



ANNUAL
REPORTS
June 2021- May 2022

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**Ross Road Community Church
Annual Ministry Meeting Agenda
May 29, 2022
6:00 pm**

1. Prayer Encounter
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of AGM Minutes
4. Motion to receive reports
5. Overview of Discernment and Affirmation Process
6. Affirmation of Elder candidates
 - a. Jennifer Martens (1st term)
 - b. Al Stobbe (1st term)
7. Financial Update
8. Extending Our Impact Update
9. Vote Result
10. Commissioning of Elder and Deacon Team Members
11. Motion to Destroy Ballots
12. Motion to Adjourn

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UNDERSTANDING OUR PROCESS

In 2017 at our Annual Ministry Meeting, we approved new Bylaws to govern how we function as a church family. It's important to realize how valuable it is for all members to participate as we make significant decisions together. Our new bylaws require that members vote on four main aspects of church life as follows:

1. To Affirm a Lead Pastor

2. To Affirm Elders

-individually affirmed usually at our Annual Ministry Meeting (AMM) before the end of May each year.

3. To Approve our Annual Budget

-at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) within the first 90 days of each year.

4. To Approve Capital Projects

-as needed.

5. To Approve Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

VOTING

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

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

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

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**Ross Road Community Church
Annual General Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2022, at 6:30 pm**

- 1) Prayer Encounter – Bobby Rau
- 2) Approval of the Agenda moved Barry Jackson; seconded by Al Stobbe; Carried
- 3) Approval of Minutes from Annual Ministry Meeting on May 30, 2021-moved; seconded; carried moved by Jake Epp; seconded by Karen Stobbe; Carried
- 4) Presentation of the 2021 Financial Statements by Jeff Friesen
 - a) Motion to accept 2021 Financial Statements - Moved Jeff Friesen; seconded Vic Martens; Carried
 - b) Motion to engage Webster & Assoc. for 2022 - Moved Sandy Nelson; seconded Jeff Friesen; carried
- 5) Presentation of the 2022 Ministry Budget –
 - a) Review of budget process
 - b) Review of proposed 2022 budget
 - c) Motion to accept 2022 budget moved Al Stobbe; seconded Jeff Friesen; Carried
- 7) Update on Extending Our Impact project-Len Loewen
- 8) Motion to Adjourn –moved Jeff Friesen; seconded Sandy Nelson; carried

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MODERATOR'S REPORT

*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)*

In the gospel of Matthew, when he records the beginning of Jesus' ministry in chapter 4, the disciple quotes Isaiah 9 as a way of pointing out the fulfillment of prophecy. Does it feel like that again to anyone else? To me, I have a deep sense that the world is emerging out of a time of darkness and uncertainty and they are looking for "light." To be certain, there is still much darkness all around us, as there always has been, but there are also glimmers of light.

When I reflect back on the previous year, I can't help but express gratitude to God. How faithful He has been in sustaining RRCC and continuing to move in our midst. One of the most obvious markers of God's presence for a church is that people are coming to faith and taking steps of obedience. That continues to happen and we are so grateful for the evidence of God continuing to move.

The other indicator of spiritual and organizational health that is critically important is staff engagement. Recently I read yet another article by a church leader who had resigned his position due to the pressures faced during COVID. Now, to be sure, there were other issues going on, but COVID highlighted the struggles he faced and he just couldn't take it anymore.

Although we hurt with Craig and Jenny, and continue to pray for God's healing, we also acknowledge that, in many ways, God is also sustaining our staff team during this time. Having Pastor Art return on a temporary basis, and observing how seamlessly he has returned to ministry, while Pastor Bobby has so capably filled in as Interim Lead, is a tremendous blessing. In addition, seeing the rest of the staff rally and renew their energy during Pastor Craig's absence is a joy beyond words. Truly, RRCC members, we are blessed beyond measure and we should take joy in that.

Finally, in the midst of the many levels of uncertainty, you continue to demonstrate your trust in us as Elders by supporting the Extending Our Impact building renovation project. Although we wished to be further along in the process, we trust that God is taking us on a journey of His timing that we will one day understand more clearly.

As we look forward to celebrating RRCC's 75th anniversary in the next few weeks, let's be sure to acknowledge that our work is the Lord's, the Sustainer of all things for His glory.

On behalf of the Elder Team,

Rick Thiessen

INTERIM LEAD PASTOR REPORT

Some scholars argue that the book of Esther should not be included in the Bible. Their main reason, it doesn't even mention God. 167 verses, 5633 words, and no mention of God.

So why is the book of Esther in our Bible today?

Well, while God is not mentioned, he is present in the background. Throughout Esther, God is working. He grants favour to Esther, so she becomes queen, he makes Mordecai overhear some soldiers and can help King Xerxes, he causes King Xerxes to not be able to fall asleep and then remember Mordecai at just the right time, and there are many other little things where God is working in the background without it specifically saying that. At the end of the book, God blesses his people, not because of what they were doing but because of what he has done. While it isn't specifically stated, it is obvious that God is at work throughout Esther.

That is what I feel God is doing in our midst. Despite the trials and difficulties over the past year, God is working in our midst. He is drawing people to himself and using us as a church to do so. We get the opportunity to partner with him to help others follow him. It isn't up to us to accomplish it on our own, our job is to be faithful to whatever is in front of us. Whether it is good or bad, easy or hard.

