunities for our community to use their gifts to build His Kingdom.

On September 8, 2024, we began a fresh chapter, stepping towards a new season as an independent church community. During this transition we were supported by Westside Hamilton Church and by our Be in Christ (BIC) denomination. The encouragement, guidance, and practical help of BIC leaders and staff made a significant difference as we navigated this season and established ourselves within the BIC family. We are deeply grateful for their partnership and care.

On Sept 15, 2025, we became a registered charity, and we began independent operations as West Toronto BIC Church as of January 1, 2026. You can now find us gathered for worship on Sunday mornings at 10am at Humbercrest United Church, in addition to our small groups, youth ministry, and virtual prayer meetings throughout the week.

We are a committed, growing community that seeks to follow Jesus faithfully, participating in God's work of renewal, compassion, and discipleship in the neighbourhoods of West Toronto.

Our church includes many young families with children and teens, along with people in a variety of other life stages. We are especially grateful for the strength of our Kids and Youth ministries. Our Kids Ministry has been faithfully led for the past six years by Melanie Monds, who has done an exceptional job nurturing and discipling our children. We also recently welcomed Jessie Knight as our Youth Coordinator, who brings experience and energy for investing in the spiritual lives of our youth.

As a church we are currently discerning and developing a clear vision and mission for the next chapter of our life together. Our desire is to grow as a community shaped by the way of Jesus, with a particular focus on: compassion and care for our neighbours, meaningful outreach within our local communities, and developing a discipleship pathway that helps people grow in following Jesus. Our hope is to faithfully participate in the work God is already doing throughout West Toronto.

As we look ahead, we would appreciate prayer for: 1) wisdom and clarity as we discern our vision and mission, 2) unity and humility within our leadership and congregation, 3) continued faithfulness as we grow and lead this church community, and 4) sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit as we seek to follow where God is guiding us.

Thank you for your partnership and prayers,

Rob Schellenberg

Lead Pastor

Waypoint Church

Greetings from Waypoint Church!

We have gone from being known as *The Meeting House Oakville* to *Halton-Peel BIC*, and now we are excited to have a new name to reflect our identity moving forward.

We are a community made up of a mix of young families (30's & 40's) and seasoned, long-time attender/members (60's & 70's) who have all stuck it out over the last number of years of change & transition, and are anticipating a hopeful future! To help us move forward with greater insight and purpose, we are continuing our partnership with Credence & Co. to complete a Congregational Health Assessment and participate in learning circles.

Over the past year, we have worked hard to develop our Vision, Mission, and Core Values with a core team working alongside our staff and church community. Following Jesus, we desire to be a Spirit-filled church where people experience belonging, embrace simplicity, and pursue God's restorative peace in the communities around us. As a church together, we value a Jesus-centered life, a community of belonging, compassionate service, living simply, and pursuing peace. We feel that our mission is Knowing, Growing, and Going - Knowing God intimately, Growing as followers of Jesus, and Going out in loving service.

While we continue to grow strong in the identity God has carved out for us, there are still a few major puzzle pieces that remain in transition. In anticipation of saying goodbye to our Lead Pastor, Mike Finnie, this upcoming April, the search for a new Senior Pastor is well underway with the help of the BIC Denomination and our Pastoral Search team. We are also on the hunt for a new home for our Sunday morning and midweek gatherings. You can currently find us at 2700 Bristol Circle in Oakville, but we look forward to finding a new space as part of our fresh start. As a church newly navigating how to operate on our own, we are also now entering a season of introducing our congregation to new processes and responsibilities, including rolling out our membership process and hosting our first local AGM this coming May.

We ask you to partner with us in prayer during this season. Please pray that we remember that, as a church, we are a community of Jesus followers; Our identity is not in the building where we meet, but in being a people who gather to worship, grow, and go out into the world to share the Good News. Please also be praying for our Pastoral Search Team as they move into the next steps of interviews and discernment, seeking God's guidance for who He is calling to serve as our next Lead Pastor.

Jimmy Rushton

Interim Transitional Lead Pastor

East Toronto BIC

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" — Hebrews 12:1

Our church has thrown off many entanglements in the last few years. We began as the East Toronto site of The Meeting House in August of 2016. With the closure of TMH imminent, we spent the summer and fall of 2024 discerning if God was calling us to start something new, or to go our separate ways. Through months of prayer, listening, and regrouping, we set out on a path to become a local BIC Church. And as of April 1st 2026, this is now our reality! We had to learn so much: we formed our first Board, wrote our first policies, and I had to learn how to go from being a Site Pastor to a Lead Pastor (a much bigger role, but I am loving learning as I go). There has been lots of grace and patience all around as we find our way together.

