

DISTRICT CONFERENCE



BELONG

GROW

SERVE

May 10, 2023

NORTH POINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH, EDMONTON

ABNWT FAMILY FORUM AND BUSINESS MATTERS



Welcome

God entrusts opportunity to those He considers faithful. We are given the chance to steward spiritual gifts and situations of ministry. Perhaps one of the greatest considerations God allowed us is the privilege of curating one of the most impactful ministries in Canadian history, The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

Welcome to this forum where we will attempt to put into words a snapshot of the ministry life we have lived together in this fellowship and, in so doing, perhaps gift our successors the opportunity to more effectively carry it forward.



Gary Taitinger
District Superintendent



ONLINE APP

abnwt.com/dc23-app

Links to schedule, agenda, committees, business documents, and more.

WIFI ACCESS

Login: Npccguest, Password: npcc2020



SIMPLY VOTING

Click here to vote abnwt.simplyvoting.com
(Registered Credential Holders only)



NEED HELP?

Text "HELLO" to **587-841-0238**

GET SOCIAL



Instagram
[@abnwtpaoc](https://www.instagram.com/abnwtpaoc)



Facebook.com
[/ABNWT](https://www.facebook.com/ABNWT)



Twitter.com
[/abnwtpaoc](https://www.twitter.com/abnwtpaoc)



linkedin.com
[/company/abnwt-district-of-paoc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/abnwt-district-of-paoc)

Contents

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE2

AB CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES.....4

NWT CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES5

THE REALITY WE FACE6
 ALBERTA AND NWT STATISTICS.....6

ABNWT DISTRICT REPORTS.....9

FAMILY FORUM14
 BELONG15
 GROW17
 SERVE19

COOPERATIVE FELLOWSHIP21

BETTER TOGETHER.....22

ALIGNED FOR MISSION25

Schedule

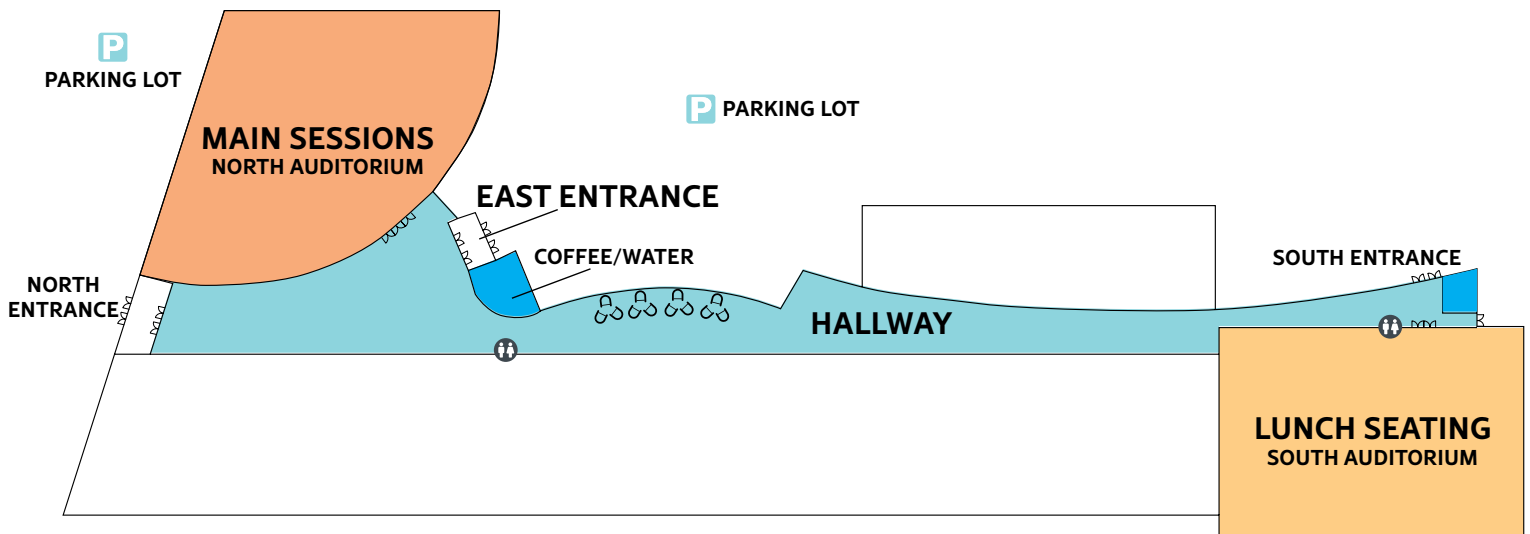
Each session will take place around round tables with assigned seating. This will be a great opportunity to connect with new people and work together as you provide valuable input via table discussions.

This booklet is a tool to enhance your experience at District Conference and can be taken home as a launching point to discuss these items with your church board.

9:00 AM	COFFEE & CONNECT
9:45 AM	DOORS OPEN
10:00 AM	SESSION 1
11:15 AM	SESSION 2
12:15 PM	LUNCH Grab a box lunch, a few friends, and sit wherever you like
1:00 PM	SESSION 3
3:00 PM	CLOSE

Event Map

NORTH POINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH



We are here TO SERVE

The PAOC ABNWT District is your resource centre to help you to be a healthy leader and help you to grow a healthy church and ministry. We are here to serve you as you navigate this season of leadership.

