



April 28th, 2017

On behalf of our church and Conference planning committee, we welcome you to MacGregor and to the Westend Community Church for the 2017 AGC Canada West Conference. We have been looking forward to hosting you and now the time is upon us!

There are so many reasons why gatherings like this are important and significant. To hear what the AGC is doing to bring glory to our Lord across our land is encouraging. To sit under good and godly teaching is equipping. To know that we're not alone in our service to the King of kings and that there is an army of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ that know our unique role, joys, and challenges is a blessing. Most importantly, to gather once a year and see faces that we only see at this Conference makes our time together very important. The fellowship we share over this weekend often has a lasting effect on our ministry as we move forward from this time.

We are thankful that you've taken the time to come. We look forward to this special gathering. Our preparations are finished and we're ready to enjoy a time of fellowship, food, and fun with God's people.

If there are any questions that you may have over the weekend relating to our facility, community, supplies, or anything at all, don't hesitate to locate any of us. We're happy to help in whatever way you need.

May you be blessed and built up as a result of our time together this weekend. Welcome here!

In God's Grip,

Rev. Myron Friesen  
Senior Pastor — Westend Community Church

# AGC WEST CONFERENCE 2017

## Schedule

### MINISTRY STAFF RETREAT

#### **Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 6:00-7:30 PM    | Conference Registration   |
| 7:30 – 10:00 PM | Welcome, icebreaker<br>Worship<br>Coffee break<br>Speaker: Rev. Lorne Meisner |

#### **Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM | Worship<br>Sharing & prayer time (Russ Wilson)<br>Coffee break<br>Rev. Lorne Meisner<br>Coffee Break<br>Worship<br>Rev. Lorne Meisner |
| 12:15 PM           | Lunch @ Westend Community Church  |
| 1:30 – 6:30 PM     | Tour of Baker Hutterite Colony or Free Time Until Conference begins   |

### MAIN CONFERENCE

#### **Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 6:00 – 7:30 PM | <b><i>Conference Registration</i></b>   |
| 7:30 – 9:15 PM | <b><i>Opening Worship Service</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Welcome</li><li>▪ Worship Singing</li><li>▪ Ministry Focus</li><li>▪ Worship Singing</li><li>▪ Speaker: Bill McCaskell</li><li>▪ Coffee break</li></ul> |

## Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM – Noon

- Welcome
- Worship Singing
- Ministry Focus
- Speaker: Bill McCaskell
- Coffee break
- Canada West Business Session (Brian Unger, Council Chair)
- National Business Session (Win Bowman, Vice-Moderator)

12:15 Lunch @ Westend Community Church

1:30 – 3:30 PM Workshops

3:30 – 5:30 PM Farm Tour or Free Time

6:30 PM **Conference Banquet** (Hosted at the MacGregor EMC)

- Dinner & Fellowship
- Blue Collar Harmony Boys
- Ministry Focus
- Worship Singing
- Speaker: Bill McCaskell

## Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM **Closing Worship Service**

- Welcome
- Worship Singing
- Dr. Bill Fietje – Greetings
- Worship Singing
- Speaker: Sid Koop

**2017 AGC Canada West Conference ends after the AM worship service on Sunday**

**Canada West Business Meeting**  
**Agenda**  
**Westend Community Church ~ MacGregor, MB**  
**April 29, 2017**

**Opening**

- Call to order – Brian Unger, Chair, CanWest Council
- Opening remarks and prayer
- Review and approval of the agenda
- Approval of the 2016 CanWest business session minutes (Banff)

**Reports**

- President – Bill Fietje
- Superintendent – Russ Wilson
- Canada West Representative – Susan Davis
- Doctrine & Credentials – Robin Brignall
- Church Health & Leadership – Jeff Peacock
- Pastoral Development – Phil Houston
- Church Planting - Vacant
- Nominating Committee – Randy Fehr

Canada West Conference 2018

- Church of the Open Bible, Swift Current, SK

AGC National Conference 2018

- Redeemer Bible Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake

- May 31 - June 2, 2018

**Closing Prayer**

**Adjournment**

## Canada West Business Meeting Minutes

Trinity Bible Church ~ Canmore, AB, June 2, 2016

Call to order – Brian Unger, Chair, CanWest Council

Brian called the conference to order at 3:31 P.M.

