

the  
gathering

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## **GATHERING IDENTITY**

*Who Are We?*

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus made it clear why the church exists: The church exists to “*go and make disciples...*” That is our mandate. That is why we exist. That is Jesus’ call to His church. Therefore, at The Gathering, everything we do as a church must be about *discipleship* and making more and better *disciples* (i.e. *followers* or *apprentices* of Jesus). This document seeks to explain how we desire to do that.

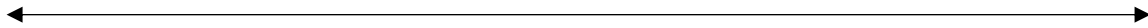


## **OUR MISSION**

*Why We Exist*

*We Exist to Connect People to the Love of Jesus! (2 Corinthians 5:20-21)*

We believe that God’s love is irresistible and that as we become more and more convinced of God’s love for us, that we will surrender more and more of our lives to Him. Knowing, experiencing, and sharing the love of Jesus is what discipleship is all about.



## **OUR VISION FOR DISCIPLESHIP**

*Who We Want to Become*

*We exist to connect people to the love of Jesus...so that they would follow Jesus! (Matthew 28:18-20)*

We follow Jesus by:

- *Being With Jesus* (John 15:4)
- *Becoming Like Jesus* (Romans 12:1-2)
- *Doing What Jesus Said* (John 14:15)



## **MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP**

*What Commitment to the Vision Looks Like*

**Three marks of a disciple who is committed to “*Being With Jesus*”:**

- Hunger and passion for Jesus (Matthew 22:37)
- Learning to hear God’s voice through prayer & Scripture (John 10:27)
- Knowing and increasingly living out of their identity in Christ (Ephesians 1-2)

**Three marks of a disciple who is committed to “*Becoming Like Jesus*”:**

- Increasing desire and commitment to being led by and filled with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16-18)
- Actively inviting the Holy Spirit to transform their character and to heal their heart (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Leaning in to authentic community and spiritual friendship (James 5:16)

**Three marks of a disciple who is committed to “*Doing What Jesus Said*”:**

- Increasingly ‘agrees with Jesus’ and commits to obeying His teaching (John 14:23)
- Actively pursues opportunities to share the Gospel and to make more disciples (1 Peter 3:15)
- Actively cares for ‘the least of these’; the poor, needy, and oppressed (Matthew 25:31-46)



**CULTURAL VALUES**

*What’s Important to Us*

**1. We Value the Bible**

We want everything we teach and do to be shaped by the Bible. We believe that all Scripture points to Jesus (John 5:39) and that it’s impossible to truly know Jesus without knowing the Bible. It is the inspired word of God and it helps us to become more and more like Christ (2 Timothy 3:16).

*We want to be a people of the book!*

**2. We Value 24/7 Worship**

We want the songs that we sing on Sundays to passionately and honestly reflect our love for Christ. At the same time, we know that worship is so much more than the songs that we sing one day a week. In fact, worship is a *lifestyle* and can be experienced in everything that we think, say, and do every single day of the week (Romans 12:1-2).

*We want to be a people who worship Christ in everything!*

**3. We Value Prayer**

We believe that there are things that God wants to do in our world that He cannot do unless His people pray. Prayer changes things (Matthew 7:7)! Church strategy, leadership and plans are all important but ultimately it is prayer that makes room for the Holy Spirit to work.

*We want to be a praying church!*

#### **4. We Value People**

Because we believe that people are God's most prized possession and that He loves everybody (no matter what), we are committed to being as welcoming and as loving a church community as we can possibly be. Everybody needs a church family. So whatever your story - there's a place for you around our table.

*We want to be a loving church!*

#### **5. We Value Mission**

We don't attend church, *we are the church!* And as the church, we are called to live as sent people in our everyday lives; sharing the love of Christ with our friends, neighbours, coworkers, and the poor and marginalized. The mission of God is to drive everything that we do in life (Matthew 28:18-20, Galatians 5:6). The church does not exist for itself, but for our hurting world.

*We want to be a people who live on mission!*

#### **6. We Value Engagement**

While some may treat church as a product to be *consumed*, we strive to be a church that encourages everyone to *contribute*. We believe that the church is not being the church unless everyone is playing their part (1 Corinthians 12:12-26). It takes everyone's time, talents and treasures to accomplish everything that God has called us to accomplish.

*We want to be a church of contributors!*

#### **7. We Value Authenticity**

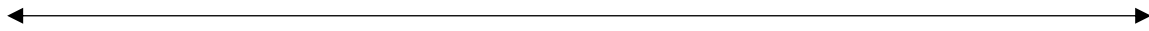
In a world where people often hide behind their masks and pretend to be something they are not, we want to be a people who are taking our masks off and becoming more and more honest with God and with one another. We believe that 'authenticity' is a great indicator of spiritual growth and maturity (James 5:16), and so we long to be real and honest in everything that we do and say (both from the stage on Sundays as well as in our everyday lives!).

*We want to be an honest church!*

## 8. We Value Simplicity

We want to be a *simple church*; A church that focuses on relationships instead of programs. At the same time, we want everything we do to be done with excellence. This requires a laser focus and a commitment to doing only a few things, but doing them well. As a people, this also requires that we avoid the pull to over-schedule our lives, allowing God the space He needs to grow our relationships.

*We want to be a focused church!*



## OUR THEOLOGY

### *What We Believe*

We believe in God as eternal Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created and sustains the universe. The eternal purpose of God the Father is to create a people who will bring glory to God forever. God alone is worthy of worship.

We believe that God became human in Jesus Christ. Jesus came to restore the world because humans have rejected God in disobedience. Jesus taught and modelled the way of God's kingdom. He died on the cross, making it possible for us to accept a renewed relationship with God. He rose from the dead, broke the power of sin and death, and frees us to live in obedience to God's will.

We believe that God the Holy Spirit invites all people to be reconciled with God and to join the global family of faith. Believers confess their faith, are baptized, and join in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and guided by the Bible, members of the church seek to live as followers of Christ and invite others to experience this new life.

As Christians, we look forward to the day when God will once again send Jesus to bring all things under God's eternal rule.

**OUR LEADERSHIP & MEMBERSHIP**

**OUR STAFF:**

Jeff Jantzi – Lead Pastor  
 Kristyn Scott – Church Administrator  
 Dan Chook Reid – Church Planter, Bytown Community Church

**OUR ELDERS:**

Noah Grossman – Board Chair (term ending March 2023)  
 Rebecca Bussey  
 Craig Cudmore  
 Michael Kirkwood  
 Linda MacMillan-Whalen (resigned March 2023)  
 Colin Miller  
 Susan Peyton (term ending March 2023)

**OUR MEMBERS:**

As of March 10, 2023 we have 48 active members at The Gathering:

Matt Alle	Noah Grossman	Julie Oderkirk
Sarah Alle	Rob Jackson	Matt Oderkirk
Braden Bailey	Tracy Jackson	Moti Nano
Paul Bussey	Amy Jansen	Liam Peyton
Rebecca Bussey	Jeff Jantzi	Susan Peyton
Dan Chook Reid	Kim Jantzi	Jason Pierosara
Melody Chook Reid	Brenda Kirkwood	Natalie Pierosara
Craig Cudmore	Michael Kirkwood	George Prytulak
David Dobson	Matthew Koop	Karen Prytulak
Lori Dobson	Melanie Koop	Christa Ramsay
Bob Duncan	Carole Lutes	Angela Richardson
Kim Duncan	Dennie Lutes	Kevin Scott
Lara Dyer	Linda MacMillan-Whalen	Kristyn Scott
Jeremy Gamage	Ted McGregor	Judilyn Weatherbee
Mila Gamage	Nicole Meekin	Stewart Weatherbee
Holly Grossman	Colin Miller	Shawn Whalen

## **LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF ELDERS**

Dear Gathering Family,

Greetings on behalf of the Board of Elders. As always, as you read this, we hope and pray that you and your families are healthy physically, mentally and spiritually.