REVITALIZATION

- ▶ Church Online and Digital Engagement
- ▶ First Impressions and Assimilation
- ▶ Discovery Weekend and Ongoing Coaching
- ▶ Discipleship Pathway Development
- ▶ Discipleship Pathway Training
- ▶ Community Engagement
- ▶ Outreach Strategy Development
- ▶ Children's Resources, Training and Curriculum
- ▶ Youth/Young Adult Ministry Development



PERSONAL WELLNESS

- ▶ Leadership Coaching
- ▶ Leadership Development
- ▶ Mental Health and Pastoral Care
- ▶ Ministry Placements
- ▶ Church Transitions
- ▶ Chaplaincy Support
- ▶ Parachurch Support



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

- ▶ Church Finances & Admin
- ▶ Facility Audits and Consults
- ▶ Church Governance
- ▶ Board Training Seminars
- ▶ Ministry Strategy Development
- ▶ Church Partnerships
- ▶ Local and Global Missions





EVERY CHURCH HAS
NEXT LEVEL POTENTIAL

**A SPIRIT FILLED, ACTS 2 CHURCH GLORIFIES GOD BY
MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES**

The Acts 2 Journey helps pastors and teams create a strategic plan for the future that is tailored to each church's specific cultural context.

**EACH RETREAT ANSWERS
THESE QUESTIONS:**

- Why Do We Exist?**
- Where Are We Going?**
- How Should We Behave?**
- How Do We Achieve Our Goals?**

SIGN UP FOR THE ACTS 2 JOURNEY TODAY!

coach@abnwt.com

**JOIN A
COHORT
TODAY**

Cohorts create a resourced network of leaders through online and onsite meet-ups, training, and mentoring sessions. Being in a cohort is an opportunity to build relational equity, experience peer support, and build the capacity to lead healthily and effectively.

CONNECTED WITH PURPOSE

PROVIDING SUPPORT

ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT

For more info email
coach@abnwt.com

Visit **abnwt.com/cohorts**

COHORTS

AB Churches & Ministries

POPULATION 4.371 M - 661,000 KM²



GREATER EDMONTON AREA

- BEAUMONT**
Eaglemont Christian Church
- DEVON**
Devon Community Church
- EDMONTON**
Adeara
City South Church
Connect Church
Edmonton Father's House
Edmonton Korean Full Gospel Church
Emmanuel Gospel Assembly Edmonton
Ethiopian Evangelical Church
Faith Pentecostal Assembly
Family Life Canada
Glory to God Christian Assembly
Gospel Centre Pentecostal Church
Heritage Valley Pentecostal Assembly
Hope City Church
Impact Church
Kids On Track Association of Edmonton
Kingdom Way Church of Edmonton
Life Church
Living Hope Christian Centre
Living Waters Assembly of God of Edmonton
Mill Creek Christian Assembly
New Hope Christian Assembly
North Pointe Community Church
Northwest Pentecostal Assembly
Resurgence Initiatives
Saints Church
Shepherd's Care Foundation
Southside Pentecostal Assembly
The Freedom Centre - Edmonton
The Public Church
Trinity Christian Centre
University Campus Ministries
Vanguard College
Youth Rise
- FORT MCMURRAY**
Emmanuel Gospel Church
Family Christian Centre
- FORT SASKATCHEWAN**
Fort Saskatchewan Pentecostal Assembly
Shiloh Youth Ranch
- LEDUC**
Gateway Family Church
- SHERWOOD PARK**
Discovery Christian Church
The Park Pentecostal Church
- SPRUCE GROVE**
Spruce Grove Community Church
- ST ALBERT**
Cornerstone Community Church
- STONY PLAIN**
Lighthouse Pentecostal Church

CALGARY

- Advance Church
- Agape International Pentecostal Church
- Assemblies of God Fuente Inagotable
- Billy Graham Evangelistic Association
- Beddington Pentecostal Church
- Bridges Church Pentecostal
- Calgary Dream Centre
- Calgary Revival Church
- Chinese Pentecostal Church
- Christian Life Assembly - Calgary
- City Mosaic Church
- Cristo Viene Preparare
- Family Foundations International Canada
- First Pentecostal Assembly
- God of All Grace Church of Calgary
- Iglesia Betesda
- Iglesia Cristiana Vida Nueva Fellowship
- Jesus the Hope of Glory Pent Church
- Journey Church
- Knexions Church
- Messiah Christian Assembly
- Monte Calvario Church
- Next Step Ministries
- Samaritan's Purse
- Shepherd's Gate Centre
- The People's Pentecostal Assembly
- The Power of Resurrection Church in Calgary
- University Campus Ministries
- Westside King's Church



NWT Churches & Ministries

POPULATION 45K - 1,171,918 KM²



FORT GOOD HOPE
Fort Good Hope Pentecostal Chapel

TULITA
Tulita Pentecostal Mission

FORT SIMPSON
Calvary Pentecostal Church

HAY RIVER
Dene Pentecostal Church
Hay River Pentecostal Chapel

YELLOWKNIFE
Cornerstone Pentecostal Church

FORT RESOLUTION
Fort Resolution Pentecostal Church

FORT SMITH
Fort Smith Pentecostal Church
Pentecostal Sub-Arctic Leadership
Training College (SALT)



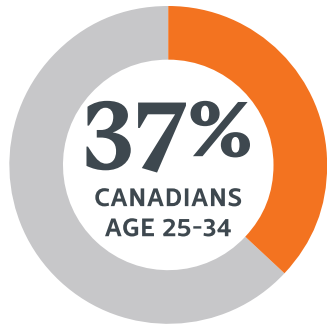
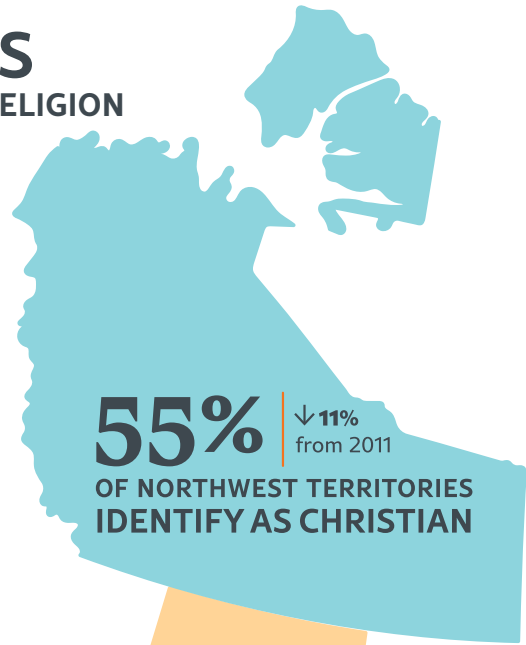
The Reality We Face

