

“On Mission Together”

Saskatchewan Conference of MB Churches

Director’s Calendar

November

27 - Leadership Forum
28 - TBA

December

2 - National Council Meeting
5 - Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel
8 - National Ministry Team Meeting
12 - Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel
13 to 17 - Spiritual & Planning Retreat
19 to 29 - Christmas Vacation

**Please pray for traveling
mercies.**

Director of Ministry

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O Come Let Us Adore HIM

*“Man’s chief end is to glorify God,
and to enjoy him forever.”*

Westminster Shorter Catechism, 1647

*“Rejoicing in the Lord is an audacious act of faith in Christ
and a bold defiance against the darkness threatening to engulf us.”*

Beth Moore

In my thirty years of pastoral ministry, I have never felt a greater need for unity and harmony in the Mennonite Brethren faith community. Equally, I have never felt as disillusioned by the toxic influence of our current social climate upon the Body of Christ – ideological, philosophical and political. Much of our sense of being on mission together for the sake of Christ has been made ill by this unhealthy reality. This fall I was pained in my spirit about how to encourage the people under my care during Advent.

After days of Jacob-like wrestling with the Lord, appealing for a blessing of understanding, the Holy Spirit impressed upon me the word “worship.” Shortly thereafter, the 18th century hymn “O Come Let Us Adore Him” began filling my thoughts. Could it be that worship is a potent catalyst for unity in advancing the Gospel; a prophetic word that I need to champion for such a time as this?

Perhaps whole-hearted worship during Advent could serve to bring unity as we lift our individual eyes from those things that divide us to the One who can unite us – JESUS. As we come to adore JESUS, are we ignoring or disregarding our deeply held concerns? No, in worship we are, in fact, bringing them to the One who is our peace; the One who breaks down walls of hostility. In worship, we prostrate ourselves and lift Him up.

This Advent, I pray that the sound of our collective voices being lifted up to adore JESUS will also inspire us to reach past our often myopic fleshly agendas to the great commandment and commission to which our Savior has called us. Let us genuinely worship JESUS – to adore Him – humbling ourselves and declaring Him Lord. Let us worship JESUS in truth and spirit proclaiming not our, but His, will be done.

I am not naïve, and I do not hold to unity at all costs. I understand the complexity of the challenge before us, but there must be voices that continue to boldly advocate togetherness for the mission. There is no silver bullet, but with JESUS there is always hope and opportunity. In our sacred moments of worship, can we make space for JESUS to speak to our motives, thoughts, words and deeds?

This Advent, it seems to me that worship can serve as a powerful channel to bring the refreshing waters of unity to our family of faith. And so, my friends, come let us adore Him.

Rev. Phil Gunther, DM

***See Phil’s full article in the December MB Herald Digest



**Happy First
Sunday
of Advent**

November 27, 2021

Supporting SKMB Churches and Camps in Making Disciples

SKMB Virtual Leadership Forum 2021

November 27, 2021

AGENDA

9:30AM

- WELCOME – Phil Gunther

9:45AM

- *"The Four Voices of Leadership"* – Mark Wessner (MB Seminary)

11:00AM

- Break

11:15AM

- *"The Good News Story"* - Murry McCelland

11:25AM

- CCMBC – Elton DaSilva
- DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY – Phil Gunther
- DISCIPLESHIP COACH – Luke Etelamaki
- MULTIPLY – Ryan Epp

12:30PM

- Lunch

1:00PM

- *"SK. pastor encouraging European diaspora churches"* – Athanase Chiruzza

1:30PM

- EB REPORT AND Q&A – Jeff Siemens
 - 2022 Budget
 - Common Understandings & Our Common Covenant



Christmas Resources

As you plan for Advent and Christmas here are some resources or ideas that may help you along the way. We'd also love to have you share the

resources you turn to or have developed yourself so we can support and resource one another. Check out our Advent Resources at

https://skmb.ca/advent_christmas_resources/

RECOMMENDED READING:



"Be Calm and Carry On – A sage way forward in divisive and destructive times"



Rev. Phil Gunther
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(Click image to read article)

MB Churches of Canada

NATIONAL COUNCIL SUMMIT

December 2, 2021

Please pray for our Saskatchewan leadership as they participate in this meeting.

SPECIAL EVENT



Hello SKMB Pastors/Chaplains/Directors/Camp Directors & Spouses,

Luke and I are mindful of the need to gather for in-person fellowship. And, since we could not arrange for a pastor & spouse retreat in 2021, we would like to gauge your interest in participating in a one day fellowship gathering in Saskatoon on **Wednesday January 19, 2022**. We plan to have a word of hope, sharing, fellowship and worship. The purpose of the day will be to encourage you on in the Gospel work.

We are planning for a 10 am – 3 pm day at an MB Church in Saskatoon (TBD).

We are conscious of the fact that some will have to travel a considerable way and want to offer financial support to cover an over-night stay if you live more than two hours from Saskatoon.

In order for us to invest the time and energy into this event, we will need to have at least 40 people express a strong interest in attending. And so, please let us know by **December 1st** if you are inclined to attend.