As I reflect on 2022, I am hit with a strong sense of bitter sweetness around the comings and goings of The Gathering and all that God brought our way. On one hand, it felt like 2022 finally got us back to a little bit of normalcy around our Sunday morning worship and gatherings. As an Elder group along with staff, we saw 2022 as a kind of 're-plant' coming out of the Covid pandemic. Once the final lockdowns were lifted at the end of January, it felt like we were able to launch into the new or 'next-gen' Gathering. We have seen changes to the way we gather, like where we sit. Now we are no longer facing the stage, but in a more 'family gathering' style. Also coming out of the pandemic we have included our kids in the first parts of our worship services to engage with us as a family before they are dismissed to their Sunday Morning programs. While this has made for a bit of a noisier worship time on Sunday mornings, again it adds a more familial dynamic as we are all coming together in God's presence. I love to look around early on during a Sunday morning service and see all the families engaging in various acts of worship. What a great picture it paints of the Big C Church – people of all ages and backgrounds coming together to be with our Creator. It's so good to be back face-to-face!

On the other hand, our congregation was dealt some hardships that I'm not sure our young-ish church has had to go through before. It was a hard year for a lot of people in our congregation. I was awed by the way many came to the aid of those who were affected. It was incredible to see God's love and comfort during a hard season for many of us.

### **Jeff's Sabbatical**

2022 was a different year in the life of The Gathering. For 7+ years, Pastor Jeff had faithfully served us since he arrived in Ottawa in 2014. When Jeff came to the Board of Elders about the prospect of a sabbatical, it was overwhelmingly approved. Unfortunately, due to the Pandemic hitting in 2020, Jeff chose to postpone his planned sabbatical, and so 2022 became the year. Jeff started his sabbatical in May 2022 and was 'unplugged' and out of sight until September 2022. We have heard Jeff share about all that God did for him and showed him (and by extension the whole Jantzi family) during his time off, and I'm sure he has other reflections in his own end-of-year report.

My takeaway was that it was encouraging to see that when Jeff left, there were countless others able to step up and fill in, from Dan Chook Reid taking the lion's share of Sunday morning sermons, to numerous other volunteers just making sure things were getting done throughout the week and on Sunday mornings, not to mention VBC (I'm looking at the Prytulak family here – I say this as a parent of three kids currently going through Sunday School: what a treasure this family has been to all of our kids!! Please make sure they know it).

Thanks to all who played their part in making sure The Gathering was still operational during this time. As Jeff has said, it was encouraging to see that even though he was gone, The Gathering pressed on. While we love the fact and are blessed that Jeff was renewed and rested for his next season of ministry, it's still a great thing to know that God's church still moves forward, regardless of who's around.



## Board Transitions

I want to take a moment here to recognize that we again are seeing some transition at the Board level. Linda MacMillan-Whalen has had to step away, but we're so grateful for her time around our table and I wanted to make sure to acknowledge and thank Linda for her service this last year.

Also stepping away will be Susan Peyton. Susan has faithfully served on the Board of Elders for six years, while continuing to serve and lead on our worship team on Sunday mornings. I have appreciated Susan's thoughtfulness and kind spirit as I have served alongside her, and we are so grateful as a congregation for her time building and blessing us. The good news is that both Susan and Linda will still be around, so this isn't a true goodbye, but it's certainly a hearty thank you to both.

Finally, in sticking with transitions, this will be my final letter as Chair and a member of the Board of Elders. When I was first approached seven years ago to consider joining the board, I remember feeling intimidated and entirely unqualified to serve in this capacity. Today as I approach my final days as an Elder at The Gathering, I still sometimes feel intimidated and entirely unqualified to be serving in this capacity. God has brought a lot our way as a church family during my time on the board. We've seen people come and go (including two of my three kids joining the mix!), staff turnover, a global pandemic, and more. Through it all, I've watched firsthand as God has continued to take care of The Gathering. I can't overstate how much I've appreciated and valued the other members of this Elder Board over the years whom I have had the absolute pleasure to serve alongside of. This isn't easy work, and it's certainly not glamorous. Thank you to all those teammates who brought levity to all of our meetings and made it easy to be a part of this team. As I've said many times, this Elder Board has been blessed by God to have had a group of people who have worked cohesively and in good faith. Having grown up in the church, it was not uncommon to hear 'horror stories' of similar boards who were constantly subject to in-fighting, factions among their groups, and more. This was part of the intimidation I felt when I was first approached. I'm so thankful to say that my experience was the opposite of that. While many times there was disagreement amongst our group, it was always accompanied by grace and wisdom, ultimately ending in a unified room.

When I began my service to this board, the one thing that I set as a goal for myself in this role was simple: Leave this board (and by extension this church) in a better place than when I found it. That is my hope and prayer as I conclude my time as part of The Gathering Leadership. I pray that we have and will remain faithful to discerning God's will and direction for our community church. What an exciting time as the next group of our leadership begins to discern the direction our church will be headed in over the next few years. I encourage all of us to lean in to where God is taking us with the Anchor Cause. I believe fully that God has a great new season in line for The Gathering, and what better time than now to see some new faces come into our Elders to help figure that out and guide the rest of us.

As always, see you all Sunday mornings.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N.G.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Noah Grossman**

*Chair, Elder Board*

## **LEAD PASTOR REPORT**

Prepared by Jeff Jantzi

### **2022 IN REVIEW...**

It feels like forever ago now, but 2022 started with yet another lockdown. The Omicron variant was peaking, and it seemed that everybody was getting Covid. For us, this meant going back to being online only for a few weeks to start the year as a church. This was quite a discouraging for me (as I think it was for all of us, in general). After a slow but steady few months of growth as a church leading up to January 2022, there was a part of me that felt as though we were never going to recover.

But God is so good! After a slow start to the year, we saw God do some great things in our church as we worked to re-establish ourselves 'post-Covid'. Between a few baptisms and several new faces joining us for worship on Sunday mornings (among many other things), the year ended with a strong sense of momentum and excitement around what God was up to in and through our church.

As we look back at 2022 and all that God has done in our church, here are some of the things that come to mind for me:

### **SABBATICAL**

I was so grateful to be able to take a 3.5 month Sabbatical this past year (June-mid September). I didn't realize how exhausted (and possibly nearing burnout) that I was at the time. God met me and renewed my soul in profound ways while I was off, and for that I am so grateful.

I also want to thank the board of Elders for allowing me to take this break, and also for stepping up in my absence. It was no small task, but they stepped up and served with such humility and grace.

Thanks also to Dan who backfilled for me on Sunday mornings while I was away. Pastoring two congregations and preaching twice each Sunday is not easy.

