



ANNUAL  
REPORTS  
June 2017– May 2018

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**Ross Road Community Church  
Annual Ministry Meeting Agenda  
May 27th, 6:30p.m.**

**Enjoyable refreshments starting at 6 pm!  
Come early to register and to connect!**

Prayer Encounter & Worship

Our Mission, Vision Values, and Goals

Approval of Agenda & AGM Minutes

Focus on our Ministries

Motion to receive reports

Overview of Discernment and Affirmation Process

Affirmation of Elders by ballot

Financial Update

Facility Needs Update

Commissioning of Elder and Deacon Team Members

Motion to Destroy Ballots

Adjourn

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## **Understanding our Process**

Last year at our Annual Ministry Meeting (AMM) we approved new Bylaws to govern how we function as a church family. It's important to realize how valuable it is for all members to participate as we make significant decisions together. Our new bylaws require that members vote on five main aspects of church life as follows:

- 1. To Affirm a Lead Pastor**
- 2. To Affirm Elders**  
-individually affirmed usually at our AMM before the end of May each year.
- 3. To Approve our Annual Budget**  
-at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) within the first 90 days of each year.
- 4. To Approve Capital Projects**  
-as needed.
- 5. To Approve Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.**

## **Voting**

To ensure that votes reflect the true discernment of members together it's valuable to review what options each person has when casting a vote. This will ensure there are no unintended or unexpected results after votes are complete. Key facts to remember are as follows:

1. Each member has 3 options when deciding how to vote. A member may vote YES, NO, or may choose to abstain from voting on the motion presented.
2. A motion passes or not based on the total number of votes cast, not the number of members present in a meeting. That means all YES and NO votes cast provide the total, and the number of YES votes must meet the required percentage of those total votes for a motion to succeed.
3. A member may abstain by simply not participating in the vote on a specific motion. That means the member either does not submit their ballot, or they leave both the YES and NO options blank for the specific motion on which they choose to abstain.
4. Members may choose to abstain from voting for various reasons including matters of personal conscience, a preference to let others more affected by a specific decision be the ones deciding, or even a sincere realization that they would be prepared to support either result and are happy to defer to the decision of others.

As members we are all called to prayerfully make decisions together for the good of our church.

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**Ross Road Community Church  
Annual General Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2018**

The meeting was chaired by Barry Jackson – Moderator.

1. **Prayer Encounter** – Craig Thiessen welcomed everyone and led us through our Prayer Action Plan.
  - Dave Rodda led us in singing “Lord I Need You” “I am One” & “Take My Life”.
  - Kory Dicks gave his testimony, expressing his appreciation to Art, Craig and the RRCC congregation.
  - Craig closed this segment of the meeting in prayer, mentioning the Brechins and Rudie Willms.
2. **Approval of Agenda & Appointment of Scrutineers** – Barry Jackson led us through this process.
  - Derrick Dick, Helen Konrad and Bob Stobbe were appointed scrutineers.
  - Motion to approve agenda – Moved by Susan Dick, seconded by Jim Woodey – Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Barry asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the May 28, 2017 and November 19, 2017 meetings.
  - Giselle Jackson noted that the November 19 minutes should have said “Lead Pastor” (not Co-Lead Pastor) in the motion to call Craig Thiessen.
  - Carol McLean moved that the minutes as corrected be approved, Giselle Jackson seconded the motion – Carried.
4. **Fellowship Break**
5. **Presentation of the 2017 Financial Statements** – Jon Evans presented the 2017 financial statements.
  - Motion to receive 2017 financial statements, moved by Al Stobbe, seconded by Sandy Nelson – Carried.
  - Danny Peters noted that there were funds available in the Refugee designated fund, so anyone who felt led in that area might want to head up a new process to bring over a refugee family. The group working with our current family still seemed fully committed to them.
  - Motion to engage Webster & Assoc. for 2018, moved by Jim Woodey, seconded by Christy Peters – Carried.
6. **Presentation of 2018 Ministry Budget** – Presented by Dale Regier.
  - Dale explained the budget process and reviewed the 2018 budget.
  - Eleanor Kent asked if there were plans to hire a replacement for Jen to help Sandy in the church office. Barry responded yes. Art added that an administration role review was underway to determine what was needed, after which the position will be posted.
  - Bill Strom asked why the budget was increased when the congregational attendance had declined. Dale responded that he felt the attendance was turning around, saying “We are almost at the top of the hill, don’t stop now.” Al Stobbe responded that we are in a transition year, and the budget reflects that.
  - Motion to accept the 2018 budget, moved by Dale Regier, seconded by Derrick Dick – a secret ballot vote was taken – the budget received overwhelming affirmation.
7. **Announcement** – Al Stobbe reviewed the long process of hiring an Associate Pastor Student Ministries and then announced that Holly McLean had been offered the position and had accepted.
8. **Motion to Destroy Ballots** - Moved, seconded – Carried.
9. **Motion to Adjourn** – Moved, seconded – Carried.
10. **Closing Song** – Dave Rodda led us in singing “Build your Kingdom Here”.

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## **CO - LEAD PASTOR REPORT – Craig Thiessen**

It is with a deep sense of gratitude and humility that I write to you. Though Jenny and I never left RRCC after resigning as Youth Pastor in 2015, it has truly been a joy to 'return' to pastoral ministry here. We love this church and are convinced that God has great things in store for us if we will be obedient, bold, and courageous.

My first few months as co-lead pastor have been many things but have been mostly filled with joy and enthusiasm in my role. I'm having fun! Certainly, there are challenges and things that are stressful and cause me to turn to God in prayer, but I'm mostly encouraged by what is happening at RRCC. I have lots to learn yet and I am grateful to Art for his mentorship of me. The co-lead arrangement, from my perspective, has been a huge blessing. I'm thankful to Art for his humility, grace, and determination to enable me to succeed. He is not possessive or threatened by this transition process but has embraced it earnestly and wholeheartedly. We enjoy working together and I count it a great blessing to learn from him.

In my first few months in this role, I have greatly enjoyed serving on various teams including the Global Outreach team, Care team, Discernment team, Children's Ministry Pastor Search team, staff and elder teams, and involvement in Men's ministry, Young Adult ministry, and visits to Middle School ministry and Kids ministry. I'm delighted by the many individuals serving so faithfully and effectively in our church. I have also enjoyed preaching, both in our Prayer Action Plan series and in our Inside Out series through the book of Ephesians. I love that our church has a deep love of God's Word and I am humbled to be able to share it from the pulpit. I've had the privilege of meeting one-on-one with various individuals, doing premarital counselling with two couples who were former students of mine in youth ministry, and intentionally seeking out mentoring relationships with several people who are helping me to grow as a leader, stay healthy as a person, and pursue excellence in life and in ministry.

No church is perfect, and RRCC is no exception. We have had our difficulties in the past years and some of those challenges remain with us. For one, we long to see our young adults program grow and to see this age group stick with our church. We ought not to be surprised when we face difficulty but instead lean into God and each other with humility, grace, and love. I believe that we are starting to cast our gaze to the world around us, focusing less on our own internal struggles and more on the needs that God is calling us to fulfill. It seems to me that there is a positive feeling around the church these days, and that people are eager to see what's next for us. I am thrilled that we are seeing new people come to us fairly consistently.

Our staff and elders have been a true joy to work with. Each member is committed to the mission of the church, and I have been so grateful that our conversations have been around what the future of our church could be and what God is calling us to. Specifically, our staff and elders have been doing some hard work around mission, vision, values, and goals/strategies. At the Team Leader's Community meeting on May 26 and at our Annual Ministry Meeting on May 27 we plan to unveil what we've come up with and how we feel God is directing us in this process. A few 'teasers' as to what's we feel God has been saying to us:

- We've felt strongly a conviction that our church must be a place that is welcoming to newcomers. Repeatedly we hear from people who 'stick' here that they felt genuinely and warmly welcomed when they got here. Sadly, that is not the experience for everyone. Creating this welcoming environment means that we expect guests to be present and plan

accordingly. This means that we use language that is accessible to someone that has never been in church before, we explain what we're doing and why, and make every effort to remove obstacles for people who are new to church. Our staff greatly benefitted from reading Andy Stanley's book *Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend* and our elders are now doing the same. We long to be a church to which our members *love* to bring their unchurched friends and these friends, in turn, want to return to. This does not mean that we water down the Gospel or lessen the challenge and cost of discipleship, but it means we create an environment where everyone feels genuinely welcomed into an irresistible environment and receives genuine, practical teaching from the Bible that is applicable to real life.

- To that end, we are re-envisioning how we welcome people (newcomers and regular attenders) into our building. We envision a 'guest services' department that unifies our greeters, ushers, Common Grounds ministry, Info Booth (which will be redesigned) and hosts, and section hosts into one team that serves together. Unifying these groups allows for more streamlined and effective ministry that welcomes people and helps them to find the information that they need. We believe this is an outworking of showing hospitality to people as we 'work together for the truth' (3 John 8).
- We are sensing that a larger vision around our facilities is needed, but in the meantime, we think there is a lot we can do with the physical space in our lobby to make it inviting and functional. We are dreaming up ideas and coming up with a plan for a new welcome center and eventually would love to see a coffee bar.
- Reaching our community is something we must take seriously. There are many in our city that need Jesus, including an ever-growing number of Indo-Canadians. We are working on number of ideas that would enable us to reach out, including hosting our Kick-off Sunday service in the community, perhaps in the Pepin Brook Park, pending approval from the city and the neighbours; using Halloween as an outreach opportunity by trick-or-treating for the Food Bank; and empowering our people to reach their friends, families, and neighbours.
- Finally, we remain committed to global missions. I am so impressed with how highly RRCC values supporting our missionaries. The Global Outreach team continues to consider some exciting opportunities about our involvement in the church around the world. Perhaps some of those ideas will have come to your attention already by the time this is printed.

