

ANNUAL MEETING 2021



VPCC

**VantagePoint
Community Church
2020-2021**

Thank You

We are, hopefully, coming out of what has been a weird season for the Christian Church. Before March 2020, I could not have imagined that we would be forced to close our doors or be open with minimal people in attendance for over a year. And now, six months into 2021, we are still not allowed to have a full house. Hopefully, soon we will be able to gather again without restrictions. But for now, we are still separate.

If that is allowable, I am proud that we have been able to offer church services online throughout this crazy period of time. We had no advance warning, yet we did not miss a Sunday, substituting services offered live on Facebook for the live services that we could no longer attend together. And that is in no small part to the phenomenal work and talent of some of our people. Beginning with the Worship Team, led by Greg Gerdes and ably supported by Alyssa Gerdes, Nelda Mullen, Daniel Rysdyk, Marc Cochrane, and Eric Niyonzima, you adjusted how we play and offer the music, learning week by week, so that we could offer the music portion of our service online. And our Tech Team, led by Les and Isaac Eystone, worked hard to improve the quality of our online presence. Tanya Fedora has grown into a fantastic producer, helping advance our online presentation by mixing the video, graphics, and text into a format that makes sense. And on camera, John-Luke Eystone is quickly learning the art of how to present a visual representation to those who cannot attend. Without these people, our online presence would be impossible. We are indebted to each and every one of you for all that you have done during our COVID-19 period.

And we are committing to get better at our online presentation. But, as thankful as I am that we have been able to put our services online and will continue to try to improve the product, this isn't church. Church is not about some music and a sermon. It is about the interconnection of people, something that we haven't been able to have over the past year. Church is about discussing life, not just the Bible, over a coffee. Church is sitting with other people in the family room and sharing what is important. Church is all about the hugs and the community that we share together. We have provided a service for consumption, but not the church. And right now, it is the church that we need.

Soon, I believe we will be able to gather once more as a real church. So, let me just say this: When we open our doors fully for the first time, I think it will be like hitting a reset switch. We will be beginning again. Once more, we will become the experimental church we aspired to be at the beginning of VantagePoint Community Church. And I will be looking to you and us, as we gather before the Throne of God in our prayers, to figure out what it is that God has for our next chapter together.

I am excited by what is ahead, but I don't think it will be easy. But to be a real church, we need each other. So, as the COVID-19 pandemic draws to a close and we prepare for what comes next, let me quote from a modern-day prophet named David Letterman. Letterman, on his first show after the events of September 11, 2001, said this:

And it's very simple, there is only one requirement for any of us, and that is to be courageous. Because courage, as you might know, defines all other human behavior. And I believe, because I have done a little of this myself, pretending to be courageous is just as good as the real thing (David Letterman).

The time is coming when we will have the privilege of replanting the church in a community that desperately needs it. And David Letterman is right. "It is very simple, there is only one requirement for any of us, and that is to be courageous." I know that we will have the courage to do what needs to be done and move in the direction toward which God is calling us.

Thank you for your support through this time of trial and testing, and thank you for your courage that I know you will display in the months to come.

None of this would be possible without the support of our incredible board. Thank you to Elaine Woroschuk, Lynn Peacock, Lillian Fodchuk, Alyssa Gerdes, Judy Clark, Tanya Fedora, Pat Bishop, and Cory McArdle. You have been a good board. Still, more importantly, you have been excellent friends. Thank you for all that you have done and all that I know you will do.

