

The Presbytery of Westminster met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom Video Conferencing due to the Covid-19 restrictions on in-person meetings. Worship was led by Rev. Dr. Richard Topping.

### CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Patricia Dutcher-Walls constituted the Court and opened the meeting with prayer at 7:37pm.

The Moderator welcomed the following guests:

Flora Lin, member from VTPC; Claudine Robosura, alternate for First; Loraine Johnson, session clerk and rep elder from St. Paul's; Jasper Burger and Keith Leishman from St. John's; Justin Thurn and John Carr from St. Aidan's.

Leave to withdraw : none

### DOCKET

It was moved by Victor Kim seconded by Isabel Evans that the consent agenda below be adopted.

**CARRIED**

#### Consent Agenda:

- that the Docket be as indicated,
- that the attendance be recorded as noted in the Roll Record Book,
- that regrets and requests for permission to withdraw be noted as sent to the clerk of presbytery,
- that the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 2, 2021 be adopted,
- that the correspondence be dealt with as indicated,
- that reports without recommendations be received "for information."
- that reports with recommendations be received and their recommendations considered,
- that the presbytery treasurer be permitted to speak to financial issues.

If the Court is agreed, these motions will be adopted at the beginning of the meeting. Any member may ask for an issue on the consent agenda to be withdrawn from this list before the agenda is adopted.

### ROLL

#### Constituent Roll:

M. Baxter, B. Childs, Y.T. Choi, P. Dutcher-Walls, P. Eastwood, M. Fontaine, B. Fraser, S. Goble, T. Hsieh, G. Jay, T. Kim, V. Kim, R. Lockhart, L. McKay, C. MacLeod, R. Simpson, B. Skelding, G. Snyman, M. Szigeti, R. Topping, W. van der Westhuizen, R. Watson, M. Wong, D. Woods.

M. Adams, B. Astop, J. Con, B. Dennehy, I. Evans, B. Feick, C. Gleimuis, L. Gorman, K. Kim, K. Patrick, K. Sewell, B. Shepansky, G. Shields, S. Stacey, E. Wilson, P. Wong, L. Yen, M. Zaine.

#### Appendix:

L. Bae, G. Booy, G. Davis, B. Garvin, D. Howard, D. Tait-Katerberg

Students:

K. Tin

**REGRETS:**

H. Botha, W. van de Wall, D. Jennings, A. Lin, R. Miller, K. Jordan, A. Perrett, J. Sonachansingh

**CORRESPONDENCE:** February 26 through March 28, 2021

Date	Received from	Regarding	Action
02-22-21	Rebecca Simpson	Brentwood seeking permission from presbytery to withdraw funds for Brentwood's revitalization project	Received
02-22-21	Mary Fontaine	Hummingbird's 2021 Grant Application to the Cooke's Fund	Received
02-22-21	Cal MacLeod	Deaconess, Z. MacKay passed away on January 31, 2021	Noted
02-23-21	Teresa Charlton	Synod Updates	Received
02-23-21	Laurie McKay	Submission of Invoices for Bruce Cairnie	Received
02-24-21	Richard Watson	Notes from Marion Baird with respect to First PC visitation and supplement questions	Noted
02-24-21	Paddy Eastwood	Follow up on First PC and visitation recommendation from Nov 2020 meeting	Noted
02-24-21	Brian Fraser	Accepts position of Convener for the Student Certification Committee	Received
02-24-21	Brad Childs	Enquiry to hold a Presbytery Wide Elders Training	Received
02-25-21	Terrie- Lee Hamilton	YAR – submitting to GAO	Noted
02-25-21	Cameron Hart	Appreciation that Florence Metzger will be recognized at the next meeting of presbytery	Noted
02-25-21	Paddy Eastwood	Receipts for PCR should be submitted to Larry Eastwood, Treasurer	Noted
02-25-21	Lydia Bae	Rev Thomas Kim's father passed away on Feb 20	Received and distributed
02-25-21	Janette McIntosh	Requesting to attend the next presbytery (March)	Received
02-26-21	Mary Fontaine	Looking for motion from presbytery minutes regarding HM and baptisms services	Noted
02-26-21	Paddy Eastwood	Forwarding obituary for Zena MacKay	Received
03-01-21	Ruth Chueh	New Alternate Elder for VTPC is Flora Lin	Noted

The Presbytery of Westminster  
 Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
 April 6, 2021

9087

03-01-21	Eileen Sparrow	Notification that St Aidan's is referring back to "Life Eldership" instead of term eldership	Noted
03-02-21	Kathryn Muir	Changes to the Roll for February 2021	Noted
03-02-21	Dale Woods	The Coffee and Conversation is March 25 9:30-10:15am	Circulated
03-02-21	Larry Eastwood	POW Financial Statements for February	Received
03-03-21	John Con	Clarification on grant applications and suggesting a workshop might be offered to help congregations through the process	Received
03-03-21	Cameron Hart	Submission of St. Columba Statistical Report	Received
03-04-21	Stephan Kendall	Receipt of Transmission of Overture	Received
03-04-21	Jennifer Astop	Spring Deadline for Grants	Received and distributed
03-05-21	Roger Stoesz	Part time chaplain ministry available	Received and distributed
03-06-21	Brian Fraser	Jonathon Kwon's application to E&R	Received
03-08-21	Eileen Sparrow	Submission of Statistical Report for St. Aidan's	Received
03-09-21	George Robertson	Submission of the 2020 Statistical Report for Gordon PC	Received
03-11-21	Larry Eastwood	2021 Regional Resourcing Grants – looking for confirmation if the \$10K grant has been approved	Received
03-11-21	Paddy Eastwood	Haney PC is recommending a young adult Petri du Toit as YAR for the 2021 GA and subsequent reference letter	Received
03-11-21	Gordon Shields	Confirmation letter that Petri du Toit be candidate to GA	Received
03-12-21	Ruth Chueh	Rev. Ta Li Hsieh has obtained his Ph.D degree from Taiwan Theological College and Seminary in January 2021	Received and distributed
03-12-21	Ta Li Hsieh	Thank you for the recognition of his degree	Noted
03-13-21	Petri du Toit	YAR application letter	Received
03-13-21	Dale Woods	Evaluation form for Hybrid Church Workshop for distribution	Distributed
03-13-21	Graeme Stager Poieo Admin	Poieo Centre Update with new website link	Distributed
03-15-21	Geof Jay	Rev. Dr. John Allan, new member to our appendix is not well and prayers are requested	Received and circulated
03-15-21	Mathew Goslinski	Clarification on application amount for Camp Douglas grant	Responded
03-16-21	Brian Fraser	Recommendation to endorse Jonathan Kwon's application for readmission to E&R	Received
03-17-21	Mary Fontaine	Update on Hummingbird's budget and change in grant request	Received

The Presbytery of Westminster  
 Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
 April 6, 2021

9088

03-17-21	Mathew Goslinski	Regional Resourcing grants approvals for CUC and Camp Douglas Director	Received
03-17-21	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Moderator, Rev. Amanda Currie has written a pastoral letter to the church. Copies of the letter will be posted to the PCC webpage as well as sent to sessions and synods across the country.	Received and circulated
03-17-21	Larry Eastwood	Requesting that RRG funds come directly to POW rather than Synod as the latter causes delays in processing.	Noted
03-17-21	Mary Fontaine	Motion: that Hummingbird Council affirm the amendment of the amount of the application to the PCC Special Project Fund to \$10,000. Moved by Laurie Deacon, Seconded by Dorothy Visser	Noted
03-17-21	Janet Eastwood	Camp Douglas news: staff applications extended to April 2 and launched the Camp Douglas Beacon newsletter	Noted and distributed
03-18-21	Mathew Goslinski	Confirmation that grant funds will be forwarded to POW treasurer	Noted
03-18-21	Zoom	Renewal Notification received	Noted
03-18-21	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Moderator for GA ballots due March 31	Noted
03-18-21	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Moderator Ballots received	Noted
03-19-21	Sarah Fitzpatrick	BOSA/Central PC - Looking for update on GST funding	Noted
03-21-21	Mary Fontaine	Requesting to hold off on permission requests for grant letters as there are some logistically items to work through	Noted
03-23-21	Miklos Szigeti	Overture from First Hungarian	Received, but not in time to transmit after presbytery
03-23-21	Eileen Sparrow	Grant application letter from members of St Aidan's, Knox and Gordon churches for a new ministry called "Wild Folk Commons" and "Journey Society"	Received
03-24-21	Claudine Robosura	Question regarding outdoor worship	Responded
03-24-21	Pat Dutcher-Walls	Reminder to B. Childs that Report on the Commission to St. John's by March 30	Noted
03-24-21	Brad Childs	Confirms receipt of reminder and will have report of the Commission to St. John prepared	Noted
03-25-21	Dale Woods	Next learning event for POW will be April 17, Better than Brunch	Received and distributed

03-25-21	Janet Eastwood	Camp Douglas PIM application form completed	Received and forwarded to CEC
03-25-21	Petri Du Toit	Accepts nomination as YAR representative	Noted
03-25-21	Richard Watson	Tentative date for induction – May 16	Noted
03-25-21	Michelle Bested	Variance to Permit Indoor Worship Service	Received
03-26-21	Terrie-Lee Hamilton	Acknowledgement of POW YAR candidate	Noted
03-26-21	Glen Davis	Additional material regarding GAI – A request to reconsider from D. Jennings	Received
03-26-21	Richard Topping	St. Andrew’s Hall – VST Updates for 2020-2021	Received and circulated
03-28-21	Dale Woods	Kindle edition of Dave Daubert book “Becoming a Hybrid Church” will be out on March 30	Received
03-30-21	Brad Childs	Report of the Commission to St. John’s	Received

**STATED HOUR - REPORT OF THE COMMISSION TO ST. JOHN’S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WHITE ROCK**

**Report of the Commission to St. John’s Presbyterian Church, White Rock**

Moved by Emily Wilson, seconded by Bev Feick that Jasper Burger and Keith Leishman be allowed to sit and correspond. **CARRIED**

**Recommended Motion**

Moved: Rev. Brad Childs, seconded: Bev Feick

**Motion to initiate a Review of Ministry at St. John's Presbyterian Church, White Rock, BC. **DEFEATED****

The following two motions were moved by Paddy Eastwood and seconded by Brad Childs:

**Recommendation 1:** That a Visitation Team, with a specific mandate to help, be sent to St. John’s PC, White Rock, to follow up on issues raised in the February 2018 visitation, as reported in the Presbytery minutes of June 2018, and to present a fulsome report to the Presbytery by November 2021. The Visitation Team will focus their assistance on the following areas:

- With the assistance of Dale Woods, the PMV, will engage the Session of St. John’s in a visioning process for the congregation that identifies the ministry goals of St. John’s and outlines the process by which these goals will be realized.
- With a member of the Presbytery Property and Finance Subcommittee, will work with the Session and the Treasurer to plot a financial plan for the ongoing viability of the congregation and its ministry.

- Again, utilizing the PMV or other presbytery resources including the appointment of Assessor Elders, work with the Session of St. John's to increase capacity and confidence around Presbyterian polity and process leading to a more engaged and participatory Session.
- A mentor for the Rev. Willem van der Westhuizen will be appointed by the Moderator to work with Willem to address identified concerns around aspects of pastoral ministry from the 2018 Visitation Report.
- All of this work will commence as soon as the Visitation Team and mentor are named.
- While the final report will be due in November 2021, regular updates to the presbytery will be helpful and appreciated.

**CARRIED**

**Recommendation 2:** That the Visitation Team consist of three people appointed by the Moderator, inclusive of one person from the Property and Finance Subcommittee, and Dale Woods, our Presbyter for Mission and Vision.

**CARRIED**

### Preamble

The Commission to St. John's Presbyterian Church, White Rock, BC, was appointed partially in response to the findings of the Visitation Team to St. John's.<sup>1</sup> Further a letter received by the Presbytery indicating what was, at that time, the two primary concerns facing the leadership and congregation of St. John's.<sup>2</sup> The two primary concerns at the time were:

1. Concerns over the use of the Legacy Fund.
2. A staff related conflict.

Following up on several commonalities... in previous documents as well as recent reports to the Presbytery of Westminster, BC from 2014 and the 2017 visitation report, the Commission to St. John's White Rock, BC noted repeated requests from the ruling elders for further assistance in person with St. John's in terms of theological reflection growing out of what had already been addressed. Initial concerns voiced at meetings with both the minister and individual elders as well as corporately, opened the conversation to further information and additional complications. The Commission noted early that the same concern regarding the Legacy fund had been noted by Presbytery visitors before. The perceived need for new ruling elders and elder training were also noted. In several private conversations, some shared concerns over the minister's current sense of call to St. John's. In contrast the minister maintained throughout this process a continuous feeling of true gospel call to St. John's Presbyterian Church, White Rock, BC. While one of the original primary reasons for the Commission's work has been addressed, the other is far direr now than it has been with each passing year. Rather than reigning in use of the Fund, its use has become more common, using larger portions and will not last more than four years before depletion of the Legacy Fund in total. The commission does not believe the congregation can continue in its present state. Due to previously reported communication issues it is also believed that the congregation is largely unaware of the full situation. Of the two presenting issues, the staff concern has been fully dealt with. Several other significant issues were raised at each sequential meeting and were deemed to be of a nature in need of direction. Various tasks were assigned by the Commission to St. John's.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Attachment A](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Attachment B](#)

### **Terms of Reference**

That in response to the findings of the Visitation Team to St. John's Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery appoint a Commission with the following terms of reference:

1. That the Commission be established under the Book of Forms, section 4.4, having the powers of the Presbytery within these terms of reference.
2. That all the procedures and actions of the Commission shall be consistent with the laws and practices of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, including the principles of judicial fairness. To the extent any Commission findings may result in a dissolution of a pastoral tie, the Commission shall with regards to such findings, limit itself to taking steps to initiate a Review of Ministry by the Presbytery in the manner consistent with the laws and practices of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.
3. That the Commission investigates the health of relationships between the congregation, Session, Board, Minister, and staff to resolve issues that have arisen and seek to restore positive relationships in keeping with the grace and Gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. That the Commission is empowered to cite any members, adherents, office bearers, and others who may have been involved in the life of the congregation or served on any of its committees to appear before it.
5. That the authority of the Commission includes calling for, confirming and examining any records, they may deem relevant.
6. That the Commission shall meet expeditiously and, after its review and decisions, will bring the matter to a conclusion with due regard for the best interests of all concerned and for the peace, well-being and harmony of the Church of Jesus Christ.
7. That the Commission shall report its actions to the Presbytery of Westminster and shall use, insofar as possible and appropriate, the following framework: Preamble, Terms of Reference, Membership, Procedures, Findings, Analysis, Decision, Way of Appeal and Pastoral Comment.

### **Membership**

Commissioners: Bev Feick, Rev. Brad Childs and Rev. Cal McLeod

### **Procedures**

The commission began by reviewing related documentation to central concerns or the 2017 visitation report and the letter from St. John's ruling elder. Commissioners reviewed items related to the congregation's worship, organizational structures and ministries. Financial statements were reviewed, as were previous minutes of the Annual General Meeting. The elders were interviewed, as was the minister. Ruling elder interviews were held both individually and collectively. Questionnaires distributed to the elders, and the Minister sought some understanding of the congregations' needs and views of itself and ministries.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, at our disposal were the comments of the congregational meeting held by the previous visitation. A congregational meeting was held by the visitation committee in order for St. John's to address some of the congregation's most immediate concerns consisting at the time primarily of a legal issue, a deep congregational divide, a significant drop in

---

<sup>3</sup> [Attachment C](#)

attendance, lack of ability to articulate a shared vision, concerns over academic honesty, alleged imprudent use of the congregation's Legacy Fund, perceived lack of communication, the poor health of the minister, overworking, as well as the ministers changing responsibilities (pre-pandemic). From the reports, interviews and questionnaires, the Commission ultimately came to the essential conclusions as other past visitors from Presbytery to St. John's along with several other areas of concern.

Pastoral Skills Assessment tests were distributed and returned, correlated and discussed.<sup>4</sup> Finding suggested a disconnect in certain values though this is to be expected. In February of 2018, correspondence was presented to the ruling elder noting tasks to complete as directed by the Commission in order to help St. John's deal with the concerns they had voiced to the Commission. The minister of St. John's Presbyterian Church was given a few separate tasks to complete in addition. Included within these tasks were monthly update reports advising the Commission of St. John's progress and informing the Commission as to the congregation's next steps. Steps were given and a reporting schedule was established. A year was provided for work on these identified issues along with available assistance from the Commission.

### Findings

Upon examining the results from forms and interviews, and notes of our communications the Commission determined to assign several tasks to the ruling elder and to the minister.<sup>5 6</sup> The elders also received their own more public tasks. It is worth noting that although the Commission comes to a congregation with "the full authority" of the Presbytery, it is difficult to know how things are seen from the inside. In the end the Commission decided to remind the minister and elders concerning the seriousness of the matter, stating in the opening paragraph of our assigned tasks, that a Review of the Ministry appeared a possibility from the outset. No official update reports were received. Evaluation then became difficult.<sup>7</sup>

### Commissions Directions to St. John's Presbyterian Church

With an aim of helping the minister, ruling elder and congregation the Commission developed a list of items to be worked on in an ongoing process which might be monitored. Progress reports were included in the directions to St. John's.

- Congregation reported to be doing better in terms of social interactions.
- A sense of relief now that the staffing concern is dealt with
- The need for more pastoral care
- Cooperation with other ministries in the area improves.
- The minister has sought out reconciliation with some of those members on the periphery.
- The financial situation is likely worse than we all initially believed.
- Conflicting version of the financial situation
- Steady decline has worsened.

---

<sup>4</sup> [Attachment D](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Attachment E](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Attachment F](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Attachment G](#)



Continuing concerns of the Commission

- The commission regularly received two competing pictures of the finances and continues to even at our most recent meetings.
- Relational issues remain.
- Minister continues adding new duties to his roster of activities.
- Conflicting reports of how much of the assigned tasks the Minister and ruling elders attempted to complete or begin.
- Conflicting information concerning the Legacy fund, its proper/best use and communication of that use
- Conflicting information concerning the desire for assessor elders
- Conflicting information concerning the continued training of elders
- Conflicting information about how financial information is communicated
- The minister is commended for consistent pastoral visitation.
- The minister is commended for his biblical knowledge
- The minister is commended for his attempts to seek out pastoral care and mentorship in pastoral care
- The minister is commended for his attempt to diversify preaching topics addressing a specific concern of the body
- The ruling elder is commended for beginning the process of studying together.
- The ruling elder failed to complete the assigned tasks.
- The ruling elder failed to report on the progress of tasks.
- The minister failed to complete the assigned tasks.
- The minister failed to report on the progress of tasks.

Developments in Attendance

Average Weekly Attendance (as per stats from Acts & Proceedings from General Assembly)

2013 - 117

2014 - 117

2015 - 107

2016 - 86

2017 - 81

2018 - 60

2019 - 61

2020 - Unreported

2021 - Unreported

Budget Reference from St. John's Treasurer

Annual Budget (Funds are used from the Legacy Fund to make up each year's difference between budget and actuals)

2020 - Anticipated \$50,000  
2019 - \$50,000  
2018 - (\$44,725.00)  
2017 - (\$29,066.83)  
2016 - \$6,529.01  
2015 - \$13,637.39

Major Expenses or Programs  
Roof Engineering report (Continuing Issue)  
Roof Maintenance/Repairs/Replacement (Continuing Issue)

Mission of St. John's  
[Left Blank] (Continuing Issue)

Plan for Future Growth  
[Left Bank] (Continuing Issue)

### **Further Analysis**

With regard to the staffing issue, and the significant conflict occurring in 2018 within the congregation, the Minister was deemed NOT to have acted inappropriately. The issue was wisely handled.

With regards to the use of the Legacy Fund, the regular draw and depletion has thus far not been significantly addressed. In contrast, the draw has now increased more than two-fold. The current projected use of those funds after review by the treasurer, suggests to the Commission a three-to-four year life span for the congregation of St. John's Presbyterian Church, White Rock, BC, assuming all things remain otherwise constant. Once more, while the situation with office staff was determined to have been handled appropriately by the minister and ruling elder, the funds associated with the investigation into the conflict also added further to the financial downfall. Additionally, the divisiveness which had previously accompanied conflict in the congregation could not be fully mended. Of the two presenting issues (staffing conflict and use of the Legacy Fund) one remains. These "presenting" issues, quickly gave way to further serious concerns.

Contact between the convener of this Commission, its members, and St. John's has been inadequate since social distancing has been in place. The convener takes full responsibility.

At the rate of current and projected spending through "reserves" in the "Legacy Fund," the congregation cannot, to our understanding, sustain itself for more than three to four years. Exacerbating these difficulties is the express lack of understanding polity. This appears to be an issue for both the minister and elders. There is significant confusion between the minister and elders as well as between the Session and Congregation. It is apparent that the ruling elders and much more so, the congregation do not fully understand the seriousness of the financial issues they are facing. Of the two primary issues first noted. One is resolved, the other is not. The majority of other serious issues under review have not been completed or attempted.

### **Conclusions**

The Commission believes that St. John's has not satisfied or attempted to satisfy the assigned tasks in full. It is believed that circumstances have now deteriorated significantly since this inaction. The Commission believes that at this time the best recommendation for St. John's Presbyterian Church would be a review of ministry by general non-disciplinary case, option C from the Book of Forms section 324.

### **General Non-Disciplinary Case**

324. There may be times when relationships are strained within the congregation or between the assembly and/or session and the minister. This may result in complaints being made that are non-disciplinary. Such complaints may include several minor acts of negligence, unsuitable actions, differences of opinion and personal misunderstandings or disputes that, when taken together, undermine effective ministry.

335. The investigating committee must conduct its investigation with sufficient thoroughness to prepare a report for consideration by the presbytery and, in its description, arrive at one of four conclusions:

- a. That the matter needs no further action and is considered resolved.
- b. That the case is settled and the terms of the resolution are reported to the presbytery.
- c. That a non-disciplinary review of ministry, as provided in sections 336 to 338 below, is recommended.
- d. That there is warrant to lay charges against the minister, in which case a disciplinary case is initiated.

### **Decision**

The Commission is in agreement that "immediate and substantial intervention" is necessary. The Commission has determined that St. John's Presbyterian Church is served best at this time by the initiation of a Review of Ministry. This action is listed as option c. Non-disciplinary Review of Ministry. That a non-disciplinary review of ministry, as provided in sections 336 to 338 below, is recommended.

### **Review of Ministry**

336. If the presbytery agrees to commence a non-disciplinary review of the ministry, it shall notify the minister and session of this action and prepare clear terms of review.

337. The purpose of the review of ministry is to provide the opportunity for changes or actions to take place within the ministry that will help to rectify or improve the pastoral relationship, or to determine fairly that the pastoral relationship is no longer viable.

338. The terms of review shall bear in mind the nature of the minister's call to this particular ministry and the importance of not sacrificing the minister to the unreasonable feelings of his/her session, or of a party in his/her congregation. The review itself may be structured as the presbytery deems fit but must be of at least four months' duration. The investigating committee, or another committee appointed for this purpose, shall be empowered by the presbytery to conduct the review.

339. At the conclusion of the review, the committee empowered to conduct the review shall prepare an evaluation of the ministry and report to presbytery, having given notice to the minister and session. The presbytery shall make one of three decisions:

- a. That the pastoral relationship is affirmed.
- b. That a limited extension of the review is warranted under the same or revised
- c. That the pastoral relationship is deemed not viable.

340. If the presbytery determines that the pastoral relationship is not viable, the minister and session shall be cited in consequence of the proposed dissolution of the pastoral tie and the presbytery (Appendix A–23a), taking care to hear from the review committee, the session and the minister, may proceed to a decision regarding dissolution. If the tie is dissolved, the provisions of the “Policy for the Dissolution of Pastoral Ties” shall be used.

### **Way of Appeal**

341. The only decision in a non-disciplinary case that may be appealed to a higher court is the decision to dissolve the pastoral tie, and this can only be appealed by the minister, within ten days of the decision. The session may be a party to such an appeal only if the minister files an appeal.

342. Other matters in the conduct of this process and concerns held by the session may be remedied by means of a corrective case (see sections 381–392). Such a case may deal with alleged errors made by the court but not the decision to dissolve the pastoral tie.

343. The decision to dissolve the pastoral tie shall take effect within a time period fixed by the presbytery. If the decision to dissolve the pastoral tie is appealed, the minister remains in his/her position during the time of appeal unless the appeal is deemed frivolous or vexatious (see section 100) or the presbytery can show that serious harm will likely result if the minister remains in his/her position during the time of appeal.

343.1 In order to receive the full transition allowance available under the terms of the “Policy for the Dissolution of Pastoral Ties” a minister is required to release the congregation and the church from any further claims or appeals.

344. If the presbytery decides not to grant a suspension of the decision during the time of appeal, such action may be brought to the attention of the higher court by the minister and may be the cause for censure of the court and other remedy, if the decision is shown to be unjustified.

### **Pastoral Comment**

The Commission wishes to thank God for the congregation of St John’s and their presence in White Rock. We also wish to thank the Elders of St John’s and the Rev. Willem van der Westhuizen for their openness when we met with them in February of 2018 as this investigation began.

Our Presbytery cares for this congregation and we know that we entered this investigation at a very difficult time. The church had received a Visitation Report that prompted this Commission concerning the Legacy Fund and as we entered this investigation a staff related incident was brought to the fore that had to be dealt with first. This was a very emotional and stress filled time for the congregation and the spiritual life of the congregation suffered. The staff related issue was resolved with the assistance of an outside resource. Even though the staff issue was resolved, there have been a carry-over of negative feelings by some within the congregation, especially from some former elders.

As stated previously we met with the minister and Elders and we have to commend them for the honest and open way in which they answered all our questions during the individual and group interviews. From the interviews, tasks were developed that the Session (includes minister and Elders) were to complete in a timely manner.

It is now 2021, and the Commission has to take some responsibility for the length of time it has taken in completing the investigation. The ruling elders noted sharing some responsibility in the fact that not all tasks assigned have been completed. Along with our responsibilities we must also acknowledge that the COVID-19 virus did not aid in our investigation.

The Commission has real pastoral concerns for the minister, his family, the Elders and the Congregation of St John's because of the conflict and emotional stress that they all have been through in the past couple of years. It is our hope that they will seek the help they need as they move forward. Even when we become frustrated with each other, as members of St John's have, the Apostle Paul calls us to show love through patience and kindness. We are always called by God to speak the truth, but also to temper it with love.

"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4: 32 NRSV

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION TO ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WHITE ROCK  
APPENDICES**

---

**1. Attachment A**

**The reasoning for Commission from Visitation Committee**

At the behest of the Session of St. John's Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery was asked to "task its committee team to carry out a visitation based on certain personnel and financial concerns that have arisen in the church." The Visitation Team of Rev. Brad Child, Ms. Bev Feick (Chair), and Rev. Bob Garvin discovered that the problems were not just personnel: there were numerous and complex difficulties developing among the relationships of the Session, members of the congregation, the Minister and staff. The Visitation Team attempted to provide advice on the

proper and pastoral procedures in dealing with the matter. However, things have come to a crisis point. Therefore, after discussing the situation and realizing matters need speedy and effective resolution, the Visitation Committee recommends:

That in response to the findings of the Visitation Team to St. John's Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery appoint a Commission with the following terms of reference:

1. That the Commission be established under the Book of Forms, section 4.4, having the powers of the Presbytery within these terms of reference.
2. That all the procedures and actions of the Commission shall be consistent with the laws and practices of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, including the principles of judicial fairness. To the extent any Commission findings may result in a dissolution of a pastoral tie, the Commission shall with regards to such findings limit itself to taking steps to initiate a Review of Ministry by the Presbytery in the manner consistent with the laws and practices of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.
3. That the Commission investigates the health of relationships between the congregation, Session, Board, Minister, and staff with the purpose of resolving issues that have arisen and seek to restore positive relationships in keeping with the grace and Gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. That the Commission is empowered to cite any members, adherents, office bearers, and others who may have been involved in the life of the congregation or served on any of its committees, to appear before it.
5. That the authority of the Commission includes calling for, confirming and examining any records they may deem relevant.
6. That the Commission shall meet expeditiously and, after its review and decisions, will bring the matter to a conclusion with due regard for the best interests of all concerned, and for the peace, well-being and harmony of the Church of Jesus Christ.

7. That the Commission shall report its actions to the Presbytery of Westminster, and shall use, insofar as possible and appropriate, the following framework: Preamble, Terms of Reference, Membership, Procedures, Findings, Analysis, Decision, Way of Appeal and Pastoral Comment.

## 2. Attachment B

### Dear Reverend Kim

At the September sederunt of the Session of St. John's Presbyterian Church, White Rock, the Session requested that the Clerk seek Presbytery's assistance on two issues.

The first relates to the diminishing ability of St. John's to meet its financial obligations given the congregation's shrinking numbers. The session feels the need to call upon the Financial Committee of Presbytery for advice and guidance in addressing this increasingly difficult situation.

Secondly, Session has requested that the Presbytery task its Visitation Committee to carry out visitation to St. John's based on specific personnel concerns that have arisen within the church. Presbytery carried out the last such visit on November 27, 2014.

It is hoped that Presbytery will consider these requests at its earliest convenience.

Yours in Christ

RK Desbrian

*Keith Leishman Clerk of Session St. John's Presbyterian Church White Rock, B.C. [russleish@icloud.com](mailto:russleish@icloud.com)*

**St. John's Presbyterian Church** 1480 George Street White Rock, B.C. V4B 4A3 (604) 536-9322 [office@saint-johns.ca](mailto:office@saint-johns.ca)

October 20, 2017

Reverend Victor S.J. Kim Clerk, Presbytery of Westminster 7111 No.2 Road Richmond, B.C. V7C 3L7

## 3. Attachment C

### PASTORAL SKILLS AND INTEREST INVENTORY

What are the pastoral skills especially needed in the ministry and programs of St. John's Presbyterian Church?

Rank in order of priority from 1 to 18 -- 1 to 6 being the areas **you most wish the minister to exercise.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Administration (Managing the affairs of the congregation and other organizations)

---

Victor Kim

- \_\_\_\_\_ Christian Education (Writing or selecting appropriate curricula for the educational ministry, and planning activities for groups of all ages)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community Leadership (In areas like drug problems, schools, community organizations)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Counselling (On a regular basis)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Crisis Visiting (Serving people at times of illness, death, trauma, family crisis, job loss)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Denominational Service (Sharing in the work of all the courts of the church)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Equipping Church Members (For integrating Christian faith with life)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Evangelism (Relating the gospel to people outside the church and helping the congregation to do the same)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home Visiting (On a regular basis)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inter-Church Co-operation (Working in inter-denominational programs and activities)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leadership Development (Planning for and sharing in the training of leaders for the church's program)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leading Worship and Preaching (Planning and conducting worship services)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mission Outreach (Evangelism and social justice in the community, the country, and the world)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal and Spiritual Development (Providing resources and guidance for people's devotional life, and for prayer groups, retreats and other small group experiences)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Program Development (Establishing goals, and organizing programs in church and community)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stewardship (Faithful use of our time, gifts and money in response to the generosity of God in Christ)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work with Seniors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work with Youth

**Please rank from 1-10 (with 10 being the most positive) and then explain to us how you feel St. John's is doing with the following:**

**Fellowship at St. John's**

Rank [ ]

---

---



---

---

**Trust within the congregation**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**St. John's Vision**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**St. John's defined mission and how it measures goals reached**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Session as spiritual leader**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Session as pastoral care**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Minister as teacher**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Minister as preacher**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Minister as missionary**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Congregation's visibility within the community**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Any Additional thoughts**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Willem Van der Westhuizen**

What are the pastoral skills especially needed in the ministry and programs of St. John's Presbyterian Church?