A sample of some ways God has been working in our church are:

- New people connecting with our church. A handful of people are new and engaging with Ross Road.
- New Care Groups starting. In the past year, 3 new care groups have started and there is a chance another one will start soon.
- Re-launching of our Extending our Impact Building Campaign where we have over 1.3 million dollars pledged.
- Praising God together on Sunday mornings in person while still seeing people who are not ready to transition to in-person services yet engage with our online service.

This does not negate that there have been hard moments in the past year. Pastor Craig is on leave, many have passed away, and some of our church family have decided to connect to other churches. But we trust in God and find comfort in him.

I want to thank an amazing staff who continually works to help others find and follow Jesus. Dave Rodda leads an amazing team of worship leaders and is always looking for new ways to help people worship. Ellen Funk leads a kid's ministry that excites kids and teaches them God's truth. Holly McLean has connected and created a community of youth and leaders who seek to follow Jesus. Sandy Nelson makes sure our church runs smoothly and efficiently as well as takes care of the financials. Courteney Rodda creates excellent content that tells the story of Jesus. In our Administrative Assistant position, we have had Meagan Nelson, Graham Hofs, and now Gabe Peters who help with graphics and behind-the-scenes administration. Gabe was also a youth ministry intern to help Holly and Graham helps with our AV. Art Birch has done an excellent job stepping in to help preach and lead our Care Ministry. Craig Thiessen has led us humbly and courageously throughout this pandemic and we are all glad to be under his leadership.

I also want to thank our Elders who have a passion for this church and its people and put in countless hours to help that occur. Thank you: Rick Thiessen, Susan Dick, Shawn Coupland, Brian Degelder, Len Loewen, Mike Rosborough, and Dan Stark.

I also want to thank those leading Care Groups. In my admittedly biased opinion, care groups are the heart of our church that helps people connect and experience God's love through others.

Our Care Team has excelled at caring for individuals in difficult situations. It isn't easy to enter someone else hurts and pains and they do so with the love of Jesus. They have cared for those in our church and outside our church through a turbulent season and helped make important decisions about helping people in need. Thank you to Lynda Stobbe, Charles Storey, Joanne Friesen, and Denise Tall.

I also want to thank our Adult Ministry Leaders who are all helping in different ways: Barry Jackson (Connect); Vic Martens (Encore); Michelle Penner (Food Bank); Donna Penner and Derrick Dick (Global Outreach); Derek Janzen (Hospitality); Art Birch (LEAD); Diane Martens (Library); Steve Nickel (Men's); Shanna Dahlen, Deanna Nickel, and Cindy Hauser (Women's); and Mike, Angela, Dave, and Marianne Rosborough (Young Adults).

I love this church and the many people that love and care for one another to make everything happen.

I am hopeful that in the next year we will:

- Continue to move forward in the Extending our Impact Campaign and hopefully start renovations.
- Continue to connect with those who are seeking to belong in our community.
- Grow our leadership development plan.

God is at work; we get to partner with him by being faithful together.

In Christ,
Bobby, Kayla, Anorah, Nakia, and Cooper Rau.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

I feel very grateful to our congregation and worship ministry volunteers for their perseverance and patience as we have journeyed through an extended, challenging season of ministry. As things have been getting back to "normal" in the last couple of months it has been surreal to look back and recall all the transitions and changes we have experienced over the last two years. Whether we were meeting online or in-person we have had no interruptions to our volunteer leaders and teams preparing and leading worship even when it meant last minute changes and learning new skills (like playing to a camera). I want to say a heart-felt thank you to our amazing worship volunteers for their hard work and dedication over the last season and to our faithful worshippers for your flexibility and understanding. Specifically, I want to thank the people who serve on the worship lead team: Jeff Thiessen, Ava Stark, Levi Dewaal, Graham Hofs and Brigitte Friesen. All these people give extra time each month to lead teams and help with administrative work. Our worship ministry could not run as effectively as it does without them. I would also like to thank

Courteney Rodda who has done such an amazing job of filming and producing our online worship content as well as serving regularly as a vocalist and piano player.

Many plans were put on hold when the impact of COVID was first felt in 2020 but with restrictions lessening this year I am happy to resume preparations for those projects for 2022. One of those plans is to produce another walk-through style Christmas event along the same lines as “The Christmas Experience” walk-through that I organized in 2018. This version will be modified, however, to be more accessible to families with young children where the previous was geared more for adults. My hope is that we can be invitational to our friends and local community in order for non-churched families to experience the story of Christ’s birth in a unique and engaging way.

Another plan that was put on hold during COVID was a regular schedule of evening worship services featuring special worship teams and extended singing time. The worship lead team has been discussing the possibilities of how that could work, and we are hoping to have some dates planned later this year.

I am thrilled to be able to report that our worship ministry continues to be healthy and growing. We have had some new additions of vocalists and instrumentalists in the last few months that have filled out our teams and we have some younger musicians growing in their skills as they rehearse with teams in order to later play regularly on Sunday mornings. It is a joy to lead such a great group of A/V techs, instrumentalists and vocalists who continue to be generous with their time and talents in order to glorify God through facilitating worship in our church.

Yours, in His service
Dave Rodda

KIDS MINISTRIES

The past year has required Ross Road Kids ministry to continue to respond and adapt: Learning Hour with a worship service following → two worship services → then one combined worship service, just to name a few. Our volunteer teams on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights have handled these changes with grace and understanding. I cannot thank them enough!