Thanks as well to Kristyn and to Steven (our summer student), whose workloads no doubt increased while I was away.

Again, I am so grateful for the much-needed time that I was able to have away.

If you missed it, I shared two sermons with some reflections coming out of my Sabbatical upon my return in September. You can watch them here: [www.thegatheringottawa.com/sabbaticalreflections](http://www.thegatheringottawa.com/sabbaticalreflections)

### **IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES**

As I mentioned in the introduction, 2022 started quite slow for us a church. With the lockdown, followed by sparsely attended in-person services throughout the winter months (and fewer people watching online due to 'screen fatigue'), there were weeks where I wondered, "*What's the point?*". Maybe some of you wondered that too, at times.

And yet, in those moments of discouragement, I felt God encouraging me (and us, as a church) to be very intentional about focusing on Jesus and the call to be faithful to Him while leaving the results (i.e. 'the numbers') up to Him. As Mother Teresa once said, "*God has called us not to be successful, but to be*

*faithful.*” “Success; (i.e., lots of people attending our church on Sunday mornings) is NOT God’s call on our lives and church. His call to us is to be faithful to Him – no matter the cost – leaving the results up to Him. I needed (and continue to need) that reminder.

That said, as the year continued and life slowly returned to ‘normal’ for most people, I was really encouraged by the number of new faces that we saw showing up on Sunday mornings. I remember one Sunday, in particular, looking out and noticing that no less than half of the people in the room were new to the church within the past number of weeks, with some of them being completely new to church and faith in general. It was a great reminder to me that as we remain faithful to God’s call on us as a church (as opposed to worrying about numbers and trying to build our own kingdom etc.), He’ll do the rest.

While we’re still quite small (with ~100 people in attendance on Sundays) and still not quite back to our pre-Covid numbers, I’m so encouraged by the new life and level of engagement that many of these new (and old!) faces have brought to our church. I’m excited about what God has in store for us as a church as we commit to remaining faithful to Him.

One of the things that I believe ‘being faithful’ means for me is teaching through the Scriptures – one passage at a time (as opposed to trying to find the latest and greatest topical sermon series idea, not that that’s wrong – it’s just not for me). I continue to believe that there is power in God’s word, and that as we are faithful to go to the Scriptures together week after week – the Holy Spirit will use it to make us more like Jesus.

And so, throughout 2022, we continued to work through the book of Acts together – looking to the story of the early church to (re)discover what God’s call is on the church today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It’s been such a rich time working through this book together, and I can’t wait to see what God does with it throughout 2023 as well.

I also want to make sure to thank our worship leaders and band members who so faithfully serve us and lead us into God’s presence every week. It’s not easy being a portable church and leading worship in a cavernous cafetorium, but Susan and Braden do so well to lead with humility, skill, and a heart after God. Thanks so much to all our worship band members!

Thanks too to the many set up and tear down volunteers, along with our sound and coffee volunteers, who show up early and stay late each week in order to serve Jesus by serving His church. You truly are the ‘unsung heroes’ of our church – the people who make it possible for us to “Connect people to the love of Jesus” each and every week. We literally couldn’t do it without you!

## **BAPTISMS**

It was such a joy to be able to baptize Natalie Pierosara in May 2022 (the morning 60 students from Winnipeg joined us for worship!) and Matt & Sarah Alle in December 2022. It was extra-special after not being able to have a baptismal service in two and a half years. We hope to see more take this step of faith in 2023! Please pray that God would move in people’s hearts and give them the courage to take this vital step.

## **ONLINE SERVICES**

From January-September, we continued to pre-record the sermon, along with the announcements and some other elements, and to 'premiere' an online service on YouTube every Sunday morning for those who could not join us for in-person worship at the school.

It was (and remains) important that we have a strong online presence, especially for those who are not able to join us in-person on Sunday mornings (we have some immuno-compromised folk who watch each week as they can't attend in person). We've also found that it's important for new people who are considering attending our church, as they will often watch online prior to coming.

At the same time, I was finding it increasingly difficult & time-consuming to pre-record each week. Truthfully, it was becoming a significant source of stress for me. And so, during my Sabbatical, I decided that we needed to make a change.

In late September, after returning from Sabbatical, we shifted away from posting a pre-recorded version of the sermon to recording it live on Sunday morning. This version is then posted on YouTube by Sunday evening (along with a pre-recorded version of Kristyn giving the announcements etc) and people who are interested can watch then.

This small change simplified life significantly for me (or whoever is preaching that week), but also gave online viewers a more authentic glimpse into our in-person service on Sunday mornings.

We're grateful to be able to connect with an additional 40-80 people each week on YouTube!

## **TRUCK & TRAILER**

One of the challenges we faced in 2022 was being told (in late September) that we could no longer store our Sunday AM gear onsite at St. FX High School. This meant we needed to go totally mobile once again, transporting our equipment on and off-site each and every week.

As a result, for a period of 10 weeks or so, we had to rent a u-Haul each week while storing our equipment in Kristyn's garage. This was far from ideal, but we (Kristyn and our many volunteers!) made it work.

During this time, we asked the congregation to prayerfully consider contributing to a "Truck Fund". To my surprise, God provided almost \$23K (!! ) through the generosity His people! As a result, in late December we were able to purchase a 2011 Ford F150 and a 16' Enclosed Utility Trailer to transport our gear each week.

Thanks so much to everyone who contributed financially and helped to make this happen! And a special thanks to Boudy Mann who led the charge in helping us find a suitable truck and trailer. We loved to be able to store our gear onsite at St. FX (and hope there will be a day where we can do so again), but trust that God will continue to provide for our every need.

## **HOME CHURCH**

2022 was a year of transition for our Home Churches. Many transitioned from being online only, to

being 'hybrid' (online and in-person), to being in-person only. Through all these transitions, along with the exhaustion many are still coping with post-pandemic, a couple of our groups 'pressed pause' on meeting altogether, while others adapted and found a way to make it work.

In 2022 we had as many as 7 groups that met in some form, meeting to "connect and grow" together. These groups are the backbone of our church. It is where people experience community and grow most deeply in our church. It is my hope and prayer that we would see our groups strengthened in 2023!

One highlight from 2022 for me here was in leading an online Alpha group with Dan Chook Reid. We had 7 men join us each week, most of whom were new believers or still exploring faith. One of these men did end up surrendering his life to Jesus and being baptized by Dan in the summer! It was incredible to see God at work through this group.