ALBERTA & NWT STATISTICS

BASED ON THE RECENT 2021 CANADIAN CENSUS ON RELIGION



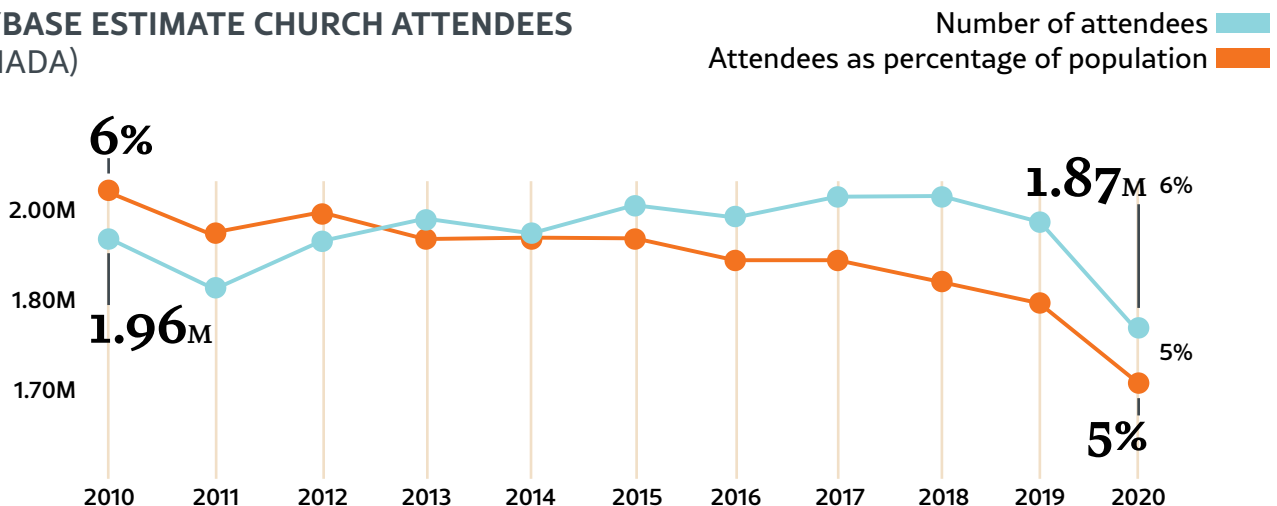
IDENTIFY AS CHRISTIAN
↓ **16%** from 2011



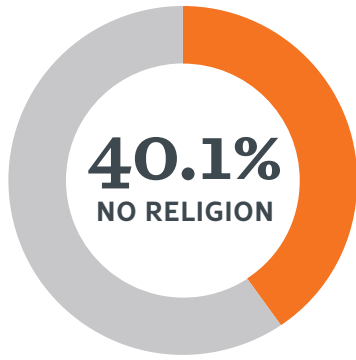
IDENTIFY AS CHRISTIAN
↓ **20%** from 2011
REPRESENTING THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE



WAYBASE ESTIMATE CHURCH ATTENDEES (CANADA)



SOURCE: Statistics Canada. 2022. Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population.
Statistics Canada Catalogue number 98-316-X2021001



Christianity remains the most prominent religious identity in Alberta at 48.1%

ALBERTANS WITH NO RELIGION HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE



ALBERTANS WITH A DIFFERENT AFFILIATION

SOURCE: <https://lethbridgenewsnow.com/2022/10/26/religious-and-ethnic-demographics-in-lethbridge-alberta-and-canada-census/>



ALBERTANS MENTAL HEALTH RANKED LOWEST AMONG ALL CANADIANS 2021

The greatest increase in stress month-over-month in 2021 was for those living in Alberta (67.1), MB (61.9), SK (60.7), BC (60.5)

SOURCE: <https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/albertans-mental-health-ranked-the-lowest-among-all-canadians-report-1.5314630>



THE NWT HAS THE SECOND YOUNGEST POPULATION IN CANADA



49.6% OF THE NWT POPULATION IS INDIGENOUS AND 36% OF THESE HOUSEHOLDS HAVE HOUSING ISSUES

SOURCE: <https://cabinradio.ca/83149/news/how-the-age-of-northwest-territories-residents-is-changing/>

SOURCE: <https://www.statsnwt.ca/>



WE ARE CALLED TO REACH

4.4

MILLION

SOULS

IN OUR REGION

ABNWT District Reports

Your District Resource Centre is positioned to help your church and ministry reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



