

**103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada**  
**Gateway Covenant Church, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan**  
**Saturday, April 21, 2007**

**Worship & Devotions**

Gavin Jensen led a time of praise and Donn Engebretson, Vice President of the Evangelical Covenant Church, spoke on Paul's love to the Philippians and their shared ministry, reminding us that God will finish the work he has begun. Donn led in prayer for the ministry of the Canadian Conference and for the business of this meeting.

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair, Kendell Arndt welcomed all present and called the meeting to order, introducing himself, Parliamentarian Jim Fenton and Secretary Mary Jane Graham. A special welcome was given to Glenn Palmberg, President of the Evangelical Covenant Church, and Vice President Donn Engebretson. He also expressed thanks to the Gateway Covenant Church, Chair Janet Loseth and her committee, and to Shauna Bennett, ECCC Administrative Assistant.

**Organization of the Meeting**

**a. Explanation of Consent Agenda Items**

The chair pointed out the items listed under "Consent Agenda" headings, which lumps non-controversial items together and requires only limited discussion time in an effort to speed up the meeting.

**b. Acceptance of the Agenda**

A motion to accept the agenda carried.

**Acceptance of the minutes from the 102<sup>nd</sup> AGM**

The minutes were accepted as approved by Renita Hamm and Robert Rudolf.

**Covenant Bible College**

**a. Financial Report – CBC Canada**

Wilf Brock, Chair of CBC-C, and a member of the CBC International Board, presented this report, and expressed thanks to the CBC Board and the ECCC for their trust. Wilf pointed out the following items in the financial report: This was the first year that CBC-Canada could not pay its management fees – they are shown as expenses for forgiveness of loans. Many different avenues were explored and the board was aggressive in making suggestions to the CBCI board prior to the decision to close operations the end of May this year.

**Discussion items:**

- There is optimism that CBC-Canada will sell quickly and there is a firm offer on CBC-Colorado. If we sell immediately, we would probably cover all debts and have some remaining, but there is no resolution on how the revenues would be divided. Superintendent Jeff Anderson informed the meeting that we fully expect to sell the Colorado property by May 31<sup>st</sup> and are working in partnership with parties including the denominational family.
- The total outstanding debt of CBC-Canada is 1.3million (callable debt) as well as \$175,000 in long term debt.
- One faculty left in 2006, but there was still a slight increase overall in wages & benefits.

**A motion carried to accept the CBC-Canada Financial Statement.**

**Report from the Credentials Committee**

Dean Whittinton reported the following in attendance:

13 of a possible 15 Executive Board delegates

10 of a possible 12 Administration Board and organizations' delegates

17 of a possible 23 pastoral delegates

51 of a possible 64 church delegates

For a total of 91 delegates of a possible 114

## **Consent Agenda Items – Advisory Delegates and Committee Appointments**

Ray Enarson, representing the Paul Carlson Foundation was added to the distributed list of advisory delegates.

**A motion carried to accept the following advisory delegates and committee appointments:**

### **Advisory Delegates**

Glenn Palmberg, President (Chicago)  
Donn Engebretson, Executive Vice-President (Chicago)  
Ingrid Wildman, Financial Officer ECCC (Norquay)  
Blain MacLeod, World Relief Canada (Calgary)  
James Nelson, ECC Missions (Norquay)  
Don Olson, CBCD Board Comptroller (Strathmore)  
Christin Dewald, CE Board (Strathmore)  
Emmanuel Mareus, Haiti Clinic (Haiti)  
Greg Glatz, Spiritual Venture Ministries (Winnipeg)  
Ray Enarson, Paul Carlson Foundation

### **Committee Appointments**

Credentials: Dean Whittington (Chair)  
Lance Glennson

Tellers: Leslie Storebo (Chair)  
Hilary Braun  
Heather Fortuine

Sergeant-at-Arms: Blayne Leeuw (Chair)  
Sonny Ferris  
Robert Huse

Resolutions: Judy Nelson (Chair)  
Tim Anderson  
David Jennison

Minutes Approval: Lila Freysteinson  
Sharon Dice

Parliamentarian: Jim Fenton

## **Financial Report for CBC International**

Don Olson, CBC Board Comptroller, gave a review of the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended May 31, 2006 as printed in the Annual Reports. The forecast for the next twelve months includes the expenses for utilities, mortgages, etc. for both the Canada and Ecuador campuses with no additional cash inflows. CBC would have enough cash to fund these expenses through December of 2007.

