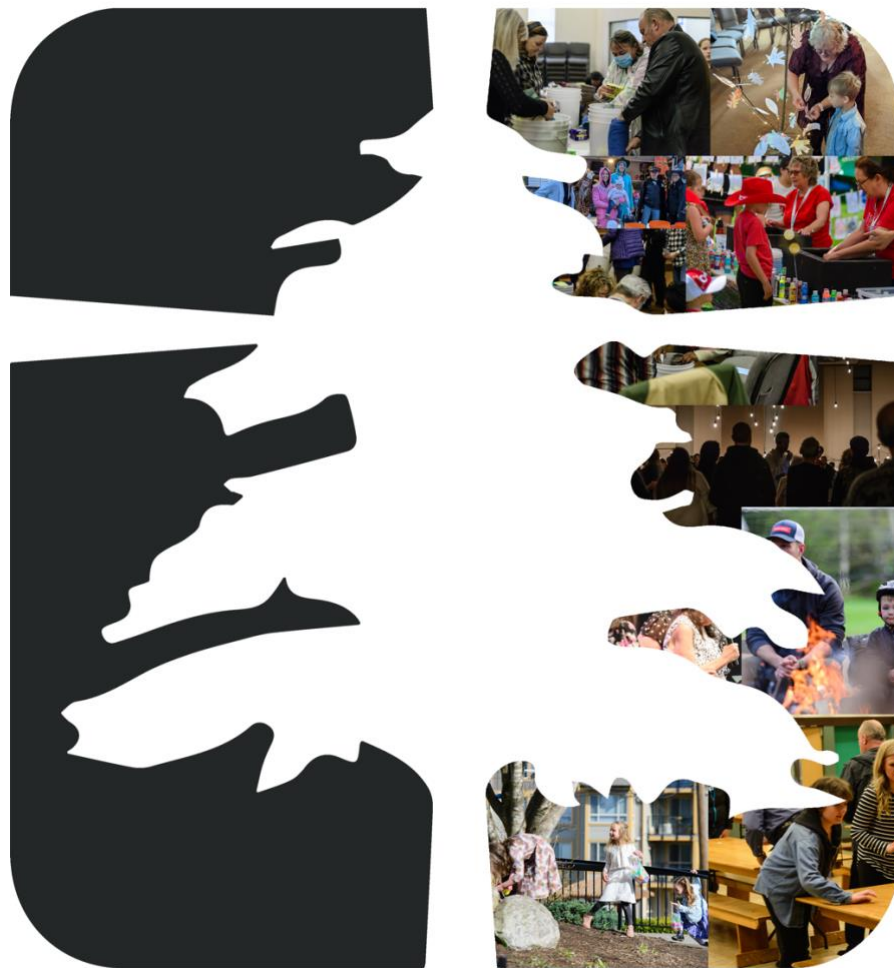


Cedar Valley Mennonite Church

2023 AGM

March 5, 2023



“Following Jesus, Loving People, Inviting Others to do the Same”

OUR MISSION

Following Jesus. Loving People. Inviting others to do the same.

OUR VISION

That the people of Mission would know, see, and feel our passionate love for Jesus as we offer up our church campus as a versatile, affordable, faith-based, community center open to the city.

OUR VALUES

We are a Church committed to working on...

Belonging

How am I welcoming people into belonging?

Unity

How am I valuing relationships above my opinion?

Generosity

How am I using what God gave me to bless others?

Authentic Living

How am I living a consistent Christ-centered life with others?

Bible Focused Teaching

How am I digging into the bible to know and follow Jesus?

Transformation

How has God changed me in the last year?

Inviting

How am I inviting others into exploring a relationship with Jesus?

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AGENDA

March 5, 2023

10:00 Worship Celebration

- Welcome *Pastor Michael T & Leslie M*
- Worship and Prayer *Gen U & Alison P*
- Message (Mission, Vision, Values) *Pastor Grant M*
- Stories
Maintenance Team, Next Gen Ministries, Rentals, *Steve U, Liz L, Carol U*
Leadership Team, Volunteer Appreciation *Justin P, Gayle D*
- Worship *Gen U & Alison P*
- Prayer for Lunch *Pastor Grant M*

11:15 Break for Lunch

12:00 Discernment & Decisions

1. Opening Devotional *Pastor Michael T*
2. Opening Appointments and Adoptions *Michelle E*
 - a. Appointment of Tellers *Michelle E*
 - b. Quorum Check (97 Members @ 25% = 25) *tbd*
 - c. Adoption of Agenda ([resolution #1](#)) *Michelle E*
 - d. Adoption of Minutes from the previous AGM ([resolution #2](#)) *Michelle E*
 - e. Acceptance of Reports ([resolution #3](#)) *Michelle E*
3. Finance Team update – 2022 Budget *Lyn E*
 - a. Acceptance of the Auditor's Report ([resolution #4](#)) *Michelle E*
 - b. Acceptance of Financial Statements ([resolution #5](#)) *Michelle E*
 - c. Acceptance of 2023 Budget Proposal ([resolution #6](#)) *Michelle E*
4. Other Business *tbd*
5. Closing Prayer *tbd*

VOTING RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1

Be it resolved that the agenda for the 2023 AGM be approved as presented.

Resolution #2

Be it resolved that the minutes of the 2022 AGM be approved as presented.

Resolution #3

Be it resolved that the reports as printed in the AGM booklet and presented live be approved as presented.

Resolution #4

Be it resolved that the 2022 Auditor's Report be approved as presented.

Resolution #5

Be it resolved that the 2022 CVMC Financial Statements be approved as presented.

Resolution #6

Be it resolved that the proposed 2023 CVMC Budget be approved as presented.

