

# Annual Report 2018

## First Baptist Church Regina, SK Annual General Meeting March 24, 2019, 12:30

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**First Baptist Church**  
Annual General Meeting  
March 24, 2019, 12:30 pm  
AGENDA

1. Call to Order - Collin Carbno
2. Devotional and Prayer - Joel Russell-McLean
  - a. The Church Covenant
3. Consent Agenda: **MOTION**
  - a. Parliamentarian - **MOTION** to appoint a parliamentarian for this meeting.
  - b. Meeting Agenda - **MOTION** to approve today's meeting agenda
  - c. 2018 November Congregational Meeting Minutes - **MOTION** to approve the 2018 Congregational Meeting Minutes
4. **MOTION** to receive new FBC members - Rosemary Ward
  - a. Anne Martin and Adijah Pusi
5. Report of Chair of Diaconate - Collin Carbno
6. Treasurer's Report - Kevin Rich
  - a. **MOTION** to receive the 2018 audited report
8. Report of Lead Pastor - Joel R-M
9. Report on Youth Ministry - Chris Senger
10. Report on Property - Robert Stafford
11. Report of SENT team
12. Adjournment
  - a. **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting

## A covenant of Fellowship of First Baptist Church Regina, Saskatchewan

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We, members of First Baptist Church, Regina, covenant together to walk with Christ and each other in fellowship of holy love, to gather together regularly for united worship, to look to God daily for grace and guidance, to search the scriptures for understanding of the Christian way of life, to serve God and each other in love and humility.

We will recognize the worth of each individual within our community, regardless of age or circumstances, recognizing that we are all precious in God's sight.

We will uphold each other in prayer and will offer kindness, forgiveness and mercy to each other as Christ has offered to us.

We will give cheerfully of our time, talents and finances so that God's work would prosper in this place.

We will recognize Christ's presence in every aspect of our lives and will seek to honour Him in all that we say and do - at church, in our homes, and at our places of employment. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will seek to follow Christ throughout our lives.

“What does the Lord require of you, but to seek justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

**First Baptist Church**  
Congregational Meeting  
Lower Hall, November 18 2018, 12:30 pm  
MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Meeting Called to Order at 12:30 .....Collin Carbno
- 2) The Church Covenant and Prayer .....Joel Russell-MacLean
- 3) MOTION Consent Agenda: .....Collin Carbno
  - a) to approve agenda
  - b) to approve the 2017 Congregational Meeting Minutes
  - c) to appoint Derrick Bellows as Parliamentarian
  - d) to appoint RDS Chartered Professional Accountant, Robert Szautner as our 2018 auditor.

Derrick Bellows noted the incorrect spelling of his name in the agenda. Corrected

Moved as amended: Bryden Yeo; Seconded: Derrick Bellows. Carried.

- 4) MOTION to recommend Norma Holtlander for Ordination.....Joel  
Moved: Annabel Robinson; Seconded: Martha Pauls. Carried

- 5) MOTION to appoint Adijah Pusi and Esther Gurnsey to a three-year term on the diaconate and confirm the 2019 board: Chair: Collin Carbno, Vice Chair: Ron Phillips, secretary: Laureen Snook, treasurer: Kevin Rich, Eleanor Russell, Tiffany Lai, Barry Lyons, Rosemary Ward, Brenda Ziolkowski ..... Collin Carbno  
Moved: John Hillmer; Seconded: Ray Schultz. Carried

- 6) Opportunity for general questions for church leadership .....Collin Carbno  
There was none.

- 7) Search committee report .....  
Collin Carbno, Deirdre Sentis, Laureen Snook, Joel Russell-MacLean

Discussion:

- expressed the belief that we must raise the money for a new position or we will go backwards and eventually close the doors

- expressed the concern that we must have our finances in order so that if we make the decision to hire someone, we have the ongoing money in place so that we don't have to let them go in the near future.

