



wmb
CHURCH

Greater Things

**2017/18 MINISTRY YEAR
Staff + Leadership Board Report**

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From the Leadership Board

LEADERSHIP BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Terry Shub, Leadership Board Chair

This has been a significant year in the life and ministry of WMB. We gathered together last October to celebrate 50 years of our church history, welcoming back former pastors, leaders and congregants. We claimed Isaiah 54:2 as our theme: “Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.” WMB’s story of our Lord’s faithfulness was evident as we reminisced and prayed together for God’s leading and provision, and we believe His plans for us in the future are just as bold and exciting as all that He has done in our past.

WMB continues to *enlarge* its ministry reach through the many and varied ministries aligning with our anchor causes of *neighbours*, *generations* and the *marginalized*. These past months we’ve been called to stretch our tent curtains with the opportunities before us. Diversity of language and culture is evident in our congregation as we continue to translate our sermons into Spanish and Farsi and are witnessing people’s hearts turning to Jesus. We continue to discern the ministry opportunity and decision before us to partner with the Kitchener MB (KMB) Church congregation to merge together with one vision and one mission, expanding the mission of making more and better disciples in their neighbourhood, and beyond.

As your Leadership Board, we have experienced a year of *not holding back* in that we have sensed the Lord’s leading and direction for His purpose and His will to be revealed to us with the opportunities and the decisions we’ve made with Pastor Chris. We’ve shared together ways in which we as a Board could think differently, stretching the traditional parameters of “doing business” in response to the increasing awareness that God is calling us into more – more ministry, more discipleship, more faith to change the world.

It has been a year of blessing as we witness the *lengthening of our cords* in our strategic objectives, the 10 Year Disciple journey and the mission initiatives that have been undertaken. We celebrate with many who have made decisions to be baptized and with many who have made renewed commitments to Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. We also celebrate with those who have joined us this past year in Membership and made a commitment to our Church Covenant, with the privileges, rights and responsibilities of Membership as set out in our bylaws. We are a covenant community, called by God, through Jesus Christ. We are excited to present our Church Covenant to existing Members at our AGM for the opportunity to re-covenant their own Membership.

We have experienced a year of *strengthening our stakes*, witnessing the generosity of your financial support responding to our ministry initiatives within our own faith community, in our neighbourhoods and among our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world; and your continued faithful giving of pledges to support our Faith to Change the World capital project, reaching the project goals with the repairs and improvements to our facilities and the ability to support our Global Partners through these additional funds. Thank you!

The role of the Leadership Board is to focus on governance issues like mission, vision, strategic objectives and policies, asset and risk management and our organizational framework. In all of this, accountability is key: accountability of staff to the Board and accountability of the Board to the Members of the congregation. The staff, under Pastor Chris’ leadership, focus on implementing the resulting ministry

initiatives in effective and timely ways. Thank you to our entire Staff Team for their tireless work leading and serving among us. As a Board we are blessed to have a strong working relationship with Pastor Chris as we work together to provide leadership to WMB Church. We express a sincere appreciation and thank-you to Chris for his leadership and for boldly living out the Lord's call on his life.

Greater things are yet to come and we continue to have a posture of open hands, prayerfully seeking His will and purpose in all we do to bring glory to the Lord, our God. Greater things are still to be done.

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

*Barb Hahn, Gerry Dyck, Steve Newman (Leadership Board Representative),
Barry Bauman (Chair) & Chris Stevens (Lead Pastor)*

The Discernment Committee is an appointed group of WMB members chosen by the Leadership Board. The purpose of the committee is to nominate people for appointment to the Leadership Board, following the nominating process laid out by the bylaws of the Corporation.

The Discernment Committee enjoyed rich conversation and spiritual growth through a book recommended by the Leadership Board. Reading this together, we learned the value of prayer and searching the scriptures. This exercise led to personal growth and unified the committee members as a team working together towards one common goal: the selection of Leadership Board members for the upcoming 2018-19 term.

Eight candidates entered an application and interview process. The Discernment Committee has prayerfully selected three Members whose spiritual gifts and skills will be complementary to the current Leadership Board.

Thank you, Members, for your prayer and involvement in this process.

From the Senior Leadership Team

MESSAGE FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

Chris Stevens, Lead Pastor

This was indeed the year of Jubilee as we celebrated 50 years of the faithfulness and activity of Jesus in our midst. What a gift it has been to stand on the shoulders of the giants who have come before us, many of whom shared what God has done throughout WMB's history at our 50th Anniversary celebration. We couldn't have known what the Lord had in store for the year ahead when we led us to our anniversary theme verse, Isaiah 54:2: "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."

God continues to move amongst us in unprecedented ways. While in Canada, only 1% of churches are seeing just one person come to Christ each year, the number of baptisms and decisions for Christ we are seeing at WMB is incredible.

