

# ANNUAL REPORT



2022 - 2023

vernonalliance  
church



# Looking Back and Looking Forward

Report of the Lead Pastor



If you were to ask me to describe the season of the 2022-2023 ministry year, I would characterize it as a year of foundation-laying (or “building” as the writer of Ecclesiastes puts it). Our collective goal as a leadership team was to build a healthy foundation to support a decade of Spirit-empowered ministry in the North Okanagan and beyond. As I look back on our work, I’m encouraged to see what the Lord has enabled us to do.

After the pandemic years when our values of togetherness and unity were tested, we sought healing and emphasized intentional, meaningful relationships. This is evidenced by growing attendance at our services, classrooms full of kids on Sundays, and new groups that extend well beyond the life of our weekend gatherings. We also completed the Listening Initiative which was launched by the board in Fall 2021. This process was capped off in October with

Reset: a powerful night of corporate prayer, repentance and worship when we asked God to heal, guide and bless us for the journey ahead. In a little over one year, we have added 11 new staff members to the team. Each of these passionate and qualified people is focused on supporting and equipping the body in the years to come.

We have continued to prioritize prayer through the expansion of Renewal Prayer on the weekends and the launching of the Hearing God seminar.

In April, members approved the purchase of the neighbouring residential property on 43rd Ave. This acquisition opens up new possibilities for the growth and enhancement of our campus.

The Global Missions Leadership Team (formerly known as the GAP Team) has also crafted a fresh vision to guide our international and intercultural ministries. We also entered into a 3-year partnership in SE Asia to strengthen churches and church leaders among an unreached people group.

Through prayer and consultation with the broader church family, the board and staff have outlined a new vision and mission that will carry us into the next decade. Here’s how we have articulated that new vision:

**We want to see the church, the Okanagan,  
and the world fully alive in Jesus.**

*We partner with the Holy Spirit to:*  
**Build communities,  
Equip for life,  
Mobilize for the mission,  
Facilitate God-encounters**

Jesus came to offer every person the full, abundant life they were designed for. He invites his people to experience that life, and then, as it bubbles over, share it in our neighbourhoods, our cities, our region and even to the “ends of the earth.” I look forward to unpacking this vision with you in 2023-2024 and then acting on it together. It has already resulted in some new priorities for the coming year.

These include:

- 1) Ensuring that our new vision and direction are understood by a wide range of people and embraced across all ministries.
- 2) Continuing to increase the prayer temperature of our church so that we become a church of prayer.
- 3) Determining the possibilities and priorities for the future development of our physical campus.

Whatever “times” lie ahead, and whether our plans succeed or fail, we can move ahead with confidence. The reason for that confidence? Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

With expectation,

Jason Koleba  
Lead Pastor



There is a time for everything, and a season  
for every activity under the heavens.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1



# Year in Review From Your Elders

As I reflect on our work this past ministry year, I believe the board experienced the reality of this promise:

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.  
(Proverbs 3: 5-6)**

Many times as we sought the Lord, He made our paths straight by giving us hope, assurance and guidance!

Here are some of the highlights of this year's activities:

- Reset Night – an evening to acknowledge and reflect on our past and step into the future that God has for us as a church.
- October Elders retreat led by Matt Boda. We focused on our personal and spiritual health and well-being.
- Time spent on foundational rebuilding after a leadership transition and a global pandemic.
- Creating a fresh vision, mission and values statements through much prayer and dialogue. This work will guide our church for the next season of Spirit-empowered ministry.
- Staff-Elder prayer night. We prayed for the needs of our church and the visioning process.
- Annual Lead Pastor review.
- Interviewed and affirmed many new members.
- Approved and updated Risk Management Policy that will ensure vulnerable people in our midst will be protected.
- Approved a new Global Missions Policy that will see us strengthen and focus our commitment to our international work.
- Evaluation of and eventual purchase of neighboring residential property
- Monthly meetings where we reviewed and gave oversight to the spiritual, financial, and ministry dimensions of our church.

This year we have 3 elders completing their terms. To Darren Kroeker, Roy Bouman, and Wilf Haak we say a huge thank you for your years of commitment and service to our church family. You all used your gifts and expertise to help build God's kingdom here at Vernon Alliance. May you experience a time of rest and refreshment as you step into this new season. We trust that God will continue to use you in meaningful ways in His kingdom work.

By Len Wedel (Chair) on behalf of the Board of Elders,

Jas Parr (Vice-Chair and Secretary), Wilf Haak (Treasurer), Barb Nudd, Darren Kroeker, Keith Schiehl, Roy Bouman, Shelley Reeves, and Jason Koleba.