Opening Remarks and Prayer

- Roll call of the churches

Review and approval of the agenda

▪ Motion: "That we accept the agenda as presented". Motion made by John E., seconded by Paul Meier, carried.

Approval of the 2015 CanWest business session minutes

▪ Motion: "That we accept the agenda as presented". Motion made by Jim Howe, seconded by Andrew Ruten, carried.

Reports

President – Bill Fietje

Superintendent – Russ Wilson (as per written report)

- Russ highlighted the memo of understanding between the AGC and One Hope churches. (Introduced two churches who made application to join the AGC)
- Updated us on McCreary Church
- Another church in Chilliwack is interested
- Still looking for associate superintendent at this time
- The presidential search has begun. Bill is done his tenure as president in two years. Excited about the direction of the AGC at this time

Canada West Representative – Susan Davis (as per written report)

- Privileged to work on council and be a part of our association
  - Working with Tim on the refugee sponsorship program
- Doctrine & Credentials – Robin Brignall (as per written report)
- Shared a bit about the interview process for pastors
  - Glenn Rider is now the national DocCred coordinator. All files and interview requests go through him.

Church Health & Leadership – Matt Martens

- Extremely unprepared (on sabbatical)
- "Refresh" in Swift Current. Rob Cochrane our facilitator this year.
- How do we minister to the ministers? Who is discipling the person doing the discipling? (Question the committee would like to answer in the next few years)

Pastoral Development – Jeff Peacock

- "Strive" held last weekend. Josiah Boyd speaker. Did a great job.
- Trying to find better ways to communicate with youth pastors and sponsors regarding kids attending Strive.

Church Planting – Vacant

- Looking for someone to fill this portfolio
- Russ shared about South Pointe house church in Winnipeg
- A few other plants are happening. One Hope Canada has some plants in Alberta and in Russ is helping to see one started in Kelowna.

▪ Motion: "That we accept the Ministry Reports as presented". Motion made by Tim Diack, seconded by Jeff Peacock, carried.

Nominating Committee – Tim Nicholson

- Loren Pullman has pulled his name from the Church Reproduction portfolio

- Motion: "That we accept the nominating committee report as presented". Motion made by Marty Johnson, seconded by Doug Engel, carried.
- Nominating Committee for 2017 will be put together at the fall council meeting

Closing Prayer

Russ prayed for the new council

Meeting closed in prayer

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Matt Martens (4:25 P.M.)

## Chairman's Report

It's been nearly two years since our own AGC Canada West conference. Last June we met in Banff for AGC National Conference (it was a great conference!) and the last time we meet as CanWest was in early May of 2015 in Black Diamond, AB (which also was a great conference!). So it feels good to be back together! On behalf of our CanWest Council, we extend our thanks to you for coming to conference and choosing to spend a weekend together with your AGC family. We trust you will be glad you came. The planning of this year's conference has been taken on by **Pastor Myron Friesen** and his church family which is **Westend Community Church** in MacGregor, MB. We are looking forward not only to enjoying their hospitality, but a great weekend of fellowship, encouragement, and enrichment.

Our conference theme this year is *"It's a Journey Together"* and we are looking forward to having **Rev. Bill McCaskill** as our speaker to challenge our hearts and encourage our walks. Bill and his wife Bev, serve as co-directors of One Hope Canada. As you know, the AGC and OHC are in a partnership, working with OHC churches in Alberta helping some of those pastors and churches through the application and credentialing process. So it very much is a journey together...and for that we're glad!

### Welcome Lorne!

On this past January 1<sup>st</sup> **Lorne Meisner** began his role as Canada West Associate Superintendent. Lorne, who lives in Winnipeg along with his wife Esther, will be looking after our Manitoba churches (on a ¼ time basis) in addition to his role as District Coach with the Baptist General Conference for Manitoba and Northern Ontario. Lorne attended our January council meeting in Calgary where we got to hear his life and faith story, as well as hear about his love and passion for the local church. We're excited to have him as part of a strong superintendent team. Be sure to introduce yourself to Lorne & Esther and then give them a warm welcome to the AGC!

