



Secretariat Report

May 28, 2023

After 7 years of service as an associate pastor at Church in the Valley and another 13 years as the lead pastor at the Really Living Center and SDA church, I want to take this opportunity to thank this board of directors for trusting God in calling me to this new task as the executive secretary. Having already visited 10 churches over the last 4 months, I am excited to see what God is doing and going to do in our communities. This new assignment brings several new challenges that I look forward to learning from. As stated above, my ministry has predominantly been in pastoring a single church with a multi-disciplinary team and I am new to administrative work for our church. In as much as this task will include a steep learning curve, I believe that God equips the “called”. I look forward to sharing my wealth of ministry experience and learn from those who have a passion to work in unity towards our common goal - to bring more people to Christ through his method alone. I look forward to working with EXECOM in this administrative capacity and seeing great things happen for God’s kingdom, one policy, one decision, and one prayer at a time. Below are what I have tapped into over the last 3 months, since my inception.

Training

Feb 26 -March 2, 2023 - NAD for new secretaries training. In 2022, the NAD reported that there are just over 40 new presidents and secretaries and that this training was imperative. It was incredibly useful 16 days into my new job.

April 25-27, 2023 – yearly NAD secretariat meetings in Virginia. Very informative and gave me a chance to rub shoulders with our Canadian Executive Secretaries and discuss contextual challenges. I was also impressed with the humility of our administrators at the NAD level, surrendered men and women who work hard to help our church function well.

Sept 11-13, 2023 – Adventist Risk Management Conference – Florida, U.S.A.

Fall & Winter, 2023 – PGTS training – 13 weeks with final test in Arizona, Nov 2023.

Core Quality Assessment Tool

We are working on a yearly assessment tool to be called “Healthy pastors” (I would like to add “healthy churches, healthy communities” as well)

This tool will allow us to do several things:

- 1) better help our pastors to thrive in ministry
- 2) to create a positive and engaging interaction between churches and their pastors
- 3) to identify our pastor’s strengths and areas of growth
- 4) to get feedback from church leadership
- 5) to qualify eligibility for sabbaticals, advanced studies, ordination, and more.

We have looked at several similar tools from other organizations, such as Natural Church Development, Strong Pastors, and the Feedback Loop from the NAD. We are currently in discussion with Gerardo Oudri, a new associate director for ministerial at the NAD to help develop this tool across our division.

We hope to have this tool finalized by June 2023.

ACS

Last March, we chaired the very first ACS Winnipeg constituency meeting with all 9 churches represented and over 70 constituents in attendance. Some decisions were made in regards to minor upgrades to the building and to gather pastors and two representatives from each church to discuss the future of this initiative. We recognized those who have tirelessly served Winnipeg with food, clothing and hearts that care. The future of this ACS will be in the hands of this newly formed committee which is still awaiting to meet once we have received all constituents from the local pastors.

As for ACS Saskatoon, there currently no plans to revive this effort. We have faced some roadblocks with the city in regard to what we can and can't do out of this building. The building is now empty and all materials have been put into a 40 foot container next to the building, thanks to the valid efforts of a few office staff and volunteers. The plan is to get rid of the contents of this container, to the dump, and to send this container, which has been earmarked for Camp Whitesands, before campmeeting this summer.

Miscellaneous items

Our conference team has installed several pastors, mentored churches on the pastoral hiring process, sat along side our pastors/elders from both conferences in two 3-day sessions mentoring them on how to collaborate with their church to hear God's vision and mission for their churches. We taught them how to implement our MSF into a 5 year plan that will enable us to assign specialists (5 conference officers) to help them along their journey. I have been assigned to support our pastors and churches on mentoring the in the area of friendship evangelism and will be preparing campmeeting 2025 along that theme.

I have been learning terms like TOR, contracts, job descriptions, policies, and by-laws and how they fit into the grand picture of ministry.

Other odds and ends like the care of our cemeteries, the employee handbook, writing and reading policies, and helping some of our churches with their renovation processes.

I've had the privilege to preach the gospel in several churches already and look forward to doing it in any church that will invite me.

Membership update

Our first quarter of 2023 started with 4,089 members and ended with 4,084 - A decrease of .12%. We had 5 baptisms and 11 churches that showed growth, 17 showed status quo, and 9 churches on the decline.

Churches, Companies and Groups

We have 35 churches, 3 companies, and 7 groups

Policies (work in progress)

1. Sabbatical – to be presented today
2. Chaplains – to be presented today
3. International Hires
4. Campmeeting Pet policy
5. Campmeeting bike policy
6. Campmeeting video/photo policy
7. Gift acceptance policy for PGTS