## Vernon Alliance BY THE NUMBERS

2021  
2022



25  
BAPTISMS



300  
MEMBERS



22  
NEW  
MEMBERS



476  
AVERAGE  
ATTENDANCE

2022  
2023



20  
BAPTISMS



257  
MEMBERS



28  
NEW  
MEMBERS



689  
AVERAGE  
ATTENDANCE



2021-2022

27,563  
Total YouTube Views

382  
YouTube Subscribers

7,400  
YouTube Hours Watched

1,500  
Instagram Followers  
(Vernon Alliance, VAC YA, VAC Families, Reign)

1,300  
Facebook Followers  
(Vernon Alliance, VAC YA, VAC Families, Reign)

2022-2023

19,400  
Total YouTube Views

502  
YouTube Subscribers

5,400  
YouTube Hours Watched

1,600  
Instagram Followers  
(Vernon Alliance, VAC YA, VAC Families, Reign)

2,477  
Facebook Followers  
(Vernon Alliance, VAC YA, VAC Families, Reign)

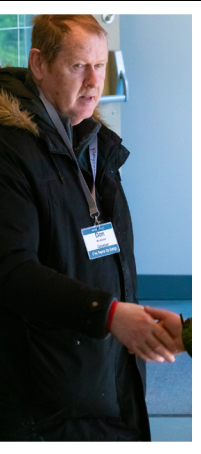


# WEEKENDS & WORSHIP

## Weekend Hospitality

Weekend Hospitality is the church's front-line ministry that makes sure everyone who enters is welcomed and given the chance to get to know and care about them. Its goal is to make people feel welcome as members of our community. This manifests itself in concrete ways when we welcome, instruct, guide, and serve people. As we serve our community together, these little connections between us enable us to be in the best possible position to meet Jesus and experience incredible blessings. We would ideally like to see more families and children join us in service during this time.

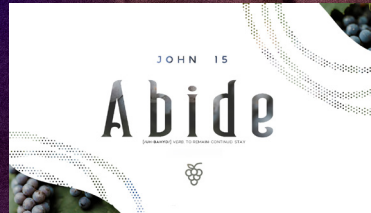
The hospitality crew consists of **109** people who work as greeters, ushers, coffee servers, point people, and desk personnel.



## What We Studied:

**899**  
People attended  
Easter 2022

**1071**  
People attended  
Easter 2023



**1380**  
People attended  
Christmas Services  
December, 2022



2021/22  
Saturday Service  
average

**161**

Sunday Service  
average

**315**

2022/23  
Saturday Service  
average

**226**

Sunday Service  
average

**463**



We are a worshipping church, so spending time together every weekend praising God and learning from his word remains a top focus. Our worship ministry has welcomed a large number of new participants. We added three new team members. Paul (Production Director) and Ali (Worship Administrative Assistant) joined us on a part-time basis, and Leif (Graphics & Communication Specialist) joined us full-time.

Our band now includes 8 musicians, and our production staff now includes 4 people. Fun fact: Throughout the year, we collectively showcased 10 different instruments. These comprised two brand-new instruments: a bass synthesizer and a bassoon.

*Joel Friesen*

Joel Friesen  
Worship Arts Pastor

We sang

**110**  
Different  
songs

**13**  
Hymns

**10**  
New songs





# MINISTRY AND DISCIPLESHIP



Wow, what a year of building up the ministries of the church. There is so much to celebrate about what God has been doing across the wide spectrum of our discipleship ministries. Just to highlight a couple: We saw 30 young adult leaders serving in youth, and we even had over 100 children come on a Sunday morning. There are many new developments: Over 60 new engagements in Home Groups and a broad expansion of our 55+ ministry, extending from weekly Bible Study to many community-building social experiences. Alpha saw extraordinarily strong numbers of 50-60 weekly attendees where there were breakthroughs of learning and healing, and four people gave their lives to Jesus. Not only that, we've already seen 20 baptisms this year with more lake baptisms to come at the end of August!

On a personal note, I had a profound experience at our home group and ministry leaders' year-end appreciation. As people were connecting and sharing about all God had been doing I had this moment where I was just overcome with the love of God and his people that just permeated the room. We had been in the trenches of ministry together – sometimes together, sometimes apart in our various callings. What a beautiful experience of being in the work of ministry together in just my first year pastoring with Vernon Alliance.