Reconciliation with people and communities we've hurt in the past, culminating at the 50th Anniversary, has released God's blessing as we move forward in some exciting opportunities: a possible merger with KMB Church, the congregation that planted us 50 years ago; hosting MB Bible Seminary courses, making them more accessible to WMB leaders; and the growing number of diverse people coming to this church. God has given us the vision to have faith to change the world, and He is bringing the world to us.

I continue to be grateful for the way you embrace my family as yours as you pray for us and celebrate the unique gifts God has given me. Former lead pastor Chuck Buller shared at the 50th Anniversary that one of the most significant things WMB did for him was give him permission to lead. I, too, am thankful for a church that continues to give its leaders permission to lead. This year in particular, God has helped me understand that His call on my own life aligns beautifully with His call on WMB to be a people transformed by Jesus Christ with faith to change the world. I believe God is calling us to change the world through revitalizing dying churches with a diverse people from the entire world. May God continue to reveal His will for us.

A special thank you to all of you who have faithfully given of your time, talents, and treasure to see God's vision unfold at WMB. And a special thank you to Karen West for 21 faithful years of service at WMB – congratulations, Karen, on your retirement! Thank you, as well, to all of you who have joined me in prayer: in your own time, in Home Groups, in ministry at WMB or on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary before the services. God moves when His people pray.

The report from the Senior Leadership Team will give you a snapshot of how Jesus has used our congregation to build His Church and reach out to this city for His glory. It has been nothing short of miraculous to experience another year of making both *more* and *better* disciples together, and seeing characteristics of The 10 Year Disciple developing in people's lives. I have found it very rewarding to see so many of you thriving – as a church, as a Staff Team, as a Leadership Board, as leaders and as individuals – in the calling God has for us. I can't wait to see what Jesus will do in the coming year.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORT

Lead Pastor and Senior Leadership Team:

Chris Stevens, Greg Reed, Paul Chin, Kim Knight and Shawn Branton

Here are some highlights from this past year:

- 50+ people made first-time decisions to follow Jesus.
- 100+ people rededicated their lives to Christ.
- The number of people accessing Farsi and Spanish message translation in Sunday services tripled.
- The diversity of our church family – in terms of socioeconomic, ethnicity, gender, and age – continued to grow, giving us a greater snapshot of both our surrounding neighbourhood and of Christ's Kingdom.
- 110+ people participated in Discover Discipleship courses.
- 31 people were baptized (5 kids, 18 youth, 3 young adults and 5 adults).
- On average, 60 teens attended Sr. Youth programming on Friday nights, and 20 pre-teens participated in Jr. Youth programming on Sunday mornings.
- On average, 55 seniors connected at monthly Seniors Ministry lunches.
- Barnabas Missions launched an ALPHA (Basics of the Faith) course in the Kingscourt neighbourhood.
- 12 WMB families hosted 25 refugee family units (families and individuals) in their homes.
- Short-term mission teams were sent to each of our three Global Partners (in Rwanda, Portugal and the Philippines).
- 3 new Home Groups were birthed.

We are so thankful to Jesus for how He moved through WMB Church's five Strategic Objectives this year:

1. Integrated Discipleship

Our mission at WMB Church is to *make more and better disciples*. To ensure we continue in our mission to make *better* disciples, we have articulated 15 characteristics of maturity in the faith that form "The 10 Year Disciple." These are characteristics we would love to see develop in people as they walk with God and the WMB community over a 10-year period. The characteristics are divided into three relational spheres displayed on the right wall of our sanctuary. Our 10 Year Disciple Resource Guide outlining each characteristic is available at the Info Desk.

To help each congregant apply these principles to daily life, we:

- Highlight a "Big Idea" in Sunday services. The Big Idea relates back to one of the 15 characteristics, whether through vision moments, commissioning, worship songs or the message.
- Provide curriculum for Home Groups with a focus on the same Big Idea as Sunday's message, allowing people time to experience transformation in their lives as disciples.
- Offer Disciple Maker (formerly Discover Discipleship) courses which allow participants to explore various characteristics of The 10 Year Disciple. Our prayer is that everyone will engage in a course that challenges them to grow no matter how long they've been journeying with Jesus.

2. Leader Development

To multiply ministry at WMB Church in healthy ways, we need to expand the number of leaders who are equipped for and deployed into effective ministry. This year we:

- Celebrated that 300+ leaders have now been trained in using The 10 Year Disciple Resource Guide for personal discipleship and leading other disciples.
- Supported and mentored five Leaders Collective participants (the Ontario MB Conference's training program for young leaders).
- Trained two new cohorts of Home Group leaders, along with our existing leaders.
- Recruited and trained new leaders for Generational Ministries, including:
 - 27 Kids Ministry volunteers who lead on Sunday mornings,
 - 11 staff and volunteers who led Wumba Kids Camp (7 young adults and 4 youth),
 - 15 leaders serving in Youth Ministry,
 - 8 Young Adults leaders and
 - five leaders in Seniors Ministry.
- Equipped volunteer leaders with evangelism and event-specific training to host 20+ outreach events. Events included four summer barbecues, three weekly sports outreaches, Movie Night, our annual From Jesus with Love Christmas party, a marriage enrichment course, youth events, Pancake Dinner, Eat Connect + Learn, Blue Christmas, monthly games night in Victoria Hills, ESL classes and more.
- Trained worship and hospitality teams in April and May.
- Led our staff through training on pursuing diversity and revitalizing churches.
- Worked collaboratively with leaders at KMB Church to determine the best way to revitalize KMB for mission in their local neighbourhood.