### Super. Russ!

Our District Superintendent, Russ Wilson, continues to give us good solid care and leadership. He leads with passion and vision, and a servant's heart seeking to encourage and strengthen those whom he connects with here in the west. His driving theme is disciple-making and he continues to stress it's need and value in our churches and pastors meetings. Russ is traveling approximately 50% of the time. His schedule and ministry load is large. The many hours of work with pastors and church boards are often done behind the scenes. We are very thankful for Russ and to the Lord for the care and direction he brings to our churches and ministry staff here in the west. Please keep him and Sue in your thoughts and prayers.

### Your Council

Finally, a listing of your Canada West Council over this past year . . .

- Chairman - Rev. Brian Unger, Crossroads Bible Church, Spalding, SK.
- Recording Secretary - Rev. Myron Friesen, Westend Community Church, MacGregor, MB
- Doctrine & Credentials- Pastor Robin Brignall, East Parkland Bible Church, Stoney Plain, AB.
- Church Health & Leadership Development - Pastor Jeff Peacock., Somerset (MB) Gospel Chapel
- Church Planting - Vacant
- Pastoral Development - Pastor Phil Houston, Park Avenue Bible Church, Melfort, SK.
- CanWest Rep. To National Board - Susan Davis, Westside Bible Church, Victoria, BC.
- Members w/o Portfolio - Reg & Mary Hermannson, Calvary Church, Saskatoon, SK.

In addition to these council members, Bill, Russ and Lorne are a part of every council meeting as well. It truly has been a blessing to work with this team of committed individuals. Thanks gang.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brian Unger



## **President's Report Regional Conference 2017**

"the Comforter will come..." John 16

### **TRANSITIONS:**

For this past year I have been working, writing, teaching and preaching on the theme of the person and the work of the Holy Spirit. When I began, I believed the reason this topic was on my heart, was due to the need to continue to bring health and growth to our churches. Yet, as I moved through the many teaching experiences, I began to realize there was another reason.

In John 14-16, Jesus is preparing His disciples to face the many stressors that all change brings. There was the coming mission which would be a major transition, which was to have a great effect.

This is the year of transition, and my prayer is that we will all be filled with the Spirit of the Godhead as we move into a greater future. Transitions are important, and it will take great wisdom to navigate the many changes that will mold the future direction, influence and effectiveness of the AGC in Canada and around the world. Everything must be done to the glory of God and honour of the Lord Jesus.

2017-18 will be a year of introducing changes that need to happen as we move ahead. Changes effect everyone and, unfortunately, at times, some more than others.

### **THANKS:**

I want to begin by thanking our staff across the nation. Donna, Susan, Glenn, Del, Laird, Russ and Lorne have been so instrumental in thinking through the processes of needed change. Streamlining and creating efficiencies have been upper most, as we sought to develop healthy systems, policies and structures.

The National Board and Councils have gone over many of the proposed changes and have been very supportive in helping to shape these changes. The National and Regional Commission leaders have been challenging, resourceful and supportive of changes that mostly effect their roles and their services. Thanks to everyone who served in the Commissions over 2016-17. I especially want to acknowledge Paul Brittan and Hill Park Bible Church in Hamilton for the seventeen years Hill Park congregation and leadership have consistently allowed Paul to serve in every role that Doc Cred has in the AGC. Paul has been a part of shaping who we are today. Paul, we want to thank you and to honour you, LaFaye and Hill Park.

### **REVIEW of 2016-17**

#### Church Renewal Conference:

Russ, Lorne and I together with many friends attended Southland Church in Steinbach Manitoba. We were deeply touched by the work of the Holy Spirit creating honest and open confession and repentance of sin. In addition, we experienced 'listening prayer'. CRC has asked me to speak at two conferences here in Kitchener and Toronto about our time with CRC. I have invited our AGC Ontario pastors to join me in these events.

Most of the initiatives have been in the pursuit of our three Commissions goals.

- The Healthy Leader Healthy Church analysis is operational across the country.
- In addition, our staff have been trained in the Son Life discipleship program called 4 Chair Discipleship. This certification has been acquired and we are beginning to do training.
- Initial work has begun on a nearly decade long "We See" statements. We are proposing to have over the next year, three AGC specific Leadership Institutes across Canada. One at Fair Havens, one in Winnipeg and one in Calgary.
- Lorne Meisner has joined the National team as Associated Superintended under Russ Wilson. Lorne has specific duties to care for the Manitoba churches and pastors. This hire is also part of our on-going desire to build strategic alliances, in this case with the BGC.
- Glenn Goode has resigned from his duties as overseer of our AGC Nova Scotia churches. This fall we will be interviewing a retired Baptist pastor as a potential to replace Glenn. This would continue our decade long alliance with the FEBC Maritimes.