This is my heart's desire for the discipleship ministries of the church: That many would encounter the profound love of God in the community, and that we would be growing and being equipped for the ministry God would have for us. There is so much to celebrate. And God has so much for us in this year and years ahead. We're happy to share some of the developments and stories of God's faithfulness with you from this past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave MacPhee".

Dave MacPhee  
Senior Associate Pastor



## Women's DVD Study

Four studies were offered covering the following topics: The Fruit of the Spirit, Cultivating a Heart of Gratitude, Discerning God's Voice, and the Life of David. This year was characterized by ladies hungry to dig deeper into the Word and grow closer to Jesus. It was so beautiful to see the faithfulness of the Holy Spirit in satisfying their hunger.

## Womens Walking Group

The Women's Walking Group met weekly at the Rail Trail on Tuesday mornings for an hour to exercise and connect (they even snowshoed in winter!) After walks, there were often opportunities to connect in a home. There was wonderful fellowship and trust as women offered support to one another through friendship and prayer.

## The Gathering

Of the five Gathering events for women, four were evenings of worship and encounter, and one was focused on fun and friendship building. Our vision is to deepen our relationship with God and with each other. Some feedback we have received from attendees is their appreciation of the variety: sometimes fun and informal, other times deep and worshipful. We are always in awe of the Holy Spirit as he masterfully weaves together whatever is needed to bring us into His presence. We are blown away by the participation and freedom in the room and the unhurried opportunity it provides to receive God's love more deeply within us. It's a joy to hear how so many women left refreshed, healed, seen, and loved.

## Women's Mentorship

Women's Mentorship hosted an event in June inviting women to sign up for the launch of "Tea Trios." These trios will consist of three women who intentionally encourage one another and invest in each other's faith journey through the beautiful joy of friendship. We had 20 women attend our launch and we already have 5 women committed to this investment launching in the fall.

"God is not looking for perfect women. He is looking for passionate women."  
-Priscilla Shirer

106

Women participated in the DVD Studygroup over the past year

15-20

Women at each weekly Walking Group

75

Women at one Gathering event



## Library Changes

After many months of thoughtful consideration and consultation with staff, volunteers, and ministry leaders, we made the difficult decision to close the library. Lack of patronage, costliness of resources and the increasing need for additional meeting space were all part of making this final decision. Important resources for our Family Ministries, Home Groups and staff have been saved for future use. Thank you to all who attended our library resource sale. We had a great turnout and raised \$1000 which will be used to equip the new multi-use space. The room has been fashioned like a living room for visiting, less formal meetings, prayer, after-school activities, and connections. The youth and young adult teams already have plans to utilize this space for ministry throughout the week in a more casual atmosphere. We are excited about the ministry possibilities that will unfold in this recently opened space. We thank all those who were faithful users of the library.

## Home Groups

We had over 60 new people join Home Groups, with 3 new groups forming, and 3 new leaders already starting the process for forming new groups in the year ahead. We have been hard at work to make Home Groups more accessible: from hiring new staff (Loretta) to creating new equipping and gathering rhythms for leaders, to working towards launching a new church center app where people will be able to go through the various groups online to find the one that's right for them. Our group culture is very invitational so we are seeing many group members reach out and invite new people as well. We had over 60 people come to our group retreat at Eagle Bay this year.

## Care Ministry

The Care Ministry seeks to provide genuine care by making phone calls or in-person visits to those who are ill, in pain, mourning, isolated, or otherwise vulnerable during their time of need. The care team consists of 13 individuals, and 38 patients were attended to through numerous calls and visits. Other areas of care include the Living Room, which offers a safe space once a month for people with mental health challenges to connect and be encouraged, and the new Prayer Shawl Ministry, where knitters pray over the shawls they make to be given to those who need comfort in trying times of suffering and grief. The Samaritan's Purse Sharing Hope in Crisis one-day training event was attended by over 70 participants in October. People came together from different churches in our city because they wanted to learn more about assisting others in finding hope in their endeavors.

## Prayer Ministry

Vernon Alliance is a church thirsty for the living God. One highlight of this past year was the Holy Spirit weekend. There was a call to fully surrender to Jesus, with an invitation to receive the holy spirit; to step out in faith and risk, to journey and not arrive. The sincere and humble response to this call was "yes," by so many people!