8) Financial Report .....Kevin

Discussion:

- part time positions are challenging on the part time person because that person often takes on more than part time
- regarding the image of the average donation - not all can give "up" to the level of the average and that it is not expected that everyone give the same - a clarification.
- this may be more than we can afford
- a part time position may be more manageable than a full-time position
- suggestion for entertainment-related fundraiser activities
- will vote in favour of the budget for a new person and will commit to increasing giving
- the future is in the children
- questioning what are the holes? Joel believed that he and John's role in children's ministry, music would be reduced. Joel noted some of the roles / tasks that some of the candidates would fill / complete
- lay leaders should be brought up to be leaders and then when the funds are there, they can be paid
- there are limits to what unpaid / volunteer people can be do. We have had a lot of people who have come forward to fill roles - but there are still limits if we want to continue to complete the work and grow the church
- other churches of similar have been able to operate with one pastor
- also expressed concern for the items that get missed when pastors don't have enough help, based on experience being a pastor.

9) MOTION to approve 2019 budget.....Kevin

Moved: Kevin Rich; Seconded: Norma Holtslander. Carried

Opposed: Glen Larson, Gibril Guruka, Shirley Carbno ----- (3)

Abstain: Jim Ellemers, Deirdre Sentis, Derrick Bellows (3)

10) Other business - NONE

11) MOTION to Adjourn meeting 1:58.

Moved: Derrick Bellows. Carried

## Report of the Chair of the Diaconate

The diaconate is given authority over all aspects of the business of the Church and works in cooperation with pastors over all aspects of the ministry of the Church. We are a group of 5-15 deacons chosen from and elected by the congregation. We meet monthly with one or more of the pastors and at least twice yearly with the greater leadership of the congregation as well as being in touch personally or by phone individually with the entire congregation.

### 2018 highlights

- The year started with Joel breaking the news of his wife's Heather's breast cancer. Joel has done an amazing job of balancing heavy work load and helping his family. John Nelson also has had several family concerns over the year. I was personally hoping we would have additional staff sooner to help. Our existing staff, Joel, John, Norma, and Chris have all worked hard to keep programs and the church on track and I'm hopefully that 2019, we will see improvements in the work-life balance of our staff.
- In early summer the Diaconate issued Expression-of-interests and got an amazing response with over 20 interested persons, 9 of which were truly outstanding and which we investigated more deeply. Progress has been slow, and we had few sidetracks that haven't worked out as expected, but we remain hopeful, that additional resources will come on board in 2019. We also have the potential that many of the contacts we made during the EOI will bear fruit and can be leveraged for God's kingdom.
- In the early fall, Joel had health issues with potentially fatal blood clots in his lungs. We are very grateful that Joel has rebounded from this health crisis quickly.
- The EOI for Organ-ministry intern had no response --- but we hope to try again, and we are now considering adding Youth Organ scholars to the mix. This may or may not happen in 2019.
- Behind the scenes we continue to maintain and build a network of volunteers and leaders in areas such as the newsletter, property, missions, seniors ministry, finance, visitation, learning for life, communications, and children ministries. Considerable work remains to be done to get to where we would like to be in an ideal world. I definitely feel that real progress has been made - although it is not always clearly visible to the congregation.
- Tangible actions lists with specific initiatives to support a vision seeing the church engage more with community both locally and abroad are starting to take form, we are awaiting the addition of more pastoral staff before we launch into these in a more visible manner.
- Launch of Lebanon partnership - great work Mission commission!

- Migrated our cleaning services to a contract basis with some modest potential financial savings in 2019 and improvements that we believe will support better our ministries.
- A fairly strong influx of visitors to the church continues, and we are continuing to retain some of them. I believe we are seeing a small improvement in retention and attraction. Weekly attendance decline is unfortunately still happening. Health issues, mortality, and other factors continue to cause the church to lose people faster than we are replacing them. Turning this around is not likely to be a sudden instant fix, but will likely come from a combination of many focused efforts on many fronts.
- The changes brought about in 2017, and further developed in 2018, have helped build a financial position where the addition of more pastoral staff is possible. A strong burst of year end donations has put us in a good position going into 2019.

