Annual Report 2021

First Baptist Church Regina, SK Annual General Meeting March 27, 2022, 12:00

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First Baptist Church Annual General Meeting Agenda March 27, 2022

- 1. Call to Order Ron Phillips
- 2. The Church Covenant & Prayer Pastor Joel
- 3. Consent Agenda: MOTION:
 - 1. That we approve today's meeting agenda
 - 2. That we approve the minutes of the November 21, 2021 congregational meeting
- 4. Board Chair Report
- 5. Treasurer's Report
 - 1. Motion: That we receive the 2021 audited church financial statements
- 6. Associate Pastors Report
 - 1. Kayely Rich
 - 2. Chris Senger
- 7. Lead Pastor's Report
- 8. Screen and Zoom Discussion Board
- 9. Other Business
- 10. Adjournment

A covenant of Fellowship of First Baptist Church Regina, Saskatchewan

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

Fall Congregational Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2021 12:20 - 1:00 PM Via Zoom and In Person in the FBC Sanctuary

- 1. Call to Order Ron Phillips, Board Chair
- 2. Prayer Rev. Joel Russell-MacLean, Lead Pastor
 Leading with a quote from Zechariah 6, ".....not by might, nor by power, but
 by my spirit says the Lord of hosts.". These words of the prophet were to
 encourage Israel to rebuild her temple in Jerusalem. Joel prayed that the
 spirit would grow us in Christ, through small acts, in our church, in our
 denomination, in our city and in our world. He asked that the
 presence of the Spirit would power us to accomplish his desires for us. He
 prayed that we would be helped in discerning God's voice in our choices
 and decisions.

3. **MOTION-** Consent Agenda

MOVED: John Hillmer /Bryan Orthner CARRIED

a) Approve today's agenda, amended since publication (.... to withdraw the motion that Chris Senger be recommended to become a licensed pastor in our denomination. This will be tabled until the required steps in the process are completed, at which time we will gladly put forward this recommendation again.) b) Approve the minutes of the March 21, 2021 AGM c) Approve WSO Accounting as our auditor

4. Report from the Lead Pastor

- a) The Music Futures committee has received applications from two solid candidates and are now preparing the next steps forward in the interview process. The committee will plan to present opportunities for the congregation to have some input in the process as well.
- b) Heart-felt thanks to his colleagues, Kayely Rich, Richard Hovey, and Melissa Morgan. He commented on the difficulty of dealing with covid restrictions while being pulled between love for participants and the health and safety of everyone involved. The Board and our many volunteers were also commended.

- 5. Budget Kevin Rich, Treasurer
 - a) Financial Report numbers for October were presented and look good.
 - b) Budget

MOTION: to approve the 2022 Budget **MOVED:** KevinRich/Klaus Link **CARRIED**

Discussion:

- budget amounts have remained steady, with with Income and Expenses remaining very similar to last year's numbers.
- The Board has recently moved to invest 100K from our bank account, seeking improved returns. This will be reflected in the November Report.
- Expectations that rental income will increase? Dependant on Covid situation.
- 6. Nominations to the Board
 - a) Ron Phillips has agreed to remain as chairman of the Board for an additional year, with our heartfelt thanks! Thanks also to Collin Carbno for his 6 years of service to the Board.

MOTION: to approve nominees: Derrick Bellows, Roger Bellows and Heather Russell- MacLean

MOVED: Bryden Yeo/Tiffany Stafford-Lai

Discussion:

- -Wife of lead pastor serving on Board? Absolutely! Concerns around conflict of interest, and bylaws regarding make-up of boards of charitable organizations (like FBC) will be checked out. Heather's status (as well as the Bellows' brothers), will need to be declared "at arm's length" on various forms. Various comments reflected no need for concern as long as there is not a family majority sitting on a board.
- b) Continuing Board Members: chair: Ron Phillips, Treasurer: Kevin Rich, Adija Pusi, Barry Lyons, Brenda Ziolkowski, Tiffany Stafford-Lai
- 7. MOTION: that First Baptist Church Regina name John Nelson as "Pastor Emeritus" MOVED: Tiffany Stafford-Lai/Laureen Snook CARRIED "If John's thirty five years of service to this congregation don't merit this distinction, NOTHING does!!" Agreed!!
- 8. MOTION: to adjourn this meeting approx. 1:00 pm MOVED: Bryden Yeo

