

# COUNCIL REPORT

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(left to right)  
Gil Klassen, Janice Block, Rena Pearson, Erica Fraser (Moderator),  
Brooke Epp, Anna Robinson, Ken Willms \*missing: Joel Dyck

## HELLO TO OUR CONGREGATIONS - ATTRIDGE, THE GATHERING AND NORTH SITE

The purpose of this report is to provide information to our congregations as to what Council has been working on this year. In fall 2021 we communicate three priorities:

1. Transition Work with Reg Toews - this continues to be a priority
2. The TRC Process - how we move forward in Local Engagement
3. The Multisite Report - findings and recommendations

Other areas of focus have been:

- Facility Needs
- IRR Fund
- Greenspace Updates
- Global Partnership Proposal
- SKMB Conference - CUCC Document

*Please  
continue to  
read through  
for more  
information on  
these things  
from Council.*

# UPDATE IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED TRC INITIATIVE

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Council has heard the request from the congregation to be transparent about what has happened with the TRC proposal and where we are headed as a church in this area. The proposal from June 2021 has been pulled off the table and as we engage in Indigenous reconciliation in the future, it will be separate from that initial proposal.

The proposal was handled poorly, and many people have been hurt. As a church, we have many people who want to see us acting in this area and many who feel it is too specific and that as the church we are to be reconcilers to all people. Our church body needs to recognize that there are many different opinions of how we should proceed, and we need much prayer, discernment and processing. As Council, we ask for grace and love for one another as we move forward from this. We also recognize that trust has been lost in leadership and in one another through how the proposal was handled.

Council and Lead Team had a chance to debrief at the council retreat in November 2021 and as a result, apologies for the hurt caused were sent to every member of the TRC Task Force and to the church. A letter of direction was sent to staff to begin to slowly discern and pray about how to engage our congregation in this area of reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours. A small amount of budget in the “community engagement” line was approved to be used to begin initial steps to engage. In April, North Site and The Gathering participated in a blanket exercise which was led by Randy Klassen from MCC.

With Reg’s guidance, the Lead Team has prepared a Theology document to guide council in giving direction, using the MB Confession of Faith as a basis, to align us in any initiative. Reg led a debrief with staff and with the Young Adults in March 2022. Two Council members observed the staff debrief and reported back to Council. A summary document of main themes was then shared with the staff to relay what was heard.

With the development of a common theology document and 4-5 appropriate resources to guide education around reconciliation, we will look to our global partnership process to guide how we do local community engagement. We need to lead with relationship. A support for us moving forward is to leverage some of our existing relationships with The Bridge, MCC, Multiply and Panama to help us move forward.

Council and staff have plans to discuss and discern together potential next steps, we want to invite our congregation into this process as well. Education and prayer are seen as key to moving forward. We want to learn from those among us who are Indigenous and those already in relationships with our Indigenous Peoples.

We exist as one church in three sites to reach a diverse population in our city with the gospel message. Within our church sites we have different programs that minister to different generations. We have global partnerships which we support at varying levels of engagement. We are a body of believers with diverse gifts, passions, interests, and abilities. God has still led us as a whole church to all these different ministries and opportunities and we have committed to them in unity as a congregation. Council believes that as a whole church we desire to build relationships with our Indigenous Neighbours, however, we will have varying levels of engagement within our sites, and that is okay. Our mission as an MB church is to be transformed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*Submitted by Janice Block*

# MULTI-SITE

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The Multisite Task Force was formed (April 2021) by FGCC Council with the following mandate: In conjunction with the FGCC Lead Team, to understand and assess the current multisite structure of FGCC and to make recommendations to Council on the future state of the multisite structure at FGCC.

The members of the Task Force include the following individuals from the 3 sites:

Attridge – **Jonathan Durance, Laurie Pauls, Don Bergstrom, Brian Heagy**

Broadway – **Nathan and Sara Lynn Siemens, Karen Wiebe**

North Site – **Rob Neufeld**

The following people were interviewed: **Bruce Enns, Kevin Wiens, Brian Wiens, Nathan McCorkindale, Maryanne Berge, Don Froese, and Erica Fraser** (FGCC Personnel Resources Committee).