**A motion was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the financial report for CBC International as presented.**

## **Executive Director's Report – CBC Canada**

Todd Slechta presented this report and said that even though there is a great amount of sadness, “great is the Lord’s faithfulness”. Highlights of the year included:

- increased experiential component, service in the community
- more unified and deliberate spiritual care
- leadership development with the resident mentors (deans)
- student experience has been one of the strongest
- financially, the overall giving has been down but in the Canada conference the giving has increased
- the discipleship team have grown very close over the year.

Todd expressed gratitude to his staff and the board members. He then spoke of the meaning of a blessing and he senses that something different is happening. Todd extended thanks for the care extended to himself and his family and for the privilege to teach, guide, join with various congregations, and for the trust extended to him through this tumultuous change. Todd and his family are planning to move to Colorado and he has been accepted into a two year graduate program.

Superintendent, Jeff Anderson led in prayer for Todd and his family.

- Coffee Break
- The meeting reconvened at 9:50am

## **Recommendation from the Executive Board of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada re Covenant Bible College**

The Chair explained that the resolution to be read is coming to this meeting for action as a recommendation from the Executive Board who have ratified a recommendation from the CBC-Canada Board.

Superintendent, Jeff Anderson spoke of decisions having to be made by families which are hard but necessary and it is necessary for us to realize that there is a bigger picture. Many former students have given evidence that their lives were changed for the better because of CBC. There has been a link of partnership and shared ministry with the larger family and we are glad to have Glenn Palmberg and Donn Engebretson with us today.

President, Glenn Palmberg addressed the meeting and expressed the evidence of resilience in this meeting that God is at work and the great integrity shown by Todd, Paul, and Jeff. He informed the meeting that the denomination shares in the grieving, and stated that what was instilled in young people at CBC doesn’t end. The influence of CBC through this conference has been enormous, and keeps resonating through the Covenant church as a whole. President Palmberg wanted to attend this meeting to respect and reflect on what has been done through CBC for the greater body and expressed thanks to Paul and Jeff. He and Donn Engebretson will be traveling to Ecuador for their graduation ceremonies.

The CBC International Board has recommended to its two members: the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada and the Evangelical Covenant Church, that the ministry be discontinued as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, and all assets sold to retire accumulated debt. The ECCC Member A is to vote at today’s annual meeting. The ECC member B has already voted to affirm the recommendation at the Executive Board meeting in Chicago March 11, 2007.

Paul Lessard, Acting President of CBC International, pointed out that it was the conference annual meetings which made the decisions to go to Colorado and Ecuador and because of this, many more young people were discipled.

Paul then reviewed the steps leading to the closure of Covenant Bible College which had been shared with the churches at information meetings held by himself and Superintendent Jeff Anderson in recent months.

- 2004/05 – 163 students, year ends up \$14,000.
- Sept., 2005 – 127 students (160 projected), projected deficit of \$300,000.
- Jan., 2006 – cut faculty position in Canada; didn't replace Colorado faculty position; released the worship center in Colorado
- April, 2006 – revised student projection down from 148 to 120; suspended CBC Colorado
- ECCC 2006 AGM report – 2005 year end gain of \$14,000; projected deficit of \$300,000US; operating loan from National Covenant Properties guaranteed by ECC
- April 2006 – Spring Appeal highlighted financial distress
- May 2006 – President Neil Josephson resigned – he had a sense of the Lord's conviction that he step aside
- June 2006 – Year end showed a total loss of \$500,000US; best charitable giving in 5 yrs, but we needed another \$100,000 to balance our budget
- August, 2006 – Colorado campus listed for sale
- Sept., 2006 – student enrollment of 105 (projected 120); projected deficit of \$200,000.
- Oct., 2006 – Fall appeal showing deficit and anticipated shortfall
- Dec., 2006 – November application numbers were 22% below previous two years
- Jan., 2007 – December application numbers continue 22% below previous two years; year end giving 37% below previous year; projected year end deficit of \$300,000; accumulated operating deficit of \$800,000.
- Feb., 2007 – CBC International Board Meeting
  - recommended ceasing all programming effective May 31, 2007 (even if we were to run one campus there was nowhere for money to come from)
  - put all real property for sale to relieve our debt.
  - Board worked hard for 48 hours to be good stewards.
  - The Abraham & Isaac story was read – it was felt that the Lord wanted us to release the school and the Board members moved to a unanimous decision.