2022 AGM Minutes

Cedar Valley Mennonite Church Annual General Meeting

Sunday, March 13, 2022 12PM

Attendance: 55

Recorded by: Cheryl Dyck

1. OPENING PRAYER

Vic Doerksen

The City of Mission and CVMC acknowledge that it is situated within the unceded, ancestral, and shared territory of the Sto:Lo people. Mission is situated on Matsqui, Semath, Kwantlen, Katzie, Sq'ewlets and Leq'amel traditional territories.....Thank you

- Tom and Alvina Miller welcomed as members of CVMC, transferred from Living Hope Fellowship

2. OPENING APPOINTMENTS AND ADOPTIONS

Michelle Elliott

a. Appointment of Tellers

Michelle Elliott

Stan Rempel and Breanna Krahn

b. Quorum Check (100 Members @ 30% = 30)

Michelle Elliott

Achieved

c. Adoption of Agenda

Michelle Elliott

Resolution #1

Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as presented

M Michelle / S Carl/ C

d. Adoption of Minutes from the previous AGM

Michelle Elliott

Resolution #2

Be it resolved that the minutes of the 2021 AGM be approved as presented

M Cheryl /S / C

e. Acceptance of Reports

Michelle Elliott

Resolution #3

Be it resolved that the reports as printed in the AGM Booklet and presented live be approved as presented

M Michelle / S Leslie / C

- Deacons Committee – Grateful acknowledgement of Phyllis Beutle's many years of dedicated service

3. Finance Team update – 2022 Budget

Justin & Grant

Nolan Baerg (treasurer) not available due to illness

Grant and Justin gave a review of the Proposed Budget (AGM Report Booklet)

Building Fund will once again be contributed to as in past

No longer breaking report into categories but as Ministry

Broken down version is in the Bylaws package

Currently single Pastor rather than three on staff yet preparing for the arrival of one additional

Pastor Q. Allocation of what the Lead pastor is able to spend?

A. Detailed Budget info is available on inquiry

Q. Is there provision to offer assistance to Ukrainian refugees?

A. \$5000.00 outreach and evangelism however, not nearly enough Comment: Michelle, expects opportunity would come

through MCC Q. Lyn, would it also fail under qualified donations?

A. May be considered

Q. Church kitchen issues to be addressed?

A. Building fund

Q. Pastoral transition costs / possible re-location expenses?

A. Yes

Comment: Justin, it is difficult to anticipate some future

costs Comment: Lyn, we did allow 6 month starting July 1

in the budget Q. Reuben, Provision for guest speakers? A.

Yes, honorariums

Comment: Grant, long legacy of faithful giving

Q. Reuben, Potential of decrease in giving?

A. Respectful of givers, give what you have faithfully!

Michelle, membership down, aging members, we wanted to be realistic that it could be lower, want to trust God that we could come through

a. Acceptance of Financial Statements Michelle Elliott

Resolution #4

Be it resolved that the 2021 CVMC financial Statements be approved as presented

M Carl / S Gayle / C

b. Acceptance of 2022 Budget Michelle Elliott

Resolution #5

Be it resolved that the 2022 CVMC Budget be approved as presented M Florence / S Darrell / C

Grant spoke about the building, seeing God at work, evidence ongoing line of presence of community people constantly coming to our door. Location, feel working with a church, make this ministry not rental. Not just facility use but relationships! The Spirit is here! Need a host (liaison) for each rental group. Pray with them. Let's go Jesus!

Steve Unger spoke to maintenance areas of concern

Kitchen. (\$20,000-25,000) Rental off the table for now.

Locksmith work to be done (\$5,000) locks all the way around.

\$10,000 budget money Building Fund will be for big expenses.

Comment: Looking for things that need attention. Q. Glen, Is the parking lot off the table?

A. Steve, not totally but further down on priority list, perhaps summer (\$10,000) Super team and many others have offered to help
There is a large list

Q. VBS this summer?

A. Grant, Hope to, would love to

Alison Pankratz re: Pre-school

Wind & Tide will be taking over the building in September
Dee Braaksma has been a gift to the pre-school and is retiring.
The Lord provided Wind & Tide. It is so similar to CVCC
Excited to partner with them

Q. Steve, is there a proviso in contract for Maintenance to be in during school time because the boiler room is located in the pre-school area?

A. Alison, Working on details and will consider that

Thank you for the work of the pre-school and the team working to get Wind & Tide in there

4. Bylaws and Governance Update

Michelle described updates to draft Bylaws from the handout of updates distributed

Bylaws, Governance and Executive Limitations Edits for 2021 AGM

Throughout all documents “LP” has been changed to “Lead Pastor” and “LT” has been changed to “Leadership Team”

Bylaws Document:

6.7.e – Changed to: recommending an auditor outside of and affirmed by Leadership Team

Leadership Team Governance, Policies, and Procedures Document

“Board” has been changed to “Leadership Team” in the following places: 1.3.8, 1.6.1, 1.7.2, 1.8.4, 1.8.5,

1.8.6

1.1 – Changed to: Governance Model and Definitions

1.3.1 – Changed to: The Leadership Team (LT) will be the link ...

1.4.1 – Changed to: the Church Constitution, Governance policies, and other regulations... 1.6.1 – Changed to: membership on others boards, teams, or staffs.

1.8.4 – Changed to: authority and accountability of the LP and pastoral staff

Executive Limitations Document

“Board” has been changed to “Leadership Team” in the following places: 3.3, 7, 7.1, 7.9
3.4 – Changed to: ... engage a Leadership Team”- appointed accounting firm to review ...
3.1.3 – Changed to: approval of the Leadership Team

Q. Reuben, Who makes up the Leadership Team?

A. Elders and Executive

Q. Breanna, need help locating
items A. Grant explained

Comment: Michelle, Legalese makes the document come across as negative, but that is not who we are.

These are the three documents we abide by

Leadership Team Binder will be available in the office and contain these three documents for reference. Embedded by MCBC, Lawyer in regard to Society Act, Bylaws are legally binding as a society. Policies can be updated as needed.

a. Approval of Updated Bylaws

Michelle Elliott

Resolution #6

Be it Resolved that the revised Bylaws of CVMC be approved as presented

M Breanna / S Kim / C

Comment: Carl, thank you to everyone. There doesn't seem to be a date of adoption or a note of previous publications

Michelle, we will add

b. Approval of Governance Update

Michelle Elliott

Resolution #7

Be it resolved that the Governance Structure for CVMC be approved as presented

Michelle read through the document for review

Congregation votes in Leadership Team and puts there trust in their decisions

Leadership Team oversees Lead Pastor

Pastoral Staff is supervised by Lead Pastor

Ministry Team is supervised by Pastoral Staff within parameters of Leadership Team

The Finance would be in with the Leadership Team as additional Finance people would be
Ministry Team