This first year of my diaconate chair has been a challenging one. I have often wanted to pursue various opportunities and initiatives, harder and faster than we managed, but a combination of realities, including illness, and limited resources held us back. Perhaps, a Murphy's law corollary holds here too - everything almost always takes longer than expected even when you have adjusted for the unexpected. Overall, I feel that 2018 was another building year and remain hopeful that 2019 will see us continue to gain traction. My goal for 2019 is to stabilize our attendance, and to put us in a position where in 2020 we may see again see growth.

Respectfully submitted,  
Collin Carbno (Chair)

## Report of the Treasurer

First Baptist Church is active in a great many ministries and has finances that are more complicated than most churches. In addition to financing the normal day-to-day activities (operating expenses) necessary for our church life, there are a number of restricted reserves dedicated to specific purposes. We had a very good financial year in 2018, mostly due to a number of large donations at the end of the year. Overall revenue was higher by 6% than in 2017 while expenses were only up by 2%. Now that the bond issue from the 1991 renovations has been paid out after maturity, we have a loan with the CBWC of just over \$272,000. We make monthly payments against both principle and interest to that loan. With the current amortization, we expect this to be paid off in 12 years.

Detailed financial information follows in the audited statements but highlights are presented below.

### Operations

Church leadership manages the operating expenses of the various commissions and ministries. Personnel accounted for about 60% of the operating budget in 2018. Property, Administration and Missions also have significant budgets.

### Restricted Reserves

Separate Restricted Reserve fund accounts were established in 2017 for special long-term financial items. Expenses and revenue related to these funds were managed separately from the operating budget.

The Benevolent Fund is for special financial aid to individuals and families. It is administered by the pastoral staff with accountability to the Diaconate. This is part of our approved budget and donations are requested when the fund is low. During 2018, this fund provided over \$4,000 in support. The fund had about \$1,100 at year-end.

The Building Fund is for larger capital expenses related to building repair. During 2018 we had several projects that the fund supported, including a new dishwasher, and restorations to brick mortar and the front steps. The fund had just over \$18,000 at year-end.

The Organ Fund is for expenses related to the maintenance and use of the pipe organ. This fund has had significant donations through estate bequests over the years. The fund had about \$138,000 at year-end. The Finance Committee has invested \$120,000 of this in GICs and CBWC's Mission Impact Fund to increase the return on interest.

The Legacy Fund was created a number of years ago to hold funds to support special outreach projects from our church that were not part of the annual budget. The main

source of money to this fund is intended to be from estates and special gifts. The fund had about \$13,000 at year-end with another \$2,000 designated for January 1, 2019.

### **General**

About 14% of our revenue is from property use, not donations. The largest is the facility agreement with Regina Youth for Christ who pay market value rent of the Youth Center. We do return about 38% of that rent as part of our missions support to their ministry. We also had received payments from the First Karen Baptist Church, and now, Christ's Commission Fellowship for the use of the sanctuary for their services.

Through 2018, Shelly Pippin CPA Prof. Corp. continued to provide bookkeeping services. We are very appreciative of the work and assistance that Shelly and her staff are providing. The Finance Committee continued with the same membership of Derrick Bellows, Marv Fuller, Gloria Toews and Murray Wolfe who worked hard to ensure that our financials were properly managed through the year. I thank them for their commitment and hard work. I also thank the Diaconate, Commissions and staff for their diligence in managing the financial resources entrusted to them. This was my first year as Treasurer, and I thank you, the family of First Baptist, who continue to provide the finances for the work of our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Rich

## Church Clerk Report

First Baptist welcomes all people to join us in worship - people of all faiths and those who are simply curious - our doors are open. We also welcome all who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour to join with us in communion. And going further, our church traditionally encourages formal membership for our congregation. The difference between being a member and simply attending is something like the difference between being married and living common law, or becoming a citizen rather than remaining a landed immigrant. Membership shows a commitment to knowing who we are, and to being part of the community. It is a quiet statement to the world that we choose to be part of this Christian Church.