Paul informed the meeting that when the school moved from Saskatchewan to Alberta, legally the CBC-Canada Board had the right to decide to close the campus. The decision was made to close as of May 31<sup>st</sup>. Politically, it was felt we needed to bring this to the Annual General Meeting, and this is the reason the Resolution of the Members document was prepared for today's meeting.

Q: Willard – what processes have been entered into since the Colorado property was put up for sale as well as the entire process since we decided to close, i.e. appraisal prices.

A: Paul – The market evaluation on the Colorado property was 2.8 million and was listed at 3 million. The contract on the property is for 2.825 million. We will take care of the principal and interest connected to this campus and the Ecuador campus. The Ecuador campus was appraised at 1.7 million, but we don't expect to get this amount. CBC-Canada was appraised at 3 million three years ago. The new appraisal is 6.3million. The building is only worth what someone will pay for it. There are some funds outstanding in relation to world missions, etc. and it will all be taken care of.

Q: Are we giving up on discipleship?

A: Jeff – Through this entire process, the clear consensus is a passion for discipleship. It may look different, but it must be there. The Executive Board and I and all involved share that commitment. We are going to actively pursue discipleship.

Q: Judy Nelson asked the President and Vice President if there is a commitment to a discipleship partnership as we continue.

A: Donn Engebretson – I appreciate that question and as this news was learned, Doreen Olson, Executive Minister of Christian Formation, immediately took this to her Board and they are already engaged in these discussions. We pray there is a melding of the forms of partnership. We trust God will use this to further the work of forming disciples.

Paul recognized Todd Slechta's work in the last three years, Bob's work in Ecuador, and expressed his appreciation to all of the Board members, and Superintendent Jeff Anderson who came along beside him in this time.

The following resolution was then read by the secretary:

**“RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS  
OF  
EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF CANADA**

**WHEREAS** Covenant Bible College was established by the Covenant Bible College Act, being a Private Member’s Bill consented to by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and which received assent on September 6, 1996 (herein called the “Act”);

**AND WHEREAS** the preamble to the Act provides that Covenant Bible College is an educational ministry “owned and operated” by the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada (herein called the “Church”);

**AND WHEREAS** the Church is federally incorporated and has, as one of its objects or purposes, the establishment, governance and maintenance of schools and charitable institutions;

**AND WHEREAS** the members of the Church are evangelical Christian churches which have been accepted into membership in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Church;

**AND WHEREAS** the highest constituted authority of the Church is the General Assembly composed of accredited delegates of the member churches in an Annual Meeting or in other special meetings;

**AND WHEREAS** the general administration of the Church vests in the Conference Superintendent and the Executive Board;

**AND WHEREAS** Article IV, Section 1 of the By-laws of the Church provides that the members of the Board of Trustees of Covenant Bible College are elected at the Annual Meetings of the members of the Church as required and such Trustees exercise general supervision over Covenant Bible College;

**AND WHEREAS** the said Trustees are to report annually to the members at the Annual Meeting;

**AND WHEREAS** on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, the Trustees passed a resolution to discontinue the operations of Covenant Bible College effective May 31, 2007 and wind-up its affairs pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 of the Act,

**AND WHEREAS** neither the Act nor the Constitution of the Church formally stipulate that approval of the members is required to effect such wind-up;

**AND WHEREAS**, irrespective of the Act, the By-laws and the Constitution being silent on this issue, the Trustees, recognizing the relationship between Covenant Bible College and the Church and the accountability of the Trustees to the members, request the members to make certain resolutions to authorize the winding-up of Covenant Bible College.

**NOW THEREFORE:**

1. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, with thankfulness to God for sixty-six (66) years of faithful ministry in the discipleship and training of young people for service in Christ’s church and in the world, Covenant Bible College be wound-up in accordance with the provisions as set out in the Act;
2. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Trustees be authorized to do all acts as may be necessary to effect such wind-up in accordance with the provisions of the Act;
3. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Executive Committee of the Executive Board of the Church be authorized to act on behalf of the members in all matters with respect to the said wind-up.

DATED at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2007.