- Last fall the AGC was given Ellis Ave church building through the generosity of Compass Point Bible Church. The Finance Committee is overseeing the eventual sale or long term lease of the building and decisions should be made by June 30,2017. Any funds coming from this property will be designated toward Church Reproduction.

I look forward to the Commissions reports of new Church Reproductions and new pastors joining our ranks.

**AGC RESTRUCTURE:**

For the past three SUMMITS, we have been discussing the need to build capacity, move to greater effectiveness through staffing and look creatively as to what the churches and Denominations should look like in Canada. As a result, we have presented to the Executive, to the National Board and to the three Councils a proposal on how to re-structure the governance of the AGC to make it more streamlined, effective and efficient.

The National Board has agreed to take the next twelve months until SUMMIT 2018 to begin to roll out the implementation of the structural changes and evaluate its progress and effectiveness. The Regional Councils will be encouraged and empowered to develop initiatives representative of their own regions toward the Mission and Vision of AGC.

This evaluation period will help the National Board assess implementing a Policy Governance model. In the fall of 2017 or pre-summer 2018 we will have a day to educate every Board member to the function of Policy Board procedures.

**AGC Proposed Justice and Compassion Partnerships:**

Refugees: Susan Davis

International:

1. India: I am planning together with Raj Sandhu to travel and teach in India with our partnership with the Good Shepherd ministries and Dalit Freedom Network. This will be Sept 29 – Oct 12, 2017.
2. Kenya: May 2018 planning for my final trip to Kenya with Raj and a team from AGC. This will be to celebrate the handover to a new AGC Kenya President from John Juma to Zack Mendez. We continue with pastoral training.
3. DRC: 25 churches still doing well and we are hoping to begin pastoral training soon. Great need for bible resources.
4. Haiti: Work progressing. Major need right now is funding for a Technical Training School.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

As I enter my last year as AGC president, I do so with a glad and grateful heart. Stepping back brings both sadness and a deep sense of seeing and supporting a new president. This may be the greatest transition of all, but it is also the most important, so we need to be united in prayer and support. God is blessing the work of AGC, both in Canada and Internationally and we need to be thankful for God's faithfulness to us as a team of staff and volunteers.

May God bless.  
 Willem Fietje  
 AGC President

## **CANADA WEST SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONFERENCE 2017**

(Canada West Regional Director)

Greetings and welcome to our first ever Canada West Conference in Manitoba. It has long been our tradition to bounce back and forth between Alberta and Saskatchewan hosting our conferences due to mileage for our other two provinces. However, we decided to move beyond tradition so we are excited to have Pastor Myron Friesen and our MacGregor Church host us for 2017.

Last year at this same time we had numerous churches either looking for pastors or about to begin looking for pastors and I wasn't feeling too great about our overall situation. I am so happy to report that things have turned around significantly for us here in the west. Let me list off what has transpired (with the hope that I don't miss anyone)

1. Biggar AGC has hired Pastor Doug Motz
2. Grace Bible Church in Dauphin has hired Pastor Richard Heppner
3. Parkland Bible Church in Kipling has hired Pastor Chad Garris
4. Estevan Gospel Chapel has hired Pastor Terry Wicks

We have several churches in the process of pursuing selected candidates for their church positions. Trinity Bible Church in Canmore and Silver Heights Bible Church in Weyburn have narrowed their searches and we hope to be able to soon celebrate with them.

Churches currently looking for pastors are Emmanuel Grace Church in Eastend, Saskatchewan, Faith Gospel Fellowship in Fort Vermilion, Alberta and Church of the Open Bible in Ponoka, Alberta. Hans Elgby has recently resigned from Maryfield AGC so they will be soon looking for a new pastor as well.

Rev. Kevin Kurtz at Crossroads Church in Calgary and Rev. Bryce Letkeman at Black Diamond Gospel Chapel were ordained within this past calendar year.