Rank in order of priority from 1 to 18 -- 1 to 6 being the areas **you most believe the Willem Van der Westhuizen exercises.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Administration (Managing the affairs of the congregation and other organizations)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Christian Education (Writing or selecting appropriate curricula for the educational ministry, and planning activities for groups of all ages)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community Leadership (In areas like drug problems, schools, community organizations)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Counselling (On a regular basis)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Crisis Visiting (Serving people at times of illness, death, trauma, family crisis, job loss)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Denominational Service (Sharing in the work of all the courts of the church)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Equipping Church Members (For integrating Christian faith with life)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Evangelism (Relating the gospel to people outside the church and helping the congregation to do the same)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home Visiting (On a regular basis)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inter-Church Co-operation (Working in inter-denominational programs and activities)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leadership Development (Planning for and sharing in the training of leaders for the church's program)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leading Worship and Preaching (Planning and conducting worship services)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mission Outreach (Evangelism and social justice in the community, the country, and the world)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal and Spiritual Development (Providing resources and guidance for people's devotional life, and for prayer groups, retreats and other small group experiences)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Program Development (Establishing goals, and organizing programs in church and community)

\_\_\_\_\_ Stewardship (Faithful use of our time, gifts and money in response to the generosity of God in Christ)

\_\_\_\_\_ Work with Seniors

\_\_\_\_\_ Work with Youth

**Please rank from 1-10 (with 10 being the most positive) and then explain to us how you feel St. John's is doing with the following:**

**Fellowship at St. John's**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Trust within the congregation**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**St. John's Vision**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**St. John's defined mission and how it measures goals reached**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Session as spiritual leader**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Session as pastoral care**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Minister as teacher**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Minister as preacher**

Rank [ ]

---

---

---

---

**Minister as missionary**

Rank [ ]

---



---



---



---

**Congregation's visibility within the community**

Rank [ ]

---



---



---



---

**Any Additional thoughts**

---



---



---



---



---



---

**4. Attachment D**

Rank in order of priority from 1 to 18 -- 1 to 6 being the areas **you most wish the minister to Exercise.**

<b>Exercise</b>	<b>Minister Rating</b>	<b><u>Average of Session Rating</u></b>
<b>Administration</b>	■	■
<b>Christian Ed</b>	■	■
<b>Community Leadership</b>	18	4

<b>Counselling</b>	■	■
<b>Crisis Visiting</b>	7	5
<b>Denominational Service</b>	■	■
<b>Equipping Members</b>	3	3
<b>Evangelism</b>	13	6
<b>Home Visits</b>	■	■
<b>Inter-CHurch Cooperation</b>	■	■
<b>Leadership Development</b>	2	4
<b>Leading Worship</b>	9	1
<b>Mission Outreach</b>	■	■
<b>Personal Spiritual Development</b>	5	2
<b>Program Development</b>	■	■
<b>Stewardship</b>	4	12
<b>Work with seniors</b>	1	9
<b>Work with youth</b>	■	■

**Additional Notes:**

**Greatest areas of difference**

<p><b>Community Leadership</b> <b>Evangelism</b> <b>Leading Worship</b> <b>Stewardship</b> <b>Work with Seniors</b></p>
---

**5. Attachment**

**February 2018**

**Rev Willem Van der Westhuizen**  
**St John's Presbyterian Church**  
**1480 George Street**  
**White Rock, BC**  
**V4B 4A3**

QUESTIONNAIRES IN REVIEW

SOME \*EDITED\* RESPONSES IN KEY AREAS

The team received 23 questionnaires, some of which were very lengthy and detailed. Overall, the questionnaires and discussions during the visit conveyed sharp divisions in opinions from the Session and congregants in all aspects of the questionnaire. [REDACTED]

**Worship & Sacraments:**

Congregational membership and Sunday worship attendance have dropped significantly. Many commented on the pastor's gift of teaching scripture, although others remark that they do not hear relevance to the current day. Others in questionnaires and during the congregation portion of visit stated alleged [REDACTED]

**Pastoral Care:**

The pastor carries out hospital visits well. The Minister and the Pastoral team would appreciate more home visits. 80% of the congregation is over the age of 80 - Need to note in relation to Willem stating at our first meeting that the main problem facing the community was a lack of young children.

**Christian Education – all ages:**



There are adult studies in the church & an at-home study. A Sunday School program is provided, but it is not well attended.

Finances/Stewardship:

There was a \$29,000.00 deficit in 2017 and a proposed 2018 deficit of more than \$44,000.00. The current offerings are not sufficient to cover the budget. It was reported that the Legacy Fund is being used for the operation. Also, it is said that major building maintenance is required. The Finance Chair resigned in late 2017.

Mission/Outreach:

St John's supports several programs at the church with community involvement or in the community.

ACTIVITIES

Weekly - Lunch Hut; ESL; Women's Freedom Group; Coin Jar – Sunday coffee fellowship donation was given to needy families in the neighbourhood identified by Salvation Army.

Monthly – The Music Director coordinates a monthly community-oriented music program, Men's Club, with a guest speaker.

Annually - supports children to attend Camp Douglas. Seventeen children attended Vacation Bible School in 2017. Christmas Hampers; Lenten lunches; 42 Samaritan's Purse in 2017; Food Bank; Benevolent Fund; Cariboo Mission.

Administration/Communication:

St. John's communication and administration are areas of significant concern from the majority of the returned questionnaires and visits. There are strained relations between [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Noted disclosures from Session such as breaches of confidentiality. Not understanding the polity was a part of this error. [REDACTED]

The Personnel Committee [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The minister was the victim of "malicious gossip". The Minister wishes to be "vindicated" of this sin and return to the work of the church.

"This brief report does not fully reveal the several serious problems which St. John's is experiencing."

## 5. Attachment E

### Report to the Rev. Willem van der Westhuizen of St. John's, White Rock

**From: The Commission to St. John's, White Rock**

**Members: Rev. Brad Childs, Rev. Cal Macleod & Bev Feick**

Rev. Willem van der Westhuizen, the Commission would like to thank you for meeting with us once again. There is a sense in which things are beginning to turn the corner, and that was a view espoused by most of the elders we have met with. As you know, we have at present chosen not to call for a review of ministry. That does not, however, mean that things cannot or will not change. The finances at St. John's may necessitate just that in a matter of months. We hope that you and the Session of St. John's will take seriously the list of objectives we have laid down for you and for the Session. It will be a hard road ahead, and the future is rarely what we perceive it to be.

The commission would like to commend you. You have the love and respect of the Session. Your preaching and teaching skills were extolled nearly unanimously. Most were in near-perfect agreement on your strengths.

However, there are several issues we would like to bring to your attention. The Commission did not feel as if these issues should be brought up in our letter to the Session. **They are of a more personal matter and thus private.** With that said, there are a number of things we believe you will need to work on if St. John's is to have a bright future. Please take this letter in love and support as it is intended. We mean only to help.

NOTE AGAIN: THIS REPORT HAS BEEN REDACTED FOR PRIVACY

#### **Relevant portions include:**

*Encouragement to reflect on active listening skills.*

*Encouragement to challenge participation in liturgy and the daily work of the church; raising up new leaders.*

*Encouragement in seeking out a mentor/pastoral care partner*

*Encouragement in seeking out opportunities to make amends with others.*

*Encouragement to study and reflect*

*Encouragement to care for health*

It is our hope that God will continue to bless you all just as He has throughout these many long years together.

In Christ,

Rev. Brad Childs

Convener of the Commission to St. John's, White Rock

## 6. Attachment I

### Report to the Session of St. John's, White Rock

**From: The Commission to St. John's, White Rock**

**Members: Rev. Brad Childs, Rev. Cal Macleod & Bev Feick**

Following our several meetings with the Minister and Elders of St. John's, the Commission would like to thank you. These follow-up discussions, in addition to your written responses, proved very important to our understanding of what is happening in the congregation. We have gone over the responses and compared our notes. There is general agreement within the Commission about a number of key issues. And we would like to take this opportunity to provide some guidance with a schedule of activities which we believe to be of great benefit to you. However, because the financial difficulties appear far more severe than we first understood them to be, it is necessary that you do everything that you can to solve that most pressing problem which might make a review of ministry necessary. If the congregation simply cannot afford to pay the Minister's stipend, there may be no other choice but to do so. In the future, any use of the Legacy fund should be done sparingly, and we would suggest a fundraising event to match any dollars proposed to be spent. It is our hope that you might be able to remedy this and other problems creatively.

With respect to finances, our Commission strongly urges the Session of St. John's Presbyterian Church to contact the Property and Finance Committee of Presbytery to discuss possible options and seek the guidance of others concerning any further use of the Legacy fund and repairs to the building which may be forthcoming. Please explore all options as this appears to be one of the congregation's most pressing issues.

With respect to all other issues, our Commission proposes you complete the following listed items over the next 8-12 months, reporting monthly back to this Commission concerning your progress.

- The Minister and Session will hold a special meeting of the Session for the sole purpose of fellowship and trust-building. No "teaching" is to take place at this event.
- The Minister and Session will agree to read and discuss one chapter of the book *The Twelve Keys to an Effective Church* by Kennon Callahan at every session meeting over the next year. The Minister and each Elder will agree to lead at least one chapter as a part of the Session's devotional time together.
- The Minister and Session will determine a time and date to show the film *When God Left the Building* to the congregation followed by a time of congregational discussion. The purpose of the film is to show how a congregation can move outside their buildings to foster new ministries. Following this discussion, the Session will write and fulfill one goal arising from the discussion to be completed in the following calendar year.
- The Minister and Session will agree to hold a special meeting to focus on Elder Training and Leadership as well as polity. The Minister and Session are highly encouraged to seek assistance from both the Presbytery and St. Andrew's Hall. The Minister should not lead this training but be included in it.

- The Minister and Session will agree to hold a special meeting/retreat in order to begin the process of visioning together. At this meeting, the Minister and Session will also address certain immediate concerns by deciding upon 3 new measurable goals for reaching out to their local community as well as 3 measurable ways to improve the financial situation over the 3 months directly following the retreat. Members of the Commission may make themselves available to assist at your request. As with each of these items it may also be wise to seek out some assistance.
- The Minister and each member of the Session will agree to invite 3 people to church or to Bible study once per year for as long as they serve on the Session of St. John's, White Rock. Personal evangelism begins with the Session.
- The Minister and Session will hold a special "fellowship only" event for the congregation. No "teaching" is to take place at this event.
- The Minister and Session will agree to review its progress, evaluate its work and present a Finalized Vision (a picture of the congregation they wish to be) and Mission (the detailed, measurable plan for how to get there) to first the Commission and later to the congregation of St. John's within the next 8 months.
- The congregation should be informed about all discussions taking place and all major decisions in order to increase transparency and lead to better ownership of the Vision and Mission being developed.
- The Session is encouraged to seek out qualified spiritual leaders (see Book of Forms 105-108.3; 1 Timothy 4:12). If felt necessary, the Session should consider making a request of Presbytery for assessor elders from other congregations who might be able to help temporarily with the leadership of St. John's.
- It is our hope that God will continue to bless you all just as He has throughout these many long years together.

In Christ,

Rev. Brad Childs

Convener of the Commission to St. John's, White Rock

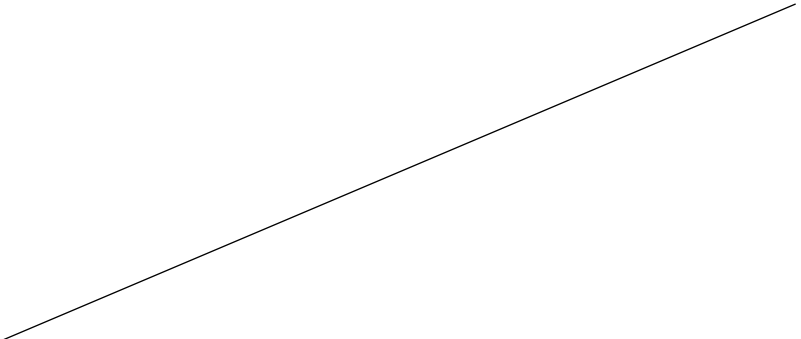
---

Victor Kim

**7. Attachment G**

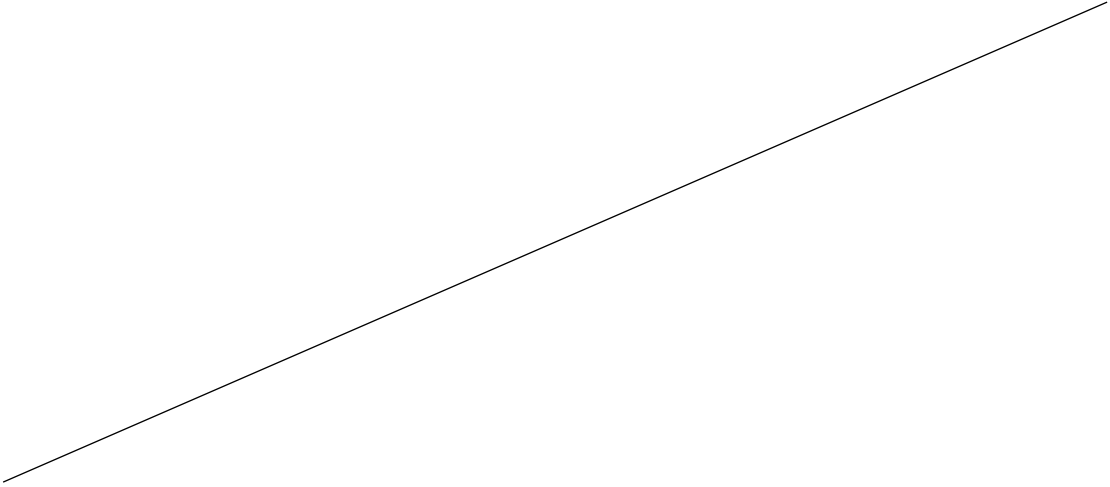
Issue	Task	Comment	Completion
<p>A common issue was raised that church funds were being spent in a way not intended and that major costs also had depleted reserves. The people also felt a lack of mission and ownership over it.</p>	<p>First, make contact with Property and Finance in order to gather advice on the use and “misuse” of the Legacy Fund.</p> <p>Misuse is likely not the most accurate word but warrants more investigation</p>	<p>Initial contact made between the Minister and the Property and Finance Committee of the Presbytery.</p>	<p><b>Incomplete</b></p>
<p>Session needed time to get to know each other and care for one another again in order to build trust.</p>	<p>The Minister and Session will hold a <b>special meeting of the Session</b> for the sole purpose of fellowship and trust-building. No "teaching" is to take place at this event.</p>	<p>Teaching was overwhelmingly reported to be a strength of the minister. Significant reporting suggested that teaching had become a sole rather than primary focus and that every activity seemed to be education-based.</p>	<p>It did appear to us in the reporting that “teaching” was still a part of this.  <b>Appropriately Completed</b></p>
<p>Same as above</p>	<p><b>A special meeting of the Congregation</b></p>	<p>Same as above</p>	<p>It did appear to us in the reporting that “teaching” was still a part of this.  <b>Perhaps Appropriately Completed</b></p>

Based on the above congregational meeting, session retreat and 12 keys.	The Minister and Session were to hold a special retreat for visioning together. The Session was to then determine 3 measurable ways to improve finances as well as 3 measurable ways to improve the neighbourhood beginning 3 months after the retreat. Members of the Committee were made available but uncontested.		<b>Incomplete</b>



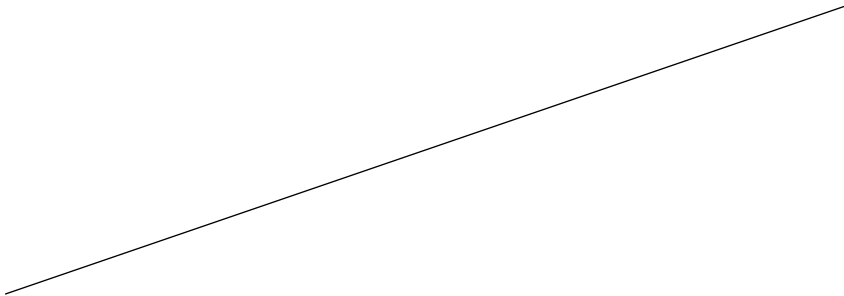
<p>It was noted repeatedly that St. John's Presbyterian Church is an ageing congregation, with limited volunteerism and a lack of a clear vision. This was often noted in combination with a seemingly unending habit of eating away at the Legacy Fund. The congregation as a whole had no common vision that they could clearly communicate nor could the session.</p>	<p>Task: The film When God left the building was shown and discussed. Done</p> <p>Task: Following the discussion, the session was required to develop one goal arising from the discussion to be completed by the following year.</p>		<p>The film was shown and a discussed</p> <p>Expected completion date: June 2020</p> <p><b>Incomplete</b></p>
<p>Willem is a bold figure. People often appear timid near him. Elders had not regularly prayed publicly or led meetings or bible studies. Much of Willem's need to do everything comes from a lack of people feeling empowered to do so</p>	<p>Willem and also each elder is to lead the others through one chapter of the 12Keys book by Callahan. These are to be led by an elder at each Session meeting to encourage leadership, discussion and mission focus.</p>		<p>The process was begun in June of 2019.</p> <p>It was reported at Session that it was <b>Incomplete.</b></p>

<p>There was a sense that the Elders were at times very new Christians or simply new elders and weren't very certain of the system and how it works.</p>	<p>The minister was asked to hold training sessions with the help of St. Andrew's hall, where the Minister was also participating as a student along with the ruling elders. .</p>	<p>It was reported on February 24, 2021, that Dr. Ross Lockhart did lead this Elder training in September of 2019.</p>	<p><b>This Task was completed as assigned.</b></p>
<p>An ageing population and a lack of evangelism were considered a problem.</p>	<p>The Minister and each member of the Session will agree to invite 3 people to church or to Bible study once per year for as long as they serve on the Session of St. John's, White Rock. Personal evangelism begins with the Session.</p>		<p><b>Incomplete</b></p>





	<p>The Minister and Session will agree to review its progress evaluate its work and present a Finalized Vision (a picture of the congregation they wish to be) and Mission (the detailed measurable plan for how to get there) to first the Commission and later to the congregation of St. John's within the next 8 months.</p>		<p><b>Incomplete</b></p>
	<p>The congregation should be informed about all discussions taking place and all major decisions in order to increase transparency and lead to better ownership of the Vision and Mission being developed.</p>	<p>It was noted by Session that this is improving however it is clear that finances are not a part of this improved communication.</p>	<p><b>Incomplete</b></p>



	<p>The Session is encouraged to seek out qualified spiritual leaders (see Book of Forms 105-108.3; 1 Timothy 4:12). If felt necessary, the Session should consider making a request of Presbytery for assessor elders from other congregations who might be able to help temporarily with the Leadership of St. John's.</p>		<p><b>Incomplete</b></p>

**Appendix**

“The Commission finds that the general tasks agreement within the Commission about a number of key issues. And we would like to take this opportunity to provide some guidance with a schedule of activities which we believe to be of great benefit to you. However, because the financial difficulties appear far more severe than we first understood them to be, you must do everything that you can to solve that most pressing problem, which might make a review of the ministry necessary. **If the Congregation simply cannot afford to pay the Minister's stipend, there may be no other choice but to do so. In the future, any use of the Legacy fund should be done sparingly, and we would suggest a fundraising event to match any dollars proposed to be spent.**”

“The Commission finds that the general tasks agreement within the Commission about a number of key issues. And we would like to take this opportunity to provide some guidance with a schedule of activities which we believe to be of great benefit to you. However, because the financial difficulties appear far more severe than we first understood them to be, you must do everything that you can to solve that most pressing problem, which might make a review of the ministry necessary. **If the Congregation simply cannot afford to pay the Minister's stipend, there may be no other choice but to do so. In the future, any use of the Legacy fund should be done sparingly, and we would suggest a fundraising event to match any dollars proposed to be spent.**”

**A 10 minute Break out Groups for Fellowship and Prayer time was recognized and greatly appreciated.**

## REPORTS

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

*The report was presented by Glen Davis, Community Engagement Co-Convener.*

*All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Isabel Evans, seconded by Sumarme Goble. Voting was completed in two blocks: Recommendations 1 - 9 and Recommendations 10-11.*

#### **Community Engagement Committee (CEC) Report to Presbytery, April 6, 2021**

The CEC met twice since the March meeting of presbytery in order to review an unusually high number of grant applications, and to consider matters of social justice.

#### **Grant Applications**

1. New and Renewed Ministries Fund – (\$30,000) Poieo Centre, the Rev. Young Tae Choi, through Richmond Presbyterian Church. This is an application for the Year Three instalment of this grant which was already approved by Canada Ministries. The past year’s annual report is attached.

**Recommendation 1:** That presbytery endorse the application from the Poieo Centre for third year grant of \$30,000. **CARRIED**

2. Presbyterian Innovative Ministries Fund (PIM) – \$7,000 Camp Douglas application for Day Camp Pilot Project.

**Recommendation 2:** That presbytery endorse the application from Camp Douglas for \$7,000. **CARRIED**

3. Creative Ministries with Children and Youth Fund: \$24,200 – Cartoon Conversations about Jesus. Referring congregation – St. Aidan’s

**Recommendation 3:** That presbytery endorse the application from St. Aidan’s for a grant of \$24,200 for this cartoon project. **CARRIED**

4. PIM Fund: \$17,000. This grant is for a book by the Rev. Laurie McKay: Stories and reflections on God’s grace in a pandemic.

**Recommendation 4:** That presbytery endorse the application from the Rev. Laurie McKay to PIM for a grant of \$17,000. **CARRIED**

5. PIM Fund: \$15,000 for each of the next two years – Singing the Gospel Revealed in the Scriptures, for Children, Families and Churches. Brentwood PC.

**Recommendation 5:** That presbytery endorse the application from Brentwood PC for a PIM grant of \$15,000 for each year of 2021-22 and 2022-2023. **CARRIED**

6. Chisholm Fund: \$5,500, partial cost of reconditioned grand piano for multiple use in music ministry at Brentwood PC.

**Recommendation 6:** That presbytery endorse the application from Brentwood PC for a grant of \$5,500 from the Chisholm fund towards the purchase of a grand piano. **CARRIED**

7. Synod Grant

**Recommendation 7:** That presbytery endorse the application from Brentwood PC for a grant of \$6,000 from the Synod of BC towards the purchase of a grand piano. *(Note: we have been assured that this application has no relation to Regional Resourcing Grant applications that presbytery has already endorsed.)* **CARRIED**

8. Cooke's Fund: \$6,000 for Gospels with Guitars program at Brentwood PC.

**Recommendation 8:** That presbytery endorse the application from Brentwood PC for a grant of \$6,000 for the Gospels with Guitars Program. **CARRIED**

9. PIM Fund \$72,000 for the Wild Folk Commons project, (also including applications to the Avondbloem Experimental Fund for \$8,000, and to the Establishing New Ministries Fund for \$10,000). The data, rationale and budget on the PIM Fund application is exactly the same for the other two funds so we are combining them in one recommendation. The applicants are also applying for a New Witnessing Communities grant from this presbytery, and for a few small community grants to make up the total amount required for this project to go forward.

**Recommendation 9:** That presbytery endorse the application from St. Aidan's PC for a grant of \$72,000 from the Presbyterian Innovative Ministries Fund; a grant of \$8,000 from the Avondbloem Experimental Ministries Fund; and a grant of \$10,000 from the Establishing New Ministries Fund for the Wild Folk Commons ministry. **CARRIED**

10. Rise of Anti-Asian Racism in the Lower Mainland

The CEC expressed concern over the recent rapid rise in often violent incidents of Anti-Asian Racism in our region.

**Recommendation 10:** That congregations be reminded of, and given access to, the statement issued by presbytery on this issue in June 2020, (attached) and that they be urged to express their commitment as followers of Jesus by taking advantage of every possible opportunity to denounce and combat growing Anti-Asian Racism in their communities and by showing kindness and hospitality to their Asian neighbours, and that sessions and ministers draw attention to this issue in their newsletters, sermons and prayers. **CARRIED**

11. Cooke's Fund: \$3,000 Shepherd's House for 2021.

**Recommendation 11:** That presbytery endorse the application from Shepherd's House for a grant of \$3,000 for a weekly food ministry.

**CARRIED**

12. Referred Correspondence

A letter to the clerk from Mr. David Jennings requesting that the decision of presbytery "to approve a Guaranteed Annual Income as a public policy" (*sic*) be reconsidered was referred to the CEC at the March presbytery meeting. CEC noted that the referred letter had been received and approved the following motion: "That action on the referred letter from Mr. Jennings be deferred until presbytery has received a formal motion for reconsideration." If that motion is approved at a future meeting of presbytery, CEC will be pleased to write a response to the content of the letter for the consideration of presbytery.

Submitted with respect and fatigue!  
*Glen Davis, Co-convener*



## THE NEW AND RENEWED MINISTRY FUND: YEARLY REPORT

PROJECT NAME	NAME OF CONGREGATION		AMOUNT OF GRANT
MINISTRY LEADER	PERIOD COVERED	DATE OF REPORT	AMOUNT OF GRANT
REV. YOUNG TAE CHOI	APRIL 2021 – MAR 2022	MAR. 12, 2021	30,000

### PROJECT SUMMARY AND KEY LEARNINGS

Please provide a 2-3 sentence summary of the project that was funded by the grant.

Poieo Centre is a Christ-centred community that provides pastoral care for artists, promotes their artistic gifts and theological understanding of art, and produces life-giving art. We cultivate redemptive images, sounds, space, and stories which contribute to a lively transformation of the church and culture. Poieo Centre, as a creative response to the cultural mandate (Genesis 1:27-28) and missional mandate (Matthew 28:16-20) of the church, aims to bring shalom to the world.

Please list the original goals and objectives outlined in your application. Did you meet these goals and objectives? Why or why not?

My original goals and objectives were three things:

1. We nurture artists by mentoring their creative journeys alongside their artistic skills so that artists will be faithful to their covenant relationship with Christ and to their creative vocations.
2. We nurture worship by participating in local worship services in an innovative and theologically rigorous way so that the church will see and use liturgical art for its own enrichment.
3. We nurture culture by creating life-giving art in mainstream art communities and in the entertainment industry worldwide so that a broken culture will be restored through the work of faithful artists.

What Poieo Centre has done so far to meet these goals and objectives:

1. As the director of the Poieo Centre, I have regularly cared for nine team members who are both professional artists and faithful Christians. Also, our team has cared for about ten young artists in need of pastoral, theological, and artistic support.
2. Our team has provided local churches with liturgy care that they have benefited from such as worship space design and installation, worship production, a/v consultation, etc.
3. Our team and mentees have actively produced diverse professional works of art that have had an impact on the culture.

What were the key outcomes?

I would like to briefly describe the key outcomes of the Poieo Centre over the last year in four aspects:

1. Foundations:
  - a. Stay focused on the identity and the mission of Poieo Centre.
  - b. Renewed and updated the official Poieo website (more than 2,000 sessions).
  - c. Official Poieo SNS has launched (e.g. Instagram).
  - d. Official Poieo Newsletter automation service set up.
  - e. Continue to organize the team who have joined the vision of the Poieo Centre.
  - f. The Poieo board is in development.
2. Artist Care:
  - a. Built trustful relationships with the team members.
    - One of the members has launched a new arts ministries called "Rebuild Ministries," in S. Korea for prospective musicians who are in need of financial, spiritual, and musical support.
  - b. Built trusting relationships with the mentees.
  - c. Strengthened their artistic vocations and relationship with God through the pastoral/coaching/mentoring relationship.
3. Liturgy Care
  - a. The following churches received Poieo's worship space design & installation care
    - Mountainview Alliance Church, Langley, BC.
    - Oasis City Church, Duncan, BC.
    - Horizon Church Princeton, Princeton, BC.
    - Church Untitled, Vancouver, BC.



- St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver, BC.
  - b. The following educational institutions received Poieo's worship arts workshop & seminar care
    - Columbia Bible College, Abbotsford, BC.
    - Regent Christian Academy, Surrey, BC.
  - c. The following churches received Poieo's worship production care
    - Richmond Presbyterian Church for the 2021 Lent art project – Lynn Walters
    - Richmond Presbyterian Church for the 2021 Lent art project – Dr. Richard Topping
    - Richmond Presbyterian Church for the 2021 Lent art project – Graeme Stager
    - Richmond Presbyterian Church for the 2020 conversational sermons such as Dr. Ross Lockhart and Dr. Richard Topping.
    - Fairview Presbyterian Church for a/v consultation, Vancouver, BC.
    - Cariboo Road Christian Fellowship Church for worship night a/v production, Burnaby, BC.
    - Galilee Presbyterian Church for Christmas art exhibition production, Vancouver, BC.
    - St. Columba Presbyterin Church for a/v consultation, Vancouver, BC.
    - Knox Presbyterian Church for a/v consultation, Westminster, BC.
    - Numa Church for online worhsip, Surrey, BC.
  - d. The following church received Poieo's worship service design
    - Richmond Presbyterian Church for the 2020 Advent worship design
  - e. Worship resource
    - Contribution, "Good Friday, April 2," in *St. Andrew's Hall Lenten Devotion Guide*
4. Culture care:
- a. Our mentees completed 3 more art projects through our mentoring program.
  - b. Our team
    - 5 more K-pop & Christian music single albums released.
    - 4 more Film, TV & Animation projects done.
    - 3 more Production design projects done.
    - 4 more Graphic design done.
    - 3 more Publication projects done.
    - 1 more local Christian film festival coordinated (audience of 400 joined online).
    - 1 more Architecture projects administrated.
    - 2 more Public seminars on faith & art done.
    - About 200 more Illustrations published.

In what ways is the ministry meeting needs within the local community?

Poieo Centre has met the needs within the local communities in diverse ways:

1. Supporting local individual artists in need of pastoral, theological, and artistic support, through our mentoring program, local art workshops, and local seminars in the Greater Vancouver, Seoul, and NYC.
2. Supporting local churches/ministries in need of worship care (e.g. worship space design, worship arts workshops, worship production, worship service design, etc.).
3. Creating art with local artists (both the religious and the non-religious) collaboratively and building up a strong creative network with them.
4. Developnig partnership with local arts communities such as "Creative Life" and "Bez Arts Hub."
5. Distributing our works of art to both local communities as well as global communities online.

#### RISKS AND ISSUES

Were there any unexpected challenges or changes to the ministry plan?

1. Two major unexpected challenges:
  - a. A challenge to developing the Poieo Film Project: one of our screenwriters had to resign from the development of a screenplay as two of her family members passed away. Contributors took more time to get their scripts done than schduled. In addition, it was hard to find a Canadian film director who had a professional skill-set as well as was able to commite to this project within limited-resources. I found out that Canadian filmmakers generally get paid much more than Korean filmmakers do.
  - b. A challenge to organizing the Poieo Board: it took more time than I expected to create a job description of the Poieo board members. I was unable to make time for finding potential board members who can commit to the vision of the Poieo centre while doing other responsibilities to do such as leading the Poieo centre, working for Richmond Presbyterian Church, producing the Poieo film project, etc. My plate is very full.

How did the leadership team or congregation grow or adapt in order to handle these challenges/changes?

1. The challenge to developing the Poieo Film Project: I am working on writing a screenplay for one episode instead of the screenwriter and taking on a directorial role for this episdoe. Also, I am raising additional funds to recruit professional film directors for the other two epidoses and directors of photography.

2. The challenge in organizing the Poieo Board: I have decided to postpone the composition of the board to the 3 year plan, as I am quite busy dealing with other priorities. I feel that I should slow down for a long-term journey.

#### ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS

Are there any important lessons or insights that could be shared with the wider denomination?

Here are eleven lessons/insights that I have learned from planting the Poieo Centre of Arts Ministry. These lessons/insights are what I keep reminding myself of continuously as well. This list is similar to the one that I listed last year. That means, I am still in the same situation that needs to practice such insights in my work and life.

1. Do follow God's calling in you rather than just following a trend of a missional church (as trends always change).
2. Do work with a team or a local church rather than work alone (you are not a superman or a wonderwoman).
3. Do focus on what your ministry ought to do rather than be overwhelmed by endless needs around you (you are not the messiah).
4. Do build up trustful relationships within your context rather than jump into church programs (church planting is like a long-distance marathon). These relationships will be a helpful guide to what activities/programs/roles your ministry can do as well as not do.
5. Do put the gospel of Christ in a new oak barrel rather than put it in an old wineskin. Be creative!
6. Be clear in all that you do and plan to your team/your supporters as much as you can. Clear communication shows respect.
7. Do plant a real church, the body of Christ, rather than plant another community centre (your local community centre may do better jobs than your local church does in terms of service quantity or even its quality). The church is called to do more than just public service.
8. Do always make space to discern how God is leading the ministry rather than being too busy to see His leading.
9. Do take time to celebrate what your ministry has done and share the beautiful moments with your family/team/supporters together.
10. Do love your God, yourself in Christ, your calling, and your neighbours—your family, team, supporters, and congregation, knowing that you are also loved by God. Be watchful not to be a workholic. Love is your energy drink!
11. Do not be afraid of people who are unreceptive toward the gospel of Christ (there were, are, and will be people resistant to God's people and the message of the gospel until Christ Jesus comes again), but learn about how to live with them in patience, gentleness, peace, hope, faith, love, and the truth, putting your trust and reverence in the Lord who is the ultimate judge of your race.