Report of the Chair of the Diaconate

As I look back on 2021, I see so much to be thankful for, and yet so much seems to me unclear. We truly live by faith and by hope, not by sight (Romans 8:24,25). Yet we are filled with hope, because God is moving history to His good conclusion. He will have a redeemed people, living in a redeemed creation, with their Redeemer. (Stanley Grenz) And praise God, we are caught up in what God is doing.

2021 was another 'covid' year, but we finally seem to be moving out of the worst of it. It was also a year of pastoral change, with John's retirement and Richard's departure. One of our challenges in 2022 is to assemble, under God's leading, a pastoral staff ready to lead us in this new chapter in the church's life. A great load has fallen onto Joel, as he is our only full time pastor at the moment. We are very grateful for his loving leadership. And we're so thankful for Kayely, Chris, and Norma, who, though part time, have contributed so much. And we have been so blessed in music, first by Melissa Morgan, and now by Maria Fuller. And Mark Anderson has been an anchor in our worship, in the midst of so much change.

We owe so much, too, to you the congregation of First Baptist, who have remained faithful through it all.

As we move into 2022 and beyond, I see 4 major challenges.

First, we need to articulate a vision. We are in a fresh chapter in our church's history, and we are to be a faithful church in a world which is very much different from what it was 20 or 30 years ago. What do you see when you picture our church a few years from now? Who is sitting in the pews at worship? What are God's people doing out in the community? What will be the 'character' or image of our church? What passion will we be known for? How will we live as the people of Jesus in this place? What will we care most about?

Second, we need to fill out our pastoral staff, with people suited to lead us toward our vision.

Third, we need to learn to connect in fresh ways to our culture, a culture that has grown indifferent to the church, if not at times hostile. How will we point people to Jesus? How will we bring Jesus' caring to a hurting world?

Fourth, we need to rebuild our ministry capacity after covid - ushers to welcome people, children's workers to teach our children about Jesus, people exercising hospitality and lay pastoral care, people leading small groups, singers for the choir, people helping with technology, and on and on. What can you bring to the life of the church?

And thank you to our Church board: Barry Lyons, Tiffany Stafford-Lai, Brenda Ziolkowski, Kevin Rich, Derrick Bellows, Roger Bellows, Adijah Pusi, Heather Russell-MacLean. And Collin Carbno, who completed his term in 2021.

I began by saying that much seems to me unclear as we move into 2022 and beyond. Will we keep in step with the Spirit? What pastors will come to help lead us and shape us? Will we be making a kingdom difference in our city? Will we make a place for people who come into our lives and church family? Will we grow, in numbers and in Christlikeness? Will we know the Lord's pleasure? What surprising things will the Lord Do?!

I can hardly wait to see!

Ron Phillips, Board Chair

Treasurer's Report - 2021

First Baptist Church is active in a great many ministries, and follows CRA standards for charities in reporting and tracking our finances. In addition to financing the normal day-to-day activities necessary for our church life (operating expenses), we have a number of restricted reserves that are dedicated to specific purposes.

Although the COVID pandemic was still with us during 2021, the FBC community was very conscientious in maintaining a healthy giving effort, as our general offerings increased by 3% over the previous year. Our overall revenue again exceeded our yearly expenses, which provided us with a surplus and an excellent beginning to 2021.

We continue to make monthly payments against both principle and interest for the internal loan from our own Organ Fund. This loan was supplemented with the CEBA interest-free loan, a program provided by the government for COVID relief. The CEBA loan will be paid back by the end of 2022, and the Organ Fund loan is expected to be paid off in 2028.