ABNWT PARTICIPANTS IN 2022

MG
Ministers Gathering



PG
Prayer Gathering



CV
Church Vitalization



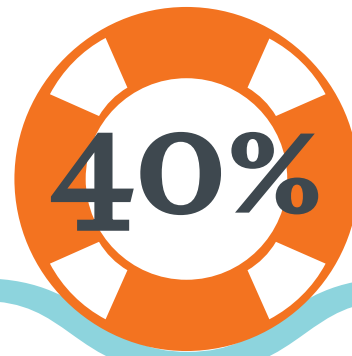
ABNWT Salvations

BASED ON A 66% RESPONSE RATE

DOWN

2021 COMPARED WITH 2019

52%



40%

UP

2022 COMPARED WITH 2021



ABNWT Church Attendance

BASED ON A 66% RESPONSE RATE

30%

DOWN

2021 COMPARED WITH 2019



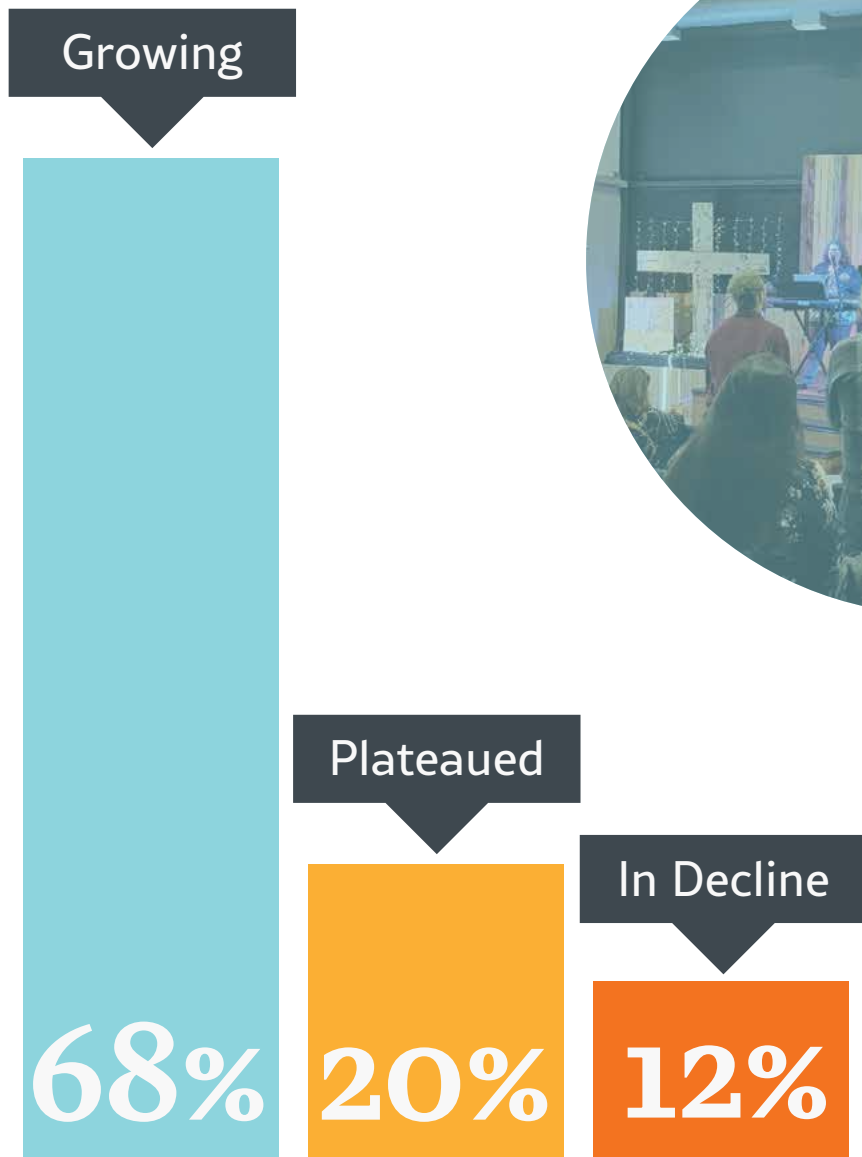
18%

UP

2022 COMPARED WITH 2021

29%

29% OF ABNWT CHURCHES ARE **BIGGER NOW** THAN THEY WERE BEFORE COVID-19
BASED ON A 66% RESPONSE RATE



ABNWT Churches Now

BASED ON A 66% RESPONSE RATE



18 Cohort Leaders

FEATURING:

- Discovery
- Next Gen Leaders
- Accelerator
- Children's and Family Ministry
- Pastoral Wives
- Pastoral Husbands
- Worship
- Second Chair
- North of 60
- Chaplains, Counsellors, Mission Canada
- She Leads
- The Pastor's Soul
- Parachurch and Itinerant
- The 100 Opportunity

11 YOUNG LEADER COHORTS
with 60 participants

YL YOUNG LEADER ACCELERATOR
10 Participants
3 LEADERS
+16 FACILITATORS
667 views to the YL Accelerator website



5 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COHORTS



IN 2022
ABNWT LOCAL CHURCHES GAVE
\$2000+
TO ASSIST STRUGGLING CHURCHES



GOSPEL POINTS

IN NWT NEED OUR PRAYERS TO EFFECTIVELY REACH LOST PEOPLE

3 **PSAM WORKERS**
WAITING
SUPPORT NEEDED



SERVE SHORT TERM, LONG TERM, IN A PARTNERSHIP THAT WILL MAKE AN ETERNAL IMPACT.



This year, our program includes forum discussions of the ministry realities that our current culture presents.

Family Forums are honest and open conversations about how we

FAMILY FORUMS

BELONG GROW SERVE

My Table # _____

NAME _____
CHURCH/TOWN _____

NAME _____
CHURCH/TOWN _____

NAME _____
CHURCH/TOWN _____

NAME _____
CHURCH/TOWN _____

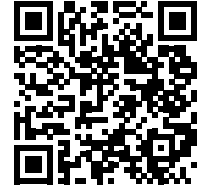
NAME _____
CHURCH/TOWN _____

NAME _____
CHURCH/TOWN _____



Event Code #DC23

BELONG



Slido.com #DC23

"We are a cooperative Fellowship, and our relationships are marked by mutual trust, value, and respect for one another. We are church leaders who work interdependently, as one team."