## OUTREACH

It was so wonderful to be able to get back to some of our in-person outreach events in our community this year. Here are some of the highlights:

- **The Big Give (June 4)** – This was our first outreach event in almost 3 years (since Covid). It was such a thrill as we saw over 1200 people from our community join us for a movie under the stars. It was a great bridge-building event for our church.
- **Vacation Bible Camp** – We had 40 children (and 8 youth helpers!) participate in our first ever in-person Vacation Bible Camp in Manotick! This was such a good way for us to make some new connections with families. Thanks to the Prytulak family for pulling this together!
- **Movie in the Park (Sept 16)** – We had an amazing evening at "Mountain Meadows Park" with over 1500 neighbours. What a blessing to be able to be a blessing to our neighbourhood in such a practical way!
- **Compassion Collective** – Together, we were able to contribute significant dollars to the work of Compassion in Guatemala! We also hosted a Compassion Sunday in December and saw 8 children from Guatemala sponsored. Together, along with the others in the Collective, we are now sponsoring over 300 children in Guatemala together. Praise God! Thanks for sponsoring kids and for giving over-and-above to this amazing ministry.
- **Christmas Events in Riverside South** – It was a joy to be able to march in the Riverside South Christmas Parade in November, as well as to have Susan sing Christmas carols/songs at the Riverside South Community Associations sleigh ride event in December.
- **Christmas Eve** – While attendance was hampered by a Christmas Blizzard, it was great to be able to reach out to our community this Christmas. We had around 150 people in attendance, with many of them being guests to The Gathering. We also had several others watch online after-the-fact.

## **KIDS MINISTRY**

In 2022 we saw our Sunday Mornings Kids Ministry program bounce back in a big way! Special thanks to Mrs. P (Karen Prytulak) and all our amazing Kids Ministry Volunteers for helping make it happen. On any given Sunday we can have 20-40 kids and it's critical that we disciple them well.

Check out Mrs. P's Kids Ministry report on page 21.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Our Youth Ministry partnership with Parkway has remained strong throughout 2022. Pastor Gavin and his team of volunteers have done a fabulous job connecting with our students.

While Gavin did resign (in the summer) and move on to another role with another church in Southern Ontario, Thursday evening Youth Ministry remained strong under Pastor Nate's leadership. We're grateful for our partnership with Parkway and it's Youth Ministry!

Check out Pastor Nate's Youth Ministry report on page 22.

Our Sunday morning Junior Youth program also relaunched in 2022, with Steven Prytulak and others leading the way. Thanks to all our amazing Junior High volunteers for investing in our youth each and every week!

## **ELDERS**

I am so grateful for the support of a great Board of Elders. I sometimes hear from pastor friends about their dysfunctional or unsupportive boards but am so thankful that this is not the case at The Gathering! Our board is very supportive and I am beyond thankful for them.

Make sure to check out our board chair, Noah Grossman's report on pages 8-9 to get a sense for some of the things we worked on together in 2022.

On that note, I do want to thank Noah (term expiring), Susan (term expiring) and Linda (resignation) for all their time and effort as they served on our Elder Board. You all brought invaluable perspective to the board, and I am so grateful for your voice and leadership around our table. Well done, good and faithful servants!

While replacing these Elders is no easy task, the Elders are excited to be welcoming two new Elders to the board at our AGM in March 2023 (pending membership affirmation!). More on that in Susan's report from the Nominating Committee on pages 23-24.

## **SUMMER STUDENT**

We were thrilled to have Steven Prytulak on staff as our summer student for the summer of 2022! He worked with Mrs. P to lead our Vacation Bible Camp, volunteered with our Youth Ministry, helped out on Sundays, and supported Kristyn with various administrative tasks. Thanks Steven for all your hard work!

## **FACILITY COMMITTEE**

Our Facility Committee (which includes Stewart Weatherbee, Matt Koop, Michael Kirkwood and Kristyn Scott) exists to re-evaluate the suitability of St. FX High School as our meeting space on Sunday mornings and to look at other possibilities within Riverside South (RSS).

After much research, discussion and prayer, this committee (along with the Elder board) agreed that St. FX remains the best option for us in this season. While there are other schools within RSS that might be suitable, they are not available every Sunday. This would put our congregation into a constant state of flux (as we would have to change meeting locations 10-12 times a year) and would result in instability for our church. We're grateful that God has provided a great space for us to meet at St. FX and that we have been able to keep the cost of renting that space to a minimum. While we'd love to have a permanent space within the community one day, we don't feel that we need to have that in order to do what God has called us to do.

## **FINANCES**

You can see a full financial report on pages 27-31, but I am so grateful for God's provision in 2022. While giving is down and there are some question marks moving forward, God continues to provide all that we need through YOUR generosity. Thank you so much for being faithful with your finances and for believing in the ministry of our church!

Special thanks to Michael Kirkwood, our Treasurer (and an Elder), for his tireless work in this area. Thanks too to Ethan Bussey who started helping us with some bookkeeping duties in 2022.

## **BYTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

I continue to be very excited for Dan & Mel Chook Reid and the work that God is doing through their church plant, "Bytown Community Church". Planting a church is very hard, and planting a church virtually during Covid is even more hard. But God is faithful, and He is building a great church community in the downtown core of Ottawa. I am so glad that we at The Gathering get to be a part of it! Brenda Kirkwood and I both sit on Dan's Task Force, and our board continues to provide oversight to Dan's work.

See Dan's report for more information on page 19-20.

## **ONMB**

2022 was a year of transition for our denomination as well. In the fall, Ed Willms was released from his role as the Executive Director of the provincial denomination, and two of our MB churches were put in suspension after moving away from our Confession of Faith's teaching on marriage ([www.thegatheringottawa.com/confessionoffaith](http://www.thegatheringottawa.com/confessionoffaith)). It was a sad & challenging year, to say the least. I continue to pray that God would give our family of churches much wisdom and discernment as we aim to love each other well and, ultimately, to minister to our hurting world with the grace & truth of Jesus.

I do want to thank Noah Grossman who serves on our ONMB Board. It was not an easy year, but he stepped up and served so well.

For those interested in learning more about the different conversations taking place within our ONMB family these days, you can check out the “2023 Convention Yearbook” from our annual convention (which just took place in February) here: [www.thegatheringottawa.com/2023conventionyearbook](http://www.thegatheringottawa.com/2023conventionyearbook).

## **PASTORAL ITEMS**

Coming out of the pandemic has been hard for a lot of people and families. I've seen many marriages struggle (and even end), mental health issues soar, spiritual disorientation/deconstruction surface, and physical health issues appear. Pastorally, I've felt God calling me to do what I can to make myself available to love and support as many people as possible in these areas, while recognizing that I can't do it all. My heart is for our people, especially those who are hurting & struggling. I pray that this coming year will be a year of health and healing and wholeness for our church family.

Of course, the most devastating news of the year came in early June, as Mary Scott passed away. There are no words, even still. We miss Mary deeply.

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023...**

Here are a few things that I'm excited about in the year ahead:

## **ANCHOR CAUSE**

One of the most exciting conversations taking place in our church these days is around our Anchor Cause discernment process. Coming out of Covid, and as we've been working our way through the book of Acts together as a church (seeing how the early church cared for the poor), our Elder Board began to ask the question, *“Who are the poor/vulnerable amongst us in Riverside South? And what might God be inviting us to do about it?”* We've long strived to be an 'outward-facing church' (sharing the good news of Jesus with our neighbourhood and city in both word and deed) but assumed – when it came to ministering to the poor, anyway – that we needed to go somewhere else to do that (i.e. downtown) and that there were no real poor people amongst us.

And so, after “Connecting Streams” completed a neighbourhood study for us, and after having met with several civic leaders in the area, we were shocked to discover that there is a surprising number of people living at or below the poverty line in our neighbourhood and that “Food Insecurity” is a significant and growing concern for them. This has led us to again ask the question, *“What might God be inviting us to do about it?”*

To learn more, check out Craig and Linda Cudmore's report on page 25-26. While there are still more questions than there are answers at this point in the journey, I'm excited to see where God will lead us as a church family in response to this need!