Each interview included questions about the positive and challenging aspects of FGCC's multisite model, what needs to be changed or amplified in our model, what is needed from the Lead Pastor by each of the sites, and how the Holy Spirit is leading/calling FGCC forward as a multisite church.

All individuals who responded spoke of a hope and vision to continue to multiply in pursuit of being missional to our local communities.

## **FGCC Council Summary:**

1. We would recommend that there is a need to explore the opportunity to have a separate task force, not a transition team responsibility, to review the overall Governance and structure of the Multi Site initiative.
2. We understand that there has been a disconnect between the 3 sites and how they integrate and feel a part of the overall Forest Grove Community Church.
3. Although there is a level of independence between the 3 sites, there needs to be more unity in focus, strategic function, and clarity in how these 3 sites operate and work as one congregation.
4. We recognize that the Lead Pastor is probably in a struggling position to include this overall responsibility in his role and to understand how to meet the differing needs between the 3 sites and how he can meet the needs of the 3 site leaders in an ongoing basis.
4. The 'why' needs to be clarified and the model (Federation, Cooperative) needs to be better defined.
5. Alignment of staffing needs to match mission, vision and values to avoid vision leak and possible lack of ownership of the multi-site expectation.
6. All members need to understand the mission and purpose of multisite in order to increase buy in.

## **Action Steps:**

Council is working on creating a separate task force to further review and evaluate the report and its recommendations, assess the vision, mission, and application of multi-Site, and realign the 3 sites under the overall FGCC mission statement and the MB Confession of Faith.

*Submitted by Ken Willms*

# FACILITIES

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As our buildings (Attridge and North Site) age, our need for facility maintenance and upgrades is always increasing. It is important that our congregations begin talking about the future of our facilities, including “what changes can be made to our facilities to better fulfill the vision of our ministries?” and “how will we fund the maintenance and upgrades that are needed?”

At the March 2022 congregations meeting, those present were asked how we should fund the needs of our aging facilities. The feedback received largely supported the use of a variety of methods to fund these expenses; the most suggested was to do a capital campaign, followed by a loan or mortgage, and the use of or borrowing from the IRR funds. Adding a budget line for maintenance costs was also suggested. It was noted by many that capital campaigns are a good way to get people excited about the ministry of our church, and if there is good vision cast for renovations and upgrades to our facilities, a capital campaign could be an effective means of financing a portion of these costs.

The facilities team (Sue Enns, Jason Bryans, Curtis Bergen, Mitch Epp, Brady Plett, Josh Pauls) is taking steps to have a structural assessment completed, by an outside contractor, to assess the structural integrity of our buildings, this will provide us with more information as we continue these conversations as a church community.

*Submitted by Brooke Epp*

# GREENSPACE

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As you know, Span West is not proceeding with the condo project on the Greenspace land beside Horizon College. We have recently received a request from Span West regarding the Restrictive Covenant that is on the land. Span West would like to explore other forms of residential or possibly commercial development (or a combination of both).

- Options:
- a. Remove the existing RC
  - b. If the board wishes to retain an interest in the property, can we consent to an amendment which allows the church to exercise influence on which type of tenants may be permitted to occupy the property:

The amendment reads:

“that the Grantor and its affiliates, successors and assigns will not permit to be carried on or constructed on the Servient Lands or any part thereof, or consent to the assigning, leasing or subleasing of the Servient Lands or any part thereof, or allow any tenant, subtenant, assignee, concessionaire, franchisee or licensee to use any space or premises or any part thereof situated upon the Servient Lands for any purpose, other than for the development and construction of multi-family dwellings, which may include apartment-style condominium buildings, or single-story town homes which may be rented out, and/or commercial buildings for lease to tenants whose primary business purposes and activities are not in conflict with the principles and values of the Canadian and Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (subject to the further restrictions below). If there is any disagreement with respect to whether any tenant’s primary business purposes and activities conflict with the principles and values of the Canadian and Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, the Grantee shall bear the onus of establishing the same.”

Council has asked some former Greenspace Task Force committee members for input and the recommendation to council was to consent to the request of the amendment. They feel it is in FGCC best interest that we retain some control over any potential retailer that Span West plans to sell or lease to. Direction was also given to council that we work with Ron Miller of McDougall Gauley to ensure that FGCC’s best interests are fully and legally protected.