In 2018 we lost the following members:

### Transfer Out

Rob Nelson to Westhill January

### Death

Freida Link	Feb 24
Jack Rohrer	Dec 29
(m) Harold Dunbar	Jan 6
(m) Phyl Kindred	Jan 15
(m) Marjorie Keehr	March 7
(m) Anne Leskiw	March 21
(m) Harry Veldhuis	June 27
(m) Neil Balkwill	Nov 10

We currently have 133 active members and 116 active adherents (people who are regularly part of our community but who have not taken out formal membership. If you would like to become a member, either by baptism, transfer of membership or by recognition of prior experience, we would love to welcome you! Please contact one of the pastors.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Ward - church clerk

## Report of the Lead Pastor

2018 was the most stable year we have experienced in many years as a congregation.

On the one hand, this is welcome. Our activity was not driven by crisis or turmoil.

On the other hand, this means that very little changed at a time when we are hoping to begin a new chapter in our life together.

However, organizations do need periods of stability to normalize change before growth.

As well, learning and improving is easier when we have time for prayer, deliberation, and reflection.

### Some highlights from the past year:

- Growing activity outside our congregation:
  - increased our budgeted giving by \$15,000 (not including amounts raised above budget). 17% of our budget was giving to CBWC and through missions.
  - sponsored a conference in support of Indigenous Christians attended by +150 from across the west.
  - entered into a CBM partnership with a couple at the Arab Baptist Seminary in Lebanon and formed a team who will visit them.
- Growing connection in our neighbourhood: mailed invitations to the downtown for our Christmas concert, hosted events with Open door, The Historical Society, and John's community choir, and began work to renew our gardens.
- Growing as a place of prayer: neighbours joined us occasionally for morning prayer, Bryden has faithfully managed our prayer chain.
- Care for our building: Rob Stafford stepped into the role of Property Manager and organized the purchase of a new dishwasher, the repairs of our steps, a thorough spring cleaning, brick pointing, and many other projects. Julie Rich and Shirley Wolfe repainted the south hall and transformed it with artwork.
- First Karen Baptist church purchased their own building and moved out. Our congratulations to them! We entered a new agreement with Christ's Commission Fellowship Church, who joined us for worship one Sunday in December.
- I attended a conference in Toronto, featuring David Fitch, about churches and individual Christians becoming more active in their neighbourhoods.
- Church health survey: The survey completed Jan/Feb will continue as a marker and guide on for us.
- Finances: we met our budget, which for the first time included loan repayments and capital investments, cancelled our LOC, and resolved the FBP loan.
- Teller and membership information was moved into one new program called "churchtrac" as the old system was obsolete. Not exciting but a big, necessary task.

**Personal challenges:**

- My wife's cancer surgeries and treatments lasted from March through to October. Your prayers, your gifts of food, and your love have meant so much. Heather is back at work since January.
- Not wanting to be left out, I had a hospital stay myself in September with pulmonary embolisms. Thanks to everyone who helped out that month.

**Goals for the coming year:**

- Welcome a new pastor
- Increase our capacity to welcome, incorporate, and disciple newcomers
- Connect with neighbours through mail, more attention to our website and social media, prayer times, artwork, our gardens, and existing community relationships
- Renew our organizational structure and make sure there is strong back and forth communication, accountability, and engagement between the Board/Diaconate and people responsible for specific ministries

Thanks to all our staff. John Nelson has carried out his work in the midst of multiple serious and heavy concerns in his family, including the passing of his mother. He continues to be a great pastor, music leader and colleague.

Thanks also to Norma Holtlander, Chris Senger, Mark Anderson, and Christa Walsh, for their prayers, their love of God, and their ministry.

We thank George McKenzie for all his hard work, hospitality, and prayer during his seven years with us and we pray for God's blessing on him in his new employment in the coming months and years.

My thanks to the Diaconate chaired by Collin Carbno for their love and encouragement during what was a challenging year personally.

