

**INTRODUCTION**

In spring of 2018, in an effort improve communication with our membership, we decided to begin producing the Quarterly Membership Report (QMR). We produced our first QMR in July, but then missed our October QMR. Apologies! We are redoubling our efforts to keep up with this form of communication. Meanwhile, this QMR will cover the period of July to December 2018.

**BOARD CHECK-IN**

***Discovery & Development.*** Last year, the Board of Elders explored the book *Futureville (*Skye Jethani), the thesis of which is that the Church in the West has, in our present age, gone astray in its understanding of the kingdom in the here and now and the renewal of the Earth in the time to come. In August, our new Board--comprised of Bonnie Derksen (Treasurer), Brendalee Robinson, Flo Kronstal (Secretary), Dori Hewitson, Jacquie Weatherson, Derek Townsend, John Geistlinger (Vice Chair), Michael Blackman, and Sandy Colero (Chair), continued our re-understanding of the Church’s *modus operandi* with Greg Ogden’s book, *Unfinished Business: Returning the Ministry to the People of God*. In this thought-provoking book, Ogden argues for the dissolution of a top-down, institutional Church and advocates for a bottom-up, bubble-up, Church-as-organism perspective: the terms “clergy” and “laity” should be re-defined, since the Bible teaches that we are all priests, all ministers, all missionaries, all saints. Both of these books have changed and are changing the way we, as leaders here at LCA, are perceiving the purpose and functions of the Church and each Christian’s role as a disciple of Christ in advancing God’s kingdom in Lake Country and beyond.

***Mission & Ends.*** Having worked persistently on mission and vision through the 2017/18 year, the Board ratified LCA’s mission and Ends statement in August:

**MISSION**

***Freedom. Fullness. Family. You?***

The concepts of freedom, fullness, and family can be found throughout the Scriptures; however, particularly, we are looking to Romans 8:13-21 for freedom, in which Paul instructs the Roman church that believers in Christ are no longer slaves to fear but rather are co-heirs with Christ; and to Ephesians 4:13 for fullness, in which Paul informs us that we attain the fullness of Christ through unity of knowledge and faith. We know we are adopted into the family of God (Eph. 1:5), and are called to invite others to join the family as well (Matt. 28:18-20). To hear more about this, please listen to Sandy’s message entitled [*Freedom. Fullness. Family. You?*](https://www.lakecountrychurch.com/media/2018-09-16-freedom-fullness-family-you) From September 16.

**ENDS STATEMENT**

***In Christ, the LCA family is so free and so full that Lake Country itself experiences greater order, beauty, and abundance.***

The term *ends* comes from John Carver’s method of Board governance called Policy Governance--an approach that the Board has been engaging with as it moves away from being a working / managing Board towards a governing / shepherding Board. Essentially, the Ends statement describes what we as an organization are working towards as an end result. The terms *order,* *beauty*, and *abundance* come from *Futureville*; Jethani uses these terms as descriptors for what heaven is like; and, since Jesus began the process of bringing heaven (a.k.a. God’s kingdom) to earth and charges us to do likewise, we are working to manifest--through Christ’s ways and means and by the power of the Holy Spirit--the qualities of order, beauty, and abundance right here in Lake Country.

***Bylaws.*** In view of changes to the BC Societies Act, the Canadian Pacific District (CPD), requires all C&MA local churches to make changes to their Bylaws. Sandy has spent a significant amount of time in a back-and-forth refining process with the CPD, with additional help from the Board’s Policy and Bylaws Committee (comprised of Sandy, Aaron, and Michael Blackman). We hope to have these new Bylaws available to the membership for scrutiny in the coming weeks and approval at our February 24th AFM.

***Retreat.*** In October, the Board took part in its annual retreat, during which, among other activities, its members participated in an equestrian group therapy session with Light Bulb Coaching. This session helped our Elders and Pastors explore the concepts of leading, following, teamwork, and communication, and helped us to learn more about ourselves and each other, drawing us closer together as a team.

**MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

***Theatre Camp.*** in July, we had planned to run a two-week theatre intensive for kids ages 10-12 through the District of Lake Country; however, as this was undersubscribed, we ended up running a one-week theatre day camp here at our own facility that was open to a broader age range. The campers had a blast, and the camp culminated in the performance of a short play during a Sunday morning service that the campers had devised themselves.

***Lake Country Playoffs (LCP).*** LCA hosted its first LCP at Beasley and Reiswig Parks. The goal of LCP was to promote playful community connection by pitting the four wards of Lake Country (Winfield, Oyama, Carr’s Landing, and Okanagan Centre) against each other in a variety of crazy outdoor and indoor games. The 100+ face-painted, hollering, cow-tongue-slinging participants enjoyed a BBQ, games, and awards ceremony (with Winfield coming out as the winning ward)--all before the smoke rolled in later that night! We feel we achieved our goal and hope to see this event return in the future.

***Thursday Night Church (TNC)***. TNC took a break through July and August but returned in September. TNC is a cozy group of about 15-30 folks of all ages, who pray, worship, and learn together, along with enjoying a potluck before the service on the first Thursday of each month. All are welcome!

***Sunday Mornings.*** Over the summer, those attending Sunday mornings were treated to the *Thy Word* series: a variety of stories about how the Scriptures have impacted the lives of individuals from our own community. Much positive feedback was received as a result of hearing different voices from the platform and learning more about others in our midst. The return to the school routine brought with it a return to Sandy’s Sermon on the Mount series entitled *Our Family is...Different*. This series took us all the way from September to the end of December. Participation Sunday mornings continues to range widely, from about 120 to 180 including kids.

***Youth.*** With the ending of Jeff Manning’s time with us as Director of Youth, this past fall saw the emergence of a new approach to our ministry to the youth of Lake Country. Sandy took on the primary leadership for this, meeting with leaders from Creekside (Willow Park), Young Life, and LCA. Out of this, a partnership has formed with Young Life and Creekside: LCA youth (grades 6-12) meet at our facility Tuesdays for Simple Space (hang out and dinner, 3:30p-7p) followed by Overflow, a time of games, exploring God’s Word, and connection. Alternating Tuesdays, LCA youth join with Creekside youth as Young Life leads an evening of fun activities and engagement with Jesus. Along with these changes, Jenna and Braden Job committed to serving voluntarily as our Youth Coordinators.

***Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (EHS).*** EHS was offered for the first time at LCA. Almost 70 people--from teens to seniors--participated in this nine-week journey of pursuing emotional health and a closer walk with Jesus.

**INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

In a commissioning service December 16th, we established an official Seamless Link Agreement (SLA) with the Hieberts as they prepared to begin a new adventure in Mexico City. The SLA commits us to prayer and additional financial support for the Hieberts, as well as opens the possibility for us to send short-term missions teams down to Mexico City to assist them in their efforts.

Towards the end of December, Steve and Heidi Maskell returned to us from their Samuel House ministry in Paraguay. The Maskells will be with us for a year, recharging, developing their skills, and serving us and other churches in the Okanagan. They are looking forward to connecting over time with the many new faces they see at LCA.

**CHRISTMAS**

***Flurry of Fun.*** December was a flurry of Christmas activity: festive decor in the foyer and sanctuary by Lou & Jerry Litowski; Tacky Christmas Sweater competition and yummy Connections Cafe turkey dinner Dec 9; special comedy show with Leland Klassen and Dan Macaulay Dec 20; and ten food hampers collected and delivered.

***Kids’ Xmas.*** A special kids’ Christmas service was held December 23rd in which the kids sang along with the worship team and performed *Fort Night* (a radio play about the parable of the wise and foolish builders) as Sandy wrapped up the Sermon on the Mount series.