## **HOME CHURCH**

Home Church is an area that we need to grow in as a church this year. With so many new people in attendance each week, we need to be connecting them into community as well.

As of right now, there are only 4 Home Churches that are meeting during the week. I would like to see that number get back up to 6 or 7 this year. Please join me in praying that God would raise up leaders



who can host and disciple our people well!

## **MENS MINISTRY**

One of the issues our Elders have identified as a need within our church is the lack of engagement of some men in our church. For example, approximately 75% of those who attend a Home Church right now are women. There are also several instances of women attending church without their husband on Sunday mornings.

While we're not totally clear why this is the case, we do want to be more intentional about engaging and discipling the men in our church in the coming year. This may include things like Men's Breakfasts, Men's Small Group(s), and other social events like the Men's Super Bowl Party that the Bussey's hosted earlier this year. Again, we just want to be more intentional about engaging and discipling the men in our church (while continuing to do the same for women!). Please join me in praying for God to lead and guide us along the way!

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

We will be continuing to work through the book of Acts together on Sundays throughout much of 2023. We will likely be finishing up sometime in the fall. I've so loved working through this book as it so rich in story and inspiration of what God did then and what he can do through us now!

Also, I long to see our church grow in our engagement in worship (through song) on Sunday mornings. This is a growing burden in my heart. Pray that God would move amongst us as we gather and that we'd respond with hearts full of praise, wonder and surrender to Him!

## **OUTREACH**

Throughout 2023, we will continue to look for opportunities to love our neighbours and to serve others with the good news of Jesus.

This will include things like:

- **Connecting Streams** – This is a ministry that our own Linda Cudmore (and now Darlene Rowlandson) works with. They have been and will continue to be a key resource for us as we discern our next steps as it relates to our Anchor Cause. We are excited to see where God leads!
- **Vacation Bible Camp** – We are planning on hosting another in-person VBC this summer! Steven Prytulak, our summer student again this year, will be leading the charge along with Mrs. P, Kristyn and other volunteers.
- **Soccer Camp** – We are considering also offering a soccer camp in August, as we have in years past.
- **The Big Give and Other Events** – Plans are already under way to host "The Big Give" in June and a "Movie in the Park" in September once again this year. It's a great way for us to connect with our community and to love our neighbours in a practical way. However, due to budget constraints, we will need to fundraise the money needed to host these events. We will be

sharing more about this in the coming months. Please be in prayer about this – that God would provide (as He always does!)

- Blessing **Partner Ministries** like OIM, Jericho Road, Compassion Canada, First Place Options, Multiply and various church plants that we partner with. We long to be in a position to financially bless other ministries at the end of the year!
- **Other?** We want to remain as agile and flexible as we can, ready to respond to needs as God presents them to us!

## ELDERS

I am excited to be adding two new Elders this year (pending membership affirmation): Moti Nano and Jason Pierosara. Craig Cudmore will also be letting his name stand to serve a second term. Noah Grossman & Susan Peyton’s terms have expired after serving 7 and 6 years respectively (WOW!). We’re also sad to see Linda McMillan Whalen stepping off the board after being elected 1 year ago. We hope to see her rejoin the Elder Board down the road!

For more on our nomination process, see Susan’s report on pages 23-24.

## NEW MEMBERS

At the time of writing this (March 4), we have already accepted 12 new members into membership at our church. This is the most ever in one year, with more likely to come. Praise God! Jesus is continuing to build His church, despite my lack of faith at times.

## CLOSING COMMENTS

There is much more I could say – but this report has gone on long enough! If you’re still reading, thanks for making it to the end 😊.

Once again, I want to thank every one of you for all the ways that you have served our Church Family in this season. It’s been a somewhat tough year, but we made it through together. Thanks for giving of time, talents and treasures in order to see our Church be more and more effective in “connecting people to the love of Jesus.”

And thanks too to Kristyn and to Dan, who serve our church so faithfully. Kristyn in particular – the work you do for our church is so huge! We’d be lost without you. Thanks for all you do.

I love our church family now more than ever and can truly say it is a joy being your pastor.

Our best days are ahead!!

Grateful for you, and Grateful to HIM,



Pastor Jeff Jantzi

## **CHURCH PLANTER REPORT**

Prepared by Dan Chook Reid

Twenty-twenty two was a year of firsts for Bytown Community Church. We had our first baptism, our first summer student, our first year of all in-person services and our first engagement! We also said goodbye when our first couple moved away. As a family we celebrated Eli beginning kindergarten and also navigated my first experience of an experimental trial.

The year started very humbly. With the onset of the omicron variant of COVID, people were cautious. One Sunday in January, I remember there were three of us in the sanctuary of St Giles. However, things quickly began to pick up and people began to gather. By the end of the year, we had twenty to thirty people gathering each Sunday.

I had hoped to run the Alpha course this year and was thrilled when a young man from the community contacted the church to see if it was being offered. We did the course in partnership with The Gathering and it was a joyful experience. At the end of the course this individual dedicated his life to Christ and was baptized over the summer months. It was a real highlight this year.

Jeff took Sabbatical and over the summer months I balanced both churches. I was so grateful for my summer student, Chris, who essentially ran the small ministry at Bytown. Walking with him was fun! Encouraging, guiding and mentoring are some of my favourite things. It will hopefully start a strong tradition of working with university students and giving them an opportunity to get ministry experience.

Over the summer we began to meet in the park. We moved to a new park in Lowertown and had a phenomenal experience (though I found out later it is technically a dog park). Besides one of the kids falling in dog poop one Sunday, the park served us well! The setting was beautiful. The covering allowed us to meet there rain or shine, and we met a very different demographic of people than we connect with during the winter in the Glebe.

It is clear that Bytown now has two centres of activity, one hub in the greater Glebe (Capital Ward) area and another in Lowertown/New Edinburgh. It was not necessarily the strategy I originally intended, but God is drawing people from these two parts of the city and I foresee that in the future we'll aim to have a midweek small group in each area.

We gathered this fall for Bytown's second annual fall retreat. We had to change locations last minute, but our AirBnB served us well and we had a great time. We sang goofy kids songs by the fire, followed by a lectio divina for the adults after the kids had gone to bed. It was really lovely.

This past year God answered prayers. We have a strong core team now and people are highly engaged. People want to volunteer and give input. Our core team has also become friends with each other which was one of my prayer requests. It completely changes the atmosphere when people connect outside of scheduled activities.

The church continues to grow slowly. The thought that I am caring for this small church and watching it grow as cancer also slowly grows in my body is odd. I often wonder which will happen first, the church gets a lot of momentum and really takes off, or the cancer. Time will tell. What I do know is

that by the end of 2022, Bytown Community Church felt like it was becoming a “real” church. It’s a crazy story and God is revealing himself to be so faithful.

Thank you so much for all your support. I’m so thankful for you.

## **KIDS MINISTRY REPORT**

Prepared by Karen Prytulak

Welcome to Kidland!

We are so fortunate to have many children who attend the Gathering each week. It is wonderful to teach them about Jesus and help them grow in their faith.