I hope that the lessons/insights above may be helpful for other discerners/starters in the PCC.

The cover features a dark background with abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of olive green and grey. The shapes include circles, squares, and triangles, some with smaller nested shapes inside them, creating a complex, layered visual effect. The text is white and positioned in the upper left and center areas.

CONTENTS

2020 POIEO CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT

**A N N U A L  
R E P O R T  
MAR. 2021 | POIEO CENTRE**

PREPARED FOR  
The New and Renewed Ministry Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (The Yield Grant)

SUPPORTED BY  
Richmond Presbyterian Church  
The Presbyterian Innovative Ministries Ltd.  
The Awordloom Experimental Fund  
The New and Renewed Ministry Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

REPORTED AND EMITTED BY Rev. Young Tan, Choi  
DESIGNED BY Jeremy Bonggat Kang

**CONTENTS**

Words from Lead Minister of RPC	4
Words from Director of Poieo Centre	5
Highlights	6
Artist Care	6
Liturgy Care	8
Culture Care	10
Year 2 Achievements & Beyond	12
Formation	12
Artist Care	12
Liturgy Care	13
Culture Care	13

2

3

## WORDS FROM LEAD MINISTER OF RPC

It has been my privilege to be part of the vision that Rev. Young Tae Choi has articulated in terms of an arts-based ministry, which has taken form in the shape of the Poieo Centre. Young Tae has clearly and passionately articulated the vision and mission for the Poieo Centre and it is not necessary for me to repeat what he has already stated. My support for Young Tae and his vision, for the Poieo Centre and its ministry, continue to revolve around a missional vision for how the kingdom of God can be embodied and invitationally shared in our present context.

Much has been written and spoken of in terms of the shifting context of being church and engaging in ministry in our present age. The past year has clarified in no uncertain terms that the church has never been about a building but always about the mission of God and the varied and resilient ways that the people of God have sought to be faithful as we have followed God's mission. The reality of the pandemic has led to many ministries exploring and embracing new ways to serve their communities and reach a different, and in many cases, an unexpected audience.

The Poieo Centre was already engaged in this creative and non-traditional ministry, even before the pandemic made it mandatory for ministries to explore new paths for ministry. I believe that what Young Tae and the Poieo Centre represent are glimpses into this future, a future that God has promised God's people through the prophet Jeremiah, a future with hope. I believe it is critically important for our church, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, to support and encourage, to equip and embolden these forays into new communities and ways of being church, with new imagination and new understanding of its structures and impact. We need to continue rising, thinking beyond our common and perhaps too comfortable paradigms, to be faithful to where God is leading us in our present context.

As the Lead Minister at Richmond Presbyterian Church, I have been part of a congregation that has supported Young Tae in following his vision and we have also been the beneficiaries of that vision as Young Tae has brought that imagination and artistic lens to our worship, to our liturgy and to the support of artists of all ages within our congregation. His insights have been invaluable to how we have made our way in the midst of this global pandemic and has allowed us to navigate these uncharted waters with a degree of confidence we would not have had without Young Tae's gifts, passion and courage.

Young Tae has been faithful and responsible in terms of reporting to our Session and congregation and we have been blessed by his partnership with us and look forward to what that partnership will produce as we journey together. I encourage Canadian Ministries to continue supporting Young Tae and the Poieo Ministry as they embark upon this critically important year of growth.



*Rev. Victor S. J. Kim*

Lead Minister  
Richmond Presbyterian Church

## WORDS FROM DIRECTOR OF POIEO CENTRE

It has been almost two years since I officially initiated Poieo Centre in September 2019. Thankfully, God has blessed the Poieo Centre so much, more than I imagined, even though my ability was not enough to fulfill all the responsibilities given to me. The Lord generously provided me with what I needed to carry out the mission of the Poieo Centre. Therefore, I praise the Lord for His gracious guidance through numerous people.

So many people deserve to be thanked for the year 2 accomplishments. Many thanks to Rev. Victor Kim (along with Richmond Presbyterian Church), Dr. Sven Soderlund, Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, and Greg Laing for their substantial feedback on the Poieo Centre and for their generous encouragement along the way.

I am equally grateful for our staff, Graeme Stager and Jeremy Bonggu Kang for their sacrificial aid to communication of the Poieo Centre. I am also thankful to the Poieo team (Mark Hunt, Goyoung Yang, Silas Lee, Yong Pil Choi, David Cha, Kang-il Park, and Dee Hwang) for their creative journeys with me, to producers for the Poieo Film Project (Dylan Jenkinson, Lucas Lee), to the film contributors and advisors (Dr. Craig Detweiler, Dr. Michael Bauer, Dr. Sara Savage, Dr. Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin, Dr. Sven Soderlund, and Andy Crouch) for their lavish contribution to the film project, and to Soohwan Park, Richard Thompson, Justin Beck, and Nick Warmes for their excellent suggestions for organizing the Poieo board.

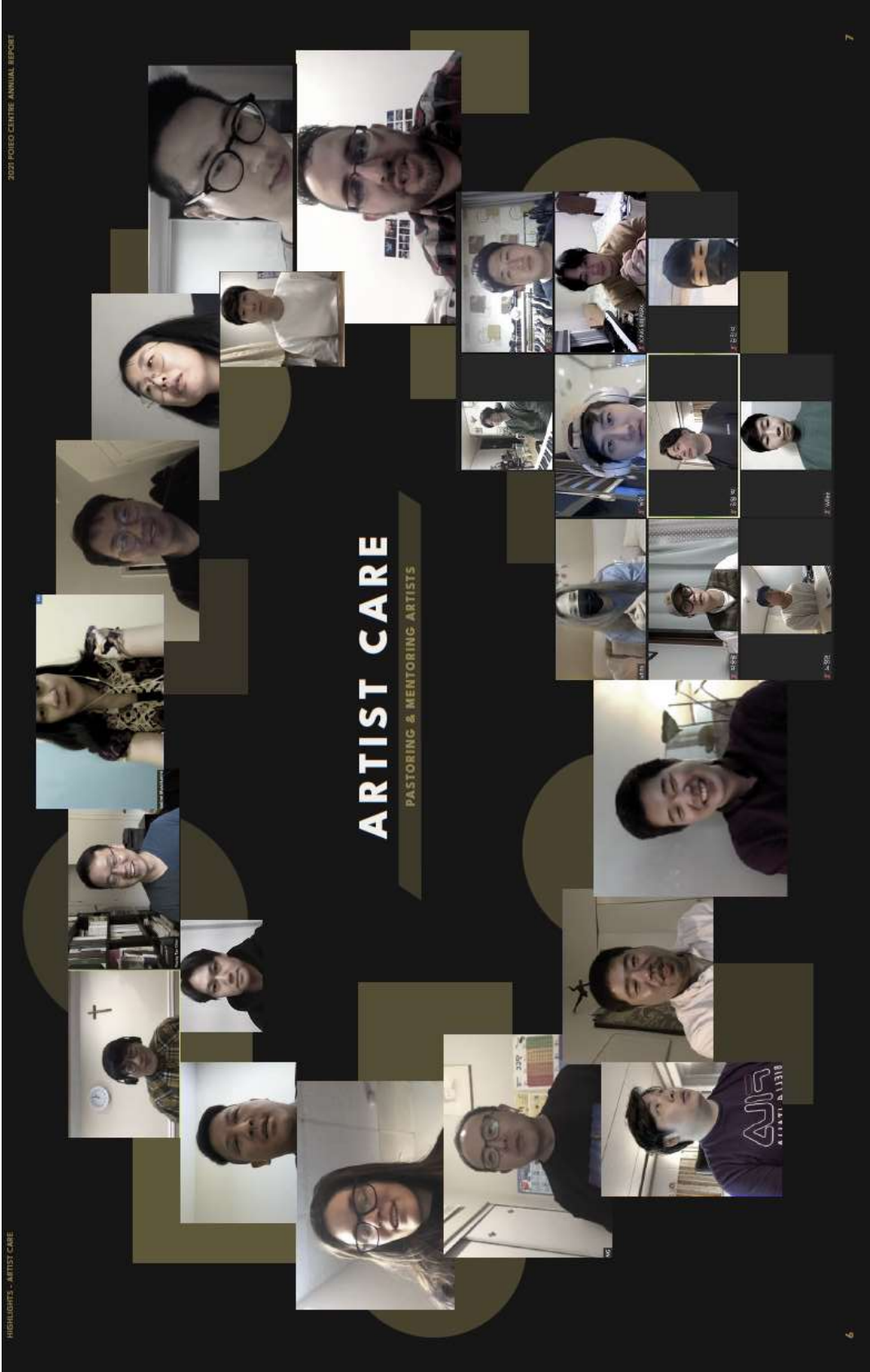
To Dr. David Jennings (along with Presbyterian Innovative Ministries Ltd.), the Presbytery of Westminster, the Avondale Experimental Fund, and the New and Renewed Ministry Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, my sincerest thanks for believing in the potential of the Poieo Centre and open-handed financial support.

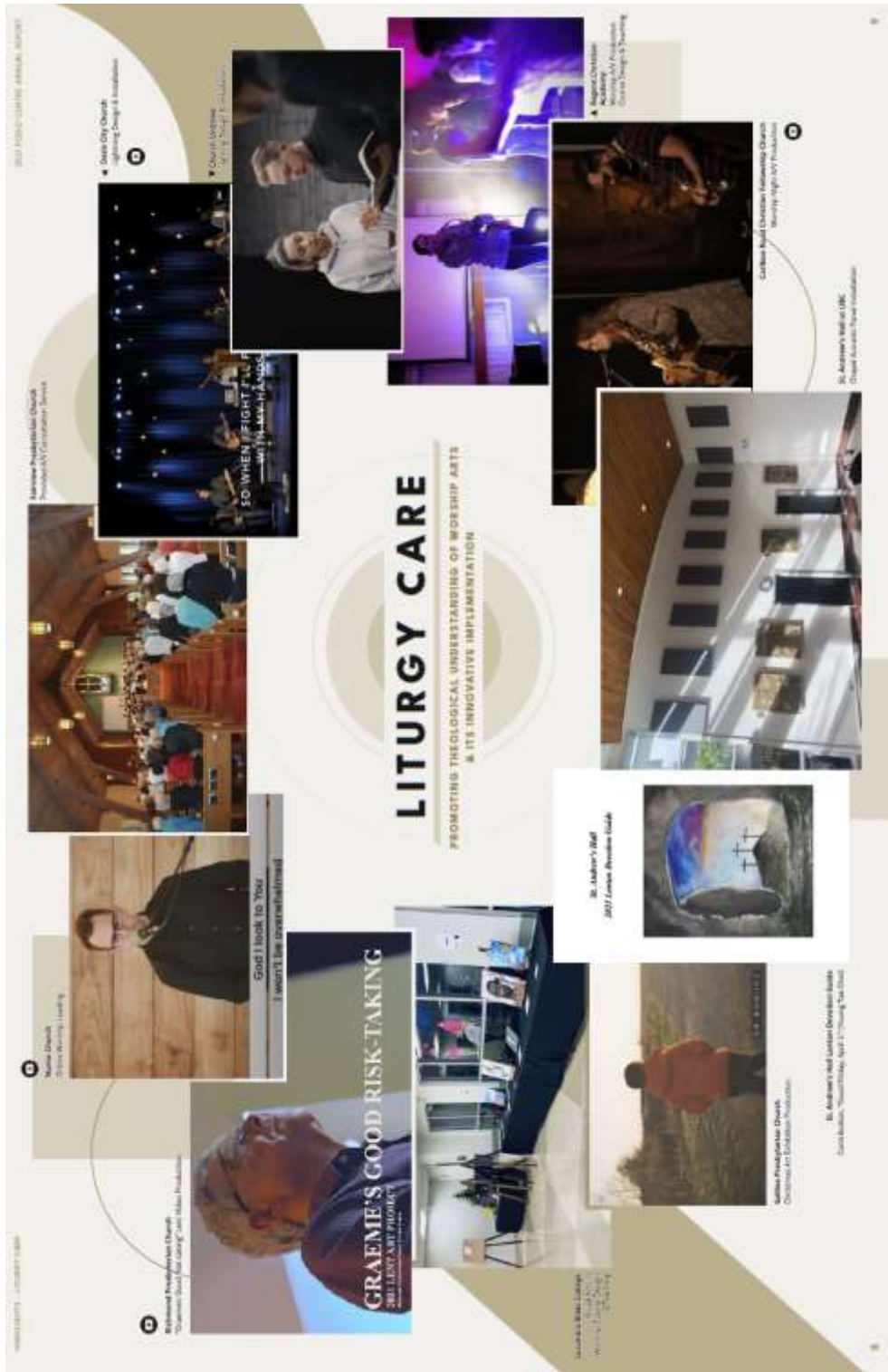
Most especially I wish to thank my parents, Rev. Kwang Hwan Choi and Rev. Gap Yeon Oh, and my older brother, Yong Pil Choi for their ceaseless prayers. And to my lovely wife, Jenny Han and my daughter, Claire Choi, thank you for everything.



*Rev. Young Tae Choi*

Founding Director of Poieo Centre







### HIGHLIGHTS - CULTURE CARE

- 🎵 **Snoopy in Space**  
IF Experience, Growing Things  
Illustration by Growing Things
- 🎵 **Mystic Wings**  
Down to the Floor to Play  
COP & ARIA SOCIETY
- 🎵 **RCA Fall Concert 2020**  
Produced by Black & Blue
- 🎵 **Grade 8 Concert Band**
- 🎵 **Christian Witness in Cascadian Soil**  
ROSS A. LOCKHART  
"This ministry beyond the Sunday Worship Service" contributed by Young Dan Oud  
COMWORKERS WITH GOD IN THE LANDS: HULU, HOUSTON, AND HANG-CREATED PLATES
- 🎵 **Christians Along with Jesus**  
Sing along with Jesus  
Designed & Sold by Young Eye Oud
- 🎵 **Music: If You Were Here, We'd Sing - Rehearsal**  
Composed & performed by King if Frank
- 🎵 **CCM Contemporary Christian Music "Way Truth Life Jesus"**  
Song composed & named by Silas Lee
- 🎵 **CCM "Diverse Stage"**  
Composed & produced by King if Frank  
Illustration by Growing Things
- 🎵 **Book Cover: #Pop You That Buy**  
Composed & produced by King if Frank
- 🎵 **Cover: #Learn Live Producers'**  
Genre production practices shared twice by Alan Han
- 🎵 **2021 Creates Moving Pictures Festival (CMFF)**  
Young Eye Oud & Growing Things served on the CMFF committee
- 🎵 **Generative Christian Witness in Falls**  
2021 INVOLVED  
Generative Christian Witness in Falls  
Sincerely (February 23 - 29th 19)  
Artwork by Alan Han
- 🎵 **CCM "Year's Best" with you**  
Composed & produced by King if Frank
- 🎵 **CORRELATING FAITH & ART**  
**POIEO FILM PROJECT**  
The Poieo Film Project  
Created by Young Eye Oud
- 🎵 **The Sweetest ABC**  
Written & Illustrated by Growing Things
- 🎵 **DREAM STAGE**  
Illustration by Growing Things
- 🎵 **BOOK COVER: #THANK YOU**
- 🎵 **BOOK COVER: #POP YOU THAT BUY**
- 🎵 **BOOK COVER: #LEARN LIVE PRODUCERS'**

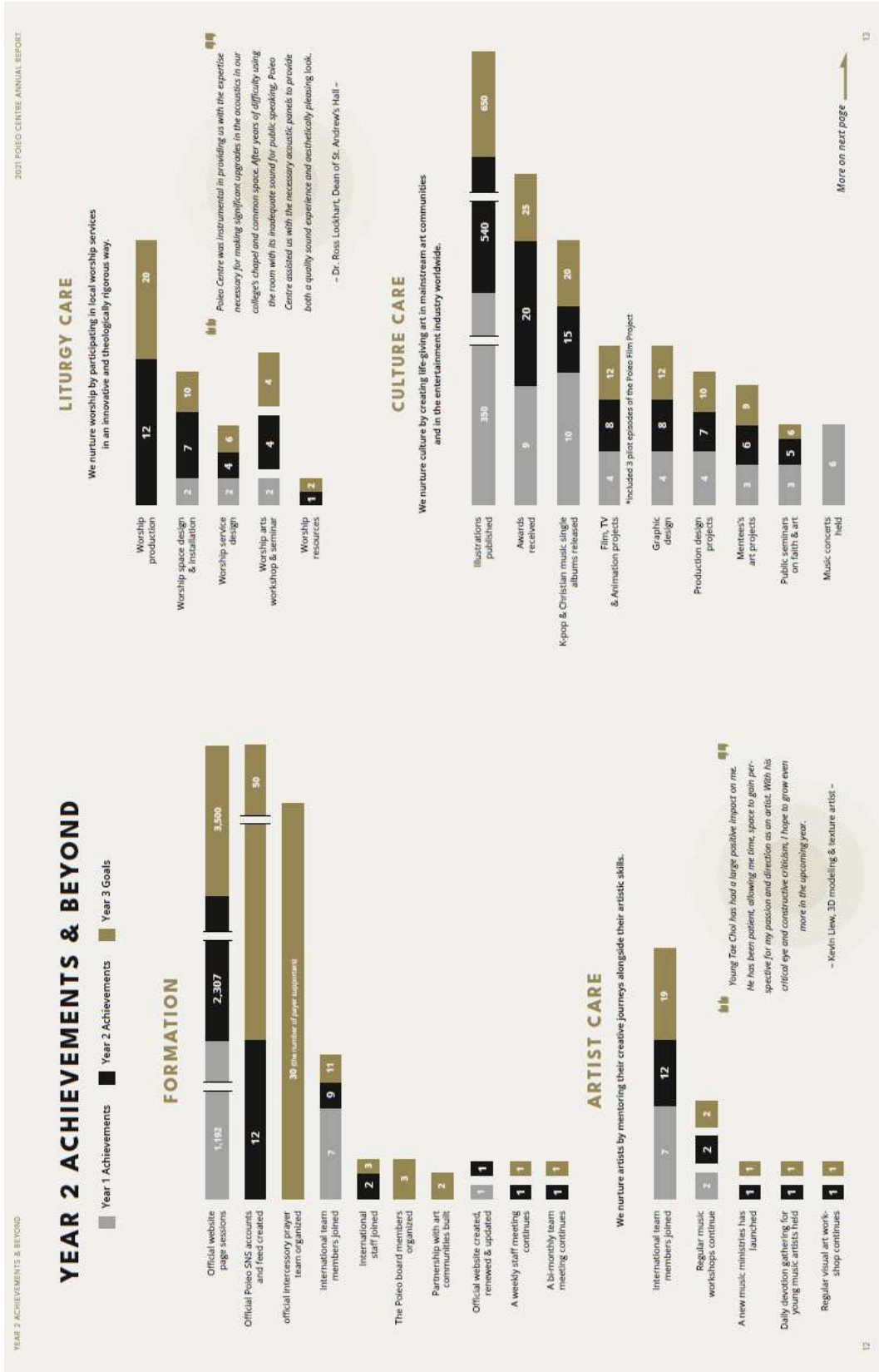
## CULTURE CARE

PRODUCING LIFE-GIVING ART

2021 POIEO CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT

10

11



2021 POLEO CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT

15

**ARTIST CARE** + **LITURGY CARE** + **CULTURE CARE**

www.poleocentre.com  
 admin@poleocentre.com  
 @poleocentre

14

YEARS 2 ACHIEVEMENTS & BEYOND

Publication projects: 1 4 5

Christian TV talk shows invited: 2 2 2

Christian film festivals coordinated: 1 2 2

\*After the 2021 CMFF (Create Moving Pictures Festival), I resigned from my co-chair role of the film committees in order to develop the Poleo Film Project for the next five years.

**■ ■ ■** *The Poleo Centre is poised to make a positive impact in the lives of Christian artists and on their calling to impact culture with the truth, beauty and goodness of Jesus' Kingdom. The Mission: Fest Vancouver Film Festival benefited first hand from the shared vision and application of the skills of Young The Chou, Goyoung Yang and Mark Hunt. Their investment advanced Christ's mission and the growth of Christian filmmakers, both as artists and missionaries.*

- John Hill, Executive Director of Mission Central -

Following the year 1 achievements, the year 2 achievements demonstrate that Poleo Centre has gradually expanded in its size and its missional impact on the church and culture. As two new staff have joined the Poleo Centre, I (Young The Chou) have been able to focus on developing the Poleo community with them more efficiently than before. Also, Poleo's ability to nurture mentoring relationships with mentees, to support worship arts in local churches, and to make art in the mainstream industry has been much enhanced since two new professional Christian artists became part of our team.

In particular, Poleo's liturgy care became obvious in terms of its timely significance to the increasing needs of local churches facing Covid-19. The Poleo Centre has helped more than 15 church communities in need of our hands such as online worship production. As for culture care, The Poleo community continues to create life-giving art, which includes diverse forms of art. What was so meaningful to the next generation was that two of the Poleo team members published three illustration/sound books for children in North America. Moreover, we were able to build up a global network for about 400 international Christian filmmakers, from Asia to Europe, from Africa to North America, by having a local Christian film festival, "Create Moving Pictures Festival (formerly known as Mission Fest Vancouver Film Festival)", online.

No doubt that there will be new challenges in developing the Poleo community next year too. Yet, I believe that such risks will bring new lessons and additional growth to us as anticipated in the visual chart above. I will be devoting myself to four major tasks for the next year: first, continuing to equip the Poleo team to be faithful artists/mentors/disciples; second, organizing the Poleo board to make the Poleo Centre stronger in health; third, launching Poleo Studios which will generate revenue to keep the Poleo mission alive; and last, completing three pilot episodes on theology and the arts so as to provide global artists and church leaders with engaging, reliable resources on the arts. I look forward to sharing the pilots with the PCC and beyond for celebration in March, 2022.

PRESBYTERIAN INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES (B.C.) LTD.

APPLICATION FORM

Brief Outline:

Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. makes loans and grants to individuals or groups within the Presbyteries of Westminster, Kamloops, Kootenay and Vancouver Island of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for innovative projects and ministries occurring in British Columbia, to support the growth and extension of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

*Send the completed application to: (by November 15th or May 15th) Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd., 5523 Deerhorn Lane, North Vancouver, BC, V7R4S8*

“An Extract of the Presbytery Minutes (or of the appropriate Agency or Committee of the General Assembly), noting approval, must accompany this Application Form before any consideration of a Project will be given by the Directors”.

PROVIDE ANSWERS BELOW AND ON SEPARATE SHEET(S) IF NECESSARY.

Project Applicant: Individual \_\_\_\_\_ . Group **Camp Douglas**

(Note: Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. will accept group applications only when a person is clearly identified as being responsible.)

A. Background Data:

1. Date of Application: **March 12, 2021**

2. Name and Address of Applicant or Contact Person:

**Janet Eastwood, 33236 Rose Avenue, Mission, BC, V2V 4Z5**

3. Name and Address of Project Administrator:

**Janet Eastwood, 33236 Rose Avenue, Mission, BC, V2V 4Z5**

4. Telephone Number of

- Applicant (or Contact Person) **604-885-3355 (cell)**

- Project Administrator **604-814-4773 (home)**

5. Qualifications of Individual Applicant or Project Administrator:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Victor Kim

- (a) Educational/Academic:

**Master of Arts in Theological Studies (Vancouver School of Theology)**

- (b) Special Courses/Training:

**Certificate in Leadership Excellence (Sauder School of Business, UBC)**

- (c) Training Through Employment:
- 

6. In the case of a Group Application:

- (a) Membership:

**Camp Douglas is an accredited member of the BC Camps Association**

- (b) Relationship to The Presbyterian Church in Canada:

**Camp Douglas is a ministry of the Presbytery of Westminster in The Presbyterian Church in Canada**

7. Name, address, telephone number of 2 references:

- (a) A clergy person:

**Rev. Rebecca Simpson, 34431 Norrish Avenue, Mission, BC, V2V 6N8, 604-226-8584**

- (b) A lay person:

**Meghan Adrian, 30 Greenleaf Drive, Port Moody, BC, V3H 5H8, 604-704-2458**

8. Reporting:

- (a) An Interim Progress Report is required at the end of each year.

**Understood**

- (b) A Final Report and an evaluation of the project shall be submitted within 3 months of completion and this Report shall include a financial accounting.

**Understood**

9. The Directors of Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. may, after consultation with the Project holder, terminate its support of a Project:

- (a) Because of an unreasonable extension of the time factor.  
(b) Because of failure to implement the Project as submitted in this application.  
(c) Because of failure to report as agreed upon in this application.

- (d) Because of the Project taking new directions which appear to be contrary to the declared faith and policies of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

B Project Description and Details:

1. Name of Project:

Camp Douglas Day Camp Pilot Project

2. Specific Purpose or Goal:

To run day camps in summer 2021 in partnership with Presbyterian congregations in the Presbytery of Westminster, 1. In response to covid-19's closure of overnight camps, and 2. To serve as a pilot for Camp Douglas-congregational partnership in running Christian day camps. Future day camps could be run during spring break, over Christmas break, and potentially during the summer. This pilot project will test demand for Christian day camps, discover best practices, and consider how Camp Douglas' expertise in working with children in a camp setting can best support Christian education programs for children and teens in a congregational setting.

3. General Description:

Day camp will follow the typical Camp Douglas residential camp schedule as much as possible, allowing for social distancing and adapted for an urban setting. Camps will be staffed partially by paid youth who work for the full summer, and partially by volunteers from each host congregation for the week in which their congregation is host site. Day camp activities will include worship (adapted to follow covid-19 guidelines), arts and crafts, outdoor games and sports, bible study, theatre and imaginative games, and campfire.

4. How will the Project be Carried Out?

Day camps will run Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm, for seven weeks during summer 2021. Each week of camp will be hosted by a different Presbyterian congregation. The Co-Directors will alternate leading weeks of camp, as in a typical summer, and both direct LIT camp and youth camp (the first and last weeks of camp, respectively). Full-time staff will be drawn from youth and young adults of Christian faith, good character, and who have experience working with children. Volunteers will be drawn from past camp staff and from each partner congregation.

5. (a) Who will be Responsible?

The Camp Douglas Co-Directors, Janet Eastwood and Daniel Martinez, will be responsible.

- (b) Who will do the Work?

Janet Eastwood and Daniel Martinez, with paid staff and volunteers from local congregations.

6. (a) How will this Project further the Christian Faith?

This project will further the Christian faith through providing engaging, age-appropriate Christian education to children and teens. Camp Douglas campers typically come from a mix of church and unchurched families. Offering day camps out of local congregations makes Christian education and Christian community available to these families, some of whom have no other ties to any church or religious institution, and to families whose children have not come to camp. Camp Douglas' Leaders-in-Training week offers leadership training and more intensive bible study for 16-year-olds who are considering becoming future camp staff. LIT day camp deepens

the faith, creates and strengthens the friendships, and equips with practical skills these future church leaders. This pilot project further aims to support Presbyterian congregations through partnership with the Camp Douglas community. Families who do not attend church will become familiar with their local Presbyterian church and with the volunteers from that congregation – a great opportunity for future outreach initiatives. A long-term aim is to build and maintain close and mutually-supportive relationships between the Camp Douglas ministry and Presbyterian congregations. Follow-up conversations between Camp staff and children’s ministry leaders will establish what needs are met by this partnership, and what future joint endeavors might look like.

(b) To what aspect of the Church’s life does this Project have specific relevance?

**Christian education and community-building within the congregation, between campers, and between the congregation and local families.**

7. (a) What probable specific achievement(s) do you envision as the result of the Project?

Local families who do not attend church will get to know members of their city’s Presbyterian congregation and build positive associations with the church. Campers discover a welcome, close-knit Christian community in which they experience God’s love and learn about Jesus. Campers whose families are suffering financially from the pandemic will attend camp (Camp Douglas offers camperships). Host congregations and Camp Douglas will explore avenues for future partnerships and develop a greater sense of what the needs of the congregation and its immediate community are, and how Camp Douglas might help meet those needs.

(b) Describe your strategy for making the results of this Project available to the Church.

The Camp Co-Directors will write a post-summer report for Presbytery. We could also write an article about the summer for PC Connect and/or the Vancouver School of Theology newsletter, if desired.

8. What period of time is required to complete the Project?

**Planning: present to summer 2021; implementation: July-August 2021; follow-up meetings and planning for the future: September 2021. Total time: spring to fall 2021.**

9. How is the Project to be evaluated?

The project will be evaluated through assessment interviews with host congregations (volunteers, children’s ministry staff, ministers), with an eye to what could be done to the future. Further evaluation will come through written reports from Camp staff, as well as verbal and written feedback from campers and families.

10. Funds required for the Project:

Total Amount Required: **\$78, 373**  
Total Amount Requested from PIM: **\$7000**

			Date
Payments required:	Initial	<u>\$0</u>	
	Final	<u>\$7000</u>	August 31, 2021

Total \$7000 August 31, 2021

11. For what other funds and to what other organizations have you made application?

**We have applied for a Regional Resourcing Grant and to the Canada Summer Jobs Program to help fund staffing for summer 2021. We think it possible to run day camps with three full-time staff, but this would require higher numbers of volunteers from each congregation, and volunteers are both less likely to be familiar with camp and less likely to work at camp in the future. Being able to hire more young adults beyond the minimum of three is an investment in future Camp Douglas staff.**

What response have you received from those other organizations?

**The Regional Resourcing Grant application was approved (\$5000). Canada Summer Jobs has acknowledged our application but will not announce approval or denial until later in the spring.**

**NOTE:**

A detailed budget of revenue and expenditure is to be submitted with this application.

The applicant hereby applies for the above described grant from Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. and accepts responsibility for the management of the Project, and for reporting as follows:

Interim Progress Report (Date): December 31, 2021

Final Report, with Evaluation  
and Financial Accounting (Date): The fiscal year end (est. April 2022)

Signature of Applicant: Janet Eastwood

Signature of Project Administrator: Janet Eastwood



## Creative Ministries with Children and Youth Fund Application

### Cartoon Conversations about Jesus

One gap identified during the pandemic is engaging children and youth online in a way that is fun - online. This project is an experiment in developing conversations around real questions that children and youth have about what it means to follow Jesus Christ and what that looks like in their life. The Journey Society is a digital ministry and support organization that reaches out to people thirsting for conversations about the divine in various aspects of life, and leverages our foibles and successes to help other ministries create the multimedia presence they desire. This project will create characters, voices, and formats that are accessible to a younger audience. In partnership with clergy from the Presbytery of Westminster, starting with Rev. Laurie McKay, dialogues will be developed and presented in a playful and engaging way - much like conversations that the disciples had with Jesus. Taking things literally can lead to some funny ideas! Jesus' patience in teaching the thick headed and innocent models our humility and playful approach to asking "crazy questions" that will be responded with seriousness but in a playful and approachable "voice" and cartoon. The hope is to create 15-20 cartoons within the year and make them accessible to the wider church using digital platforms (Youtube, websites of churches, Presbytery, Synod, and National Church)

This project has been inspired by one of The Presbyterian Church's most extraordinary children's ministers, the Reverend Fred Rogers. Fred's unique and accessible children's ministry was born from a lack of quality children's content. "I went into television because I hated it so, and I thought there was some way of using this fabulous instrument to be of nurture to those who would watch and listen," said Fred during a CNN interview. We believe that by revisiting Rev. Rogers's educational methods through the media of the internet, we can achieve a deep and wondrous connection with today's children.

**Indicate whether it is a new or continuing project. If continuing, describe how the project continues a former initiative in a new way. You will also need to identify the beneficiaries of the project.**

This is a new project that expands the work of the Journey Society. Those who will benefit from the cartoons are those who like to ask questions - whether children, youth, or adults that can admit they have something to learn from questions asked by children and youth.

**Indicate if the project funding is one-time or will be ongoing. If ongoing, describe where you will get future funding to support the project.**

This is a one year experiment to be evaluated and adapted accordingly so we can expand it again, should the Spirit reveal that it is indeed meeting a need in children and youth.

**Describe how the project is creative/innovative for the ministry and denomination.**

We haven't found something like this online for either the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This is a new work with a medium that is also new.