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

Operations

Church staff and leadership manage the operating expenses of the various operations and ministries. Personnel accounted for 55% of the operating budget in 2021. Property, Administration and Missions also had significant budgets. Due to the COVID pandemic, the church staff and leadership carefully monitored all expenses. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to augment our Missions giving by over \$20,000 during 2021, providing financial assistance to our Lebanon partners and other CBM initiatives and programs.

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. Refer to Note 6 in the Financial Statements.

The <u>Benevolent Fund</u> is for special financial aid to individuals and families. It is administered by the pastoral staff with accountability to the Board. This is part of our approved budget and donations are requested when the fund is low. During

2021, this fund provided nearly \$5,800 in support. This fund had about \$3,000 at year-end.

The <u>Building Fund</u> is for larger capital expenses related to building repair. During 2021 we had a couple of small projects that were funded. This fund had just over \$28,500 at year-end.

The <u>Organ Fund</u> 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 a total of about \$84,000 at year-end. In 2020, the Organ Fund provided the church with a loan of \$215,000, which we used to pay off the CBWC loan. This allowed the church to reduce the interest paid on debt from 5.65% to 2% and reduced the amortization period by three years. As a result, the church has no external debt.

The <u>Legacy Fund</u> 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 \$17,000 at year-end.

General

About 10% of our revenue came 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 received reduced payments from the Christ's Commission Fellowship for the use of storage areas for their equipment, as they have not been meeting in the sanctuary for services.

Through 2021, Shelly Pippin CPA Prof. Corp. continued to provide bookkeeping services. We are very appreciative of the work and assistance that Shelly and Jenn are providing. The Finance Committee continued with the same membership of Derrick Bellows, Marv Fuller, Gloria Toews and Murray Wolfe who assisted me in ensuring that our financials were properly managed through the year. I thank them for their commitment over the years. We bid farewell to Derrick and Murray, and welcome Tom Chen as our newest committee member. I also thank the Board and staff for their diligence in managing the financial resources entrusted to them.

This was my fourth 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

At the beginning of the year, we were all hopeful that medical science would progress to the point where we could go back to our accustomed practices of community and worship. 2021 reinforced the fact that time never goes backwards, and that only God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

First Baptist has maintained community worship with Zoom and other electronic forms of communication, but it has become clear that our community and society as a whole have tended to fragment without active personal contact. Now that the concern around Covid has diminished and the rules have relaxed some, we hope to be able to cautiously see each other in person again!

Total membership- 189

Members: # active = 115, #inactive= 68,

Number of active members and adherents (including children) = 221

New members admitted by baptism: Karlee Mock

Members lost through death: Les Warden, Margaret Ziolkowski.

This spring we plan to go through our records and make sure we are including all who wish to be a part of First Baptist Church, Regina. Our ChurchTrac software charges us a fee based on the number of active records, so we also want to make sure that our rolls accurately reflect our actual numbers. We plan to archive the names of people who are no longer resident in Regina or who have not attended church (in person or via computer) in the last 2 years. If these people are members they will get a letter asking if they would like their membership transferred to another church or maintained at FBC. The names of inactive adherents will simply be archived. If you have friends or family members who have moved away from Regina, but wish to stay on the church roll, please have them contact the church office or Rosemary Ward before the end of April 2022. Archived names are easily restored to active status if needed.

Respectfully submitted

Rosemary Ward, church clerk

Report of the Lead Pastor

Covid 19 continued to dominate our experience as a congregation in 2021. Activity began to increase through the summer though numerous protections and guidelines remained in place. There was widespread hesitancy to regularly and actively take part. For all that, we persisted together in worship prayer, care, and missions.

A few highlights

- The children and youth programs had to make month by month decisions about how best to encourage faith and relationships, taking guidelines and. It has been a work of endurance for Rev Kayely and Chris who had no regular volunteers.
- We continued to stream our bible studies, concerts, and services over Zoom and Facebook. We had sixteen volunteers involved in running the AV/Zoom ministry, plus pastors who help stream the events, trained others, and weekly set up and took down equipment.
- Kayely organized a meaningful marriage course
- We were blessed again through our Lebanese's partnership and to have Dr Emad Botros and Dr Eli Haddad preach.
- We were able to provide an internship for Julie Hovey so that she could complete her Master's program at Briercrest.
- In December, Louise Krueger and Barb Ziolkowski helped organize free lunches from the lower hall in partnership with other churches. This has continued into 2022. Many churches are now involved and having a great time. Changes to provincial income assistance in 2022 increased demands on all agencies.