*"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Cor 3:17*

**\$1000**

Raised from the library book sale

**60**

New Homegroup Participants

**38**

Patients were visited by the Care Ministry



## Seniors

We normally have 20 to 25 people attend the Wednesday bible study and most of the session is spent in three to four small groups praying, sharing, and answering discussion questions. We focus on God's word and caring for one another. This season, we followed Jason's "Vine and Branches" theme and then proceeded into the Old Testament using Phillip Yancey's book "The Bible that Jesus Read." One underlying but crucial theme is that God has a lot for us to do, regardless of our limitations. The verses in Matthew 25:31-40 are always there to remind us that we can offer food, water, friendship, and clothing, care for the sick, and visit those who are imprisoned. We want to do His will, laugh a lot, and finish strong.

## 55+ Community

VAC 55+ ministry was started to create a broader vision/purpose for Seniors/Retirees living in the Okanagan and attending VAC. After the inaugural Eagle Bay Camp retreat in September 2022, a ministry leadership team was created. This team included Steve & Lesley Willett, Brad & Susan Cooksley, Tuck & Leslie Warner, Roy & Caroline Bouman, Bob & Barb Elgin, Trudy Kemper, Leila Ward, and Dave & Barb Nudd.

**Vision:** To promote the work of Christ and inspire each other.

**Purpose:** We are a vibrant community with a heart for building relationships, service, and discipleship.

As the seniors at VAC already have a committed Bible Study group, we focussed on organizing activities where we could create community and new relationships. This was accomplished through a variety of events: October potluck, Christmas carol and Dessert evening, snowshoeing, games night, bowling, movie night, hiking, biking, and paddling at Kal Beach. Our events were attended by 25 to 70 people depending on the event. (In looking at this list we have had a very full calendar.)

## Men

Every Friday from 6:30 to 7:45 a.m., our Men's Coffee Connect Group gathered in the arbour or, during the summer, at Blenz. Our guys shared a cup of coffee, some details of their lives, and mutual support. We had men ranging in age from 24 to 90 during the year, and they all understood the value of using both youthful and old expertise to improve the lives of men of all ages. We conducted four studies in the course of the year:

- **Two Francis Chan studies** – the book of James and book of Job.
- **Seven Obstacles Men Face** with Vince Miller.
- **Jeff Voth's Mountain Men** examined the relevance of mountains to both modern men and biblical men.

In June, our Men's XCC Group travelled to the eastern slopes of the Rockies, providing God with a potent setting in which to speak to and challenge our guys in fresh ways. Six of our men, ranging in age from 20 to 60, went on this four-day wilderness expedition with 150 other men. We were challenged in mind, body, and soul on this adventure, and as a result, we became closer and underwent personal transformation.



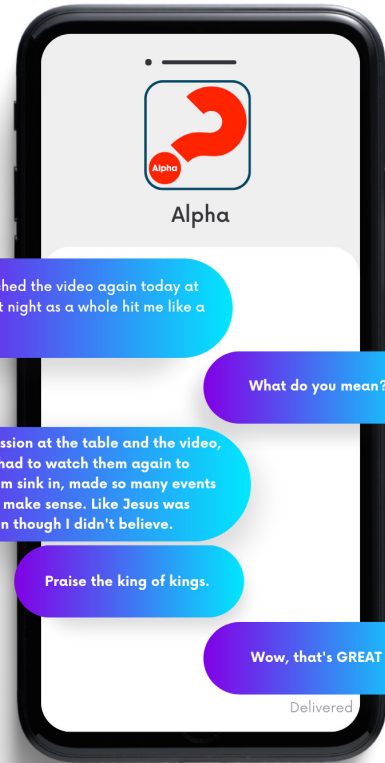
Our Men's Activities & Socials included snowshoeing at Silver Star, grilling meat at the Arbour, and bicycling the rail trail to Oyama for burgers.



# Alpha

Last year, there were under 30 people attending Alpha weekly. However, this year, the attendance increased to an average of over 50 people per week. It is a great blessing to witness numerous acts of loving service and the positive impact they are having on people's lives. Many individuals are exploring the difference that Jesus can make in their lives, and it is heartwarming to see the positive changes.

Before the Holy Spirit weekend, we requested the leaders attend a prayer training session which proved to be an excellent start to the weekend. A few individuals experienced healing during the weekend with four of them getting baptized along with another person from the previous year. One person confirmed that Alpha had convinced her to get baptized! It was truly amazing to witness how many prayer requests were granted. A few individuals were praying behind the scenes during every Alpha session, and a couple of them were also available as facilitators if necessary. Overall, the Alpha season was successful, and several leaders have already expressed their desire to partake in Alpha next year.



But I watched the video again today at lunch. Last night as a whole hit me like a hammer.

What do you mean?

The discussion at the table and the video, though I had to watch them again to make them sink in, made so many events in my life make sense. Like Jesus was there even though I didn't believe.