”Mary Jane Graham” (original hand signed)  
Secretary

“April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007” (original hand dated)      “

**The Chair then opened the floor to questions regarding the Resolution.**

**The Tellers were asked to pass out ballots.** Following a question regarding the need for a secret ballot, a request was made for a secret ballot. Jeff then advised that since this was a question of such importance, it was decided to vote with a paper ballot and since a request has been made, this method will be used.

Q: Do we not need a motion?

A: Kendell explained that since this is a recommendation from the Executive Board, it is treated as a motion.

**Discussion:**

- Virginia Kutzan – appreciation expressed for the presentation by Paul as it answered all her questions. She expressed that this is a very emotional matter for Prince Albert and even though the AGM doesn't need to have the opportunity to deal with this issue, she appreciated that it was brought to the delegates to deal with.
- Kendell – we have always operated as a family and it is our intention that the decisions of this body are important, even though the lawyers have drawn up the resolution which states that the Trustees could deal with this.
- Jeff – regarding working ahead of our governance, Paul and I had discussions and there were about eleven scenarios drawn up. There was a teleconference call with the Executive Board and we laid out the worst case scenario so they were in the loop from that point and then the Executive Board of CBC-Canada were informed. To not make this decision when we did would have put the students of the US faculty in a bad situation by not giving them time to make transition plans.
- Kendell clarified that in January when they recognized they would not have the money to finish the year, National Covenant Properties very graciously took the risk and made the commitment to assist us to complete the year.
- Wilf Brock explained that these decisions were not easy but an overriding issue was that we control our destiny and we are making the hard decisions ourselves instead of continuing on and having it made for us.

Q: Jim Stone asked if we could still use the name of Covenant Bible College in the future with the closing of the campus.

A: Jeff explained that we have engaged legal counsel in this and the trademark name is owned by the ECCC. The lawyer is working on the best ways to go forward, including how to handle bequests which have been made in wills.

Q: Will institutions honor the credits of students from CBC?

A: Paul – as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, CBC's website will be merged with the Conference website and students can obtain their transcripts through this.

Q: Gretchen Johnson – is there a possibility of CBC remaining open on paper until such a time as we are ready to continue?

A: Jeff – This is another item before our legal counsel. Even if the present structure is ended, I don't believe there is anything saying we can't use the name again.

A: Kendell – for all intents and purposes, it will probably stay open on paper until we see where it might go and until the decisions are made about bequests and the business which needs to be completed.

**The vote was called by the Chair and the tellers collected the ballots.**

**The business meeting was then closed for a time opened for expressions of thanks and comments.**

- *Carol Anderson, Malmo* – lots of grieving, but we still continue to prayerfully support the group who work on the future. I highly commend Paul and Jeff and the others involved.
- *Willard Schneider, Edmonton* – have been a member of CBC International Board – I feel like I have been in a pipe and water and noise have been coming down the pipe and has now come flooding in; this is a hard decision because what better way could we be involved in kid's discipleship? We see the heritage fostered by CBC and we recognize the significance that CBC has had in our lives. There is great joy and thankfulness to be had and this is an opportunity to look forward.
- *Albert Josephson* – Probably the oldest graduate – brought greetings on behalf of his wife, himself, and his brother Eric, and son Neil, and he remembered when he first came to CBI, and also Cliff Campbell. He felt that a great cloud of witnesses are here today as well including Joel Peterson and Wendell Anderson, and they are trying to help us make the decisions for the future. He expressed that he would not be here today if it wasn't for CBC and all of his family members as well, and CBC had had an impact on their lives. "God was with the people who made the decision to start CBC and that same God is not going to leave us now. I encourage all the churches to get together to see what God wants to do and perhaps next year we will have a different type of motion to deal with. God bless us as we go forward."
- *Ray Enarson* – Thanks expressed for his time at CBC.

**Greetings regarding the closure of CBC:**

The Secretary then read greetings received from Bishop Jerold Gliege on behalf of Holy Covenant Church in Saskatoon and the Evangelical Orthodox Church, as well as former Superintendent of the ECCC, Jerome Johnson. Jerome expressed his belief that "God still wants you to carry out that work of equipping people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, shaped by the love of God, mastered by the word of God, and partners in the work of God, in whatever new wineskins you devise to do so."

**Results of Vote:**

The tellers brought their report on the vote which showed 88 'yes' votes, and 3 'no' votes.

