

27 NOVEMBER 2022

MANITOBA-SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT





Charles Ed II Aguilar

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1. SDACC 5-YEAR FOCUS

Over the next five years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada will focus on the following themes as their vision for supporting conferences & missions across Canada.

1. **Multiplying through discipleship and evangelism** and multiplying through discipleship and evangelism. "*Christ method alone*" will be our guiding principle. We aim to integrate into the immediate community that the church and its member are planted in and that our churches will be filled with people from the close community. If not, we need to know why we are placed where we are planted, including where we live—giving equal focus to urban a rural areas.
2. **Mentoring a new set of younger leaders to begin training groups of potential leaders in director and officer positions** and using our officers and directors past and present to train and mentor prospective candidates. A primary focus will be ensuring women in ministry and education are equally mentored and considered for positions.
3. **Merge our Media with SDACC Communications** as we focus more strongly on reaching outside our doors as we construct strong content for social media. We are partnering with SDA entities with prepared groundwork like Hope Channel.
4. **Continued focus on First Nation sisters and brothers**, especially in the artic and other isolated areas.
5. **Transforming our churches into safe havens for youth and young adults.** Make every church a lighthouse to reach in and outside our doors and, most importantly, retention. We are reclaiming a lost generation of young adults. Burman Ministry Centre will be a central focus in guidance and resources.
6. **To unite Canada as a nation of many people to love Jesus and love each other** as we share the Everlasting Gospel with a sin-scorched world.

ACTION/MOTION: For ManSask Conference to align and support the SDACC's 5-year focus

2. SMALL CHURCH CHALLENGES

Most pastors are called into ministry with a heart for serving God and helping others. Still, the challenges of leading a small church can be daunting. From financial struggles to discouragement, many small church pastors struggle to keep their heads above water.

When I started as president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference in May of 2022, my first task was to get a hold of church data. I studied the data and planned to engage the leadership of half (I have committed 25 as of this writing) of the 41 congregations by October 2022.

In my study of the data, I have also noticed that 73% of our congregations are in the "small church" category.

Through my engagements, I have observed the struggles these small local leaders and the pastors serving these small churches face.

Here are some of the struggles they shared with me:

1. Low tithes and offerings. The most common challenge facing small churches is a lack of financial resources. With few members and often inadequate giving, it can be challenging to afford a full-time pastor, let alone keep the lights on and the doors open, especially in the winter. Not only do small church pastors have to deal with low tithes and offerings, but they also often don't have access to the same resources as their counterparts in larger churches in the cities. This can make it challenging to lead and equip their congregations effectively.

2. Lack of leaders. In addition to financial struggles, small churches often lack the workforce to function fully. With only a handful of active members, finding enough people to fill the essential roles for a church to run smoothly can be challenging. One church I visited had only ten active members. Another church I engaged in didn't even have a clerk and a treasurer. So, the pastor did it all.

3. Jadedness among members. Small churches are not immune to the problem of cynicism and apathy that plagues many small congregations. Many members of small churches have become the jaded and lost sight of what it means to be part of a community of faith. Pastors rarely serve in their district or church for three years. One church showed me a wall of pastors with years of service under their portraits. They pointed out how long the pastors stayed in their community before transferring to a larger church or conference.

4. Pastor burnout. Small churches can be much work with a minimal payoff, and pastors are often burned out from all the demands. A pastor struggling emotionally or spiritually can hurt every area of their life—including their ministry. I have met with one pastor who told me that the administration put so much pressure on him to increase the tithe and offerings and bring more baptisms. He also commented that the administration provides books, strategies, and resources (from the NAD) that don't make sense to small churches and only add to the guilt he already is bearing for not providing tangible results in the monthly pastoral report.

5. Get discouraged easily. Because of the pressure to perform and provide results, another common challenge faced by small church pastors is discouragement. I sat with one pastor who mentioned that it was too easy for him to get bogged down by all he felt he must do and all he thought he was lacking. He sees the potential for his church/district but can't seem to get things moving in the right direction. As a result, discouragement sets in, making it difficult to maintain motivation.

6. Limited vision. Many small churches I have engaged in lack vision for the community—not just among their members but also among their leaders. Without a clear sense of direction, it can be challenging to maintain momentum and keep everyone moving in the same direction.

It was also pointed out that it was tough for them to think of a vision when the average age of the church members and leaders is 65+.

7. Prefer working in large churches or cities. This is related to point number 3. Some pastors enter into ministry with a heart for serving in small communities but long for the big city or a large congregation. The small-church members notice this. Our universities (Burman, Andrews, Walla Walla, etc.) have not prepared their graduates to serve and love smaller churches and small communities. The grass always looks greener on the other side.