3. Mission Focus

To develop more disciples, we focus on three anchor causes that have global and local expressions: *neighbours*, people who are *marginalized*, and *generations*.

Our anchor causes and the local expressions they took this year are noted below.

- **Neighbours:** Send our people, equipped and empowered by God, to engage economically diverse neighbourhoods in ways that transform people into Christ followers and impact community change.
 - The 20+ outreach events, evangelism training for leaders, and new believers' courses were all part of this effort.
- **Marginalized:** Call our people into partnerships and mission in ways that serve the marginalized within society, and which advocate justice and peace for refugees, new Canadians, orphans and the poor.
 - A special offering for Barnabas Missions was collected in November. We continue to develop Barnabas Missions in our corner of Waterloo and in Victoria Hills, Kitchener.
 - 50+ volunteers support our Refugee Ministry; 12 WMB families have opened their homes to provide short-term housing for refugees.
 - DivorceCare offered support to seven individuals.

- **Generations:** Equip each generation to reach people in their own stage of life to live fully devoted to Christ and His mission.
 - Kids Ministry saw five baptisms and the explosive growth of Wumba Kids Camp.
 - Youth Ministry saw 18 people baptized.
 - Young Adults saw three people baptized.
 - Marriage mentors journeyed with three couples.
 - Seniors Ministry continued to grow this year.

We express our anchor causes globally through partnerships with three Global Partners: Impact Rwanda, IT Tender in the Philippines and MB churches in Lisbon, Portugal. This coming year we hope to adopt a new Global Partner in Germany through MB Mission. These partnerships, chosen because of their alignment with our anchor causes, allow us to exchange learning through short-term mission trips.

MULTIPLICATION

This year WMB added Multiplication to the strategic objective of Mission and began exploring how God might be calling us to expand ministry beyond 245 Lexington Road. In line with this new mandate, we are currently considering adopting KMB Church as a site of WMB Church at that congregation's invitation.

4. Resource and Partner Alignment

To steward resources well and present a focused, unified approach, we have developed alignment between initiatives in our branding, facilities, budget, staffing, ministries and organizational partnerships. The 2017-18 ministry year included:

- The continuation of our capital project, which originally raised pledges of \$1,070,000.
- Facility updates, including: a foyer facelift; lighting retrofit to LEDs; completion of the Chapel facelift; foundation work in various areas of the Lower Auditorium; new paint and flooring in Kids Ministry classrooms; tech upgrades in the sanctuary, painting of fascia around the building.
- Continued resource alignment in the percentages allocated to each area of the budget in order to accomplish our strategic plan.
- The initiation of a facility planning task force to interface with the city and determine options for future land and building developments to meet the growing needs of our community.

5. Diversity

This is our newest strategic objective. We are working to see our church reflect the diversity of the community we live in and that of the Kingdom of God. We have committed to be intentional in creating environments where diversity is pursued and people, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, abilities and socio-economic strata, are participating in the Body of Christ at WMB Church, within the context of our Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith. In pursuit of this objective:

- Staff and the Leadership Board took part in diversity training.
- We preached a message series on diversity.

A heart felt thank-you to all of you in the congregation who give of yourselves generously in so many ways. Thanks also to the dedication of our Leadership Board members who gave an inordinate number of hours this year, our gifted Staff Team and the incredible leaders who serve in every ministry area. What a privilege it is to serve alongside you! We believe Jesus is the hope of the world expressed through the local Church, and so we continue to follow Him on mission.

Ministry Reports

CONNECTIONS, GROUP DISCIPLESHIP AND CARE MINISTRIES

Paul Chin, Director, Missional Engagement

As a congregation on a journey of discipleship, we continue to focus on our relationships with each other, our community and beyond. God calls us to love His Church and to love one another (John 13:34, 1 Corinthians 12:25-26).

As a church body, we remain centered around distinctive beliefs and a common vision and mission. We grow and serve together under the leadership of Jesus as a family of believers, practising mutual submission.

This section highlights the ways that WMB Church invites people into the journey of a committed relationship with Jesus Christ and His people, the Church. Our journey includes belonging in this “family,” believing in Jesus and becoming a disciple. Through Sunday morning hospitality, various events, serving opportunities, care ministries and Home Groups, members and participants can discover spaces and ways to connect at each of these steps.