Staff and Lead Volunteers

2021 was also a season of significant transition. As the year came to a close, Rev Dr Richard Hovey accepted a call to a church in New Brunswick after just over two years with us. We also said thank you and farewell to Christa Walsh after twelve years with us as a pianist.

And after over 35 years as Minister of Music, Rev John Nelson retired. A meaningful, music-filled celebration of his ministry was held in June. The congregation voted to give John the title of Pastor Emeritus. John, thank you for all your hard work and friendship.

Dr Melissa Morgan offered to join us part-time from August to January (2022). She restarted our choir and gave leadership Sunday mornings. She also led our first live concert in a year and a half.

Thank you to Kayely Rich, Chris Senger, Norma Holtslander, and Esther Gurnsey for faithfulness and hard work this past year. Thanks to Ron Phillips, our board chair, to Rob Stafford our property manager and head usher, and to Kevin Rich our Treasurer, web and tech guru. Thanks to Brenda Ziolkowski who is helping with something every time I turn around.

My thanks to everyone for your encouragement and support as I completed my Mdiv and through all the challenges of this period.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Joel Russell-MacLean, Lead Pastor

Missions Commission Report

Commission Members: Bryan Orthner (chair), Barb Ziolkowski, Carmen Pauls Orthner (joined fall 2021), Heather Russell-MacLean. Pastoral liaison: Joel Russell-MacLean. Anne Bellows served with the Mission Commission up until her resignation in fall - we want to acknowledge and thank Anne for her years of involvement with the Mission Commission.

Our mandate:

- Provide vision, direction and management for our "missions" ministry, including: financial, relational and practical involvement in missions
- local AND global involvement in missions

Please note that the Missions Commission is actively seeking additional members! We would particularly welcome the input of First Baptist Church members with involvements in other local church and para-church ministries, as we attempt to invest our local missions budget effectively.

1. The 2021 budget:

	2021	2020	2019	2018
Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM)	24,325	8,500	7,500	7,500
Local Missions	0	750	5,000	5,000
Katepwa Lake Camp (KLC)	13,700	6,500	6,000	6,000
Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF)	\$500	5,000	6,000	6,000
Youth for Christ (YFC)	15,684	15,684	15,684	15,684
Total	54,684	40,684	40,184	40,184

- 2. We recommitted to our CBM Partnership with the Lebanese Society for Education & Social Development (LSESD) specifically for:
 - Botros Team Support
 - Middle East Consultation Bursaries
 - Syrian Refugee Support primarily camp ministry

Our Lebanon Zoom Fundraiser, April 18th raised \$ 17,645 (including donations up to mid-July). This was in addition to our \$9,000 CBM project budget, for a total of \$ 26,465 to our Lebanon Partnership this year, the highest total of our 3-year partnership. In addition to this, the church board authorized a special gift of \$10,000 to CBM for Lebanon. In the fall, the church board also approved an additional gift to Katepwa Lake Camp outside of the Mission Commission budget.

Looking forward to 2022, we hope once more to promote the Lebanon partnership through a spring fundraiser, as well as begin to plan for a future Sent trip return to Lebanon. It is also my hope that we can find ways to encourage local missions involvement by our church members in areas such as the inter-church Saturday lunch program and refugee welcoming.

Respectfully submitted, Bryan Orthner Missions Commission chair

First Baptist Place Chaplaincy

The chaplain from FBP is currently a member of FBC and a member of the Pastoral staff, affirmed by the FBP executive and the FBC Board.

Primarily, I am responsible for the Wednesday evening chapel service. This means finding accompanists for the hymns we sing, (we love to sing), providing Scripture and a 15 minute or so biblical message. There are a couple of people who regularly call on me for prayer, and a couple who come for spiritual direction.