**Describe how the project expresses the Good News of the Gospel to children and youth.**

Engaging the real questions of children we encounter, we plan to explore what the Bible or Christian faith says about things - trusting that there will be room to continue to "wonder" and walk by faith. For example, yesterday a youth of 13 asks as we walk with our ice cream: "I wonder what heaven looks like?" The response: "That's a good question! What do you hope heaven will look like?" More ponderings. Then we agree: "Whatever it looks like, I guess God will be there and we will be safe and full of love."

**To provide a full budget that clearly delineates the costs of the project to be met by the funding.**

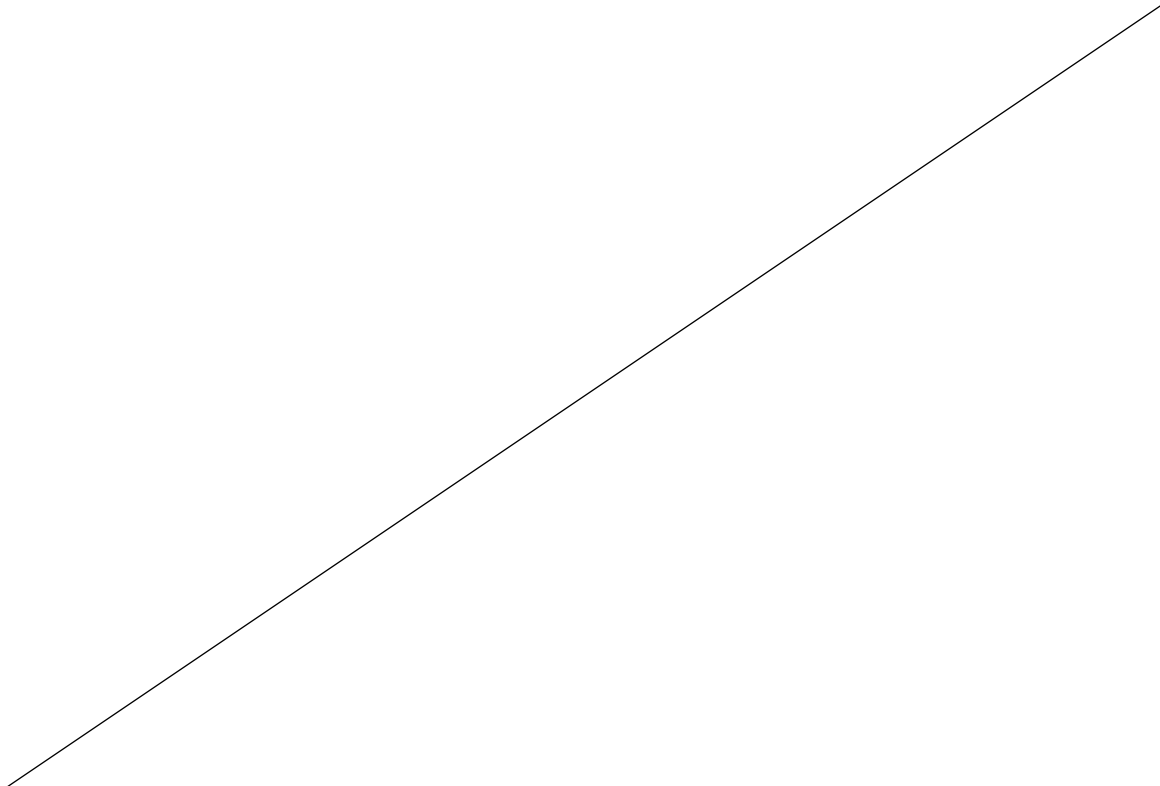
Budget July 2021 - July 2022

- Software to run the cartoons (Adobe Character Animator) \$250 for the year (non-profit rate)
- Hardware: 2 computer/editor machine \$2598
  - 1 Headset \$329
  - 2 Microphone \$70
- Designer for cartoon characters: \$1200
- Producer Time: \$5,000
- Writer Time: \$5,000
- Total: \$24,200
- Amount requested - \$24,200

Creator/Writer time includes interviews with children and youth in the Christian Urban Camp (month of July in New Westminster and Burnaby churches), children met through "Stump the Pastor" zoom youth meetings, and through our own experiences with children. The writer time will be honorarium for (hopefully) a variety of writers.

Upload an extract/endorsement from the ministry's governing body: Pending  
Provide contact information for applicant, congregation, presbytery, synod or sponsoring ministry  
John Carr -and Justin Thurn: Journey Society Project -John: 778-558-6120 Justin: 403-978-8617  
Address: 6040 Iona Drive - #152 and #320 Vancouver, BC V6T 2E8

- Include the charitable status number of applicant's ministry (St. Aidan's) 119161768RR0001



PRESBYTERIAN INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES (B.C.) LTD.

APPLICATION FORM

Brief Outline:

Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. makes loans and grants to individuals or groups within the Presbyteries of Westminster, Kamloops, Kootenay and Vancouver Island of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for innovative projects and ministries occurring in British Columbia, to support the growth and extension of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

*Send the completed application to: (by November 15th or May 15th) Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd., Suite 2090, Royal Centre, 1055 West Georgia Street, P.O. Box 11168, Vancouver, BC, V6E 3R5*

"An Extract of the Presbytery Minutes (or of the appropriate Agency or Committee of the General Assembly), noting approval, must accompany this Application Form before any consideration of a Project will be given by the Directors".

PROVIDE ANSWERS BELOW AND ON SEPARATE SHEET(S) IF NECESSARY.

Project Applicant:    Individual.     Group

(Note: Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. will accept group applications only when a person is clearly identified as being responsible.)

A.    Background Data:

1.    Date of Application:    31 March, 2021
2.    Name and Address of Applicant or Contact Person:

The Rev. Laurie McKay

St. Aidan's Presbyterian Church

1316 Seventh Ave. New Westminster, BC V3M 2K1

3.    Name and Address of Project Administrator:
4.    Telephone Number of  
-    Applicant (or Contact Person) Laurie 604-836-8400

5.    Qualifications of Individual Applicant or Project Administrator:

- 2 -

- (a) Educational/Academic:
    - Bachelor of Arts (Sociology/Psychology)
    - Master of Divinity (Vancouver School of Theology)
  - (b) Special Courses/Training:
    - Interim Ministry Training with PCUSA
  - (c) Training Through Employment:
    - Director of Spiritual Care - Delta View Campus of Care
    - Current Minister in Amalgamation Process with the Growing Together Churches
    - Team Lead of Don't Go Hungry Food Hub at St. Aidan's Presbyterian Church
6. In the case of a Group Application:
- (a) Membership:  
N/A
  - (b) Relationship to The Presbyterian Church in Canada:  
N/A
7. Name, address, telephone number of 2 references:
- (a) A clergy person:
    - The Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls | 604-345-1257 | 110 - 6888 Southpoint Dr., Burnaby, BC V3N 5E3
  - (b) A lay person:
    - Marion Baird 604-524-9056 #402 620 Seventh Ave. New Westminster, V3M 5T6
8. Reporting:
- (a) An Interim Progress Report is required at the end of each year.
  - (b) A Final Report and an evaluation of the project shall be submitted within 3 months of completion and this Report shall include a financial accounting.
9. The Directors of Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. may, after consultation with the Project holder, terminate its support of a Project:
- (a) Because of an unreasonable extension of the time factor.

- 3 -

- (b) Because of failure to implement the Project as submitted in this application.
- (c) Because of failure to report as agreed upon in this application.
- (d) Because of the Project taking new directions which appear to be contrary to the declared faith and policies of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

B Project Description and Details:

1. Name of Project:

Book: Don't Go Hungry: Story and Reflections of God's Grace in a Pandemic

2. Specific Purpose or Goal:

This book will tell the story of how community and compassion come together to feed multiple communities in New Westminster and Burnaby during a pandemic. God has used the churches and the community to find a higher purpose and connection in a time of economic distress and isolation. The writer will add stories of God-touched moments, and devotions and prayers for our daily spiritual bread.

3. General Description:

One small congregation in New Westminster, BC (St. Aidan's) was about to embark on a small project to feed perhaps 30 local families with reclaimed food on Saturdays. One year later, and one pandemic later, the work expanded to include more than 3 congregations, businesses, sports teams, city networks in New Westminster and Burnaby, and thousands of volunteer hours. One year later, Don't Go Hungry is feeding an average of 1000 people every Saturday on 4 sites in our cities. What brings out the best in people at the worst of times? Where is God in all of this? Even while we feed 350 households, we need to feed our soul with the bread of life - God with us. Volunteers, those receiving food, and those organizing the process all need stories of hope and encouragement. This is hopefully a resource of stories that inspire and offer spiritual food. These are our stories.

4. How will the Project be Carried Out?

Along with partners that were key in developing the Don't Go Hungry Food Hub, the story of how the program was developed and who were the key players will be shared. Rev. Laurie McKay will then reflect on the higher elements of compassion, collaboration, and community to help make connections between the mundane and the sacred. This will be done through phone and zoom conversations as well as thousands of conversations with people in line receiving food, those who are volunteering and the congregations who cheer us on. Making connections between the ordinary and the extraordinary - true to the Celtic Spirituality of this particular Presbyterian community - will be shared with stories and "aha!" moments.

5. (a) Who will be Responsible?

Laurie McKay will be responsible

(b) Who will do the Work?

- 4 -

Laurie, in consultation with the team leadership of Don't Go Hungry, and with permission from those who share their stories of encouragement and hope, will document and reflect on the Don't Go Hungry program to encourage others in missional engagement with their community.

6. (a) How will this Project further the Christian Faith?

Isaiah 55:1 says, "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."

Beginning a food bank during a pandemic was a community action of compassion- offering hope when things were pretty bleak. Most of the congregation was in the vulnerable age range. The community responded after a call out via social media and the local paper.

God continues to feed the thousands. The generosity and provision that I have seen is such good news - it must be shared. Muslim volunteers tell me, "My religion says that we should feed our neighbours, but my mosque is not. You are such a blessing and I want to be part of this work." - Prayer: Thank you God that compassion is bigger than one church, and one faith. You are One." Another man who receives a delivery of food asks when I call to check in "My mother was a Presbyterian in Nova Scotia but I have never been baptised. I'm disabled and can't get out for groceries. Do you think there is a way that I could be baptised? OH? You're Presbyterian? Even better!" Prayer: Help bring the resources we need - whether food or your sacrament. A young woman who is a new arrival to Canada has made masks that she hands to me while standing in line. In broken English, she hands me with two hands a white box with beautiful hand sewn and pressed masks and says how much she appreciates the food. Would I please make sure the volunteers get this gift? She would be happy to make more. Prayer: Generosity begets generosity and hope builds. Thank you Lord for using the new comer to bring hospitality and care, especially when we thought we were the ones bringing it to them! This is living the gospel message. And we need to hear it in new ways.

(b) To what aspect of the Church's life does this Project have specific relevance?

"Equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" and nourishing, supporting, and guiding God's people (Living Faith 7.2.2, 7.2.6)

7. (a) What probable specific achievement(s) do you envision as the result of the Project?

How we tell the story changes our perspective of our place in it. Connecting those in the line ups volunteers, and our faith communities with an awareness of how together we make a difference will hopefully inspire faith and grow compassion in and with the community. Together we incarnate the living Lord.

(b) Describe your strategy for making the results of this Project available to the Church.

I hope to have the book available for the wider church; possibly create an E book. Perhaps also through a podcast.

8. What period of time is required to complete the Project?

1 year

- 5 -

9. How is the Project to be evaluated?

Do volunteers and people in the line-up want to read the book? (number of books requested/shared)

Will the book inspire more accounts of God's miracles among us? (document more stories)

What do the volunteers, people who receive food, and congregants say about the book?

10. Funds required for the Project: \$17,000

Total Amount Required: \$17,000 plus all the resources that are already in place within the community to feed house and clothe me, and feed the community.

Total Amount Requested from PIM: \$17,000

			Date
Payments required:	Initial	\$__10,000__	July 1, 2021
	Final	\$__\$7,000__	January , 2022
	Total	\$17000	

11. For what other funds and to what other organizations have you made application?

Support from St. Aidan's through existing stipend and housing

**NOTE:**

A detailed budget of revenue and expenditure is to be submitted with this application.

Stipend for Rev. Laurie McKay \$5,000

Honorarium for key partners

of the story and grocery cards to show appreciation \$5,000

Writer's Retreat \$3,000 - summer or fall 2021

Editor \$2,000 - by Dec. 2021

Publisher \$2,000 - by Feb. 2022

Total \$17,000

The applicant hereby applies for the above described grant from Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. and accepts responsibility for the management of the Project, and for reporting as follows:

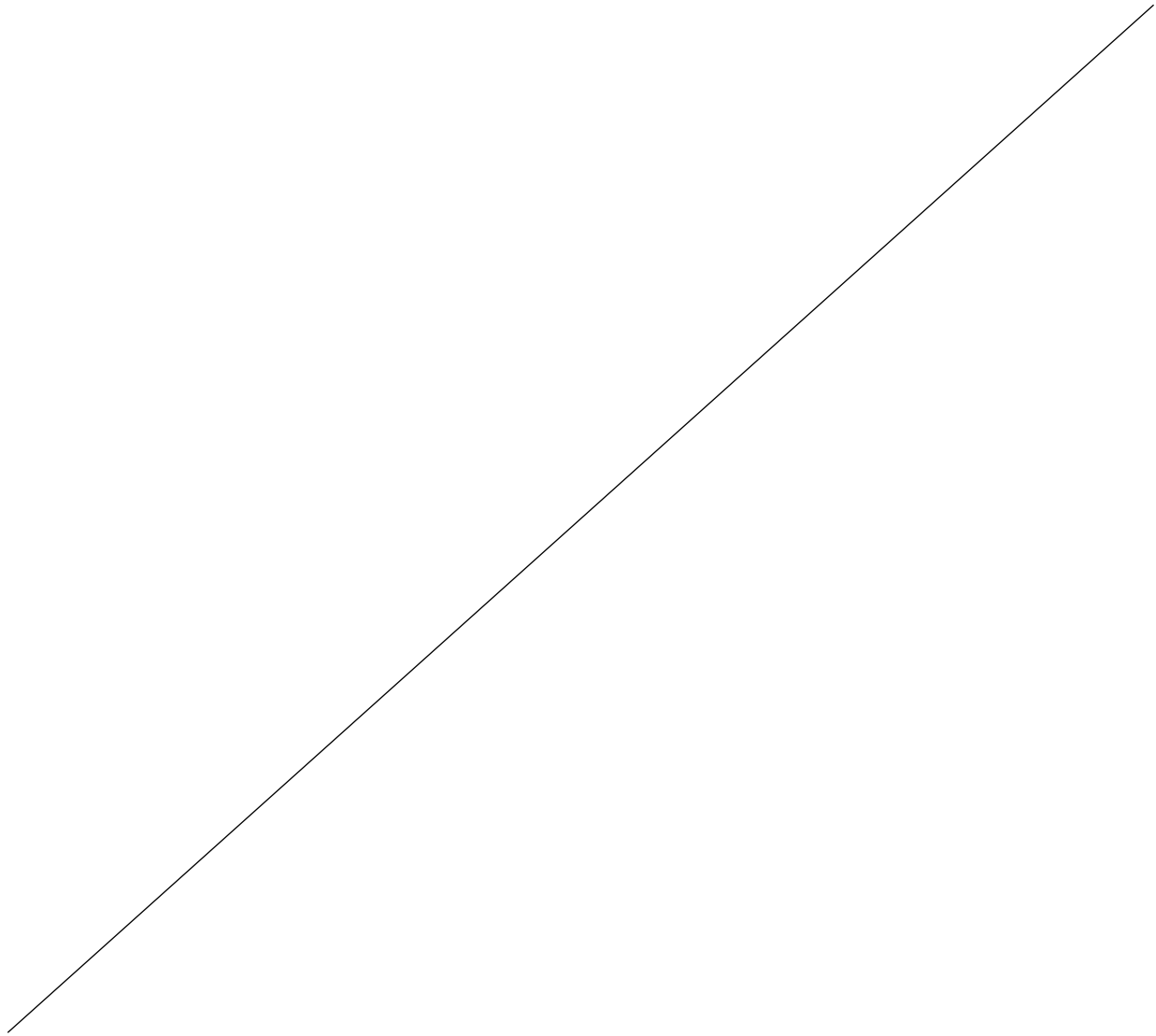
- 6 -

Interim Progress Report (Date): Nov. 2021

Final Report, with Evaluation  
and Financial Accounting ((Date). July 2022

Signature of Applicant: *Laurie McKay*

Signature of Project Administrator: *Laurie McKay*





**Grant Application to the Presbyterian Innovative Ministries Fund**  
*Singing the Gospel Revealed in the Scriptures*  
**A Catechetical Resource for Children, their Families, and their Churches**

**Extract from a special congregation meeting of Brentwood Presbyterian Church on Dec 27, 2020:**

On motion of Rita Long/Ben MacRae, upon review it was agreed that Brentwood Presbyterian Church endorse the application and supporting documents from the congregation to the Presbytery of Westminster for approval to apply to the Presbyterian Innovative Ministries Fund for a grant in the amount of \$30,000 over two years (\$15,000/yr) to develop a faith formation and discipleship development resource for use by children, their families, and their communities based on original songs composed around 52 passages of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation that witness to the forgiving and reconciling love of God in Christ for the world that is the great affirmation of the gospel proclaimed by The Presbyterian Church in Canada (cf *Living Faith* p3).

Attested by Pam Wong, Clerk of Session and secretary for the meeting  
Dec 31, 2020

**Background Data**

<b>Date of application</b>	Apr 10, 2021
<b>Contact person</b>	Brian Fraser #211 – 2020 Cedar Village Cres North Vancouver, BC V7J 3P5
<b>Project Administrator</b>	Brian Fraser #211 – 2020 Cedar Village Cres North Vancouver, BC V7J 3P5
<b>Telephone number</b>	604-924-9650

**Qualifications of the Project Administrator**

- (a) Honours BA in History – University of Toronto = 1969  
MA in the History of Education – OISE – 1971  
MDiv (Honours) – Knox College – 1975  
PhD in Canadian History – York University – 1982
- (b) Graduate Certificate in Executive Coaching – Royal Roads University – 2002
- (c) Project conceptualizations, grant applications, promotions, and evaluations for multiple missional initiatives that have contributed to the transforming work of Brentwood
- (d) Administration as dean of St. Andrew’s Hall, lead provocateur of Jazzthink, and minister with Brentwood Presbyterian Church

**In case of a Group Application**

- (a) Membership – members of and participants in the mission of Brentwood Presbyterian Church
- (b) Relationship to The Presbyterian Church in Canada – a congregation in the Presbytery of Westminster

**Name, address, telephone number of 2 references**

The Rev Laurie McKay  
St Aidan's Presbyterian Church  
1316 Seventh Ave.  
New Westminster, BC  
V3M 2K1  
604-836-8400

Marion Baird  
#402 - 620 7th Avenue  
New Westminster, BC  
V3M 5T6  
604 524 9056

(Both Laurie and Marion have collaborated with Brentwood and our musicians in working with children through our Christian Urban Camps over the past several years.)

**Reporting**

A progress report will be provided half way through the first year, at the end of the first year, half way through the second year, and a final report at the end of the second year.

We understand the rights of the Directors of Presbyterian Innovative Ministries to terminate its support of the project.

**Project Description and Details**

**Name of the Project**

*Singing the Gospel Revealed in the Scriptures: A Catechetical Resource for Children, their Families, and their Churches*

**Specific Purpose or Goal**

We can find no catechetical resource that provides a musical review of great story of salvation as revealed in the stories and instructions of the Scriptures geared to children, their families, and their churches. We want to provide one.

**General Description**

As we have been considering how the insights on the flourishing of witnessing communities recorded in Jason Byassee & Ross Lockhart, *Better Than Brunch: Missional Churches in Cascadia*, we were particularly struck by this invitation to develop new catechetical resources:

*Post-Christendom demands that Christians are able to discern the presence of the triune God at work in their everyday lives, and when prompted to give an account of the hope that is within them, without being a jerk. What this looks like is not yet clear, but the missionally minded churches of Cascadia have it on their radar. And we can't wait to find out. (p.96)*

As our missioning with musicking communities in Greater Vancouver has transformed our presence in our neighbourhoods, we realized that we had the passion and competence among musicians connected with Brentwood who teach children to undertake a

The Presbytery of Westminster  
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
April 6, 2021

9151

'jerk-free' project that would generate a collection of children's songs that would give a compelling account of the hope revealed in the Scriptures not only to children but also to their families and networks of friends.

We propose to compose, write, record, and print a series of 52 children's songs based on key texts from Genesis to Revelation that can be sung in families, churches, and/or new witnessing communities that offer a door into a deeper appreciation for and appropriation of the Christian faith as The Presbyterian Church in Canada has come to understand it through our collegial discernment in the councils of the church. At the core of that understanding is the great affirmation of the Gospel identified in *Living Faith* (p3) – that God was in Jesus Christ forgiving and reconciling the world and making the church the ambassador (*presbuto*) of that message (2 Cor 5:19-20).

One of the central inspirations for this project is the music of Fred Rogers, a Presbyterian minister whose TV show reached over 25 million viewers at its peak. Brentwood has been taking a special interest in Rogers and his witness. Among the results of that is a suite of songs from *Mr. Rogers' Neighbourhood* that Jill Townsend has arranged for our big band, the Brentwood Jazz All-Stars.

We pray the songs will become a learning resource for all who sing them as the Trinity draws them into making more conscious contributions to the redemption of creation.

#### **How will the Project be Carried Out?**

We anticipate this to be a two-year project. Each year, 26 songs will be written, performed, recorded, and distributed.

Working with a series of 52 Scripture texts chosen from the books of Genesis through Revelation chosen by Brian Fraser and Dan Reynolds for a congregational consideration in 2013, three of Brentwood's musicians, Dan Reynolds, Ben MacRae, and Rita Long, all experienced music teachers of children, will conceive and compose 52 songs based on the texts that will engage and instruct the children and those who are nourishing their faith in the key themes in the story of the world's redemption revealed by the Holy Spirit through the Scriptures. Brian, the musicians doing the project, and anyone else in the congregation interested in contributing to the biblical and theological reflection on the messages of the songs, will collaborate closely in the composition of the songs. They will be tested with a variety of children in congregations willing to participate in the project, revised based on their responses, and finally recorded and printed for use in whatever congregations and families wish to form faith through them.

#### **Who will be responsible?**

Brian Fraser will coordinate the project with the support and supervision of the Brentwood Session.

#### **Who will do the work?**

Dan, Ben, and Rita will do the bulk of the work, drawing of their networks of students and colleagues as needed. The recording and video production will be done by Ken Burke and Burkeville Productions, who has worked with Brentwood in our missional musicking for many years now. Dan and Ben are our music directors and Rita and Ben are ruling elders. Their CVs are attached in Appendix 2.

#### **How will this Project further the Christian Faith?**

The seeds of this project began to sprout when Dan and Ben worked with the Christian Urban Camp offered in New Westminster and Burnaby by the Collaborating Churches. They saw the impact that good age-appropriate music had on the children. We will pay special attention to the dancing and drumming programs of Hummingbird Ministries as inspiration and instruction for the project. Ben brought one of his young woodwinds students into the musicking programs at Brentwood and we saw the impact of that involvement on the whole family. Brian began to research the role that biblical songs had during the Reformation, especially among those congregations that used Calvin's Genevan Psalter. We asked around about children's catechetical programs grounded in songs rather than simply using them as a supplement to verbal teaching and found none. We think this breadth of exposure to the scriptures and the redemptive story of the forgiving and reconciling God to whom they witness will deepen and broaden faith formation and disciple development in innovative and impactful ways that change lives.

#### **To what aspect of the Church's life does this Project have specific relevance?**

The Presbytery of Westminster  
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
April 6, 2021

9152

To answer this question, we will use the strategic priorities of the Presbytery of Westminster under whose support and supervision Brentwood missions. The project engages the composers, the lyricists, the performers, the production people, the singers, and the hearers in:

- biblical and theological reflection that deepens their understanding of and commitment to God, the church, and its place in Christ's ministry and mission and, through their song-writing and performances and enables the Spirit to do the same with everyone who comes into contact with the songs;
- engages all of us in evangelism, outreach, and discipleship development using a musical means of communication that touches instincts, emotions, and intellect;
- nurtures initiative and risk taking by inviting all those singing the songs to be involved in giving voice and movement to rhythms, harmonies, and melodies that cultivate a way of being (culture) that aligns with God's work of justice, kindness, and humility in the world;
- embeds in the awareness of children, their families, and their communities a sense of faithful and fruitful participation in God's missioning for the care of all creation;
- draws people together in a community of faithful song that stirs the soul to contribution; and
- takes into serious consideration ways in song to nourish healing and reconciliation among Indigenous and Settler peoples.

**What probable specific achievements do you envision as the result of the Project?**

In bullet form:

- a deepening of the trust in and loyalty to the triune God among the musicians and ministers who get involved in the program as they consider the texts, their sense, and the best ways to communicate that in song;
- a video library of 52 songs for wide catechetical use, with each video concluding with a question to provoke further conversation about the text and the song;
- a printed songbook with the 52 songs and questions; and
- a large group of children, families, and communities that were active in the production of these resources whose faith formation will be influenced by their participation.

**Describe your strategy for making the results of this Project available to the Church?**

Again, in bullet form:

- recording each of the songs separately and putting them on the Brentwood YouTube channel for viewing, downloading, and sharing;
- publishing the songs in a book that can be used widely; and
- developing a series of concerts and workshops that will enhance the influence of the songs

**What period of time is required to complete the Project?**

We anticipate two years, with 26 songs being done in each of those years. Rita and Dan both have busy careers in music already and Ben will begin studies for the ministry at Vancouver School of Theology this fall. Dan and Ben are our music directors at Brentwood and involved in several of our other missional musicking work.

**How is the Project to be evaluated?**

As the Presbytery of Westminster begins to invest serious money and talent into new witnessing communities and reviving the health of existing congregations, we are composing robust questions for evaluating the impact these ministries will have on the presbytery's declared intent of changing lives through the work that it supports and supervises. We will work closely with Dale Woods in developing an appropriate set of criteria for evaluation. Brentwood is beginning to work its way through a book on new church metrics recommended by Dale, Gil Rendle's *Doing the Math of Mission: Fruits, Faithfulness, and Metrics* (2014). At this early stage, it will focus on testimonies from the children, their families, and their communities that can illuminate for all of us what the Spirit is doing with this innovative project. Reports will be submitted per the requests in the application form.

**Funds required for the Project**

**Total Amount Required**                      **\$30,000 + in kind contributions from  
Brentwood in space, instruments, and minister's time**

---

Victor Kim

<b>Total Amount Requested from PIM</b>		<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>Payments required:</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

**For what other funds and to what other organizations have you made applications?**

For this project, we have not approached any other organizations. It should be noted, however, that this program is part of an extensive ecology of musicking that is happening through Brentwood. We are seeking this year some \$100,000 in other grants related to the purchase of a concert grand piano, a ‘Curious About Church’ podcast hosted and produced by two young jazz musicians who are professing members at Brentwood, a Gospel with Guitars workshop series in collaboration with Inner Light Youth Ministries in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside and Nate Hartley, continuing work on our project exploring what jazz can teach the church, our big band as a new witnessing community, and the next phase in our feasibility studies for a major renovation and expansion of our facilities to serve the neighbourhood of North Burnaby as an arts centre. The PIM project, then, fits into a growing ecosystem of missional musicking that continues to transform Brentwood both in its internal vitality and in its external reach. A guiding mantra for us, articulated by one of the young musicians who was baptized and joined the church in 2020, is the hospitality of the Trinity found at Brentwood generates hope and healing.

**What response have you received from those other organizations?**

The podcast has been funded for 2021, but we have yet to hear about the others grants.

**Detailed budget per annum (hopefully for two years)**



Revenue PIM		\$15,000
Expenses to be	Composing	\$5,200 (how that will be distributed remains determined)
	Recording	\$2,000
	Performers	\$7,800
	Printing & Distribution	covered by Brentwood

**Appendix 1 – Workbook for Considering the Catechetical Potential of the Passages**

*Singing the Gospel Revealed in the Scriptures*

The congregation of Brentwood Presbyterian Church in Burnaby, BC, has selected 52 passages from the Bible, Genesis through Revelation, to follow the story of how God’s love keeps reaching out to us and invites us into a forgiven, reconciled relationship with the Trinity to care for God’s beloved creation. We’re going to compose, record, post, and publish 52 original children’s songs that will nourish children, their families, and their churches in the flourishing that flows from God’s mercy and grace.