Connections Ministry | *Kim Knight, Director, Operations*

SUNDAY MORNING HOSPITALITY

Hospitality and welcome is a first step to helping people connect at WMB. This past year our Hospitality Team provided a warm welcome on Sunday mornings through ushering, greeting and providing help and hospitality at the Info Desk. Team members served faithfully once per month and also took part in a training and visioning time in the spring where we celebrated things we’re doing well, highlighted areas where we can grow and prayed for God to develop a DNA of hospitality at WMB.

The entire Hospitality Team has been busy welcoming many new families to WMB over the past year. It is awesome to see how God is bringing people who are new to church and new to Canada through our doors. Near the end of the year, we were blessed to have some Spanish-speaking families join the Hospitality Team. Theirs is a culture that seems to understand welcome and community well, and it’s exciting to learn from their example!

The café continues to be a catalyst for interaction on Sunday mornings. It’s great to see people buying treats for new friends and even leaving some extra at the till to pay it forward! The café also allows us to provide employment hours and experience for participants selected from our Barnabas connections. We are blessed to have Tara and Shahlaa serving our community each week through this ministry.

CONNECTIONS

Newcomer Gatherings in November and April, held in the home of Jamie and Carolyn Roes, were a great opportunity for over 40 people new to WMB over the previous 6-8 months to meet one another as well as some staff members and begin to discover “family” and relationship within the church body.

We hosted four BBQs, a movie night, and six weeks of Eat, Connect + Learn, each involving many volunteers who were equipped to offer genuine hospitality to all of the guests. Designed as outreach, these events were attended by many who don't usually interact with WMB, but came because they were invited by friends, family and co-workers. We have seen many new faces on Sunday mornings because of the wonderful welcome they experienced at these events. It's the beginning of a journey of connection, belonging and transformation.

Group Discipleship | *Sarah Whyte, Director, Home Groups*

HOME GROUPS

“I don't know how people do this without a Home Group.” What's “this”? It's life. How do people do life alone? The Home Groups of WMB Church seek to be families of disciples on mission – doing life together, pointing each other to Christ and inviting others to do the same. The rubber meets the road when life inevitably gets complicated. And we hear again and again, “I couldn't do this – life! – without my Home Group.”

Our Home Groups are *diverse*: they are made up of people who find their likeness as disciples, those on a journey – not necessarily the same age or in the same stage of life. Our groups show up to dig into scripture, walk with each other and create spaces where we can process and apply the scripture we have explored together on Sunday, integrating their discipleship within our community. As new groups form, they join right in with the conversation that existing groups are already having. This fosters a deep sense of unity between Sunday morning and the rest of the week.

Our Home Groups are *creative*. Leaders and group members are constantly imagining, applying and engaging with Jesus in ways that allow them to take risks, ask questions and go deeper in their faith journey. From serving with one another at events to worshipping in homes to approaching scripture from places of vulnerability, Home Groups are uniquely figuring out how to follow Jesus together. We've had new leaders step up, inviting those they know into their groups and looking to engage members of the WMB community who aren't yet connected.

Our Home Groups are *praying*. This year, three Home Groups became Barnabas Prayer Partners, paired with a WMB Barnabas connection to pray on behalf of that person and their family. These relationships broaden worldviews, change our prayers and are filled with hope for the work of Christ in everyone's life.

TUESDAY MORNING BREAK

Every Tuesday, women of all ages and walks of life gather for Tuesday Morning Break. This group of 40 women ranges from new moms to retirees. Together, they study scripture, hear stories, pray and get to know each other. This past year, the leaders hosted a Women's Breakfast, welcoming over 100 women for a morning of delicious food and powerful teaching.

Care Ministry | *Gareth Goossen, Director, Seniors Ministry*

Care Ministry at WMB seeks to meet the needs of people facing grief and loss with compassion, presence and relationship. We also help to address the needs for building healthy marriages and engaging people in meaningful voluntary service in these areas.

WMB Care Ministry continues to expand and grow with our programs and uniquely gifted volunteers to carry them out. This year our Care Ministry programs included the Wellness Team, addressing the needs of those who are shut in, widowed and lonely; Blue Christmas, helping people who have suffered loss to find a place to grieve and find peace and comfort during the Christmas season; Mothers at Heart, helping women who have experienced infertility, miscarriage or stillbirth talk through their pain of loss together; DivorceCare, helping people going through separation and divorce find healing and hope; Nursing Home Ministry, providing worship services for people in nursing homes; Marriage Enrichment, helping couples, young and old, strengthen their marriage relationships.

What a joy it is to oversee the 50+ volunteers and leaders who have come forward with vision to lead in one or more of our Care Ministry areas.