There are many people to say 'thank-you' to for their contribution to our church and our mission. I'll mention only a few. First, both Barry Jackson and Bob Regier have made enormous contributions to the Elder Team. Barry has served excellently as moderator for a number of years now and has devoted innumerable hours to the work of the church. As both step off of the board I extend my gratitude to them for their hard work and sacrifice. Art, Dave, Holly, Elaine, Sandy, Jennifer, Meagan, and Nathanael have all been a privilege to work with and inspire me and others to fully pursue the call of God. Finally, I'd like to publicly thank Jenny – being a pastor's wife is not always easy, but she fills the role with grace and excellence.

In Christ,  
Craig, Jenny,

## CO - LEAD PASTOR REPORT – Art Birch

As I write this report, I am acutely aware that anything we have accomplished as a church in the 2017-18 ministry year has been a team effort. This team includes elders, staff, and congregation. Many of you have made my personal ministry a joy, rather than a burden (Hebrews 13:17).

Staff members and volunteer ministers, who have been with us over time, have continued to serve well. Dave Rodda, who is our longest serving staff member, continues to lead creatively. Sandy Nelson addresses our administrative needs expertly. Jennifer Bamford, who assisted conscientiously with admin duties for several years, came to the end of her time with us recently. We're grateful that Meagan Nelson has been available to fill out our admin team.

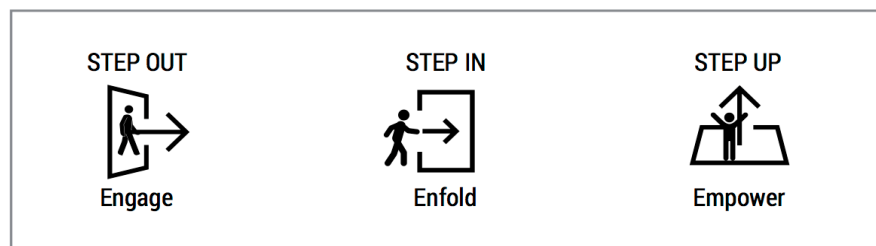
Curtis Congo and T Anderson served on paid staff temporarily and continue to make significant contributions. They have approached our ministry with fresh eyes and thought. We've also benefited in this last year from interns Christy Peters, Bek West, Andrew Falk, and Nathanael Jones.

I am deeply grateful for Holly McLean, who has given continuity to our student ministry for almost two years. Her recent affirmation as Associate Pastor—Student Ministry was a solid step forward. I am also exceedingly grateful for Elaine Regier, who in partnership with her wonderful husband, Bob, has served the needs of our children and family so delightfully for almost two years. Although Merri Ellen Giesbrecht, who led our children's ministry with dedication since 2006, has been gone for almost two years, she formally left our staff on March 31. We look forward to God's provision of the next person to fill the role of Associate Pastor—Children's Ministry when our current search comes to a successful conclusion.

I am confident that the addition of Craig Thiessen, as co-lead pastor, will prove over the long term to be a very significant development for our church. At time of writing, our first four months together have gone amazingly well. Craig has a passion to see our church's gaze turn outward to the harvest around us. That passion is already turning to action as we are clarifying what this means in practice and getting on with the job. Our renewed vision aligns perfectly with the direction we have been headed of late.

### *Steps of Faith*

Evangelism → Assimilation → Growth



Step Out to Connect

Step In to Belong

Step Up to Grow

Last spring, our elders and staff envisioned our priority tasks for the ministry year ahead—the ministry year now just past—as represented in the graphic above. These concepts have helped to guide my efforts over the past twelve months.

### **STEP OUT TO CONNECT—ENGAGE**

During the last several years, our eyes have been drawn inward as we addressed internal health issues in our church. It has been my personal goal this past year to foster an outward focus to prompt response to the people and needs around us. As already mentioned, since January, Craig is helping us to look beyond ourselves, while making necessary internal changes that indicate that we expect guests and are doing what we can to give them a desire to return.

We have also sought to maintain and strengthen a sense of responsibility for the world around us with its multi-faceted needs. Keeping our congregation aware of missionary needs and opportunities is part of this. For many years now, I have served on the Global Outreach Team, a baton I have now passed to Craig.

I've been determined this year to take personal opportunities to actively share the faith and to encourage others to do the same. I'm grateful that we offered Alpha in the fall and that I was able to participate with a friend who has not yet committed his life to Jesus. Offering Alpha strengthened the faith foundations of several newer believers and was a good practice run for offering it again with the hopes that more of us would be blessed to bring friends who have not yet come to faith in Jesus.

In answer to my prayers, I have had numerous gospel conversations this year and the thrill of seeing two individuals place their faith in Jesus. I have also sought to model and foster alertness to opportunities for service and witness to our local community.

### **STEP IN TO BELONG—ENFOLD**

I have very deliberately sought to draw everyone in our church, especially guests, into a sense of belonging and feeling treasured. One of our joint efforts to this end has been to invite our church family into regular use of our Prayer Action Plan. We've also literally lifted up its commitments to action through our six banners and the related Sunday sermons that have accompanied the unveiling of each banner. These commitments are all related to relational health. Many of you have expressed appreciation for these beautiful prompts to keep on saying yes to God when it comes to relating to each other in God-honouring ways.

Our Sunday sermons during 2018 have us on a journey through Ephesians. There we have seen again and again that we are not merely isolated individuals doing our best to follow Jesus. Rather, together we are Jesus' body and bride.

Last spring, just before the end of the last ministry year, numerous baptisms and new members encouraged us. In January, I taught another membership class. In March, Craig took over the membership class responsibility. During this ministry year we've been blessed with 13 new members, 3 of them through baptism. We continue to receive requests for baptism and membership.

Since January, Craig has been leading the staff and elders in an exploration of what would mean to create a church in which unchurched people love to participate. As staff members, we have all been significantly involved, in partnership with our elders, in helping to shape ideas and actions

that have the potential to enfold many more people into our flock. We are thrilled that simultaneously God has been blessing us with guests every Sunday and that many of these guests are returning week after week. Prior to Craig's joining staff, we had begun to envision the creation of a new ministry umbrella that we've entitled Guest Services. In 2018, that ministry has been taking shape. Guest services will launch fully in September as we bring together ushering, greeting, Common Grounds, lobby hosts, and auditorium section hosts under one umbrella in order to give the best possible welcome to our guests and the beginnings of their assimilation into our family.

I am grateful for Curtis Congo who poured love and energy into Care Group health from the fall of 2016 until the end of 2017. I have taken over that responsibility in 2018. We currently have 13 Care Groups, most meeting weekly, some less frequently. About 120 adults are participating in Care Groups at present. Several groups are tracking with our Sunday Inside Out Series in Ephesians. Other groups are working through series such as Gospel Fluency, The Treasure Principle, and Titus. Most of our groups will soon be taking a break for the summer. I am currently laying plans and recruiting leaders for Care Group ministry resumption in September.

I also work with our Care Team to respond to the needs of individuals in our church and beyond. The Care Team consists of 10 individuals, including Craig and me, who meet monthly to coordinate our efforts to ensure that needs for support and encouragement are met. We provide care personally in some instances and in others involve people not on our team. We're grateful for Sam Hayashida's compassionate and expert handling of the meal ministry component of our Care Team mandate—and for all those who participate in providing meals as needed.

Ultimately, caring for one another is an every-member responsibility in obedience to the multiple one-another imperatives of scripture. Caring staff, Guests Services, Care Groups, and Care Team all help to provide belonging and care, but nothing can take the place of individual connection. For example, an individual in a Care Group may not feel comfortable sharing a particular burden with the group. That makes it all the more imperative that multitudes of interlocking friendships exist among us. Ideally, such friendships also are spiritually uplifting, empowering us to grow in Christ.

### **STEP UP TO GROW—EMPOWER**

As a pastor, I seek to provide believers with resources to take responsibility for their own spiritual growth and that of others, including their friends and family.

The largest forum for this empowerment is our Sunday worship gatherings. Our goal is to equip believers with significant worship experiences and training in the Word of God. The goal of Sunday messages is not merely to increase Bible knowledge, regardless of its importance. The primary goal is to empower obedience to what God is saying to us through His Word. Last summer, nine speakers, mostly from our own church family, challenges us in our growth as they acquainted us with various Bible characters. Having opportunity to preach also fostered spiritual gift and skill development for those who spoke. In the fall, our primary emphasis was equipping us to pray more fruitfully. Since January, we've been focusing on personal and church transformation from the inside out as we journey through Ephesians. It is our hope that these messages are consistently contributing to our enjoyment of God Himself as we joyfully live in obedience to Him. We also hope that we are assisting believers to know our Bibles, to know how it relates to our lives, and to know how to discover these truths and implications for ourselves.

Our Care Groups are also forums for spiritual growth as we study God's word and pray together. I've been grateful for Sharon Tungate, whom Curtis recommended, as a Care Group curriculum writer. Sharon, Craig, and I collaborate in producing our weekly Inside Out study guides.

I also participate on LEAD (Leadership Enhancement And Development) as the founder and a guide to this ministry. This year we have seen LEAD continuing to offer intentional discipling for anyone who wants to grow. Lead is not only for those who see themselves as leaders, although anyone who is growing in Christ is also increasing his or her capacity to take the initiative to empower others. LEAD's approach so far has been two-fold: facilitating mentoring relationships and training events.

Rosabelle and I continue to consider it a privilege to serve at Ross Road Community Church. By the time you are reading this report, we will be on a 12-week sabbatical. We will spend much of that time out of town. We will be enriching our ministry capacity through strategic reading. We'll also be seeking rest and renewal for this final leg as co-lead pastor that will culminate one year from now. We thank you all for partnering with us as together we seek to help people find and follow Jesus.