A motion carried to destroy the ballots. The meeting then joined together in prayer through singing "You Give and Take Away". Pastor Randall Friesen then asked the blessing on the lunch.

- Lunch Break
- The business meeting reconvened at 1:45pm

**Second Consent Agenda**

- a. Presentation of the 2007 Ballot
- b. Financial Report – ECCC
- c. Christian Formation Board Report
- d. Local Church, Camp & Organization Reports

It was pointed out that the financial package is on the website and can be accessed on PDF. Format and if anyone desired the full package today, it would be made available. The Budget includes bad debt for the amount written off for pension and there is a note in the complete documents which is optimistic for recovering this amount in the future. The budget shows contributions of \$612,898.00, expenditures of \$612,183.50, for a surplus of \$714.50.

**A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept this entire Consent Agenda.**

As a result of this motion, the following were elected:

Executive Board – 3 year term – Rene Soubolsky, Saskatoon, SK

Executive Board – 3 year term – Christin Dewald, Strathmore, AB

Executive Board – 3 year term – Ray Baloun, Minnedosa, MB

Executive Board – 3 year term – Dave McIntosh, Sarnia, ON

Committee on Ministry – 3 year term – Andrew Fortuine, Balfour, BC

Committee on Ministry – 3 year term – David Johnson, Durban, MB

## **Report of the Committee on Ministry**

Doug Stapleton, Chair, presented the following recommendations for approval:

- a. the granting of lay minister license to Gordon Armstrong and Mark Mast.
- b. the granting of local ministry license to Jesse Lerch, Kirsten Waldenschmit, Arden Gustafson, Giovanni Gonzalez, Glen Peterson, Joel Braun, Hilary Braun, and Will Watson.

**A motion carried to accept the granting of the Committee on Ministry recommendations.**

## **Superintendent's Report**

Jeff Anderson, Superintendent, reviewed his report which was printed in the Annual Report Book. He pointed out that the Executive Board has utilized the work of the Task Force and sought to determine the best possible way to move the ECCC forward.

### Leadership Development

It was decided to direct resources toward Leadership Development in two specific ways:

- 1 – support churches which seek to be involved with Vantage Point 3.
- 2 – start a partnership with Spirit Venture Ministries this fall to have at least 5 churches participate in a leadership development experience. This may begin with a retreat at Kingsfold in Alberta, followed by conference calls. Leonard Sweet will attend this retreat. Greg Glatz from Spirit Venture Ministries then addressed the meeting. He expressed the belief that the church is a spirit based venture and we should start dreaming about what the Spirit can do. Spirit Venture Ministries is working to help churches become missional, relational and incarnational. We need to begin to teach leaders to become this. We are setting up a mentoring program with real life and technological training.

### Church Planting and Mission

Giovanni Gonzalez is working with a group called Capstone in Mississauga.

Gerald Froese is working with a group in Winnipeg. He reported that the most thrilling experience in his ministry was to take the baton from the father and run with it and then hand it over to the son. After nine months, he received a nudging which he doesn't understand, but he resigned and shut down the church plant. He shared that God's will is big enough to give us all kinds of opportunities and there is a world of opportunities to build God's church and it may not be a success. He was grateful to be a part of a family which is willing to take risks and try new things. God's promise in Psalm 32:8 is "I will guide you... and I will watch over you."

Rob Peterson prayed for our conference as a church who wish to follow the nudging.

### Global Ministry

Jeff updated the meeting on the ministry of the Pluims who will now enter a new phase, the work in Haiti, the move of the Zepeda family to Norquay which will include work with the Key Reserve and continued work by Alberto with the global ministry with Kenya. A group joined Jeff in prayer for Alberto and his continued ministry.

Amy Wegner then informed the meeting of a book which she has produced which supports the work being done by Dr. Manno in Haiti. Purchasing this book is an opportunity for us to participate in the work in Haiti.

Ray Enarson, member of the Paul Carlson Foundation, reported on his three month visit in Africa where Paul Carlson had served. President Glenn Palmberg reported on a close call in Africa by two members of World Missions who were caught in a crossfire in Kinshasa last month. Ray then urged the meeting to continue with their support in prayer and with contributions towards the work of the Paul Carlson Foundation.

### Church Revitalization

Dan Olson, Breton, reported that revival has started there. The building expansion will be finalized in about six weeks. He gave thanks for the prayers, support, and loans which made this possible.