- Rev. Dr. David R. Wells, General Superintendent, The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

2-MINUTE TALKS

Every table member will take 2 minutes maximum to share their response to this question:

How did you become a part of the PAOC?



As you listen to each talk, use Slido.com (Event Code #DC23) to type the words that stand out to you. Watch as responses from across the room appear on the main screen.

WHAT ARE KEY ATTRIBUTES OF SOMEONE WHO BELONGS?

TABLE DISCUSSION: In the PAOC, belonging is described as *voluntary cooperative fellowship*. In your opinion, what does the term “voluntary” in that phrase mean?

Share at your table and write your answer here:

TABLE DISCUSSION: If voluntary equates to completely optional, what does that mean for the connectivity of our fellowship?

Share at your table and write your answer here:



When prompted, use Slido.com (Event Code #DC23) to share with us your ideas for ways that would increase your sense of belonging to this fellowship. Note: these answers are received anonymously and will not appear on the main screen.

Write any notes or thoughts from this session here:

GROW

"Change
is inevitable.
Growth is optional."

- John C. Maxwell



Slido.com #DC23

HOW DO YOU GROW IN YOUR MINISTRY SKILLS?

S When prompted, use Slido.com (Event Code #DC23) to share the primary tools you use to develop your ministry skills. Watch as responses from across the room appear on the main screen.

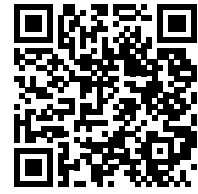
Jot down any new ideas that you're interested in here:

TABLE DISCUSSION: How does being part of the PAOC play into enhancing the following GROWTH areas in your leadership?

Share at your table, and circle your top three most important growth areas.

- Developing Ministry Skill
- Accessing Encouragement
- Evangelizing your Community
- Finding Staff
- Ongoing Education
- Participating in International Outreach
- Solving Finance Needs
- Finding Mentoring
- Help with my Health and Well-Being
- Assistance with Solving Tough Problems
- Training for my Young Leaders and Volunteers

SERVE



Slido.com #DC23

FOR THE ABNWT TO MAXIMIZE OUR SERVING, OUR CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES NEED TO EFFECTIVELY:

Reach Pre-Christians

Self Assessment: Circle where your ministry/church is at on each of these.

Community engagement. Being actively engaged in the community, for the community, about the community.



Being undeniably good in the community and changing the negative narrative about the church.



Seeing and meeting needs of my community. Raising the quality of life for all who live there.



Disciple Christians

Self Assessment: Circle where your ministry/church is at on each of these.

Training new believers in the Christian pattern of godliness.



Reaching lost people and inviting them to follow Jesus.



Caring for one another.



Honour and Love God

Self Assessment: Circle where your ministry/church is at on each of these.

We love and worship God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength.



We put Christ first with time, talent, and treasure.



We are obedient in following Jesus, even when He leads us to hard places.



Next Steps

TABLE DISCUSSION:

What are you dreaming for your church/ministry in the next 12 months?

Share at your table and write your answer here:

What supports could you use to see those dreams fulfilled?

Share at your table and write your answer here:



When prompted, use Slido.com (Event Code #DC23) to tell us how the ABNWT District Resource Centre can help your church/ministry in the next 12 months. Note: these answers are received anonymously and will not appear on the main screen.

Write any notes or thoughts from this session here:

Cooperative Fellowship

“Voluntary” does not mean “optional,” and “volunteer” does not mean “second-class”—quite the opposite.

Voluntary means willingly. It’s right there in the word itself. The root of the word “voluntary” is the Latin word “volo,” which means an act of the will. In fact, the English word “will” is the Latin word “volo” transmitted through time. The Latin “volo” becomes the Old Norse “vila,” which becomes the Old English “wela,” which becomes the modern English “will.” If we were to de-Latinize the word “voluntary,” it would become the word “willantary” because it’s something you do as a sheer act of will.

The term “volunteer” actually has a military origin and was used to describe a type of soldier. You see, there are three types of soldiers in times of war.

The first is the conscript. This is a soldier who has been forced to fight against their will. In terms of quality, the conscript is the worst of all possible soldiers. They don’t want to be there, and they don’t want to fight. In fact, they will only fight as long as they are more afraid of their commanders than they are of the enemy. As soon as they get an opportunity to quit and run away, they will take it.

The second type of soldier is the mercenary. This is a soldier who will fight as long as they get paid. They are far more effective than the conscript because the conscript is only motivated by fear, while the mercenary is motivated by greed. The mercenary will fight and fight hard – as long as they are winning. However, the mercenary knows that dead men collect no paychecks, so if the tide of battle turns against them, they will run away just as fast as the conscript.

The third type of soldier is the volunteer. These are the military elites and the most deadly soldiers there are. They fight as a sheer act of their will and are willing to lay their lives down because they believe in the cause. While other soldiers will run away when the chips are down, volunteers will fight with everything they have right to the bitter end.

Why is this significant?

It is significant because The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada is a *voluntary cooperative fellowship*, and knowing what that means affects everything.

First, we are voluntary – we are here as a sheer act of the will. Nobody forced me to join this team. I came here willingly because I believe in the cause. What did I willingly sign up for? To join a voluntary cooperative fellowship – which literally means that I have willingly decided to cooperate and fellowship with other pastors, churches, and congregants to follow Jesus as we advance the cause of the Gospel. If I had no intention of living the life of a married man, then I shouldn’t have stood at that altar and said, “I do.” If I had no intention of voluntarily cooperating and fellowshipping with other pastors and churches, it was a pretty stupid idea to join a voluntary cooperative fellowship.