We are a church of approximately 70 people (about half of whom are kids!) who meet on Sundays at 9:30am. Last summer we said farewell to our Cineplex home of 9 years and moved into Woodbine Heights Baptist Church. We had been looking to move for a few years, and this was the first location that was willing to give us a morning worship time slot (they meet after us). It has been a beautiful partnership — less of a rental agreement and more of two churches doing ministry together in one shared space. We are so grateful to be finished with "portable church" and to have a space we can call our own, not just on Sunday mornings but throughout the week as well.

Last year we worked on our church values. We wanted to make clear who we are, and why we feel it's important that we exist as a church in the east end of Toronto. What makes us different from other churches? Why didn't we simply close 2 years ago? Well, there are no other BIC churches over here. We have a unique way of "being church" that we feel meets a need in our neighbourhood.

East Toronto BIC is a church that is centred on Jesus and committed to community. Our four values:

- We are **Rooted in Jesus**, becoming more like him every day as we are transformed by his Spirit (Colossians 2:6-7)
- We **Pursue Peace in Love**, aiming for unity as we love like Jesus (Matthew 5:9)
- We **Live on Mission**, led by the Spirit, doing the good works that God has prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10)
- We **Share Generously** as stewards of everything God has given us (1 Peter 4:10)

These values have guided everything from our teaching to our announcements and church events over this past year. We have much to learn and grow in, but we are faithfully trying to follow Jesus the best we can each and every day.

Please pray for us! Pray for our leadership as we learn how to fulfill our new responsibilities and steward this family of faith. Pray for those still struggling with hurt from our past, that God would bring healing and hope, with clarity for a new future without the burden of past wounds. Pray that people would come to faith in Jesus through our ministry.

You can find us online at www.eastbic.com, or on Facebook. We are so excited to be a part of the BIC family!

Jennifer McWilliams

Lead Pastor

jen@eastbic.com

Our global work is a very important part of the BIC family. Over the past few years, it has been one of many responsibilities, and as a result, it has not received the full attention it deserves. As I transition to Executive Director, I am excited that this change in staffing allows us the opportunity to hire a new leader who can focus on the global work and provide it the focus and expertise it deserves.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the hiring of Letitia Jefkins, effective this past month. Letitia will be taking on an important role with BIC Canada Global, and she brings with her a rich, diverse background that will be a tremendous asset to the global work.

Letitia has valuable international and cross-cultural experience, having lived in both the Dominican Republic and Haiti with her husband, Brent. She is fluent in both English and French, with conversational proficiency in Haitian Creole and Spanish — a skillset that reflects the global nature of our ministry. Letitia also holds a degree in Social Work alongside years of professional experience in that field, equipping her with a compassionate and people-centred approach to her work.

I am excited for the ways she will strengthen our partnerships. Please don't hesitate to reach out to her as your new point of contact. All questions and proposals related to the global work can be addressed to Letitia at letitia.jefkins@beinchrist.ca.

In our Global work, we fund and support many different kinds of projects. Truthfully, it is hard to keep up with all of the ideas that our international brothers and sisters send our way in hopes of finding financial partnership.

To help keep you aware of the project proposals within our international family, we have a "Projects Page" where we have listed any projects that are approved for donations. The website is at biccanadaglobal.com. We will continue to develop this website, providing 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.

We continue to partner with Amanda Moono (née Schwartzentruher) as she transitions to life as a Zambian citizen having married a Zambian national, George Moono. Another couple we have begun partnering with is Jacob and Leidy Paul who serve in Colombia as church planters and leaders of a ministry called El Nido (The Nest). The Paul family are visiting Canada this summer and available for speaking engagements.

Over the past seven years we have been supporting a child sponsorship program in Nepal that allows 100 children to attend local public schools to 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!

One of the ways we help encourage our global family is to provide practical love in times of natural disaster. 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 hurricanes, droughts, and many other natural disasters. When the basic necessities of life are taken away we respond in love 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 more than \$41,000 in 2025 for relief needs.

It is our hope that each local church would be involved in an international partnership as one way of living out the great commission of Jesus. If we can help, please don't hesitate to contact BIC Canada Global. We do require that any time a local church is traveling overseas as a group, to please let our office know. It is critical for us to be aware if any of our churches are involved in global ministry.

Finally, we ask you to pray. We also encourage you to pray regularly for our ministry partners around the globe who face difficult significant challenges and conditions. We anticipate with the hiring of Letitia Jefkins that we can send out more communication about the needs and opportunities of the global family. Stay tuned to our social media posts and emails that come your way.

As this will be my last report in this role, let me conclude by stating that it has been a great privilege to represent you as the BIC Canada family to our brothers and sisters around the world.

Todd Lester

Director of Leadership and Global Programs



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 Todd Lester [Canada] and includes the following members at large: Alan Robinson [US], José Otamendi [Venezuela], and Danisa Ndlovu [Zimbabwe]. Sadly, the IBICA lost a long-term member when Bijoy Roul (India) passed away last year. Due to term length limits, during 2025 Jose Otamendi, Danisa Ndlovu and Thuma Hamukangandu have all concluded their board terms with IBICA.