*I turn to the Bible ... trying to see it whole, not using it for my own purposes, but letting its ongoing message of love direct me.*  
 (Madeleine L’Engle, *Glimpses of Grace*, 317)

*Week 1*  
Genesis 1:27-28 & 31

*So God created humankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.  
God blessed them, and God said to them,  
“Be fruitful and multiply,  
and fill the earth and subdue it;  
and have dominion over the fish of the sea  
and over the birds of the air  
and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”  
... And it was so.  
God saw everything that he had made,  
and indeed, it was very good.*

Notes

*Week 2*  
Genesis 9:14-15

*When I bring clouds over the earth  
and the bow is seen in the clouds,  
I will remember my covenant  
that is between me and you  
and every living creature of all flesh;  
and the waters shall never again  
become a flood to destroy all flesh.*

Notes

*Week 3*  
Genesis 12:1-2

*And the Lord said to Abram,  
“Go from your country  
and your kindred and your father’s house  
to the land that I will show you.  
I will make of you a great nation,  
and I will bless you, and make your name great,  
so that you will be a blessing.*

Notes

*Week 4*  
Exodus 3:14

*God said to Moses,*

*"I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE."  
He said further,  
Thus you shall say to the Israelites,  
"I WILL BE has sent you."*

Notes

**Week 5**  
**Exodus 15:1b-2**

*I will sing to Lord,  
for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.  
The Lord is my strength and my might,  
and he has become my salvation;  
this is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, and I will exalt him.*

Notes

**Week 6**  
**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

*Hear, O Israel:  
The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.  
You shall love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, with all your soul,  
and with all your might.  
Keep these words that I am commanding you today  
in your heart.  
Recite them to your children  
and talk about them when you are at home  
and when you are away,  
when you lie down and when you rise.  
Bind them as a sign on your hand,  
fix them as an emblem on your forehead,  
and write them on the doorposts of your house  
and on your gates.*

Notes

**Week 7**  
**2 Samuel 23:2-4**

*The spirit of the Lord speaks through me,  
his word is upon my tongue.  
The God of Israel has spoken,  
the Rock of Israel has said to me:  
“One who rules over people justly,  
ruling in the fear of God,  
is like the light of morning,  
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,  
gleaming from the rain on grassy land.”*

Notes

**Week 8**  
**Nehemiah 9:16-17**

*But they and our ancestors acted presumptuously  
and stiffened their necks  
and did not obey your commandments;  
they refused to obey,  
and were not mindful of the wonders  
that you performed among them;  
but they stiffened their necks  
and determined to return to slavery in Egypt.*

Notes

**Week 9**  
**Psalms 16:11**

*You show me the path of life.  
In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures forever.*

Notes

**Week 10**  
**Psalms 27:1**

*The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?*

Notes



**Week 11**  
**Psalm 51:1-2**

*Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.*

Notes

**Week 12**  
**Psalm 69:16-17**

*Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.  
Do not hide your face from your servant,  
for I am in distress –  
make haste to answer me.*

Notes

**Week 13**  
**Psalm 86:4-5 (NRSV)**

*Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love  
to all who call upon you.*

Notes

**Week 14**  
**Psalm 106:1-3 (NRSV)**

*Praise the Lord!  
O give thanks to the Lord for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.  
Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,  
or declare all his praise?  
Happy are those who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times.*

Notes

**Week 15**

**Psalm 145:10-13**

*All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,  
and all your faithful shall bless you.  
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,  
and tell of your power,  
to make known to all people your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.*

**Notes**

**Week 16**  
**Proverbs 3:5-8**

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.  
Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.  
It will be a healing for your flesh  
and a refreshment for your body.*

**Notes**

**Week 17**  
**Isaiah 9:6-7**

*For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

**Notes**

**Week 18**  
**Isaiah 44:21-22**

*Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel,*

*for you are my servant;  
I formed you, you are my servant;  
O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.  
I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud,  
and your sins like mist;  
return to me, for I have redeemed you.*

Notes

**Week 19**  
**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

*Thus says the Lord:  
Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom,  
do not let the mighty boast in their might,  
do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth;  
but let those who boast in this,  
that they understand and know me,  
that I am the Lord;  
I act with steadfast love, justice,  
and righteousness in the earth,  
for in these things I delight, says the Lord.*

Notes

**Week 20**  
**Jeremiah 29:4-7**

*Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel,  
to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile  
from Jerusalem to Babylon:  
Build houses and live in them;  
plant gardens and eat what they produce.  
Take wives and have sons and daughters,  
and give your daughters in marriage,  
that they may bear sons and daughters;  
multiply there, and do not decrease.  
But seek the welfare of the city  
where I have sent you into exile,  
and pray to the Lord on its behalf,  
for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

Notes

*Week 21*  
Ezekiel 2:4b-7 (NRSV)

*Thus says the Lord.  
Whether they hear or refuse to hear  
(for they are a rebellious house),  
they shall know that there has been  
a prophet among them.  
And you, O mortal, do not be afraid of them,  
and do not be afraid of their words,  
though briars and thorns surround you  
and you live among scorpions;  
so not be afraid of their words,  
and do not be dismayed at their looks,  
for they are a rebellious house.  
You shall speak my words to them,  
whether they hear or refuse to hear;  
for they are a rebellious house.*

Notes

*Week 22*  
Hosea 14:1-2 (NRSV)

*Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God,  
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.  
Take words with you and return to the Lord;  
say to him, "Take away all guilt;  
accept that which is good,  
and we will offer the fruits of our lips."*

Notes

*Week 23*  
Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?*

Notes

*Week 24*  
Matthew 5:14-16 (NRSV)

*You are the light of the world.  
A city built on a hill cannot be hid.*

*No one after lighting a lamp  
puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand,  
and it gives light to all in the house.  
In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works  
and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

Notes

**Week 25**  
**Matthew 6:9-13 (NRSV)**

*Pray then in this way:  
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
but rescue us from evil.  
For the kingdom, and the power and the glory are yours.*

Notes

**Week 26**  
**Matthew 10:32-33 (NRSV)**

*Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others,  
I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven;  
but whoever denies me before others,  
I also will deny before my Father in heaven.*

Notes

**Week 27**  
**Matthew 18:2-5 (NRSV)**

*He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change  
and become like children,  
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.  
Whoever becomes humble like this child  
is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.  
Whoever welcomes one such child in my name  
welcomes me."*

Notes

**Week 28**  
**Matthew 21:25b-28 (NRSV)**

*“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them.  
It will not be so among you;  
but whoever wishes to be great among you  
must be your servant,  
and whoever wishes to be first among you  
must be your slave;  
just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Notes

**Week 29**  
**Matthew 22:37b-40 (NRSV)**

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, and with all your mind.”  
This is the greatest and first commandment.  
And a second is like it:  
“You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”  
On these two commandments  
hang all the law and prophets.*

Notes

**Week 30**  
**Matthew 28:18-20 (NRSV)**

*And Jesus came and said to them,  
“All authority in heaven and on earth  
has been given to me.  
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to obey  
everything I have commanded you.  
And remember, I am with you always,  
to the end of the age.”*

Notes

**Week 31**  
**Luke 2:28-32 (NRSV)**

*Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,  
“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”*

Notes

*Week 32*  
Luke 4:16-21 (NRSV)

*When he came to Nazareth,  
where he had been brought up,  
he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day,  
as was his custom.  
He stood up to read,  
and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him.  
He unrolled the scroll  
and found the place where it was written:  
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."  
... Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*

Notes

*Week 33*  
Luke 24:45-49 (NRSV)

*Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them,  
"Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer  
and to rise from the dead on the third day,  
and that repentance and forgiveness of sins  
is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations,  
beginning from Jerusalem.  
You are witnesses of these things.  
And see, I am sending upon you  
what my Father promised;  
so stay here in the city  
until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

Notes

*Week 34*  
John 1:1-5 (NRSV)

*In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came into being through him,  
and without him not one thing came into being.  
What has come into being in him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.*

Notes

*Week 35*  
John 3:16-19 (NRSV)

*“For God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but may have eternal life.  
Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world  
to condemn the world,  
but in order that the world  
might be saved through him.  
Those who believe in him are not condemned;  
but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed  
in the name of the only Son of God.”*

Notes

*Week 36*  
John 7:37-38 (NRSV)

*On the last day of the festival, the great day,  
while Jesus was standing there, he cried out,  
“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,  
and let the one who believes in me drink.  
As the scripture has said,  
‘Out of the believer’s heart  
shall flow rivers of living water.’”*

Notes

*Week 37*  
Acts 1:6-8 (NRSV)

*So when they had come together, they asked him,  
“Lord, is this the time  
when you will restore the kingdom of Israel?”  
He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.  
But you will receive power  
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,  
in all Judea and Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth.”*

Notes

*Week 38*



Acts 18:8b-11 (NRSV)

*... and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul  
became believers and were baptized.  
One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision,  
"Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent;  
for I am with you,  
and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you,  
for there are many in this city who are my people."  
He stayed there a year and six months,  
teaching the word of God among them.*

Notes

**Week 39**  
Romans 1:16-17 (NRSV)

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel;  
it is the power of God for salvation  
to everyone who has faith,  
to the Jew first and also to the Greek.  
For in it the righteousness of God is revealed  
through faith for faith;  
as it is written,  
"The one who is righteous will live by faith."*

Notes

**Week 40**  
Romans 8:38-39 (NRSV)

*For I am convinced  
that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor heights, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us  
from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Notes

**Week 41**  
Romans 15:4-6 (NRSV)

*For whatever was written in former days  
was written for our instruction,  
so that by steadfastness  
and by the encouragement of the scriptures*

*we might hope.  
May the God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus,  
so that together you may with one voice  
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Notes

**Week 42**  
**1 Corinthians 1:4-9 (NRSV)**

*I give thanks to my God always for you  
because of the grace of God  
that has been given for you in Christ Jesus,  
for in every way you have been enriched in him,  
in speech and knowledge of every kind –  
just as the testimony of Christ  
has been strengthened among you –  
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift  
as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
He will also strengthen you to the end,  
so that you may be blameless  
on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
God is faithful;  
by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Notes

**Week 43**  
**Galatians 5:22-26 (NRSV)**

*By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit  
is love, joy, peace, patience,  
kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness,  
and self-control.  
There is no law against such things.  
And those who belong to Christ Jesus  
have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.  
If we live by the Spirit,  
let us also be guided by the Spirit.  
Let us not become conceited,  
competing with one another,  
envying one another.*

Notes

**Week 44**  
**Ephesians 4:31–5:2 (NRSV)**

*Put away from you all bitterness  
and wrangling and slander,*

*together with all malice,  
and be kind to one another,  
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,  
as God in Christ has forgiven you.  
Therefore be imitators of God,  
as beloved children, and live in love,  
as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,  
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Notes

**Week 45**  
Philippians 4:4-7 (NRSV)

*Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, Rejoice.  
Let your gentleness be known to everyone.*

Notes

**Week 46**  
Colossians 3:12-16 (NRSV)

*As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
clothe yourself with compassion, kindness,  
humility, meekness, and patience.  
Bear with one another  
and, if anyone has a complaint against another,  
forgive each other;  
just as the Lord has forgiven you,  
so you must also forgive. ...  
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;  
teach and admonish one another in all wisdom;  
and with gratitude in your hearts  
sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.*

Notes

**Week 47**  
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NRSV)

*May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;  
and may your spirit and soul and body  
be kept sound and blameless  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The one who calls you is faithful,  
and he will do this.*

Notes

*Week 48*  
Hebrews 10:23-24 (NRSV)

*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope  
without wavering,  
for he who has promised is faithful.  
And let us consider how to provoke one another  
to love and good deeds ...*

Notes

*Week 49*  
James 3:13-18 (NRSV)

*Who is wise and understanding among you?  
Show by your good life  
that your works are done with gentleness  
born of wisdom. ...  
For where there is envy and selfish ambition,  
there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure,  
then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,  
full of mercy and good fruits,  
without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.  
And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace  
for those who make peace.*

Notes

*Week 50*  
1 Peter 4:8-11 (NRSV)

*Above all, maintain constant love for one another,  
for love covers a multitude of sins.  
Be hospitable to one another without complaining.  
Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,  
serve one another with whatever gift  
each of you has received.  
Whoever speaks must do so  
as one speaking the very words of God;  
whoever serves must do so  
with the strength that God supplies,  
so that God may be glorified in all things  
through Jesus Christ.  
To him belong the glory and the power  
forever and ever.  
Amen.*

Notes

*Week 51*

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NRSV)

*But do not ignore this one fact, beloved,  
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years,  
and a thousand years like one day.  
The Lord is not slow about his promise,  
but is patient with you,  
not wanting any to perish.*

Notes

**Week 52**  
Revelation 21:1-4 (NRSV)

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;  
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.  
And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
And I heard a voice from the throne saying,  
“See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them as their God;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.*

Notes

Appendix 2 – CVs of the Musicians/Composers

**Rita S. Long**

*Guitar & Ukulele Instructor*

<i>Career Summary</i>	<i>I have enjoyed two fulfilling careers over a span of 49 years. The first was the study of classical guitar and the second was interior design. Both disciplines were inspired by my parents who brought their love of fine arts from Germany after World War II. When all else was lost, even their religion, the beauty of classical music and the great art masters remained an essential enjoyment when they were alone Canada. While my dad played his Deutsche Gramophone LPs of the great composers, my mother placed in my hands books filled with images of paintings and sculptures. Those images and the evening sounds of big, wide symphonies gave me a profound desire that I could not understand as a child. This yearning for beauty never left and caused a tension I feel to this day. Which art is greater? I have had the opportunity have been employed in both.</i>
<i>Accreditation</i>	<i>National Council for Interior Design Qualification, 1984 Associate of Interior Design, Kwantlen Polytech University, 1984 Third Year, Bachelor of Music, University of British Columbia, 1976 High School Diploma, Lord Tweedsmuir Senior Secondary School 1972 Continuing Educations: Dale Carnegie Public Speaking, BCIT Auto Cad, G4 Guitar Teacher Training</i>
<i>Employment</i>	<i>Long &amp; McQuade, Langley, BC - Guitar and Ukulele teacher 2013 – present Stringz Guitar Studio, Surrey, BC - Proprietor 2002 – 2013 Design Assistance, Surrey BC - Proprietor 1990 – 2013</i>

1988                      *Government of the NWT, Yellowknife, NWT - Facilities Designer 1986 –*  
*Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, NWT, - Mainstreet Coordinator 1988 -*                      1990  
*The Bentall Group, Vancouver, BC - Interior Designer 1984 – 1986*  
*Carillon Music, Coquitlam, BC - Marketing Director 1980 - 1982*  
*RCMP, Langley Detachment, BC - Civilian Officer 1976 – 1980*

*Projects of Note*                      *Lutheran Campus Centre Upgrade, University of British Columbia*  
*Turnkey office space for Peter Cundill Investments, Sunlife Plaza,*                      *Vancouver BC*  
*The Queens Hospitality Suite, Iqaluit, NWT*  
*MSA Ford, Abbotsford, BC*  
*Rauch Residence, Abbotsford, BC*  
*Siemens Residence, West Vancouver, BC*  
*KPU Richmond and Surrey Campuses, - Guitar Clinics*

*Interests*    *Domestic arts, outdoor recreation, group musical performance*

**#43, 6537 – 138<sup>th</sup> Street, Surrey, BC, V3W 0C5**  
**778-835-8863**

**Benjamin R. MacRae**  
Vancouver BC, Canada

Cell-phone: (604) 997 – 1643  
Email: [macraemusicalservices@gmail.com](mailto:macraemusicalservices@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.macraemusicalservices.com](http://www.macraemusicalservices.com)

Vancouver BC-based musician Benjamin MacRae, specializes in traditional and contemporary musics, blending influences from across the world with the Western art music tradition in the service of creating space for encounter with the triune God.

---

#### Current Praxis

Brentwood Presbyterian Church – Music director (2019) & ruling elder (2020)  
(2019 – present)

- Has served as a church music director leading in musical worship since the fall of 2019.
- Lead the formation of the Brentwood Jazz All-Stars (BJAS), an 18-piece jazz orchestra that is a new witnessing community within the missional focus of Brentwood Presbyterian Church (BPC).
- Co-created the Curious About Church Podcast (<https://linktr.ee/BrentwoodPCAdmin>), a podcast that dives into BPC's weekly worship service, the wisdom generated there and spreads it widely through our growing online presence.
- Responsible for BPC's developing online presence, including designing the new website that was launched in October of 2020 ([www.brentwoodpcc.com](http://www.brentwoodpcc.com)), and associated social media accounts.
- Serves as a ruling elder on BPC's Session, and has lead services as a lay-preacher as authorized by the Session.

- Regularly composes worship and reflective music for the various worship services being offered at Brentwood. Most recently this includes the ‘Gospel Roots Suite’ as performed by Ben’s traditional New Orleans jazz ensemble, Grand Slam Jazz Band (GSJB), and the ‘Triunity Suite’, a musical offering to the Triune God as performed in a modern jazz idiom.
- (Pre-pandemic) Is a regular participant in the missional focus of several other congregations, including West Vancouver Presbyterian Church and the Collaborating Churches of New Westminster and Burnaby. As a part of these activities, has lead fundraisers with the BJAS (and other musical groups) for Hummingbird Ministries, has acted as a music teacher for the Christian Urban Camps, and lead Sunday morning worship as a student certified for ministry within The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

“Grand Slam Jazz Band” – Co-leader, vocalist & reeds  
(2019 – present)  
[www.grandslamjazzband.com](http://www.grandslamjazzband.com)

- Established in the Spring of 2019, the Grand Slam Jazz Band (GSJB), focuses on the earliest roots of New Orleans music, including early southern gospel music repertoire and hymns from across the North American protestant tradition.
- Performed and recorded the ‘Gospel Roots Suite’ as composed by Ben MacRae, with the intention to perform this sacred material to secular audiences in the jazz community, across diverse performance spaces including (but not limited too) swing dances, private events, recording sessions, restaurant/bar gigs.

“Brentwood Jazz All-Stars” – Director/conductor, vocals & reeds  
(2019 – present)  
[www.brentwoodjazzallstars.com](http://www.brentwoodjazzallstars.com)

- Formed in the Spring of 2019, the BJAS was developed as a new witnessing community in partnership, and under the patronage of, Brentwood Presbyterian Church. Our missional focus with the BJAS is to provide the space for the ensemble members to experience the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ through practice and preparation of music within a Christian context. This includes music by Christian composers (historical and contemporary, local and global), music with an explicit Christian theme, or interpreting the masterpieces of the jazz tradition with a Christian understanding of the Spirit and ‘invisible church’.
- This praxis, is then shared within the broader community of musicians, and is disseminated further when paired with secular performance settings, including including (but not limited too) swing dances, private events, recording sessions, restaurant/bar gigs.
- In addition to being active in the world of the invisible church, the BJAS (pre-pandemic) offers monthly Big Band Vesper services, which meld this combination of sacred and secular jazz within the setting of a traditional Reformed worship service.

---

### Work History

Brentwood Musicking Lessons – Teacher, owner & operator (2020 – present)

- A. After collaborating with Long & McQuade as an independent music teacher contractor, I decided to leave and form my own music school, based out of BPC, allowing me the freedom to teach each student in a personal, custom fashion. This dynamic is set within a Christian environment, allowing the students to ask questions about the nature of Christ, Christianity and the missional musicking of BPC as the Spirit sees fit to provoke.

The Presbytery of Westminster  
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
April 6, 2021

9172

Brentwood Presbyterian Church – Music director (2019 – present)

**B.** See above.

Massullo Music – Technician’s aid, sales & customer service (2019 – present)

**C.** As an employee of Sandro Massullo at Massullo Music, I have the distinct pleasure of working alongside, and learning from, one of Canada’s premiere instrument repair technicians. In this role, I serve as a technicians aid, helping Sandro on repairs, maintenance and diagnostics, in addition to helping customers with sales, inquiries, quotes and general customer service.

Long & McQuade Lesson Centre (North Vancouver) – Music Teacher/Woodwind specialist (2017 – 2020)

- Woodwind specialist teaching flute, clarinet, oboe, sax & theory/composition
- Taught frequent classes on jazz improvisation for grade school students and adult jazz sessions, as well a summer camp in the style of the Post-Modern Juke Box exposing young musicians to older styles of music

Long & McQuade Lesson Centre (Langley) – Music Teacher/Woodwind specialist  
(2016 – 2017)

Music Schools International Langley Lesson Centre – Music Teacher/Woodwind specialist (2016 – 2017)

Kwantlen Polytechnic University Department – Music Assistant (2016 – 2017)

- Hired as an assistant due to being recognized as a strong student and well rounded musician
- Responsible for filming concerts/recitals and program writing/approval
- Connecting with the public and promoting the KPU Music Department
- Working as an assistant/aide during the annual KPU Woodwind Seminar alongside clarinetists Robert Sheffield and Francois Houle

---

Education

Capilano University (September 2017 – August 2021)

- Completing the “Bachelors of Music in Jazz Studies” with a concentration in jazz performance & composition
- Completed the “Jazz Studies Diploma” program with a focus in performance and composition
- Deans honour roll and/or Merit list recipient for all semesters to date
- A clarinet student under the tutelage of Mike Allen (saxophone) & James Danderfer (clarinet), theory & composition student of Jill Townsend
- Recipient of the 2018 Wendy Yau Sum Cheung music award

Kwantlen Polytechnic University (September 2015 – August 2016)

- Graduate of the “Diploma of Orchestral Performance” program with a focus/specialty area in orchestral performance.
- Studied under clarinetist Bob Sheffield, formerly under clarinetist Francois Houle
- “Dean’s Honour Roll” for outstanding academic achievement for the autumn semester of 2015, and the spring semester of 2016, and the summer semester of 2016

---

Victor Kim



The Presbytery of Westminster  
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
April 6, 2021

9173

Grade 12 Dogwood – Chilliwack Senior Secondary (CSS) (2012 – 2015)

Vancouver Musician's Association 145 Member (2017 – present)

Criminal Record Check (2016 – present)

---

Awards & Recognitions

Wendy Yau Sum Cheung Music Award (2018)

- Awarded to a student in recognition of musical & academic success

Kiwanis Fraser Valley International Music Festival, “Gold Certificate” (April 2017)

- Awarded to pianist Andrea Pedro, soprano Sarah Anderson and myself on clarinet for our outstanding performance of Franz Schubert's Der Hirt auf dem Felsen and Dominick Argento's To be Sung Upon the Water.
- Proceeded on to the BC Provincials & Canadian Nationals where we placed first in Senior Canadian Chamber Music, and Runner-up in the Chamber Music Divisions

KFV International Music Festival, “Outstanding Jazz Instrumentalist (Alto Saxophone)” (2015)

- Awarded to the top jazz performer of the festival each year

MusicFest Canada Nationals, “Honour Award” (2014)

- Given to an individual in an ensemble who demonstrates a high level of leadership, professionalism and musicality

---

Daniel Reynolds  
3518 West 18<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Vancouver, BC, V6S 1B1

**Curriculum Vitae**

**Education:**

Sep 2007-April 2011 McGill University, Schulich School of Music, Bachelor of Music in Performance Jazz Piano - GPA: 3.87 (97%)

Jun 2007 Graduated from Lord Byng High School, Vancouver, BC - Byng Arts Program

**Awards/Scholarships:**

2017 Julian Award of Excellence for Emerging Canadian Jazz Artists. For recording of Prodigal son Suite with jazz quartet

<https://from-day-to-day.bandcamp.com/album/from-day-to-day>

May 2012 Astral-Media Bursary for Young Canadian Artists

Jul 2010 The Hnatyshyn Foundation: Oscar Peterson Grant

---

Victor Kim

The Presbytery of Westminster  
 Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
 April 6, 2021

9174

Jun 2010 McGill University: Schulich Scholarship  
 Mar 2010 Coastal Jazz and Blues Society: Fraser MacPherson Scholarship  
 Jun 2009 McGill University: Schulich Scholarship

**Masterclasses, Workshops, Former Teachers:**

2010-2011 Private Lessons with Chris McCann, McGill University  
 2010-Spring Private Lessons with Chet Doxas, McGill University  
 2007-2009 Private Lessons with Jan Jarczyk, McGill University  
 National Arts Centre, Manhattan on the Rideau Jazz Masterclass Series, Ottawa  
 Sep 2009 with Jason Moran, Manhattan School of Music, New York  
 Mar 2008 with Gary Dial, Manhattan School of Music, New York  
 Feb 2008 with Jason Moran, Manhattan School of Music, New York  
 Nov 2007 with Ted Rosenthal, Manhattan School of Music, New York  
 Jazz Workshop led by Phil Dwyer, Qualicum Beach, BC  
 Aug 2009 with Don Thompson, Michel Donato, Seamus Blake, etc.  
 Aug 2008 with Neil Swainson, Ingrid Jensen, Jon Wikan, etc.  
 Aug 2007 with Darrell Grant, Jim Doxas, Chet Doxas, Jodi Proznick  
 Centrum's Jazz Workshop in Port Townsend, Washington  
 Jul 2005, 2006, 2007 combo instruction with George Cables, Benny Green, Ingrid Jensen.  
 Vancouver Jazz Festival, High School Jazz Intensive Band  
 Jun 2006 & 2007 led by Nicole Mitchell, Visiting Professor, University of Chicago  
 July 2019 Vancouver jazz festival with Eli Davidovici,  
 opened for Louis Cole from LA  
 Fall 2014 Toured across Canada with Calgary singer Ellen  
 Doty (42 shows in 9 weeks)  
 July 2013 - 2018 Various performances in Vancouver, including at the  
 Vancouver Jazz festival with various groups  
 May 2012 Young Artists Showcase, National Arts Centre, Ottawa,  
 April 2012 Hnatyshyn Foundation Private Concert, Pyatt Hall, Vancouver  
 Jun 2011 Efa Etoroma Trio, Montreal Jazz Festival, Nominated for the TD Grand  
 Jazz Award and the Galaxie Rising Star Award  
 May 2011 Kevin Dean Quintet, Upstairs Jazz Club, Montreal  
 Mar 2011 Simon Millerd Quintet, Upstairs Jazz Club, Montreal  
 McGill Jazz Orchestra, directed by Professor Gordon Foote: a variety of  
 performances in Montreal, Toronto and at the Banff Centre  
 Sep 2009 - April 2011

**Teaching:**

2018-present Van tap society (instruction, accompaniment, performances)  
 2013-present VSO school of music  
 Sep 2011-2016 Prussin Music/Tapestry music, piano instruction  
 2009-present Private piano instruction

**Work:**

22013-present Music director for Brentwood church  
 2017-present accompanist for worship services at St. Andrew's Hall  
 2013-present director of jazz concert programming at Roedde House Museum

**Recordings:**

<https://elidavidovicishapes.bandcamp.com>  
 with Eli Davidovici's *Shapes Project*  
<https://mikebjelladanreynolds.bandcamp.com/album/love-songs>  
 with Mike Bjella, *Love Songs*

**Career Comments:**

My B.Mus included performance, lots of recording, a heavy focus on composition and arranging for orchestra, jazz instruments and doubles. I have recently been focusing on learning to record and mix recordings using an audio interface and the software Logic. I was supposed to go to Japan with world renowned tap artist Andrew Nemr from New York to perform a concert remembering the victims of the Tsunami ten years ago. It was cancelled due to COVID 19. I am confident that I am uniquely qualified to collaborate with Brentwood in the fulfilment of this project, and bringing the richness of my art form to the development of a set of Sunday School resources

**Application for Chisholm Fund Grant of \$5,500 in 2021**

**Detailed Description of the Project**

At Brentwood, we have been building significant connections with the arts communities in Greater Vancouver, especially the jazz community. We have come to understand this as missional musicking and the Spirit has generated among and through us good growth in being faithful, wise, and effective ambassadors of God's forgiving and reconciling love in Jesus Christ. The sanctuary space where much of this musicking happens was constructed 65 years ago with superb acoustics. Over the past decade, we have invested over \$100,000 in renovating and equipping that space with instruments, sound equipment, and flexible seating that enhances its use for both worship and performances. We have been given an opportunity to improve this space further through the purchase of a 7'3" Grotrian-Steinweg concert grand piano that one of Vancouver's most respected piano technicians assures us is a very good price for the instrument. It will increase significantly the ways in which the Trinity can use our space of grace to connect composers, arrangers, musicians, technicians, and audiences around the multiple levels at which music, much of it sacred, transforms our lives. The project includes the purchase of the instrument, some regulation of its actions, and the quilting of a dust cover with Indigenous designs by one of our participants.

**Who Else is Contributing?**

The congregation has budgeted \$6,000 from its own funds for this purchase. We have applied to the Synod of British Columbia for a capital grant of another \$6,000. Then we are praying that the Chisholm Fund will grant us the remaining \$5,500.

**Budget & Estimates**

**Budget for the Project**

**Expenses**

Rebuilt 7'3" Grotrian-Steinweg Concert Grand Piano	\$15,000 (Appendix 1)
Replacement of a few parts and adjustments to the actions	\$ 1,500 (Appendix 2)
Covering for the piano (materials & honorarium for local quilter)	\$ 1,000

**TOTAL** **\$17,500**

**Revenues**

Congregational Funding (already in place)	\$ 6,000
Synod Grant (being sought)	\$ 6,000
Chisholm Fund (being sought)	\$ 5,500

**TOTAL** **\$17,500**

Appendix 1

PIANO sale agreement

Jan 1, 2021

For: Brentwood Presbyterian Church  
1600 Delta Ave  
Burnaby, BC  
V5B 3G2

Offer to sell

7'3" Grotien-Steinweg Concert Grand Piano      \$15,000

From:



Miles Black Music  
[www.milesblack.com](http://www.milesblack.com)

The Presbytery of Westminster  
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
April 6, 2021

9178

**Appendix 2**

Paul Woodyard Piano Service  
2273 Hazellynn Place  
North Vancouver, B.C., V7J 2R9.

**March 15, 2021.**

Estimate of improvements for Grotrian Piano, Serial # 97439 for:  
Brentwood Presbyterian Church,  
1600 Delta Avenue,  
Burnaby, B.C., V5B 3G2.

**Attention: Brian Fraser.**

Keyboard, action and tone regulation to maximize evenness and responsiveness of touch and quality of tone.

Includes:

- Keyboard level and dip.
- distance of hammers to strings, let-off, drop screw, back check, repetition spring, correct inadequate after-touch, etc.
- Light filing and voicing of hammers, tuning.

Happy to discuss technical aspects of work; already discussed some with Dan Reynolds.

Estimated time- 2 days @ \$650 per day: \$1300\*\*  
5% gst and 7% pst will be added.

Again happy to answer any questions!

Paul Woodyard.

**Appendix 3**

The following testimonials will give the committee a sense of the growing reputation our little space of grace is acquiring as a special place for musicking.

Testimonials for Brentwood's Missional Musicking

*The Sanctuary at Brentwood has been and continues to be a very special place for jazz musicians to share their music within the hospitable setting of generous spirituality. Jazz Evensong, and many other special events create opportunities for souls to be nourished, and then to flourish, through the wisdom shared from Scripture and the joy shared through many amazing jazz artists. As a jazz musician, every time I have opportunity to play at Brentwood, there is a joyful lift in my soul. Brian Fraser and the congregation have created something unique and hopeful for our city.*

- The Rev Gerry Teichrob, bassist for Quintessential Jazz and founder/director of  
Pathways Forward Transitional Ministry Consulting

*As the number of live jazz venues dwindles in Vancouver, churches like Brentwood Presbyterian who have started jazz vespers programs are becoming important places for jazz lovers and top-quality jazz musicians to connect, with the added boost of a spiritual lift! Brentwood's recent addition of a regular big band vespers is unique and is giving voice to a group of up-and-coming jazz talent. Bravo for this delightful form of community outreach and support for live music!*

- Christian Morrison, musician and manager of the Sister Jazz Orchestra

---

Victor Kim

The Presbytery of Westminster  
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
April 6, 2021

9179

*Brentwood creates a musical and spiritual place that extends far beyond the lower Mainland. As a pastor and musician in Ottawa, Ontario, I've felt encouraged and inspired by their (and Brian's) online presence. I've appreciated the strength of their musical programming, and their commitment to our collective (national/international) jazz-based mission into a deeply coherent life of faith and practice. Brian is an encouraging and wise conversation partner in the broad diversity of this ministry.*

- The Rev Peter Woods, musician and minister with MacKay United Church,  
Ottawa

*At Jazz Evensong held in the Sanctuary at Brentwood, there is a refreshing sense and expectation of spaciousness and rest – it's as if the room itself is alive and breathes and is listening with the audience for each musician's next note. As a musician, it is a privilege to have a venue that acoustically makes us feel connected to the audience and gives the audience a sense that the musicians are sitting in our midst. Music is of the Sacred and, in whatever form it communicates at the Sanctuary, it is quietly reflecting the Creator. Jazz Evensong provides a place for both the audience and the musicians to enjoy the echoes of God's grace together.*

- Ron Kinders, saxophonist, accountant, and coordinator of Brentwood's  
Possibilities Sessions

*In 2009, after a dramatic encounter with Christ, I dedicated my life to the pursuit of his way. At the very beginning of my new life as a Christian, I met Rev Brian Fraser and the congregation at Brentwood. They have been a huge support on my journey. Playing music at Brentwood for the congregation as well as friends and family is a unique experience. It allows me to express the most important factor in my life, Christ, in the most appropriate setting for fellow Christians and non-Christians alike. Thank you, Brian, and thank you, Brentwood!!*

- Adam Cormier, jazz drummer

*Brentwood Presbyterian Church enjoys a growing reputation within the jazz community as a safe place for musicians to collaborate and explore their music from a Christian perspective and then share it with an appreciative audience. The intentionality of bringing one's faith into the centre of the music is no different than the creative process of J.S. Bach, Isaac Watts, or Dave Brubeck. Beautiful and challenging music created by people who know the source seems like a worthwhile endeavour to me and will be a blessing to the musicians and their audience.*

- Peter Prentice, host of the Jazz Spectrum, CJSF 90.1 FM

**Application for a BC Synod Grant of \$6,000 in 2021**

**Purchase of a 7'3" Grotrian-Steinweg Concert Grand Piano (#97439)  
for our Missional Musicking**

**Copy of Congregational Meeting Minutes in Extract Form**

On motion of Rita Long/Ben MacRae, upon review it was agreed that Brentwood Presbyterian Church endorse the application and supporting documents from the congregation to the Presbytery of Westminister, for forwarding to the Synod of British Columbia if approved, in the amount of \$6000 to contribute to the purchase of the 7'3" Grotrian-Steinweg concert grand piano in 2021.

**Presbytery Permission**

[to be provided, hopefully, on Apr 6, 2021]

**Congregation**

Brentwood Presbyterian Church  
1600 Delta Ave  
Burnaby, BC  
[info@brentwoodpcc.com](mailto:info@brentwoodpcc.com)  
604-924-9650  
[www.brentwoodpcc.com](http://www.brentwoodpcc.com)

**Contact Person**

Brian Fraser  
604-924-9650  
[jazzthinkbrian@gmail.com](mailto:jazzthinkbrian@gmail.com)  
Minister

**Presbytery**

Westminster

**Presbytery Clerk**

Victor Kim  
[clerkwestmin@gmail.com](mailto:clerkwestmin@gmail.com)  
604-277-5410

**Name of the Project**

Purchase of a 7'3" Concert Grand Piano for our missional musicking

**Synod Fund to which we are applying**

On the advice from the Clerk of the Synod, we're happy to leave the choice of the fund up to the Executive.

**Amount of the grant being sought**

\$6,000

**Description of the project**

We are seeking Synod support for 1/3 of the cost of purchasing, fine-tuning, and protecting a rebuilt 7'3" Grotrian-Steinweg (read Steinway) concert grand piano to improve the quality of the instruments in our sanctuary that serve for worship services, rehearsing, composing, practicing, concerts, benefits, and teaching. Another 1/3 will come, we pray, from the Chisholm Fund of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the final 1/3 will be provided by the congregation.

