



Vernon Alliance

CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025

REPORT OF THE LEAD PASTOR

This summer, adjacent to the Okanagan Lake Dam in Penticton, a new passageway was opened which will allow Pacific salmon to swim in waters they have not seen for almost a century. Now, every fall, spawning sockeye travelling up the Columbia River system will have access to hundreds of square kilometres of water in Okanagan Lake and more than a dozen of its tributaries. An elder from the lower Similkameen Indian Band commented that the returning fish will “feed the people, all people, not just mine.”

In so many ways, this good news reminds me of our own vision to see our church, the Okanagan, and the whole world fully alive in Jesus. We want to see our friends and neighbours well-fed and flourishing! As the Bread of Life, only Jesus has the capacity to satisfy the deepest needs and hungers of human beings. Our job as a local church (and as a fellowship of “fishermen”!) is to lift him up so he can draw people to himself.

This report highlights and reviews the ways our church family worked together to do that work, and the work of discipleship in 2024-2025. I’m especially encouraged to see evidence that we are giving people access to Jesus.

- This fall, during our weekend services, home group gatherings and youth and children’s ministries, we introduced a simple, everyday rhythm that is helping us deliberately live on-mission together. BLESS practices (Beginning with prayer, Listening, Eating with others, Serving and Sharing) are actions everyone can take to participate in the great commission.
- More people got connected to a discipleship group this year as the overall number of groups grew from 53 to 61.

- Launching our new monthly Renew prayer & worship gatherings in September, we prayed deliberately to see more people come to know Jesus for the first time. In the first half of 2025, we saw God answer those prayers! We’re aware of 22 who placed their faith in Christ this past year.
- We continued to invest in the well-being of the people of the Okanagan by offering clothing and food twice-a-week through Common Threads, expanding our Family Pantry program, and initiating a formal partnership with the Upper Room Mission.

Of course, God could do all this work himself if he wanted to. But in his wisdom, he usually chooses to act through regular people in local churches. So to all of you who got-in on the action—by generously giving, consistently praying, serving faithfully and by simply loving others—thank you! May our generous God keep his promise to pour what you have given back into your lap—a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over. And let’s pray that he will use us for even greater things in the year to come.

With expectation of the coming catch,

Jason Koleba
Lead Pastor

*"Come, follow me," Jesus
said, "and I will send
you out to fish for people."*

Matthew 4:19



WE WANT TO SEE THE

**CHURCH,
OKANAGAN,
& WORLD**

**Fully *Alive*
IN JESUS**

We partner with the Holy Spirit to:

BUILD
Communities

EQUIP
For Life

MOBILIZE
For the Mission

FACILITATE
God-Encounters

ELDER'S YEAR IN REVIEW

On behalf of the Board of Elders, it is my privilege to present this annual report for 2024-25. It's wonderful to be part of such a vibrant, welcoming, Christ-focused church, where we are making great strides in pursuit of our vision to see the church, the Okanagan and the world fully alive in Jesus. We are grateful for the faithful support and dedication of our ministry staff, volunteers and congregants who make our church the place it is today. It is such a blessing to see, through obedience, how the Lord uses each of our individual skills, talents and gifts to further His kingdom in Vernon.

Please find the full Elders Report in the Supplemental Annual Report Document.

Submitted respectfully on behalf of the Board of Elders:

Steve Willett (Chair), Len Wedel (Vice-Chair) Barb Elgin (Secretary), Barb Nudd (Treasurer), Devon Carbol, Shaun Hartzell, Dixon Zalit, Jason Koleba.




From left to right: Len Wedel, Jason Koleba, Steve Willett, Dixon Zalit, Barb Elgin (Secretary), and Shaun Hartzell

Not pictured: Barb Nudd (Treasurer), Devon Carbol

BUILD COMMUNITIES



A black and white photograph of a group of people hiking on a rocky trail in a forest. The group consists of men and women of various ages, some wearing hats and backpacks. They are standing on a rocky outcrop, looking towards the camera. The background shows dense trees and foliage.

While Sunday services are the primary way for the church as a whole to come together, they are not the only way we connect. People are unique, and our community reflects that! There are ministries for kids, youth, young adults, men, women, 55+, and seniors, each with its own distinct style.

Some people prefer to connect over coffee, while others seek community through exercise, worship nights, knitting, and even a mental health support group.

This year, we had 182 ministry participants and 331 home group attendees, for a total of 513 people active in various communities at Vernon Alliance.

HOME GROUPS

The ministry year began with the IGNITE retreat at Eagle Bay Camp for home/discipleship group leaders, with intentional times of teaching, worship, relationship building and fun. Four key strategies for healthy groups – Prayer, Care, Empowerment and Outreach were the focus of discussion and leaders set up “MicroShift” goals to help them implement these strategies in the year ahead. Groups saw some subtle and significant changes in some of these areas in their groups over the course of the year.