Small church pastors have their work cut out for them, but it's not impossible. By leaning on God for strength, the Holy Spirit for wisdom, Jesus for inspiration and working together as a team (local communities, local churches, pastors, administrators), these seven challenges can be overcome and turned into opportunities for ministry.

Here's what the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference plans to do.

You're a small church pastor or elder, and you want to be able to make an impact in your community. But how?

Imagine being part of a specifically designed summit for pastors and elders leading small churches! A place where you can connect with other leaders, learn from them, share your own stories, and celebrate together.

The Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference invites all small church pastors and elders to a Small Church, Big Impact Summit!

This summit will help you find ways to affirm and equip your ministry through worship, workshops, mentoring/coaching, food & fellowship.

Join us (the date will be sometime in the first quarter of 2023) at the (we are still looking for a small church in Manitoba or Saskatchewan to host this summit)!

What to expect at the Small Church, Big Impact Summit

1. Be Heard

- A. You will have the time to share all your frustrations, challenges, and opportunities in ministering in a small church and community.
- B. Andrews University and Burman University will document your stories for further study and analysis.

2. Learn

- A. You will be able to learn from colleagues and elders who have successfully ministered in small churches and small community settings.
- B. You will have the opportunity to learn from retired pastors and retired administrators who have served and advocated for small church settings.
- C. You will have the opportunity to engage with our academic colleagues from Andrews and Burman, who will provide resources based on research.

3. Relevant tools to ignite the passion for serving small churches and small communities

- A. ADRA Canada will equip you with tools on how to do a needs assessment for the community, develop a simple proposal for a sustainable project and basic advocacy approaches that would make your local congregation stand out in your community
- B. High Tech for Small Churches
- C. You will have a comprehensive plan for your church/district covering the fundamental modules in the mission strategic framework (engaging the community, sharing the gospel, evangelism, discipleship process, shepherding, vision casting, etc.)
- D. Cutting-edge approaches from AdventHealth that is relevant to small communities.
- E. Passive resources for your community:
 - a. It Is Written Canada
 - b. Hope Channel Canada
 - c. Lighthouse FM (VOAR)
 - d. VOP-Canada
 - e. AWR Pods

4. Experiential

The Small Church, Big Impact Summit will not be held in a city. It will be held in a small town in the Canadian prairies. We will store the summit in a small church and sleep in the town's only motel. We will have our Sabbath worship with a few church members and then visit with them. We will also meet with the local community leaders, listen to small communities' challenges, and observe what a typical community does on the weekend.

"Our larger churches are regarded as enjoying significant advantages. There is a growing tendency among our people to leave their particular post of duty and move to the vicinity of some other large church.

This practice not only threatens the prosperity and even the life of our smaller churches but also prevents us from doing the very work God has given us to do and is destroying our spirituality and usefulness as a people.

The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err.

If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies to work not only for the church members but for unbelievers also.”¹

3. MAN-SASK LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Place: Manitou Springs

Date: January 16-19

Theme: Strength in Unity

Text: Ephesians 4:1-16

Preamble: As leaders, we need to be aware of the divisive forces at work in our schools, churches and care homes today. How can we, as leaders, come together and stay united?

Ellen White says that *“unity is the strength of the church. Satan knows this and employs his whole force to bring in dissension. We must learn how to unite and stay united to succeed in our mission work.”²*

As leaders, we must learn how to guard ourselves against divisive mechanisms such as fault findings, misinterpreting of mission motives, circulating insinuations, arousing suspicion and breaking down confidence in leaders' integrity. By coming together and staying united, we can overcome these divisive forces and be successful in our mission work.

The Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference Leadership Summit will provide the tools you need to focus on the mission as leaders.

Daily Program

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
7:00-8:00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8:30-8:35		Music + Prayer	Music + Prayer	Music + Prayer
8:35-8:55		Leadership Lessons from It Is Written	Leadership Lessons from ADRA	Leadership Lessons from Burman
8:55-9:05		Prayer Leader (Pastor Dave)	Prayer Leader (Pastor Jamieson)	Prayer (Pastor Ron)
9:05-10:30		Dr Michael Campbell (History of Adventist Heresy)	Dr Michael Campbell (History of Adventist Heresy)	Dr Michael Campbell (History of Adventist Heresy)
10:30-10:45		Tea Break	Tea Break	Tea Break
10:45-12:30		Elder Cyril Millet (Topic To Be Shared)	Elder Cyril Millet (Topic To Be Shared)	Administration (Summit Debrief)