In 2018/19 we will continue building on this firm foundation, exploring the potential start of a Grief Care Ministry for those suffering from the loss of a loved one. God calls us to minister among the wounded and needy, and we praise Him for the opportunities He's given us this past year to minister in His name.

WORSHIP & ARTS | *Shawn Branton, Pastor, Worship & Arts*

God continues to use worship and the arts to lead people in becoming joyful and contemplative worshippers. There are many notable examples of this from the past ministry year. We celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a choir, music and drama celebration led by Robert Shuh, Paul Macleod and Michelle Herrle. “Candy Cane Lane” was our kids’ Christmas musical featuring 40 children who sang, danced and acted out the story of how Jesus came to us at Christmas. The Christmas Eve service again incorporated a variety of musical styles and a comedic drama which zoomed in on a possible family conversation on Christmas Eve.

In the spring, Jason Hildebrand encouraged us with a powerful and deeply biblical drama about the life of David that worked in tandem with our message series on this topic. Both Easter services featured choral groups demonstrating the range of talent at WMB with the Sunday service marking the launch of a new contemporary worship choir.

Training opportunities came in the form of key lay leaders taking in a worship conference in Nashville as well as several vocalists participating in a two-day workshop held locally. In May, our worship team members were invited to a barbecue to celebrate their efforts and inspire new vision as we headed into the summer season.

Our tech teams continued to facilitate worship experiences through their skillful operation of our equipment. We have successfully made service managers a part of our Sunday services to ensure that the various elements of a service come together seamlessly. Also, we have fully launched a video team that captures our Sunday morning messages to be shared online. The major tech upgrade underway for this year includes additional moving-head lighting fixtures, a camera upgrade and an upgraded monitoring system for the instrumentalists on Sundays.

Finally, in addition to the weekly intercessory prayer group, an emphasis on participating in Sunday morning prayer times before service by praying through the seats or joining in pre-service prayer has helped to invite God to be present in our lives both as we gather on Sunday and throughout the rest of the week.

We are thankful to God that we can continue to rejoice in Him using the fullness of our spiritual gifts.

GENERATIONAL MINISTRIES | *Greg Reed, Pastor, Generational Ministries*

Generational Ministries engages kids, youth, young adults, and seniors in transformational programs that focus on discipleship, leader development and mission. This year, lives continued to be transformed by Jesus Christ as participants put their faith into practice.

The 10 Year Disciple continues to be our guide to making more and better disciples.

Kids engaged in programs during Sunday morning service times, learning about the Bible and entering into relationship with Jesus. They served as they raised money for and participated in mission trips. Our kids participated and invited friends to join them at barbecues, movie nights, Wumba Kids Camp and the kids' musical.

Jr. and Sr. Youth met regularly on Sunday mornings and Friday nights. Many met in small groups, studying God's word and being challenged to make their faith real. We are excited that our Jr. Youth program will encompass Grades 6 to 8 this coming year.

Young Adults met together in small groups, at YA Sunday Nights and on retreats. They grew as disciples and leaders as they met with mentors and served with the WMB community and beyond.

Seniors continued to meet monthly for lunch, building community and inviting friends and neighbours to join them as they continue to grow as disciples. They are active within all aspects of ministry at WMB Church, sharing their wealth of knowledge and wisdom and practical gifts.

It was another incredible year. Continue to pray for our generations, that the Holy Spirit would work both in and through us in the coming year.

Kids Ministry | *Christie Penner Worden, Director, Kids Ministry*

Kids Ministry continues to experience the wonder of childlike faith through our "Kids Can!" attitude. *Kids can* come to Jesus. *Kids can* talk to Jesus. *Kids can* hear from the Holy Spirit. And *kids can* serve the Lord with joy and generosity. This year, our kids collected over \$1,600 for the Wumba Kids Camp Philippines mission trip. This was hugely impactful, not only in building their faith in what they could do together, but what we can do when we partner with God.

We celebrate the multiplication of Wumba Kids Camp to our GO partner, IT Tender, and the incredible ways that God used our kids outreach summer camp to further the Kingdom, "even to the ends of the earth." We are blown away by the way the Holy Spirit is breathing life and beauty into Kids Ministry and how Wumba is beginning to shape our gospel fluency as a mission that reaches both church and unchurched kids, kids of privilege and kids living in poverty. Wumba Waterloo continues to reflect a diverse cross-section of our city, but remains a safe place where all kids are free to be who they are and to dream of who God created them to become.

The amazing team of volunteers (close to 150!) that continues to serve our kids has their eyes fixed on the church of 2050. We know that the ones we serve are tomorrow's church, and we are so excited to see kids responding to Jesus, praying, worshipping and committing to follow Him all of their days. From cuddling the many new babies this year has delivered, to walking with kids who have experienced loss and disappointment; from the most spectacular dance moves of the kid who worships for the first time, to the church kid that just realized how much God loves them - these are the moments we show up for. And these are ones Jesus asked us to let come to Him. So we do. Because *kids can*.