From January to June 2022, children from Kindergarten to Grade 5 met as a large group on Sunday mornings. We sang songs, listened to stories, made crafts, and learned about Jesus. (Sometimes we ate candy, too!) We learned about Joseph, Job, Saul, Easter, the Trinity, and the Disciples.

Throughout the summer months, Steven met with the children outside for a short devotional and play time in the field or chatting on the bleachers. (We may have eaten a few popsicles, as well.)

Beginning in September 2022, we organized three separate Kids Ministries - Junior High, Kids Church, and Fun Church/Nursery.

Steven ran the Junior High program for three Sundays every month, and a volunteer filled in on the fourth Sunday. This group used the weekly videos from *The Meeting House* website, and followed it up with group discussions.

George and I ran Kids Church for three out of four Sundays as well. Throughout this season in Kids Church, we learned about God's Restoration, Creation, Treasure Hunters, and the Characters of Christmas.

Fun Church/Nursery children joined Kids Church for the opening activities and then left to play next door during the lesson and craft.

This year was our first ever in-person VBC event. It was held from July 18-22, 2022 at the Ottawa Agape Chinese Alliance Church in Manotick. We had 48 children register for the camp in advance, and numerous teenagers volunteered to help us throughout the week. Steven, Kristyn, George, and I spent many hours filming our VBC videos, preparing snacks, organizing crafts, practicing magic tricks, performing science experiments, and recording songs to make this an exciting event.

We based our VBC activities around a detective theme and learned about Baby Moses, the Spies in Canaan, Rahab, Zacchaeus, and the Two Men on the road to Emmaus. We had an exciting time sharing Jesus with the many children who attended. We are looking forward to another fabulous VBC event in 2023!

Our volunteers are absolutely vital to our Kids Ministry. Most volunteers helped out two Sundays this fall. A huge thank you to everyone who stepped up to do so, especially to those who volunteered when we were short staffed.

Thank you for sharing your children with me; they are a precious gift and a true blessing!

*"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6*



## **YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT**

Prepared by Nathaniel Venasse, Lead Pastor at Parkway

2022 was a year of change and development for our Youth Ministry at Parkway Church. Pastor Gavin began consistent on-site youth services, and our summer program “Dog Days” returned.

Just before Canada Day, Pastor Gavin received a call to return to his home church in Toronto. After much prayer and heartache, Gavin and his wife Ashley felt the call to minister to the youth at Stone Church and said goodbye to Parkway.

While we searched for a new youth pastor, I returned to youth ministry. A challenge in running in person youth ministries was volunteers. Because of this, the junior high and senior high programs were combined and was renamed PKWY YTH.

Currently there are 20-30 youth meeting weekly in worship and word. The fall saw the return of live worship biweekly, and small groups broken up by grade and gender.

In early February 2023, Parkway welcomed Jordan Slaven on staff as our new Youth Director. This is a part time position which oversees our youth ministry, which Jordan will do while he finishes his bible college degree online.

We also welcome Jordan’s wife Erica on staff as our Children’s Director.

Please continue to pray for our youth and consider if God may be asking you to pour into the faith of this generation through mentoring, or just sharing a meal and time with the youth. They need you more than you know!

## **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Prepared by Susan Peyton, Elder

The members of the 2022 Nominations Committee were Noah Grossman (Elder, Chair), Susan Peyton (Elder), Stewart Weatherbee (Church Member) and Jeff Jantzi (Lead Pastor).

Working in accordance with The Gathering's By-law, the mandate of the Nominations Team is to assist the Lead Pastor and Board of Elders in the identification of Active Members suitable for appointment as Elders.

As part of its discernment process, the congregation was invited into a season of fasting and prayer for discernment and direction from the Holy Spirit, and was encouraged to submit confidential nominations to Pastor Jeff between December 1, 2022 and January 29, 2023.

Each nominee was given the opportunity to discern personally as to whether they wished to allow their name to stand and were asked to submit nomination response forms. Once the time for nominations had closed, the Nominations Team formally met with each candidate.

After meeting with two nominees, the Nominations Team was able to recommend both candidates to the Board of Elders upon completion of the discernment process. The Board of Elders, in accordance with the constitution were given the opportunity to affirm the Nominations Team's recommendations.

This year the Lead Pastor, with the support of the Board of Elders and Nominations Team would like to recommend that Moti Nano and Jason Pierosara be acclaimed to the Board of Elders.

The Nominations Team wishes to thank the candidates for their willingness to let their names stand and wishes to thank all the board members for their past year of service: Rebecca Bussey, Craig Cudmore, Noah Grossman, Michael Kirkwood, Linda Macmillan-Whalen, Colin Miller and Susan Peyton. Noah Grossman, Linda MacMillan-Whalen and Susan Peyton will be stepping off the Board of Elders after completion of the Annual General Meeting on March 26, 2023.

### **Recommendations (Motion):**

**(1) That Moti Nano and Jason Pierosara be affirmed to the Board of Elders.**

## **SLATE OF CANDIDATES TO THE BOARD OF ELDERS**

### **Moti Nano, Bio**

Moti and his wife Chaltu have attended The Gathering since late 2018. They have two girls, Amarti (12 years old) and Sonaan (10 years old).

Both Moti and Chaltu moved to Canada at different times from Ethiopia, fleeing gross human rights violations in their native country. Moti was born and brought up in a Christian (Lutheran) family and Chaltu was born to a family who attended Coptic Christian Church, though she later became a member of a protestant (Lutheran) Church.

Moti likes to spend his free time going for walks, biking and spending time with his wife and daughters. Moti is looking forward to serving The Gathering and its members as a Church Elder.

### **Jason Pierosara, Bio**

Jason, his wife Natalie, and their two children, Nathan and Emily, have attended The Gathering since Christmas Eve, 2010. He has a BA in Psychology from Western University, and an MBA from McMaster University. Jason is a Sr. Business Development Manager and Client Relationship Leader at the National Research Council of Canada.

Jason grew up in St. Catharines, Ontario and was raised in a Catholic home. His family and religious experience growing up gave him a foundation in the teachings of Jesus Christ, but it wasn't until he became a father that he felt a strong calling to develop a real and intimate relationship with Jesus. It was through the support of his family and his relationships with the amazing church community at The Gathering that Jason developed this relationship, learned to truly accept Jesus' incredible free gift of grace, and to accept Jesus as his Saviour.

Jason loves spending time with his family and friends. He enjoys laughing, hiking, biking and skateboarding (yes, he knows how old he is), drumming (worship!), drawing, and volunteering.

Jason is eager to continue his journey in faith alongside all the attendees of The Gathering, and is honoured to be considered for the role of Church Elder. He is very excited to use his spiritual gifts to help our church family and our community to connect to the Love of Jesus, so that they too would follow Him!



## **ANCHOR CAUSE UPDATE**

Prepared by Craig & Linda Cudmore

In 2021 the board agreed to begin the process of discerning an “Anchor Cause” for The Gathering. An Anchor Cause is an opportunity for the Church to serve the poor and marginalized in our community in a meaningful and tangible way, using the gifts and resources that God has given us. The Gathering has a long rich history of partnering with other ministries and organizations over the years to serve throughout the city, but the Anchor Cause is meant to be a God inspired calling that we as a Church embrace and own for the long term to serve vulnerable people in our own community. It is our opportunity to live out the second great commandment to “Love your neighbour as yourself” (Romans 13:9) and keep in mind Jesus’ challenge that “As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

The first step in establishing an Anchor Cause is to discern what the cause should be. To that end a “Needs and Capabilities Assessment” was initiated to seek out the needs in the community, identify our strengths and capabilities, and where there may be a match of our capabilities to meet the needs. Prayer has been the cornerstone of every step.