## **MODERATOR'S REPORT**

### **WE'RE ON A JOURNEY!**

If you've ever headed out on a road trip you'll understand what being on a journey is all about. You prepare and happily get started full of anticipation to arrive at your destination. Sometimes there are detours or roadblocks on the way that slow you down or take you off course for a while. Still, you or your GPS recalculate, and you get back on track for where you want to head. Sometimes you take advantage of a viewpoint to see some of the sights along the way. Our Annual Ministry Meeting tonight is like that viewpoint for the journey we're on as a church family together. I can look back and see some of the road we were on before, I can see with perspective where we're at now, and I can also catch a glimpse of the road ahead that excites me about what's to come. Join me for a few moments at this viewpoint.

### **THE ROAD BEFORE**

Glancing back, it's evident that we've had to slow down a bit for a winding road. The circumstances surrounding Merri Ellen's medical leave were certainly difficult for her and for us. As she concluded her ministry with us, we are grateful for her years of serving our church family and for how Elaine's interim role has kept our kids growing.

A road trip brings the challenge of getting along to make it work well. We needed to take time and retool our bylaws at our last AMM to positively address how we work together in love even when we don't always agree on important things. Some other types of delays we experience can simply involve Christians being detoured by matters of personal preference or style. We can almost forget where we're headed and why! The more we avoid those road blocks the better the trip! How gratifying it is to experience repentance and the freedom it brings as we eagerly commit to one another in love.

### **WE'VE COME A LONG WAY**

Look at the view from where we're at now! What fun to experience powerful unity as we discerned calling Craig to serve as Co-Lead, along with Art, before he becomes our sole Lead



Pastor next year. We're grateful for Art's continued leadership and for the extra help along the way from Curtis and T prior to implementing that decision. A big thank you to Dave for his continued guidance of our worship teams, and to Sandy for leading our office staff in ongoing support. As planned, once our Lead Pastor Succession was in place, we were ready to begin calling new permanent Associate Pastors for Children's and Student Ministries. We were thrilled when Holly accepted our call to continue her excellent leadership of our youth and their ministry teams. Our Children's Associate Search is now well underway.

What a view it is to see so many of you serving faithfully. This "viewpoint guide" you are reading now provides evidence in many pages of just how many people are involved in ongoing ministry within our church family. Thank you all for your part in the journey together.

### **THE ROAD AHEAD**

So where are we headed again? In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul says *"Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved... Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of **first importance**: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..."* There are many things that are important, but it is the Gospel that is of **FIRST** importance. It's the good news for us and for the world. And if it's first for Paul then let it be first for us.

Our mission is "Helping People Find and Follow Jesus". Let's keep recalculating so that everything we do helps us stay on track for that goal.

### **KEEP MOVING ON**

The viewpoint is not the destination. We must keep moving. You'll be hearing more about our Mission, Vision, and Values in the coming days. These are not goals in themselves. They are tools to help us focus on making a difference for Christ. How can we be better at helping people find and follow Jesus? We get better by being eager to continually revisit what we do and why, so we never lose sight of what's important, what's of **FIRST** importance. Another name for viewpoint is a Lookout. That's fitting because it's time for us to look outward more and keep moving towards being all that God intends. Can you see the destination ahead? Ross Road is making a life-changing difference in more and more people's lives. We're engaging with our next generation and the entire community in increasingly relevant ways. We're consistently drawing more people to Christ. We're progressively equipping all who call Ross Road home to better experience the thrill of living for and sharing Jesus!

On road trips you often hear "Are we there yet?" Our answer is "No, we haven't arrived yet, but we're closer!" Let's wholeheartedly commit to this exciting journey together.

Though my time on the Elder Team is ending this term, I'm looking forward to how God is leading us forward. I'm grateful for all the support and encouragement you've given me and for the opportunity to work with an Elder Team so committed to serving our church family.

### **Barry**

Barry Jackson, Moderator

On behalf of the entire Elder Team: Al Stobbe (Associate Moderator),

Bob Regier (Record Keeping), Len Loewen, Dale Regier, and Rick Thiessen, along with pastors Art Birch and Craig Thiessen.

## **WORSHIP MINISTRY**

It has been a very full and exciting season for our worship ministry. A number of projects that I have been trying to get done over the last couple of years have been realized and in many ways it seems like a positive fresh start for this ministry area. Here are some highlights:

**TEAM BUILDING BREAK-** Similar to previous years I have organized a ministry-wide meeting early in the year to cast vision and bring some direction to the ministry for the coming season. This year I extended that effort over the entire month of February giving opportunity to our worship teams and leaders to work on building their teams and work on new music. While this team building break was happening I organized guest worship leaders to cover the Sunday services. Two of those guest leaders were already planned to play in February so it was just a matter of covering off the remaining two Sundays.

**SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE-** For the last year our old sound board has been slowly failing causing us to have to find work-arounds in order to keep things working well enough on Sunday mornings. It had become broken to the point that it was not worth fixing and needed to be replaced so I did some research to find a suitable option. Over the month of February I was able, with the help of our A/V volunteers and Ryan McAllister, get the new board installed and tested during the weeks we had guest worship leaders. The new board is not only a replacement for the old but also contains much more functionality that allows it to replace other components on our old system that can now be sold to off-set the cost of the new board itself.

**GYM SOUND BOOTH-** Another project that I had hoped to get done in 2017 was the construction of a small sound booth in the gym that would improve our A/V capabilities in that room. The capital funds that I had requested for 2017 to build it were needed for another piece of equipment so I made the same capital request for this year.

**NEW VOLUNTEERS-** I have been thrilled to welcome new volunteers into various roles of worship ministry, both musicians and A/V techs. I am especially encouraged at the number of younger students who have expressed interest and have begun serving on teams.

**DEEP AND WIDE IMPLEMENTATION-** As part of a strategy to create more welcoming and engaging Sunday services for un-churched visitors, I am looking forward to working with our musicians and worship leaders to be part of implementing these intentional changes.

**SUMMER INTERN-** During my sabbatical this summer my role and responsibilities will be taken over by Natasha Stobbe who, I am confident, will serve our church well with her musical talents and overflowing passion for worship. I will have the privilege to work with her for two weeks before I take my leave in order to familiarize her with the role and provide any training so that she is ready to take the helm in June.

**SABBATICAL-** Courteney and I are very grateful for the generous gift of a sabbatical this year. Together with our young children, Lucy and Sam, we are planning on taking a road trip across Canada to explore our great country. Along the way we have arranged to do some special musician worship leading at a few churches and are looking forward to meeting some of our extended church family, particularly at MB congregations. We will be grateful for your prayers for safety as we travel and for a meaningful time of rest and rejuvenation for our family.

Dave Rodda  
Associate Pastor, Worship Arts Ministry

## **ADULT MINISTRIES**

### **YOUNG ADULTS**

This ministry year, Jessica and I have had the privilege of joining Mike and Carly Nelson in supporting the Young Adults ministry in our church. While we didn't know exactly what we were stepping into, this year has proved to be an enjoyable experience as we've been able to get to know some of the Young Adults that attend our church (and some who don't) more deeply.

This year, aside from getting to know each other better, we've been meeting in various locations: the Fireside Room in the church, the Nelson's, the Janz's, and even Starbucks! We went through a Francis Chan series on Doctrine in late 2017, and have transferred to having Bible studies based on the Sunday sermons on Ephesians in 2018. We've also gone bowling together and had a couple of games nights, including a lot of rounds of Dutch Blitz and Apples to Apples.

The Young Adult years (approximately 19-25+) are extremely formative and busy years, and many of the Young Adults have extensive educational and occupational commitments. It's exciting to see some of our group preparing to graduate from university, some beginning new courses, and some preparing to make big decisions regarding their future occupations. However, all of these things can be inherently stressful and require lots of time and energy, so please be in prayer for these young men and women.

While Mike, Carly, Jessica and I have enjoyed supporting this ministry, you can also keep us in prayer. Between the two couples, we have six children under the age of 10, so time and energy are precious commodities!

Moving forward, we plan to continue with a Bible study-based format interspersed with other social activities approximately once a month. We are also planning on working proactively with Pastor Holly and Pastor Craig to bridge the transition from Youth Group, to Young Adults, to Small Groups within our church. But most of all, our heart lies in helping young people in our church grow and mature in their faith, walking with them through these formative years, and being able to pray for and support them during this stage of their lives.

Sincerely,

Jason Janz, on behalf of Jessica Janz, and Mike and Carly Nelson

## **MEN'S MINISTRY**

This year the men's ministry kicked off a new initiative called 'His Shop'. The goal of His Shop is to get men together from Ross Rd church and elsewhere to spend time connecting and studying different topics relevant to men in today's culture. During the two different study series we looked at in a shop setting we took a look at the life of Sampson and the lessons we can draw from his life as well as a study series on how to bring up the next generation to be godly men. We are looking forward to carrying on with this format and hope to continue providing a place for men to get together and grow spiritually.

In collaboration with the children's ministry we again did a Grand Prix rally in early April which was a great opportunity to get together as a community and have a fun evening together.

This past year has seen the addition of a number of men to our team. Joining Bob Stobbe and myself this year was Bob Regier, Jeff Friesen, Lloyd Pattenden, and Dave Peters as well Pastor Craig. As a team we playfully look forward to continuing to develop the men's ministry and serving the men of Ross Road.

Sincerely,  
Brian Degelder

## **HOSPITALITY**

2017 was an exciting year for the team. We welcomed three new additions. Jenn Martens and Sandy Nelson joined our group and for those who haven't noticed, we also welcomed two brand new ranges for the kitchen! These new ranges will be beneficial to our Church for years to come! Camp Sunday was the inaugural test for the ranges with a tasty chicken lunch served to over 240 attendees. More to come for sure!

The Hospitality Team continues to co-ordinate events as well as assisting in others.