Youth Ministry | *Brad Sherk, Director, Youth Ministry*

WMB's Youth Ministry continues to see lives transformed by Jesus in amazing ways. This past year has been filled with fun, joy and exuberance as we've grown together in our journey with Jesus. We've reached out to generations through our weekly programs and monthly events where new friends have been welcomed and connected thanks to intentional steps to welcome newcomers. Relationships have been built with youth from other local MB churches through collaborative events like worship nights, retreats and summer programming. We've held multiple youth events with a primary purpose of serving our local church and community. We've bridged our Kids Ministry to youth through Fifty-Sixers and Jr. Youth Games Days and a brand new summer program for kids and youth in Grades 5-8. We bridged our Sr. Youth to Young Adults through our Fall Retreat for youth and young adults and a year-end mini-retreat. Our ministry continues to see unprecedented growth in attendance and enthusiasm amongst our youth who show they have a deep desire to know Jesus more. It is exciting to think about the ways God has been at work, and we move forward with our hearts full to see more and more young people take leaps of faith in their walk with Jesus.

Young Adults Ministry | *Greg Reed, Pastor, Generational Ministries*

Young Adults (YA) Ministry at WMB continued to build community among those ages 18 to 25 as we gathered to learn and grow as disciples of Jesus. Through our Sunday evening gatherings, small groups and retreats, our YAs are discerning ways to see the Kingdom of God established in the places they live, study, work and play.

Seven "YA Hungry" meals after the second Sunday service were held this year, helping to integrate those new to the community. YAs also gathered for two retreats, allowing community among the YAs and the broader church to be built. As relationships grew, YAs grew in their faith and love for Jesus. We celebrated with three YAs who were baptized this year.

Many YAs actively used their gifts at WMB Church and beyond. Twelve were sent on short-term mission teams (Philippines, Wumba, ACTION and BL4P). Others started or continued to serve in various ministries within WMB – Kids Ministry, Youth Ministry, Barnabas Missions, Hospitality Ministry, Worship and the Arts and more. As a way to share Christ's love with friends and classmates, we invited them to share a Thanksgiving dinner.

Leaders continued to be developed as 10 YAs met regularly with "older" and wiser mentors, growing as leaders and disciples. Five of our YAs participated in the Ontario Conference of MB Churches' Leaders Collective program, and four more have signed up for this coming year.

Our YA ministry held its first parenting workshop as 50 parents gathered to answer the question, "How in the world do I parent a young adult?"

We said goodbye to Darren DeMelo, Pastor of Young Adults Ministry as he followed God's leading. Thank you, Darren, for faithfully investing in the life of this community for the past eight years.

Seniors Ministry | *Gareth Goossen, Pastor, Seniors Ministry*

What a privilege it is to work with such a great group of volunteers who contribute their leadership and organizational skills for our ministry events.

Our program includes monthly lunches with a speaker for inspiration and preparation, education and instruction. Each month we provide a service opportunity at Ontario Christian Gleaners. We also host monthly coffee, games and conversation nights to encourage engagement, friendship and mutual concern. We plan periodic excursions throughout the year which are designed for personal enjoyment and opportunities for our seniors to invite their friends and neighbours to connect with our community. This is a discipleship ministry based on relationship building, and it's exciting to see our seniors sharing Jesus with friends and neighbours, inviting them to events and into their homes.

Many seniors volunteer in the ministries of WMB - you'll see them serving in Kids Ministry, greeting or ushering, serving on the Wellness Team and many other places. Their volunteer service extends into the community in so many ways: supporting refugees and newcomers, helping at local thrift stores and Ontario Christian Gleaners and encouraging seniors who are house-bound or living in local seniors care facilities.

In 2018/19, we will continue encouraging discipleship among our seniors, helping them to engage and serve, build relationships with spiritual strength and engage in care and service for those in the church, their neighbourhoods, the broader community and the world. I praise God for what He has done and look forward to what He will further accomplish in us all as we move together with His leading.

MISSIONAL MINISTRIES

Paul Chin, Director, Missional Engagement

It's been an amazing year! Many of us are experiencing God's generosity through engaging in Jesus' mission to love others holistically. In the midst of serving through our local and global outreach and missions (Barnabas Local Outreach, Individual Supports, Victoria Hills and Refugee Ministries and Global Outreach) we are being transformed as we follow Jesus. Discipleship requires following Jesus where He leads so we can receive what He has for us. He has led us into places of challenge and risk to increase our faith and so His glory might be revealed. That glory has been shown in lives changed and people committing to follow Him more deeply (e.g., baptism, engaging in short- and long-term mission, opening our homes to strangers, walking alongside neighbours). Thank you for serving and risking for the Gospel. Thank you for helping make more and better disciples. It is an honour to be with you on the journey.