Q. Glen, Nowhere required to be a Member of congregation

A. Societies Act does not require. This would be in
policy. **M Michelle / S Carl / C**

5. Pastoral Search Team update Chad Riggins

Presented as a verbal report in this morning's service

6. Other Business

None

M Michelle / S Florence /C that the meeting be adjourned

7. Closing prayer Justin

Registrars Report 2022

Submitted by Grant Miller

Deaths

Name	Date
Harry Huber	November 27, 2022

Weddings

Couple	Date
Margaret & Jon Siemens	June 25, 2022

Funerals / Memorials

Name	Date
Isaac Wiebe	April 2, 2022
Harry Huber	December 27, 2022

The following community memorials took place at Cedar Valley Church:

Sandra Pughe	March 12, 2022
Wendy Freischer	May 28, 2022
Ronald Neetz	July 4, 2022
Hilborn Memorial	November 24, 2022
Regnier Memorial	November 26, 2022

Memberships

Name	Date
Tom & Alvina Miller	March 13, 2022

Pastoral Report

By Grant Miller (Executive Pastor)

^{5:11} Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. ¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. [1 Thessalonians 5:11-18]

Starting off 2023, this passage is what has landed on my heart. As I've spent the year meeting with and leading both members of our church family and with neighbours in our local community, I've seen a theme of loneliness, loss of community, loss of identity, and a desperate need to 'belong'. This breaks my heart, but at the same time challenges us as a church to bring this Gospel truth to our city, because the beautiful miracle of this thing called church isn't the building, or the stuff we have, or even in the things we do... it's in the close gathering and fellowship we share, all in the name of Jesus our King! In the above passage, the Apostle Paul describes the very nature that the church, the 'ecclesia', needs to be defined by and saturated in. Amen? I believe we are learning to do these things for each other and for those around us! Praise God!

There are so many things I want to share in this report, there are so many things I want to celebrate with you, so many things I want to lament over, a few things I want to brag about, and some things I want to challenge us all on. To keep it short (well, medium...) and sweet, let's walk through the Core Values of our church community together:

Belonging: How am I welcoming people into belonging?

Doesn't this resonate exactly with the sentiment above? Humans were made for community, we were made to grow together, laugh together, weep together, and worship together! The enemy, Satan, uses every tool in his arsenal to keep us apart because in our solitude is where we fall apart. The pandemic is over, but the 'hangover' is still present. We have a social reluctance to enter into the world with vulnerability again. After spending years of either holding up in safety or fighting hard for what we've lost, we've forgotten how to engage with people in a humble and honest way. And whether you feel it or not, we ALL need this! Our church MUST be a place that goes beyond 'friendly' and is a community that puts in the work to help everyone have a role, be encouraged, find confidence, and know that you belong here!

This past year we jumped on opportunities to make ourselves present in the life and activities of our city: Ran one of the most exciting activity booths at the Canada Day Fair, met the hundreds of

tobogganers on Griner Hill with Hot Chocolate during snow days, had 5 Halloween stations set up throughout Mission and Abbotsford meeting our neighbours and keeping the trick-or-treaters warm with hot chocolate! These are just some of the warm and friendly things we love doing, but the real sense belonging comes from our intentional and loving engagement into people's lives. I wonder, how many of you have met and connected with someone new at our worship services over the past year?

Unity: How am I valuing relationships above my opinion?

Throughout the past year I had 3 priorities of leading our church community towards, and all of them answering a specific local need in the culture and community around us: 1) Creating and Modelling Life-Changing Relationships; 2) Investing in Next-Gen Ministries and intergenerational connections; 3) Investing in our local organizations through facility rentals and partnering support.

The priority, 'Life Changing Relationships', is a loud and clear need for all of us, but more than ever after the pandemic era of isolation and separation. The devil loves us being apart when we were created for community to build each other up, love and support each other, check-in on, care for, and challenge each other to grow. We became so comfortable with our 'COVID Bubbles' that we needed to start practicing relationship building again, and modelling that growth for our City!

Once a month we intentionally created space after our Sunday Service to gather, mingle, visit, and enjoy some treats! We also leaned on opportunities to worship in unique and exciting ways like our picnic Sunday! Our church retreat weekend at Camp Squeeah may have been the best example of relationship building where we got the chance to really shut the noise out focus on each other and on God; we got to truly slow down and 'Ruthlessly Eliminate Hurry' (a little plug for our book study from Last Summer). Creating and modelling Life-Giving Relationships will remain a priority for Cedar Valley Church as we look into building small-group ministry this coming year.

Generosity: How am I using what God gave me to bless others?

Cedar Valley is a generous church, and we want to continue that trend and increase the impact of our generosity to accomplish our Mission and Vision as a church. There were two specific moments that were truly inspiring to me and many others last year, among others. 1) Buckets of Thanks: one Sunday in October we spent the morning in prayer and worship together by literally assembling relief kits for MCC that got sent around the world to areas affected by disasters and conflict. Together our church assembled 75 buckets, and raised over \$1000 in additional support for MCC. 2) Christmas Care Packs: Through some God orchestrated connections with Albert McMahon Elementary School and others, we had the privilege of assembling a dozen incredible Christmas Care Hampers to bless families in our local community!

Authentic Living: How am I living a Christ-centered life with others?

A core truth of this value is not that we live Christ-centered lives alone in the dark, but with others. A large part of the Vision of Cedar Valley Church is to offer up our campus as a blessing to the community and to model Jesus in the relationships that come from these events and group rentals.

Last year we had 57 different rental events with over 20 of those being regular groups like: NA, AA, support groups, bible studies, worship nights, family events, memorials, weddings, fundraisers, community events, kids camps, Non-profit board meetings, partner churches meeting, swap meets, fitness classes, education programs... I could go on! On any given week there are nearly 500 different people who enter our campus, and we get the opportunity to model Christ-centered living and introduce Jesus to them! This is an area I believe we can grow in as a church.

Bible Focused Teaching: How am I digging into the Bible to know and follow Jesus?