Given this significant turnover in board positions, the goal of IBICA in 2026 is to convene representative leadership from various BIC regions of the world and evaluate the purpose and mandate of IBICA. During 2026, I will be chairing this transitional time as we seek to discern what is the most strategic role of IBICA in serving the world-wide BIC family of churches.

During 2025, IBICA did not hold formal meetings but gathered together in Stuttgart Germany to celebrate with the wider Anabaptist family the 500 year celebration of Anabaptism in Zurich Switzerland.

As I represent Canada at IBICA gatherings, I try to learn and listen for what God is doing in other parts of the world with the hope of bringing those learnings to our churches in Canada.

For all of the encouragement that comes from meeting with international leaders in the Anabaptist family, it should be noted that there are tensions in the wider family. Not unlike North America, those divisions and tensions derive from the polarization of views on human sexuality. Although it has caused some division, we continue to be true to our values, and pray and hope for unity and reconciliation where needed.

In my role as a member of IBICA, I continue to represent the 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. As mentioned above, in May 2025, the Anabaptist movement gathered in Zurich to celebrate 500 years of our movement.

Todd Lester

Director of Leadership and Global Programs

RECOMMENDATION 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: _____

In the separate documents, you will find [audited financial statements for BIC Canada](#) and the [Compilation Engagement for BIC Canada Global](#), as well as 2026 spending plans for BIC Canada and BIC Canada Global.

Our BIC Co-operative Ministries (CM) Budget has five main sources:

1. *Local Church Giving (Each year we ask our member congregations to commit 10% of their annual budget giving to CM)*
2. *Interest earned from investment of our reserve funds*
3. *Small amounts of principal drawn down from our reserves as needed (Our goal going forward is to reduce this amount to zero to preserve our reserves)*
4. *Direct giving from individuals and occasional bequests*

Combined, these sources provide the income to fund the work of the church each year. Our aim is to be good stewards of what the Lord provides for us through His people.

On the Global side, funding comes mostly from donor contributions as well as from our General Fund and occasional bequests.

In reviewing the **Audited Financial Statements for 2025**, please note the following:

1. Congregational giving to the BIC General Fund was \$770,000, which represents a slight decrease from the previous year, but was on target to budget. Increased expenses over budget largely pertained to support for church plants in development coming out of the closure of The Meeting House, as well as the denominational weekly teaching ministry. We were glad to be able to re-establish a position for church planting ministry with Jimmy Rushton joining our staff in 2025. Jimmy had previously served in a Pastoral capacity and teaching role at The Meeting House.
2. In preparation for a leadership transition in 2026 with Charlie Mashinter's retirement, Emma Field was added to our denominational staff in the role of Special Projects Manager. Emma was previously on staff at The Meeting House and with the BIC Church Collective.
3. The Meeting House had been by far the largest contributor to our BIC Co-operative Ministries annual budget over the last decade. With the distress faced by the church, and eventual closing, there has been a significant drop in income for the last 4 years. However, in 2025 this situation began to improve as new congregations, who were born out of former Meeting House sites, began contributing.

4. With the closure of The Meeting House and the sale of the church property, significant assets were returned to the denomination for future work. As the Board of Directors stands committed to operating with a balanced budget, the interest earned from these funds will help to provide for staff and church extension ministry for years to come. In the short term, some of these funds were allocated to covering legal fees and providing funding for the former Meeting House sites as they move from church plants to full member churches.
5. From your BIC Co-operative Ministries giving in 2025, \$24,000 was sent on to support Camp Kahquah, and \$75,000 was sent on to BIC Canada Global.
6. To support our Saskatchewan churches, we have deployed Curtis Zoerb (from our Massey Place congregation) to resource our SK congregations.
7. In 2025 we provided significant funding for our Pastors and Spouses Retreat. This was a great time of refreshing. With increasing costs we will need to discern the practicality of this kind of event going forward.

Regarding the **2026 Spending Plan for the Be In Christ Church Of Canada** please take note of the following:

1. The need to draw down funds from reserves for this year was part of our 2 year plan to provide funding for transitioning the former Meeting House sites into full member congregations where possible.
2. Each year, we commit significant funds to raising up leaders through our Elevate Collective program. We are glad to report that a Saskatchewan cohort of this ministry has also been formed for this year.
3. We provide funding for two internships for new Pastors who are working in leadership in local BIC churches.
4. We designate funds annually for assistance for Pastors and congregations going through struggles.
5. Significant resources are budgeted for our payroll, group benefit, and pension services in support of our churches.
6. We are required to do an audit each year for the BIC Church Of Canada and an audit compilation for BIC Canada Global. This represents a significant cost but also serves to provide excellent financial accountability and transparency.
7. Our church plants operate under the charitable covering and supervision of the denomination until they reach sustainability and are able to get their own charitable status.