Fairview Gospel Chapel in Fairview Alberta with Pastor Dave Brisbin have completed their application to transition from a One Hope Alberta Church to our association. We are just waiting on a date to celebrate with them and to officially welcome them into the AGC. We have another church in McCreary, Manitoba in the process of making application to join the AGC as well. These are exciting times within the western region of our association.

We are also pleased to have our new Associate Regional Superintendent, Rev. Lorne Meisner, join our AGC staff in January of this year. Lorne has been a great addition to our team. He is hired on with us at a .25 position with responsibilities to cover our Manitoba churches. Lorne is also employed by the Baptist General Conference at .75 to cover their churches in Manitoba as their District Coach. You will have an opportunity to get to know Lorne a bit better during our conference days together.

Lorne, myself and our Ontario Regional Superintendent, Rev. Laird Crump traveled to Orlando, Florida in January to receive training in the Four Chair Discipleship Seminar. All three of us are certified seminar presenters now. We share the same philosophy to discipleship so this training was key for us as an association. Please be sure to take in Lorne's introductory seminar on 4 Chair Discipling which will be offered on Saturday afternoon at our conference if you want more information about this approach to basic Christian disciple making.

Our national leadership team has been working on an AGC Church and Leader Development Program. This will include 5, 3-day residencies which will equip our leaders and build upon each module. We will be unpacking this training in more detail in this coming year. For those who want to see more information about this training I will have the materials with me at conference.

Our Western Region Council Chairman Brian Unger, Susan Davis and myself were recently in Ontario for National Board meetings. During those days, the National Board decided that we begin to put into place a new structure for the AGC. You will be hearing more about that during our business session on Saturday. We also had an update from the Presidential Search Committee and we look forward to the final candidate being presented to us as an Association at the appropriate time. Please keep these people in your prayers as they seek for God's best candidate to be brought to us.

God is at work within our association and it is my great privilege to serve our pastors, church boards and churches through the ups and downs of ministry life. Thank you for letting me serve you in these past twelve months.

Your Servant,  
Rev. Russell G Wilson  
Canada West Superintendent  
(Canada West Regional Director)

## Church Health and Leadership Report

The focus for Church Health and Leadership for 2017 will be on providing resources for our Pastors; both of our Superintendents (Associate Superintendent Lorne Meisner and Superintendent Russ Wilson) have been providing our Pastors with opportunities to attend various conferences and seminars that include helpful resources and spiritual renewal. Along with those opportunities, I hope that our Area Cluster Groups and our Refresh retreat can be additional sources of encouragement and exhortation for our Pastors.

Our Area Cluster Groups in the West have been a source of great encouragement to me in the years I have spent in ministry in the AGC; our goal for the Cluster Groups is to promote discipleship through connecting experienced Pastors ("grumpy old men"- i.e. Myron Friesen) with younger Pastors ("whippersnappers"- i.e. Bryce Letkeman). In our local Pastors group here in Manitoba, I can't say enough for the effect Randy Fehr has had on me, and the other Pastors in Manitoba. Randy is a consistent source of encouragement and wisdom, and is willing to share with us from his years of experience to help us better understand our people, our ministries, and ourselves. This is an example of what I hope for each of the Area Cluster groups- that the wise among us might have opportunity to disciple those in need of wisdom. Along with that primary goal, we also hope to work with our Area Pastors to offer (at least once a year) a more structured Area Cluster meeting for each area that might include resources on a specific topic and perhaps a guest speaker to address that topic, when it best suits the Area Cluster group. More details on that to follow in the coming weeks and months.

Refresh 2017 planning is in full swing; I had the opportunity to meet recently with Phil Houston to discuss our goals and focus for Refresh, and I left very excited about what the Lord has laid on our hearts for that retreat. It will take place in early November once again, and we will have further details, including registration information, either at Canada West Conference or in the very near future.

I have also spoken with Russ Wilson about the possibility of offering a Training Seminar for our Pastors in the West; Russ would like to make the event available to all our Pastors, so we will likely host one in the Western part of the region, and another in the eastern part of the region. Again, further details to be made available shortly.

Thank you to all of you who have made my time in CHL such a joy; it really is an honour to have opportunity to serve on Council, and I've learned so much from those in leadership. Thanks especially to Brian Unger for leading our meetings and to Russ and Lorne for shepherding our shepherds with care and love.