Well it's been over a year and we still haven't 'completed' our study on Galatians! We've gone deep, just maybe not very far! Last year I had the opportunity and privilege to be the primary speaker and teacher at Cedar Valley Church, a new and daunting role for me! It gave me huge opportunity to grow in both my passion for teaching, some boldness in public speaking, and a love for diving deep into scripture and not missing a beat! While we balance out our studies as a church with relevant topics of study, I knew I wanted to stay rooted in the scripture as my primary motivation. Every study we enter into together is rooted in the biblical narrative that shows God interacting with His people and His creation, and points us towards God's design for our lives and towards a relationship with Jesus. Along with our series on Galatians [Jesus + Nothing], we did an amazing series based on the book "the Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" by John Mark Comer (rooted in the Gospels and the life of Jesus), an Easter series on the cross and resurrection, a summer series on Psalms, and an Advent series "God With Us" rooted in Exodus.

Transformation: How has God changed me in the last year?

This is the whole point isn't it? We are constantly growing and being shaped by God, or at least we should be! I want to hear your stories, your testimonies, your transformations! Last Spring we had the pleasure of celebrating the grads from Freedom Session which ran from Fall 2021 into Spring 2022. We also got to hear updates and transformation stories from our supported missionary organizations "Seeds of Hope" [Zambia, Myanmar, and Thailand], and "Light of the World" [Guatemala]. We also got to hear some personal testimonies on Father's Day and Mother's Day. But honestly, I want to hear more! This year we hope to bring in more stories from you, to share in the ways God has been at work in your life, and to inspire our city that God blesses us, saves us, and changes us!

Cedar Valley Church, this past year has stretched me, challenged me, and also been an inspiration and a blessing to me to be a part of revival and growth! It has been a privilege to grow alongside you, and lead us through an odd but experimental and extraordinary year of change! Thank you for your encouragement, your support, your prayers, and your hearts to Follow Jesus, Love People, and Invite Others to do the Same!

Leadership Team Report

By Justin Pankratz and Michelle Elliott (Co-Chair)

The Leadership Team for Cedar Valley Church for 2022 consisted of a blend of what were previously described as the Executive Board of Cedar Valley and the Elders Board of Cedar Valley. We have found that, being a smaller group, it has been extremely beneficial to blend and work together for the church; one body serving One Body. We have found it very encouraging all around to work as one team for the transitional period that our church has come through.

The Leadership Team has on the Executive side Michelle Elliott as Chair, Chad Riggins as Vice Chair, and Cheryl Dyck as Secretary. On the Elders Side are Justin Pankratz as Chair, and Gayle Doersksen and Pam Drocholl as members. This Team has been through a lot together over the past couple of years and has been stretched and grown in faith as we look to the Lord for guidance over many important decisions for our church.

2022 started out with Grant Miller as the sole Pastor for Cedar Valley, and doing an outstanding job in his role as Executive Pastor, while the Search Team worked diligently towards posting the open position of Lead Pastor. (We will allow the Search Team to address more of this process). Since God's timing and plan is not always the same as ours, it feels like this process has taken a long time, though every step in this journey has been important for learning to lean on Him. Cedar Valley has not had an official "Lead Pastor" since the retirement of Dan Rempel in early 2020, and at that time we had no idea about the pandemic conditions that were about to impact the entire world. Praise God we have come through the past few years, with fewer numbers than we had before, but with our eyes still focused on God. As the rentals of our facility have expanded, we want the community of Mission to feel welcome.

In 2022, Cedar Valley Church still felt like it was coming through the Transitional period, though we now have update Mission statement, Vision, and Values, and updated bylaws to guide us. We are eagerly looking towards new steps for 2023, including very hopefully a new Pastor to lead the church alongside Pastor Grant. (This has still not been decided as of the writing of this report.) We are also looking towards a "new" model of having greater input and commitment from the congregation of the church. We know about and are deeply grateful for the hard work that has been put into this church by so many of you, and we definitely could accomplish nothing without our industrious volunteers. Having said that, there is always room for more seats at the table, and we look forward to more people not only joining our congregation, but also finding ways in which they put their gifts and talents and passions to work for God's kingdom. As Cedar Valley continues to open the doors to activities and community events of all kinds, we pray that this will also open opportunities for people to see Jesus in our midst and in our interactions.

For 2023, we look forward to not only a new Pastor on staff, but also new ways for people to become and stay involved. We ask not that you think of this as an additional time commitment to your busy lives, but that you will welcome into your own lives the chances to bless others and receive blessings. I know we can speak for the entire Leadership Team that while at times the challenges have been enormous, we have had nothing but blessings into our lives by serving the church and getting to know each other, the church, and the great God that we serve.

Current members:

Justin P, Cheryl D, Pam D, Gayle D, Michelle E, Chad R

Search Team Report

By Chad Riggins (Chair)

We started 2022 with the need to fulfil the request of the Transition Team and find a Lead Pastor for Cedar Valley Church, someone to work alongside with our Executive Pastor, Grant Miller. This process began informally in January with weekly prayer meetings which continued into February. These meetings laid the foundation from which a team was called and formed, an answer to prayer in itself. With the team established we set out to develop the criteria to be used in assessing applicants and conversed about what we hoped this person would be for our congregation. The job description was posted to various local job boards, and we waited patiently for the Lord to send us people to assess. This took longer than expected and it wasn't until almost summer that we started really getting into the hard work of discernment. Though we worked through a number of potentials during this time, none of them seemed to be who God was leading us to bring to the congregation. But as it would happen, we were given 3 applicants to evaluate in the Fall, and all three seemed to fit our hopes and prayers, but each in different ways. Through interviews, phone calls, Sunday sermons, and many conversations we had a very difficult decision to make just before the Christmas season, and we couldn't come to agreement. So, we took a step back and allowed God to work in our hearts over Christmas, and when we met again in early January, we had the clarity and unity needed to present Michael Turner as a hopeful candidate for the Lead Pastor position. This was truly felt as a work of the Spirit in our hearts and minds and we give God all the praise and glory for this. We still have work to do in making sure Michael is a good fit for our congregation through this candidating period, and my hope is that by the time you read this, we'll have the clarity we (all members) need to affirm Michael as our next Lead Pastor.

I feel the need to commend each individual on this team who have greatly exceeded expectations for their commitment, diligence, thoughtfulness, prayerfulness, and most importantly truthfulness throughout this process. Our God is at work here at CVC and I know this because I was privileged to serve beside people like them!