Charles E. Mashinter

Outgoing Executive Director
Be In Christ Church of Canada

Financial Recommendations
BIC Canada 2026 Spending Plan

2026

REVENUE

Shared Giving	770,000
Church Plants Income	120,000
Interest	480,000
From Reserves	76,000
Other Income	5,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,451,000

EXPENSES

Denominational Leadership

Staff Team	770,000
Leadership Meetings	1,400
Board of Directors	1,500
Annual General Meeting	4,000
Archives	3,800
BIC Historical Society	500
Membership Fees	1,800
	\$ 783,000

Pastoral & Congregational Services

Leadership Development	18,000
New Pastors Orientation	8,000
Pastoral Support	5,000
Devotional Guides	8,500
Payroll Services	47,000
	\$ 86,500

2025

Next Generation Ministries

Elevate Development Collective	30,000
Residency Program	22,000
	\$ 52,000

Home Mission

Church Planting (New Starts)	20,000
Church Plant Spending (Operations)	120,000
Church Subsidies	115,000
Teaching Ministry	30,000
	\$ 285,000

Partnerships

BIC Canada Global	75,000
Camp Kahquah	24,000
	\$ 99,000

Administration

Office	24,000
Communications	2,000
Phone & Internet	10,000
Financial Services	39,000
Audit Services	32,000
Legal Services	16,000
Insurance	18,000
Banking	3,000
Contingency	1,500
	\$ 145,500

TOTAL SPENDING	\$ 1,451,000
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Financial Recommendations

BIC Canada - Global 2026 Spending Plan

Projected Income	\$	308,150
Projected Expenses	\$	303,850
Net Income	\$	4,300

INCOME		
BIC Transfer	\$	75,000
Designated People Giving	\$	73,150
Designated Project Giving	\$	100,000
General Fund Giving	\$	30,000
Deferred Income	\$	30,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$	308,150
GLOBAL TEAM		
TRAVEL		
Staff	\$	5,000
Support	\$	15,000
Total Travel	\$	20,000
PARTNERSHIPS		
Council of International Anabaptist Ministries	\$	700
International Brethren in Christ Association	\$	10,000
Mennonite World Conference	\$	8,000
Total Partnerships	\$	18,700
OFFICE		
Administration	\$	7,000
Professional Services	\$	5,000
Total Office	\$	12,000
TOTAL GLOBAL TEAM	\$	50,700

PROJECTS		
Church Planting and Evangelism	\$	30,000
Relief and Development	\$	90,000
Leadership Resourcing	\$	40,000
General	\$	20,000
TOTAL PROJECTS	\$	180,000

PEOPLE		
Jacob & Leidy Paul	\$	6,700
Amanda Moono	\$	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	\$	73,150

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	303,850
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RECOMMENDATION 2: 2025 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve the 2025 Audited Financial Statements of BIC Canada and 2025 Compilation Engagement for BIC Canada-Global, prepared by management of the denomination and audited by Adams & Miles LLP Chartered Professional Accountants.

ACTION: _____

RECOMMENDATION 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>
Paul Kiss	AGM 2029 (2nd term)
Tonia Blenkarn	AGM 2029 (1st term)
Tanya Aitken	AGM 2029 (1st term)
Craig Hogg	AGM 2029 (1st term)
To Be Announced	AGM 2029 (1st term)

Current Other Members of the Board

Doug Braun	AGM 2027 (1st term)
Heather Field	AGM 2027 (2nd term)
Jon Limmer	AGM 2028 (1st term)
Heather Fretz	AGM 2027 (3rd term)
Keely Powley	AGM 2027 (2nd term)

ACTION: _____

RECOMMENDATION 4: SPENDING PLANS 2026

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve a 2026 spending plan of \$ 1,451,000 for Be In Christ Church of Canada and \$ 303,850 for BIC Canada Global.

ACTION: _____

RECOMMENDATION 5: GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE

We the delegate body of Be In Christ Church of Canada approve the following:

1. 2025 PUBLISHED RECORD

It is recommended that the published record of the 2025 Annual General Meeting be the official minutes of said meeting.

2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2027

It is recommended that the Be In Christ Church of Canada 2027 Annual General Meeting be held at New Life Church in Collingwood, Ontario on Saturday April 24, 2027.

3. 2026 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 2026 and to provide a compilation engagement for BIC Canada-Global for the fiscal year 2026.

ACTION: _____

The resources in the Archives continue to grow as more families and congregations send items of interest. When you find material, and “wonder” if it should go to the Archives, please be in touch with me. Do not discard records and artifacts.

The Archives received a refinished pulpit pew which allowed us to send the slightly longer pew back to the Cross Roads Church; at the same time, a pew from the Welland Mission, Elizabeth Street, was donated. I shared in researching the various name changes which the Cross Roads Church has experienced, in preparation for a brief history as a preface to a Cook Book the congregation was releasing.