In Christ;  
Jeff Peacock  
Church Health and Leadership Chair

## Pastoral Development Report

It's been a different year being on Council this time around than it was last time I was privileged to serve! I'm a few years older and locationally further, but this has actually made me think outside the box when it comes to the actual development part of my role - more on that later.

Administratively, I have enjoyed my role. So far this past ministry season, I have been involved in the planning and execution of Refresh 2016, as well as planning Refresh 2017 to a much greater extent with Jeff Peacock. I have also been planning and will be executing Strive 2017 in the next month! We enjoyed taking on a laywoman named Michaelya Audette, who is a fantastic go getter with camp experience and tons of energy. Strive is improving immensely in quality and sustainability now that we have struck a great relationship with Millar College of the Bible.

My involvement with pastors personally has involved my area cluster group, and the Strive team primarily, though there have been numerous phone calls and emails. Since joining last year, we have been through one book study together and would be into our next one, but for some slowness of our book order to arrive. The first book we studied (John Estabrooks, Stephen Estabrooks, Myron Friesen, Randy Fehr, Mat Eapen, Tyler Ellis, Kolten Zenner, Andrew Ruten, Jerrad Andres, and a few others) was Sustainable Youth Ministry by Mark DeVries. We (Phil Houston, Joel Houston, Jeff Peacock, Richard Heppner, John Estabrooks (needs book), Larry Rempel, Doug Motz, Josiah Boyd, Tim Diack, Dan Sudfeld, Warren Charlton) are going to begin a new study now, reading A Dangerous Calling by Paul David Tripp. It will begin next week and last into the summer months.

The book study idea is a pretty new one, but we have had good participation in our first one, and a good set of guys for the second one. Its also encouraging to note that the group of people who studied Sustainable Youth Ministry with me are almost all different than the group of people who will study A Dangerous Calling. Being able to connect over issues of ministry and personal life is a stretching but cool experience, and Lord willing will make us all better pastors who are more in touch with the Lord and with our people.

Thanks for your prayers and support!

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Houston

## Doctrine and Credentials Commission Report

"For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith'" (Romans 1:17; NIV).

In case you hadn't heard, October 31st, of this year, will mark an historic anniversary! No, it has nothing to do with the stock-market, an elected official, cosmic alignments, or end-of-the-world predictions. Yet, it's really hard to say if it will draw much attention in the mainstream media, or if it will even garner the interest of those who have been affected most by its inauguration.

On October 31st, 1517, a 34-year old parish priest—armed with hammer and nails in hand, and clutching a large free-hand poster—emerged from the church vestibule. Then, suddenly, as if without warning, he affixed the document to the church door!

Months earlier, a crisis of faith had occurred in this young man's life. Of his experience, he wrote—"At last meditating day and night, by the mercy of God, I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that through which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith. Here I felt as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through the gates that had been flung open."

Of what and of whom, is this strange account? The church was located at Wittenberg, Germany, the young man was Martin Luther by name, and the day marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation—the day he nailed his famous "Ninety-Five Theses" to the church door. This day changed his life dramatically—and, it would change church history forever!

Church historian, Philip Schaff wrote, "The Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century is, next to the introduction of Christianity, the greatest event in history. It marks the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of modern times. Starting from religion, it gave, directly or indirectly, a mighty impulse to every forward movement, and made Protestantism the chief propelling force in the history of modern civilization."

The Protestant Reformation focused on five of the most important elements of Christianity. These five elements constitute the very core of what it has meant historically to be evangelical. [The five marks of the Protestant Church may not apply to all churches falling under this title, but they do express the driving theological convictions of the early Reformers—including Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin.]

*"Scripture Alone."* This phrase reflects the conviction that Scripture alone is authoritative for Christian doctrine. The assurance that God has spoken to believers directly through his holy Scriptures gave the Reformers their unique boldness. Final and sufficient knowledge rested in the Bible—that is, Scripture alone, in contrast to Scripture plus anything else parallel to the Scriptures, whether it be the Church tradition or a natural theology.

*"Christ Alone."* God's grace and our faith are "in Christ alone" (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 5:12–21). The salvation we enjoy had to be earned, and it was Christ who earned it. In the divine solution, Christ was the righteous one who alone could satisfy every demand of the offended righteousness of God. The cross of Christ is presented in holy Scripture as the declaration of the very righteousness of God (Romans 3:25). Through that cross, God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself (2 Corinthians 5:19).