Current Members:

Justin P, Michelle E, Chad R, Kim M, Karin R, Brian U

(Past Members) Paige E, Tom M, Margaret D

Kids & Youth Report

By Grant Miller (Executive Pastor)

Next Generation Ministries have been and must continue to be a core priority of our community. Infancy, Childhood, Teen Years, Young Adulthood, these critical years of development and influence are what radically shape us and the way we see ourselves and the world; and the Gospel needs to be a part of that developmental time to understand the love of God and His desire and design for our lives! And we're not the only ones who know about this time of growth, every voice in our world is trying to recruit, influence, guide, and indoctrinate the youngest in our city towards their cause and goals; yes, we are in competition!

The beautiful thing about the playfulness of these developing years in our ability to honestly ask questions, to joyfully talk with friends and family about what we are learning and wondering about, to easily celebrate and readily cry, a child's heart represents the posture we should all have towards God regardless of our age. So through our time priorities, our volunteer commitments, our ministries and programs, Next Generation Ministries need some energy and investment at Cedar Valley Church!

As our volunteer team shrank, we had to move into a 'sporadic' model of Cedar Valley Kids on Sunday morning services. Our teachers are amazingly dedicated, creative, and patient! But at the risk of burning them out, our team is simply not big enough to sustainably run and serve every week. This is especially affecting our Youth group where we had to move into a monthly model of gathering to ensure we would have enough volunteer support to simply meet our child-safe policies. While we've kept these programs on life-support, one of the biggest goals of Next Gen ministry is to build relationship which only happens with long-term regular commitment and investment!

Our current goal for the coming year is to have weekly (or every other week) youth group nights meet with a mix of Bible study, service projects, and just simple hang-out evenings. Once a month we will all get together, grades K-12, for a 'Party Night' where our teens get to develop their leadership skills by helping facilitate an evening of high energy games, growth time, snacks, and teambuilding fun! We also have a goal of building our team to the point of running two different age groups on Sunday mornings for Cedar Valley Kids. All in all this will require prayer, support help, and a regular commitment of 3-4 volunteers to join the team! I hope to see you out on a Wednesday evening soon 😊

Worship Ministry

By Gen Unger, Justin Pankratz, Alison Pankratz

Let's start by saying, God is good!

Right now, at Cedar Valley we don't have a large worship team, we aren't made up of professional musicians and we don't have an overflowing budget for the latest and greatest instruments and equipment. More importantly though, what we DO have are hands ready to serve, voices to offer in song and hearts willing to be used by God to reach His hurting world through music.

Music has a profound way of stirring our hearts and evoking emotion unlike anything else. You don't have to watch many movies to understand the truth of this statement. That is why the impact of the worship ministry and its relevance and importance in today's church is not lost on us.

While COVID was in full force and church doors were shut across the globe, we at Cedar Valley had the ability to pre-record worship songs which we still utilize today when our sparse teams need a break. These videos have also been instrumental in helping other churches fill their own online streams with songs; further spreading the message of Jesus and providing a sense of community and care across congregations. God is good.

We hope to record more worship videos in this coming year to further expand our repertoire and provide additional training to our AV and tech teams.

When we think of this next year ahead, a quote from Pastor Steven Furtick of Elevation Church comes to mind:

"You can't fulfill your calling in your comfort zone."

Not a single one of us in worship ministry leadership here at Cedar Valley feels qualified to stand in front of you all each Sunday while singing and speaking. In truth, it terrifies us. But an even bigger truth is this: it's not about us.

Jesus reassures us that we "can do all things through Christ who gives us strength" [Philippians 4:13], and that "He will be with us always"! [Matthew 28:20]

Our inadequacies, our fears of failure, our self-doubt, all become irrelevant when God decides to use us, and we show up in obedience with a "here I am Lord, use me" attitude.

Jesus said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" [2 Corinthians 1:4]

This verse has rung true for each of us leading worship on Sunday mornings; through technical difficulties, sore throats, our own anxieties around choosing the "right" songs, whether we have the right words to say or if we'll hit the right notes.

God has stretched us and challenged us and has given us each a strong sense of fulfillment and purpose along the way. A fulfillment and purpose that we never would have experienced if we had not left the comfort of our proverbial "couch".

The encouragement that we have received on multiple occasions from so many of you at Cedar Valley have also been a great source of strength to keep doing what we're doing, even when it is hard, or things don't go the way we expect them to on a given Sunday.

We have an amazing team of people passionate about music and about sharing their God-given gifts in music for His glory. God is good.

If you also have a passion and talent in music, please consider using your gifts with us. If you have no musical or rhythmic ability, please continue to pray for our worship ministry team and the way God will use us this year. Also, please continue to offer us your words of affirmation. We are so encouraged by you all and by the direction Cedar Valley is moving.

We pray that each of us at Cedar Valley can find a place to step out in faith and fulfill our calling outside of our comfort zones.

Nothing can stop the Lord Almighty, and that includes us.

We need to quit disqualifying ourselves and instead, allow God to use us, because with His Spirit leading, we can do incredible things for His Glory. When He is for us, who can be against us? God is good. All the time. And He never fails.

Current members and roles are listed below:

Alex H – Drums and guitars, Sound tech

Alison P – Vocals

Arden K – Guitars

Brad U – Guitars

Breanna K – Vocals

Carol – Keyboard

Emily – Guitars

Gen U – Vocals

Grant M – All roles and Worship coordinator

Justin P – Worship leader, vocals

Media Team

By Chad Riggins

The media ministry has been blessed this year with a willing and dedicated group of volunteers who have given so much of themselves in order to give back to God a portion of the gifts He has blessed them with, and I hope you've all been drawn closer to God through their efforts. Pastor Grant has once again led us through technological challenges and changes and most-importantly has kept us focused on the fact that the great love of God needs to be communicated each Sunday as clearly and authentically as we are able. We've remained committed to allowing the outside world into the walls of our building through the internet and the many talented people that are needed to make this happen. There is always a need for new perspectives and volunteers for this ministry so please make sure to reach out to myself or Grant or any of the other names you see listed below if you'd have any input you'd like to discuss. Thank you for your prayers and encouragements, and for being a congregation so willing to participate with us in exclaiming 'How Great Thou Art'!