The New Life Church, Collingwood, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the start of the mission. I supported this weekend by writing a brief history of the congregation, summarizing the pastoral leadership over the years, as well as sending photos and several artifacts for their excellent historical display. I was delighted to attend the celebration.

Melanie Wigg and Emma Field visited the Archives to assist Emma with her orientation to the history of the denomination, as well as assisting them with dates for the founding of many of the congregations. The Archives received a copy of the Heise Hill Cemetery Archeological Report, related to the proper boundary of the cemetery.

I assisted the Executive Director in researching lists of board members for two former church institutions, as well as the deed for one of them. I provided photos of the first Welland Church on Lincoln St., also the enlarged facility which burned several years ago, and was demolished this year. I responded to the request for information on the Memorial Cross and plaque in the Port Colborne Chapel.

On behalf of the BIC Historical Society, we held a Book Release Evening for the biography of E. Morris Sider, *Storyteller: The Life and Times of E. Morris Sider*, written by Devin Manzullo-Thomas, who attended. This was an opportunity for some to visit the Archives for the first time. Annual membership in the Society continues at \$30.

Contact me for YOUR visit to the Archives.

Leonard Chester

Archivist, BICC Canada

leonardchester@outlook.com
905-834-6924



CAMP KAHQUAH

Giving Thanks

As we reflect on this past year at Camp Kahquah, we are filled with gratitude for God's continued faithfulness. Since 1962, Kahquah has been a place where lives are shaped, faith is deepened, and community is built—and this year has been no exception.

We are thankful for:

- 90+ dedicated staff and volunteers who served with humility and joy in July to help make Kids camp another great year.
- We celebrate Angie Limmer joining our year-round team to support our retreats and kids camp programs.
- Faithful supporters and donors whose generosity makes this ministry possible and helped us finish another year in the black.
- Over \$17,000 raised from seniors retreats to replace aging mattresses
- Facility improvements like the new lodge porch and renovated meeting room that are helping create more welcoming, functional, and attractive spaces for all who come

Looking Ahead

As we look forward, we are excited about the opportunities God is placing before us. Our focus continues to be on strengthening both our programs and our facilities to support long-term, sustainable ministry.

Key priorities moving ahead include:

- Enhancing programs to ensure campers and guests have meaningful, engaging, and faith-forming experiences
- Facilities upgrades - This year, we are excited to continue our lodge renovations by completing the lower lodge, resulting in fully updated accommodations throughout the lodge—each with its own private bathroom. Building on this, we are also working toward winterizing Ahmic View and developing additional lakeview meeting spaces beneath it, further enhancing our year-round retreat capacity.

Prayer Requests

As we move forward, we depend on God and invite you to join us in prayer.

Please pray for:

- Spiritual impact—that every person who comes to Kahquah would encounter Christ in a real and lasting way
- Staff and leadership—for wisdom as we head into another amazing summer
- Provision—for continued financial support and resources to carry out the ministry
- Ongoing projects—that facility improvements would be completed smoothly and effectively and all necessary funds would be provided
- Protection and safety for all campers, guests, and staff throughout the year

We are grateful for your partnership in prayer, support, and encouragement. Together, we continue to see God use Camp Kahquah as a place of transformation and growth.

Amy & Ryan Terpstra

Camp Kahquah, Executive Directors

Canadian Cuban Projects Team (CCPT)



Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2025, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for each and every one of you. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in strengthening partnerships and fostering vibrant church communities throughout Cuba. We are deeply thankful for your commitment to the Canadian Cuban Projects Team (CCPT) and the vital work we are privileged to do together.

We hold in our prayers the Cuban pastors who face immense hardships daily. We ask for wisdom and guidance as we navigate the challenges ahead, trusting that together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference.

The CCPT, in partnership with BIC Global Canada through a Memorandum of Understanding, is dedicated to providing financial, material, and human resources for approved projects. Our focus remains on sustainable development and community infrastructure, empowering the Church in Cuba to fulfill its mission. We are particularly excited about the progress we've made with solar energy. After three years of dedicated research, we have secured access to solar materials within Cuba and established a trained local installation team. To date, we have successfully installed eight fully operational solar systems on house churches. These systems are immediately improving the churches' ability to serve their communities by providing reliable light, refrigeration, water, and the capacity to cook and deliver meals to those most in need.

We want to share some key achievements, and highlights from the past year:

In November 2025, a team of 14 individuals journeyed to Cuba and witnessed God at work in truly powerful ways. They contributed to the construction of interior walls in the new seniors' center, a crucial step towards offering warm daily lunches and fellowship opportunities. We envision this center also providing laundry services for seniors in the future.

Our Women's Ministry Outreach was a resounding success. Seven team members led daily programs for women from nearby congregations, with up to 35 women participating in each session. They engaged in Bible lessons, shared testimonies, and enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and other crafts.