Praise the king of kings.

Wow, that's GREAT

Text conversation between an Alpha participant and Christiane Molendyk

**50**  
Weekly participants

**660+**  
Plates of dessert were served during the Alpha Course



I love getting to watch the kids gain a better understanding of the Bible and God! I love being able to see the way they include others and form relationships with one another.  
-Kaylee (Families Volunteer)

# Vernon Alliance Families

Our prayer is that God will empower the kids of Vernon Alliance with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in their hearts as they trust in Him. Their roots will grow down into God's love and keep them strong. And they may have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high and how deep His love is.

This past year has been full of growth, trying new things, and building community. We unified our check-in systems to create efficiency and safety for both our preschool and elementary weekend programs. From January to June, we opened up our elementary program at the Saturday service. We have seen amazing growth at our Sunday service. The majority of growth has been in our young families with toddlers and preschool-aged children. It is great to see lots of young families engaging in community with one another not only at weekend services but also at our parent-tot playgroup, summer Park Days, and home groups. We continue to use the Gospel Light curriculum for preschool children while we move to a new elementary curriculum called GROW. Our Sunday program could not happen without our amazing group of volunteers! We have over 40 volunteers, with an average of around 15 volunteers on a weekend.



Amy Fitchett (left), Pastor of Children's Ministry, poses with bags of popcorn during a Families movie night.

**78**  
Kids on average Sunday mornings

**48**  
Kids attended our Toy Story 4 movie night

**12**  
Children were dedicated to the Lord this year

**15**  
Families attended our 6 Park Days events this summer

**90**  
Youth attended Reign on Wednesdays

**12**  
Young adults met every Tuesday

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Ephesians 3:17-18



Matt Young (left), Vernon Alliance Families Coordinator, cheerfully waiting to sign kids in on a Sunday morning.





Levi Mohr, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults



## Youth

Kids are loved and cared for in our youth groups. One of our aims is to make it clear that God loves them through teaching, community, and fun. Every week, we join together in two groups to enjoy games, worship, applicable teaching, and small-group discussion and reflection. The freedom that students experience in a setting where Christ is shared openly and without shame is amazing to witness. Through this experience, doors are opened for newcomers.

In October of last year, our students went through a program on how to be the Church as described in Acts 2:42–47. Given that it was the beginning of the year and much change had taken place recently, it was a great opportunity to understand how we do that. We shared a meal on the fifth week of the program. Now, this wasn't just a 16-piece pizza... This was a substantial Thanksgiving supper served over two evenings to all our students and leaders. Parents, congregation members, and our Young Adults group collectively took up a significant share of the task of creating the menu from scratch, resulting in a stunning manifestation of the capital "C" Church within our student ministries.

## Young Adults

Our Young Adults ministry is a continuation of community and discipleship for ages 18-28. We spend time together catching up on life, sitting in quality conversation, and of course, having lots of fun! The group switches between a casual evening of snacks and activities, and a Bible study every Tuesday evening. One thing is for sure, this group practically provides Christian fellowship, and a like-minded community that goes beyond the weekend services!



I like the community of young adults and how we can connect and relate to each other on what it is like to follow Jesus at this time of our lives.  
- Ty Bartel



# OPERATIONS



Being new on staff this year I am very encouraged to report on an action-packed year! As Director of Operations, I am blessed to put my passion for administration into service for God's Kingdom. This fiscal year, I provided oversight to our benevolent ministry, outreach/local missions, as well as the management of our facility and finances. As the Local Outreach report indicates, our Common Threads Ministry is thriving and facilitates a connection to the community that is unique in our church environment. In addition to financial contributions, donations come to this ministry in the form of clothing, food, groceries, and pre-made meals like soups and casseroles. This ministry continues to be blessed with dedicated volunteers and donors. The development of the Community Initiative Fund is new this year and has enabled us to partner with and support local non-profits that relieve conditions of poverty, feed the hungry and spread the gospel. You can view the full list of who was supported in the Financial Review Committee report found in the **supplemental package** for the AGM.

Our facility has had many changes this past fiscal year which supports our investment in future ministry and mission.