Current members and roles are listed below:

Alvina M – Camera op
Chad R – Audio mixing
Jon E – Broadcast and camera operation, ProPresenter, Sound tech
Pamela H – Broadcast and camera operation
Peggy G – ProPresenter
Theresa C – Live stream and social media interaction
Tom Minnis – Camera op
Tom Miller – Audio Mixing
Trevor P – Live Streaming
Weston P – Live Streaming

First Impressions Team

By Pamela Chervenka and Mary Hinchcliff

What does it mean to be a part of the First Impressions Team? It means many things but most importantly it means being hospitable. As Team Leaders, we connect with individual church members who have signed up to volunteer and schedule them to greet and welcome every person that comes to our church. Coming to church or a new church for the first time can be overwhelming for people, so being able to greet all individuals with a smile, handshake and a kind encouraging word can make a person feel accepted and welcomed. We make sure we have hot coffee, and a variety of teas available. Members of the church and visitors enjoy the coffee/tea while spending time connecting with us and others. We have been Team Leaders for over a year now and know that God brought us together to serve here at Cedar Valley Church. This opportunity did not only allow us to become closer with other followers of Jesus but to also build a friendship.

Romans 12:13 NLT

“When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.”

Current members:

Pamela C, Mary H, Gary K, Vern F, Karyn F, Sidonia K, Florence G, Stan F

Office and Connection Ministry

By Carol Unger

When Grant asked me to share a few words about my time in the office and what I do, I thought his title of “Office and Connection Ministry” summed up my time here. Not only do I help with the paperwork of rentals, I have the privilege of connecting with community people who come through our doors. Probably one of my most difficult and impactful days in the office this past year was when Pastor Grant was on holidays and I came into the office and was met with a string of phone messages and emails relating to two families that had lost adult children that week. They were looking to hold memorial services in our facility. That same morning both families came, one right after the other to check out what we had to offer for space, and figure out the logistics of how best to celebrate their loved ones. These were two extremely different family dynamics, but both grieving terribly for the loss of their children. I have to believe God had me be the one to be their first contact with the church that morning as I could talk with them with the understanding of knowing the pain of losing an adult child. I have also had the joy of working alongside Pastor Grant to help plan and coordinate some of our extra Service events, like our MCC bucket filling party, or Christmas hampers, or calling on some of our ladies to help bake goodies for special Sundays. My role in the office isn’t so much an office administrator as it is a support staff, and each week can look very different. I’m not sure what my role will look like this coming year if we bring on another pastor, but I hope I can continue to support whoever is working in ministry at CVC, as it is such life giving work, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Library Team

By Sunny Donatelli

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the day approaching. – Hebrews 10:24-25

The Library at Cedar Valley still remains active and a source for readers to find books to read and enjoy. Although the number of church goers who access the library are not high, those who come in still find it a source for good Christian fiction reading material by some wonderful authors.

We purchased new books (lightly used) from the House of James twice during this last year, adding approximately 50 books to our inventory. With the Library Cart ministry at The Manor next door each Wednesday, the need to add new books periodically is necessary, and still a privilege to supply. There are currently just under 10 residents at The Manor who come down to access the cart each week or have books brought to them in their apartments. It’s lovely to chat with them and hopefully provide a source of good books for them read that they would not otherwise have access to.

We are pleased that Cedar Valley Church continues to support the Library Committee and we encourage everyone to pop in and sample some of the wonderful books available.

Current Members and schedule:

Gloria U – 1st Sunday of the month
Jacquie B – 2nd Sunday of the month
Sunny D – 3rd Sunday of the month
Maxine E – 4th Sunday of the month
Sunny D – 5th Sunday of the month when applicable

Ladies Bible Study

By Dixie Brown

1 Thessalonians 5:11 tells us. “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up which in fact you are doing.” We strive to do this in our Tuesday morning Bible study at 10:00AM. “The Display of His Splendor.” We also watched a DVD series by Gregory Kukul titled “The Story of Reality.” We are currently completing a DVD study by Dr. David Jeremiah titled “Agents of the Apocalypse.”

Each week we finish our session by praying for each other’s prayer requests and on the last Tuesday of the month we spend our whole time in prayer.

On Tuesday January 17th we hosted a potluck lunch for Janice Webb who will be moving to North Vancouver at the end of the month. She will be missed.

All ladies are welcome to join us.

Small Group Reports

By Karin Rempel

We have been in a few different small groups over the years here at Cedar Valley. This present group formed during our Covid lockdown period when the church was closed. We found a great way to meet outdoors on the Unger’s deck and watch the service together, followed by lively discussions. In fact, our latest member lives close by and heard what sounded like people having church, and eventually connected with Carol. She now attends our church and care group when her work allows.

We have enjoyed our experiences of being involved in a small group in many ways. Chief of those are the bonds that are forged between the group as you share in each others lives. It is a wonderful thing to have a trusted group of people with whom you can share the joys, sorrows, and problems of our everyday lives. We have counted on each for emotional and prayer support many, many times over the past two and a half years or so that our group has been together. We have also enjoyed times that we have been able to serve the congregation and the community around us in different events and projects such as helping with church BBQs or lunches and participating in the Christmas hamper project. We had a hand in helping both Tom and Kim and Margaret and John with their weddings. Recently we have begun to meet biweekly to have Bible study together which will be yet another way to relate to each other and to help each other grow in our faith.

Being a part of a small group is another way of being the church because it affords opportunities of sharing, serving, and discipleship that are different from the larger body. I think I can speak for the whole group when I say we are blessed to be a part of each others lives in this way.

By Gayle Doerksen

It is so good to gather once again as a small group within the larger body of our church. We have only met a few times but it's already soul building. As we spend time together, sitting around a dinner table in the intimacy of a home, we share food, laughter, stories & experiences, good & bad, with the freedom a regular gathering allows.

For our study time we are covering the same passage as what was preached to reinforce this teaching and to encourage change & action. Praying together also deepens our walk with God & our relationships with each other.

This care group loves to participate together in outreach projects, mostly what the church initiates. We were blessed to hear the responses from the Christmas hamper giving & would certainly be open to coming along other needs & service opportunities in the future as they are made known.