¹ Testimonies for the Church Volume Five, p. 184

² Ellen White, Christian Unity, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
12:30-1:45	Arrival & Check In	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Departure
2:00-3:30	Arrival & Check In	Christine Bergen & Pastor Cliff Holmes (<i>Know Your Rights & Role</i>)	Pastor Charles & Ron Hetland (<i>Mission Framework Discussion</i>)	
3:30-3:45	Arrival & Check In	Tea Break	Tea Break	
3:45-5:00	Arrival & Check In	ADRA (<i>Preventing Sexual Harassment, Exploitation & Abuse</i>)	Pastor Charles (<i>Mission Framework Table Top Experience</i>)	
6:00-8:00	Opening Ceremony with It Is Written	Dinner with ADRA	Dinner with Burman	
8:00 Onwards	Games/Hot Springs + Pastor Dave In-Charge	Games/Hot Springs + Pastor Dave In-Charge	Games/Hot Springs + Pastor Dave In-Charge	

Anticipated Participants

Participants	Full Attendance	Partial Attendance
Pastors	19	
Principals	3	
Care Home CEOs	3	
Administration	11	
Chaplains	3	
Retired Pastor Couple (<i>Pastor Jamieson & Spouse</i>)	2	
Local Church Participant (<i>Elder Ron Hetland & Spouse</i>)		2
ManSask Lawyer (<i>Pastor Cliff & Spouse</i>)		2
SDACC Institutions (<i>ADRA, Burman, IIW</i>)		6
SDACC Secretariat	1	
Total Participants	52	

4. CAMP MEETING SPEAKERS

The theme for Camp Meeting 2023 is: **Go! Make Disciples!** The dates are from July 14-22.



Dr. David Jamieson: July 14 (Friday) to July 15 (Saturday Evening)

Pastor David Jamieson accepted the call to serve as the Upper Columbia Conference president in January 2022.

Before that, He was the lead pastor of Church in the Valley, located in Langley, British Columbia, Canada, where he led the church for over 20 years.

David grew up in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada and attended Canadian Union College (now Burman University), where he met his wife, Shandra. He later received a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University in 1989 and returned in 2009 to receive a Doctor of Ministry degree emphasizing evangelism and church growth.

Before pastoring at Church in the Valley, David served as president of the Newfoundland Conference in Eastern Canada. David has travelled worldwide, speaking at conferences and sharing seminars for pastors and laity, highlighting pastoral leadership, community outreach, and evangelism topics.

Additionally, he has been the speaker-director for Faith Out Loud Canada, a 30-minute, five-day-a-week radio program broadcast throughout Canada. David and Shandra have four grown children and one grandson.

Pastor Paul Llewellyn: July 16 (Sunday)



On September 11, 2022, Pastor Paul accepted the call to serve as president of the SDACC for the next five-year term. Paul, the SDACC executive secretary since January 2020, has a strong background in teaching Adventist education and working with our church's youth and young adults. He has served as an educator, pastor, camp director, conference secretary, and president.

Paul Llewellyn hails from the lovely Island of PEI. He grew up in a military household and saw God slowly bring his whole family to know Jesus. Paul started serving the church in education and moved into teaching Bible Class and Chaplaincy. Eventually, moving into pastoral ministry and then into administration.



Dr. Michael Campbell: July 17 (Monday) to July 19 (Wednesday)

Dr. Michael W. Campbell, Ph.D., is the director of the North American Division Department of Archives, Statistics, and Research.

He is an ordained minister who previously spent a decade in higher education in the Philippines and Texas. He is the co-editor of the Oxford Handbook of Seventh-day Adventism and is under contract with Eerdmans to write a forthcoming textbook about Adventist history. He recently organized academic paper sessions at the American Society of Church History and the Conference on Faith and History.

He has contributed over one thousand articles in popular, peer-reviewed, and reference works. Some of his research interests include the history and theology of the Lord's Supper, the Taiping movement, and the history of missions.

He authorizes twelve books, including 1922: The Rise of Fundamentalism (Pacific Press, 2022). He regularly contributes to the "Sabbath School Rescue" and "Adventist Pilgrimage" podcasts. He enjoys bird watching, racquetball, and Pathfinders.

He and his wife, Heidi, a Ph.D. candidate at Baylor University in Early Modern History, have two teenage children, Emma and David.



Dr. Philip Baptiste: July 20 (Thursday) to July 22 (Saturday Night)

Philip Baptiste is the departmental director of Adventist-Laymen Services and Industries (ASI) for the North American Division (NAD) and the Secretary/Treasurer of ASI. In this role, he provides financial oversight, coordinates strategic planning, and helps direct ASI's administrative activities and operations in the North American Division.

Before serving at the NAD, Philip was a General Conference missionary for four years, serving as the Special Assistant to the President for the East-Central Africa Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In this role, he coordinated strategic planning, leadership development, assessment, media, communications, Mission to the Cities, and ASI in eleven countries.

