

November 22, 2018



Hello, my name is Kevin Schular and I am the Executive Director of the Baptist General Conference of Canada. *Please read this update regarding Canadian Baptist Seminary.*

You may know that the president appointed by the Board of Regents in July, Dr. Roger Helland, resigned on October 6, 2018. *That was unexpected!* I believed that Roger would lead us in the revitalization of our seminary. However, he came to believe that he was not the person to lead CBS through this renewal process. I pray every blessing from the Lord on him as he continues his ministry as District Minister of BGC Alberta.

The Board of Regents have approached me to serve as President and the BGC Canada board approved me to be in this role. I am very grateful for the confidence shown in me. Leading our Conference is a demanding, full time position. It is a privilege to serve our churches, districts and missionaries. Adding leadership of the seminary was a daunting proposition!

It has taken me a few weeks to pray for God's direction and to seek His guidance for our school. Today, I am growing in confidence that this dual role leading the Conference and Seminary can be combined and have a great effect in giving direction for the next generation of the BGCC. We are at our best when we build rich, sustaining relationships. Our most effective long-term pastors have remained with BGC because they embraced our Conference ethos.

Let me explain: *The need for training our next generation of pastors and leaders in the BGC is a high priority for me!* Consider that within twenty years, 50% of our current lead pastors in the BGC could be retired or finished with public ministry. Also, we are planting new churches across Canada. It is reasonable to expect that within the next two decades, BGCC will be looking for 75-100 godly, well trained, competent pastors. Where will the pastors come from to fill our pulpits? Historically, our pastors come from a wide variety of Bible schools, seminaries and other denominations. We seek to protect our theology when new pastors attend the School of Orientation to get their credentialing and we annually ask our pastors to sign an Affirmation of Faith and Ministerial Ethics. But what if we could raise up and train our own leaders?

CBS has a big role to play in the future development of pastors, missionaries and leaders for the BGC. My vision is to bring BGC into missional alignment so that the Conference and Seminary are fully integrated. Once we are stabilized financially, we can really focus on developing programs that will produce "*biblical minds and burning hearts*" in our leaders.

The financial picture at CBS is improving because of the faithful support from donors like you. Current donations are meeting monthly budget but there is one big financial goal ahead of CBS. We are **only \$52,000** in arrears to ACTS and that is a great number to shoot for by the end of 2018. Laura and I donated earlier this year to the debt reduction drive - but we have committed to another \$1,000 this week. Can I count on your generosity once more this year? *Together we can eliminate this deficit and start 2019 in the black!*

Update: I contacted a friend and another donation has come in today for CBS of \$1,250. That means we are under \$50,000. This number is going in the right direction – down! Please consider how you can help us pay off what we owe ACTS by the end of December.

Thank you for your prayers and being part of the CBS family in this journey!

Kevin Schular
President, Canadian Baptist Seminary