***Xmas Eve.*** We held a single Christmas Eve service on the 24th at 6:30pm that was short, sweet, and well-attended!

***Dec 30th.*** In order to give those who work so hard to prepare and run the Sunday services a break, and to encourage families to worship in their own homes and elsewhere in the community, the staff and Elders agreed to not hold a service at LCA on December 30th. Stories have since come in of folks having wonderful times of worship and prayer with friends and families in their own homes.

**FACILITIES**

***Well.*** In July, our well pump & system was replaced and, despite a mishap in the first week (during a Sunday morning, no less), has been working great!

***Paint Job.*** Our facility got a significant facelift in the first half of October as Marty Rowe--new LCA attender--painted the entire exterior of the building--just in time before the frost!

***A Legacy of Love.*** In order to address some of the larger projects, the Bob McConechy Building Improvement Fund was created, with $20,000 from the McConechys to start the fund off. Over $36,000 was raised to cover the costs of the exterior paint job, the gym floor, and the repair and resurfacing of the paved portion of the parking lot.

***Gym.*** The gym floor was resurfaced. While we now have a high-quality super-durable floor, its appearance did not turn out as we had hoped. We are in the process of determining whether to leave it as is or pay more to correct the problem.

***Parking Lot.*** The first stage of the asphalt repair occured with the sealing of all the cracks. The resurfacing and line painting will occur in the spring.

***Circus Rental.*** We had a surprise ask from a film crew to use our gym and parking lot for a few days. They were grateful for our space and we we grateful for some additional rental income.

***Ongoing Rentals.*** Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS) continues its weekly use of our facility (Wednesday mornings); they were joined by a Girl Guide troop (Monday evenings) and a Boy Scout troop (Wednesday evenings) in September.

**STAFF**

***Intern.***Kendra Peter served with gusto through June, July, and August as our Children’s Ministry Summer Intern. Kendra was a key contributor towards the planning and execution of Kids’ Corner, Kids’ Theatre Camp, and Lake Country Playoffs.

***Annual Retreat.*** In November, Sandy and Aaron (along with Brita and Christina) participated in the Canadian Pacific District’s annual Pastor’s Retreat in Whistler--another wonderful time of connecting with others in the District, being refreshed, and growing as a pastoral team.

**FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

Though all the numbers aren’t in yet, we are feeling fairly positive about our Year-End. As a community, we were able to give generously, support our International Workers, and steward our facility well. Of course, we’ll provide a much more in-depth look at our 2018 finances during the upcoming Annual Finance Meeting and Potluck on February 24th--save the date!

**NEW CHAPTERS**

***Baptisms.***  Vivian Bruce and Harold Takenaka were both baptised this past summer.

***Membership.*** Twelve new members were added in the fall.

***Deaths.*** We were grieved to lose Ron Tyson (Jul) and Adrienne Hart (Oct).

***Baby Dedications.*** Arie Reichert, Raquel Hardy, Benjamin Blackman, and Lucia Hiebert.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

As we ponder, pray, and discuss in these first few weeks of 2019, nothing is set in stone. However, further along the lines of seeing us become more unstuck and moving towards freedom and fullness, we hope to see:

* Exploration of 5Q (identification and activation of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds, and Teachers within our midst); an increased emphasis on helping people to discover and implement their spiritual gifts
* More understanding of littleGroups and new groups started
* Further self-awareness and emotional and relational health through Emotionally Healthy Spirituality and Emotionally Healthy Relationships courses
* Engagement with our community through, among other opportunities, kids’ day camp (spring) and Lake Country Playoffs (summer--July 1st?)

**CONCLUSION**

We thank God for these past six months--what He is doing in and through us. We are becoming more free as we let go of offenses and other burdens; we are becoming more full as we learn about the “nowness” of the kingdom; and we are stepping into greater joy as we discover our identity and purpose. We look forward together to 2019 and all that the Holy Spirit will do among us. Join us as we lift up this year in prayer; and if you have any dreams, visions, hopes, or words, please share them with us!

In Christ and for His glory,

Aaron on behalf of the LCA Staff