

105th Annual General Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada
Green Timbers Covenant Church, Surrey, BC
Saturday, April 25, 2009

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair, Kendell Arndt called the meeting to order, expressing thanks to the Green Timbers church, Pastor Andy Sebanc and those who were responsible for the AGM preparations. He then introduced Secretary, Mary Jane Graham and Parliamentarian, Grace Wilson.

Organization of the Meeting

Nominations Procedure

The chair clarified the following:

- Further nominations for the ballot were needed in writing before the first break.
- Names of movers and seconders for all motions are to be provided to the secretary.

Acceptance of the Agenda

The chair explained that the Consent Agenda items will be accepted later in the meeting.

A motion to accept the agenda was moved by Ken Johnson, seconded by Andy Sebanc, and carried.

Report from the Credentials Committee

Shelly Broad, Chair of the Credentials Committee, reported the following in attendance:

16 Administration Board and Organizations; 11 Executive Board; 45 Church Delegates, and 19 Pastoral Delegates, for a total of 91.

Acceptance of the minutes from the 2008 AGM

A motion was moved by Dan Pearson, seconded by Terry Schlinker, that we accept the minutes of the 2008 AGM. This motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Advisory Delegates
- b. Presentation of Committee Appointments
- c. Ministerial Licenses

A motion that we accept the consent agenda as presented was moved by Dave McIntosh, and seconded by Lila Freysteinson. This motion carried.

The following were approved by this motion:

Advisory Delegates

Dan Pietrzyk	Director of Sustaining Pastoral Excellence (Chicago)
Blain MacLeod	World Relief Canada (Calgary)
James Nelson	ECC Executive Board (Norquay)
Ramon Noble	Corrections Canada (Edmonton)
Giovanni Gonzalez	The Capstone (Etobicoke)
Bruce Reimer	ECCC Board Financial Consultant (Winnipeg)

Committee Appointments

Credentials:	Shelly Broad (Chair) Gail Baloun
Tellers:	Ron Hendrickson (Chair) Lila Freysteinson Steve Waldschmidt
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Leroy McNicolas (Chair) Linea Lanoie Rudi Frei
Minutes Approval:	Rachael Borley Elaine Johnson
Parliamentarian:	Grace Wilson

Review the Mission

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jeff Anderson pointed out the change in the Annual Report format and expressed thanks to Shauna Bennett for getting this accomplished. Jeff mentioned that our conference may look different in the future including various ethnic backgrounds. Our conference is gifted with people in the area of innovation and we will hear about some new opportunities in discipleship. We want to do what God is leading us to do.

The Pastors present then introduced themselves, stating the church they serve, or whether they are retired, and the total number of years they have served.

Superintendent Anderson expressed thanks to the Board for the sabbatical and encouraged churches to allow their pastors to take some time away. He gave recognition to Chair, Kendell Arndt and Secretary, Mary Jane Graham for their service on the Board for the last two terms.

Edmonton Church Status

In answer to a question from the floor, Superintendent Anderson explained that the Pastor left two years ago and it was a major transitional time. Decisions were made to appoint a new leadership team and to place the discerning of their future with a leadership team which includes Superintendent Anderson but no members of the church. Robin Swieringa was called as Pastor and the leadership team has met to make decisions until now. The church property has been sold. Pastor Swieringa informed the meeting that home meetings and book studies have been happening for twelve weeks. They lost some people who identified with the church building. A revival occurred among those who stayed for those twelve weeks. They plan to start Sunday School soon with the families around the school. The church still exists as a legal entity and there are parameters around how the money from the sale of the property is used. Robin asked for prayer for their group, especially as they go through the budgeting process in the near future.

Constitution

Superintendent Anderson explained that we are unable to vote on adopting the new Constitution this year as our lawyer advises that we cannot close the CBC Corporation until all of the properties sell.

A motion was moved by Rudy Frei, seconded by Ray Baloun, that the Superintendent's Report be accepted as presented. This motion carried.

Phil Wright led the meeting in prayer for Superintendent Anderson and his family.

Highlighting the Mission

Haiti

The meeting heard from Amy Wegner and Ray Pennycook, who have travelled to Haiti to work with Dr. Manno at the Ebenezer Clinic in Haut-Limbe, Haiti. Working with the people there and building relationships with them was a great experience. Dr. Manno expressed his thanks to those who have come to Haiti. Evan Dewald offered prayer for Dr. Manno and the ministry in Haiti.

Partner - ECC

Dan Pietrzyk, Director of Sustaining Pastoral Excellence for the Evangelical Covenant Church, expressed that he has been encouraged to see God doing exceedingly abundant work. He oversees the Lily Endowment Fund which provides grants to pastors to participate in areas of Internal Formation, Core Pastoral Arts, and Renewal Retreats. This is an extension of our joint ministry and he recognized David Johnson who is the coordinator of Sustaining Pastoral Excellence for the Canada Conference.

Kernels of Hope

Ray Baloun "The Grain Guy" gave an update on this project. In 2005 this project began with the government matching our efforts by four times and the first three years we supported Liberia with emergency food, tools, and seed. In 2008 we began supporting people of the Sudan, including supplies for fishermen. The totals realized to date are: 2005 - \$69,000; 2006 from 3 fields - \$185,000; 2007 from 4 fields - \$280,000; 2008 - \$425,000, for a total of \$959,000 to date. In 2009 we have 6 fields being planted. We are making a difference!

Partner - World Relief

Blain MacLeod informed the meeting that this past year World Relief has influenced 500,000 people in the third world countries. They greatly value the partnership with the ECCC.

Palestinian Christians

Deb Arndt and Darlene Anderson shared some of their experiences from partnering with World Relief and travelling with a group to Palestine. Their role was to listen and bring their stories back to our conference. Some of the stories were hard to hear. Bookmarks, and an offering basket were passed among the delegates.