Second, is that we cooperate. This is a sacrifice of time, money, and resources to coordinate our efforts in advancing the Gospel. This means that I will be a contributor, not a consumer. I will give more than I take, and I will lead others to do the same. This means that any church I pastor will financially support the district, church planters, and missionaries. And, if the right opportunity comes along, I will also invest in other congregations. I will coordinate efforts, training, and resources with other pastors and churches. Anything I learn – I share.

Third, is we fellowship. This means I will invest in relationships outside of my congregation with other pastors, leaders, and churches. We’ve all met those

lone-ranger wing-nut Christians who don't think they need to be a part of the church. Their error is that they rebel against the teaching of Scripture that "the eye cannot say to the hand 'I don't need you'" and instead have contempt for the body of Christ – they learn from no one, they support no one, and they answer to no one. Unfortunately, sometimes these lone rangers get jobs as pastors and continue to show contempt for the body of Christ and lead their churches learning from no one, supporting no one, and answering to no one.

Not me.

I will treat my co-labourers in Christ as friends. I will celebrate their wins, and I will give comfort and support when they face hard times. This will cost me time and effort, but my family in Christ is worth it.

In the end, I didn't join an optional cooperative fellowship but a voluntary cooperative fellowship. And because that's what I signed up for – that's what I'm going to do. I believe in the cause and will lay my life down for it. And should the day come when I am unable or unwilling to voluntarily cooperate and fellowship, then I hope I have the integrity to do the honourable thing.



John Albiston
Effectiveness Coach

Better Together

"We are a cooperative Fellowship, and our relationships are marked by mutual trust, value, and respect for one another. We are church leaders who work interdependently, as one team." - Rev. Dr. David R. Wells, General Superintendent, The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

OUR COOPERATIVE FELLOWSHIP

The General Superintendent of the PAOC describes the governance of the Fellowship as a forceful, life-giving river running between two banks. This is a powerful image. Riverbanks have been identified as vitally important and valuable, providing great significance to the rivers and communities they support. One of the riverbanks in this picture of governance for the PAOC is the cooperative Fellowship that is enjoyed by the participating churches affiliated with the PAOC.

As a cooperative Fellowship of 1,100 churches in Canada, our sustaining relationship is vital. We need the strength of other disciple-making communities standing around us, helping us maintain healthy, functioning churches. We operate at our best in relationships with other local, district, national and international leaders doing ministry alongside us. We accomplish greater things for God's kingdom when we are connected as a Fellowship, guided by a shared mission.

To be cooperative demands mutual trust, value, and respect, as well as high levels of communication, participation and input.

To accomplish greater things across our nation and in our own provinces, cities and towns, local churches practice generosity to our co-labourers. Through our expression of being a cooperative Fellowship, we tithe (10%) to the Fellowship through our respective districts and, in turn, practice a

shared responsibility of tithing to the international office. These funds help support approximately 70% of the Fellowship Services budget and 30% of the Mission Canada budget. The International Missions global ministry, while an effective global expression of our cooperative Fellowship, receives its support separately through engaged congregations and donors.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

- We demonstrate our desire to work together from the outset by affiliating.
- We participate together as a relationally-based mission family, investing in the shared vision and mission of the Fellowship.
- We financially support the Fellowship's district and International Office's ministries and services through a Fellowship tithe (10%) of our local church's contributions.
- We actively engage and support the national and international mission of the PAOC as an expression of the local church's ministry.

Rivers are important to people. In Scripture, we see that they are also important to God. Rivers are always moving. Powerful waters provide refreshment and rest for people, as well as nourishment for the ecosystem around them. We can never underestimate the important role of a church in a local community and the incredible impact it can have.

THE LOCAL CHURCH

While we are diverse as local churches in our expression as self-governing assemblies, it is amazing when we realize that we are all steadfast in our collective effort to make disciples – everywhere.

There is incredible power in a shared vision. The local church is like a refreshing, forceful, life-giving river.

Anyone living near one of Canada's great rivers knows that the river's flow often changes throughout the year, running high during rainy seasons and low during dry summer months. There are similar seasons

in the life of a local church, but across Canada, this truth remains: PAOC churches are places where God's people, empowered by and dependent on the Holy Spirit, tell the life-transforming story of Jesus Christ.

We believe it is critical for our PAOC churches to be self-governing. They have been given the right of self-government, an "inherent right to sovereignty in the conduct of their own affairs." It does not equate with being independent or autonomous but rather allows for a high level of local empowerment and diversity.

We value and respect what makes us uniquely different, knowing that together we are part of a greater body of Pentecostal leaders and congregations across Canada who are called by God to fulfil His mandate to share the good news.

We hold to a statement of faith that unites us, yet we may reach our communities in different ways. Uniquely, we respond to God's leading with the freedom to do what He is asking us to do in our geographical settings.

WE ARE THE SAME YET DIFFERENT

- Each local church calls its own pastor, appoints its own leadership, holds property and sets operational policies.
- Each local church has a membership of committed believers who unite to be salt and light in the mission field of their local community.
- Each local church is given the opportunity to conduct its own affairs yet has the covering of a district leadership team and national family.

With a Charter signed in 1919, our history is rich and has known great kingdom impact for nearly 100 years. Our archives are filled with countless stories that tell of how we have been better together.

Walk along a river and explore the wetlands. Feel the strength and protection of a riverbank, known as the riparian zone. This zone provides stability to moving water, protecting the river and riverbanks by reducing erosion and improving water quality. It

provides shelter for animals and fish. Without it, the river is made vulnerable. Similarly, the PAOC works to protect and offer security.

OUR AFFILIATION

Without question, the impact of the river's life multiplies within the banks of affiliation and cooperation.