Summer 2021

Kaleb Rosborough served as the kids and youth summer intern in 2021 and did an awesome job! For kids ministry, he helped write and co-host some Faith@Home lessons and he assisted with the planning and running of day camps in August.

With the easing of some, but not all pandemic restrictions last summer, we decided to forego soccer camp a second time and instead offered two 3-day kids camps in July. The “I Wonder” materials from our Sunday morning curriculum provider were very well received.

Faith@Home

In September 2020, we began, making videos and packing monthly Faith@Home resource boxes for families to create a “Sunday School at home” experience. When in-service restrictions were eased in July 2021, we streamlined the videos and discontinued the resource boxes in an attempt to do both online and in-person ministry well. This pared-down Faith@Home option continued

through the end of March 2022 when views declined significantly as in-person restricted were removed.

Awana

We are just about to wrap up another Awana club-year. A significant majority of kids in preschool through grade 5 are completing their books and will receive their end-of-the-year awards on June 1. Five teens, grades 6-11, have done an outstanding job of serving as student leaders. It has been neat to see them grow and mature their leadership skills under the care of our fabulous adult leaders.

I want to give special thanks to Jenny Thiessen. Last November and December she cleaned and re-organized our kids resource room and jumpstarted phase two of the preschool mural project by putting the base colours on the walls. The “neighbourhood full of houses” mural is now complete, so be sure to come upstairs and check it out!

Ellen Funk

On the behalf of the Kids Ministry Team

STUDENT MINISTRIES

By the grace of God, this youth year has looked a lot more ‘normal’. Even starting in September, we were hosting regular youth nights again while still wearing masks, and now we are functioning with masks optional. I have been very blessed by my leadership teams over the pandemic and observing their willingness to serve in the midst of difficult/changing circumstances. The leaders have continued to exceed expectations in this current year of ministry.

NOTABLE EVENTS

This year we were able to get back to hosting our regular larger events such as the all-nighter, adventure camp, high school retreat, leaders training weekend, etc. Planning these events is such a life-giving part of the job for me that I really look forward to, so being able to host these events once again has been a huge highlight of the year. We had a record number of 64 kids attend the all-nighter this year, and 47 students at adventure camp. Adventure camp was led by almost entirely high school student volunteers, and it sparked a lot of the kids to want to become more involved in leadership.

TEACHING

For high school youth, we began this year with the Youth Alpha video series and have been working through other mini-series since then. Some of these includes a series on the 7 churches in Revelation and working through the book of Nehemiah. We also recently had a night where we discussed mental health and it sparked meaningful conversations with all the groups. In middle school, we have covered topics such as the beatitudes and fruits of the Spirit.

STUDENTS SERVING

Being able to give students opportunities to serve is a huge priority for me. We currently have 6 high school students serving as middle school youth leaders and have 3 high school students starting our junior youth leadership program in the beginning of May. Our students are also involved in helping pack hampers for the food bank once a month, and for the first time this past summer, we hosted an ocean clean-up day in Vancouver which I intend to host again this summer.

There is of course much more that could be said about a very fruitful year of ministry, but I will end with saying how grateful I am for the community of this group and the ways in which God is moving in the hearts of students, leaders and myself.

Much Love,
Holly McLean ☺

ADULT MINISTRIES

YOUNG ADULTS

In the spring of 2021, the six of us (Craig & Jenny Thiessen, Mike & Angela Rosborough, and Dave & Marianne Rosborough) were invited to provide leadership to the young adults of our church. We regularly met on Sunday evenings, studying the book of John, sharing about our lives, and praying for one another. We have enjoyed times of fellowship together, as well, in terms of food and games.

We are grateful for the genuine engagement of many of the young adults within our group. We know from our own life experiences that this is a time of growth, change, uncertainty, and solidifying of faith. Many bring much prior knowledge of God's word to share and questions that need mulling over, making for rich discussions. Being able to pray for the young adults through difficulties, rejoicing in answered prayer, and hearing how the Lord is working in their lives is rewarding and beneficial to all of us in the group.

Please continue to pray for these individuals as they navigate this phase of life. Please also pray that we can be welcoming to the young adults in our church who don't yet attend our meetings. Lastly, please pray for those in our group who are not believers, that they would know Him.

Marianne Rosborough
On behalf of the Young Adults Team

MEN'S MINISTRY

The past year has been another bit of a quieter year for Men's Ministry as far as events go. We were able to host a great BBQ at the end of August, though, and it was greatly attended with over 35 men showing up, including a few new faces to the Church. There was also an attempt last year to start planning a retreat for Winter 2022, but when restrictions became tighter again in parts of 2021, it was decided to scrap those plans for this year and try again in 2023.

One very exciting piece of news, though, is that we are now in the second year of running our Radical Mentoring program. This group of guys meets once a month to go over the book that was read that month, recite memory verses, go over homework assignments, and just generally live in community. Our group is being co-led this year by Bobby and myself (Steve Nickel) and we have 4 mentees in the program. We are very much enjoying the camaraderie, spiritual growth and

community that is being fostered in this group and we look forward to having many more men in our church come through this program in the coming years.

We also just hosted a bible trivia night in the beginning of May that was a lot of fun as teams of men tried to see who could come out on top as the bible trivia champions. There was some lighthearted competition and a lot of laughs and new things learned about the Bible. It was also great to have 2 men attend who are new to Ross Road in the last year, so that was great to see.

