

# "On Mission Together"

## Saskatchewan Conference of MB Churches

### Director's Calendar

#### April

- 2 – Christian Fellowship Church  
(Lucky Lake)
- 5 – NMT Mtg.
- 9 – Bridgeway Community Church  
(Swift Current)
- 10 – 16 Alberta – ABMB Support &  
AGM
- 17 – 18 Saskatoon – SKMB  
Appointments
- 19 – 23 CCMBC Mtgs. & MBCM  
Support
- 30 – North West Community  
Church (Meadow Lake)

#### May

- 7 – Parliament Community Church  
(Regina)

**Sabbatical:** May 15 – September 17

**Please pray for traveling mercies.**

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### 77<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY - 2023

#### Hard-Pressed: Mission in Light of Christ's Return

"The 2023 Assembly met and exceeded all my expectations for an inspiring event," was the comment from one delegate. Another said that he could not forget one of the sessional speaker's call to, "Preach the gospel until they kill you!" Over one hundred people registered for the annual SKMB Assembly hosted by Parliament Community Church (Regina). As they have some many times in the past, Parliament was welcoming and cared for all those who participated in the Assembly.

#### Assembly highlights:

**Stephanie Christianson** – 1<sup>st</sup> Address: "Dear Church, With Love."

- We need a word from Jesus today. What would he say?
- Do the "first things." Love for Jesus. Has he been excommunicated from your church? Fearless testify about Jesus!
- Ditch the false teaching. Church needs to be on guard against any dilution of Christ.
- Demonstrate faithfulness through it all. Be faith in persecution. Jesus will be with us in suffering.

**Blair Allen** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Address: "Stay in Your Lane."

- Preach Christ/Gospel until they kill you!
- Keep the faith, fight the good fight!
- Fear not (Is. 41:10). Fear will bump you out of your lane.
- Sometimes you have to say "no" to good things in order to do the best things.
- It's okay not to be okay.

**Reg Toews** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Address: "Wake Up! Get Up! Move Out!"

- Mark 13 – Four spiritual dangers – dependence upon outward symbols of religion, deception of false teachers, distractions of the world's turmoil.
- Beware of dropping our faith and witness due to severe persecution.
- Speak love, truth and grace.
- When Jesus is here, everything is better.

**State of the Province Address (SKMB)** – Phil Gunther

When the Apostle Peter spoke of the shocking things that would happen at the Christ's return, he asked the question: "What kind of people ought you to be?"

We are not to be:

- Afraid, distracted, disillusioned, apathetic, disengaged,
- So heavenly minded / end times minded that we lose sight of the practical and necessary call of God to be a light of hope and grace.

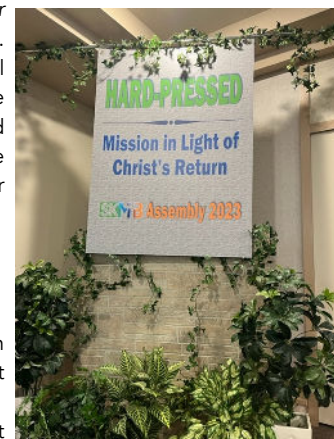
What kind of people are we to be then?

- FIXED ON, and growing in our understanding of, JESUS.
- LIVING PRAYER-FILLED LIVES, holy, godly, set apart from our culture.
- In love, using our God-given gifts, to SERVE others.

*"PLAN as though Christ might not come for some time – WORK as though Christ might come tomorrow – LIVE as though Christ might come today."*<sup>[1]</sup>

In part, because of the on-going residential school fallout, the unmarked graves discoveries, the claim of spiritual abuse at Redberry Bible Camp, the claim of homophobia at Briercrest College, the claim of sexual and physical abuse at the Legacy schools and the most recent disclosure of the names of Jesuit priests who served in Saskatchewan and likely were sexually abusive...

- The citizens of Saskatchewan, as a whole, are less favourable or tolerant toward Christians, the church and related ministries.