---

Victor Kim



The Presbytery of Westminster  
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
April 6, 2021

The instrument is being offered to us by Miles Black, one of Canada's best jazz pianists and a frequent participant in services, concerts, and benefits at Brentwood. Several participants in our missional musicking believe deeply that this instrument would enhance our growing connections in the music communities we have chosen to consider our missional neighbours. We have been blessed with a sanctuary space that has amazing acoustics and is appreciated by musicians from across Canada as a performance space. Over the past 11 years of refocusing and reviving the missional work of Brentwood in North Burnaby, we have invested \$150,000 into the space, including redesigning the front of the church, redecorating, replacing the pews with comfortable chairs, several new instruments, theatre lighting, live stream capabilities, reroofing, and paving the parking lot. Most of that funding has been raised from the congregation and its supporters. This is the first application we have made for Synod funding.

In that space, the Spirit has enabled us to engage in dialogical discernment with many of these musicians into the ways God is working in and through their musicking. Several have moved from curiosity to commitment through these conversations. In 2020, for example, Brentwood received 12 new professing members, 7 of whom connected with us originally through our musical activities.

To give you a sense of we have begun to call of ecology of musical with-ness and witness, here are the activities the better piano will enhance:

- worship services for Brentwood Presbyterian Church and Burnaby Taiwanese Presbyterian Church (2 Sunday services, Jazz Evensong every Wed night, Devotional Jazz on the first Sunday night of most months, and special services throughout the year);
- practices and performances for the Brentwood Jazz All-Stars, our big band directed by one of our music directors, Ben MacRae, who was certified this year to study for ministry;
- practices and performances for an increasing number of musicians from Vancouver and other centres in Canada who perform, record, and live stream in our space;
- mentoring and conversations among 6 musicians in their 50s and 60s who are keen to improve their jazz skills and interested in exploring a different approach to the Christian faith than the conservative evangelicalism and worship music of their current/former congregations;
- serving community organizations dealing with families fleeing from violence, teens considering suicide, residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside who need socks, and church ministries that work on healing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; and
- composing and arranging sacred jazz music such as big band suites based on songs from Fred Rogers' TV program, Dan Reynolds' Prodigal Son Jazz Suite, and Duke Ellington's Sacred Concerts.

We trust this gives the Synod executive as sense of the ecosystem of connection, conversation, and commitment that has been crucial to the revitalizing of Brentwood's health as a communal ambassador of God's forgiving and reconciling love for the whole world (2 Cor 5:19-20), what *Living Faith* identified as the great affirmation of the gospel for Canadian Presbyterians (p3).

**Budget for the Project**

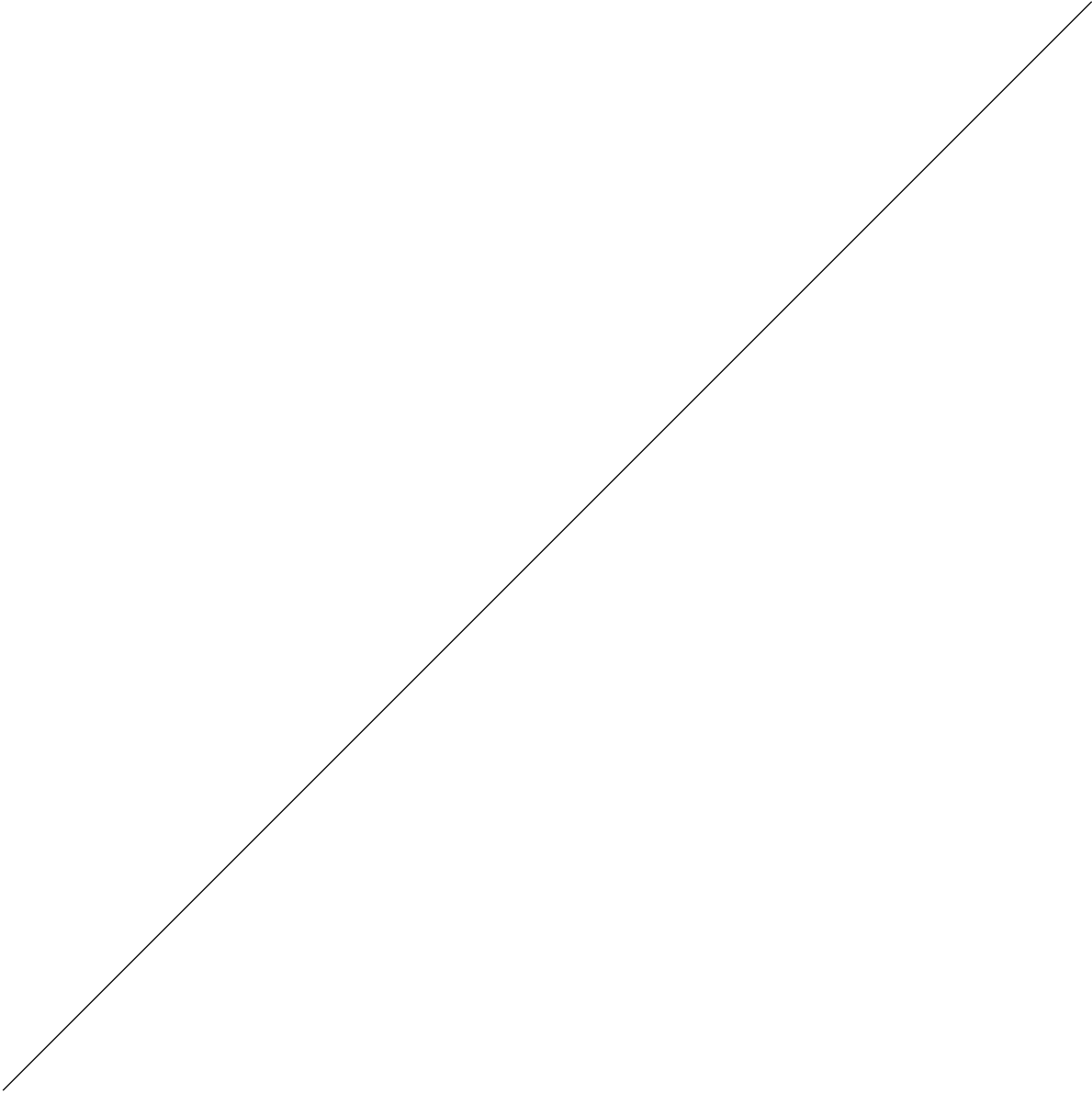
Expenses	
Rebuilt 7'3" Grotrian-Steinweg Concert Grand Piano	\$15,000 (Appendix 1)
Replacement of a few parts and adjustments to the actions	\$ 1,500 (Appendix 2)
Covering for the piano (materials & honorarium for local quilter)	\$ 1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>
Revenues	
Congregational Funding (already in place)	\$ 6,000
Chisholm Fund (being sought)	\$ 5,500
Synod Grant (being sought)	\$ 6,000

The Presbytery of Westminster  
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
April 6, 2021

TOTAL \$17,500

**Annual Reports and Budgets for 2019 and 2020:**

[to be provided with the application]



Appendix 1

PIANO sale agreement

Jan 1, 2021

For: Brentwood Presbyterian Church  
1600 Delta Ave  
Burnaby, BC  
V5B 3G2

Offer to sell

7'3" Grotien-Steinweg Concert Grand Piano      \$15,000

From:



Miles Black Music  
[www.milesblack.com](http://www.milesblack.com)

The Presbytery of Westminster  
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
April 6, 2021

9184

**Appendix 2**

Paul Woodyard Piano Service  
2273 Hazellynn Place  
North Vancouver, B.C., V7J 2R9.

**March 15, 2021.**

Estimate of improvements for Grotrian Piano, Serial # 97439 for:  
Brentwood Presbyterian Church,  
1600 Delta Avenue,  
Burnaby, B.C., V5B 3G2.

**Attention: Brian Fraser.**

Keyboard, action and tone regulation to maximize evenness and responsiveness of touch and quality of tone.

Includes:

- Keyboard level and dip.
- distance of hammers to strings, let-off, drop screw, back check, repetition spring, correct inadequate after-touch, etc.
- Light filing and voicing of hammers, tuning.

Happy to discuss technical aspects of work; already discussed some with Dan Reynolds.

Estimated time- 2 days @ \$650 per day: \$1300\*\*  
5% gst and 7% pst will be added.

Again happy to answer any questions!

Paul Woodyard.

**Appendix 3**

The following testimonials will give the committee a sense of the growing reputation our little space of grace is acquiring as a special place for musicking.

Testimonials for Brentwood's Missional Musicking

*The Sanctuary at Brentwood has been and continues to be a very special place for jazz musicians to share their music within the hospitable setting of generous spirituality. Jazz Evensong, and many other special events create opportunities for souls to be nourished, and then to flourish, through the wisdom shared from Scripture and the joy shared through many amazing jazz artists. As a jazz musician, every time I have opportunity to play at Brentwood, there is a joyful lift in my soul. Brian Fraser and the congregation have created something unique and hopeful for our city.*

- The Rev Gerry Teichrob, bassist for Quintessential Jazz and founder/director of  
Pathways Forward Transitional Ministry Consulting

*As the number of live jazz venues dwindles in Vancouver, churches like Brentwood Presbyterian who have started jazz vespers programs are becoming important places for jazz lovers and top-quality jazz musicians to connect, with the added boost of a spiritual lift! Brentwood's recent addition of a regular big band vespers is unique and is giving voice to a group of up-and-coming jazz talent. Bravo for this delightful form of community outreach and support for live music!*

- Christian Morrison, musician and manager of the Sister Jazz Orchestra

---

Victor Kim

The Presbytery of Westminster  
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
April 6, 2021

9185

*Brentwood creates a musical and spiritual place that extends far beyond the lower Mainland. As a pastor and musician in Ottawa, Ontario, I've felt encouraged and inspired by their (and Brian's) online presence. I've appreciated the strength of their musical programming, and their commitment to our collective (national/international) jazz-based mission into a deeply coherent life of faith and practice. Brian is an encouraging and wise conversation partner in the broad diversity of this ministry.*

- The Rev Peter Woods, musician and minister with MacKay United Church,  
Ottawa

*At Jazz Evensong held in the Sanctuary at Brentwood, there is a refreshing sense and expectation of spaciousness and rest – it's as if the room itself is alive and breathes and is listening with the audience for each musician's next note. As a musician, it is a privilege to have a venue that acoustically makes us feel connected to the audience and gives the audience a sense that the musicians are sitting in our midst. Music is of the Sacred and, in whatever form it communicates at the Sanctuary, it is quietly reflecting the Creator. Jazz Evensong provides a place for both the audience and the musicians to enjoy the echoes of God's grace together.*

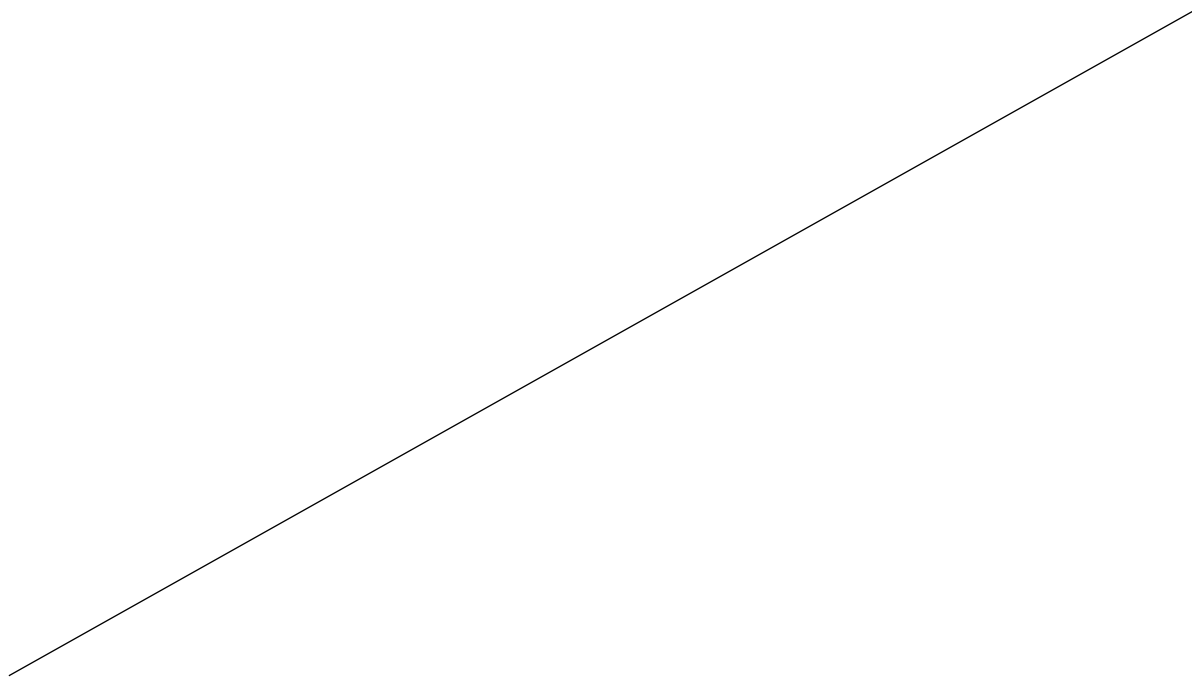
- Ron Kinders, saxophonist, accountant, and coordinator of Brentwood's  
Possibilities Sessions

*In 2009, after a dramatic encounter with Christ, I dedicated my life to the pursuit of his way. At the very beginning of my new life as a Christian, I met Rev Brian Fraser and the congregation at Brentwood. They have been a huge support on my journey. Playing music at Brentwood for the congregation as well as friends and family is a unique experience. It allows me to express the most important factor in my life, Christ, in the most appropriate setting for fellow Christians and non-Christians alike. Thank you, Brian, and thank you, Brentwood!!*

- Adam Cormier, jazz drummer

*Brentwood Presbyterian Church enjoys a growing reputation within the jazz community as a safe place for musicians to collaborate and explore their music from a Christian perspective and then share it with an appreciative audience. The intentionality of bringing one's faith into the centre of the music is no different than the creative process of J.S. Bach, Isaac Watts, or Dave Brubeck. Beautiful and challenging music created by people who know the source seems like a worthwhile endeavour to me and will be a blessing to the musicians and their audience.*

- Peter Prentice, host of the Jazz Spectrum, CJSF 90.1 FM



**Cooke's Church (Toronto) Trust Fund  
Application for a Grant of \$6,000 in 2021 - 2022  
from Brentwood Presbyterian Church  
for Four Gospel with Guitars Workshops/Lessons**

**The Program**

This application is for a grant of \$6,000, to provide a series of four workshops with an hour-long private lesson for six inner city teens, some Indigenous, in each workshop. The workshops will be offered in collaboration with Inner Hope Youth Ministries ([www.innerhope.ca](http://www.innerhope.ca)). Nate Hartley, currently working with Inner Hope and at Fairview Presbyterian Church, is a student for ministry in The Presbyterian Church in Canada study in the joint program at Regent College and Vancouver School of Theology. It was his initiative that got us thinking about this possibility. We have included funding for him to continue to work with these young people, many at risk, from Canada's poorest and most drug-ridden postal code. He will be involved in choosing the songs to learn and support the students as they learn the songs and their meaning.

The learning process is designed for people with little or no background in playing the guitar. It was developed by one of Brentwood's ruling elders, Rita Long, while she was working with Kwantlen Polytechnical University. She has been teaching guitar full-time professionally for 20 years. Brentwood will provide the guitars, the space for the workshops, advice on the choice of gospel songs and spirituals to use in the instruction, and whatever staff support is needed throughout the program.

Rita, Nate, and our minister, Brian Fraser, will be engaged in the conversations that emerge in this form of missional education that welcomes the participants as subjects in their self-composure aligned with the teachings of the apostles – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, and gentleness. In fact, one of the songs that will be used is Brentwood's own song written around those teachings and used every Sunday in our worshiping.

**The Budget**

The budget is as follows for the first year. We would welcome a three-year commitment, conditional, of course, on satisfactory reports on the transforming influence of each year's program:

4 day-long workshops plus a one-on-one hour-long follow-up lesson for each of the 6 participants in each workshop @\$1,000 per workshop/lessons by Rita Long = \$4,000

Guitar maintenance (new strings, repairs, etc) = \$500

Mentoring and support throughout the program by Nate Hartley = \$1500

Mentoring and support from Brentwood's minister = contributed by Brentwood

Space for the program = contributed by Brentwood

**Total for four sessions during 2021-2022 = \$6,000**

If the Cooke's Church (Toronto) Trust Fund is open to the possibility and the program proves faithful, wise, and effective, we would welcome a multi-year commitment of funding.

**The Intention**

The Cooke's Church (Toronto) Trust Fund has provided much needed support for inner city work across Canada for decades now. We trust this project will be seen as a continuation of that contribution through this innovative collaboration.

Brentwood has spent the past decade reviving its health and vitality through making provocative (Heb 10:23-24) connections with Vancouver's musicking community. We have appropriated the idea of "musicking" from Christopher Small's book of that name. As he opens up the dynamics at work in music, he suggests that they form:

... a ritual through which all the participants explore and celebrate the relationships that constitute their social identity.  
(Christopher Small, *Musicking: The Meanings of Performing and Listening*, back cover)

We want to sow seeds that the Spirit can nourish to flourish in the hospitality, hope, and healing that the Creator offers us through the Spirit's witness to the salvation offers in Jesus Christ.

To awaken that possibility in participants in this program, we will choose songs to learn that reflect the great affirmation of the gospel identified in Canadian Presbyterian's contemporary statement of faith, *Living Faith*, one of our subordinate standards. That is identified as God's forgiving and reconciling love for the whole world, as Paul testifies in 2 Cor 5:19-20. We are all ambassadors (*presbēnos*) of that message. We think this program aligns us well with that mission.

With the Indigenous heritage of many of the participants, we will stay alert to ways in which the songs chosen can avoid the misrepresentations of Jesus that we confessed to God and our Indigenous kin in The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Confession of 1994.

The contact person for this grant application is Brian Fraser at [jazzthinkbrian@gmail.com](mailto:jazzthinkbrian@gmail.com) or 604-924-9650. Brentwood Presbyterian Church is at 1600 Delta Ave, Burnaby, BC, V5B 3G2. Our registration # with CRA is 106808363 RR0001.

### The Minute Extract from the Congregational Meeting

Extract from Brentwood Presbyterian Church Special Congregational Meeting on Dec 27, 2020:

On motion of Rita Long/Ben MacRae, upon review it was agreed that Brentwood Presbyterian Church endorse the application and supporting documents from the congregation to the Presbytery of Westminster for approval to apply to the Cooke's Church (Toronto) Trust Fund of the Presbytery of East Toronto for a grant in the amount of \$6000 to offer four Gospel with Guitars workshops/lessons in 2021-2022.

Attested by Pam Wong, Clerk of Session and secretary for the meeting

Dec 31, 2020

### Appendix 1

Here is the CV for Rita Long, who will be providing the teaching in this program.

#### Rita S. Long

*Guitar & Ukulele Instructor*

<i>Career Summary</i>	<i>I have enjoyed two fulfilling careers over a span of 49 years. The first was the study of classical guitar and the second was interior design. Both disciplines were inspired by my parents who brought their love of fine arts from Germany after World War II. When all else was lost, even their religion, the beauty of classical music and the great art masters remained an essential enjoyment when they were alone Canada. While my dad played his Deutsche Gramophone LPs of the great composers, my mother placed in my hands books filled with images of paintings and sculptures. Those images and the evening sounds of big, wide symphonies gave me a profound desire that I could not understand as a child. This yearning for beauty never left and caused a tension I feel to this day. Which art is greater? I have had the opportunity have been employed in both.</i>
<i>Accreditation</i>	<i>National Council for Interior Design Qualification, 1984 Associate of Interior Design, Kwantlen Polytech University, 1984 Third Year, Bachelor of Music, University of British Columbia, 1976 High School Diploma, Lord Tweedsmuir Senior Secondary School 1972 Continuing Educations: Dale Carnegie Public Speaking, BCIT Auto Cad, G4 Guitar Teacher Training</i>
<i>Employment</i>	<i>Long &amp; McQuade, Langley, BC - Guitar and Ukulele teacher 2013 – present Stringz Guitar Studio, Surrey, BC - Proprietor 2002 – 2013 Design Assistance, Surrey BC - Proprietor 1990 – 2013 Government of the NWT, Yellowknife, NWT - Facilities Designer 1986 –</i>

1988

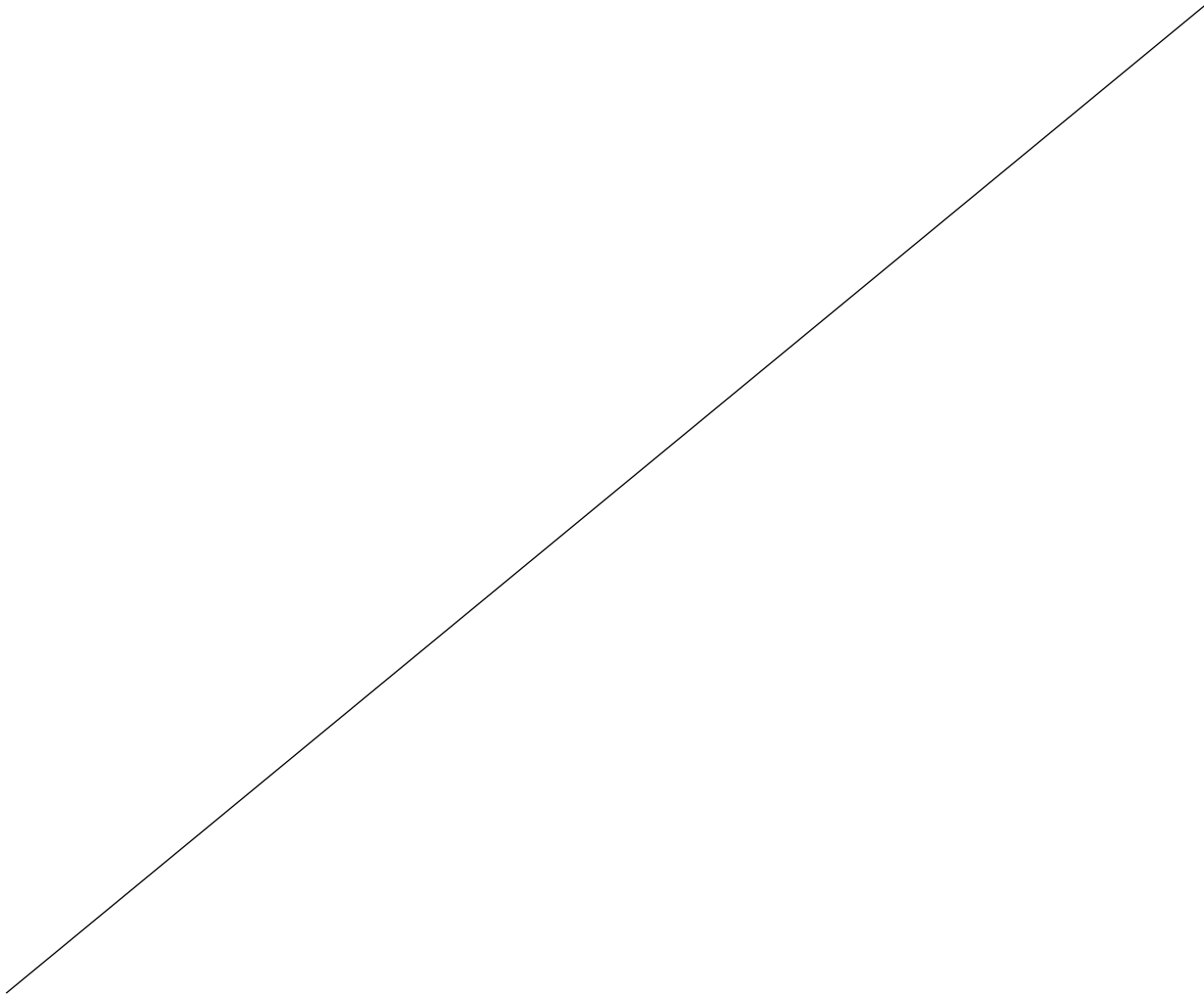
*Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, NWT, - Mainstreet Coordinator* 1988 - 1990  
*The Bentall Group, Vancouver, BC - Interior Designer 1984 – 1986*  
*Carillon Music, Coquitlam, BC - Marketing Director 1980 - 1982*  
*RCMP, Langley Detachment, BC - Civilian Officer 1976 – 1980*

*Projects of Note*

*Lutheran Campus Centre Upgrade, University of British Columbia*  
*Turnkey office space for Peter Cundill Investments, Sunlife Plaza, Vancouver BC*  
*The Queens Hospitality Suite, Iqaluit, NWT*  
*MSA Ford, Abbotsford, BC*  
*Rauch Residence, Abbotsford, BC*  
*Siemens Residence, West Vancouver, BC*  
*KPU Richmond and Surrey Campuses, - Guitar Clinics*

*Interests Domestic arts, outdoor recreation, group musical performance*

**#43, 6537 – 138<sup>th</sup> Street, Surrey, BC, V3W 0C5 778-835-8863**





PRESBYTERIAN INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES (B.C.) LTD.

APPLICATION FORM

Brief Outline:

Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. makes loans and grants to individuals or groups within the Presbyteries of Westminster, Kamloops, Kootenay and Vancouver Island of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for innovative projects and ministries occurring in British Columbia, to support the growth and extension of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

*Send the completed application to: (by November 15th or May 15th)*  
Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd., Suite 2090, Royal Centre,  
1055 West Georgia Street, P.O. Box 11168, Vancouver, BC, V6E 3R5

"An Extract of the Presbytery Minutes (or of the appropriate Agency or Committee of the General Assembly), noting approval, must accompany this Application Form before any consideration of a Project will be given by the Directors".

PROVIDE ANSWERS BELOW AND ON SEPARATE SHEET(S) IF NECESSARY.

Project Applicant:      Individual. \_\_\_\_\_ Group XX\_

(Note: Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. will accept group applications only when a person is clearly identified as being responsible.)

**A.    Background Data:**

In response to the Covid - 19 pandemic, St. Aidan's (New Westminster) began distribution of food hampers to approximately five households in May, 2020. With the support of the City of New Westminster, a grant from Vancouver Foundation, and many business partners, New Westminster Soccer Club, and neighbours who volunteer, this quickly grew to include the Collaborating Churches sites (Knox in New Westminster and Gordon in South Burnaby) as well as Queensborough (New Westminster). We have received \$70,000 from the United Way and the Federal Government of Canada to help in this emergency response effort. As of the time of writing this grant, we have four sites, feeding over 1000 people every Saturday a selection of dry goods and perishables (reclaimed food from 9 local stores) that include meat, dairy, eggs, produce, breads, baked goods. By far, the demand is for meat and produce. We have approximately 100 volunteers engaged in this ministry -- perhaps 5-10% are church members -- and many of our members are in a population especially vulnerable to the Covid-19

- 2 -

virus. The congregations have been inspired and have made friends with the volunteers and community members in the lineup. Those who were on the fringes of our church community are taking leadership roles. The project has also been another point of commonality and growing together for the three churches as they continue to explore amalgamation.

Justin Thurn, a student at VST when the program started, did a summer field placement at St. Aidan's. He helped expand the project and set up processes to track statistics. His background is in permaculture and his particular "call" is to those outside of the church. Many in the food line and community volunteers gravitate towards Justin and his easy manner.

One of the "gaps" in our food sourcing is access to enough produce. The manse beside the church at St. Aidan's was occupied in February 2020 by the minister (Rev. Laurie McKay) and because the church had no access or room to store the food for the program, the manse's basement was transformed into a storehouse. This was thanks to a local construction company donating all the materials and labour. The backyard is a blank slate of questionable grass but a lovely producing apple tree. We pondered, "could we create a garden that would produce food for the food program?" Justin's field placement in his final year fell through because of the pandemic, so he was available to answer the call to develop the backyard with raised garden beds and a food forest. Justin is particularly interested in "Creation Care" and connecting people as earthlings who desire to integrate soil and soul. Another passion for Justin is developing a virtual community. It is hard not to feel God's providence in this combination of Justin's skill, circumstances of a pandemic when everything is virtual, and the food program that is bigger than anything we could have imagined! The continuity of three churches discerning the Spirit together, making an impact through food together, and continuing that trend by budding ministries off together is a blessed happening. The ministry outlined below has begun entering that same cycle of togetherness and reciprocity in hopes of reflecting the way and nature of the Trinity into the world.

1. Date of Application: 31 March, 2021\_\_
2. Name and Address of Applicant or Contact Person:

The Rev. Laurie McKay

St. Aidan's Presbyterian Church

1320 Seventh Ave. New Westminster, BC V3M 2K1

- 3 -

3. Name and Address of Project Administrators:

Justin T. Thurn

115-6040 Iona Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 2E8

John Carr

320-6040 Iona Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 2E8

4. Telephone Number of

- Supervisor: Laurie McKay 604-836-8400

- Project Administrators: Justin Thurn 403-978-8617 | John Carr  
778-558-6120

5. Qualifications of Project Administrators:

Justin:

(a) Educational/Academic:

- Master of Arts in Theological Studies

(b) Special Courses/Training:

- Permaculture Design\_\_\_\_\_

(c) Training Through Employment:

- Production of audio/visual media

John:

(a) Educational/Academic:

- Master's Certificate in Information Technology Management (UCLA)
- Ongoing: combined BA/MDiv program through St. Marks College and VST

(b) Special Courses/Training:

- Certified Alcohol Drug Counselor I (CADC-I)
- Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Microsoft DevOps Engineer (DEE)
- Nano Degree, Full Stack Developer (Udacity)

(c) Training Through Employment:

- 4 -

- Leadership and IT: Twenty-one-year veteran of information technology, including over twelve years dedicated exclusively to the Los Angeles entertainment industry.
- Production/Post-Production and Project Management: launched several personal projects, including award-winning cinematic shorts, social media productions, large-scale events, and seven Emmy winning programs.

6. In the case of a Group Application:

(a) Membership:

\_\_\_\_\_ St. Aidan's Presbyterian Church

(b) Relationship to The Presbyterian Church in Canada:

St. Aidan's is a congregation within the PCC and, together with Gordon and Knox Presbyterian churches in New Westminster and Burnaby, BC, is actively exploring amalgamation. All three congregations are engaged in the Don't Go Hungry ministry and will benefit from the Wild Folk Commons ministry.

7. Name, address, telephone number of 2 references:

(a) A clergy person:

- The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart | 604-349-5179 | 6040 Iona Drive, Vancouver

(b) A lay person:

- DoraLi Harrison | 778-829-8411 | 503 E Pender Street, Vancouver

8. Reporting:

- (a) An Interim Progress Report is required at the end of each year.
- (b) A Final Report and an evaluation of the project shall be submitted within 3 months of completion and this Report shall include a financial accounting.

9. The Directors of Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. may, after consultation with the Project holder, terminate its support of a Project:

- (a) Because of an unreasonable extension of the time factor.
- (b) Because of failure to implement the Project as submitted in this application.

- 5 -

- (c) Because of failure to report as agreed upon in this application.
- (d) Because of the Project taking new directions which appear to be contrary to the declared faith and policies of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**B Project Description and Details:**

**1. Name of Project:**

Wild Folk Commons

**2. Specific Purpose or Goal:**

Develop a hybrid ministry that continues the Presbyterian traditions of engaging people through cutting edge communications technology and their everyday lives to translate the whys and hows of creation care (which includes human beings), empowering people to engage in *basileia/kin-dom* work through the Wild Folk community and the community where they're planted. In short: reconciling soil to soul through cultivation and community.

**3. General Description:**

Taking a hybrid digital (branded as the Journey Society) and in-person (branded Wild Folk Commons) approach, we will use case-specific sites -- beginning with the Don't Go Hungry food forest at St. Aidan's Presbyterian Church -- to discuss the nuts and bolts of *how* to do creation care, as well as the great big questions around *why*. In the digital realm this will take the form of video series that follow the development and functioning of a site, as well as podcasts. The digital realm also provides infinite space and reach for developing community. (For one example see the early days of The Liturgists.)

The in-person portion will involve -- post-pandemic -- people learning on-site through the everyday processes that such an operation demands, as well as specialized, hands-on workshops (e.g. build a self-watering herb garden for your kitchen). Since food growth and sharing is so fundamental to being a human community, we have the ability to pull the in-person portion in whatever direction the local community needs or wants. More emphasis on Earth care? On food security? On togetherness? Perhaps gatherings to harvest and eat? Or maybe just to have a lot of fun? We will endeavour to discern and act out what hospitality looks like in a given place and time.

Another consideration is other churches/organizations. There are already groups interested in what's happening at the St. Aidan's site, and Wild Folk Commons will explore with them how to best serve their communities through creation care and food growth. This would involve designing and installing, as well as equipping people to have the best possible relationship

- 6 -

with the resulting site.