Activities we are involved with include:

- Fall Kickoff BBQ
- Easter Brunch
- Soccer Camp
- Recognition lunches
- Camp Sunday
- Fall Festival
- AGM evenings
- Church Family Meetings

## **COMMON GROUNDS**

Each and every Sunday we are providing our members and guests with a venue where they can regularly interact with old friends as well as new and at the same time enjoy a good cup of coffee and a delicious snack.

I always like to mention Jen Thomas and Alex Schellenberg, because together with their team of volunteers they do a fantastic job each and every Sunday. Thank you to all involved! It is also so great to see the younger generation contributing alongside their parents.

If you would like to get involved serving please contact one of these ladies.

Each event that we do requires volunteers. Some events have been more difficult than others to recruit for, but on the whole, people have been very willing and happy to participate in the “social” side of our church. Thank you to all volunteers who responded to my multiple cries for help 😊

The Hospitality Team is working well.

I am honored to be involved in this ministry area and feel honored to work with the awesome members of the Hospitality Team ... Karen Bergen, Monika Thiessen, Jenn Martens and to Sandy Nelson, who functions as liaison between our team and the Church.

Thank you so much team!

Derek Janzen

## **ENCORE (SENIORS MINISTRY)**

The Encore team is a volunteer group at RRCC that provides fellowship and service opportunities to the 55+ age group in our church. The team met twice during the past ministry year to plan events. Major events occurring this past year include:

- BBQ on 11 June 2017 with 61 people attending
- Weaver Creek trip on 19 Oct with 12 attending
- Thanksgiving potluck planned for 22 Oct was cancelled due to scheduling conflict at church
- Advent dessert evening with guest soloist Cathy Merkel on 3 Dec – 81 people attending
- Spring faspah on 22 Apr with MB Mission guests Steven & Susan Penner from Nepal speaking
- BBQ planned for 17 June 2018
- Every other month we plan a lunch at a local restaurant on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month after the second service, usually about 20 to 30 people participating.

Many of our 55+ seniors have been serving monthly at the Tabor Court, with Vic Martens leading a volunteer choir. We serve there every third Sunday of the month at 9 a.m.

In addition to the above, many of the seniors from Ross Road Church are involved in various ministries and services not only within the church but also outside. Some of these include MCC, Fraser Valley Gleaners, Telecare, and Empower Ministries, just to name a few. The Encore Team encourages all our seniors to use their time and talents wherever they can in these and other ministries, especially when they are retired and have more time to do so.

The Encore Committee,

Vic Martens, Jake Epp, Almut Loewen. Margaret Bergen, Helene Loewen, Elisabeth Klassen, Ed Klassen

## **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

Early fall 2017 found Women's Ministry on the brink of extinction as one of the two remaining members obeyed God's call to rest, but by the promptings of the Spirit the ministry continued forward as a single member team. That is not to say this year's activities have been done alone! Various women of the church have come alongside me (Alex) this year in an informal way to facilitate events and opportunities for the women of Ross Road to engage with each other and with our Lord.

Summer of 2017 followed the model of last year's "Play and Pray" Bible Study at Delair Park, where children are welcomed to play as women (of all ages and stages) meet to read and discuss scripture. A small but consistent group of women (and children) attended and considered the messages of Colossians and Philemon. Kim Tufford co-led the study with the help of guides from John MacArthur and N.T. Wright. Beyond study and personal reflection, these times were often encouraging for the women as a time of community and prayer around life events. In many ways, I suspect, they help to fill the whole of Small Groups that part ways for the summer.

September 2017: With the team and structured events in flux, the first part of fall was spent in one on one coffee times with women of the church. I regret that I did not continue this practice throughout the year, as it was clearly beneficial to everyone involved as we had time and space to come to know each other more. Each meeting was followed up with a card of thanks and prayer for the women I met with, and a gift card to be used between them and another woman of the church. I have not heard report, but my hope is that this could be an ongoing activity for the individual members of our church to truly know each other as people.

October-November 2017: A small but regular group of women and children met weekly for a "Mommy and Me" time in the preschool rooms. Once again this was a way for young mothers to attend an event without needing to seek weekly childcare (though we ensured one week/month where the moms could rest kid free while the children played in the gym with our helpers). Snacks and drinks were included (sometimes provided by the gracious women, sometimes by the church) and we followed the book "30 day praise challenge for parents" (at least the first 8 days of it) which invited us to consider aspects of our motherhood through God's eyes and to praise Him for each one – even the tough ones. The guide included scripture, prayer, music from popular Christian bands (thank you YouTube for having so many of them on hand), and question prompts to carry with them between sessions. The Mommy and Me sessions were greatly helped by Linda Mills who co-led, provided many snacks, and held babies to give mother arms a rest. November also included a Perogy making lesson and lunch from Julie Schellenberg. Attended by 2 dozen women, a good time was had by all and the Meals Ministry freezer was filled with the work of their hands.

December 2017: After a number of women spoke their desire for a Christmas event, I prayed for guidance and followed with an event that focused on Jesus as God's gift to the world. A potluck meal encouraged the 2 dozen attendees to bring an international food item, we made Christmas cards for our missionaries, sang carols, played games, and heard powerfully from Shelaine Strom. This event was helped by the women who gave their time to prepare activities, set up decorations, and each guest who brought the shared meal.

January 2018: A number of women (and men) attended Shelaine Strom's book launch at HOJ to encourage and support her.

February/March 2018: An opportunity for creative worship was organized by Linnea Schellenberg. More than 20 women of varying ages came (from inside and out of the church) to follow the guidance of a local artist in creating a beautiful painting. We saw God's hand at work in making this event in a very big way as, unbeknownst to us at the time, the painting that was chosen had connections to a vision experienced by our very own Monique Driediger. Discovering that shortly before the event, we asked her to share the origin of the image. February was also the beginning of our Lenten Bible Study. Utilizing the LifeGuide study on "Jesus' Final Week", a small group of women meet for four weeks to discuss the days leading up to the cross and culminating in the resurrection. The final session of these studies was extended to allow time for a Seder meal. This night was worth more than any other as we invested the richness of the Haggadah to see more clearly the Messianic insight of the Passover tradition.

April/May 2018: Though there are no scheduled events to close out this ministry year, the women of Ross Road continue to engage with each other through our Facebook group where scripture, articles, and resources are regularly shared.

Respectfully submitted by Alex Schellenberg

## **STUDENT MINISTRIES**

If I could sum up this ministry year in one word I think that I would use the word '**Change**'. Now, often times people fear change, and I often fall into this category. However, this year has been a year of good changes. **Change** of scenery in some ways, **changeover** with new leaders as well as growth in returning leaders, and most importantly **change** of hearts in students.

### **PERSONAL**

- This year, I had the opportunity to be an MC at Missions Fest in Vancouver. Although I had food poisoning at the same time, this was a great opportunity for me.
- I was very involved in the planning of the middle school SHINE retreat that took place at Stillwood Camp. I came up with the theme for the weekend, planned the night game, and was the Emcee for the weekend.
- I am playing drums for a girl's conference happening May 5<sup>th</sup> at Broadway Church in Vancouver.
- I have almost completed my personal goal of reading through the entire bible in a year – will achieve this by August.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY**

- Adventure Camp often stands out to me when I think about the success of this year. Many of the students who attended adventure camp were un-churched, and many of them have been regularly attending youth since then.
  - I do not believe that the success of the youth group is based upon numbers, however due to adventure camp, our group has been sitting around 35-40 students regularly through this year.
- We participated in Operation Christmas Child and filled many boxes to send to both boys and girls to open on Christmas day.

- Middle school students were excited about the idea of getting to volunteer for Family Fun Night during the fall. Many of the students showed up to help out with this.
- This year in middle school, we have been doing our game time in the gym, and then having our message time in the fireside room, to change up the scenery.
- The middle school students were able to attend the SHINE retreat this year up at Camp Stillwood. There were about 15 of them that went, and all of the leaders jumped at the chance to go and hang out with their kids for the weekend.
- There seems to be quite a shift in middle school youth over the last few months. It seems that no youth night goes by without a student asking to take home a bible.

#### **WHAT WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT AT M.S. YOUTH THIS YEAR:**

- From about September-February we worked through a video series from Francis Chan on the book of James.
- Since February we have been working through a series called “Why We Do What We Do” which answers questions like: why do we come to youth and church, why do we worship, why do we tithe, etc.”
  - Since doing this series, 4 kids gave their lives to Jesus on a normal Monday night.
  - 1 expressed interest in baptism recently. This was a kid who has been giving the leaders headaches for a lot of the year, and then suddenly has had a turn around that can only be explained by the Holy Spirit.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY**

- We have changed up the scenery quite a bit this year in high school youth. We have our games/chill time downstairs in the gym, and then we move up to the kid’s big room for our message time. This has worked out especially well for our worship time.
- This year we have an acoustic worship session every night that lasts about 10 minutes before the speaking happens. Levi De Waal and Nathanael Jones generally take leadership over this. Students also are involved in playing on this worship team.
- Nathanael Jones and I planned a weekend up at Camp Kawkawa for the students, which was again a big success. We heard again from our speaker Matt Johnson and worshipped together with an excellent worship team. This weekend to me was a great success, as almost every single person who attends our youth group was at this retreat. Those who couldn’t attend the retreat, wanted to be there but had valid reasons to miss.

#### **WHAT WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT AT H.S. YOUTH THIS YEAR:**

- We began this year with a 4-week series on Poverty. This was in partnership with Food For The Hungry, and we had both Eric and Shelaine Strom come in and speak for this.
- From around the end of October-March we did the Youth Alpha video series. This was a great opportunity for our students who are un-churched to explore these thought-provoking questions in a space where they are comfortable.
- We are now in a series that we are also doing with the middle school students; ‘Why We Do What We Do’ where we ask questions like why we serve, tithe, go to church, worship, etc.