*"Faith Alone."* It is through faith in Jesus Christ that the sinner is justified. God justifies the one 'who believes in Jesus' (Romans 3:26; 5:1; Galatians 2:16). It is not through faith and human works that we are justified but through faith alone. However, it is not mere faith that saves, but faith in Christ. Faith in any other savior but Christ, will not save. Faith in any other gospel than that of the New Testament, will not save (Galatians 1:8, 9).

One is saved only on the basis of the finished work of Christ as He died in space and time in history, and the only way to be saved is to raise the empty hands of faith and, by God's grace, to accept God's free gift—faith alone.

*"Grace Alone."* Salvation is God's work, the result of God's unmerited favor. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. He came to be the Lamb without spot, who, by sacrifice of himself, made once forever, should take away the sin of the world.... Because of human depravity, we cannot save ourselves. It is by God's grace alone that salvation is possible. God is right to call humankind to account for sin. However, by his grace, undeserving people will be united in fellowship with him and avoid judgment. Without God's grace, no one could come into relationship with God. Relationship with God is peace, joy, and eternal life itself (John 17:3; Ephesians 2:8-9).

*"To the Glory of God Alone."* The significance of the phrase is twofold: first, that God's supreme end in planning, purchasing, and applying salvation is his own glory (Ephesians 1:6); second, that therefore the chief end and intention of those who have received God's saving grace in Christ is to bring glory to him (1 Corinthians 10:31; Revelation 4:11). As Charles Simeon wrote—"What you were, is all that you can call yours; what you are, is the gift of sovereign grace, to the praise and glory of God alone."

Some highlights from the past year, for this commission, include:

1) Completed interviews and credentialed pastors:

- Matt Beutler, Associate Pastor, Westend Community Church, MacGregor, MB, Certificate of Ministry.
- Ken Easterbrook, Pastor, Silver Heights Bible Church, Weyburn, SK, Recognition of Previous Ordination.
- Shawn Franklin, Pastor, Trinity Bible Church, Canmore, AB, Certificate of Ministry.
- Chad Garris, Pastor, Parkland Bible Church, Kipling, SK, Certificate of Ministry.
- Richard Heppner, Grace Bible Church, Dauphin, MB, Certificate of Ministry.
- Doug Motz, Pastor, Biggar Associated Gospel Church, Biggar, SK, Certificate of Ministry.
- Dave Trenholm, Pastor, Penhold Church of Hope, Penhold, AB, Certificate of Ministry.

2) Credentialing files under development:

- Jerred Andres, Associate Pastor, Church of the Open Bible, Swift Current, SK, (Ordination).
- Dave Brisbin, Pastor, Fairview Gospel Chapel, Fairview, AB.
- Tom Cnossen, Senior Pastor, Maskwacis Bible Fellowship Church, Maskwacis, AB.
- Gerrad Forteleza, Pastor, Grace of God Church, Calgary, AB.
- Gil Kidd, Pastor, Longview Bible Fellowship, Longview, AB.
- Josiah Preuter, Pastor, McCreary Gospel Church, McCreary, MB.
- Jonathan Yeo, Associate Pastor, Maskwacis Bible Fellowship Church, Maskwacis, AB.

3) Churches accepted into membership with the AGC (since last report):

- Faith Gospel Fellowship, Ft. Vermilion, AB, February 2017 (formerly with One Hope Canada).
- Fairview Gospel Chapel, Fairview, AB, March 2017 (formerly with One Hope Canada).
- McCreary Gospel Church, McCreary, MB, April 2017 (formerly with One Hope Canada).

4) Churches currently in application for membership with the AGC:

- Grace of God Church, Calgary, AB, (an independent work).
- Longview Bible Fellowship, Longview, AB, (member of One Hope Canada).
- Maskwacis Bible Fellowship Church, Maskwacis, AB, (member of Northern Canada Evangelical Mission).
- Penhold Church of Hope, Penhold, AB, (member of One Hope Canada).



Thank you again for the privilege of serving our churches in this capacity—it is a joy to do so!

Sincerely,

Robin Alexander C. Brignall,  
DocCred Commission Chair, AGC West

<sup>1</sup>Mark Galli and Ted Olsen, *131 Christians Everyone Should Know*, p33.