Yours,

Rev. Joel Russell-MacLean

## Music Ministry

“I wish to see all arts, principally music, in the service of Him who gave and created them. Music is a fair and glorious gift of God. I would not for the world forego my humble share of music. Musicians are never sorrowful, but are merry and smile through their troubles in song. Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am persuaded that after theology, music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of the heart...the devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God.” Martin Luther

As I reflect back on 2018, I believe that Martin Luther’s profound belief has been reflected in the FBC music ministry. Our music ministry exists to enhance both our worship and spiritual experiences. “Music is what feelings sound like” and our congregation and musicians have given meaningful musical expression in our times of sorrow and joy.

To our Sanctuary Choir, Exaltation Singers, and JuBELLtion Ringers, thank you for your continued dedication and faithfulness. The Sanctuary Choir continues to be the longest serving small group ministry of FBC, extending over 120 years. As well, I express heartfelt gratitude to all of our gifted musicians who so generously share their time and talent.

Our congregation is blessed to have two very gifted and committed musicians, Christa Walsh (church pianist- 11 years) and Mark Anderson (organist- 28 years), contributing to the enrichment of our worship experience through their music ministry and leadership. I am so privileged to work as a team with these wonderful colleagues and much appreciated friends. Thank you!

### MEMORABLE MOMENTS of 2018:

- 1.Easter Alleluia presentation
- 2.Christmas Glory
- 3.Pastoral team- working creatively to enrich our worship experiences
- 4.Memorable “Gifts of Music”
- 5.Love and support extended to our family

Although this year has been quite hectic, it has also been both a rewarding and enjoyable time of ministry. Additional responsibilities have kept Joel and I running to complete our “must do” lists that seem to have no end in sight.

My responsibilities this year are as follows: Music Ministry planning, organizing Achievers’ Luncheon speakers, worship planning, preaching, administrative duties, additional visitation, various community opportunities, Joint Good Friday Service

planning, and additional cardio-exercise in response to answering the Lorne Street door on many occasions.

In conclusion, I want to paraphrase a section from my 2006 annual report, with apologies to Nancy Beach (“An Hour On Sunday”).

“Together, (in 2018), we have continued on a wonderful journey, creating moments of transformation and wonder. We have experienced moments of awe, and now all we need to do is step back more and allow the power of the Holy Spirit to sweep freely through us, and over us.” In my 33 years of ministry with you, I continue to be “awestruck” by God’s goodness and faithfulness to this church. I believe whole heartedly that we are endeavouring to give life and breath to the previous quote

My hope for 2019 is given expression in another quote from Nancy Beach’s book:

“If you cannot go to church and, for at least a moment, be given transcendence....then I cannot see why anyone should go. Just a brief moment of transcendence causes you to come out of church a changed person. I contend that most people would consider the gift of a quieted soul well worth any time spent in church.” May we all experience the “gift of a quieted soul” on Sunday!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. John Nelson, Jr.  
Associate Pastor

## **Learning for life**

Learning For Life exists to allow adults to learn more about the Christian faith, and to interact with one another around important issues of faith and discipleship. It takes place Sunday mornings from 9:30 am. to 10:30 am. During 2018 we offered:

- Thrive facilitated by Deirdre Sentis
- Christian Spirituality of Work facilitated by Len Pauls and Derrick Bellows
- Lost World of Scripture facilitated by Annabel Robinson
- Echoes of Scripture facilitated by Annabel Robinson
- Christianity 101 facilitated by Ron Phillips
- Discussions on Aging facilitated by Annabel Robinson

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Phillips and Annabel Robinson

## **Achievers' Luncheon**

What a joy it is to be pastoral liaison to the Achievers' Luncheon ministry! They are an enthusiastic and vital small group ministry of FBC. Averaging 35 - 45 people in attendance the fourth Thursday of each month (Sept-Nov/Jan-April) in 2018, this ministry amazes me with its outpouring of warm fellowship, tantalizing meals provided by Chef Dean Gilchrist, and inspiring guest speakers. All of these ingredients make for wonderful opportunities to share, celebrate and enjoy these special luncheon times together.

Members of this group have faced the challenges of aging, health, weather and death itself with grace, always embracing one another with support and encouragement on their personal life journeys. We have grown smaller in number over these past few years, yet the same characteristic of HOPE remains strong and true in the midst of the journey and our time together.