The team is currently just comprised of myself, Steve Nickel, but I have a lot of people in the background that have been helping and encouraging. It would be great in this next year, though, to try and grow the team a bit in order to serve the men well, but I am praying and waiting on God for his timing in all this as I try to serve to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,
Steve Nickel (on behalf of the Ross Road Community Church Men's Ministry)

HOSPITALITY

The last year has certainly been full of ups and downs and on again off again scenarios. We were fortunate in September to carry out a fairly "normal" Fall Kickoff which was wonderful even despite the rain. As a Church it was great to gather and enjoy a meal together. Since then, with restrictions we have been limited to our activities. We did however manage to serve a few cookies and coffee at one of the Church meetings 😊

This Easter we enjoyed paska and coffee prior to the Sunday service and looking ahead as restrictions have been lifted, we're anticipating more events for our Church family. We have a fantastic committee made up of Karen Bergen, Monika Thiessen and Jeannette Dyck. Sandy Nelson is our great liaison between the committee and the Church. My thanks to each one of them, it's a pleasure to serve.

Derek Janzen
On behalf of the Hospitality team

ENCORE (SENIORS MINISTRY)

"Man plans / God decides". The Encore team planned a number of events for this past year but not all came to pass. The June BBQ was cancelled due to a heat wave. We did have two events in fall 2021 - a potluck evening on 17 October with Wayne Bremner of MCC to celebrate 100 years of MCC - and an Advent dessert evening on 5 December with 44 attending preceded by a Christmas craft fair on 4 December initiated by Rose Brechin. The Valentine's movie night in Feb was cancelled due to pandemic concerns. A potluck meeting on 10 April (20+ attending) had a Ukraine emphasis (past and present) with about \$3500 raised for Multiply, our MB mission agency in support of relief efforts by our 25 Ukrainian MB churches. Our next event is our annual BBQ on 26 June, Lord willing.

The goal of the Encore team is to contribute to the spiritual and social life of the seniors at RRCC. We would appreciate younger members to join us in serving our elders - please look at the Encore

group as an opportunity to serve and not to be served. Almut is our food service organizer / Elaine and Rose are our program idea persons / Rich and Avril organize and decorate tables / and we all discuss what needs to be done – it's a great team to work with! We thank the many others (including Jake Epp doing Audio-visual services) who have contributed to the events – your service is much appreciated by the seniors attending.

Vic Martens

On behalf of the Encore Team: Almut Loewen, Elaine Regier, Rich & Avril Letkeman, Rose Brechin,

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

2021 began with another year of various covid restrictions. Our team continued to persevere with new event ideas for women to connect and encourage one another in faith and in life. We continued our online connections on our Facebook community page. We regularly had mealtime Monday sharing, Wednesday word of encouragement and church announcements. Women would also share prayer requests and support requests on the page. One special highlight online was our workout challenge that ran in November.

In spring we could not meet at church, so we organized weekly walks meeting at Fish Trap Creek Park. Moms with little ones and women of all ages attended various dates depending on the weather. On Mother's Day weekend we put together a blessing package and prizes drive thru event. Moms were prayed over and had opportunities to reconnect in a small way. They were all very happy to see familiar faces once again as church was not running at that time. We had many volunteers that stepped in to help even at the last minute. It was a great success!!! In fall we hosted 4 sessions of connections with a devotional time shared by various women from church. It was neat to reconnect and to see new ladies to Ross come out. For Christmas we were able to run a women's tea called 'Light of the World'. We were blessed to be able to sing many carols as well as hear from two of our missionaries. They shared about how Jesus is their light in a dark world.

This year our team persevered through many challenges. We had the opportunity to humbly be reminded that we are always in God's good hands no matter our circumstances. The path to serving the women of Ross Road was more challenging this year due constant covid related issues. Above all we grew in character and in faith as we worked to honor and glorify God in all we did. James 1:2-4, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." Praise God for all He did this year.

Looking forward to another year of ministry!
Deanna Nickel and the Women's Ministry Team

CONNECT MINISTRY

We are grateful for all our volunteers who faithfully greet and usher to help us be a **welcoming Christ-centered community**. Several have also assisted on several occasions for various memorial services.

Please pray as we continue to develop our long-term plans to:

1. **Explore** how to draw more people into this vital ministry so we can add hosts in different areas like common grounds, and within sections in the main auditorium where people are more likely to be aware of those around them who are new.
2. **Improve** our training seminars and create recorded video training/orientations and tips to assist with new volunteers joining the team at any time during the year.
3. **Increase** the participation of junior hosts so we develop a whole new generation who make people feel at home in our church.
4. **Maximize** the benefit of our online scheduling app for effective communication and to ensure we have people in place for every opportunity.
5. **Pray** for creative ideas to effectively connect with newcomers that show people we value them and are eager to help meet their spiritual and life needs.

We want to encourage our entire church family to have a **renewed enthusiasm to welcome others extravagantly**. Perhaps the Lord is already prompting you to join our Connect Team or share some ideas you believe might help fulfill our vision. We would love to get you connected in an area where you can contribute in a way that is suitable for you.

Keep connecting,
Barry Jackson
On behalf of the Connect Ministry Team

LEAD

LEAD is an intentional discipleship ministry which purposes to develop followers of Jesus, who are growing in him and helping others to do the same. Our belief is that growing followers of Jesus are increasingly able to take the initiative, as his servants, to empower those around them to know and serve God in such a way that together they are transformed into godly wholeness.