Following a wonderful Sunday service at the church in Cruces, we joined three area churches at the Caribbean Sea to witness the baptism of 19 new believers, alongside the visiting Bishop of the Cuban Mennonite Church. It was a truly inspiring event.

Thanks to a generous gift from the Wainfleet BIC Church Missions Committee, we were able to provide 120 colourful pencil cases to a Cuban school for children with learning disabilities. Each child received a treasured set of supplies, and our team was deeply touched by the welcoming presentation from the students.



A Seminar on Budget and Planning, led by a Canadian financial expert on our team, invaluable. Divided into four parts – the spiritual nature of financial management, preparing a personal budget, preparing a church budget, and preparing a financial plan for a building project – the seminar provided Cuban pastors and treasurers with practical exercises for each budget type. Throughout the week of work activities, team members also visited and worked at four additional church locations, witnessing the completion of two more solar installations.

Looking Ahead

The recent **CRISIS IN CUBA** has created even greater need within the population. The Church in Cuba is being called upon to help more than ever before, as all suffer from the lack of electricity. The CCPT is receiving numerous requests for additional solar projects to alleviate this crisis. With your generous funding, our focus this year will be to complete as many solar projects as possible.

Partnerships

We are inviting our Canadian BIC and Mennonite churches to partner with us by providing a solar installation for a Cuban church, creating a sister church relationship that will bring relief and support during this desperate time.

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 to bring relief to the people and the Church in Cuba.

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

Sincerely,

Mark Lundy

CEO/President, Canadian Cuban Projects Team (CCPT)

Our next Work/Ministry Trip will be in November 14 to 21 2026.

If you would like to participate and go on this trip please contact the CCPT Director of Projects - Tom Davies at tdavies@bell.net or 905 734-5454

Niagara Christian Collegiate (NCC)



Situated on the shores of the Niagara River in Fort Erie, Niagara Christian Collegiate (NCC) was established in 1932 with a foundation rooted in a deep and abiding Christian faith. This spiritual heritage gently informs school life, helping to foster a Christ-centered community where students are encouraged to grow in character and conviction. At NCC, students in grades 6 through 12 flourish as they build meaningful relationships with peers from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Grounded in faith and guided by purpose, they are equipped not only for success in university and beyond, but also for lives of service, integrity, and lasting impact.

Giving Thanks and 2025 Highlights

Since tabling the decision to sell the school in August 2024, the team has worked tirelessly in rebuilding NCC. As we entered September 2025, we were deeply grateful for the Lord's faithfulness, seen in the doubling of our student population, the launch of new programs and opportunities, the formation of a strong Executive Leadership Team to partner with senior administration in guiding the school's mission, and the appointment of a new board of directors consisting of entirely NCC alumni. With this foundation in place, we remain focused on five key areas: Vibrant Christian Culture, Community Engagement, Student Experience, Financial Strength, and Campus Development.

A Vibrant Christian Culture

NCC's distinct approach to Christian Deeper Learning invites students to become "people of God's story, engaged in real work that forms self and shapes the world".

This year's spiritual theme, "Look Higher; Grow Deeper - through knowledge of Jesus" (Ephesians 3:16–19), reflects a shared focus on deepening our understanding of God and all He has done. Through chapel, classroom learning, and experiences across all disciplines, we hope students are drawn into a growing knowledge of Him and a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Community Engagement & Student Experience

We are continuing to strengthen our relationships with local churches and have been invited to share at luncheons how NCC is making a meaningful impact on students' academic and spiritual lives.

A monthly prayer group has been established to keep alumni, friends, and supporters informed and engaged, inviting them to partner with the school through prayer in its ongoing goals and initiatives.

As just one example of NCC's commitment to both community engagement and student experience, a PE Leadership class recently served the local homeschool community by creating a weekly drop-in program for elementary-aged students. Led by our Grade 11 leaders, the PE program welcomed about 15 participants and offered engaging games and activities for homeschooling families. This initiative provided a meaningful service to local families while giving our students valuable, real-world leadership opportunities that enrich their learning.

We are committed to connecting students with the global community through mission experiences that allow them to encounter God in meaningful ways. This is reflected in opportunities such as serving at a YWAM base in St. Croix by engaging the community through programming, sports, and relationship-building activities. In addition, NCC graduates are welcomed back to campus to share their own experiences with YWAM, inspiring current students to grow in faith and service through discipleship training and community outreach.

Financial Strength

Over the past year, the Executive Leadership Team launched an initiative to strengthen the school's financial foundation through the sale of bonds backed by NCC's campus, with an initial three-year goal of raising \$4 million.

We are grateful to God for His provision and for the strong support shown by our alumni and broader community - especially following the Homecoming event in May 2025 - which has enabled us to reach this goal in just one year. This progress marks a significant step toward greater financial strength and stability, and we recognize both the faithfulness behind it and the important work that still lies ahead.