I want to take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to Dean Gilchrist for his gift of service. As well, I express appreciation to our Achievers for both the privilege of serving with you, and for your commitment and dedication to this valued in reach-outreach ministry of FBC.

God, your Achievers' ministry changes all of us, and makes us better than we are.  
Blends our thoughts and phrases fittingly, so reminds us who You are.  
Make us mindful then, Dear Savior, when to You our lives we bring,  
that we seek to praise You fully and in doing, fully live.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. John Nelson

## **The Achievers' Bible Study**

We meet on alternate Wednesdays in the Board Room at 10:00 AM. We start with a short time of prayer followed by the study.

We start with reading the passage, followed by questions I prepare, and questions from the various participants. Everyone is free to participate...and they do. We have some interesting discussions. We represent two generations of seniors.

It is open to age 50+ seniors. However, I am sure if you are younger and free at that time you would be welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
Norma Holtlander

## **First Baptist Place Chaplaincy**

The chaplain from FBP is currently a member of FBC, affirmed by the FBP executive and the FBC Diaconate. I am responsible for the Wednesday evening chapel services and for finding accompanists for the hymn sing before the message.

Because I live in the building, I am called on to visit some tenants at their requests, to pray at meals, and have a couple of requests for funeral services.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Holtlander

## **Hospitality**

I have had the privilege of co-ordinating those who serve communion on the main floor and the balcony each month. Those who serve are able to enter into communion in a very meaningful way.

I have also involved in scheduling those who serve us every Sunday at A Time For Friends. ATFF is an important part of our church family as it allows us to get to know one another in a very informal way while enjoying coffee & goodies. Those who are scheduled have the opportunity to work with each other in the kitchen. After a summer break it is always good to hear that "ATFF was missed so much!".

I have been able to set up six teams of 9-10 people who plan meals for larger events that require food serves such as funerals, AGM mtgs, Christmas gatherings, etc. These events give those involved a great sense of service to others. Our Christmas brunches have been very joyous occasions.

I have been greatly blessed to see that our "family" has been so willing to work with each other to bring us closer together. Please let me know if you would like to help out in any of these areas as there is always room for more participation and ideas.

Thank you so much...May God bless you richly,

Eleanor Russell

## **Visitation**

Thanks to the members of our congregation who faithfully visit and phone those who have difficulty getting out. We appreciate your commitment and compassion. We would like to strengthen this ministry in the next year.

# Christian Education Commission Report

## Oasis/Godly Play

These programs exist to invite our children to enter worship prayerfully, to encourage them to ask questions and to think for themselves, and to give opportunity for friendships across generations. We love hearing children say “this is my church”.

Thanks to Esther Maeers especially for her leadership of Godly Play and to our six Oasis and seven Godly Play workers. Our children continue to run downstairs when they are dismissed from worship upstairs.

## Nursery

The FBC nursery exists to give our little ones (aged 0-2) a place to become comfortable with the church and begin the process of getting to know the people that form our community. On most Sundays throughout the year, we have 2 volunteers who are ready to welcome little ones so that their parents can head upstairs to participate in the service. Babies are often held and given much attention. Toddlers are given time to play, colour, have snack and read a story with one of the volunteers. We are grateful to have such a wonderful group of volunteers - including some fantastic youth volunteers - who welcome these little ones each week.

Recognizing that not all children are ready to leave their parent’s side, we also have space for caregivers to stay. We are thankful that the Sunday service is live streamed to a TV in the nursery so that adults present can still take part in the service. We also appreciate having a communion tray prepared each month for the adults in the nursery. These are concrete ways that we are able to keep parents involved in the broader church life at a stage of life when the demands of little ones can feel all-consuming. Thank you to those of you who make the live streaming and monthly communion possible.

I would also like to thank Lynette Wollbaum, our previous nursery coordinator, for her many years of service in this role. Lynette, you have a true gift for giving each child a warm welcome. We are glad that you continue to volunteer in the nursery.