To assist in the identification of community needs, a partnership was established with Connecting Streams, a national organization with a strong local presence in working with the vulnerable population. They help churches identify areas of need and guide the process of setting up new programs. We are grateful for their guidance and insight throughout the process.

Many action items have already been undertaken in the past year.

- A **focus group** was formed to **lead prayer** and begin the practicalities of the discernment process.
- Three **community prayer walks** were organized where members of the congregation covered the entire neighbourhood of Riverside South, praying for our neighbours, businesses, and schools, intentionally seeking the Spirit on what God wanted to reveal to us.
- A **neighbourhood study** was created providing a data-driven analysis of demographic information and needs.
- A **congregational survey** was conducted where people could express their perception of needs in the community, as well as indicate interests in personal causes and giftings they could potentially contribute.
- **Meetings with community leaders** have taken place with Community Association executives, our City Councillor, and social service agencies from surrounding areas to gather their insights. Additional meetings are planned to continue these dialogues.

The process has been eye-opening, with many insightful discoveries about the fast-growing neighbourhoods of Riverside South and Findlay Creek. Some key findings include:

- 16% of residents speak a language other than French or English at home, an indication of the ever-increasing cultural diversity.
- 1000 more households have children than do not have children (4800 vs 3800).
- 7.8% of children and youth live below the poverty line. While below the city rate, it is still a sizeable number and consistent with the national rate. There are people financially struggling in our area.

- The median family income for Riverside South is \$90k/year, but 30% of households have an income below \$60k/year.
- Many programs and activities are available for children, and a growing number for youth and seniors. However, there is a gaping hole in social services resulting in people seeking help outside our neighbourhoods.
- The Pavilion Food Bank in South Keys is the designated food bank for Riverside South and Findlay Creek and serves many clients in these areas. It can be difficult to access services because of poor transit and distance.

Based on the information received so far, we sense God is pointing The Gathering to a candidate Anchor Cause for consideration - the establishment of a Food Bank for providing social services to at-risk families in South Gloucester neighbourhoods. Currently these services do not exist in our community. As mentioned, this project would fill a major gap in the city and is in direct response to the isolation challenges through Covid as well as increased costs of living. The Ottawa Food Bank and The Pavilion Food Bank, which currently services this area, recognize the significant and growing need for a community driven program.

Most programs that initially start as food banks grow to serve as hubs for other social services for vulnerable populations such as new Canadians, single-parent families, and seniors. The opportunities for our church to develop new relationships are exciting. It is recognized that there is much work ahead to build a solid infrastructure and deliver such a service for sustainability, but the process is not insurmountable with God's guidance, no matter what Anchor Cause is embraced as we still are in the discernment process.

It should be stressed that, while God seems to be pointing The Gathering in this direction, we continue to seek Him for continued guidance and clarity.

So, what's next? A second congregational survey, additional information-gathering meetings with other churches and organizations are planned, along with much prayer to continue the discernment of the direction in which God is leading and guiding. As clarity is given and should this project continue to be highlighted, a business plan will be developed and presented to the congregation.

Being in step with God is utmost important. If you are interested in joining our focus group, please contact Pastor Jeff. The congregation is invited to join in continual prayer, for His guidance to confirm or redirect the plans, and for affirmation that The Gathering is to embrace the project He presents, no matter how small or large.

This is an exciting and significant step in the life of our congregation, and we welcome your prayers and comments on the journey.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

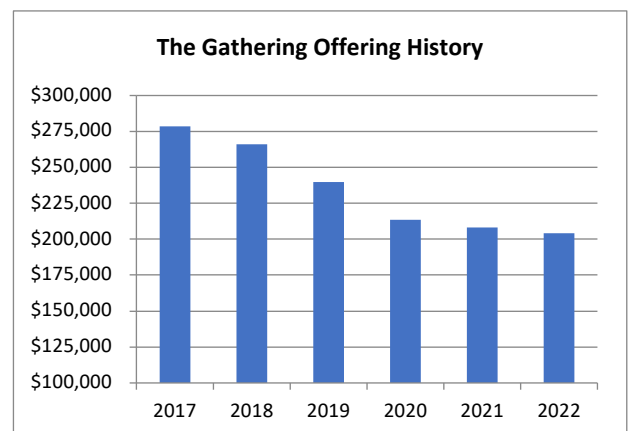
Prepared by Michael Kirkwood

### Statement Of Operations - Year Ended December 31, 2022:

Statement of Operations	2022			2021	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Variance
Offering	204,052	225,000	(20,948)	208,012	(3,960)
Government COVID-19 Subsidies	-	-	-	22,567	(22,567)
Other Income	10,518	6,000	4,518	6,252	4,266
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>214,570</b>	<b>231,000</b>	<b>(16,429)</b>	<b>236,831</b>	<b>(22,261)</b>
Operating Expenses	45,816	47,500	(1,684)	33,306	12,510
Staff Expenses	152,831	149,800	3,031	139,553	13,278
Ministry Expenses	23,418	24,850	(1,432)	17,569	5,850
Outreach Expenses	6,941	6,500	441	1,456	5,484
Partnerships	9,014	16,000	(6,986)	22,690	(13,676)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>238,020</b>	<b>244,650</b>	<b>(6,630)</b>	<b>214,574</b>	<b>23,446</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(23,449)</b>	<b>(13,650)</b>	<b>(9,799)</b>	<b>22,257</b>	<b>(45,707)</b>
Less: Depreciation Expense	2,491	4,000	(1,509)	3,817	1,326
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(25,940)</b>	<b>(17,650)</b>	<b>(8,290)</b>	<b>18,440</b>	<b>(44,380)</b>
Add: Truck Fund Special Offering	22,370				
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(3,570)</b>				

### Statement of Operations Commentary:

When we set the budget for 2022, we knew the year would be challenging financially. The 2022 Budget planned for a deficit of \$18k, as we expected revenues to be down versus the prior year (when we were receiving Government Subsidies) at the same time as we were planning for expenses to increase as we returned to regular in person services and ministry events. Unfortunately, offering results came in materially lower than budgeted, however this was partially offset by expenses also being lower than planned. The result of this was an operating deficit of \$26k, \$8k worse than planned.



**On the revenue side,** the primary budget variance was the offering results which were \$21k lower than budget and flat to 2021 results. This was partially offset by other income (bank interest, Vacation Bible Camp receipts) that came in higher than expected by \$4.5k. Overall revenue was \$16k lower than budgeted.

**On the expense side,** expenses were largely in line with budget, with the exception of Partnership spending. Partnerships represent donations made to other charities / ministry partners. We have a goal to increase partnership spending to 10% of our overall budget. Due to the financial challenges we were facing toward the end of 2022, we reduced our contributions to the Ontario Conference of MB Churches in order to partially mitigate the deficit for 2022. Overall expenses were \$8.3k lower than budgeted.