Council is waiting for our Lawyer to provide us with more information. We have asked for Ron Miller (Lawyer) to highlight the differences from the original covenant to the potential amended covenant. When we have more information, we will let our congregation know. Council cannot remove the RC without congregation approval.

*Submitted by Joel Dyck*

# GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

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Our vision as a church is to focus on a few intentional global partnerships which allow us to build mutual relationships and trust as we serve God and one another. We are enjoying these kinds of healthy partnerships already in Panama with the Wounaan Church and in Mexico with the Matthew Training Centre.

FGCC, through the Global Mission Lead team, has been intentionally discerning and developing a new partnership in Central Asia since 2018. This has included sending a vision team of FGCC leaders in 2019, as well as sending Maryanne Berge with some of our partners from the Matthew Training Center later in 2019. In addition, we have had Pastor H and Dave come to FGCC in 2018, and again in 2022. Through these steps of engagement, the Global Missions Lead team, have developed this **PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL**.

As a church, God continues to invite us into new opportunities and Council is excited to bring the above proposal as a motion to formalize this partnership at the June 5th congregations meeting. We have been engaging in discernment as a church for several years, Pastor H and Dave's visit to FGCC May 13-19th was another step in the affirmation process. Global Missions continues to be a core ministry at FGCC and an opportunity to for us to live out our mission of Transformation in Jesus, from the river to the ends of the earth.

*Submitted by Erica Fraser and Rena Pearson*

# SKMB CONFERENCE UPDATE

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Forest Grove Community Church is a Mennonite Brethren Church and therefore, we are committed to following the direction and leading of the Saskatchewan MB Conference. Our governance manual states that “it is our responsibility as a church to align the life and activities of the congregations, ensuring that everything is done in accordance with the Christian Scriptures and the faith and practice of the Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.” (FGCC governance manual).

During the SKMB convention in March 2022, *the CUCC document* was approved which asks all member churches to affirm their commitment to the SKMB Conference and to the National MB Confession of Faith. As a result, staff and council will work through this document which renews our commitment to our denominational church family. We will also rely on the SKMB conference to help lead this process within our congregation as they are working on a discussion guide to support member churches.

*Submitted by Erica Fraser*

# INTERNALLY RESTRICTED RESERVE (IRR)

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The following is a summary of work that has been done around the Internally Restricted Reserve in a desire to use these funds to further the Impact of Forest Grove Church.

## **Investing the funds of the IRR**

We have heard the voices of some that our church should invest the funds of the IRR to create a better return. Council developed an investment policy to provide investment guidelines and performance objectives for the investment of the IRR. The financial audit committee also met with investment advisers from the congregation. Taking everything into consideration it was decided that it is best for us at this time to leave the funds of the IRR in a saving account with the Conference. Returns (interest) are guaranteed, and our money is liquid. The interest rate is also slightly better than what we would be getting at one of the bigger banks, and we are also supporting the ministries of the conference by using them to invest our money. This is the decision at this time; however, we can re-evaluate as future economic outlook changes.

## **Allocation of IRR funds**

As a congregation, we have a wide variety of ideas and suggestion of how the IRR funds should be used. Council wants the congregation to be aware of the diversity which makes spending the funds difficult. Added to these ideas is the concerns of some that without a clear vision for these funds, all the money may suddenly disappear to be spent on a very ad hoc basis. Council felt that it would be helpful to allocate categories of spending with some percentage attach to each category for the IRR fund. These allocation categories can then help us to discern when new project ideas and vision for where to invest this money may come up.

Council recognized that we as a congregation have not spent enough time around this topic. To date there had been one Greenspace stewardship meeting in January 2020. Using the summary of that meeting the following allocation categories were suggested:

### **Kingdom Impact:**

- Community Engagement and Indigenous opportunities: 15%
- Leadership Development: 10%
- Global Engagement: 15%

### **Investment Capital**

- Building Projects: 40%

### **Other**

- Future Needs: 20%

It is important to realize that the above allocations should only be seen as a starting point for further discussion and that more input from staff and congregations is needed before any decisions can be made.

*Submitted by Anna Robinson*