On this "business facing" side we also offer consulting, training, and producing to help existing churches and ministries generate their own digital content and understand how they can engage in the digital sphere themselves. One example of this is the collaborative Lent video and podcast series centered around the Growing Together Churches, which is showing over 2200 organically obtained podcast subscribers in four weeks. The ultimate goal is not to merely go to places we're needed, but have a studio space where ministries can come to record and learn. (One example of this "business facing" side is some of the services provided by Poieo Centre of Arts Ministry.)

#### 4. How will the Project be Carried Out?

Both the digital/Journey Society and in-person/Wild Folk portions have experiments already ongoing. As mentioned above, the digital side has shown success with the Growing Together Church's Lent series. Video production to help promote Don't Go Hungry is in process. The Don't Go Hungry food forest is coming together, as is a video series to show the process and provide theological reflection. The in-person is providing opportunities to the digital, and vice versa.

Wild Folk Commons will continue to engage volunteers from the Don't Go Hungry program to build and plant the garden beds and food forest. Engaging the community in the nuts and bolts of "how to" will expand to include other projects like a self-watering kitchen herb garden, herb spirals and planters for condo dwellers. Inspiring others to grow their own food and donate what they cannot use back into the program will increase care for the community. Specifics depend on what a given community needs and where their interests lie. This same flexible, community-driven approach will spread to other communities as Wild Folk meets (and/or drums up) the interests and needs of other organizations. In any case there's a trinity of effects: creation care, community building, and social impact.

We will further develop our own "shows", such as two podcasts. The first will be focused on creation care, the rough elevator pitch for which is

Wild Folk is an interview format podcast that takes on the juicy questions around what it looks like to be good creatures on this planet. Free of judgment and full of discovery, Wild Folk is nothing but personal, engaging conversations about grief, action, kinship, and life well lived through Earth care and people care. Because we belong to each other.

The second will focus on people who have familiarity, positive or negative, with the Church and Christianity. Its rough pitch:

Nones and Dones is an interview format podcast that explores

- 7 -

the emerging New Reformation of the church in all its forms. Easygoing conversations that cover the lament and laughter that comes with a troubling past, change, and stumbling, Nones and Dones doesn't get mired in the mistakes and "what ifs". Together we'll face the costs of yesterday, the challenges of today, and imagine the church of tomorrow.

There will also be a "Jesus-centric" video yoga series hosted by Vannia Forthsyth, an Anthropology student at UBC, recent graduate of St. Marks College, and certified yoga instructor with the Yoga Alliance.

As noted, other organizations have expressed interest in what we're up to. Brentwood Presbyterian, for instance, has both room to grow food and projects that almost demand a digital presence. There are also leads to mature, much-beloved backyard gardens with elderly owners who can no longer tend to the plants and soil as they once did, but would be overjoyed to have volunteers working with the space. Again, the possibilities here stretch on and on. We will carry forward our foibles and successes to help other ministries create the multimedia and creation care presence they desire. This will be by way of providing services and, more important, equipping people and groups to realize their own creation care visions and digital reach.

5. (a) Who will be Responsible?

While there is overlap in John and Justin's respective skillsets, they have definite specialties. John's training, experience, current path towards M.Div., and extroverted nature make him well suited to connect with other ministries ("business facing"/"B2B"), sussing out their needs and various options to meet them. Justin's introverted nature, affinity for the ecosphere, and calling to serve those on the social and spiritual margins makes him well suited to working with people on production sets and having focus on the "public facing" side in general. In summary, there is overlap, but at the moment John's area is "businessy" and Justin's is "pastory".

(b) Who will do the Work?

There are reasons behind choosing "Commons" as part of the name. One is the collectivity. The very nature of this type of organization calls for collective work. As noted above, John and Justin have distinct, yet overlapping, areas of work. Justin will engage, organize, and facilitate a network of volunteers (already established) and expand that network in the digital and in-person realms. John will develop "show" ideas, interface with other ministries, and provide digital solutions from his formidable toolkit. Vannia, besides the video series noted, will serve a creative/production leadership role with her unique energy and talents.

While we have overall responsibility, we recognize that we cannot, ought not, and desire not to do it alone. We express our gratitude at having the

- 8 -

oversight and support of the Rev. Laurie McKay, who is and will continue to be instrumental in equipping us and liaising with congregations and various levels of PCC bodies. We further recognize the work of various grant funds and their daunting task. We appreciate the opportunity to receive their generosity as our ministry depends on every grant amount to make our budget, and are eager to extend that generosity into the world.

Indeed, many hands make light work. As we've already seen with the Don't Go Hungry food forest, some will come to learn about the nuts and bolts of the work. Others will want to experience the transcendent/divine aspects. Churches and organizations will take -- and have taken -- an interest in participating. Whatever the reason, people will be involved to make things happen and participate in their own transformation by responding to God's agency.

6. (a) How will this Project further the Christian Faith?

We can never give a definitive answer to this without ignoring God's agency. The Spirit will use whatever we do as the Spirit sees fit. And praise be for that.

Regarding what we *can* see and attempt on the in-person side, it's twofold: first, projects and ministries that exist in and for a community tend to guide people to Doug Schaupp's first several thresholds of faith: trust, curiosity, openness. "I see these people doing this thing, and have learned they are trustworthy and authentic. I see these people doing this thing, and I wonder what causes them to be the way they are. I see these people doing this thing, I understand that a fellow called Jesus is the reason, and I wonder what Jesus would do if he got ahold of me."

Second, by exploring and modeling meaningful alternatives to the forces that continuously devalue and devastate the Earth and people's lives we can advance the *basileia/kin-dom* in concrete ways. This, in itself, is faithful and worthwhile. "Our stewardship calls us to explore ways of love and justice in respecting God's creation and in seeking its responsible use for the common good." (Living Faith 2.4.2) Whether everyone who sees it also names it Christian cannot erase the fact that the fruits emerging from the activities are of God, for God, and alongside God. "We hold in reverence the whole creation as the theatre of God's glory and action," (Living Faith 2.1.2) and we are blessed in order to bless others.

On the digital side, we need only to look at the example of Fred Rogers to see the possibilities of understanding and deploying communications technology. Here we will ultimately assist and empower people and ministries to follow the Fred Rogers tradition in their own way ("business facing") and helping people who are already Jesus followers (or dipping their toes) to broaden and deepen their understanding ("public facing"). This is in recognition of the fact that "All Christians are called to participate in the ministry of Christ. As his body on earth we all have gifts to use in the



- 9 -

church and in the world to the glory of Christ, our King and Head." (Living Faith 7.2.1)

The PCC also has a tradition, through "virtual eucharist", of sustaining community by distance and through a digital realm. We see ministries already doing, or discerning, good works. We will help expand those ideas into the digital realm and exist alongside them in that space, equipping God's ambassadors together.

(b) To what aspect of the Church's life does this Project have specific relevance?

God's regenerative, intentional, reconciling grace for the cosmos; "equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ"; and nourishing, supporting, and guiding God's people (Living Faith 7.2.2, 7.2.6)

7. (a) What probable specific achievement(s) do you envision as the result of the Project?

We do not presume achievements, but offer our hopes:

This ministry will enable and host a new community of people -- local and dispersed -- who yearn to see justice and wholeness in their lives, their communities, and their planet; who are engaged to partner with the Creator in advancing and celebrating those things; who are equipped to express and live out their sense of how to follow the Creator's path. Being marked with the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the community will include people who do not "fit" within the established church, but who are inspired by Jesus' words, action, redeeming hope, and call to serving with others in the common good. There will be more aliveness wriggling in the soils, burgeoning in the trees, and dancing in the shoes where the Spirit has worked through us and the creatures we serve. Ministries we serve will have clearer ideas, competencies, and results in their own digital endeavours. Together we will explore and establish new standards and patterns of engagement.

(b) Describe your strategy for making the results of this Project available to the Church.

Given that almost everything will begin or end up in a digital format, distribution to anyone, anywhere is simple. Some examples of where to link to may be direct to individual churches, via Presbytery and PCC websites, and telling the story in the PCC newsletter "Connections".

8. What period of time is required to complete the Project?

The in-person "springboard project" at St. Aidan's will reach maturity in about four years. At that point the perennial plants will be established, and the work required to maintain everything will be on the decline. Between

- 10 -

the first seed going into the ground and maturity there will be opportunities for learning, growing, and forging community with people. Where those go, and how much time is required, is an exciting unknown. We'll see where God takes it.

As with the in-person, the digital has no definite completion date. Year one is acquiring gear/systems and mastering their capabilities through springboard projects. Beyond that is assessing each year what has worked, what has not, and reforming our approach to make it more faithful and impactful.

#### 9. How is the Project to be evaluated?

The digital/Journey Society part has built-in quantitative metrics (subscribers, view count, etc.) It also allows for some qualitative measures, such as people engaging in comments, conversations, and questionnaires.

Each "business facing" ministry/project will have their own public facing metrics. Forming relationships with other ministries and hearing their feedback is the main qualitative measure when evaluating the business facing aspects.

The in-person/Wild Folk portion has some quantitative measures such as how many kilograms of food come out of a given site or how many volunteers engage in a given month, but the key here is the qualitative measures. Are we in partnership with God's redeeming intent for creation, as evidenced by transformations occurring in the ministry and the people whom the ministry serves? Gathering stories of transformation, digital or in-person, will be part of the evaluation.

One example is Mike. Mike tells of coming into contact with St. Aidan's first through the AA meetings held there. When Don't Go Hungry started, he was able to access needed food. Then he began assisting Don't Go Hungry. When it came time to start building the raised beds for food production, he was first in line to put his construction experience to work. If you ask Mike about his time at the intersection of food, creation, and community through Jesus he'll remark, "I love it". He notes that having the food hamper program -- and now the added food production space -- gives him somewhere to be and something to do on a regular basis. "It keeps me sober," he says.

There's no telling how the Spirit will continue moving. As noted above, food is so fundamental to being human that the latitude for transformation is enormous, and when the Spirit is involved the latitude is beyond the scope of human understanding. There's no doubt that there will be others who build stories similar to Mike's.

- 11 -

10. Funds required for the Project: \$177,000  
 Total Amount Requested from all sources: \$177,000  
 Total Amount Requested from PIM: \$72,000

			Date
Payments required:	Initial	\$20,000	ASAP for equipment
	Final	\$52,000	June 2021 -May 2022 for salaries
	Total	\$72,000	

11. For what other funds and to what other organizations have you made application?

- Don't Go Hungry - \$6600 for initial food forest/garden supplies  
 United Way/Federal Government - \$1200 for compensation of Justin's leadership as gardener facilitator from 15 February to 31 March  
 Agriculture Awareness Grant - PENDING - \$6000 (April 1, 2021 - February 2022)  
 New Witnessing Community - Westminster Presbytery - PENDING - \$72,000 (deadline April 15, 2021)  
 Avondbloem Experimental Fund: PENDING - \$8,000 (deadline April 15, 2021)  
 Establishing New Ministries: PENDING - \$10,000 (deadline April 15, 2021)  
 New Westminster Small Community Grants: PENDING - \$1000  
 Total from other organizations - \$104,800

---

What response have you received from those other organizations?

Confirmed \$7800 from Don't Go Hungry and United Way  
 All others are pending.

---

**NOTE:**

A detailed budget of revenue and expenditure is to be submitted with this application.

The applicant hereby applies for the above described grant from Presbyterian Innovative Ministries (B.C.) Ltd. and accepts responsibility for the management of the Project, and for reporting as follows:

Interim Progress Report (Date): May, 2022\_\_\_\_\_

Final Report, with Evaluation May, 2026 to be evaluated annually and Financial Accounting ((Date).

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Project Administrators: \_\_\_\_\_

The Presbytery of Westminster  
 Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
 April 6, 2021

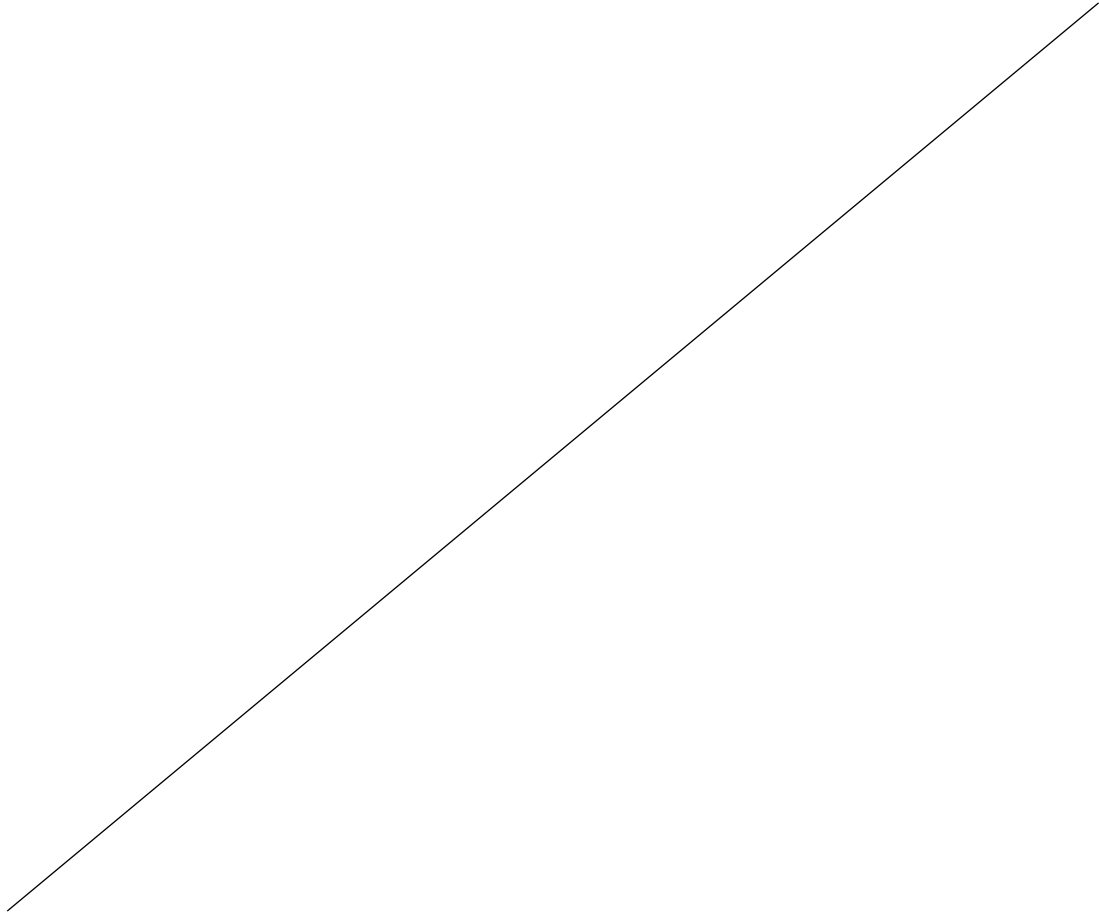
9201

People		Expenses			Pending	Income	
	Justin	Lay missionary with specialized training	83680	(Derived from A&P for 2021 in consultation with treasurer)		PIM Grant	72000
		Garden Facilitator, February & March	1200			New Witnessing Communities Grant	72000
	John	Student	38197	(Derived from A&P for 2021 in consultation with treasurer)		Establishing New Ministries Grant	10000
	Vannia	Stipend	5128			Avondbloem Experimental Fund Grant	8000
<b>Gear</b>						Agricultural Awareness Grant	6000
Costs assume full retail price, including tax, as of	<b>Podcasting</b>	Zoom P4	284			New Westminster Small Community Grants	1000
March, 2021		Heil PR40	452		<b>Received</b>		
		Heil WSPPR40	27			Don't Go Hungry	6600
		Heil PRSM PR40	136			United Way	1200
		Heil PR20-UT	137				
		Heil PL2T	147				
		K&M 23320	67				
		BRTB XLR Cables	42				
		Audio Technica ATH-M30X x2	210				
		Pop Filter	21				
	<b>Filming</b>						
	<b>Audio</b>	Zoom F1-SP x2	714				
		Comica BoomX-U2	331				
		Giant Squid Lav x2	146				
	<b>Video</b>						
	<b>Lenses</b>						
		Panasonic Lumix G X Vario 12-35mm 1/2.8 II x2	2688				
		Helios 44-2	160				
		Jupiter 9	230				
		Nikkor 105 2.5	300				
		Mir 24M	200				
		Mir 11M	90				
	<b>Adapters etc.</b>						
		Viltrox EF-M2 II	263				
		FotodioX Pro	147				
	<b>Camera Bodies</b>						
		Blackmagic Pocket 6K Pro	3696				
		Blackmagic Pocket 4K x2	3843				
	<b>Camera Supports</b>	Benro A1573FS2 x2	609				
	<b>Recording Medium</b>						
		Extreme PRO SDXC U3 UHS-II 64GB	168				
		Extreme microSDXC U3 V30 128GB x2	101				
	<b>Safe Storage/Transport</b>						
		Nanuk 920 Pro	266				
		Nanuk 915	126				
	<b>Technical Infrastructure</b>						
	"Pastor Kits"	M1 Macbook Air x4	1455				
	Editor Kit (Justin)	i7 Intel 16" Macbook Pro	2855				
	Editor Desktop (John)	M1 MacMini	2855				
	Vannia Mobile Kit	iPad Air	895				
		Apple Pencil	190				
	All Kits Bag Budget	\$50 Dollar Max x6	336				
	Pastor Light Kits (Mac)	MUJFA Video Conference Lighting Kit (amazon)	269				
	Edit Control (John)	Loupedeck	283				
	<b>Don't Go Hungry Food Forest</b>						
		Main installation	6600				
		Vermicompost	605				
		Self watering herb bins	500				
<b>Services</b>							
as of		Vimeo Pro (year)	288				

The Presbytery of Westminster  
 Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
 April 6, 2021

9202

March, 2021		Artgrid (year)	622					
		Motion Array	323					
		Project X	520					
		Riverside FM (Pod, Year)	375					
		Castor (V/A Pod Host)	190					
		Shaw 1Gb Internet (year) x2	3226					
		Graphic Design Service (quarter)	1750					
		Frame.IO	406					
		Non-Profit Setup (BC Soc)	1500					
		Adobe CC (via TechSoup)	315					
		MS Office x 5	545					
		Web Hosting	146					
		Musicbed	940					
		The Work of the People	325					
		Admin	5000					
<b>Total</b>			<b>177120</b>		<b>Total</b>		<b>176800</b>	



**Anti-Asian Racial Violence in British Columbia  
and Across Canada**

**Called to speak and act against racism**

In a recent statement from the Vancouver School of Theology we find these words.

*"We are alarmed at anti-Asian violence in communities across Canada and the United States. Created in God's image and actively loved by God, we must respect, welcome, include and love all people without partiality. Racism has no place in our community, and we renounce and turn from it as followers of Jesus and as people who are called to love our neighbours and care for the common good. We know we are not immune to racism."*

Living Faith contains this statement.

*"God's justice is seen when we deal fairly with each other and strive to change customs and practices that oppress and enslave others. Justice involves protecting the rights of others. It protests against everything that destroys human dignity."*

*These faith-based statements are a call to Presbyterians and all Christians to speak and act against racism wherever it rears its head.*

Here we draw the attention of Presbytery to the need for congregations to take action to combat the rising tide of anti-Asian racist hate crimes in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) and across Canada in 2020. (**Note:** *This paper was written prior to the recent wide attention being given to the issue of racism in many forms across Canada but we wish to maintain our focus on the specific Anti-Asian issue while referring presbyters to the Presbyterian Church in Canada's recent statement(s) on the Church and Anti-Racism. See,*

<https://presbyterian.ca/2020/06/02/pcc-anti-racism/>

The recommendations proposed in this CEC report are consistent with that statement by our national church.

In only the first four months of the year the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) reported 20 such hate crimes. On May 22, CBC news reported that the number of anti-Asian hate crimes in the GVRD had risen to 29. In all of 2019, there were 12. Many additional incidents go unreported, according to Carol Liao at the CBC.

This increase of racist incidents is part of a recent trend in Canada. Lee-Young reports that between April 23 and May 18, 2020, an online poll received reports of 128 anti-Asian racist attacks and micro-aggressions across Canada (87% in BC) including verbal harassment, physical attacks, and vandalism. As a result, long time Asian Canadians living in Vancouver "fear going out for dread of being attacked."

These attacks are motivated by the entirely erroneous belief that the COVID19 virus is carried by all Chinese or Asian people. A poll by the Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice found that 14% of respondents in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal either believed this (4%) or were uncertain it was not true (10%). Research has shown most COVID19 infection spread to Canada from the USA.

This "shadow pandemic of anti-Asian racism" is part of a long history of anti-Asian racism that has been endemic in Vancouver since the 19th Century. The "Chinese Head Tax" required Chinese immigrants to pay a huge entry fee when they arrived in Canada that was not applied to European immigrants. Chinese citizens (and all "non-whites") were deprived of the right to vote in 1871 by an act of the BC legislature. In Vancouver, Nanaimo and Kamloops, Chinese residents were confined to ghettos on the outskirts of the towns. In West Vancouver, persons of Chinese and Asian ancestry were forbidden by legal covenant to own property in the British Properties neighbourhood. Even in death, Chinese burials were excluded from "white" cemetery areas. Racism against Chinese immigrants extended to other Asian minorities. At the onset of World War II, Japanese Canadians, two thirds of whom had been born in Canada, were forced into concentration camps in the Interior, and their property was seized, never to be returned.

Presbyterians themselves historically participated in the anti-Asian racism in Vancouver. For example, Vancouver's Anti-Asian riots of 1907 were led by the Anti-Asiatic League, presided over by the Rev. John Fraser, minister of First Presbyterian (now United) Church.

Today, because of peoples' fears about the COVID19 epidemic, "the toxic echoes from the past resonate through the racial slurs of the present," according to Fiona Lam. "People persist in seeing themselves as superior, and others as inferior, based on skin colour and ancestry." Personal responsibility for racist attitudes is deflected by finding scapegoats to blame.

This current trend to demonize Asian Canadians is especially unacceptable because, according to Wikipedia, there are almost as many Asian Canadians (43.9%) as European Canadians (48.6%) comprising the population of the GVRD. This is racism directed by one minority against another. Bowinn Ma, MLA for North Vancouver-Lonsdale, warns that if Vancouverites do not confront these racist acts, it will encourage others to embrace what may have been latent biases "as though they are *righteous*."

Anne Kang, MLA for Burnaby-Deer Lake, and Minister of Citizen's Services, said, "Hatred will thrive whenever we fail to denounce it....Government on our own will not be able to end racism but people standing up together will." Apathy, and turning away, has never alleviated racism. "Purposeful and concerted actions of many people are necessary to change the trajectories of our histories," says Liao, who adds that "the resurgent racism has made my belonging here feel conditional."

John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia, stated recently that "hate has no place in British Columbia." He observes correctly that "We are a strong and vibrant community because of [our] diversity....I'm grateful to see citizens standing up to racism when they see it. We need to do that with increasing regularity."

The CEC recommends that the Presbytery of Westminster stand up against resurgent Canadian racism on behalf of the 43.9% of Vancouver citizens who are Asian Canadians.

**Recommendation 2:**

**That the Presbytery of Westminster condemn all racist attacks - verbal, physical, and acts of vandalism - against Asian-Canadians.**

**Recommendation 3:**

**That the Presbytery of Westminster request that all member churches make this report known to their members by having it read out during services and/or including it in newsletters and other means of communication, and encouraging all Presbyterians to stand against racism wherever and whenever they see it.**

**Recommendation 4:**

**That the Presbytery of Westminster take steps to have this report, and its condemnation of anti-Asian racist acts, communicated to all PCC Presbyteries with the recommendation that they join in the stand against resurgent Canadian racism.**

Bibliography

Carrigg, David. 2020. "Stand up to COVID-related racist attacks, Horgan urges." Vancouver Sun, May 21, A4.

Lam, Fiona Tinwei. 2020. "The 'Shadow Pandemic' of anti-Asian racism." The Tyee (the [tyee.ca/Analysis/2020/05/07/](https://www.tyee.ca/Analysis/2020/05/07/)). Retrieved May 18, 2020.

Lee-Young, Joanne. 2020. "Racist Micro-Aggressions Frustrate Women." Vancouver Sun, June 6, A7.

Liao, Carol. 2020. "COVID-19 has put a harsh spotlight on the anti-Asian racism that has always existed in Canada." CBC ([www.cbc.ca/news/Canada/british-columbia/covid-19](https://www.cbc.ca/news/Canada/british-columbia/covid-19)), May 16. Retrieved May 18, 2020.

Watson, Bridgette. 2020. "B.C. leaders from every level of government condemn rise in anti-Asian racism." CBC ([www.cbc.ca/news/Canada/british-columbia/](https://www.cbc.ca/news/Canada/british-columbia/)), May 13. Retrieved May 18, 2020.

Wikipedia, 2020. "Demographics of Metro Vancouver." Wiki (Demographics-of-Metro-Vancouver). Retrieved May 21, 2020.



**The Vancouver Shepherd's House Society (Urban Inner City Ministry) Project Description**

**1. Amount of request \$3,000.00**

**2. In one or two sentences, describe how the funding is to be used. Be specific.**

The funding from this grant will help purchase food and supplies for a weekly meal for 60-80 of the homeless and poor in greater Surrey, BC.

**3. Briefly describe the history and mandate of your group/project.**

SH has been operating its inner-city ministry since 2010, focusing on caring for the marginalized people of our area by sharing with them the word and grace of God via our meal program. SH also offers our clients clothing, groceries, informal counselling and social-networking opportunities.

**4. Have you, or do you expect to receive financial support from other organizations, specifically for this project? List sources and amounts.**

We expect to receive \$2,000 from the Presbytery of Westminster. Langley Presbyterian Church has included SH in its budget each of the last few years in the amount of \$600 annually. Businesses and churches in the Cloverdale area also help us with financial gifts as well as gifts in kind.

**5. Why does this project matter?**

Statistics show that in the Surrey area there are approximately 600 "homeless" people, including the "Bushmen-homeless", (who live in the forest), "urban-homeless", (who live under the stairs and in garbage bins), and "poor occasional-homeless" who live in other poor peoples' homes when their own social assistance cheques run out. The mission of SH is to serve these people with nutritious meals as well as Gospel food for their souls.

Shepherd's House has been sharing the grace of God by praising the Lord and providing meals for these people in need. The service contains "open" worship components such as prayer, preaching, and fellowship. This project is important because it helps lift people's spirits, both physically and spiritually. The nutritious meal made with all fresh ingredients aids in physical well being, while the worship service provides spiritual sustenance.

Most of our guests that attend the worship service are stricken with drugs and alcohol addiction. They are consumed by these addictions. We are encouraged that when we opened SH, most of the homeless people did not want to listen to God's word. They only wanted the meal that came with it. However, after we showed them His love and kindness, they started to have a change of heart. After many years, our guests now join our worship service full heartedly. They also help our ministry by spreading the word, setting up tables and chairs, and creating a wonderful atmosphere for the worship service.

SH features two groups of people as we prepare the meal and ministry each Friday. One group of volunteers, mostly from surrounding churches, comes to the SH kitchen to prepare the meal, giving them an opportunity to express their faith through serving others. The second group, made up mostly of homeless people, get together to attend our preservice prayer meeting which is led by Rev. DJ Kim. This time is very meaningful for us, helping us understand how we can better minister to their mental, physical, and spiritual state.

## **STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

*The report was presented by Rebecca Simpson, Strategy and Leadership Committee Convener.  
All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Rebecca Simpson, seconded by Martin Baxter.*

### **Strategy and Leadership Committee Presbytery Report - April 6, 2021**

#### **Central PC update**

The Property and Finance subcommittee of the Strategy and Leadership Committee has been very busy since our last presbytery meeting on March 2. In an effort to address Presbytery's January 2021 instructions to investigate how the \$950,000 GST liability of Central Presbyterian Church could be satisfied, upwards of forty hours of work from the P&F convener, Ian Rokeby, and Presbytery Treasurer, Larry Eastwood, has gone into gathering financial information related to Central PC over the last month. As the financial situation of Central became clearer, the problems it now faces are more dire than originally understood. P&F prepared a report to Central PC outlining the basis for the financial emergency and with recommendations how to limit the material damage and risks.

SLC received a fulsome draft of that report from P&F on the financial situation at Central PC on March 30, 2021. It was agreed by SLC that the report will be shared first with the Session of Central PC at their April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and then afterward with the Presbytery of Westminster. Key to this report is the realization that the GST loan needed is far from Central PC's main concern, as significant as it is. There is a significant lack of adequate funds available for even the basic needs of the congregation as it is now operated without minister or material programming.

Some important aspects of the financial report to note at this time:

- a 2021 balanced budget will not allow for ministerial stipend and related expenses
- a 2021 balanced budget will not supply enough resource to support worship expenses
- a 2021 balanced budget will not provide any funds required for its contractual building capital costs reserve over the next 40 years (which SLC reported to Presbytery in April 2020 to be approximately \$48 million for the congregation, housing society and retail space)
- a 2021 balanced budget requires deep cuts to any existing ministry and program of Central PC
- a 2021 balanced budget does not pay any of the GST owing or any principal for a potential loan (only the interest)
- Seeking to call a new minister to lead Central PC is not financially viable at this time or for the next four years (minimum)

All of this calls into question how a budget of this nature can in fact be considered a church budget? Without adequate support for ministry and worship, this budget can only be seen as a crisis response with the goal of retaining ownership of the building in the short term. To what end? For a healthy congregation, a balanced budget provides the resources for ministry and long-term financial sustainability. For CPC, a balanced budget is a budget that prioritizes the building at the expense of almost any ministry. This is not in keeping with the strategic goals of the Presbytery of Westminster.

It is yet to be determined what recommendation SLC will be able to bring before presbytery regarding Central's request for help with their outstanding GST bill. Along with P&F, the SLC has urgent concerns about the leadership, governance, and financial accountability of Central PC, well beyond the presenting issue of the GST owing.

The full financial analysis will be made available to the Presbytery of Westminster at the May presbytery meeting, after Central's next Session meeting and Annual Community Meeting (April 17, 2021). Please hold all involved with Central PC in prayer as difficult decisions are made in the coming weeks.

### **New Witnessing Communities**

Two applications to the New Witnessing Communities funding have been received. Dale Woods is working with the applicants to clarify their requests and purposes. It is hoped that these applications will come before the SLC in April with presbytery recommendations to follow.

### **Presbyter for Mission and Vision update**

Dale Woods, PMV, has been working on the following over the last month:

- Completed the workshop with Dr. David Daubert on Hybrid Churches
- Next learning event is April 17 with Dr. Ross Lockhart and Dr. Jason Byassee
- Continuing work with the "Growing Together" churches regarding the potential for amalgamation
- Working with Camp Douglas on reviewing and revisioning its ministry
- Working with Hummingbird Ministries in April to review their mission
- Working with those individuals making applications to the New Witnessing Communities
- Transforming Congregations document for the May Presbytery meeting
- Will be exploring leadership development with a pilot program for equipping faith leaders through The Center for Emotional Intelligence and Human Relation Skills with 4 ministers from the presbytery
- Continues to hold the Coffee and Conversation events for the presbytery
- Working on two more video presentations for use by sessions/congregations
- Will be working toward an equipping program for elders

### **Property & Finance Sub-committee re: Brentwood request**

Brentwood PC is requesting to spend \$20,000 on the next phase of study required for their possible building project. Brentwood PC currently takes \$20,000 from their endowment fund each year for the stated supply minister's housing allowance and other congregational expenses. This new request is for a one-time additional \$20,000 withdrawal from the endowment fund. Thus they would withdraw \$40,000 against the realized gain of the fund, which was slightly more than \$40,000 in 2020.

**Recommendation 1:** Because the Brentwood PC endowment fund generated an actual total net gain of more than \$40,000 in 2020, Property and Finance Subcommittee recommends approval of withdrawal of funds for the building project study as requested to a limit of \$20,000. **CARRIED**

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Rebecca Simpson*  
*Convener, Strategy and Leadership Committee*

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

*The report was presented Victor Kim, Administrative Committee Convener for information only.*

### **Administrative Committee Report – April 6, 2021**

In response to requests around elder training, both for presbyters, but more widely among those in congregations, the Administrative Committee will work to offer workshops for elders in our congregations on a number of different topics, including grants that are available to congregations. We will try to engage with resources from the national church around some of these areas.