Karen Bayley, Advocacy for Victims of Abuse, is training pastors and lay people to walk more effectively with victims of abuse. She has now trained five leaders.

Blain MacLeod, World Relief of Canada, reported that this conference has enabled them to minister to more than 330,000 people and expressed his thanks and stated that this makes their work possible.

Ray Baloun gave information on the “Kernels Of Hope” program and thanked the members for their participation. ECC is a partner with World Relief Canada and they are part of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Two years ago the proceeds from this project was \$69,000; last year it was \$192,000. This year’s project is to support Liberia in becoming able to feed themselves. \$175 enables a person or group to rent land, buy seed and chemicals, and pay the farmers. Updates are sent by email and tax receipts are issued in January.

#### Executive Board

Jeff thanked the members of the Executive Board and gave special thanks to:

- Dave McIntosh for his work on the conference website
- Karen Haukedal, whose term is up
- Kendell for his leadership
- Shauna Bennett and Ingrid Wildman for their detailed work
- His wife Darlene and his family for their support
- This meeting for the privilege to have the discussions regarding CBC this morning and the way that it was handled.

#### Credentials Committee Report – 2:55pm

Dean Whittinton reported the following in attendance:

13 of a possible 15 Executive Board delegates

10 of a possible 12 Administration Board and organizations’ delegates

17 of a possible 23 pastoral delegates

51 of a possible 64 church delegates

For a total of 91 delegates in attendance.

#### Covenant Shared Ministry Update

Donn Engebretson, Vice President of ECC, presented a visual report on “A Passion For Mission” which included the following current data on the Evangelical Covenant Church:

- 785 churches in 41 states and 5 provinces
- 165,977 people steady growth for 15 consecutive years
- 3% gain in attendance
- 53% growth in last decade, same as ECCC
- 1 of 3 are attending churches planted in the last 10 years
- 141 missionaries in 23 countries
- 2600 churches in Covenant World Missions
- More missionaries now serving through the Covenant churches than ever before in our history
- \$2.4million through compassionate ministries
- 31,000 user addresses on website
- 291 in seminary – an all time high
- This June’s Annual Meeting will see 14 new churches welcomed, 11 project and short term missionaries, and the election of the first Executive Minister of Compassion, Mercy and Justice
- CBC – the whole Covenant recognizes and gives thanks for 66 years of ministry

Donn thanked the Canadian Conference for their faithfulness in the places where each one serves and he believes that everything we do in the name of Jesus Christ, we do better together.

## **50+ Reminder**

Jerry Haukedal announced this year's 50+ Event will be held October 19-21 in Canmore at the Sheraton Hotel. The theme is "A New Season" and the guest speaker is Tim Fretheim. Brochures will be coming to the churches soon and information is on the conference website.

## **Proposed 2007 Budget**

Kendell Arndt, Chair, reported that the proposed budget reflects the decision to focus on Leadership Development. and called for questions regarding the budget.

Q: Why is the Event Revenues higher?

A: Women Ministries budget is now included in the ECCC budget.

Q: Is it common practice to run with a deficit of such an amount and what happens with the deficit?

A: All fund categories of Operations, Internally restricted and Externally restricted show a surplus of \$714.50. Any deficit gets absorbed by our unrestricted equity. This amount has decreased substantially due to the writing off of the loans to CBC in 2006. If we get enough money from the sale of the properties, we will see this amount climb again.

Q: Variance in church planting/global mission.

A: \$100,000 loan to CBC which was spent in 2006.

Q: Why is CBC loan in church planting?

A: Typically, the growth fund was used for church planting opportunities. Since the CBC loan came from these funds, it is showing as church planting.

Q: Is there any church planting opportunity for this year?

A: Jeff advised that we are always open to this but the money is limited to the amount in the budget.

Q: Is there a plan to have a conference staff person work on revitalizing?

A: Jeff – In this budget there is money set apart for the next steps. This is an option for the future, but we don't have the resources to hire someone at this time. We are at the point where we need a review group, and Grace Wilson has been confirmed as the review committee chairman. We want to go across our conference and churches and get ideas, listen and discern together and probably at our November Board meeting we will establish a group to look at the road forward.