WE:



REFELTED THE PEWS



RECONSTRUCTED THE ARBOUR WALL



RESHINGLED THE ROOF



ADDED LIGHTING TO THE REAR PARKING LOT



PURCHASED A NEIGHBOURING PROPERTY

I had the privilege of chairing the North Okanagan 2030 committee this year. Consisting of staff and volunteers, this committee investigated the social, spiritual, environmental, and practical needs of the residents of the North Okanagan and investigated ways Vernon Alliance Church can address these needs by the year 2030. The report will be considered by leadership while strategic planning is undertaken. After conducting surveys and interviews with local

non-profits a list of unmet needs was developed that included the need for ongoing stable funding for non-profits to meet needs, lack of volunteers and clothing/food and practical needs as low-income families struggle to make ends meet. Foundational to all the programming recommendations is the necessity of spiritually equipping, resourcing and developing missional commitments in all individuals through a variety of teaching and resources.

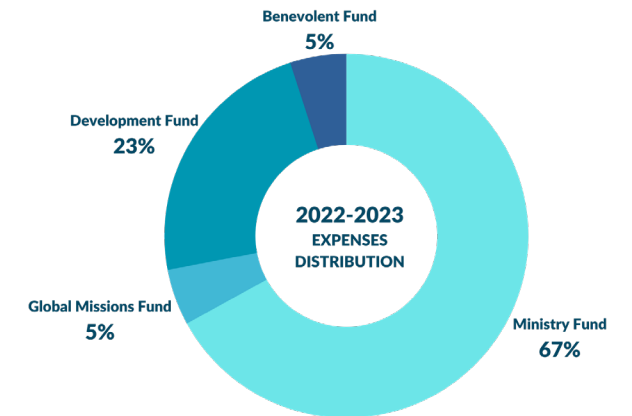
The NO2030 Committee presented the following five recommendations to the Board for consideration:

- 1 Increase local missions and outreach programming options to meet the needs of the working poor and better equip them to navigate circumstances independently.
- 2 Volunteer Mobilization Program to screen, train and equip believers to volunteer in community events and support non-profits.
- 3 Establish a Leadership School to train and equip new leaders for future ministry needs.
- 4 Continue with the Community Initiative Funding to support non-profits.
- 5 Minister to Seniors because our population is aging - they will require more support - but some can be inspired to serve.

Our Annual General Meeting supplemental package has a full financial overview from the Financial Review Committee and the unaudited Independent Review from KPMG, however, let's highlight just a couple of good news items!

When we look at the revenues and expenses over the past few years, we can celebrate that our donations are higher than our expenses, leaving us in a good financial position as we end the fiscal year. Additionally, 67% of spending is through the General Ministry Fund (which supports ministry, admin and facility costs), a total of 10% of dollars are spent on local outreach and global missions, and this year, because of the purchase of the property next door, 23% of total costs were used from Development Funds.

2021-2022	2022-2023
REVENUE \$1,503,431	REVENUE \$1,744,445
EXPENSES \$1,371,970	EXPENSES \$1,573,752
BUDGET \$1,603,450	BUDGET \$1,617,677



As always, we are grateful for your support, without which our ministry and missions would not be possible!

Sincerely,

Kelly Johnson  
Director of Operations



# Global Missions

The goal of the Global Mission Leadership Team (formerly known as GAP) is to promote, facilitate and support the church family of Vernon Alliance to explore, participate and co-labour in furthering the Kingdom of God cross-culturally, around the corner and the world. Our focus in 2022-2023 was creating new policy for Global Mission and we are looking ahead to strategizing the coming years in furthering the mission at Vernon Alliance.

## Our Vision

Vernon Alliance Church gives the world greater access to Jesus.

## Our Mission

To facilitate strategic partnerships and mobilize the people of Vernon Alliance into action for global mission through connection, engagement, inspiration, and education.

### Funds Spent on Mission

**\$49,525.94**  
50%

#### GAF

A fund that all Alliance Churches can support to advance global missions. The GAF is the primary means of providing financially to the Alliance International Workers.

**\$9,711.38**  
10%

#### CMA Home

Canadian Initiatives such as new ventures, church plants, and Canadian missional projects.

**\$44,773.02**  
40%

#### Vernon Alliance Church Missions Account

Distributes funds between the various partners and sponsors supported by the Church.

# Our Global Partners

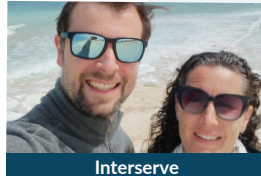


Vernon Alliance Church entered into a three-year, **\$30,000** financial commitment that will support the growth and development of the Sundar Dhoka Village Churches. This support will enable Leadership Development, Leadership Financial Support, Discipleship, and Community Engagement.



The Wellspring Foundation

The first step to transforming the future is transforming education. We do this through our School Development Program, a holistic, innovative, and people-focused approach to sustainable change. They believe that every stakeholder—leader, teacher, and parent—has their unique role to play in supporting education.