Our team members this past year have been (in alphabetical order) T Anderson, Art Birch, Curtis and Joanne Congo, Bobby Rau, and Darcy Scholes. In the upcoming ministry year, Darcy, who has served with distinction, will not undertake another term at this time. Brian Zacharias has agreed to join us.

Our primary project in this ministry year has been to develop disciple-making materials in support of “Hit the Mark—Discipleship Pathway of Ross Road Community Church.” LEAD had collaborated with our pastors to create the pathway to help to define how we help people find and follow Jesus. “Hit the Mark” is packed with information about how you can continue your growth in Christ.



The discipleship pathway envisions the flight of an arrow toward Christ, represented as the bullseye in the centre of an archery target. The pathway is ideally travelled in community with others, as the first symbol on the flight of the arrow indicates. The arrow then travels through four growth stages: **Exploring Christ**, **Growing in Christ**, **Maturing in Christ**, and **Abiding in Christ**. At the same time, followers of Jesus bring each stage with them as they grow.

To help our RRCC family to progress along this pathway, LEAD has been writing and publishing a four-module series that we have entitled *Discover the Word*. The title is a play on words: we discover the Living Word, Jesus, in his written word, the Bible. The purpose of the *DTW* series is to inspire people to read and value the Bible with understanding and gives them the tools to apply it. To that end, a variety of learning styles and learning approaches are employed—reading, pondering questions, discussions, videos, and more.

In the previous ministry year, LEAD published *Discover the Word—Exploring God’s Word Together*. This 28-page module is written specifically for those who have not yet committed their lives to Jesus, but it also has the potential to nurture growth in those who are already following him.

From there, the *DTW* series seeks to help believers experience Jesus more and more fully by learning to read every genre of scripture: story, psalm, wisdom, prophecy, gospel, epistle, and apocalypse. The goal is that scripture reading would become a treasured, rich aspect of a daily rhythm of grace in a believers’ walk with Jesus.

In the current ministry year, LEAD produced and is field testing *Discover the Word 2—Growing in the Word*. This coil-bound, 64-page module provides tools for understanding the story, psalm, and wisdom genres, especially in the Old Testament (Genesis through Song of Songs).

While coaching readers in the seven genres of scripture, the *DTW* series also introduces the catalysts for growth associated with each stage of the Discipleship Pathway. So, for example, *DTW2* introduces seven spiritual disciplines that are ideally suited to the three genres covered in that module. Rather than focus on the concept of discipline, the module seeks to equip participants to establish “unforced rhythms of grace” in their walk with Jesus (See that phrase in Matthew 11:28-30 in *The Message*).

These materials can be accessed from our the RRCC website on the L.E.A.D., which can be found under the Ministries tab. We have also printed small quantities of both *DTW 1* and *DTW 2*. This winter and

spring one care group has been field testing *DTW 1* and four care groups have been field testing *DTW 2* with a view to making improvements and learning how we can best encourage the use of these modules. Our *Alpha* ministry is also devoting two weeks to *DTW 1*. The modules are suitable for individual study, collaborative study between two or three friends, care groups, workshops, and classroom learning.

In the coming year, LEAD hopes to write and publish *DTW 3—Maturing in the Word*. This module will focus on how to best read New Testament epistles and how to undertake in-depth Bible study. Following the completion of that module, we hope to write and publish *DTW 4—Abiding in the Word*, aimed at helping followers of Jesus to decipher Bible prophecy, both from the Old Testament and Revelation.

While the majority of our energy is currently invested in developing the *Discover the Word* series, we continue to promote and support mentoring relationships of twos and threes, because we grow best in community. Talk to us if you feel drawn to being or having a mentor. We provide mentors with a helpful resource, *Walking Alongside Others: A Mentoring Guide*. You will also find a wealth of mentoring resources identified on our webpage under four relevant headings: Relationships, Health & Wellness, Spiritual Growth, and Leadership. This resource list is accessible to anyone.

In addition to individual mentoring, we have been exploring the launch of marriage mentoring ministry. We believe that healthy marriages and families, as well as spiritually vibrant individuals are vital to our church having a God-glorifying impact on individuals and families near and far, as our vision statement expresses. May God himself nurture spiritual growth in us all, along with a growing capacity to impact others for him.

Gratefully,
Art Birch

PROPERTY MINISTRY

The property team did not undertake any significant projects this past year with our facility. Our focus was again on maintaining the building. Parts of our facility are showing their age, and it felt like the theme of the issues we were dealing with was water leaks. We are looking forward to seeing some of these areas renovated in the upcoming building project.

At the end of last summer, the team with the help of some brave volunteers did tackle the issue of the out-of-control blackberry bushes along the east edge of our property. Once we figured out how to best deal with this problem, we went to work. After many hours, the project was completed, and our neighbor was grateful that their concerns were addressed. I would like to acknowledge Jeremy Nunnikhoven as he played a large role in this successful project.

Sandy Nelson has once again been a big help dealing with the issues that have occurred over the last year. Thank you for your work helping to organize and relay information regarding tasks related to the Property committee.

Thank you to the property team members, Donovan Funk and Ben Dyck for their work. Thanks again to Len Loewen for his time and input as the Property committee liaison on the Elder Team.