- We also had the privilege of commissioning students for their MEI mission's trips, and then hearing updates from them upon their return. Most of our grade 12 students all went on missions' trips this year!
- Nathanael Jones has done a wonderful job as my intern this year. He had experience in both middle school and high school youth. He planned a Christmas Party for the middle school students that is probably one of the best Christmas gatherings we have had yet. In high school, he has been giving leadership to the worship teams, and has been doing a great job! He also organized all of the worship administration, set up, and leading for our high school retreat.

### **COMBINED (MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL)**

- We had a very effective leaders training weekend in September which bonded our leaders together and helped us feel equipped for the youth year.
- We had a very fun day of skiing and snowboarding up at Manning Park in January. There were about 50-60 people who attended this, including middle school and high school students, leaders and parents as well.
- The following week, the leaders from both middle school and high school attended the Canadian Youth Workers Conference.
- We had an all-nighter this year that was very successful! There were around 50 students that attended this event, both middle school and high school.

This year, I have seen significant growth in many of my students, both spiritually and physically for that matter! It is amazing to journey with kids from a young age to see them enter into high school, or even just become the older kids at middle school youth. I have had the pleasure of seeing many of my young high school students step into leadership in middle school youth, and they have been doing a fantastic job! As I mentioned, I have seen a lot of change this year – and I'm so glad!

I could not be happier with the direction Ross Road Youth is taking, and I look forward to another year of adventures! If you would like to partner with us in prayer, please send me a message and I will pass on to you our prayer guide!

Much Love,

Holly McLean  
Associate Pastor of Student Ministries

## **KIDS MINISTRIES**

### **BABY DEDICATIONS**

Seven babies were dedicated in December 2017 and we expect that six more babies will have been dedicated May 2018.

### **NURSERY**

We have appreciated another great year of care for our youngest members during the church services. This has been ably administered by Cynthia Wall, a busy nurse and mom who has found time to serve our church family in this way. There are twenty-three nursery volunteers and up to

twenty little ones who benefit from their care. Our volunteers include: Monika Thiessen, Rhonda Janzen, Allie Janzen, Sally Healy, Natalie Wiebe, Vicki Lin, Danika Wittenberg, Stephanie Shellborn, Jessica Janz, Linda Mills, Betty-Lou Hildebrandt, Sandra Hayashida, Karissa Stobbe, Cynthia Wall, Will Wall, Nadine Ball, and Elena Unraw.

Elisabeth and Neil Klassen, as well as Frieda Loewen are the nursery prayer partners.

As is true in every age group, all of our volunteers are police checked.

### **PRE-SCHOOL**

Pre-School Sunday school is provided for both services on Sunday during the school year. Cindy Sue Peters and Karissa Longpre continue their complimentary leadership for our children, aged two years through five years. Their leadership includes supplying curriculum, ensuring that each class is being taught by at least two capable, enthusiastic teachers plus helpers, and arranging presentations for special times of the year such as Palm Sunday and Christmas. Cindy Sue and Karissa also organize a parent-led Spring Break and Summer Sunday Pre-School program.

We are so grateful for Stephanie Dobui and Shelley Armstrong and Eric Boender, who have helped us many times as spares when we have needed them. We are also thankful to God for the many parents who are willing to volunteer to keep our Preschool Sunday School classes going during Christmas Break, Spring Break, and Summer Sunday Preschool.

At present, sixty children enjoy the preschool program. Our teachers and helpers include: Christy Peters, Gabriel Peters, Stephanie Brechin, Sarah Hayashida, Wilf Kasper, Abby Lin, Leticia Harder, Brennah Toews, Katie Rosborough, Cindy Sue Peters, Nearissa Kasper, Justin Longpre, Matthew Setchay, Rose Brechin, Kaleb Rosborough, Shana Evans, Amanda McAllister, Zach Janzen, Avery McAllister, Julie Schellenberg, and Lydia Haak.

Our pre-school prayer partners are: Vic and Diane Martens, Sam and Myrtle Regier, Wilf and Nearissa Kasper, and Ken and Cindy Wiebe

### **KIDS ZONE**

Our Kids Zone classes comprise forty-eight students from grades one through five. We follow the GO Curriculum which takes the students through the Bible annually, highlighting different stories each year. The stories are taught to the whole group in the Junior Big Room by our large group teachers. This year we have enjoyed teaching from Rhonda Janzen, Judy Griffieon, Bill Strom, Pastor Art, Pastor Craig, Dave Rosborough, Jane Welsh, and Elaine and Bob Regier. Additionally, each class visited Bonni Budlong in the Art Room during the year for their story and the opportunity to express their learning through art.

Our teachers and helpers include: Rosabelle Birch, Melissa Oakes, Arianna Setchay, Levi Amendt, Giselle Jackson, Joanne Congo, Lance DeWaal, Josh Driediger, Austin Dahlen, Angela, Mike, and Matt Rosborough, Chris Oakes, Shelley Armstrong, Marianne Rosborough, Sharon Tungate, Jennae Driediger, Marylyn Cooper, Chris and Ruby Setchay. We very much appreciate Monique Driediger, Margaret Woodey and Rene Barrett stepping in as spares when needed.

We have a regular rotation of Children's Ministry Greeters who rotate through the Sundays in a month to welcome children and parents upstairs: Sherry Lin, April Bell, Linda Mills, Sam Hayashida, and Karen Stobbe.

Our prayer partners are: Margaret and George Bergen, Margaret and Jim Woodey, Hilda and Dave Fehr, Cindy and Ken Wiebe, Sylvia Giesbrecht, and Esther and Cliff Hiebert.

### **KIDS.COM**

Kids.com is the name of a small group who meet periodically to give vision and direction to Children's Ministry. The members of this group are: Cindy Sue Peters, Bethany Stuckey, Elaine Regier, Ruby Setchay, and Cynthia Wall (as able).

### **EVENTS:**

Soccer Camp – July 24 – 28, 2017

Family Fun Night – October 28, 2017

Christmas Program – December 17, 2017 (An exuberant presentation of Christmas songs by the Preschool, and the musical "Really Really Really Good News," directed by Jenny Thiessen and Elaine Regier)

Grand Prix – April 6, 2018 (A collaboration between Men's Ministry and Children's Ministry)

As you can see, there are a large number of caring members of our church family who invest in our children and we are so grateful to God for providing them!

Psalm 78:6b-7 *"... they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds, but would keep His commands..."*

Respectfully submitted by  
Elaine Regier

## **LEAD**

LEAD (Leadership Enhancement And Development) exists to help Ross Roaders develop into the men and women God designed them to be, in whichever area of life they find themselves in. LEAD fosters mentorship relationships at RRCC and holds training events to build necessary skills for everyday life. We encourage leader development with a leader defined as "an individual who, in cooperation with God and for his pleasure, takes initiative to empower others through loving relationships to know and serve God together in a way that transforms us into godly wholeness".

LEAD exists to develop leaders in order to:

- 1) Further our mission "to help people find and follow Jesus" and our central ministry focus "to equip disciple-making disciples".
- 2) Foster a church that embraces a culture of leadership development for all.
- 3) Develop the potential of participants to lead in the home, church, workplace, and cross-cultural settings.
- 4) Raise up leaders for vocational ministry in Canada and throughout the world.

### **MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS:**

We currently support at least 20 mentorship groups as they work together to develop in their faith. LEAD team members check in with mentors/mentees periodically to offer support and resources as required. The LEAD team connects new mentorship couples throughout the year as necessary.

### **FALL EVENT - RELATIONSHIPS THAT TRANSFORM WITH DANIEL BEUTLER**

Twenty-four Ross Roaders attended this 2 1/2 hour breakfast workshop. We learned essential ingredients for transformation and discussed how God used key people to shape us into the people we are today. We also worked through the Transformational Coaching 4D Flow Model of discern, discover, develop, and depend. A key message we learned was that "we can't hold anyone accountable, we can only offer them accountability".

### **SPRING EVENT - COACH MODEL TRAINING WITH TERESA BORN & VIV JOHNSTONE**

Twenty-five attended this 4 hour Saturday breakfast workshop. We learned how active listening and powerful questions can transform conversations. We discussed verbal and non-verbal techniques that communicate "I'm listening", practiced using open-ended questions, and worked through The Coach Model. This training showed us that "coaching is an on-going intentional conversation that empowers a person or group to fully live out God's calling".

### **MOVING FORWARD:**

Fostering mentoring relationships will continue to be a vital part of the ministry. LEAD will continue to offer learning opportunities and will be exploring different ways that we can be a resource to the church and its various ministries and members. If there's something you are eager to learn more about or you want to be placed in a mentorship group do reach out to LEAD at any time. We are here for you!

Submitted by Cheryl Cook  
On behalf of the LEAD team.

## **RESETTLEMENT TEAM**

Our new Canadian family has been here for about 19 months now. The family is adapting well to life in Canada and has made a few friends outside of church.

Our involvement with the family still continues, although to a lesser degree than at first. Team members still assist with medical appointments, parent-teacher interviews, after school home school twice a week for the four school age children, transportation to and from church and some assistance with shopping. Phil Giesbrecht continues to assist and advise on financial issues. Some assistance is also given with job applications for Marylyn, the mother, as well as a bit of assistance with technology related issues.

Ross Road is no longer supporting the family financially as Yawo, the father, is employed and has been since a couple weeks after the family arrived in Canada.

Our Refugee Response fund that was so generously given by our church family still has a significant amount of money in it. If anyone is interested in forming a second team to support another displaced family in their transition to Canada, there are enough funds in place to begin

this process. If you are interested, please feel free to ask questions of Cindy Sue and Danny Peters, Bonni and Dale Budlong, Mike and Angela Rosborough, or Dave and Marianne Rosborough – we will be happy to provide information and connection to resources based on our experience.