<sup>2</sup>Philip Schaff and David Schley Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*.

<sup>3</sup>*Sola Scriptura*, by Scripture alone; *Solus Christus*, through Christ alone; *Sola Fide*, by faith alone; *Sola Gratia*, by grace alone; *Soli Deo Gloria*, glory to God alone.

<sup>4</sup>Francis A. Schaeffer, *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer*, vol. 1, p218.

<sup>5</sup>Alan Cairns, *Dictionary of Theological Terms*, p374.

<sup>6</sup>Robert P. Lightner, *Sin, the Savior, and Salvation: The Theology of Everlasting Life*, p141–143.

<sup>7</sup>Philip H. Eveson, *The Great Exchange: Justification by Faith Alone*, p198.

<sup>8</sup>William Evans and S. Maxwell Coder, *The Great Doctrines of the Bible*, Enl. ed., p148.

<sup>9</sup>Francis A. Schaeffer, *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer*, vol. 1, p218.

<sup>10</sup>Philip H. Eveson, *The Great Exchange: Justification by Faith Alone*, p63.

<sup>11</sup>Robert P. Lightner, *The Death Christ Died: A Biblical Case for Unlimited Atonement*, p149.

<sup>12</sup>Philip Schaff, *The Creeds of Christendom*, vol. 3, p820.

<sup>13</sup>Norman L. Geisler, *Essential Doctrine Made Easy*.

<sup>14</sup>Alan Cairns, *Dictionary of Theological Terms*, p425.

<sup>15</sup>Charles Simeon, *Horae Homileticae: 1 and 2 Corinthians*, vol. 16, p141.

## Western Region Representative Report

2017 Western Region Conference

What a pleasure it is to work on your behalf with our Western Region Council and our National Board. As Regional Representative, I have the privilege of sitting on both, and as you know, both have members who love Jesus passionately, and who have given many years of their lives ministering to the church. In all our conversations, and in each of our meetings, godly men and women are looking for the ways and means to encourage our pastors and congregations toward greater love for and surrender to our merciful and holy God.

Of course, the nuts and bolts of our meetings include reports, updates, and budgets, but be assured that we take time together to pray for our Association and for individual churches, pastors, and situations. Our leadership challenges us to envision what a healthy future for our churches might look like, what is required to get us there, and then we dialogue through some of the bigger issues facing God's people in these days. As we pray, dream, watch, and do what we can to build the capacity we will need to be prepared, it is all to help you be equipped to train "God's holy people for the work of serving, to make the body of Christ stronger."<sup>1</sup>

Council had the opportunity to meet Lorne Meisner at our January meeting in Calgary. What a blessing for our Manitoba churches to have access to the experience and heart of this man. And what a blessing for our Region to have 1.25 superintendents! Council has recognized the need to build room into the Superintendent role for many years. We live in a beautiful and very large region. There are too many miles for 1 superintendent to take care of on his own. In 2015 we asked the National Board for a 1.25 Superintendent position so everything would be in place when the right man came along. Today we are thanking God for Lorne and Esther, and for the way our Heavenly Father is building His kingdom among us. If you haven't met Lorne yet, be sure to introduce yourself while we are here together this weekend.

As we prepare for 2018 and the transition from one president to another, perhaps like me, you have mixed feelings. I don't like change, and yet to be alive is to change. Over the years, as loss and change come again and again, our merciful Heavenly Father is teaching me to practice thankfulness amid whatever is going on that I wish was different – or should I say, the same as it used to be. As I thank Him, my heart surrenders and watches for the gift – because there is always a gift. The older I get, the more thankful I am that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.<sup>2</sup> Right smack-dab in the middle of upheaval or fog, we have a Rock, an Anchor, Solid Ground to stand on while we wait. Together as we anticipate this transition of leadership next year, will you pray with us, as together we thank God for His guidance, care, and ultimately the provision of His choice of president for us.

Finally, I would love to meet you if we haven't met before, or be reacquainted if it has been awhile. I am interested to know your story, and to understand what will be helpful to you as you live for Jesus where you are. Please take the time to say "Hello" while we are here together. If we miss one another, you can find me on Facebook, or email me at: [susan@cybersalt.org](mailto:susan@cybersalt.org)

Because of God's grace,  
Susan Davis