Mike Hauser
On behalf of the Property Team

SATELLITE FOOD BANK MINISTRY

We have celebrated another successful year in the food bank ministry. As the summer of 2020 opened up, we were able to open our doors again to welcome our guests back into the gym for a fellowship time while the satellite was open. This was a welcomed return to a vital part of our ministry as it allowed us more time to communicate with our guests.

Our annual partnership with the Christmas Bureau was spearheaded by Rhonda Janzen, with great thanks. The church collectively supported 18 households through 15 Care Groups and individual families. Twenty-nine adults and 8 children received gifts for Christmas, along with a month's worth of supplemental food and a Christmas meal.

Our monthly statistics have been steady at 18 households being served. We have 6 households that we deliver groceries for in our community, while the rest of our guests come to the church to pick up their hampers.

Over the last year we have also partnered with the senior high youth, as they have been on a rotation packing the 18 different hampers each month. It has been a wonderful experience and opportunity to share in our community's needs with our youth as they load up the groceries for our families.

Gina Johnston joined our team in the last year and has been a great asset. Her son, Caleb, has also expressed a desire to serve in this ministry. We have 12 volunteers who faithfully serve each month on our satellite morning and who have made meaningful connections with our clients. We had team members walk with a senior woman who had some medical complications and needed to be hospitalized. Different homes cared for her dog and visited her in hospital and when she returned home. Her failing health did land her back in hospital where she unexpectedly passed away in December. It was a difficult loss with a long-term client. We also lost two more clients in the winter of 2021. Neither was anticipated and came with heartache.

We saw one client move from an unsafe living situation into a senior's home in town. It was not a flawless transition, but I am so thankful for the community that has surrounded this guest to make this a reality.

A few of our clients attended the Alpha course last fall, and some have returned this Spring. A big thank you to the care group who is hosting the Sunday lunch and study.

Easter was celebrated by little gift bags that were personalized for the homes with children and sweet little flowers ready for planting. They were very much appreciated and put together by some of our volunteers.

We had the inclusion of Pastor Art to walk alongside one household, reviewing their finances and needs. Art blessed this guest with his assurance in love and support of the church to get to know our satellite guests by name and situation.

It has been another great year walking with our guests, through their joys and struggles, making meaningful connections with them along the way. We anticipate deepening these relationships and further assisting our community without hindering them in the process.

Furthering His Kingdom together through the Food Bank Ministry,
Michelle Penner

LIBRARY REPORT

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.” -Richard Steele, 1710

Like many things in our society, this has been a “hybrid” year for the library. At this time a year ago, RRCC was still shut down. Library books were available to those who requested them by phone or email including a drop-off service. Gradually in the summer of 2021 patrons began to return in person as church services resumed on Sundays, and more books were signed out. This continued for most of the fall with a steep decline once again as the COVID waves waxed and waned.

Our library team is a little smaller now than in the past, but we have one new younger part-time member, so we are managing. Special thanks to Donna Penner and Frieda Loewen who have served well in the past. Donna introduced us to our ResourceMate computer program, whereas Frieda helped out faithfully for about twenty years particularly in tracking down overdue books. Ordering and processing books are solitary at-home activities which continued regardless of the pandemic status. We are grateful for the patrons who have encouraged us by their faithful use of library resources despite challenging circumstances. Even with a reduced library budget, we have generally been able to keep up with purchasing the most popular recently published titles as requested by our patrons. I am also personally thankful for the faithful library committee members who have kept the library doors open.

Submitted by Diane Martens
On behalf of the library committee

GLOBAL OUTREACH TEAM

This year our team consisted of Craig Thiessen, Christy Peters, Tim and Elvira Martens, Rose Brechin, Derrick Dick. and Donna Penner.

We have been able to have some face-to-face meetings and other Zoom meetings through the year. Global Partners we met with this year are Jason Shellborn, G.D., Dwayne and Helen Rainwater, Rob and Judy Griffioen, Saji Oommen, Al Stobbe, Lauren and Conner King, Becca Penner, and Otto and Marjorie Ekk. We also had an opportunity to connect with a representative for Arun Passi. During our meetings, we have been reading about other countries through a book called Praying for the World and praying for the spiritual needs of a different country each month.

We have continued to support our global partners at home and on the field through finances, emails, cards, and regular prayer. There have been a number of changes for our Global partners – several returning from the field, some retiring, and others changing roles and mission agencies.

We are excited that we are finally able to send a team to Central Asia as this team was ready to go back in 2020 but was not able to go because of Covid. The team consists of six members, and they will be away from May 26 – June 7th. We encourage everyone to keep them in your prayers during that time.

Another exciting event is the arrival of Arun Passi – a missionary from India who is set to arrive in Abbotsford on May 25th to work with people of South Asian descent who live here. After his arrival we will explore other ways we can support him in his ministry.

We continue to promote all of our partners through the Missionary of the Week prayer focus. As a team, we encourage everyone to keep our RRCC global partners lifted in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Donna Penner
on behalf of the GO Team

STARFISH PACKS

In 2021, Starfish Packs encountered a few small challenges, but, thankfully, we could still get our food delivered. Our ministry continued to be impacted by the ongoing pandemic, but the overall impacts were minimal. Food was delivered in plastic shopping bags, rather than backpacks, which minimized our contact with school staff. Our schools were also far enough into West Abbotsford that the flooding in November didn't impact service to our schools, however, we had to travel to East Abbotsford via back roads to the Save On, which continued providing our food, despite power outages causing them to be closed to the public. A few times this year, we have had last minute menu changes, as grocery availability has varied throughout the region. It's clear that our Father has helped us overcome some obstacles to help provide for these children.