Submitted by Mike & Angela Rosborough  
On behalf of the Resettlement Team

## **PROPERTY MINISTRY**

Firstly, thank you to Gord Penner, Al Brechin, and Dale Budlong. They faithfully meet every Wednesday at the church for routine maintenance that is invaluable to the health of our building. As you may be aware, the fluorescent lighting in the sanctuary has begun to fail. Gord and Al recently replaced the row of lighting at the back of the balcony and there are plans in place to replace the other two rows in the sanctuary with a lift.

Since the last annual meeting, the parking lot has been repaired and lines painted. We have installed the new stoves in the kitchen and have been put to work almost immediately. Painting has been completed in the foyer, fireside room, and hallway around common grounds.

Unfortunately, the ice storm this winter did a number on many of the trees around the property. As a result, we have a wonderful new view of our neighbours to the south (the large old oak tree is now gone).

We are excited to get ready to host soccer camp again this year at Ross Road! Last year, Jeremy Nunnikhoven and his family were crucial in making the field ready for soccer camp in July. This year, Jeremy is just as excited to see soccer camp back here again. We are truly blessed to have people in our congregation that go to great lengths and use their talents to see God's work done here at Ross Road.

Currently, we are working on getting all trades organized for the new units to be installed for the HVAC system in the sanctuary. Together with guest services, we are working on revamping the foyer to make it more inviting to people new to the church. Tying in with updating the foyer comes renovating the foyer bathrooms. The original plan for the church renovations shows the two bathrooms moving into the hall south of common grounds and opening up the space where the bathrooms currently are to house a new library location and a spot for a coffee bar. The Property Teams wants to think 'big picture' to ensure our building runs safely and effectively. We want nothing more than to see our church use the proposed total renovation, even in part, that was drawn up more than 8 years ago. We have attached the original plans for your reference.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Sandra Nelson for her hard work as office administrator. I and the Property Team are grateful for the organization she brings to our team. A big thanks to the Property Team members - Jake Konrad, Gord Penner, Al Brechin, Jeff Thiessen, Mike Hauser, and Lorne Haak for the behind the scenes work that they do.

Trent Thiessen - Property Team Chair

## **LIBRARY REPORT**

*The only thing you absolutely must know, is the location of the library. Albert Einstein.*

Although there are new books and some new patrons, the library service we provide at RRCC remains the same week after week. We try to promote current items in window displays and on a table outside the library as well as in the bulletin. Our committee of six is very faithful in showing up for their scheduled rotation of library “duty”. I try to be there every Sunday to provide continuity. That way I get to know our patrons (library users) and provide individual recommendations that suit their reading interests. I keep lists of requests and try to locate or purchase those titles.

### **Here are some facts you may not know about our library:**

- We have CDs that are great for car trips.
- For every new item we purchase, we need to weed one from our collection because of size restraints. That is why you will see “good” (not yet worn-out) books being sold as discards. (However, most discarded items are put to good use as travel and/or summer cabin reads by you, our RRCC purchasers.)
- There is a special display area for men.
- Some very special prolific male readers even have their own shelf!
- Our loan period is three weeks, the same as that of the public library.
- Most items can be renewed upon request without bringing them back to the library.
- Most readers look for adult fiction and will ask for new titles they see at local Christian bookstores. (Thankfully we have an adequate budget.)
- Our Resourcemat computer program tracks all the books you sign out, so you can ask us if you’ve read the book before (in case you’ve forgotten).
- We have books and DVDs for all ages, from toddlers to seniors.
- Most library work—reviewing books, purchasing, processing, data entry, and tracing overdues happens during the week. What you see Sunday morning is a very minor part of what it takes to provide a library service.
- People who are new to RRCC find their way into the library because of our highly visible location. They ask questions and often stay to sign up for our patron list.

There are parts of our library that unfortunately receive very little use despite our best efforts to promote them. Few elementary school aged children borrow books; almost no teens are patrons. Some parents with preschoolers do bring their children in to select picture books and DVDs. We welcome all attendees of RRCC to make use of our library collection.

## **GLOBAL OUTREACH TEAM**

Dear Friends, it has been our pleasure to serve you this past year as the Global Outreach (GO) Team. We meet monthly except July and August. Pastor Art has been serving on this team for the several years and now Pastor Craig, as Co-lead, will step up to join us. Members of the GO Team are: Pastor Craig, Rose Brechin, Carol McLean, Donna Penner and Derrick Dick. Becca Penner will

soon be joining us. Each month, if we can, we like to invite one of our visiting or local missionaries to meet with us and tell us their story. This past year we met with: S & B (Central Asia and now USA), Chelsea and Lauren Neudorf (Cambodia), Rob and Judy Griffioen (South East Asia), Dwayne and Helen Rainwater (West Africa), Dale and Teresa Regier (MB Missions, Abbotsford), H & E in (Central Asia) and Paul and Edna Cairns (Transport for Christ, Chilliwack).

Other missionaries that we have been in contact with either by email or face-t-face are: Cynthia Friesen (South East Asia), Otto and Marjorie Ekk (Portugal), Becca Penner (Youth Unlimited, Surrey), Janice Esau (Dominican Republic), Rachel Wiebe, (Winnipeg), Beth and Darcy Scholes (Family Life, Abbotsford), Al and Karen Stobbe (MB Missions, Abbotsford) and Jason and Stephanie Shellborn, (Discipleship International, Abbotsford).

Short-Term missionaries we have supported this past year have been: Tamara Alexander, Josh Driediger, Morgan Toews and Nyomie Brechin and Lauren and Chelsea Neudorf.

With the help of Esthie Misner and others, we were able to find a home and vehicle for the Rainwaters while they were on extended furlough with us. We also put on a special brunch recently to help raise funds for our short-term missionaries. Long-term missionaries are included in our regular church budget but short-term missionaries and some other requests are considered and supported out of these extra funds.

An exciting opportunity this year is the “partnering” of our church with a sister church in another country. We believe that God has led us to partner with H& E’s church in Central Asia. This will benefit both congregations through regular sharing of news and information and ideas. Visits back and forth between the two churches will be encouraged. You will soon hear more about this adventure.

As your GO Team, we are thankful to be serving our Lord with you in this way. I believe that a church that believes in and supports missionaries here and elsewhere is a good and healthy church.

Thank you,  
Derrick Dick, on behalf of the GO Team

## **TABOR HOME**

In order to meet the needs of the day, the Tabor Home Society built a retirement home in 1961 for 39 residents. East Aldergrove MB (now Ross Road) became a participating congregation in 1982. Today Tabor Village provides three levels of care for 38 units of independent living (Tabor Manor), 104 residents in assisted living (Tabor Court), and 144 residents in complex-care (Tabor Home and Valhaven). Tabor Home recently underwent an Accreditation Canada review and achieved an exemplary rating with distinction for its operation while Tabor Court received the Seal of Approval designation by the Senior Living Association. The board appreciates the dedication of the Tabor Village executive director, Dan Levitt, and the staff in providing great care for our seniors there.

The initial building has undergone several additions and upgrades over its 57-yr life but is nearing the end of its usefulness. Initial consideration was given in 1987 to replace the complex-care

building (30 years ago). THS has been busy over the last 1.5 years in planning for its replacement, working with various consultants and approaching government for additional funding. As a non-profit faith-based society, THS must take on the responsibility of building the replacement (planned for 154 residents) at a cost of \$35+ million on land that it presently owns. A capital campaign to raise \$11 million to transform Tabor Village into a community that provides care and ministry to our seniors for the next 30 years is being implemented.

THS has been building their partnership in seniors' ministry with their 11 participating MB congregations during the past year. As a participating congregation, RRCC provides \$1/member to THS and presents nominees as potential board members. A number of RRCC members have served well over the years with Jake Konrad just completing his 20<sup>th</sup> year on the THS board. A volunteer group from RRCC has served the seniors at Tabor for many years with a service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of most months. Others serve as volunteers in a number of ways at Tabor Village with more needed. Please contact the new volunteer coordinator, Andrea Critchley, if you are wanting to be involved.

THS appreciates the support of RRCC as a church and as individual members. We need each other as we serve the Lord by providing care for our vulnerable seniors who have served the church well for many years.

On behalf of THS,  
Jake Konrad and Victor Martens

## **MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE**

### **OUR MISSION**

In our 60-year history, Mennonite Disaster Service has found that volunteers are able to help disaster survivors regain faith and wholeness in their lives. This action, supported by the peace position of the church, is a non-violent way to serve our neighbors. We endeavor, in the spirit of Christian love, to follow Christ's example by giving time, talents, and energies to help relieve suffering caused by disasters.

### **ABOUT MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE REGION V INCORPORATED**

Mennonite Disaster Service project locations provide housing for both short and long-term volunteers as they repair and rebuild homes damaged by disasters. Our paid staff coordinate this response from our offices in Manitoba and Pennsylvania. We host an annual meeting and offer training workshops and seminars throughout the year. Mennonite Disaster Service has memos of understanding with The Salvation Army, Canadian Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee of Canada, Adventist Development and Relief Agency as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross.

### **HERE ARE SOME TYPICAL STORIES**

It's a rainy, late October day in Far Rockaway, nearly two years to the day since Hurricane Sandy devastated the area. Some of the streets are flooded, giving residents flashbacks to that awful time in their lives — not just to the flooding itself, but also to the construction swindles, insurance nightmares and disasters that followed. But for a few residents in the Broad Channel neighborhood, help has finally arrived.

Karen Dougherty, who climbed into her attic crawl space two years ago to survive, said she still remembered the itchy feel of the fiberglass insulation that surrounded her while she waited out



the flood. Today, she is watching a small group of volunteers lay down a new wooden floor in her two-story home. And she can't really believe it is happening.

"People came and said they would help, took my money and then never came back," Ms. Dougherty says. "But these people, they didn't ask for anything. These are strangers. And they're like lifesavers. I want to go home with them." She laughs.

The strangers hammering in her house are members of the Mennonite Disaster Service, a religious organization of volunteers who help homeowners across the United States and Canada rebuild their houses, and their lives as well.