Interserve

Mike serves with Engineering Ministries International (EMI) helping different charitable organizations with their building projects (Hospitals, Schools, etc.). Bonita works with Sudanese refugees in Cairo and helps administrate a Bible and Leadership school that trains Sudanese pastors who return to work in Sudan.



Alliance Canada

Erin and Travis serve with Tibetan and Nepalese communities. They are also involved in the leadership training and development for the Sundar Dhoka Village Churches Project.



Zihuat Roofs

Andy and Mo serve out of love for vulnerable families that require stable "roofs over their heads" in Zihuatanejo, Mexico. It is a "pay it forward" principle where families that receive a roof help the next family build theirs, creating care in the community. The roof is a simple and practical way to open the door to sharing the love of Jesus. To date, Zihuat Roofs has replaced 420 roofs.

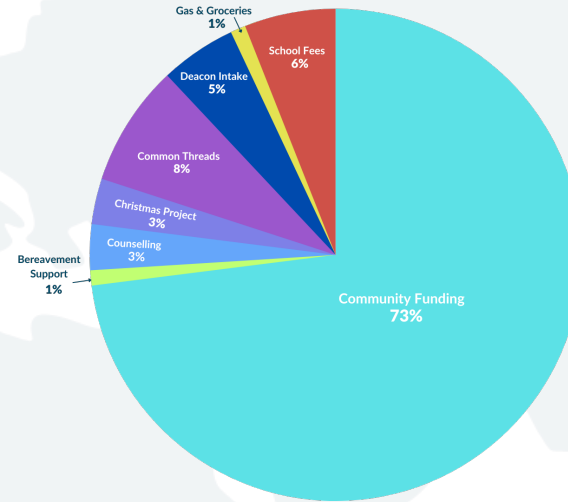


The Zimbabwe Project

The Zimbabwe Project assists children and families in Zimbabwe by creating opportunities for education, health care and employment through the development of sustainable business and community development. They accomplish these goals through many projects such as clean water, libraries and books, family gardens and farming animals.

# Local Outreach

Vernon Alliance uses benevolent funding to support our Common Threads Ministry and provide assistance to those in our church family and across the North Okanagan. This past fiscal year some of our biggest supports were for:



### Local Support

Gas & Groceries	<b>\$1,300</b>
Local Community Support	<b>\$81,705</b>
In School Fees to support local families	<b>\$7,087</b>
Benevolent Committee Intake Requests	<b>\$5,378</b>
Common Threads	<b>\$8,440</b>
Counselling Support to Individuals	<b>\$3,757</b>
Christmas Giving Project 105 families were blessed with gifts and gift cards	<b>\$2,744</b>
Bereavement Support	<b>\$866</b>
<b>Total Local Support</b>	<b>\$111,277</b>

# Community Initiatives Overview

Vernon Alliance developed a new Community Initiative Funding stream to support community organizations that serve vulnerable populations with Christian camps, health, social services, or education mandates. This new process began in September 2022 to ensure transparency and equity in the distribution of funds.

### Community Initiative Fund Successful Applicants

North Okanagan Youth & Family Services	<b>\$3,000</b>	John Rudy Resource Centre Society	<b>\$10,000</b>	Eagle Bay Camp	<b>\$12,000</b>	Hardwood Elementary School	<b>\$3,000</b>
Feed the Streets East Hill Community Church	<b>\$10,000</b>	North Okanagan Chaplaincy Program	<b>\$8,000</b>	Upper Room Mission	<b>\$10,000</b>	Turning Points Collaborative	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>\$59,000</b>							