Through 2021, we continued to pack around 15-20 bags a week, 12 of which were funded by our church. Our schools continue to be Aberdeen, Ross, and Bradner. In the fall, we began serving King Traditional Elementary, rather than Abbotsford Traditional Middle School as they required no backpacks.

A continued "thank you" to all of our volunteers in this ministry, it could not be carried on without you. I am also grateful to the new volunteers this year.

Another "thank you" to the staff at the Whatcom Save On Foods, whose time to prepare the Starfish orders for the churches is donated by the store. Please pray that as our and other churches pick-up each week that we can show God's love toward the staff members we interact with.

And lastly, a "thank you" to the Abbotsford School District for allowing us to serve the children in their schools in such a practical way. Pray that this opportunity continues. In the past, the Starfish churches were welcomed to invite these students to church summer day camps, so we pray that this will be allowed once again.

Please continue to pray for the children and families receiving these Starfish Packs.

Respectfully,
Marianne Rosborough

TABOR HOME

Tabor Village is owned by participating MB congregations in the Abbotsford area. Ross Road Community church is one of these 11 churches. Tabor Village has served our community for the last 61 years and presently provides over 280 residents with independent living, assisted living and complex care service.

Tabor Home has served the MB churches and the community in and around Abbotsford since 1961 when it opened on 18 April to serve residents in 39 rooms. Our families and their loved ones benefit from the “Care from the Heart” that Tabor provided in the past 60 years.

Tabor Village has gone through very difficult conditions over the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many staff are burned out physically and emotionally with the extra work and precautions needed to care for their charges. Please pray for them to find rest and rejuvenation as they recover. Residents and their families have often been kept separate due to health authority requirements and this has weighed heavily on them. We encourage you to pray for them as well since many residents in our homes don't have much remaining time to connect with their families and a number of residents have died as a result of the virus.

As a non-profit faith-based society, THS is planning to use their resources to best serve the seniors in our community. At present, THS is pursuing rezoning with the City of Abbotsford for two lots that will allow THS to add about 60 additional assisted living suites to Tabor Court – 1st and 2nd reading were passed at the beginning of May 2022. We continue to pursue funding from Fraser Health Authority for replacement of our aging Tabor and Valhaven Homes that provide complex care for our residents.

Our thanks to Ross Road for its ongoing support in prayer and finances to provide “Care from the Heart” for the seniors in our church and community.

On behalf of Tabor Home Society,
Jake Konrad (vice-chair) and Victor Martens (chair)

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE

MDS currently involves more than 3,000 members of the Mennonite, Amish and Brethren in Christ churches. The primary focus of the service is cleanup, repair, and the rebuilding of homes. MDS also works closely with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). A quarterly newsletter called On the Level is published and is available on-line.

A book by William Bridges called “Transitions: Making sense of Life's Changes.” The book identified some significant characteristics of transitions that can make them difficult (fear, insecurity, many unknowns), but also identified some of the unique opportunities during times of transitions.

The people that MDS helps go through significant transitions after a disaster. Their future may be uncertain. Part of the beauty of MDS volunteers is bringing God's presence in us—being the hands and feet of Jesus—as survivors undergo the change from their former lives to the new. The

promise of God's presence through all of life's transitions is one of the greatest gifts any of us can give or receive.

As we transition into the spring season, MDS Canada needs you! Our response in Princeton is wrapping up; we are hoping to be able to finish well there in May. Would you be willing to volunteer and help us out? And our response in Monte Lake, B.C. is just starting up. We are eagerly hoping we'll get our needed permits soon. Would you be willing to join us this summer as we help fire survivors get home? We'd love to hear from you about that as well! If you would like to volunteer, visit www.mds.org or contact Clara Flores at cflores@mds.org.

Family Volunteers this summer. The projects have age-appropriate work for everyone; even the youngest family members can participate in an MDS volunteer experience!

The days are filled with a balance of family fun, work, good food, activities, campfires and spiritual growth. It's a great way to introduce children to the work of MDS and the spirit of volunteerism.

In all of your transitions, may you know God's abiding presence?

Submitted by Jake Epp

MEI BOARD

MEI is comprised of an elementary, middle, and high school where strong Christian values are promoted in an academic environment. This past year at MEI has been an exciting one with fewer challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the restrictions recently being lifted, everyone is eager to turn the last page and get "Completely back to normal".

MEI is continuing to focus on their vision of providing "an engaging learning environment for all their students" From the administration to the teachers, support staff, janitorial staff, and bus drivers, they all have been amazing. Some extra precautions are still in place to help keep everyone safe! A job very well done!

One of the items that signal the pandemic is over is the return of many student field trips. Long overdue!

The following goals are still the focus:

- Modelling and teaching worship as a lifestyle built on Biblical foundation.
- Effectively communicating with students and parents.
- Maintaining a committee to guide the annual plan for growth.
- By intentionally developing the character of our students through engagement confirming that they are individually and collectively valued.
- Finding ways to connect with the larger Abbotsford community.

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

Registrations continue to climb at all campuses. Unfortunately, the pandemic has pretty much cancelled our international students from attending MEI this year. I expect it will be back to normal for when the next school year begins in September.

MEI Administration would like to share the following:

1. Registration

Other than the international program, our registration numbers have risen to capacity with a completely full school for this year.