When a church or leader makes a decision to affiliate, it is choosing to become family—making a choice to work in unity with like-minded leaders, local churches and ministries. It is declaring a desire to belong, to be part of the greater whole. When we affiliate, we join together with others. We become connected. We align, moving forward together in the same direction, with purpose and a unity of heart. Strength, stability, shelter, security and support are ours.

Local churches, ministries and credential holders who affiliate find value in the relationship. We affiliate with the PAOC's history, identity and spirituality. We come together in agreement on the PAOC's Statement of Essential Truths and hold true to these truths in our teaching. By affiliating, we bond in structure and governance through a local church, district and national constitutions. Affiliation also allows pastors and leaders to hold credentials with the district in which they are located, providing them with a direct, accountable and privileged relationship, as set out in the General Constitution and By-Laws. Credential holders hold to a Ministerial Code of Ethics. We choose to be accountable to one another. That's what family does.

As we choose a relationship with the PAOC, local churches participate in a commitment to the shared vision, core values and mission of the Fellowship. We care about the spiritual, missional and theological vitality of the family. We are accountable to one another for sound doctrine. We equip one another with the call to make disciples. We declare publicly that we are in community.

WE WORK TOGETHER, SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

- In our shared missional initiatives, including church planting and church revitalization.
- Through leader and church development (Bible colleges, district-facilitated initiatives, conferences and events, online mentoring, visits and consultations).
- As we care for fellow leaders and churches when needs arise in times of transition, bereavement, restoration and conflict resolution.
- Administratively and through our Fellowship services (credentials, legal and government processes, constitutions, credentialed leadership, and organizational functions).

Simply put, we are better together. When we choose to embrace a shared vision and mission, we know that our own local church is living out the Great Commission. Together, we are making disciples in our Jerusalem (locally), in our Judea (districts and regionally), in our Samaria (across our nation and through Mission Canada) and to the outermost parts of the earth (through our International Missions endeavours).

Truly, we are better together.



Aligned for Mission

The mission of the church, as commissioned by Jesus, has been before us for close to 2,000 years. His people, empowered by the Spirit, and motivated by the love, grace and truth of our Lord, are to go to all peoples and proclaim the Good News, which brings transformation. The mission's fruit is to see disciplined followers of Jesus developed, who, in obedience, are baptized and observe all that Jesus commanded as they, too, go and make disciples. This cycle of disciple-making indicates that the mission is being fulfilled.

It is always good to be reminded that the giver of this commission is the “Lord of the harvest,” the One who oversees this mission. Our responsibility is to obediently hear the call and follow the Spirit's guidance as we participate alongside the Lord's entire body.

Here's the thing—the entire mission does not rest on one person, one church, one group of churches, one Christian communion or even one generation of Christians. It is way bigger than any of those. The Lord calls, and we respond, as have millions before us, and hundreds of millions more are doing even as I write. All His people, called by His name, whatever their “branding” is, are chosen to be witnesses to those in the multiple contexts He sends them to.

In many Christian circles, 2033 is being commemorated as the 2,000th anniversary of the death and resurrection of Jesus, His ascension, and His outpouring of the Spirit on His church to fulfil His mission. This has resulted in a unified understanding in many parts of the global church that the Lord of the harvest is calling His people to be “aligned for mission.”

Amid global signs of the times similar to what Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24, there is also a recognition of what He stated in Matthew 24:14, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

A decade-long, multi-component focus pointed toward a unified mission that would see the gospel of the kingdom preached to the whole world is taking place. For instance, the Pentecostal World Fellowship Executive and Advisory at the Pentecostal World

Conference in Korea passed a resolution calling on Spirit-empowered congregations across the globe to focus on fulfilling the Great Commission by 2033. The resolution reads:

The Pentecostal World Fellowship encourages its members to work towards fulfilling the Great Commission in this generation. We affirm the numerous 2033 initiatives focused on “Everyone” hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ. We call upon our member congregations to mobilize prayer, leadership, compassion, and resources to contact every unreached person. We believe the next ten years will be the greatest decade of fulfilling the mandate of Jesus as together, empowered by the Spirit, we proclaim the “Good News” and establish new churches.

This re-personalization of sharing the gospel calls for a focus to go to “Everyone” by everyone. Personal witness and evangelism are not optional for a people committed to the mission given by our Lord. The evangelists among God's people will be called on to be equippers of all believers, along with fulfilling their distinct calling to reach the unreached. Ministries that facilitate evangelism in secularized contexts, such as Alpha, envision enhanced partnerships that will allow for greater fruitfulness.

This call to “Everyone” is essential for the church multiplication movements envisioned over the coming years. The World Assemblies of God Fellowship, in its MM33 initiative, is, by faith, strategizing for a total of one million churches by 2033. Aligned multiplication network endeavours need to be front and centre as our various movements partner together for kingdom increase of disciple-making communities, as seen in other initiatives such as “Finishing the Task” led by Rick Warren and the FINISH initiative of the Church of God and the Global Church Network. FINISH calls on churches to Find, Intercede, Network, Invest, Send and Harvest.

Running like a spine through all of these initiatives are prayer movements such as World Prays, whose mission is Every Church in Every Nation a House of Prayer. Prayer movements are seeking to be electronically linked as they pray for every nation, community and person on the planet. In the coming season, prayer movements will need to consciously focus on the primary mission of the church and not be distracted by secondary focuses.

By faith, picture with me church movements and resource ministries aligned for mission—globally, nationally, regionally and locally. Marked by first love, prayer and intercession, the people of God together proclaim the gospel through personal witness and cooperative evangelism. Every believer participates in unity with justice and sacrificial service. Empowered by the Spirit, vital churches multiply as disciple-making communities.