Maintenance Team

By Steve Unger

It has been another busy year on our CVC campus. Our 40- and 70-year-old buildings have been needing some upgrading. This past year saw an upgrade to our fire alarm system to comply with fire safety code. The entrance roof to the East building was replaced. Frozen pipes that burst also needed repairs in the East Building.

We spent about \$40,000 on repairs and maintenance this past year and expect this next year to be about the same. A few of our next big project are fixing the heating system in the east building to provide consistent heat and replacing lights throughout the campus with LED. We want to be good stewards of our resources and both of these upgrades, while having an initial outlay of funds, will help reduce our costly utility bills.

A few other items on the list for this next year are pavement improvements and line painting, painting upstairs and downstairs of the interior of the west building, and continue to work on the necessary improvements for the kitchen to get it up to code so we can once again cook in it.

The dedication of this team goes far beyond just coming out on Thursdays to work on projects.

Christmas Eve was an example of their commitment (along with that of some other younger guys).

These men came and chipped ice off our walkways and driveway so that our service could go ahead that evening. When everyone else was cancelling their services, these guys made things clear and safe so that we could hold our Christmas Eve Service.... And what a great service it was!

It is a pleasure to work with this group of men. We are committed to keeping the campus in good shape. Beyond that, we also are committed to each other and enjoy doing lunch together after our morning at work. We would be happy to include anyone else who would like to join us (including women).

Current Members:

Rick M, Tom Miller, Tom Minnis, Vic D, Brian U, Steve U

Intern Report

By Paige Elliott

This past year, the majority of my work experience has been working for Cedar Valley Church. I worked part time in Graphics & Communications for the church starting in the spring of 2022, followed by full-time work for the summer internship grant, and then back to part time in the fall of 2022.

During my time employed at Cedar Valley, I got to create graphics for the different sermon series to create a sense of cohesiveness amongst the different tangents of messages that were delivered to us this summer. The purpose of this is to create a recognizable tone throughout the duration of the entire series to better communicate the common and overarching theme. This will help communicate to everyone across all media forms how the messages in a series are connected. The world is changing, and good visual communication is becoming even more important as the media we are consuming is becoming more muddled and saturated. This is important, especially when there is more than one sermon series happening over the span of a few months, to help minimize confusion. The themes were used across all different media forms including social media, print (for bulletin inserts), live streams, and in person media such as signage and in-service presentations. No matter how viewers were receiving the messages, it was communicated through the same visual theme. The 3 themes over the summer were “What’s The Hurry?”, the MCBC Summer Psalms, and all of our guest speakers that joined us this summer. As well as creating themes for the summer, I also got to create shorter run themes for events such as our Easter service, our weekend up at Camp Squeah, MCC Buckets of Thanks, and assisting Grant in creating graphics for Christmas 2022 (God With Us). This also includes social media posts for holidays and other weekly and monthly events. I was also able to help create and curate media that can be used continuously at Cedar Valley Church. Some of this media includes new signage around the church, updated fire plans, weekly social media posts for prayer meetings and newsletters, photography, stationary, and adding a visual voice to the Lead Pastor Profile that was created as part of the Transitional Team and for use of the Lead Pastor Search Team.

I hope that my work has served and will continue to serve the church and the broader community of Mission well. Cedar Valley is doing very important work in serving our community with a safe and usable campus, and reaching out into the community through events and outreach, and I’m happy to be able to use my skills and education to be a part of that. Thank you to Pastor Grant for serving as a mentor figure and for allowing me to have creative freedom and trusting me to work and collaborate with you on media for the church. Thank you for seeing importance in my work and funneling that into an act of service for this community.

My future plans are to keep working, ideally in a career that would allow me to continue to use my education in Graphic Design, but ultimately pursuing the act of creation. I am currently working part time while pursuing creative ventures with other local creatives across many mediums, all while volunteering full-time as the president of the board of directors at Atangard Community Project. Your prayers and support have been much appreciated as this has been a difficult, but also eye-opening season for me. I am incredibly grateful for Pastor Grant and everyone at Cedar Valley for employing me and allowing me to use my gifts freely at a time when financial and creative means were at a short.

Intern Report

By Alex Hinchcliff

This past year during the summer I had the pleasure to work with Grant with the Canada Summer Jobs Grant program. I've been attending and volunteering at Cedar Valley throughout the year but most of the big projects happened during the summer. For the most part, my job was to help Grant with physical work that we had to do. A lot of it had to do with the sound and running cables around the church as well as decluttering and organizing. We mainly organized the storage rooms (there are a lot!) around the church. We paired down items and only kept what is necessary so it's easy to find and use (this church is old, so there was a lot of items to go through!). We also cleaned out the upstairs offices and we got rid of quite a lot of old desks and cleaned up those we kept so they were ready if needed. The last clean up project was preparing for the preschool switch over. We decluttered the space they were using and ran cables to have better internet in the east building. During this whole process, we had help from the church community too, so Grant and I didn't face this daunting challenge alone. So, thank you to the ones that came to help!

The next big project we started (and are working to finish still) is our sound system upgrades and clearing up. The first thing we did was clean and clear out the sound booth. It started as a small tidying and clean up of the desk area and turned into a whole strip-everything-out-and-rerun-everything (which was fun to do, for me). After that I got started on our big soldering project where we took a snake previously ran by Jon and Grant and redid one side. The other side we completed and put into a rack system so when the whole project is complete, we'll have a clean and easy access panel. The project we are currently working on is getting all the panels on the stage done and complete which we didn't have time to finish in the summer. Another smaller project we completed was running multiple cables around the church (Jon helped us with this) to get the TVs in the lobby to work. I remember they were very hot days in the church and outside.

The church is an old building so lots of the upgrades we do are necessary to be able to make Sunday mornings happen. The cleaning from previous years of not cleaning makes it easier to the upgrades we will eventually have to do in the future too. Having clean and clear spaces also makes it so that our volunteers can do their work easier. That is what I did for most the summer it was fun, and I believe productive. Thank you!