Barnabas Individual Supports | *Wayne Porty, Pastor, Barnabas Individual Supports*

We witness lives being transformed every single day as we support, encourage and provide accountability to 30+ households of participants seeking financial, relational, emotional, spiritual and physical wellbeing.

Barnabas Individual Supports provides regular financial assistance to program participants in order to help them reach mutually agreed upon goals. This past year, we also blessed 30 households with Adopt-a-Family Christmas gifts and dinner, as well as 42 children with back-to-school supplies.

Barnabas participants are connecting to WMB Church in deeper ways, beyond financial help, as they find a place of belonging and community here, which is especially powerful for those who have felt isolated. This past year, 33 Barnabas connections participated in Eat, Connect + Learn, 20 were at each summer barbecue and many attended bi-monthly workshops on emotional and relational wellbeing. We're excited that three Home Groups have begun praying for a specific Barnabas Prayer Partner on a regular basis and developing meaningful relationships.

We've also witnessed an incredible response to the gospel through an increased interest in discipleship, a thirst for scripture and prayer and commitments to attend Sunday morning services on a regular basis. Your generosity allows many to experience WMB Church as a safe place - a place of acceptance, belonging and refuge, where life and truth can be spoken into them.

Barnabas Local Outreach | *Stefanie MacGregor, Director, Barnabas Local Outreach*

Transformation and impact are sometimes evident immediately, but often, it's through a long journey of building trust and relationship. We are thanking God for the transformation we have seen this year that has been years in the making.

Pre-teens that we first met as children engaged weekly in our Guys and Girls Connect groups and attended Eat, Connect + Learn, summer barbecues and special events with one of Youth Ministry's small groups. Years of intentional relationship have led to opportunities to introduce youth to the larger WMB Church community - and to Jesus Himself.

Employees of Cheerful Spoon Soup Co. gained experience, confidence and knowledge of their God-given value and worth through meaningful work using their skills and talents. This new confidence empowers them to move towards other employment opportunities.

Our first family cooking class saw families spend time together cooking their meal and then eating together, enjoying conversation around a table.

Adults had an opportunity to practise conversational English for six weeks in our ESL Conversation Circles, while others dove deeper into their love of art at Open Canvas.

These are the places where relationship and trust are built.

ALPHA (a basics of Christianity course) was offered for the first time in a local neighbourhood. People we've known for many years as well as new people joined with enthusiasm and a desire to go deeper into spiritual conversation. Relationships are being built, questions are being asked, the hope of Jesus is being shared.

WMBers donated clothing to be sold at two clothing sales in a local low-income neighbourhood. Residents were then invited to purchase clothes at reduced cost, allowing them to provide for their families out of their own means. People from the community contributed their time by helping to sort and organize clothing before the sale.

Our annual From Jesus with Love Christmas party continues to provide parents the opportunity to select Christmas gifts that suit their children. Parents and children enjoyed a party full of music, food and games while being showered with God's great love through welcoming and loving volunteers.

This year we've seen God's faithfulness in watering seeds that were planted long ago and causing them to grow.

Barnabas Victoria Hills | *Mary Ellen Tierney, Director, Barnabas Victoria Hills*

Barnabas Victoria Hills seeks to give newcomers to Canada (and others God brings on our path) a place to belong. A place to gain confidence through facilitating English learning and creating spaces where people can believe in and grow in Jesus. A place where God's presence reigns supreme and lives are changed.

Sometimes we felt like we were on a wild/unpredictable "Holy Spirit ride" in ministry this year, like when Learn English Make Friends enrolment spiked due to the college faculty strike. Outside of our regular events, volunteers had "God conversations" at Soccer Camp and our Christmas celebration, Five Carols and Their Stories. The movie *The Case for Christ* was shown in a home with a follow-up question night. Volunteers walked through crisis situations with people, and hospitality was offered and received. Assistance with immigration, education, employment, raising babies, filling out forms, doing taxes and learning to cook was provided. People were taken kayaking, difficult and easy conversations were had. Bible study opportunities were abundant, from one-on-one investigation and discipleship studies to small group studies with a diversity of believers and unbelievers; one volunteer even hosted a Turkish Koran/Bible comparison study. Resourcing was also done to assist other communities, as far away as Barrie, in creating programs and ministries for newcomers.

A favourite quote from this year is from a woman who was feeling extremely lonely when she came to the Tuesday morning English conversation circle: "You made a heaven. Although I never saw a heaven before, when I first came out to your conversation circle, I believe I've seen." Also, after a former Soccer Camper got a Muslim Youth Award, he said: "You are the face of Christianity to me. You inspired me by your outgoing personality and love of all people – even Muslims. I watched you at Soccer Camp in Grade 3 and through the years when volunteering. You helped my family so much to adapt to Canada, helped my Mom to find her way in her career and to become a success."