The good news is that our Lord, by the Spirit, is at work globally in ways that we cannot think or imagine. Let us determine to align with the Lord of the harvest and His people, every descriptor and context, to see this gospel of the kingdom preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Enable us to align our hearts, minds and strategies with Yours and those who love You so that together we may see Your mission fulfilled in multiple transformed lives. For Your glory, Amen.



David Wells
General Superintendent

This article appeared in the January/February/March 2023 issue of testimony/Enrich, a quarterly publication of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. © 2023 The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

REVERSING

the Trend



AUGUST 29-30, 2023

11-12:30 PM (MT) EACH DAY



Finu Iybo
Village Church



David MacFarlane
Author & Speaker



Sharon Witten
Toronto City Church



Shayla Visser
Alpha Canada



John Albiston
Effectiveness Coach



Gary Taitinger
ABNWT District Supt.



David Wells
PAOC General Supt.

and more!



Claim your free pass now
ChurchVitalization.ca



PRAYER GATHERING

EMPOWERED

10 AM - 2 PM

AT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

SEP 27

ST. PAUL

Bethel Family Worship Centre

SEP 28

EDMONTON

Hope City Mill Woods Campus

OCT 3

WHITECOURT

Family Worship Centre

OCT 5

CALGARY

Imagine Church

ABNWT.COM



ALBERTA BEACH, JULY 1-9
www.abfamilycamp.ca

SONRISE, August 5-13
www.sonrisecamp.ca

SUNNYSIDE, July 16-23
www.sunnysidecamp.org/camp/

MOOSE LAKE, July 22-30
www.mooselakepc.ca

HAVE YOU PLANNED YOUR SUMMER VACATION?

Our various summer camps are affordable vacation environments of spiritual and recreational refreshment for you and your family. Family Camps are a quality “holiday with a purpose” opportunity to inspire Christian pattern living for the entire family. They also foster life-giving relationship connections with others in the Body of Christ.



DEVELOPING
SPIRIT-EMPOWERED
LEADERS TO ADVANCE
FRUITFUL CHURCHES AND
GLOBAL MISSION

—
DISCIPLESHIP

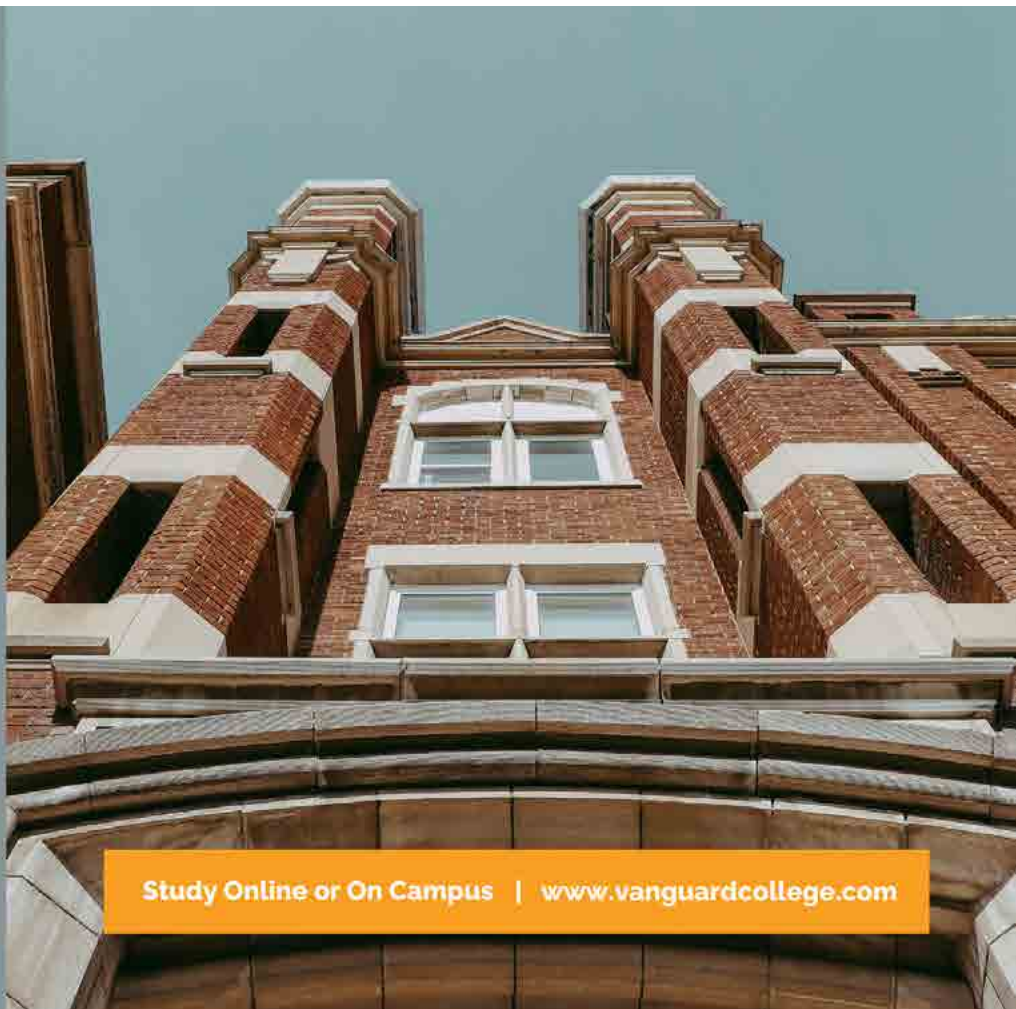
CERTIFICATE

DIPLOMA

DEGREE

AFTER-DEGREE

Edmonton, AB | 1.866.222.0808



Study Online or On Campus | www.vanguardcollege.com



ALBERTA & NWT DISTRICT OF THE PAOC

12140 103 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5G 2J9
info@abnwt.com, www.abnwt.com