We hope that churches will send half of their commitment to CBC by May 31<sup>st</sup>. We hope that the commitments made to CBC will now be sent to the Conference in order to cover legal costs and review committees coming out of the Executive Board.

Q: What are the estimated costs of legal fees? Would this be included in the costs of winding down?

A: We have estimated the legal costs at \$15,000.

Q: Will the CBC Board continue?

A: No board members were on the ballot and two are coming off. Our lawyer advised that it is the present board's duty to do their job. The constitution provides that the CBC Board can self replace members between meetings and the two members coming off will be re-appointed in May. The same group of people will see it through to the end.

Q: Will we get information on the complete final figures?

A: Information will be given out as soon as possible and a complete accounting given at the next AGM.

Kendell advised that the Board is hiring expertise to help with this issue and the Executive Board has been struggling with a way to give some support for Jeff. This is a high priority item for the Board if we had the money.

Q: Will the funds set aside in the budget allow for establishing of the review commission?

A: Yes – this would include help of a lawyer or accountant if needed.

**A motion to accept the budget as presented was moved, seconded, and carried.**

## **Resolutions Committee Report**

Judy Nelson, Chair, with the assistance of Tim Anderson and David Jennison, read the following resolutions:

1. Whereas the Gateway Covenant Church has hosted this AGM with warmth and hospitality, be it resolved to thank them with a standing ovation and ask Jeff to relay this thanks during the Sunday service.
2. Whereas Donn Engebretson and Glenn Palmberg have joined with us in celebration and in tears, be it resolved that we thank them for their continuing care and encouragement to the Canada Conference and ministry we share together.
3. Whereas our brothers and sisters serving on the boards of CBCC, CBCI, EDD, and ECCC have had the heavy responsibility to make hard decisions, be it resolved to thank them for suffering through a process of discernment and affirm their choices in this matter.
4. Whereas the staff of CBC Strathmore and CBC Ecuador have demonstrated Christian character over this year in extremely difficult circumstances, be it resolved that we commend them, thank them, and seek God's blessing for them.
5. Whereas we have been blessed by 66 years of CBC ministry and now suffer the grief of loss in the closing of CBC, be it resolved that in faith and in Jesus' name, we recommit to generous, purposeful and discerning support of discipleship ministry.
6. Whereas we acknowledge all those influenced by God's ministry through CBC – those who have been involved as disciples or as faculty and family; - those who are involved, currently giving and receiving God's word, relationship and sacrifice, and – those who will be involved in the future, as God's passionate disciples, alongside teachers of the highest integrity, be it resolved that this Covenant family will continue to support these blessed individuals through prayer, physical support, and financial assistance as God wills and leads them into the unknown.
7. Whereas we have connections with individuals and families serving in other parts of this world – Ecuador, Haiti, Kenya, Congo, and Key First Nation, be it resolved that we keep these various incentives before our churches for prayer and financial support.
8. Whereas jazz is the adventure in music that moves above and beyond underlying melody, be it resolved that we affirm Paul Lessard, a player of jazz, as he roams the vast score that God has written for his life and ministry. Play on our friend.
9. Whereas Don Olson has expressed an interest in ballroom dancing, and Rob Peterson has broken the bonds of Scandinavian emotional repression, be it resolved that these two be encouraged to explore training in liturgical dance and fiscal friskiness.
10. Whereas we acknowledge Pastor Randall Friesen specifically for hosting this year's annual conference in a time of great transition, be it resolved that we appreciate a man who has a café named after him, demonstrating Covenanters continue to prove they refuse to be pigeon-holed or take the long road to stagnation. Thank you for your creativity.

## **Invitation to the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

Ray Baloun and group from Minnedosa presented a video and personal invitation to attend the next annual meeting in Minnedosa and help celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Those present were elegantly served a candy treat.

## **Evaluation Forms**

The chair asked those present to complete the evaluation forms and hand these in following the meeting.

## **Thank You**

The Chair expressed thanks to Jeff Anderson and Paul Lessard for their time, effort, travel, and carrying the burden about the closing of CBC in the best way possible. A standing round of applause was given.

**Covenant Village**

Keith Fullerton from Surrey informed the meeting that brochures were available on the retirement housing available at Covenant Village in Surrey, BC.

**Adjournment**

**A motion carried to adjourn the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Jane Graham, Secretary

Minutes approval:

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Lila Freysteinson, Saskatoon

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Dice, Prince Albert