Looking ahead, we are continuing to look for new ways to refresh the nursery. Over time and through the years of play, some of the nursery toys, equipment and decor have reached a point where they have seen better days. Our goal is to monitor the items in the nursery, removing items that are no longer safe for wee ones and adding items that help our current group of children feel increasingly at home at FBC so that in time they will come to know the love of Christ for each of them.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayely Rich

## Youth Group

We have an incredible group of youth, parents, and volunteers that participate in our youth program at First Baptist Church. This past year has seen us continue to build upon this program's strong foundation and create space for community, transformation, and relationships to grow and mature.

There are several concrete steps we have taken to live out our vision as a ministry:

- **Communication:** this past summer we started working on how we communicate, and how the youth want to see us communicate. Our Facebook page was created by a parent volunteer and is regularly used to inform, update, and share information regarding our events. We have also started a Google Doc for youth events where parents and volunteers can sign up to help with weekly events. We would like to increase the ownership of the youth participating in the communication of events by setting up a youth Instagram account.
- **Participation** - goal to increase participation of sponsors this year: parents have signed up to sponsor events in an effort to model faith, build relationships, and help us ensure we are carrying out safe events (minimize liability). We have had volunteers at many events and have also been hosted by parents and volunteers. This is an area we can continue to strengthen and build upon as its important.
- We have also encouraged the youth to continue being visible in the community of our church. Youth have had the opportunity to assist in ushering, cleaning and maintenance, participating in and helping create and lead services and events.
- **Transformation** - creating a safe space for our youth to grow in their faith is integral in what we do. Our bible studies are foundational in providing space and time for youth to think about their faith and practice the disciplines of reading, writing, and praying. One of our studies focused on the questions we have about God, and our faith in general. I was impressed with the depths of questions the youth had and their willingness to share. In education, there is often an understanding of how our questions speak to our understanding of a subject or topic. If there are no questions, sometimes that is a concern; if there are deep questions then it shows that there is deeper engagement and understanding of the material being studied or discussed. I believe that this is true of our faith as well; our questions speak to our longing to know God, seek him out, and be changed by his work in our lives. It is my hope and prayer that we continue to be a place that works in partnership with our youths homes and our church to encourage a transformative faith.

In Short, what we are “about” as a youth ministry is creating a space where youth and leaders can come and grow in their knowledge and faith of God, be changed into God's image, and increase in their knowledge and awareness of how we are called to love one another. This is an exciting ministry at First and we are hopeful and prayerful that it will continue to thrive and grow.

Yours In Christ, Chris Senger

# Missions Commission Report

Commission Members: Len Pauls, Esther Weins, Wayne Wyatt, Marilyn Phillips (Chair)  
Anne Bellows (joined August, 2018)

Our mandate: To provide vision and direction for the congregation's involvement in "missions":

- financial, relational and practical involvement
- local and global involvement

## 2018 Budget

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Canadian Baptist Missions (CBM)	7,500	3,000
Local Missions	5,000	5,500
Katepwa Lake Camp (KLC)	6,000	4,100
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship(IVCF)	6,000	4,150
Youth for Christ (YFC)	15,684	17,374
Indigenous Event	<u>0</u>	<u>451</u>
Total	40,184	34,575

## Highlights

- Began 3-year CBM Partnership with Lebanese Society for Education & Social Development (LSESD) - specifically for:
  - Botros Team Support
  - Middle East Conference Bursaries
  - Syrian Refugee Support - primarily camp ministry
  - Fundraiser Luncheon, May 27- raised \$9,142 (to add to our \$7,500 CBM project budget)
  - "SENT" trip planned for June, 2019
- Helped sponsor Indigenous Conference - Nov. 2-3, 2018 - approx. 160 participants total
  - Pastor Joel acted on planning committee
  - 8 members from FBC participated in the conference

## Challenges/Looking Forward in 2019:

- Further developing our CBM Lebanese partnership
- Encouraging our "SENT" team - before and after their trip!
- Discerning "next steps" in indigenous reconciliation involvement
- Developing overall vision for local missions
- Increasing awareness/ involvement in all our mission partnerships