

Director of Ministry

Supporting SKMB churches and camps in making disciples

Lift high
the name
of
JESUS

Assembly

LIFT HIGH THE NAME OF JESUS is an amazing theme! What theme could possibly be better, right? In honor of that theme, I thought I would share something I journaled recently about Jesus:

Our King

We declare our allegiance to King Jesus:

King at creation,
King in a manger,
King on a Roman cross,
King laid in a stone tomb,
King resurrected and ascended,
King over the living and the dead,
King in glory, and the coming King.

King Jesus is the King of kings;
his name is above all names.

He is our Sovereign,
ruler of heaven and earth.

His kingdom has come;
his will is being done.

He is the King over all things,
in all places,
at all times.

He is the King who is the Good Shepherd,
he leads us to still waters,
he restores our soul.

Our King's grace is sufficient for every need.

King Jesus is our Way in this life.

He knows the beginning from the end,

he brings light in the darkness.
Justice and righteousness are his crown and ring;
he is holy.
He will judge his creation,
holding all to account.
Truth and wisdom are his sceptre and staff.
Compassion and kindness are his robe and sash;
he is love.
Blessed is his name on all the earth.
Blessed is his kingdom among the nations.
Blessed are his ways among all peoples.

As we gather for Assembly, let us worship Jesus,
lifting his name high.

Assembly 2025 will have a radically new format which places worship, fellowship and training front and center and what we would normally define as "reporting" given a different place. Let me be clear...having agencies, ministry teams and organizations share what God is doing in their spheres is important. What we are changing is how this reporting is being done. I welcome your feedback on Assembly 2025 from a format perspective.

2024 Ministry

I routinely describe my work as seeking to fulfill a single mandate – supporting SKMB churches and camps in making disciples. I then claim that accomplishing that mandate looks different among our great family of churches and camps. Sometimes it's pastoral care and counsel, sometimes it is lay-leader support, sometimes it is helping folks gain missional clarity and application, sometimes it is assisting with governance and administration and sadly, sometimes it is dealing with conflict resolution or dissolution. I thank God for your prayers for wisdom. Here are several 2024 examples of my work:

- Preaching support various member churches. At times this involved facilitating communion.
- Pastoral transition or sabbatical support for Anchor Church (Regina), North West Community Church (Meadow Lake), Hillside Christian Fellowship Church (Beechy), The Gathering Church (Saskatoon) and Wynyard Gospel Church.
- Leadership support for Redberry Bible Camp and West Bank Bible Camp.
- Liaison support for Thrive Discipleship School and Horizon College & Seminary.
- Thirty-eight church visits; two pastor support cluster meetings.
- Meetings with church/camp/school leaders to pursue avenues of greater collaboration.

- Assisted several churches with their governance documents or staff MOU's or pastoral assessments.
- Worked with the Alberta MB Conference on a joint African leadership conference in Regina and the pastor and spouse retreat in Banff.
- Worked with Thrive Discipleship School on their dissolution process.
- Supported a revival conference hosted by Carmel Pentecostal Church and Mission Pentecostal Church.

2024 Financial Story

Thank you! Your faithful giving and other revenue allowed us to meet all our 2024 operational and strategic commitments. I want member churches to note that our overall church giving increased in 2024. Some good news financially was an unexpected significant interest return on our Strategic Investment Fund of \$30,000. Due to prudent stewardship, SKMB ended the fiscal year with a surplus of \$56,000. This amount will be transferred to our Strategic Investment Fund. I was truly pleased to note that giving and revenue helped us meet our \$58,000 strategic investment commitment. For 2025, we have increased our strategic investment portfolio to \$60,000.

Your giving is making an impact on multiple levels and we continue to see the positive results of prudent stewardship. I am asking our SKMB family to at least maintain, if not increase, support as you are able, to our collective mission and ministry. Please note that since 2018 we have never had a budget deficit and in ten years SKMB has not made a formal request at Assembly for a giving increase. Every dollar is important, especially in these turbulent times with the new USA administration's tariff posturing. We will respond in our spending accordingly. I thank you in advance for your 2025 giving.

Thrive School of Discipleship

It is with sadness that the Thrive School of Discipleship concluded its ministry. SKMB was invited into the dissolution process and appointed a new board to superintend the preservation of the Bethany Charter, maintaining its corporation status and the transition of Legacy Funds.

Horizon College & Seminary

Horizon is Canada's competency-based leadership college. It is a Bible college dedicated to advancing God's kingdom by helping students develop their God-given gifts and talents to serve God competently for their entire life. President Jeromey Martini continues to provide excellent leadership helping the school fulfil its mission. SKMB will continue to offer an Anabaptist History & Thought class at the school. SKMB covers the audit course cost for the first ten church leaders who sign up for this course. We should note that a larger student body

attending the school has roots and connections in SK. MB churches. Collectively, we are exploring ways of greater collaboration in order to best fulfill leadership needs in our SKMB family.

Leadership Development Coach

We express our thanks to Luke Etelamaki for serving SKMB as our Discipleship Coach. We bless him and his family as they now serve in Chilliwack, B.C.

I have taken time to garner input from our family of churches regarding the future of this now vacant role by asking: *Should we continue it? Should it be changed to better reflect our needs?* There is indeed support for this position with the caveat that the new role would be focused on leadership development. And so, the following is my recommendation:

Logistics

- 20 hours per month (averaged over a year) / annual budget \$15,000 (12 months - \$9600 salary, \$1400 administration, \$4000 expenses).