Donations to support local student aid through the Invest in a Life Program - which helps provide NCC access to local students at a reduced cost, are still needed. For this school year (July 2025 - June 2026), we aim to raise \$276,000, and to date (March, 2026), we still need to raise \$130,000 to help close the remaining gap.

Campus Development

Volunteers have generously served across campus over the past several months, contributing to the Boys' Dormitory refresh, comprehensive technology assessment and Information Technology support, ongoing grounds and maintenance work, and key

concrete and masonry improvements. In addition, financial gifts, student aid sponsorships, and meaningful alumni engagement have provided tremendous encouragement to our school.

A generous donation of \$200,000 for the establishment of a technology centre allowed for the creation of a new STEAM Center which focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Digital Arts, and Mathematics. The response to the STEAM Centre has been very positive since the ribbon cutting in October 2025, enabling us to deliver state-of-the-art education in these areas.

We have also recently established an Alumni area on campus, where our archives are being carefully preserved. This space will serve as a place for alumni to gather, connect, and engage with the rich history of the school.

Invitation for Prayer and Giving

The school's financial situation remains delicate, however, we continue to stay hopeful and committed. Looking ahead, we invite our community to continue partnering with us through prayer, engagement, and financial support - trusting God to guide the way. Your prayers strengthen our mission, your involvement enriches student experiences, and your generosity ensures that NCC can continue educating students with excellence - all while serving God with open hands.

While we celebrate the tremendous strides NCC has made in closing the financial gap over the past two years, the need for continued support remains. Bonds have been purchased, enrollment targets have been reached, yet the future still holds opportunities for growth and impact. If God is stirring a desire in your heart to partner with us financially, we invite you to reach out and join us in this work.

Together, we can step boldly into the next chapter of growth, service, and faithful stewardship of all that He has entrusted to us. Thank you for celebrating with us the incredible work God is doing in and through NCC - we serve such a faithful and good God!

Rob Lofthouse

Niagara Christian Collegiate,
Fort Erie, Ontario
niagaracc.com



2026 BIC CONFERENCE REPORT

Over the past year, we've been blessed to partner with the BIC Church to bring relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. Our global neighbours are facing incredible challenges – from increasing violence to economic hardships to the effects of a changing climate. And our next-door neighbours are feeling many of these same pressures.

MCC's mission – at home and around the world – is more critical today than ever. Jesus' call to reconciliation and peace, which sits at the centre of our work, is a beacon of faith and hope in difficult times.

2025 Highlights

- **As Cuba faced growing economic crisis,** families lacked access to essentials like food and hygiene items. Through a project with the Brethren in Christ Church in Cuba, MCC distributed material resources, such as canned meat, relief kits and dignity kits. Thanks to MCC's partnership with the church, approximately 30,000 people were able to access the nutrition and supplies they needed. "I make rice with the meat," says Mirian, "and sometimes I add a little bit more sauce. It's very delicious!"
- To support MCC's canned meat distribution in Canada and around the world, MCC opened its **first stationary cannery in New Hamburg, Ontario**. On February 25, 2026, the first shipment of 19,200 cans, totalling 28,800 pounds of cooked, shelf-stable chicken meat left the warehouse, making its way to schools in Chad.
- MCC responded to other disasters, including **earthquakes in Afghanistan and Myanmar**. In Afghanistan, MCC provided cash assistance to approximately 1,463 people after the August 2025 disaster. Cash distributions helped families meet their specific needs with dignity. Families were able to purchase essential items, such as clothing and household items, while stimulating the local economy. Cash vouchers proved to be a win-win solution!



Iglesia de Palmira prepared 300 sandwiches using MCC canned meat to distribute after a worship service. (MCC/ Fairpicture photo/Alfredo Sarabia)



A woman used her thumbprint to sign for a cash distribution after her home was destroyed by an earthquake in Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of MCC partner)

- In Odisha State, India, MCC partnered with Brethren in Christ and Society for Nature Education and Health (SNEH) on an **agricultural project that also grew peace**. A training project helped families cultivate fresh, nutritious vegetables. People got the nutrition they needed, reduced food expenses and strengthened

their food security. The project helped lessen economic pressures and stress in the home, which led to more peaceful living conditions for the whole family.



Nimanti Mallick shows the harvest from the millet crop she and her husband grew in Pabangaon Village, India. (MCC photo/Deepshikha Murmu)

Thank you

Thanks to your support, MCC was able to do this and so much more. We are grateful for the many ways BIC churches and members partnered with MCC to fulfill our mission – board members, staff, volunteers, donors, advocates, prayer partners. We look forward to the coming year as we continue our mission and foster strong relationships with Anabaptist churches around the world.