**The Truck Fund** was a special offering where we raised \$22.4k toward the purchase of a new truck and trailer. Due to accounting rules, the revenue associated with the special offering shows up in our financial results this year, however the cost of the truck and trailer that were purchased will be spread (amortized) into our financial results over time through the depreciation line. The Truck Fund revenues are shown separately from our “regular” operating results.

**Bytown Community Church:** The results above exclude Bytown Community Church. See notes on next page for more details regarding Bytown Community Church.

**The Gathering Church Ministry Corporation  
Balance Sheet - As At December 31, 2022:**

	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Chequing/Savings	57,895	94,609
Other Current Assets	18,783	5,807
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>76,678</b>	<b>100,416</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Cotton Candy Machine	90	112
Furniture & Fixtures	2,959	2,727
Truck & Trailer	23,461	0
Media Equipment	3,685	3,228
Photocopier	445	0
Computers	828	1,840
Music Equipment	350	438
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>31,821</b>	<b>8,394</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>108,499</b>	<b>108,810</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Credit Card	6,468	8,625
Accounts Payable	11,264	5,848
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>17,732</b>	<b>14,473</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	94,337	75,897
Net Income	(3,570)	18,440
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>90,767</b>	<b>94,337</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>108,499</b>	<b>108,810</b>

**Balance Sheet Commentary**

The Balance Sheet reflects our overall financial health at the end of 2022, which has declined slightly from the same time a year ago. The decline was driven primarily by our operating deficit of \$26k, however this was significantly offset by the Truck Fund special offering where almost \$23k additional offering was raised.

This effect can be seen on our balance sheet where our current assets (cash and receivables) have declined materially from 2021, however our fixed assets (the things we own) have increased materially primarily as a result of the truck purchase.

The church's equity is relatively stable at \$91k and our current assets net of current liabilities amounts to \$59k, approximately three months of operating expenses.

**Multiplication Fund (incl Bytown Community Church)**

Financial results presented throughout this report represent results for our General Fund, and exclude revenues, expenses and balances for the Multiplication Fund (Bytown Community Church).

During 2022, the Multiplication Fund received \$96,618 in revenue and incurred \$97,994 in expenditures, for a net deficit of \$1,376 in 2022. The cumulative balance of the Multiplication Fund at December 31, 2022 was \$32,763.

The results we report to Canada Revenue Agency, and which are available publicly, consolidate the Multiplication Fund into our General Fund to present our overall results.

**Notes to Financials:**

- All reports are produced and all bookkeeping is entered using the accrual method.
- The depreciation on capital assets is taken using the prescribed rates set out by the CRA.
- These statements are for review by board and members.
- The production of these statements does not constitute an audit or an engagement review.
- The accounting MNP has been engaged to conduct a formal review of our financial results, as required by the Ontario Non-profit Corporations Act (ONCA). The review of our 2022 results is scheduled for September 2023.

**2023 Proposed Budget**

	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Offering	204,052	220,000	5%
Special Offering	22,370	6,000	
Other Income	10,518	13,600	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>236,941</b>	<b>233,600</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Insurance	1,930	4,200	
Office Rent	12,450	12,000	
School Rent	19,697	20,000	
Vehicle Expense	2,280	2,200	
Office Expenses	3,099	3,000	
Bank Fees	1,691	1,700	
Telecommunications	1,919	2,000	
Professional Fees	2,750	4,300	
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>45,816</b>	<b>49,400</b>	<b>+8%</b>
Staff & Student Salaries	129,999	131,400	
CPP, EI & Benefits	21,474	21,700	
Other	1,358	1,000	
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Compensation</b>	<b>152,831</b>	<b>154,100</b>	<b>+1%</b>
<b>Ministry &amp; Services</b>			
Small Tools & Equipment	398	0	
Supplies For Services	4,288	4,000	
Video's & Multimedia	458	500	
Honorariums	1,400	1,200	
Worship Supplies	1,372	600	
Youth Ministry	5,400	6,000	
Kids Ministry	1,482	1,400	
Conferences	1,292	1,500	
Resources & Curriculum	827	1,000	
New Attender Luncheons	568	750	
Elder Meetings	755	250	
Benevolence	545	500	
Staff Ministry Expenses	4,202	4,500	
<b>Total Ministry &amp; Services</b>	<b>23,418</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>Community Life &amp; Outreach</b>			
Advertising & Marketing	1,487	1,500	
Events Expenses	5,454	7,500	
<b>Total Community &amp; Outreach</b>	<b>6,941</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>+30%</b>
<b>Total Partnerships</b>	<b>9,014</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>+7%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>238,020</b>	<b>244,600</b>	<b>+3%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(1,079)</b>	<b>(11,000)</b>	
<b>Less: Depreciation Expense</b>	<b>2,491</b>	<b>9,000</b>	
<b>Net Income / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(3,570)</b>	<b>(20,000)</b>	

### **Budget Commentary**

The 2023 Budget projects a 5% offering increase along with modest increases in our overall expenses relative to 2022. The resulting cash deficit is \$11k. Add to that \$9k depreciation costs, and our budgeted 2023 deficit amounts to \$20k.

While undesirable to run a budget deficit, we believe this level of deficit is realistic and manageable while we work toward returning to pre-pandemic offering levels.

### **Revenue**

The **offering budget** has been set at a 5% increase from prior year, which we believe is a reasonable stretch target for 2023. We are further anticipating a need to conduct a **Special Offering in late spring/early summer** to support the costs of our community outreach events (movie in the park, the Big Give), which we have done in past years. **Total revenue for the year planned is \$234k.**

### **Expenses**

We are planning for **total expenses of \$245k**, plus depreciation costs of \$9k (higher than normal depreciation due to recent truck and trailer purchase).

### **Expense highlights**

- **Operation expenses** are increasing by 8% from prior year, primarily due to new costs to insure and operate the truck and trailer.
- **Salary & Compensation** expenses are increasing by 1% from last year. This reflects a 4-5% increase in staff salaries, partially offset by savings from the non-recurrence of extra temporary staffing in 2021 during Jeff's sabbatical.
- **Ministry** expenses are decreasing slightly, primarily related to lower speaker rental costs.
- **Events** expenses are increasing as we plan to continue to engagement with the community through events such as "Movie in the Park", "The Big Give" and outdoor worship services.
- **Partnership** donations to external ministry partners / organizations of \$9,000 is up slightly from prior year but is still well below our desired target of 10% of revenues due to budget constraints.

**The Board proposes this budget for the 2023 fiscal year.**

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

By Jeff Jantzi

First, let me say “thanks” to everyone who contributed to this report: Noah, Dan, Karen, Nate, Susan, Moti, Jason, Craig & Linda, and Michael! Each of you play a significant role in the life of our church and I am so grateful for you all.

Secondly, as we conclude this report, I also want to say thanks to each and every one of you who serve and contribute to the life of our church in whatever way you do. We need each other to be all that God has called us to be!

I am reminded of the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT): *“All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.”*

I'm so grateful to have you as a part of THIS local expression of the Body of Christ, especially in this new season.

Keep leaning into Him and trusting Him for the future of our church, knowing that He has great things in store!

- Jeff