2021, which became the 'first' full year of Covid. Chapel was cancelled a couple of times (along with other activities in the building). When we came together again in the late Fall only a few (4-5) came regularly. There was much concern about Covid and unvaccinated people. However, the numbers slowly grew. We continue to wear masks for which I am grateful. I was, and am, committed to wearing a mask, whether any one else does or not as I am facing all of them and can 'spray when I am speaking.

We continued our tradition of a carol sing on the Wednesday between Christmas and New Years. Barry Holtslander returned (after he wasn't invited last year!) to lead us and Margaret Roth played the piano. Even with masks, and all in various stages of 'senior-ness,' we sang our hearts out.

Please pray for me in this year, 2022, that I might be sensitive to the needs of these wonderful people and sensitive to the Spirit's leading in topics to be presented. We have a variety of Christian denominations represented in our chapel times. I have been accused of being too Catholic on one hand and too Evangelical on the other. I just want to be true to Scripture and true to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Submitted by Rev Norma Holtslander

Property Report

This was another challenging year for us all with Covid-19 and the restrictions. We got this far with the great support of the First Baptist family. It's time to put this Covid-19 behind us but at the same time take care of each other as we live with Covid-19 etc. Following our last meeting, we had the reception areas of Lorne St and the office stairwell painted and the heating system upgraded.

We have taken a close look at our expenditures and see savings across the property accounts. Even though the church is not being used as much as before, there are additional expenditures for Covid, like face masks and hand sanitizer. However, we are still within budget. We have also reduced the hours of the contract cleaning and have located and stopped leaks in our washrooms that will reduce our costs.

Even though church activities slowed down, we never stopped working and with the help of Marvin, Len, and Glen several jobs were addressed. We were also faced with a fault in the smoke detectors around the church and Tanner from Queen City Electric is looking into locating replacements as the original units are outdated. Andre from 3Star plumbing inspected the heating system and has installed a new pressurized tank system to ensure heating is free from air locks and has also replaced several room thermostats and heating valves.

This winter has been a difficult for everyone with large amounts of snow and colder temperatures, we have seen an increase in snow removal and had a water leak causing minimal damage to the kitchen and library.

We have a number of on-going projects that we are working on including lighting, AV upgrade, lower floor and chair repair. We are always seeking anyone handy to do some work around the church and would like this requested in the monthly newsletter.

We had looked into the repointing and repair to the brick work on the exterior of the church on the east, west and south sides to prevent water damage to the walls and ceiling, the dome inspection and the facia and downpipes cleaning and repair. We had the dome inspected by Derrick, Len and Marv and their findings were very good and only minor repair and upkeep will be required.

We hope to carry out painting projects around the church over the next three years, but we feel there are a number of other projects that should be carried out before we start these.

2022 Church Projects

- Outside garden
- Cleaning of windows
- · Cleaning pews and sanctuary floor
- Repair basement floor
- Deep clean of kitchen / nursery / Godly play / library
- Carpets (estimate received from carpet company)
- AV Upgrade
- History Wall (on-going)

Painting Projects

- Painting project #1: Lower hall, cloakroom & washrooms (2019)
- Painting project #2: Lorne St. entrance, disability lobby, office reception, and stairwell DONE
- Painting project #3: Front entrance including reception east/west (on hold)
- Painting project #4: Offices (including meeting rooms), library (done), and kitchen (June 2022)
- Painting project #5: Sanctuary (May/June/July 2023)

Misc. Projects (no set timeframe)

- Lower hall floor repair/renewal
- Bird prevention (front of the church)
- Window cleaning (interior and exterior)
- Dome report and refurbishment (on hold)
- Pendulum lights upgrade (bulbs are more than 18 years old)
- Repair to stained glass windows (west side)
- Cleaning sanctuary ceiling, lights, fans, and walls
- Installing outdoor sockets (Victoria Ave. side)
- Leaking toilets (nursery and ladies' washroom) DONE

Summary

I would like to thank the Board and Joel for the support for the past year and looking forward to 2022/23, the work load of the Property is a lot and made a little easier with the help of Marv, Len and Joel. We need help with property issues and can always do with a handy man or woman so any help would be great. Respectfully submitted, Rob Stafford

First Baptist Regina Communications

Because of the ongoing pandemic throughout 2021, we have seen fluctuating numbers in terms of our in-person attendance. Because of this, online communication (mainly by email) has continued to be a high priority. I have also continued to prioritize our presence on Facebook by increasing the number of postings about events and activities taking place at First Baptist.