Please pray:

- For MCC staff and partners, particularly in the Middle East. These people are weary after many years of violence and unrest, and are now facing new waves of fighting. Pray that God would sustain them. Pray that the peace of Jesus would come to this region of the world.
- For churches around the world, that they would strengthen their capacity to minister in their local contexts as they partner with MCC.
- For all those who participate in MCC's youth and young adult programs. Pray that they would be inspired, equipped and mentored as disciples of Jesus, growing in their capacity to serve others and be peacemakers.
- For our friends in MCC U.S. who will soon name a new executive director.

KEN KIM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MCC CANADA



MICHELLE BRENNEMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MCC ONTARIO



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 for the past year

The Courage to Love was the theme used by Mennonite World Conference in 2025. And what a year it was! Together with brothers and sisters from around the world we celebrated the 100th anniversary of MWC in Germany in May. Seeing a photo of the first MWC gathering in 1925 made it obvious to all that our global family has dramatically changed in 100 years. In 1925 around 100 predominantly European and North Americans gathered. In 2025 about 80% of us are from Africa, Asia and Latina America.

Praise God for these shifts and growth.



We also commemorated 500 years of our Anabaptist movement with a full day of activities in Zurich on 29 May 2025. More than 3 500 people gathered for workshops, to hear choirs from five continents, a historical walk and a profoundly moving worship service in the Grossmünster cathedral. It was a time to acknowledge the past and celebrate reconciliation that was years in the making with other parts of the Christian church. Read more in our Courier magazine (mwc-cmm.org/en/resources/courier-2025-40-2-3/). We are grateful to God.

I invite you to watch our brief Year in Review video to see an overview of the past year in our global family: mwc-cmm.org/en/resources/year-in-review-2025/.

Today, MWC has about 1.5 million baptized members in 110 national member churches in 61 countries, including 14 national BIC churches (5 in Africa, 4 in Asia, 3 in Latin America, and 2 in North America). Total baptized BIC membership is about 7% of our total global family. The BIC are an important voice in our body. **Danisa Ndlovu** (BIC Zimbabwe, former MWC president, Southern African Regional Representative) has been appointed as the team leader for the global team of 13 regional representatives (Manager of Church Relations). We are grateful for this gift of wisdom from the BIC family.

MWC's **Young Anabaptists (YABs) Committee** is made up of one young adult representative from each of MWC's five continent groups. This current leadership group is made up of young adults from Asia (Philippines), Africa (Ghana), Europe (Switzerland), Latin America (Uruguay), and North America (Canada). This group met in-person in Germany in 2025 during the MWC meetings. The 5th Global Youth Summit (GYS) in May was also held in Germany from 30 May - 01 June after MWC's 500th commemorations. The current MWC YABs staff are Ebenezer Mondez (Philippines) and Isaac Nii Torgbor Gborbitye (Ghana).

It is inspiring and hope filled to see the growing participation of younger Anabaptists in the life and work of MWC.

Looking ahead

Solidarity is MWC's theme for 2026. Old Testament theologian Walter Brueggemann, who passed away in 2025, prefers "tenacious solidarity" as the translation of the Hebrew word hesed. Hesed is often translated into English as steadfast love. So, MWC's 2026 theme of solidarity stands as an unbreakable bond of love across the worldwide Anabaptist family of faith. We are grateful that BIC Canada stands, walks and works in solidarity with MWC.

Thank you for sending Melanie Wigg as your MWC General Council delegate.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of a new North American Regional Representative, **David Chow** (davidchow@mwc-cmm.org). A Mennonite Brethren from Calgary, he will be a key contact for all the member churches in USA and Canada. David began his work on 1 April 2026.

Worship resources

MWC offers materials for **Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday** (January), **YABs Fellowship Week** (June) and **Peace Sunday** (September) which are used globally. There is work now happening related to a possible annual Mission Sunday in MWC. We encourage you to invite your congregations to use these materials. We also ask you to consider taking a 'One Lunch Offering' to support the ministry of our global Anabaptist church.

Prayers

Please sign up for our Prayer Network! (mwc-cmm.org/en/prayers/prayer-network/). You will receive a bimonthly letter so you can effectively join your global brothers and sisters in prayer.

- MWC member churches who are suffering. Please pray for churches in Venezuela, Cuba, DR Congo, Myanmar and India as they suffer from violence.
- The Ethiopian church Meserete Kristos Church as they navigate internal challenges.
- General Secretary César García as he represents our Anabaptist community in ecumenical gatherings and navigates a heavy schedule of responsibility.
- MWC staff and volunteers planning the recently announced 2028 Assembly in Tanzania.

Mennonite World Conference's **Online Prayer Hour** continues connecting Anabaptists around the world to each other six times over the year. Prayer time in virtual small groups includes groups in Hindi, French, English and recently we added Portuguese.

The next Online Prayer Hour is 15 May 2026.
You can register on our website (mwc-cmm.org/oph).



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