And thank you to my wife, Nelda, for her support. I know that together, as a church family, we will embrace what is still before us.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Garry". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Garry

2021 Financial Summary (unaudited)

General Church

Balance Forward	5,753.04
Income	70,472.71
Rental Income	4,275.00
Expense	-72,245.01
Mission Support	-3,330.00
Accounting Adjustment	217.90
Closing Balance	4,707.84

Missions and Denominational

Balance Forward	1,874.11
Income	1,315.00
Expense	-4,392.29
Mission Support	3,330.00
Closing Balance	2,126.82

Summary of Mission Accounts

Evangelism	1,541.67
Benevolence	405.15
Child Sponsorship	180.00
Closing Balance	2,126.82

Children's Ministry

Balance Forward	942.79
Income	69.05
Expense	0.00
Closing Balance	1,011.84

Youth Ministry

Balance Forward	5.00
Income	0.00
Expense	0.00
Closing Balance	5.00

Drama Fund

Balance Forward	1,069.74
Income	0.00
Expense	0.00
Closing Balance	1,069.74

New Building Fund

Balance Forward	17,674.50
Income	87.75
Expense	0.00
Closing Balance	17,762.25

Capital Improvement

Balance Forward	5,808.73
Income	5,500.00
Expense	-2,321.50
Closing Balance	8,987.23

Summary of Capital Accounts

Kitchen	1,316.95
Chairs	2,451.18
Furnace	5,500.00
Unapplied	-280.90
	8,987.23

GST Rebate 246.34

Total All Accounts 35,917.06

Nomination Report

Community Connections Chairperson (Elect 1 - 2-year term)

Lynda Epp, Alyssa Gerdes, Andy Groenink

Declined: None

Finance Chairperson (Elect 1 - 2-year term)

No Election - Position Vacant

Declined: Alice Janczyn, Elaine Woroschuk, Robert Wyse

Personnel Chairperson (Elect 1 - 2-year term)

Sarah Eyestone, Alice Janczyn, Rachel Rysdyk

Declined: Lillian Fodchuk, Donnell Wyse

Member at Large (Elect 1 - 2-year term)

Pat Bishop, Sarah Eyestone, Alice Janczyn, Rachel Rysdyk

Declined: Robert Wyse

Pastoral Hours

2019-2020

Preaching	47	Administration	245.0 hours
Blog Entries	366	Blog Prep	465.0 hours
Pastoral Care	88 / 90.0 hours	Church Service	117.0 hours
Office	201 / 217.5 hours	Future Prep	49.0 hours
Connect	121 / 176.5 hours	Maintenance	5.0 hours
Hospital	2 / 5.5 hours	Ministry Meetings	238.5 hours
Total Visitation	412 / 489.5 hours	Visitation	489.0 hours
		Website	52.0 hours
		Worship Prep	1828.5 hours
Annual Meeting	1	Total Hours	3489.0 hours
Ash Wednesday	1	Average Weekly Hours	68.5 hours
Board Meeting	8		
Baptist Union	1		
Community Dinner	1		
Denominational Meeting	1		
Drama	19		
Everyone's a Critic	2		
Family Day	1		
Friendship Sunday	1		
Good Friday	1		
Men's Brunch	4		
M Laurie Ordination	1		
Pancake Breakfast	1		
Party at the Point	1		
Saturday Prayer	3		
Trunk or Treat	1		
Worship Practice	51		

2022-2021

Preaching	49	Administration	137.0 hours
Blog Entries	365	Blog Prep	470.5 hours
		Church Service	126.0 hours
Pastoral Care	70 / 72.5 hours	Future Prep	50.5 hours
Office	157 / 158.0 hours	Maintenance	0.0 hours
Connect	61 / 77.5 hours	Ministry Meetings	182.5 hours
Hospital	0 / 0.0 hours	Visitation	311.0 hours
		Website	51.5 hours
Total Visitation	288 / 308.0 hours	Worship Prep	2065.5 hours
		Total Hours	3394.5 hours
Board Meeting	8	Average Weekly Hours	66.6 hours
Baptist Ministerial	1		
Baptist Union	7		
Denominational Meeting	1		
Drama	6		
Good Friday	1		
Worship Practice	57		
Total Meeting	81 / 182.5 hours		



2021 Annual Report

As the Community Connections Committee, our mission is to take the Church's mission and put it into action. We are here to spread God's Love and His hope to others. This mission starts with our community right here in Edmonton. As a committee, we are community outreach focused. We believe that our ministry goes far beyond the walls of our church building and that our congregation is much bigger than those who occupy the seats on a Sunday Morning. This past year has looked different, as I am sure it has for everyone else. Typically, we have community events going on almost monthly, but we have had to cancel a lot of events because of the pandemic. We are excited for the day we can return to our monthly events and celebrations. I did just want to take a moment to highlight two events.