**Supporting SKMB Churches and Camps in Making Disciples**

- Social media, as a whole, is saturated with heightened antagonism toward Christians, the church and related ministries.
- We live in a culture that is becoming increasingly litigious in matters involving the church and partner ministries.
- Allegations of spiritual abuse against lay leaders and staff of Christian organizations are increasing – some legitimate, others not.
- A new reality for the church is the absolute need for greater ministry integrity at all levels, for a safe-space policy, for a social media crisis plan, and robust liability insurance coverage.
- Several years ago I claimed that SKMB membership included 1/3 who were thriving and growing, 1/3 who were maintaining ministry and membership, and 1/3 who were declining in ministry and membership. Today, I would claim that ¼ are thriving and growing, ¼ who are maintaining ministry and membership, ¼ who are declining in ministry and membership, and ¼ who are on life-support. The overall trend is not tracking as we had hoped for. COVID and its collateral damage has been a significant factor in our current status, however, for some COVID simply revealed the ministry fractures for too long left to fester. The festering for some has become seemingly irreversible.
- Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel and Riverbend Fellowship are currently searching for pastors. Northwest Community Church (Meadow Lake) and Forest Grove Community Church (Saskatoon) along with two others not named at this time, will be searching for pastors shortly.
- We have on-going searches for two youth pastors, one discipleship pastor and one worship pastor. More searches are coming in 2023.
- In 2023, FGCC's north site was closed as part of its transitional discernment.
- At full steam, we need 25 volunteers to conduct the best work of the Conference. We are operating with 11, less than half. In short, this translates into a less than 50% output of resourcing and supporting. We need you as member churches to lean in and get involved in calling out from your communities, workers for the province as a whole.
- We celebrate stories like a new church – Anchor Church, formerly The Compass West, the calling of Dave Carey to lead RBC and Kurt Robertson to lead WBBC. We celebrate people coming to faith as churches live and share the gospel. We celebrate the baptisms as believers hear the call of Jesus to increase their commitment. We celebrate Curtis Zoreb, the new president of Thrive and Rick Schellenberg beginning ministry with Horizon college & Seminary.
- In 2023 we will more than double the amount of funds being pouring into our strategic investments. We want to invest now for the future.
- ABMB and SKMB are kindred spirits when it comes to our gospel mission and disciple-making mandate. We are purposefully on a track of greater collaboration in our provincial ministry praxis. The 2022 Banff leadership Retreat galvanized our collective resolve to work together in the future. As much as possible and practical, we see future efforts to resource and equip our church leaders to be done jointly. 2023 will see some foundational groundwork being laid upon which we can construct enhanced ministry collaboration.
- Even though our challenges are great, God is at work. God is for us. And we remain faithful to the mission, until he returns.

#### New Resources

- Ministry Partner Support
- Missional Clarity videos
- Church Revitalization

#### Breakout Workshops

- Cdn. MB Update (Elton DaSilva, Ken Esau)
- Safe Places for Ministry (Owen Brandt)
- Church Revitalization (Luke Etelamaki)
- SKMB Matters (Executive Board)
- Global Gospel Advance (Athanasie Chiruzia)
- Leaders Collective (Tony Martens)

#### Executive Board Report

- Call to member churches and camps to move forward on mitigating liability risk for SKMB. Minimum liability insurance must be at \$3,000,000.
- The Executive Board will host a Town Hall meeting to discuss liability insurance requirements for member churches and camps.

#### Notable Motions

- Motion to approve the SKMB – Thrive Partnership Agreement.
- Motion to approve the real property formerly associated with Emmanuel Community Church (Pierceland), be gifted to Pierceland Lighthouse Community Church
- Motion to elect David Kline to the Executive Board.
- Motion to authorize the Executive Board to dispense of the Carrot River facility as they deem best.

SKMB Communications

[Original source unknown.](#) Passed on to me by Rev. Ralph Gliege.



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**ASSEMBLY  
ADDRESSES**

**Stephanie Christianson**

*"Dear Church, With Love"*

**Blair Allen**

*"Stay in Your Lane"*

**Reg Toews**

*"Wake Up! Get Up! Move Out!"*

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