When Bill and Esther McCoy, M.D.S. project coordinators, knocked on the door of Ann Marie Esposito's home in Broad Channel last February, they found her huddled upstairs in bed, the blankets pulled around her on a seven-degree day. There was still a giant hole in the roof from Sandy, the blue sky peeking through. Because her floor was gone, opossums were crawling into the house and eating her food, so she had resorted to hanging her groceries from the rafters.

Now, the work is nearly complete. She has no opossums. Instead, she has new walls with insulation, a new roof, siding, replacement windows, a new kitchen — and faith in humanity again.

"From the time I met Esther, I could feel the love," Ms. Esposito said. She stops because she is starting to cry. "They are such good people. You can't imagine." She was told again and again that help was on the way. But then no one came through.

"When Esther said they'd be back, I knew they would," Ms. Esposito said, choking up again. "I just felt it." She puts her hands over her heart and taps a few times.

In 2013, the Mennonite service sent 4,277 volunteers across the United States and Canada. They went to the Rockaway area and Staten Island. They went to Bastrop, Tex., where 1,700 homes were destroyed by fire. In High River, Alberta, volunteers cleaned out 45 homes after a flood devastated the town. They were in Circle, Alaska, where an ice breakup led to a flood.

Plumbers, roofers, cooks, youth groups and university students, farmers and retirees, and just regular people wanting to donate time and energy are organized out of the group's Pennsylvania and Winnipeg offices. M.D.S. accepts skilled and nonskilled laborers, and many are repeat volunteers. The service keeps a database and will call upon people with certain skills.

This year, they have been busy helping people in West Virginia whose homes were crushed in a deadly snowstorm, and in Detroit, where flooding has ruined 13,000 homes. Though most of the group's work centers on actual building and construction, M.D.S. does provide other services. After 9/11, it provided choir robes to a group that wanted to sing at ground zero. For another New York City group, it funded an after-school program in a school basement. After the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, it helped people move out of damaged buildings.

The service typically teams up with a local recovery agency, which helps identify candidates for its projects and provides funding for building materials. The organization itself is funded through church-based and private donations from the general public. Long-term volunteers work for one to three months, but short-term workers can put in as little as a week at a time. At each disaster site, with the help of the community, the Mennonite service sets up accommodations, including cooking and dining facilities for the volunteers.

In rebuilding houses, the service gives priority to those whose owners are without resources and cannot get loans.

The Rev. Dr. Arthur W. Davenport Sr. from the First Church of God in Far Rockaway, who helped the Mennonite service locate people in need after Sandy, said the quality of the group's work was unmatched. "Some people had to come in and had to do the work over because they didn't do it right," Mr. Davenport said. "But not these people. We were blessed by the Mennonites' being here."

The service set up its camp in January 2013 in the church's parking lot, across the street from a Family Dollar store, and it has been at home there ever since.

Over the 10 years he has been in charge, the service's executive director, Kevin King, has seen more and more disasters. "When it rains, it rains harder, and when it snows, it snows harder," he said. Over the years, the Mennonite service has established a unit in every state, and in some states more than one.

Mr. King described the first wave of Sandy volunteers as Pennsylvania farmers who finished chores around 3 a.m., drove three hours to Staten Island, then drove back to their farms in the evening. Many churches make M.D.S. part of their missions' commitment and will budget a missions team to travel to a site and volunteer.

Often the people the volunteers are helping have never even heard of the Mennonites. When people hear the name, they often think of the bearded Old Order Mennonites and Amish, who still live simply in farming communities without electricity or cars. But most Mennonites, like most of those who work with the service, make full use of technology and wear modern dress. There are 4,000 Mennonite churches throughout the United States and Canada, primarily in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kansas and Central California. In Canada, the churches are concentrated in Winnipeg, Manitoba; Kitchener, Ontario; and Abbotsford, British Columbia.

The service is a Christian group, but it does not discriminate in the people it helps or in who can volunteer, and it does not proselytize.

The Mennonite Disaster Service grew out of the service Mennonites provided as conscientious objectors during World War II. Because of their pacifist philosophy, thousands of young Mennonites served in alternative assignments, such as mental hospitals, filling community needs. When the war ended, the desire to fill those needs continued, and resulted in a huge volunteer work force.

Bill McCoy, originally from Oregon, explained that it was not just the people in need who benefit. "I'm not a big-city person," Mr. McCoy said. "And when they told me I had to go to New York, I said, 'God is going to have to bring me up in the belly of a whale.' But it's not that big, scary place I thought it was. I'm the one that's been blessed." Some of the people he has met here, he says, will be friends for a lifetime.

Volunteering often brings together members of a family who do not usually get to spend such long quality time together. For instance, Wanda Yoder of Belleville, Pa., traveled to Jamestown, Colo., in June because of the floods there, and helped cook for the volunteers. She was joined by her granddaughter Tayler, 21, who has now caught the volunteer bug.

"It was so nice," Ms. Yoder said, "to hear her say, 'Grandma, it smells so good in here.' "

## **VOLUNTEER OPORTUNITIES**

Several projects are in the works in the Williams Lake area after last year's devastating wild fires. If you are interested in volunteering with MDS, please speak to us or visit the MDS website which you can find at [www.mds.mennonite.net](http://www.mds.mennonite.net)

Respectfully Submitted  
Jake & Phyllis Epp

## **MEI BOARD**

I have now had the privilege of serving on the MEI Board for two years. This past year has been very strategic with respect to planning for the future of all of our campuses. MEI is an educational institution where strong Christian values are promoted in an academic environment. Under the guidance and leadership of our Head of Schools, Vijay Manuel, MEI is focused on their vision of providing "an engaging learning environment for all their students" by...

- providing dynamic classroom experiences while placing a high value on student voice
- modelling and teaching worship as a lifestyle built on Biblical foundation
- effectively communicating with students and parents
- maintaining a Pre K - 12 committee to guide the annual plan for growth
- by intentionally developing the character of our students through engagement and by
- making them feel valued
- finding ways to connect with the larger Abbotsford community

The mission of MEI is to work in cooperation with the families and our supporting churches to equip our children and young people to live a life of faithfulness to and excellence for God's Kingdom. MEI highly values their supporting churches through financial contributions, curriculum development and leadership input. With this continued support, all campuses of the school continue to be strong leaders in educational training.

Registrations continue to climb at all campuses. The Secondary School has climbed from 494 two years ago to 597 for 2018/19 so far. The Middle School has climbed from 308 three years ago to 425 for 2018/19 so far. And I am pleased to share that the Elementary is full to capacity! Our composition has been 75% Christian families, however, we've enrolled 93% Christian families for Kindergarten for 2018/19. We are very excited about this because while we are an open enrolment school, it's important that we have a solid foundation of Christian families who believe in our Mission. This is an encouraging trend allowing MEI to have strong support for our call to "Prepare students for life and forever" from a God honouring perspective.

Our Mission Teams have had an exciting year and continue to serve our global community. A total of 70 students and staff served in 5 different locations around the world in March. (Haiti, India, Thailand, Mexico & Urban Vancouver)

Our Head of Schools, Vijay Manuel, would like to share the following...

## **WHAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED MOVING FORWARD? - (A GOAL, DREAM, HOPE)**

1. We continue to move towards strengthening our Spiritual Formation plan for students including a Bible Curriculum review with a goal of developing authentic followers of Jesus
2. We continue to move towards strengthening our Academic offerings within the context of the new BC Curriculum with a goal of providing our students with the best academic experience in our community while working closely and sharing with our colleagues in the public and other independent schools

### **HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOUR MINISTRY?**

Please pray for unity. As we profess our unwavering commitment to Jesus Christ and are unashamedly anchored in the Word of God, the enemy will try to divide and discourage us. Please pray for protection and unity as we work towards preparing the next generation of Christian leaders.

MEI is intentional at being good stewards with the funds that it receives from tuition, Church support and donations. MEI is blessed with having many committed and dedicated teachers and support staff, who share the vision of seeing students become fully equipped for their future lives. Ross Road Community Church has teachers, staff, and many students involved in MEI this year, and we ask that you continue to pray and support this important institution in the upcoming years.

Blessings, Susanne Walton

## **MCLURE ROAD MENNONITE CEMETERY SOCIETY**

Ross Road Community Church is part of the Maclure Road Mennonite Cemetery Society, together with 17 other Mennonite churches. As a member of one of the supporting churches, we are entitled to significant reduction in burial fees (over \$1,000 saving for a single plot). The church pays no fees to be a member; income is generated by the sale of burial plots. The only requirement is that the church appoints a representative to attend the annual meeting of the society every year. If a church has no rep attending for 2 years in a row, it could forfeit its membership in the society.

A few years ago the society purchased 2 acres of land across the street from the existing cemetery, but the sellers were given permission to remain on the property until August, 2017, as part of the sales agreement. We (the society) have now taken possession of the property, and have begun the process of developing it for future burial space. We still have space available on the original property, but this additional space will guarantee space for many years to come. Also plans are underway to build a wall for cremation remains, as more people are opting for cremation instead of the traditional burial.

The society has developed a handbook of things to do in the event of the death of a loved one, which is available to pastors and individuals. (A copy is kept in the church office.) Death is not something we like to think about, but because it is sure to happen to us all sooner or later, it is important that we know where to go, and what to do when it happens.

While the Mennonite Maclure Cemetery Society does not normally advertise its existence, there is a website that anyone can access for more information. It is worthwhile to check it out at [Maclure Road Mennonite Society \(Abbotsford, British Columbia\)](#). It is important for us as a church to maintain our membership in the society, to continue to reap the benefits, as well as know what is happening.