Auditor's Report

By Carol Unger

***See Additional Information Packet** ([available printed at the AGM](#))

Current members:

Sunny D, Maxine E, Carol U

Finance Team

By Lyn Ens & Nolan Baerg

2022 was a year of recovery for everyone, and especially for our church. We have seen so much happen throughout the pandemic, sadness and loss, yet so many have been resilient and pulled through in this past year, and this can be said of our church. Our year end report was one of 'surplus' which gives us encouragement as we move forward in 2023. The Final Year end report is as follows:

***See 2023 Simplified Budget** ([Page 25](#))

As you can see, our Church exceeded expectations for last year. Thank you all for your support and encouragement through a difficult year. Thank you also to Grant for his work in achieving such good results with the rentals incoming.

The Cedar Valley Children's Centre closed in June 2022 after a long and successful operation for our church. Funds remaining from the preschool have been added to the Building Fund to assist in the repair and renovation to this facility. Each year funds from the General Fund are also dedicated to the

Building Fund. As of Dec 31, 2021 this fund stood at \$54,544.

Our recommended Budget for 2023 will be released prior to the AGM, and discussed at that time.

***See Additional Information Packet** ([available printed at the AGM](#))

Current members:

Nolan B, Lyn E, Stan R, Bill T, Jacquie B, Mark D,

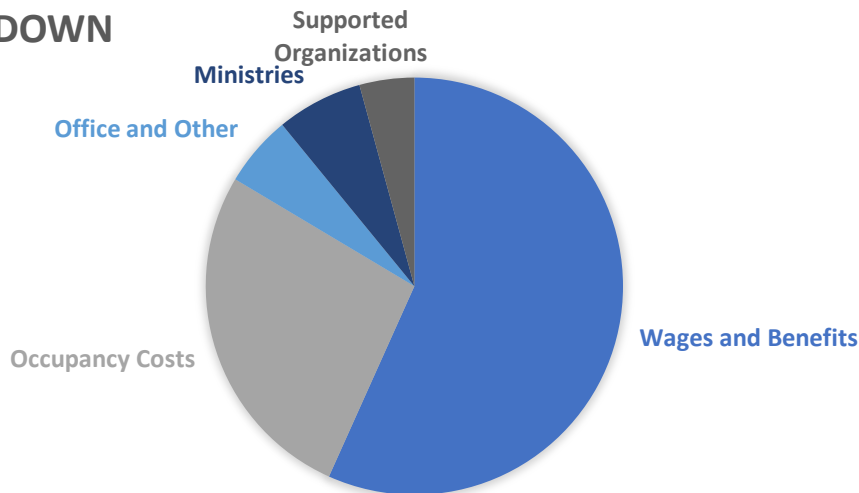
2023 Simplified Budget

By Nolan Baerg & Lyn Ens

*Detailed Budget and previous year totals available in resource package

INCOME	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	2023 Proposed
Donations	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 285,155.00	\$ 290,000.00
Rental	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 48,819.00	\$ 50,000.00
Other Income		\$ 14,646.00	
Building Fund	\$ (14,400.00)	-	\$ (15,000.00)
Total Income	\$ 285,600.00	\$ 348,620.00	\$ 325,000.00
EXPENSES			
Wages and Benefits	\$ 161,000.00	\$ 154,621.00	\$ 187,000.00
Occupancy Costs	\$ 70,200.00	\$ 88,584.00	\$ 88,500.00
Office and Other	\$ 24,200.00	\$ 22,692.00	\$ 19,000.00
Ministries	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,153.00	\$ 22,000.00
Supported Organizations	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 14,741.00	\$ 14,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 292,900.00	\$ 302,800.00	\$ 330,500.00
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER INCOME	-\$ 7,300.00	\$ 45,820.00	-\$ 5,500.00

2023 EXPENSES BREAKDOWN



Mennonite Church British Columbia Story for 2022

By Garry Janzen

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8

2022 has been a year of delayed expectations for me and for MCBC. In September 2021 I announced my plans to retire around the time of my 65th birthday in July 2022. A fantastic search task group was formed. They did thorough preparations of the understandings that would guide the search for a new Executive Minister. As the search got underway, applications were submitted, but none of them worked out. I extended my intended retirement date, eventually settling on the end of 2022. The second round of searching began in the fall of 2022. Again, applications were submitted and as I write this report toward the end of November, there is hope. Yet, it has become clear that we will not have a new Executive Minister by January 1st, 2023. In response, Kevin Barkowsky will adjust his halftime position as Church Engagement Minister to become Interim Executive Minister, with expectations that this could be a 3-6 month role.

As we wait for God’s purposes to be worked out, we trust in God’s love to lead the way. God is love, and God calls us to love one another according to this love (1 John 4). We continue on in faithfulness and obedience as agents of God’s love, trusting that as we wait, God’s best will be revealed in due time.

In 2021 a new structure for MCBC was presented to the AGM, which received its final approval at the 2022 AGM. Task Groups have grown, and others have been formed. There is much that our people have said they care about and want to act on, and the work of our task groups reflect these interests. Our task groups are too numerous to name them all here. We give thanks to our Ministry Leaders: Andrew Haak (Cultivating Anabaptist Vision), Henry Krause (Engaging God’s World) and Isaías Rodriguez (Growing Community). They report on the work in their ministry area quarterly. As Leadership Board members they also help with giving overall direction to MCBC.

We have said that the local congregation is the foundational unit of the church. It has been brought to our attention that we still need to figure out how the participants in our MCBC task groups can help their congregations embrace the work of the task groups they are in. One of our congregations took a Sunday to celebrate the work of MCBC and their people who are involved. This gave the MCBC Executive Minister opportunity to preach and speak about MCBC; it also gave Task Group and Leadership Board participants from the congregation the opportunity to talk about what they do. Each of our congregations is encouraged to do something like this.

The 2023 MCBC Annual Gathering will be at Peace Mennonite Church in Richmond on February 25th, and it will also be available for Livestream participation (rather than Zoom). We will be having a LEAD Conference Friday, February 24th – Mark Baker from Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary will be speaking on themes from his new book, Centered-Set Church. New information regarding the future of the former Clearbrook Mennonite Church property will be presented at this gathering.

Our congregations continue to seek ways to thrive, especially as we come out of the pandemic. North Shore Japanese Church has not managed to do so, and is closing at the end of 2022. We give thanks for their faithfulness.

May we be filled with love in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, and may we find our way to amazing new beginnings as we work together in God's Kingdom activities.