2. What needs to be addressed moving forward? - (a goal, dream, & hope)

MEI has continued developing the plan to renovate the existing secondary building which was built on the Downes Road site in 1981. There has been a lot of planning work that has been done already and we are implementing the strategy that will move us forward.

3. How can you pray for our ministry?

- Please pray for the health of the entire MEI staff and students.
- Please pray for wisdom in understanding the needs of each staff member and student.
- Please pray for the international students and program.
- Please pray for spiritual protection.
- Please pray that our students would make decisions to follow Jesus and grow in their faith.
- Please pray for our teams as we continue to develop a renovation plan for the secondary school building.

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

Respectfully,
Ken Nelson

MCLURE ROAD MENNONITE CEMETERY SOCIETY

Ross Road Community Church is a member of this society. Membership in the society is maintained by a church representative attending the society's annual general meeting.

Information about prices, records, maps and contacts can be found at the cemetery website: www.maclureroadmennonitecemetery.com

There are 15 member churches. The volunteer executive team members for 2022 are Jake Barkman, Nick Peters, Henry Esau and Herb Nickel. The hired manager Bart Reeyemer takes care of the cemetery operations. There were 117 burials in 2021.

The original 9-acre cemetery property is nearly full. The society is in the process of getting an adjacent 2-acre property ready for use.

The society is self-supporting and is in a good financial standing.

Submitted by Philip Giesbrecht
representative for RRCC

DISCERNMENT: Pastor – Craig Thiessen & Elder Dan Stark, appointed

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Elaine Regier (2020)	2	2024	Term renews
Karen Stobbe (2016)	4	2024	Term renews

ENCORE: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Vic Martens (2018)	3	2024	Term renews
Rose Brechin (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Almut Loewen (2013)	5	2023	Term continues
Elaine Regier (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Avril Letkeman (2020)	2	2024	Term renews
Rich Letkeman (2020)	2	2024	Term renews

FINANCE: Elder – Rick Thiessen

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Jeff Friesen (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Cheryl Cook (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Kory Dicks (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Phil Giesbrecht (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Jake Konrad (2016)	4	2024	Term renews
Janelle Murray (2022)	1	2024	New member
Jonah Stark (2022)	1	2024	New member

FOOD BANK: Pastor – Craig Thiessen

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Michelle Penner (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Derrick Dick (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Susan Dick (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Gina Johnson (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Avril Letkeman (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Rich Letkeman (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
David Penner (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Karen Penner (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Zack Penner (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Bob Regier (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Elaine Regier (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Jen Thomas (2019)	2	2023	Term continues

GLOBAL OUTREACH: Pastor – Craig Thiessen

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Derrick Dick (2017)	3	2023	Term continues
Donna Penner (2016)	4	2024	Term renews
Rose Brechin (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Elvira Martens (2020)	2	2024	Term renews
Tim Martens (2020)	2	2024	Term renews
Christy Peters (2018)	3	2024	Term renews

HOSPITALITY: Staff Support – Sandra Nelson

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Derek Janzen (2011)	6	2023	Term continues
Karen Bergen (2011)	6	2023	Term continues
Jeanette Dyck (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Monika Thiessen (2011)	6	2023	Term continues

LEAD: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Art Birch (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
T. Anderson (2017)	3	2023	Term continues
Curtis Congo (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Joanne Congo (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Rhonda Janzen (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Brian Zacharias (2022)	1	2024	New member

LIBRARY: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Diane Martens (2010)	7	2024	Term renews
Ginni Amendt (2015)	4	2023	Term continues
Gina Johnson (2022)	1	2024	New member
Marilyn Wedel (2010)	7	2024	Term renews

MEN'S MINISTRY: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Steve Nickel (2018)	3	2024	Term renews

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Giselle Jackson (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Nearissa Kasper (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Tim Martens (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Gabe Peters (2022)	1	2024	New member

PROPERTY: Elder – Len Loewen

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Mike Hauser (2017)	3	2023	Term continues
Donovan Funk (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Ben Dyck (2018)	3	2024	Term renews

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Elder - Susan Dick

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Cindy Hauser (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Shaunna Dahlen (2018)	3	2024	Term renews
Deanna Nickel (2018)	3	2024	Term renews

Amanda Unger (2019)	2	2023	Term continues
Gloria Born (2018)	3	2024	Term renews
Corinne Zacharias (2022)	1	2024	New member

YOUNG ADULTS: Pastor – Craig Thiessen

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Angela Rosborough (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Dave Rosborough (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Marianne Rosborough (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Mike Rosborough (2021)	1	2023	Term continues
Jenny Thiessen (2021)	1	2023	Term continues

C. REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTNER MINISTRIES

MACLURE ROAD MENNONITE CEMETERY: 1 POSITION

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Phil Giesbrecht	1	2024	New member

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MCC): 1 POSITION

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Susan Dick (2018)	3	2024	Term renews

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICES:

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Jake Epp (2014)	5	2024	Term renews

MENNONITE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE BOARD: 1 POSITION

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Ken Nelson (2019)	2	2023	Term continues

TABOR VILLAGE SOCIETY:

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Jake Konrad (2015)	4	2023	Term continues
Vic Martens (2015)	4	2023	Term continues

**Our Mission:
“Helping People Find and Follow Jesus”**

**Our Vision:
“To be a welcoming, Christ-centered community that glorifies God by impacting individuals and families near and far.”**