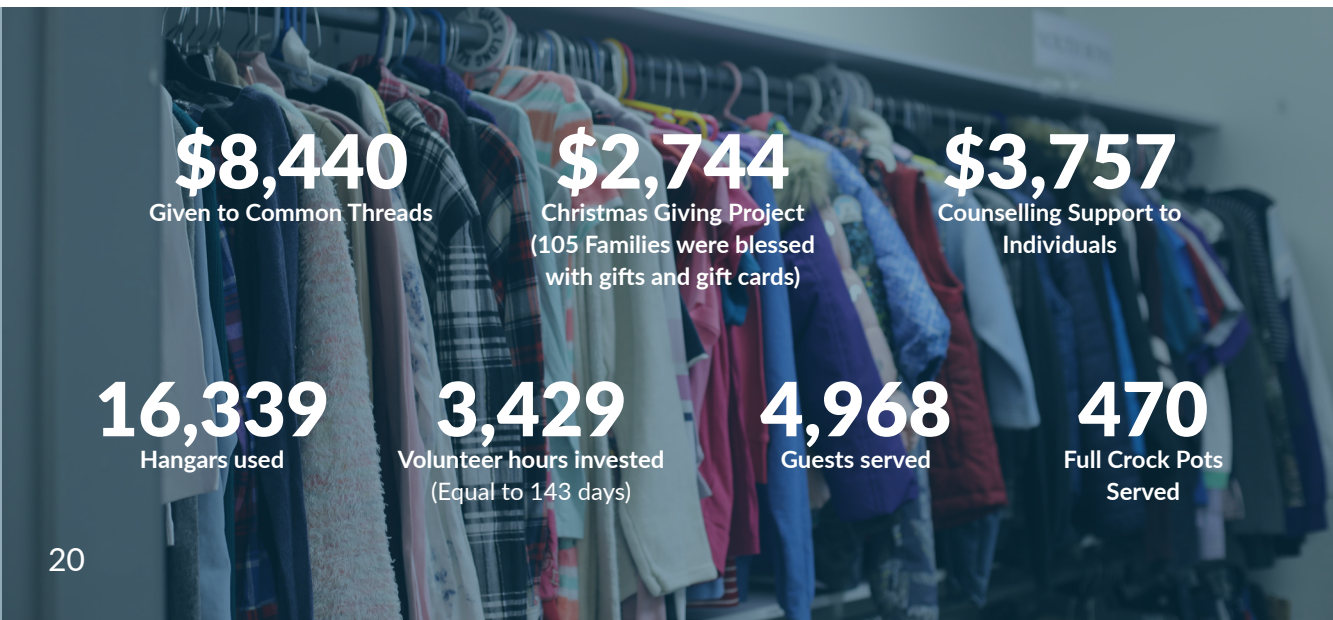
# Common Threads

Karin Gallie, Coordinator of Common Threads, has blossomed in her role over the past year and continues to grow the community amongst our guests and provide oversight to the **60+** volunteers who dedicate hours to this ministry every week. The value of this ministry shows itself in the sheer volume of produce, canned goods, soups, and clothing items. There are many aspects to celebrate including but not limited to:

- 1. An abundance of volunteer support** and new volunteers joining the team this year.
- 2. Completion of exterior wall** and a successful month of service in the Fellowship Hall during construction
- 3. The purchase of a new fridge and stove** thanks to a generous donation from Rob Dinwoodie; proceeds from his Cowboy Christmas event that was held at VAC last December
- 4. Continued support** from the Salvation Army Food Bank, Cob's Bread, Sweet Caroline's Bakery, Pilgrims Produce, and many other local farmers and donors.
- 5. Thousands of pieces of clothing** were carefully organized and hung by our volunteers.
- 6. Seeing the transformation of several of our guests** as they joined the Alpha program, additionally, we had one baptized and another guest waiting for baptism this summer.
- 7. Opening of a prayer room** to accommodate opportunities for private prayer support.



Karin Gallie (right) with Director of Operations, Kelly Johnson (left), serving at Common Threads.



**\$8,440**

Given to Common Threads

**\$2,744**

Christmas Giving Project  
(105 Families were blessed with gifts and gift cards)

**\$3,757**

Counselling Support to  
Individuals

**16,339**

Hangars used

**3,429**

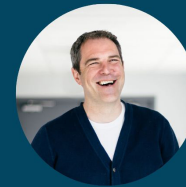
Volunteer hours invested  
(Equal to 143 days)

**4,968**

Guests served

**470**

Full Crock Pots  
Served



Jason Koleba  
Lead Pastor



Kelly Johnson  
Director of Operations



Dave MacPhee  
Senior Associate  
Pastor



Joel Friesen  
Worship Pastor



Juanita Goodfellow  
Executive Assistant



Trudy Kemper  
Financial Manager



Levi Mohr  
Pastor of Youth  
and Young Adults



Leif Carbol  
Graphics and Communication  
Specialist



Loretta Friedrich  
Ministry Support



Karen Gallie  
Common Threads Coordinator



Amy Fitchett  
Pastor of Children's  
Ministry



Paul Woods  
Productions Director



Jocelyn Dinwoodie  
Office Administrator



Ben Robbins  
Facilities Manager



Matthew Young  
Vernon Alliance Families  
Coordinator



Ali Kooger  
Worship Arts Assistant



Bob MacLeod  
Custodian



Stephen Christensen  
Custodian



Marni Rodgers  
Ministry Associate











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2022 - 2023  
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church