Partner - World Vision

Willard Metzger shared some information from a Christian leadership training seminar in Jericho. The Palestinian Christians' concern is not to lose their testimony of Christianity even if it means hardship and suffering. He encouraged the sponsorship of a Palestinian child through the sponsorship cards available at our meeting.

Lunch

Amy Wegner recited a passage from John and Superintendent Jeff Anderson asked the blessing on our luncheon meal.

The Chair announced the location of the evening banquet and asked that name tags be turned in by the delegates following the meeting.

- Meeting Reconvened at 12:45pm -

Discipleship – Director's Report

Phil Wright informed the meeting that the first Neil Josephson Leadership Award was presented to the Winnipeg Faith Covenant Church during 2008. The \$2500 is to be used to foster church leadership in their community. The deadline for applications for 2009 has been extended to June 1st. Faith Covenant Church will be choosing the recipient. Erik Anderson read a letter of thanks from Gavin Jensen on behalf of the Winnipeg church.

Phil reported that he has now been in this position for one year and he thanked everyone for their patience. He has visited most of the churches, spoke at several camps and churches, gathering information. In November, 2008 he made a presentation to the ECCC Board suggesting eight initiatives which he felt our conference should be promoting. The desire is to make things more local without sacrificing "community" and to bring discipleship opportunities into the churches instead of people going to a specific place for discipleship training. He had also sought to identify the good gifts and resources which God has placed in this conference. These eight initiatives were approved and the following detail shared.

Camp Ministries - A full-time Camp Team is being hired and will go to each of our camps this summer. Jon Drebert is overseeing this effort and their schedule. This ministry will raise up future leaders.

Internship - A team has been assembled under the leadership of Evan Dewald. They will be developing a curriculum for churches and we will work out "guided journeys" for young adults to assist with vocational development.

Urban Experience - In August of this year a group will travel to Ottawa and Toronto. Greg Jensen is overseeing the development and planning. The emphasis will be on refugees and street involved ministries.

Intentional Christian Communities - This year, we will be establishing the first of these in Calgary with Joel and Hilary Braun as resident pastors, providing leadership and spiritual direction to the home. Hopefully, a second home will be established in Winnipeg next year. The vision is to have one in each university city in Canada. Erik Anderson is heading up this initiative.

Youth Retreats - Phil reported that there will be two locations for Jr. Hi. Jam this year - one in Nelson, BC and the other in Norquay, SK.

Information Groups

Phil divided the delegates into groups and all groups were given time to meet with the leaders of these initiatives, and had the opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions.

CBC Board

Superintendent Jeff Anderson advised that the conference lawyer and the Executive Board recommend the following:

A motion moved by Kendell Arndt on behalf of the Executive Board (no second required) that we affirm that the present CBC Board officers continue in office until the 2010 AGM or the dissolution of the corporation, whichever comes first." This motion carried.

The names of the present CBC Board officers are: Wilf Brock, (Chair), Judy Drebert (Vice-Chair), Randall Friesen, Arden Gustafson, and Jeff Anderson.

CBC Legacy Fund

This year, eleven bursaries were presented to young adults involved in a discipleship program or a Bible School. They represent nine different institutions and each one wrote an essay about the values that CBC sought to instill. It is estimated that this fund will generate about \$30,000 per year, part of which will support this fund and the balance will be invested in the discipleship initiatives. Those present were urged to continue to invest in, nurture, and give to the discipleship of young people in this conference.

Acceptance of Reports

A motion was moved by Doug Stapleton, seconded by Dave McIntosh, to accept all of the reports presented today. This motion carried.

Resourcing the Mission

Presentation of the 2009 Ballot

Superintendent Anderson explained that delegates have the right to abstain from voting and this will not be a spoiled ballot. No further nominations had been received from the floor. The three candidates were asked to share what God was doing in their lives. The tellers then distributed the ballots and the chair explained the terms of the positions were set up to decrease the size of the board. He also pointed out that legal and financial advisory members had been added last year on the recommendation of the CBC Board.

The Tellers later reported that the candidates were affirmed as follows and the ballots were destroyed.

Chairman - 3 year term - Glenn Peterson, Sarnia, ON

Trustee - 2 year partial term - Larry Peterson, Wetaskiwin, AB

Secretary - 1 year partial term - Ray Baloun, Minnedosa, MB

ECCC Proposed 2009 Budget

Treasurer, Larry Peterson reviewed the proposed budget. The Financial Committee consists of Larry Peterson, Willard Schneider, Kendell Arndt, Jeff Anderson, and advisor Bruce Reimer. Several items have been simplified and re-categorized and were clarified in answer to questions. Superintendent Anderson explained that \$600,000 from the sale of CBC Canada is in the bank or invested. The only loan left with \$800,000 with National Covenant Properties and there is an off-setting note of that amount to cover this loan. The CBC Windsor property was sold. The Paul Carlson Foundation funds are shown as "Congo" and we are still working on a project that fits. Arden Gustafson is on that board as our representative.

A motion to accept the 2009 Budget as presented was moved by Dan Pearson, seconded by Keith Broad. The motion carried.

Prayer

Superintendent Jeff Anderson led in prayer for our conference and its ministry.

Invitation to the 106th Annual Conference

James Wheeler gave an official invitation to the 2010 AGM which will be held in Calgary, Alberta.

Adjournment

Chair, Kendell Arndt thanked the delegates for their attention, questions, and support of our new initiatives.

**A motion was made by Rick Boersma, seconded by Ray Baloun, that the meeting be adjourned.
The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jane Graham, Secretary

Minutes Approved by:

Rachel Borley

Elaine Johnson