1) Party at the Point 2019

Party at the Point is our largest community event, and in 2019 we had an event that broke all records. And in 2019, it was also a celebration for our 10th anniversary as a church family. It was a fantastic event that saw an increase in attendance, from usually an average of 300 ppl to an estimated 400-450 ppl in attendance throughout the day. As in past years, we handed out school supply packages to all the kids from Kindergarten to Grade 12 that were in attendance. We had made 135 bags, and we ran out. This is an amazing problem to have and something that we will be looking to increase in future events.



It broke our hearts to have to cancel in 2020. Still, we look forward to continuing this event in the future and continuing to bring a wonderful, wholesome, free event for the whole family to this community and surrounding areas.

2) Trunk and Treat 2020

In 2020, we were able to continue our annual Trunk and Treat event. While it did look a bit different, we were blessed to serve this community. In past years, aside from handing out candy, we would be handing out hotdogs/hot chocolate and have a couple fire pits going for people to warm up around. With the restrictions we opted to not include these extra elements, but we did enjoy dressing up, and handing out candy. We continue to see this event rise in numbers and many people commented on how thankful they were that we were there, putting on this event, despite all that was going on. We even saw some people pull up beside us and be apart of what we were doing.

Trunk and Treat is a pure fun event where our goal is to just be a presence, to build relationships and to say we love you and this community. We will continue to put on this event, and we pray that God will use this event for His glory.



As a committee, this past year has looked different, and we are itching to get back to our events and reaching out to our community. It has been my honor to serve as acting director of this committee for the past two years, and I can not wait to see what God has in store for the years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyssa Gerdes
VPCC Director of Community Connections

Worship Report 2020/2021

Well, it's certainly been an interesting couple of years since I've had to write one of these reports. We would have never heard the word COVID, nor would terms like "social distancing," "flatten the curve," and "stop the spread" have been in our vocabulary. We would have been preparing for our ten-year party at the point celebration, and although the idea of streaming our services online had come up before, I didn't think we had the capability to do it well, and I certainly didn't think we would be attempting it any time soon.

When the first round of lock-downs came in early 2020, we didn't hesitate to jump into the world of online streaming head first. We started with just a phone on a tripod. We certainly had a lot of learning and growing to do, and there were a few bumps in the road on our way from there to where we are today, but I'm proud to say that we haven't missed a single Sunday service in the last two years.

We are still doing a lot of learning and growing in the realm of online streaming. Only now, it's less about the fact that, at the time that I am writing this, we are currently in another lock-down and more about the fact that we don't plan to stop streaming our services online, even when COVID is just a distant memory.

We have come a long way from our "phone on a tripod" days. We were able to get a proper camera set up. We also were able to get a grant from the government that was for churches to start or expand their virtual capabilities. We purchased a new computer and a set of electric drums with that grant, which significantly helped our stream quality.

We couldn't have come so far if it weren't for the support and prayers from all of you. I especially want to thank the members of the worship team and the media/tech team for all of your hard work and dedication. I hope you know how much I appreciate each one of you. I know I probably don't say it enough. Thank you. That being said, we could always use more hands-on-deck, so if any of you would like to find a place to help out on a Sunday morning, maybe learn a new skill, let me know. If you're not sure you have what it takes, that's okay. All we really need is a willing heart; the rest we can figure out together with God.

Lastly, and most important of all, I want to thank God. Our good Father. Without His grace, we would have nothing. And we know all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Our God is a good God. His blessings flow like a river. Our God is indeed a good God. May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

Your brother,

Greg Gerdes