Respectfully submitted by Ed Klassen

## **DISCERNMENT TEAM**

The goal of the Discernment Team is to invite people to participate in ministry at RRCC in accordance with their gifting, calling, and the needs of the church. In January and February of this year, nomination forms were distributed to the congregation in order to solicit nominations for eldership and various deacon positions in the church. This process garnered approximately 260 names. The team then met to pray and discern who would be best suited for each role. We ended up approaching by face-to-face conversation, email, or phone at least 111 people and filled 36 positions. We were pleased at the progress that we made in building a new women's ministry team, though a few more are yet to be added. It was also the first time that we processed females for eldership. Elders are initially discerned by the Discernment Team, then interviewed by one or two elders and one or both of the Co-Lead Pastors. The team is still seeking to fill a few positions, but trust that God will provide. We have many who serve our church well and for that we are thankful. My thanks to the team of Dale Regier (elder), Rick Thiessen (elder), Karen Stobbe, Helen Konrad, and Art Birch for their hard work on this team.

Submitted by Craig Thiessen

**People Discerned for Deacon Roles and Affirmed by the Elders  
Presented At the May 2018 AMM**

**CARE: Pastor – Art Birch, appointed**

<i>Name (First Elected)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Nominated</i>
Margaret Bergen (2013)	3	2019	Term continues
Rose Loewen (2013)	3	2019	Term continues
<del>Brenda Stephens (2014)</del>	<del>2</del>	<del>2018</del>	<del>Term ends</del>
Linda Mills (2016)	1	2018	Term ends
Lynda Stobbe (2017)	1	2019	Term continues
Sandra Hayashida	1	2019	Term continues
Karen Wiebe	1	2019	Term continues
Al Brechin	?	?	?

**Nominations:**

Linda Mills May 2020

**DISCERNMENT: Pastors – Art Birch, Craig Thiessen & Elder Rick Thiessen, appointed**

<i>Name (First Elected)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Nominated</i>
Helen Konrad (2016)	1	2018	Term ends
Karen Stobbe (2016)	1	2018	Term ends

**Nominations:**

Helen Konrad May 2020  
 Karen Stobbe May 2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_ May 2020

**ENCORE: Pastor – Art Birch**

<i>Name (First Elected)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Nominated</i>
Jake Epp (2013)	3	2019	Term continues
Elisabeth Klassen (2013)	3	2019	Term continues
<del>Ed Klassen (2014)</del>	<del>2</del>	<del>2018</del>	<del>Term ends</del>
Almut Loewen (2013)	3	2019	Term continues
Helen Loewen (2016)	1	2018	Term ends

**Nominations:**

Vic Martens May 2020  
 Helen Loewen May 2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_ May 2020



**HOSPITALITY: Staff Support - Sandra Nelson**

<i>Name (First Elected)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Nominated</i>
Derek Janzen ( 2011)	4	2019	Term continues
Monika Thiessen (2011)	4	2019	Term continues
Karen Bergen (2011)	4	2019	Term continues
Ruby Setchay (2016)	1	2018	Term ends
Alex Schellenberg (ushers)	2	2019	Term continues
Jen Thomas (2017)	1	2019	Term continues
Jen Martens (2017)	1	2019	Term continues

**Nominations:**

\_\_\_\_\_ May 2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_ May 2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_ May 2020

**KIDS MINISTRY: Pastor - Craig Thiessen**

<i>Name (First Elected)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Nominated</i>
Cindy Sue Peters	5+	2019	Term continues
Bethany Stuckey	4+	2019	Term continues

**Nominations:**

\_\_\_\_\_ May 2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_ May 2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_ May 2020

**LEAD: Pastor - Art Birch**

<i>Name (First Elected)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Nominated</i>
Cheryl Cook (2017)	1	2019	Term continues
T. Anderson (2017)	1	2019	Term continues
Karen Stobbe (2017)	1	2019	Term continues
Susan Dick (2017)	1	2019	Term continues
Michelle Penner (2017)	1	2019	Term continues

**Nominations:**

Darcy Scholes May 2020  
 Michelle Penner May 2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_ May 2020



**LIBRARY: Pastor - TBD**

<b><i>Name (First Elected)</i></b>	<b><i>Term</i></b>	<b><i>Term Expires</i></b>	<b><i>Nominated</i></b>
Frieda Loewen (2010)	4+	2019	Term continues
Diane Martens (2010)	4	2018	Term ends
Marilyn Wedel (2010)	4	2018	Term ends
Ginni Amendt (2015)	2	2019	Term continues
Elena Unraw (2016)	1	2018	Term ends

**Nominations:**

Diane Martens May 2020  
 Marilyn Wedel May 2020  
 Elena Unraw May 2020  
 Donna Penner May 2020

**MEN'S MINISTRY: Pastor - Craig Thiessen**

<b><i>Name (First Elected)</i></b>	<b><i>Term</i></b>	<b><i>Term Expires</i></b>	<b><i>Nominated</i></b>
Brian Degelder	3	2019	Term continues
Bob Stobbe	3	2019	Term continues
Bob Regier	1	2019	Term continues
Jeff Friesen	1	2019	Term continues
Lloyd Pattenden	1	2019	Term continues
Dave Peters	1	2019	Term continues

**Nominations:**

Steve Nickel May 2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_ May 2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_ May 2020

**PROPERTY: Elder – Len Loewen**

<i>Name (First Elected)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Nominated</i>
Mike Hauser (2017)	1	2019	Term continues
Gord Penner (2013)	3	2019	Term continues
Al Brechin (2013)	3	2019	Term continues
Lorne Haak (2014)	2	2018	Term ends
Jeff Thiessen (2015)	2	2019	Term continues
Trent Thiessen (2015)	2	2019	Term continues
Jake Konrad (2016)	1	2018	Term ends

**Nominations:**

Jake Konrad May 2020  
Ben Dyck May 2020  
\_\_\_\_\_ May 2020

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Pastor – Art Birch**

<i>Name (First Elected)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Nominated</i>
Alex Schellenberg(2016)	1	2018	Term ends

**Nominations:**

Deanna Nickel May 2020  
Gloria Born May 2020  
Janelle Murray May 2020  
Aimee McAllister May 2020  
Shaunna Dahlen May 2020

**COMMUNION COORDINATORS: Pastor – TBD**

<i>Name (First Elected)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Nominated</i>

**Nominations:**

**Rodny & Eliane Harder (team leaders) May 2020**

**People Discerned for Elder Roles  
And Requiring Affirmation or Reaffirmation  
At the May 2018 AMM**

The Members affirm as Elders those men and women presented by the Discernment Team at a Membership Meeting. An Elder must be affirmed by a vote of 75% affirmation. An Elder is normally affirmed for a three-year term, and is eligible for a second three-year term. After a second three-year term, an elder is required to wait at least one year before being eligible for re-affirmation. This limitation may be waived by the Members on a yearly basis if no suitable replacement has been found.

<i>Name (First Elected)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
<del>Bob Regier (2015)</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>May 2018</del>	<del>Term ends</del>
Al Stobbe (2015)	1	May 2018	Term ends
<del>Barry Jackson (2015)</del>	<del>2</del>	<del>May 2018</del>	<del>Term ends</del>
Rick Thiessen (2017)	1	May 2020	Term continues
Dale Regier (2014)	2	May 2020	Term continues
Len Loewen (2016)	1	May 2019	Term continues

**Nominations:**

Al Stobbe	May 2021
Brian Degelder	May 2021
Susan Dick	May 2021
Rose Brechin	May 2021

**ROSS ROAD COMMUNITY CHURCH FINANCIAL POSITION ON April 30, 2018**

<b>OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL EXPENSES</b>				
	Year to Date April 2018 Actual	Year To Date April 2018 Budget	Variance Good (Bad)	ANNUAL 2018 BUDGET
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Donations	226,136	260,193	(34,057)	805,000
General Fund Reserves	17,731	18,000	269	18,000
Other Receipts	7,226	7,333	(107)	22,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>251,093</b>	<b>285,527</b>	<b>(33,896)</b>	<b>845,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Church Ministries	6,453	8,417	1,964	25,250
Missions	26,764	26,967	203	80,900
Loan Interest & Bank Charges	88	140	52	1,050
MB Conferences & Ministries	21,582	21,642	60	87,000
Staff Expenses	4,720	5,933	1,213	17,800
Staff Salaries & Benefits	142,382	138,128	(4,254)	445,000
Property & Facilities	35,402	27,333	(8,069)	82,000
Children's Ministries	532	3,150	2,618	9,450
Administrative Expenses	12,828	14,350	1,522	36,750
Music Ministries	2,059	1,667	(392)	5,000
Hospitality Ministries	1,075	2,000	925	6,000
Youth Ministries	6,149	9,300	3,151	18,800
<b>Total Ministry Expenses</b>	<b>260,034</b>	<b>259,027</b>	<b>(1,007)</b>	<b>815,000</b>
Principle Loan payment	17,731	18,000	269	18,000
Major Expenditures	9,196	8,500	(696)	12,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>286,961</b>	<b>285,527</b>	<b>(1,434)</b>	<b>845,000</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(35,868)</b>		<b>(35,868)</b>	<b>-</b>

**FUND BALANCES**

Deacon	2,419
Blessing in a Back pack	6,227 -
Building	68,772
Missions	7,498
Refugee	38,762
Endowment	846
Scholarship Fund	760
2017 Facility Renewal	(22,104)
Camp Ministry	2,573

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**2018 Year to Date Comments**

1. April 2018 Year to Date \$35,868 more has been spent than received. This compares to April 2017 when we had received \$4,400 more than spent.
2. April 30<sup>th</sup> operating fund surplus is \$94,000. \$22,000 of this surplus has been used to pay for facility renewal projects. Result is that there is \$72,000 available.
3. Properties expense is over budget because of unexpected cost of cleaning up trees from winter ice storm and painting some Sunday School classrooms
4. Salaries expense is over budget because of not including Merri Ellen's vacation pay in 2018 budget.
5. Church Ministries, Children's Ministry, Administration and Youth spending year to date is below budget. This has helped reduce deficit during months when receipts are less than expenses.