Role (order for priority)

- (1) Assist the Developmental Leadership Team (Leaders Collective Team) with planning, promotion and operation of the Leaders Collective.
- (2) Assist the Director of Ministry with planning, promotion and operation of the Leaders Cohort.
- (3) Assist the Director of Ministry with planning, promotion and operation of the Leadership Forum (specifically, leadership training).
- (4) Other tasks as delegated by the Director of Ministry.

Objectives & Targets Update

When I started as DM I committed to several key strategic goals and ministry targets. Here is a quick update on how I am fulfilling these commitments:

- Enhance and expand SKMB communication: To date we have a website, bi-weekly newsletter, quarterly financial update, monthly information videos, and monthly praise & prayer bulletin notices.
- Articulate and achieve SKMB office ministry service targets – The service targets are listed on our website and at times noted in the newsletter. These ministry targets are currently being met.
- Assess SKMB operations – I continually monitor SKMB operations, looking for fresh ways to streamline administrative operations and reduce expenses.

- Connecting with pastors, camps and churches – My annual goal is to visit every church and camp at least once a year and, in some fashion, connect with every church or camp routinely (eg. call, email, visit, etc.).
- Building the cluster ministry – The five clusters met twice in 2024 due to the Pastor & Spouse Retreat. Normally, it is three times a year.
- Fostering the work of the Ministry Teams – We have seen productive work from our FLT, FLT (LC), DLT and MST. Our greatest challenge is populating these teams with passionate volunteers.
- Operating with healthy & balanced stewardship – The 2024 budget revenue was met and we experienced a small surplus. The 2025 operational budget is based upon 2024 revenues and is realistic, responsible, strategic and sustainable. The 2025 budget strategic investments continue to be significant as we seek to invest in the future, today.
- Fostering CCMBC relationships to build upon the SKMB mandate – The relationship the SKMB has with the CCMBC is very positive and growing. I continue to work with our partner ministries (Multiply, MB Seminary, etc.) on resources and events that see the SKMB mission fulfilled.
- Fostering relationship with our provincial partners – With the implementation of the national - provincial Collaborative Model a new National Ministry Team (NMT) is in operation. This team consists of all provincial senior staff who meet in some fashion monthly to discuss mission strategies for our provinces and Canada. In 2024, SKMB/ABMB sponsored an African revival conference in Regina. In 2024, we again had the privilege of hosting a joint leader & spouse retreat with the Alberta MB Conference.
- Resourcing churches and camps – This continues to be a passion and priority for me. New resources are being introduced and previous ones evaluated for effectiveness.

On the 'Front Lines' in 2024

- **New pastors/directors:** Matt Ewert (Forest Grove Community Church); Doug Hacking (Riverbend Community Church), Dustin Wiebe (Waldheim MB Church), Dave Berg (West Portal Church), Chris Reimer (Parliament Community Church) and David Koster (Bridgeway Community Church).
- **2025 new pastors/directors:** Nikolaus Amodeo (Anchor Church).

Leader & Spouse Retreat

October 21-24 – Banff,
Alberta

Reboot – Recharge - Revive

All things can be made new, even you.

*“Show me your ways, O Lord,
Teach me your paths; guide me in your truth
and teach me, for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.”*

Psalm 25:4-5

Ministry and leadership are challenging at the best of times. Supporting a partner in ministry is no less testing. Whether it be the arrows of the evil one, the influences of our world, the schemes of some within our ranks or our own weaknesses, faithfulness to one's calling is daily being squeezed. There is no bridge over these troubles only a call to journey through them. On this path God gives us psalms for the soul, words of truth and hope for all seasons and spaces.

The Restored Soul – Psalm 23

“He restoreth my soul.”

Cam Stuart, CCMBC National Director

The Cleansed Soul – Psalm 51

“Cleanse me from my sin.”

Ken Esau, NFLT Director

The Guarded Soul – Psalm 121

“The Lord will keep you from all harm.”

Mark Wessner, MB Seminary President

The Known Soul – Psalm 139

“You know me.”

Bruce Enns, Multiply Executive Director

National Collaboration

I continue to serve on the National Ministry Team (NMT). Rick Schellenberg assisted me on the National Faith & Life Team. National and provincial leaders continue to operationalize the Collaborative Unified Strategic Plan (CUSP). I also serve on the Canadian Conference (CCMBC) Executive Board as the Saskatchewan representative. This role is normally filled by the provincial moderator but due to the current moderator's personal capacity, the SKMB Executive Board requested that I serve in this role. Lastly, I continue to serve as a regular writer for the MB Herald.

The DM Work in 2025

- Development of lay leader training regarding matters of governance, conflict resolution and leadership in collaboration with MST and DLT.
- Assisting our Leadership Development Coach (if approved) with lay and vocational leader training videos focused on helping them re-engage mission in our present cultural context.
- On-going camp synergy meetings.
- On-going pastor clusters.
- Beta-testing small vocational leadership cohorts.
- On-going church, camp and partner ministry visits and support.

New Book

I am excited about sharing the news on my second devotional book: ***Hello Again – More Letters To My Friends***. This work is intended to encourage disciples in their walk with Jesus. This book has enhancements from my first devotional book published in 2022. I have purposefully sought to encourage those who walk with Jesus through stories, prayers and poems. Each SKMB member church and camp will receive a copy of the book at Assembly 2025. People can also purchase the book through Kindred Productions.

Thank You

I want to thank God for His calling upon Janine and my life for the work of DM in SK. I thank Janine for her incredible support as we connected with churches and camps. Thank you, Gord, Gwen, Dave, Maureen and David who supported and counseled me in my role in 2024. Thank you, Scott Siemens, Rick Schellenberg, Rod Schellenberg, Heather Filazek and Aaron Hepting for your faithful labour in SKMB matters. Lastly, I thank you as SKMB churches and camps for your support and prayers.