Philip Baptiste is a strategic communication and leadership expert with a unique ability to train and develop leaders for excellence. He facilitates and helps lead churches, conferences, and non-profit organizations through the strategic-planning process and is a certified 360 Leadership Assessment Coach for the Center for Creative Leadership.

An ordained minister, he has also been an adjunct professor for homiletics and preaching at the Adventist University of Africa.

Before entering into General Conference mission service, Philip Baptiste served as the communication director for the Central States Conference and associate youth director for the Rocky Mountain and Washington Conferences. He also served as lead pastor for over ten years in Denver and Colorado Springs.

Born in Canada, he is the son of a pastor and the youngest of three boys. Philip graduated from Andrews University, obtaining an Associate of Science in Business Administration, a Bachelor of Arts in Religion, and a master's degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Also, he holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in Communication and Strategic Leadership from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Philip recently completed a second master's degree in strategic communications from American University in Washington, D.C.

Philip Baptiste is a dynamic communicator, a professional event planner, a youth ministry expert, a strategic planning consultant, a professional organizational and relationship coach, and a certified family life educator. In his spare time, he enjoys beach vacations, playing the piano, travelling, and cooking.

A sought-after speaker, Philip has been the worldwide keynote presenter at events and conferences. He is married to his darling wife, Dalyne, who teaches grade four at the Olney Adventist Preparatory School in Maryland. She has a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership and Administration and is pursuing a Performance Improvement and Leadership doctorate from Capella University.

Together they have one joyful son, PJ. Philip's mission is to use his gifts of communication, compassion, and creativity to empower others and develop leaders of excellence to help hasten the soon coming of Jesus.



Steve Matthews: July 15 (Sabbath School)

Steve Matthews is a Professional Engineer, Project Management Professional and LEED Green Associate who worked in the building industry from 2002 to 2018.

Originally from Newfoundland, he attended the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, NB. He completed a Bachelor of Science and a degree in Environmental Engineering from Dalhousie University in Halifax,

NS.

In March 2018, Steve joined ADRA Canada as their Executive Director in the Newcastle, ON office. Steve's wife Amanda is a teacher in the Durham District School Board in Ajax and a dedicated Pathfinder Director for the Bowmanville SDA Archers club. They live with their three children, Ryan, Liam, and Madison, in Courtice, ON.



Reema Sukumaran: July 17 (Monday) to July 21 (Friday) from 9:15-10:30

Reema Sukumaran has overcome some insurmountable obstacles throughout her life. A victim of severe child abuse by a torturous parent and raped by her pastor, she has experienced a nightmare that no one can imagine.

The people she trusted failed her, including her Adventist church community.

Despite the pain she has experienced, she continues to share her personal story to teach others how to minister to individuals who have experienced emotional trauma and have been betrayed by the church and those they trusted.

Reema is a speaker, author, and trainer who shares a riveting story from her heart.

Her goal is to bring the topic of clergy abuse, often considered taboo, out of the darkness, speak openly so others can recognize symptoms of unhealthy boundaries and burnout, and focus on self-care and respect.

Sukumaran is a product of Seventh-day Adventist education.

She completed a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Andrews University. She is the proud mother of six growing boys and works alongside her husband, an audiologist. She resides in Ontario, Canada. She has recently published her powerful memoir, Beautifully Broken, available on her website www.reemataalks.com



Pastor René & Mike Lemon with Doreen & Marlon Cliffe: July 20 (Thursday) to July 21 (Friday) at 10:45-12:00

Mike and René Lemon are the hosts for It Is Written Canada, a worldwide media ministry that spotlights stories of lives transformed by the power of God. They are both 100% organic, non-GMO, sweet and sour lemons. René is the sweet one.

Mike and René have been married since 1995 and have counselled married couples and those preparing for marriage while serving in ministry and education

positions in Canada and South Africa. They are passionate about faith, family, friends, fitness, and finishing the work of preparing souls for our Lord's soon return, to "turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:6). They have two wonderful daughters and one magnificent grandson.



Marlon and Doreen Cliffe have been married for over 33 years and have two beautiful grown children. Their passion is to help build and restore relationships using evidence-based research, the Bible, and their own experiences to share how you can have the marriage of your dreams! Their enthusiasm for restoring relationships comes from their story of a failing marriage. They know the frustration of a lonely, disconnected marriage with the feeling of hopelessness. The good news is that they have also experienced restoration and happiness in their marriage and love showing how you can share it too!

Marlon and Doreen Cliffe are Certified Gottman Educators for the Seven Principles for Doing Marriage Work, Certified Prepare/Enrich Facilitators, Caring for the Heart Ministries Lay Counsellors, and Marriage Wellness Coaches.