Barnabas Refugee Ministry | *Michelle Knowles, Director, Global Outreach*

This year we continued to welcome newly arrived refugees into our church community. Thank you to our growing number of hosts and the many volunteers connecting with newcomers to Canada. This year we welcomed over 25 individuals and families coming as refugees from around the world, including parts of Africa, the Middle East and in particular, many from Central and South America. This growing Spanish community has been a delight to befriend and serve with! We are inspired by their generous hearts, warm, family-oriented community and eagerness to participate in the WMB community. Our annual Pancake Dinner took on a new character as our Spanish community shared cultural dances and music and brought a whole new level of festivity to the celebration.

We also journeyed with many refugee families this year through the difficult asylum-seeking process, as a number of people received negative decisions and continue to work through appeals and other humanitarian options. Please continue to hold our refugees up in prayer, asking God to provide a safe home and place of belonging for each of His children, and pray for our government leaders who review cases, make life-changing decisions and continue to develop policy and processes for Canada's commitment to the global refugee crisis.

We are grateful for our partnerships with local agencies, for the many ways we learn from their expertise and work together to serve newcomers to Canada. Our ministry to refugees exists because of our long standing partnership with MCRS (Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support) and their commitment to those seeking asylum in our community, and we collaborate to host events like the MCRS Christmas Party. And we celebrate the shift of our Open Homes ministry to Ray of Hope Refugee Services, providing a way for this program to truly become a city-wide network.

Thanks, also, to everyone who participates in the annual Ride for Refuge, through which we fundraise for our local and global refugee ministries.

Global Outreach | *Michelle Knowles, Director, Global Outreach*

This year saw growing engagement with our Global Partners as we sent a team to serve alongside each community.

Six adults connected with Impact Rwanda last summer. They teamed up with leaders and young adults at Community Bible Church for their annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. In the Kiziba Refugee Camp, the team partnered with a music ministry as well as led a three-day budget coaching workshop for residents, as the camp had recently shifted from food rations to a cash-based system. We learned more about the genocide story in Rwanda and the ways that God is continuing to restore and heal a nation.

A team of eighteen were sent to the Philippines this spring. This intergenerational team enjoyed building relationships with the Coffey family and Filipino staff of IT Tender. The team provided a Wumba training workshop for local ministry leaders and youth volunteers from IT Tender. Then the WMB team, IT Tender staff and new Filipino volunteers teamed up to lead a three-day Wumba Philippines overnight camp and family day, culminating in baptisms of Filipino youth and one of our own young participants! Our mission team was inspired by the passion for Jesus among our Filipino brothers and sisters.

Lastly, we sent our first Global Partner youth mission team, as 11 youth and three leaders visited our partner MB churches in Lisbon, Portugal. This team was a great encouragement to our partners in Lisbon, as they served in practical ways, listened well to stories of mission in Portugal and surrounded these churches in prayer. The youth were inspired by the dedication of our brothers and sisters serving Jesus faithfully in a spiritually dark city.

As well, we sent ten participants on MB Mission's ACTION France and Peace Camp programs and fifteen individuals on other mission trips, including Sarah Reed (MB Mission TREK) and Wendy Huhyn (Power to Change) on longer programs as they discern a call to long-term mission.

Please continue to pray for our three Global Partners as well as all of our Associate Missionaries.

Finance Report

God continues to provide abundantly for the ministry He calls us to at WMB Church. We praise God for His faithfulness, and want to thank you, our church family, for faithfully and obediently giving of your finances to support the Kingdom work that God is doing in and through this church.

Below you'll find highlights from our financial year. The complete financial package, including our audited year-end financial statements, is available [here](#) (or contact the church office for a hardcopy).

Revenue

WMB Church's revenue is generated through donations from Members and adherents and other supporters of our ministry. We also receive some revenue in the General Fund through facility rentals, retreat and day camp registrations, and various fundraising.

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
General Fund			
<i>Donations</i>	1,461,603.64	1,465,325.00	-0.3
<i>Other</i>	158,275.74	174,285.00	-9.2
Barnabas Missions	226,035.87	181,673.00	24.4
Short-term Missions	106,562.41	72,000.00	48.0
Nehemiah	309,186.93	281,736.00	9.7
TOTAL REVENUE	2,261,664.59	2,175,019.00	

Expenses

It is our commitment to make expenditures strategically in order to invest in the long-term ministry of WMB Church. As we continue to align the budget with our Strategic Objectives, you will see our expenditures align also.

	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
General Staff (not including Barnabas Missions personnel)	928,688	47.6%
Better Disciples (Internal Ministry)	133,385	6.8%
Building + Operations	319,988	16.4%
More Disciples (Outreach Ministry)	98,872	5.1%
Barnabas Missions, Short-term Missions + Global Missions	382,314	19.6%
Denomination (Conferences, MB Mission, C2C)	89,000	4.6%
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,952,248	



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Visit wmbchurch.ca/annualreport to view the Annual Report microsite.