My areas of responsibility in 2021 included the following:

Sending out the "First this week" email each week.

Preparing the weekly bulletin for Sunday services.

Creating and distributing a weekly newsletter in three formats: A digital version for those on the church email list, hard copies for folks without computer/internet access, and a digital version for our website.

Posting announcements and events on our Facebook page.

Managing the church email (i.e, main_fbcregina@sasktel.net): Responding to questions, forwarding emails to the appropriate parties, etc.

Updating our church database, ChurchTrac.

Proofing and editing various communication pieces.

Administrative duties including processing invoices and answering the phone.

Assisting in ensuring that the information on all media is up to date.

Submitted by Esther Gurnsey

Children's ministries report

2021 began with children's classes being offered online. Julie Hovey taught Godly Play before Sunday services and I taught Oasis after the services in order to avoid competition for wifi bandwidth during church services. While online teaching presented some challenges, it was always good to connect with our kids in their homes and have them share with us about the things and people that are important to them. We are thankful that Julie was able to complete her internship with us at a time where gathering in person was difficult.

In the summer, we enjoyed family park meet-ups where kids happily playing together and parents had the opportunity to visit. Fall came quickly with the kick-off at Mosaic Stadium where children and adults alike enjoyed playing on Taylor Field.

We were excited to resume in person classes in the Fall, even though we only had a small group. It was fun having a class spanning from toddlers to preteens and amazing to see the kids of different ages helping each other out. Using stories from the Old Testament Godly Play Curriculum as an inspiration, the kids created art about heroes of the faith.

For Advent, the youth group helped assemble take-home packages that were delivered by the church people to our families. Through a variety of stories and activities, the kids followed the path to Jerusalem with key characters and built their own nativity sets.

We miss the times of being able to see ALL of our amazing, creative, gifted, thoughtful and energetic kids in person as well as the fantastic group of volunteers who made it possible for us to run the nursery, godly play and Oasis classes. But we are simultaneously grateful for the times of connection that have been possible and eagerly welcome more families back as they are ready to return to in person gatherings.

With gratitude and hope, Rev Kayely Rich

Youth Group Report

Our Youth program and ministry has had a very daunting year in many ways, as would be expected. But we have also continued to remain aligned to our core values of creating space for youth to come and meet Christ, be changed by their relationship with God, and to learn to listen to the Spirit at work in their lives. Covid has not made this easy, and in many ways things have been disjointed as it has been difficult to get in a good rhythm as planning has sometimes been difficult or obscured by pandemic realities.

In June of 2021 we began meeting in person again as a youth group. We tried to focus on safer activities and gatherings that could take place outside. Bible studies were done usually at our house, and in our backyard around a fire, until weather forced us inside. Up until this past Christmas we had been able to essentially run our program as normal for the entire fall. There were some hiccups, such as Proof of Vaccination that prevented some youth from joining events from time to time, but overall, we did our best to continue to provide a weekly event or bible study. However, after Christmas, we chose to put a pause on face-to-face gatherings as our Covid numbers had been increasing drastically in Regina, and Saskatchewan. During that time we did offer a Zoom bible study, but this was not well attended for a variety of reasons, Zoom burnout and exhaustion being true for some. We have recently been able to being face to face events and you can see the excitement form the youth in being able to see one another and to be part if this community again.

We are hopeful that we will continue to make plans beyond only a few weeks, and a space that for many is an important part of their identity and spiritual formation and growth. Please continue to hold us in your prayers.

In Christ,

Chris