A tentative date for the Induction Service for Rev. Richard Watson at Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church has been set for May 16. Richard has been working at Kerrisdale for over a year but his induction was postponed until a time when the pandemic restrictions could be lessened to allow more participation. This may not be likely anytime soon for in-person worship services. Once the date and time have been confirmed, invitations to the service (most likely via zoom) will be sent.

The Administrative Committee was given power to issue regarding the naming of a Young Adult Representative to General Assembly this year. The Committee named Petri Du Toit, a young adult from Haney Presbyterian Church to be our YAR this year. Petri is currently a student at University of Alberta but taking courses from home due to the pandemic. He has been actively involved in the work and witness of Haney Church and comes with strong support from their Session and minister.

The Committee received correspondence through the Clerk from The Rev. Dr. Richard Topping and the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart in their respective roles as Principal of Vancouver School of Theology and Dean of St. Andrew's Hall. The correspondence is their report to the General Assembly and has been shared with the presbytery. The Committee felt that while both VST and SAH are not under the accountability of the presbytery, faculty and leadership at the schools include members of presbytery and there is a strong relationship with both VST and SAH that should be recognized and celebrated. The full report will be printed in the minutes of presbytery and a time for questions and discussion will be added to this meeting's agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

*Victor Kim*  
Clerk

---

Victor Kim

**REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM ST. ANDREW'S HALL/VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

*The report is included for information only.*

*Ross Lockhart and Richard Topping spoke and updated the court on the history and new events happening in their expected facilities.*

**UPDATES ON ST ANDREW'S HALL/VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY 2020-2021**

**THE BOARD OF ST. ANDREW'S HALL**

**REPORT SUMMARY**

St. Andrew's Hall, one of three theological colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, has responded well during this challenging time of pandemic, working closing with its partner institution Vancouver School of Theology. Our investment in online, distance education pedagogy and technology over many years enabled the Hall and VST to pivot easily to the restrictions of pandemic impacted study. Since the rise of the 145<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, there have been three significant changes in personnel. The Rev. Dr. Robert (Bob) Paul retired as Dean on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020; The Rev. Dr. Ross A. Lockhart took up the post of Acting Dean July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020; and The Rev. Rebecca Simpson was appointed Presbyterian Director of Formation on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. St. Andrew's Hall is grateful to God for a steady increase in enrollment in theological education, continued development and thriving of The Centre for Missional Leadership, as well as the safety and well-being of our faculty, staff, students and residents throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

St. Andrew's Hall is located at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Established in 1955, St. Andrew's Hall exercises its provincial charter to teach theology through a partnership with the Vancouver School of Theology. The college is governed by a Board of Management comprised of individuals appointed by the General Assembly, with ex-officio members representing the Vancouver School of Theology. The Board of Management utilizes a shared governance approach, which recognizes that multiple groups within the institution participate in decision-making, such as faculty and staff. Specific groups are responsible for primary decision-making in clearly defined areas. Day-to-day operations of the institution are the responsibility of the Dean and executive staff. The Board functions primarily at the policy level to provide vision and oversight to the management staff, assures that the terms of the college's partnership agreements are fulfilled and exercises legal fiduciary responsibility for the financial and real assets of the college. In February 2021, the Board adopted a new five-year strategic framework that includes the vision that "St. Andrew's Hall is called to discern and equip the future church that God is bringing" as well as the mission statement, "St. Andrew's Hall educates and equips missional leaders through teaching, hospitality and witness for Christ's church of tomorrow, today."

The programs and activities of the college are strongly aligned with the fourteen major goals articulated in the strategic vision of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

The primary mission of St. Andrew's Hall is to educate and form leaders for The Presbyterian Church in Canada and for the worldwide church. We fulfill this mission through a partnership with the Vancouver School of Theology, which is governed by a formal agreement between St. Andrew's Hall, the Vancouver School of Theology and The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, Acting Dean of St. Andrew's Hall, serves as Professor of Mission Studies and teaches in the area of Practical Theology. In the autumn of 2020, the Board conducted a Search for a new Presbyterian

Director of Denominational Formation left vacant when Dr. Lockhart assumed the role of Acting Dean. The Rev. Rebecca Simpson was selected through a process of application and interview and took up her part-time role on January 1, 2021. The Rev. Dr. Richard Topping, Principal of the Vancouver School of Theology, is the St. Andrew's Hall Professor of Studies in the Reformed Tradition. St. Andrew's Hall strongly supports the core mission of the Vancouver School of Theology, which is to prepare thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders for effective service in churches and ministries in Canada and beyond.

Students may qualify for ordination in The Presbyterian Church in Canada by earning an M.Div. from the Vancouver School of Theology or with an M.Div. from Regent College that includes specified courses from Presbyterian faculty members of the Vancouver School of Theology. Other students transferring into The Presbyterian Church in Canada may qualify for ordination by taking courses stipulated by the Education and Reception Committee through St. Andrew's Hall and the Vancouver School of Theology.

Thirty-nine Presbyterian students were registered with St. Andrew's Hall in the fall of 2019 for studies at the Vancouver School of Theology or through Regent College.

As determined by the vision and mission statements developed by the board, St. Andrew's Hall focuses especially on developing missional leaders. Through the Centre for Missional Leadership, St. Andrew's Hall provides informal education and equipping to congregational leaders, church planters and missional practitioners in The Presbyterian Church in Canada and other denominations in and beyond Canada.

#### **CENTRE FOR MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP**

The Centre for Missional Leadership was established in 2015 to equip teaching and ruling elders to lead witnessing communities whose missionary disciples bless and mend God's world. The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart was the founding Director and now has oversight as Acting Dean. Ms. Andrea Perrett serves as Associate in New Witnessing Communities and as Director of Cyclical Vancouver. She is currently on maternity leave and Rev. Lydia Bae is leading Cyclical Vancouver until January 2022. Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau serves as CML Associate leading our Missional Certificate Program. Rev. Dr. Darrell Guder serves as Senior Fellow to the Centre for Missional Leadership providing vision and guidance. Our aspiration is to enable the flourishing of Christian communities equipped for effective witness in the world.

The program of the Centre for Missional Leadership supports congregations through preaching and the resourcing of Sessions, developing academic courses and hosting conferences and seminars focused on subjects such as church planting, evangelism, catechesis, new monasticism, creative methods of outreach and forming missional leadership within congregations. This past year we launched a new Missional Certificate Program under the direction of Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau, who pastored the highly missional Grandview Church in east Vancouver for three decades with a strong focus on evangelism and justice. Meeting monthly online, we have individuals and congregations coast-to-coast being equipped for missional practice. The Centre for Missional Leadership has also been hosting monthly "Pastoral Leader Zoom calls" since the beginning of the pandemic, providing space for Teaching and Ruling elders to receive care and equipping for mission in these challenging times. The Centre for Missional Leadership also supports the work of Cyclical PCC, a church-planting initiative within The Presbyterian Church in Canada, by providing leadership and hosting assessment sessions for candidates exploring church-planting, as well as establishing and funding Cyclical Vancouver. As a result of these programs, numerous congregations are exploring what it means to participate in the *Missio Dei* (mission of God) in the midst of our secular, post-Christendom culture. We are keen to share what God is revealing to us and we welcome guest-preaching and teaching opportunities. The Centre for Missional Leadership also published two new books – *Better Than Brunch: Missional Churches in Cascadia* (2020) and *Christian Witness in Post-Christian Soil* (2021), both are available from Cascade Books.

### **QUALITY ACCOMMODATIONS AND HOSPITALITY**

St. Andrew's Hall operates a residential facility for students studying full-time at the University of British Columbia or at one of its associated theological colleges. During the summer season, rooms are available on a short-term basis to all people. This facility is a vital source of revenue to the college and a venue for Christian witness and worship in the midst of the international, secular, multi-faith, youthful population that lives and works in the area of the university.

Our ministry of hospitality and witness is made possible by the efforts of a dedicated team. Acting Dean Ross Lockhart serves as administrative head of the college and residential hall. He is ably supported by Ms. Mavis Ho as Executive Assistant and the Rev. Sumarme Goble as Chaplain. Residential hall operations are led by Ms. Mihye Park, Housing Manager, Ms. Valerie Kerekes, Finance Manager and Mr. Christopher Orr, Facilities Manager. They are assisted by Ms. Shiraz Dhillon in the housing office, Ms. Amy Lin in bookkeeping and Mr. Ram Kishore as Custodian. Ms. Silva Kraal, and Ms. Yanfen An live in the residence hall and provide frontline services to fellow residents as Community Coordinators.

Weekly worship services in the Reformed tradition are held in the St. Andrew's Hall chapel throughout the academic year, with services held online since March 2020. In a non-pandemic time, the chapel is also home to a Korean language worship gathering for students on Thursday evenings, Wednesday evening soup night for residents, an Alcoholics Anonymous group on Saturday nights as well as regular seminars and events sponsored by the Centre for Missional Leadership. In addition, special events are held throughout the year to foster community among our residents, to celebrate major Christian holidays and to share the gospel through small group discussions and Bible studies. We are committed to enacting the missional theology that we teach with all the resources at our disposal.

### **FINANCES**

The Board of St. Andrew's Hall is grateful for the resources God has entrusted to us to prepare leaders for a church that serves the world God loves, including an annual grant from Presbyterians Sharing, which in 2019 represented 4.3% of our budget. We also received a significant estate gift in 2020, dedicated to the education and preparation of Presbyterian ministers and leaders. This gift will support student bursaries and scholarships, the Centre for Missional Leadership, library resources and recruitment efforts.

Financial statements of the college are independently audited on an annual basis. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we are pleased to report that an operating surplus was realized in 2020. The Board is committed to utilizing our resources to enhance the sustainability and impact of our educational mission by ensuring the preservation of capital assets through strategic investments in program growth.

The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart  
Dean

**VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

2020/2021

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Vancouver School of Theology adapted well to the move of all our programs and operations online due to public health protocols. VST's investment in online learning facilitated this transition. Further investments in electronic resources, software systems for the library and student records support are crucial to our model of hybrid learning. The Presbyterian Church is well represented on our board and faculty, and among our sessional lecturers, staff and student body. We welcomed the Rev. Rebecca Simpson to the VST faculty, and The Rev. Dr Pat Dutcher-Walls has retired. Prof. Mari Joerstad will begin as our new Dean July 1, 2021. The faculty of VST is prolific in its publications with over 10 books, and numerous articles, in the past year. Lecturers of international repute have visited the school in person and online. VST's summer school features Prof. Miroslav Volf, of Yale Divinity School, and our double virtual convocation (classes of 2020-2021) will see over 60 graduates, with Prof. Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger, of Princeton Seminary, as the speaker. VST is expanding its classroom space and renovating its facilities to accommodate the unprecedented growth in the student body. The Rev. Curtis Bablitz is the winner of the 2021 VST TEG (thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leader) Award.

**THOUGHTFUL, ENGAGED AND GENEROUS CHRISTIAN LEADERS**

In 2021, we not only taught adaptive leadership, we lived it out. The faculty, students, staff, Board and administration of the school showed resilience, kindness, trust in God and a degree of mutual support that bears witness to the gospel. Our hybrid delivery enabled us to move all our classes online with the help of a wonderful IT department, and to teach students on five continents who registered for courses and programs. Auditors of our courses significantly increased and the training of our faculty for online instruction was a providential blessing. Zoom and Canvas, while not without limitations, are essential and flexible enough to provide engaging online learning. In January of 2020, VST was acknowledged by *In Trust* Magazine (for theological schools across North America) as one of six – and the only Canadian – schools that have undergone significant transformative change. "Recognizing they could no longer maintain the status quo in this radically changed environment, six theological schools took bold, drastic action."

VST is called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders for the church and the world. Our graduates are thoughtful people, reflective about how to interact with the large issues of our time out of the deep resources of faith. We don't rush to thin relevance but linger with scripture, tradition, scholarship and conversation with Indigenous neighbours and people of other faith traditions. Our students are engaged, willing to get involved in the world, not just waiting for the next one. Our theological ethos is designed to nurture practitioners who are making a difference for God and the gospel. We are convinced that the Risen Christ is always already involved in the world (we're missional); we discern that movement and respond to grace wherever we find it – and it is surprising where it is found. Our graduates are generous, inclusive people, able to find friends with whom to collaborate for the love of God and the good of the world. We go deep with God in Christ and so wide with the world God loves.

**FACULTY/PRESBYTERIAN FACULTY**

Our Presbyterian faculty consists of the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping, Principal, and St Andrew's Hall Professor of Studies in the Reformed Tradition; the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, Dean of St Andrew's Hall; and the Rev. Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls, Academic Dean of VST. Prof. Dutcher-Walls will officially retire June 30, 2021. We are so very grateful for Pat's insightful, diligent and careful work on behalf of our school. She will continue to work with us in



preparation for our ATS accreditation visit in 2023. We are grateful for the appointment of The Rev. Rebecca Simpson, as Director of Denominational Formation for our Presbyterian students.

The faculty have completed a volume together entitled *Theological Studies: A Thoughtful, Engaged and Generous Approach*. It will be published in 2021 as part of the 50th anniversary of VST and is edited by Harry Maier, Richard Topping and Ashley Moyse. Our faculty continues to be prolific in research and publication. In the fall of 2020, at least five new books for publication were in the works by various members of the faculty. In 2021 more than 10 new volumes have appeared, either edited by or written by our faculty. The faculty continue to deliver important scholarship in a number of registers for the upbuilding of the church. A new Dean, Dr. Mari Joerstad, from the Kenan Institute at Duke University and who is a Hebrew Bible scholar, will begin her employment with VST beginning July 1, 2021.

### **VST BOARD/EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Michael Francis is the insightful and cheerful chair of the Board at VST. We are so blessed by his work. The Board meets four times a year, and has representatives from the Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches, as well as the community at large. We follow a policy governance model. The Rev. Victor Kim, a Presbyterian, sits on the Board as a member at large. Mr. Iain Black, President and CEO of Maximizer CRM, is our Chancellor. The Dean of

St Andrew's Hall (SAH), the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, and a member of the SAH Board and the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, also sit on the VST Board. We launched our new brand and website in 2021 this year, a new Student Information System and OpenAthens software for easy use of online resources through our growing collection of electronic resources.

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

VST thrives because of its partnerships. We are a theological school preparing students for Christian leadership in the Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches. In addition to these core partnerships, we work with the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia, Huron College at the University of Western Ontario, St Mark's College at UBC, and Durham University, United Kingdom, to deliver our degree programs from the B.A. to Ph.D. levels. In late 2020, we signed agreements for faculty and student exchange and course sharing with St Andrew's, Quezon City, Philippines, and Jakarta Theological Seminary, Indonesia. These partnerships encourage us to engage in theological education that, while geared to the Canadian context, is global in its sensibilities.

### **GRANTS/FINANCES/FOUNDATION**

Vancouver School of Theology has achieved a balanced budget for the sixth year in a row with growth in programs and while also building a reserve for capital purchases and maintenance. This has been possible through the prudent financial management of our Vice-Principal and CFO, Ms. Shari Coltart, the excellent leadership of our Audit and Finance Committee and the Foundation Board, chaired by the Venerable Ronald Harrison. The Foundation provides an important and generous revenue stream for the operations of the school.

VST has completed the expenditure of the \$400,000 Luce Grant for Indigenous Ministry through the Teaching House That Moves Around, led by The Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred. In the last year of the program, eight communities with 151 participants were engaged in Indigenous communities in Canada and the United States. A three-year grant from the United Church of Canada totaling \$225,000 will enable this work to continue in the Northwest communities within the Province of British Columbia. This ministry will take theological education to Indigenous

communities in Northern British Columbia using indigenous methods and instructors and is one way that we are following up on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

In addition, significant gifts were received at VST to support ongoing and new programs. Our Sauder School of Business program, where students learn the essentials of administrative and managerial excellence, will be completely endowed through a major donation of 1 million dollars, half of which we have already received. We received donations of almost \$70,000 to support the program in the meanwhile. We have also received significant gifts for student recruitment in Asia (\$30,000) and a recent grant of \$250,000 toward promoting congregational flourishing. We have hired a Director to lead our new project for Congregational Flourishing through Community Engagement, Mr. Chris Pullenayegem, who began January 1, 2021. A very generous gift (\$4M) to St Andrew's Hall was received through a bequest to be used at the Principal's discretion. This gift will support student bursaries and scholarships, the Centre for Missional Leadership, library resources and recruitment efforts.

VST is constructing larger classroom spaces and renewing Epiphany Chapel to accommodate the growth of the student body and to keep our buildings and technology ready to support theological education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Not all the school's strategic initiatives are fully funded, and we welcome support.

#### **ACADEMIC ENROLLMENT**

The headcount for spring 2021 is 243. This represents an increase of 47% over 2018. The number of course registrations in the spring of 2021 is 445, an increase of 41% over spring 2018 (and an increase of 11% over spring 2020). The number of full-time students in the fall of 2020 was 89, in the spring of 2021 it is 106 (an increase of 17%).

The Anglican Church of Canada has the largest cohort at 60 students, United Church the second at 55 students and Presbyterians/International Reformed is third at 45. We have a significant number of United Church of Christ students (12) and a growing number of students from other Christian churches (57). For the fall of 2020, we had the largest number of applications, acceptances and incoming class members in the history of the school. Over 60 students began their programs, including two more doctoral students in the Durham Ph.D. program and two students from our joint BA program at St. Mark's have now begun their M.Div. programs at VST. Our Explorers Weekend, under the direction of the Rev. Julie Lees, continues to build our domestic applications both when done in person and online. VST Sunday saw members of the VST community preaching, leading and speaking at almost 50 churches across the country in 2020 in person and in 2021 online. We are grateful to our partner churches who welcomed this effort.

#### **SPECIAL LECTURES**

Vancouver School of Theology has welcomed a series of world-class lecturers and church leaders to special lecture series at our school in the service of our mission. In the past two academic years, we welcomed Prof. Norman Wirzba of Duke Divinity School, Prof. Candida Moss, University of Birmingham, Prof. Tony Campolo, Prof. Katherine Sonderegger, Virginia Theological Seminary, Artist Dr. James He Qi, Rabbi Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University, and in the summer of 2021, Prof. Miroslav Volf, who will teach in our summer school which takes place July 5-16 and includes outstanding opportunities to learn. <https://vst.edu/vst-summer-school/>. The G. Peter Kaye Lecture with Prof. Amy-Jill Levine, held online, had 1024 people in attendance and is the most well-attended lecture we have ever had.

VST will host Religion & Thoughtful Activism Online Academic & Community Conference on May 25th to 27th, 2021. This program is offered through our Interreligious Studies program and will feature Ms. Shachi Kurl, President, Angus Reid Institute, Roots Palestinian-Israeli Network. <https://vst.edu/inter-religious-studies-program/conference/>. The Indigenous Studies Program Summer School takes place online July 12th to July 23rd, 2021. This is an opportunity for students who are often isolated from one another to gather, learn, and worship together. Ceremony and Sacrament will be taught by Mr. Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of the Circle, Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. <https://vst.edu/isp-summer-school/>

### **CONVOCATION 2020/2021**

On May 11, we confer degrees and certificates over 60 graduates in our online convocation for the classes of 2020 and 2021. Twelve students will receive the certificate in Leadership Excellence from the Sauder School of Business. We will also present the Principal's Thoughtful, Engaged and Generous Leader Award to Archdeacon Clara Plamondon and The Rev. Curtis Bablitz, Presbyterian, who exemplify the leadership we aspire to encourage. This award is made to clergy in the first ten years of ministry. We will award four honorary doctorates – to Prof. Santa Ono, President of UBC; Rabbi Marcia Prager, Director and Dean of Aleph Ordination Programs, the Rev. Doug Goodwin, former General Secretary of British Columbia Conference and Regional Executive Minister for the United Church and to Mr. Rupert Lang, Organist and Director of Music, Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. Our convocation speaker is Prof. Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger, author of *Bearing the Unbearable: Trauma, Gospel and Pastoral Care*, Academy of Parish Clergy Book of the Year, 2015. She will conduct an online workshop entitled "Keeping an Open Heart in Troubled Times" on May 12. This day after graduation event is part of our ongoing project for revitalization and is funded through the Hugh and Helen Mogensen Fund.

Richard R. Topping  
Principal

### **MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT**

*The report was presented Paddy Eastwood, Ministry Committee Convener.*

*All motions, unless otherwise noted, were moved by Paddy Eastwood, seconded by Mike Zaine.*

**Ministry Committee Report to Presbytery**

**April 6, 2021**

### **Ministry with Ministers Task Force**

#### ***Growing Together Churches Interim Moderator***

The potential amalgamation of the Growing Together Churches is a new process for our Presbytery. Earlier in the process, the Presbytery covered the consulting fees involved using the Regional Resource Grants. Now that an Interim Moderator has been appointed, the Growing Together Churches have requested that the Presbytery cover the honoraria for the Interim Moderator.

**Recommendation 1:** that the Presbytery cover the honoraria for the Interim Moderator for the Growing Together Churches according to the Presbytery's current guidelines for Interim Moderators, up to two meetings per month.

No doubt our Presbytery will learn from the experience of the Growing Together Churches. The Ministry Committee believes this work properly belongs to the Strategy and Leadership Committee. **CARRIED**

**Recommendation 2:** that the Strategy and Leadership Committee bring more general recommendations for the process of amalgamation to a future Presbytery meeting. **CARRIED**

*St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Mission*

The Rev. Paddy Eastwood has followed up on the renegotiation of the Rev. Rebecca's call to St Paul's. The congregation is expanding their ministry through two new positions: a part-time Co-Administrator and a part-time Pastoral Care Support Worker. It is anticipated that these positions will start in April.

*St Aidan's Presbyterian Church, New Westminster*

The session of St Aidan's PC requests that their session be allowed to return to life eldership rather than continue in term service eldership in order that the elders who have been involved in the potential amalgamation may continue in this work. Given that both the session and the congregation at a duly constituted congregational meeting have agreed to this,

**Recommendation 3:** that the session of St Aidan's be permitted to return to life eldership. **CARRIED**

**REPORTS**

*First Presbyterian Church Report from the Rev. Gabriel Snyman, Interim Moderator*

Dear Presbytery,

The action plan that we set up for First Presbyterian Church in New Westminster was based on the recommendations of Presbytery. I will state these recommendations and report about the progress or lack thereof on each:

Recommendation 1: That a single Interim Moderator (IM) be appointed to provide strong, consistent and stable leadership in helping the Session move through the present challenges. The first step will need to focus on a facilitated process of forgiveness, healing, reconciliation, rebuilding trust, and re-establishing clearly defined lines of communication. Ultimately the IM will provide the necessary leadership to re-establish unity and common purpose of all Session members towards its responsibilities of stewardship and mission of the congregation.

Report:

As Interim Moderator I consistently, on a weekly basis assisted with pulpit supply. On two occasions, one of which was Christmas Eve, where we couldn't find pulpit supply, we hosted a joint service between City Centre Church

---

Victor Kim

and First Presbyterian. Prof. Ross Lockhart and Guy Sinclair filled most of the pulpit supply. On one occasion the service was handled by session and once a student preached that went off well. The pulpit supply up to Easter Sunday has been pre-arranged currently.

I also lead three session meetings and met with all the session members face to face (socially distancing) in order to start a reconciliation process. A particular session member expressed many grievances and was also absent at worship services. I had two follow up phone conversations with this person and he has since rejoined the session. I do sense an improvement in the cohesion of the team. New ideas and initiatives were voiced and there is a spirit of collaboration that I missed before.

I also stressed the importance of proper communication from session to the congregants and currently write a weekly pastoral letter that goes out to the congregation and is supplemented by session with relevant announcements. It is encouraging to see that session seems not only to enthusiastically participate in this but also seem to grasp the principle (proper and regular communication and transparency) behind it. A weekly Bible study on Zoom has since commenced with up to 15 people in attendance. Online attendance remains stable with elders assisting elderly people to listen in via phone.

Recommendation 2: That Presbytery commit the services of the Presbyter for Mission and Vision to assist the IM with the planning and implementation of some intentional strategic planning. The goal: Establish a turnaround plan that defines the mission and vision of this specific church, one that can be led by and through the leadership team of Session and IM. The desired result: a new and renewed focus for the Congregation that carries them through the present challenges and away from survival mode.

Report: I had a discussion with Dale Woods and encouraged session members to attend his recent online course on envisioning. It was attended by most of the session and the feedback I got seemed positive. There are attempts to join and start ministries to people who suffer financially because of the pandemic and although this planning hasn't materialized to the point of commencement yet, it looks encouraging.

I think a good next step would be to arrange with Dale Woods for a more personal session on visioning aligned with the needs and situation of First Presbyterian specifically. There is noticeable a marked increase in missional awareness. Session also held an extra meeting in which they responded to the six points that the visitation committee raised. I hope to receive the report on the outcome of that meeting soon and include it in this report.

Recommendation 3: Appoint assisting elder - Larry Yen to assist the IM through the process above and work with the Finance and Maintenance committee to develop a workable budget for the 2021 year.

Report: The finances of this congregation remain an area of grave concern. If I read the financial statements correctly that was sent to me just yesterday, offerings have risen somewhat but there is much room for improvement. With the current budget as it is, it looks like they are in for a 44 000Cad shortfall on budget this year. The other matters that were pressing like the reconciliation process, didn't allow us the capacity to involve Larry Yen yet but I think the time for it is right now. I include the most recent financial statements in this report. At the very least it does seem to be monitored and checks and balances seem to be in place.

Recommendation 4: That the Interim Moderator and Presbyter for Mission and Vision present a time-line and reporting schedule for meeting these recommendations at the next Presbytery meeting.

Most of the recommendations have been executed. As for the separate session with Dale Woods and Larry Yen, I reckon June might be a good due date to expect these obligations to be executed. Since the new clerk of session does not come from a Presbyterian background I asked my own Clerk to devote two hours to train her. He is in a very busy season of work currently but I think June would be a good timeline to expect this training to also be completed.

#### Conclusion

First Presbyterian Church has been through much. They still carry the financial consequences of past settlements with previous partners, divisions in leadership and most recently roof expenses. Yet, I judge their location as one filled with exciting missional possibilities and hope.

As we move out of the pandemic, the next few months is going to be a 'do or die' season that will set this congregation up viable for a bright future or destined for demise. Much will depend on the leadership, communication and envisioning for the future. May the Holy Spirit strengthen this congregation and open the eyes of faith to discern where God is leading them.

In Christ

Gabriel J Snyman

February 25, 2021

Interim Moderator

*St Columba Presbyterian Church, East Vancouver*

Report from the Rev. Calvin Crichton, Stated Supply  
Minister

Today our congregation celebrated communion in our online service. It was fitting as this 'coming together' set the tone for the annual congregational meeting that followed the service.

In that meeting we all saw just how gentle God had been with us in this time of Pandemic.

Our attendance had remained the same despite more than half the year's services and meetings being online. Our rentals for the building were down in 2020 but by year's end the givings had instead gone up enough to cover the loss and then some. We remain financially stable. To ensure that solvency our congregation/session has just approved a new finance committee to search our investment strategies to invest our first \$100 000 in 2021.

As a session we see this season of challenge as a platform for God to do something new. As such we have looked at several ways to honour God's call to be people of integrity. Elders have been diligent to stay in regular touch

with those in their districts. Each have been aware that this time of shutdown can be hard on people who are shut in and isolated from family and community. We are looking out to help any way we can.

Our session has just completed a yearlong study on Human sexuality. This was good for all of us. What was most apparent, almost immediately, was the lack of dialogue we had all not had growing up in and outside the church, on the subject. It took a few months of open frank discussions before we felt grounded enough to make any kind of personal decisions on issues. At times, we felt we were in far too deep, and had not the background to address some of the more complex issues.

In the end, we all arrived at a great place. Our church would be first and foremost a safe haven for anyone seeking shelter and asking questions. At the same time, we all agreed that a church is only moral when they stand behind their convictions. We believe its possible to stand with all people and stand up inside for what matters most to the heart of God.

One of the initiatives session has put forth (a year or two ago) was commitment to teaching foundational biblical themes (peace, being kind, death, caring for others, the existence of evil) with a broad range of biblical passages. This is with the hope of helping our congregation being a little more Bible literate. This initiative is taking place at session studies, Bible studies and weekly services. Almost all of the power point slides used on Sunday morning involves a biblical passage. We are seeing great results and we believe people are starting to explore topics more on their own.

In closing, we want the Presbytery to know that we hear the cries of several churches in the area and that we pray for you often. We are brothers and sisters and when you hurt so do we.

St. Columba Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Calvin Crichton

*Burnaby Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, Burnaby* Report of the Rev. Dr. Morgan Wong, Interim Moderator  
BTPC has not changed much since last report except that she started online worship in December. Further, during Christmas season, session mailed our Christmas cards to the congregations. After consulting with the clerk, we don't think we need any support from the Presbytery besides interim moderator and assessor elders. We will have our AGM this coming Sunday (3/14). If there were any more updates, I will send you the details.

The Rev. Dr. Morgan Wong

### **Study Leave**

Study leave was approved for the Rev. Laurie Mackay, to go to a retreat at Fairhaven for Discernment and Refreshment from April 5 - 12, 2021.

### **Student Support and Certification Task Force**

Jonathan Kwon is seeking re-admission to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments in The Presbyterian Church in Canada following five years serving with Daegu Sungbuk Presbyterian Church in the Presbyterian Church of

Korea. Prior to that, he did his theological education at Knox College, Toronto, with an MDiv and an MRE, from 2001-2005. He served two churches in the Presbytery of Assiniboia for five years each. He was the youth pastor at Galilee Presbyterian Church here in Vancouver from 2003-2005 and is currently assisting at Abbotsford Korean Presbyterian Church. He has returned to Canada for family reasons and wishes to work with an English-speaking congregation.

**Recommendation 4:** Moved by Cal MacLeod and seconded by Jim Smith, Having interviewed Jonathan Kwon and having found him to have valuable and successful experience in multicultural ministries in small prairie churches within our denomination, a clear understanding of the standards and practices of our denomination, and an approach to missioning that finds ways of detecting what God is doing in the broader community so that the congregation can align with that, we recommend that Jonathan's application to the Committee on Education and Reception be endorsed by the Presbytery of Westminster on the condition that the Committee consult with the presbytery of Assiniboia. **CARRIED**

#### **Ethics and Care Task Force**

A LWC workshop for Presbytery was held on Saturday, March 20, from 1 – 4 pm. The workshop was attended by approximately 30 people. We went over the Three Policies of the Presbyterian Church in Canada – Leading with Care, Growing in Christ and The Policy for Dealing with Sexual Harassment and Abuse.

The Leading with Care Policy about the right safety procedures in the Church, putting the LWC policy in place and Police record checks have been discussed with the understanding that having the right things in place is much needed.

The Growing in Christ policy had some discussion about accepting one's neighbour of a different race as Christ accepted all of us. It was emphasized that there is no tolerance for racial discrimination in the church. A number of people shared about their experiences of finding their way in the church.

The Policy of Dealing with Sexual harassment and Abuse was discussed for a lengthy period of time and deep concerns were raised of how the church could misjudge situations where real sexual abuse took place. Some participants felt that the church should not even investigate allegations itself. A Case study was done with a flow chart of Presbytery of how to follow the steps in investigating a certain situation.

There was a video presentation of sexual abuse by a minister, called "Not in my Church." There was some discussion after the video presentation.

Sometime in the middle of April another workshop is planned for Healthy Boundaries.

Respectfully submitted  
Rev. Willem van de Wall  
Ethics and Care Facilitator



The Presbytery of Westminster  
Regular Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing  
April 6, 2021

9221

**Visitation Task Force**

City Centre, Surrey was visited on March 25, 2021. Calvin, Abbotsford will be visited on April 14, 2021.

*Respectively submitted,  
The Rev. Paddy Eastwood  
Ministry Committee, Convener*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Ken Sewell, seconded by Brad Childs to adjourn the meeting.

**CARRIED**

- The next **regular scheduled meeting of presbytery** is **May 4, 2021** via Zoom. Camp Douglas Committee and staff members will lead worship.
- The next **regular Admin Committee** meeting is **April 27, 2021** at 9:30 am. If there are any recommendations that need to come before presbytery for April 27, please make sure that they are referred to the appropriate committees or to the Clerk prior to the meeting of the Admin Committee.

**The Moderator offered a closing prayer.**

The Moderator closed the court with a benediction at 9:59pm.

---

Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Moderator

---

Victor Kim