35

Home Groups

361

Participants

63

Leaders

8

New Groups

GROUP *Ministries*

YOUNG ADULTS

Over the past year, we have made a lot of changes to our Young Adults ministry in an effort to rethink and mold the structure, goals, and essence of the ministry.

We successfully test-launched a biweekly gathering for the 2024–25 year at a nearby coffee shop in Vernon's downtown this past spring, with an average of 15 attending. The main goals of these gatherings will be to promote local outreach, discipleship, and community. The young adults will subsequently be expected to organize and lead their own interest-based groups, known as branches, which will convene on different days.

Outside of the bigger biweekly group, these branches will support the development of stronger ties to the community and deeper friendships.

WOMEN

Vernon Alliance women love connecting in life-giving relationships where friendships are built and their faith in Jesus is nurtured. There are 27 women in 9 Tea Trios, and 16 people attended the video study on Nehemiah. At the Christmas Friendship Gathering, 33 women came together to share a fun potluck meal with lots of laughter as they celebrated the birth of Christ.

Between 15 and 20 women walk the trails of Vernon together every Tuesday all year as they exercise and engage in community at different homes afterwards.





MEN

Around 10 men met every Friday morning for coffee and connection throughout the year. This spring, they studied "Jesus' Farewell Message," a video series hosted by Francis Chan.

55+

There are 62 members on the 55+ email contact list on church center. The 55+ committee consists of 9 members who plan regular events from fall to spring. They hosted 20 people at the Connect 4 retreat at Eagle Bay Camp, and between 30 and 50 people attended their other events which included a potluck dinner, Christmas Carols & Dessert Night, Snowshoeing at Sovereign, Bowling and Pizza, a hike at Bluenose, and Lakeshore Park beach day and BBQ.

SENIORS

Grant and Dawn expanded their leadership team this year to include leaders at each table who would facilitate discussion and ensure everyone at their table feels welcome and included. They have been intentionally creating a culture of warmth and attentiveness to those who may be lonely or alone and spend time each week sharing prayer requests and praying together for their whole community. The seniors group now has around 25 participants.

“

I have absolutely loved youth this year! Every Wednesday, I know I am headed to a place where I am loved, accepted, heard, encouraged, and I get to see God through new and unique experiences. My leader is a wonderful mentor, always willing to listen and give helpful, honest, and godly advice. I am so grateful to have this place to grow and develop my relationship with Jesus, surrounded by youth like me.

”



EQUIP FOR LIFE

STUDENTS

At student ministries, we exist to disciple and empower students to lean into a Spirit-filled life, while enjoying every step. Through teaching, worship, fun, and intentional community-building, we create space for students and leaders to encounter Jesus, grow in character, and step boldly into their callings. Although we do much of this independently, we have enjoyed our collaboration across local churches, and ultimately aim to see students grounded in truth, know Jesus, and be on mission. Whether through deep conversations, sugary food, prayer, or fun, everything we do aims to point toward Christ and His transforming work in and through us. We had 3 students give their lives to Jesus at youth group this year and 4 student ministries baptisms this year.



Average Weekly Attendance

Reign (Gr. 8–12): 53
Spur (Gr. 6–7): 27
Kids (0–Gr. 5): 93

KIDS

In kids ministry, our goal is to see children fully alive in Jesus - growing rooted in God's love and building a strong foundation in His Word. Through Sunday mornings, family events, and kids programs, we partner with families to help children know God, grow in faith, and follow Him every day. Our Sunday morning curriculum takes kids through Bible stories from both the Old and New Testaments, helping them build four spiritual habits: spending time with God, spending time with others, using their gifts, and sharing their story. We believe parents are the primary spiritual influence in their children's lives, and it's our joy to come alongside them in this journey of faith.

We did our first kids summer camp in years. We had 75 kids that joined at the church to learn about God's love. This was the first kids' program since Soccer Camps pre-covid.



A photograph of a church interior, likely during a service or meeting. In the background, a large screen displays a man in a dark sweater speaking. The room is filled with people seated at round tables, some facing the screen and others with their backs to the camera. The tables are set with water bottles, papers, and small items. A sign on the wall to the right of the screen says "explore". The overall atmosphere is calm and communal.

CARE TEAM

This season we have 20 care team members including the Prayer Shawl Ministry and The Living Room mental health support group facilitators. 58 people were called or visited, up from 41 the previous year. 14 sets of 4 short books, "Journeying through Grief" were sent out over the course of a year to those who had lost a loved one. Last year, 9 were sent.

A new care line has been established to receive care requests outside of regular office hours on Fridays, Sundays, Stat holidays and office closure days. This enables us to receive urgent information about our congregation in a timelier manner.

GUEST EXPERIENCE

Has been undergoing a major transition this year. Aside from the obvious lobby makeover, we are growing a valued team of people who are fulfilling their mission as ambassadors of God's love and who play an essential role in creating moments of genuine connection where every person can experience the warmth and joy of being fully alive in Christ as they are welcomed, acknowledged and embraced as part of our church family.

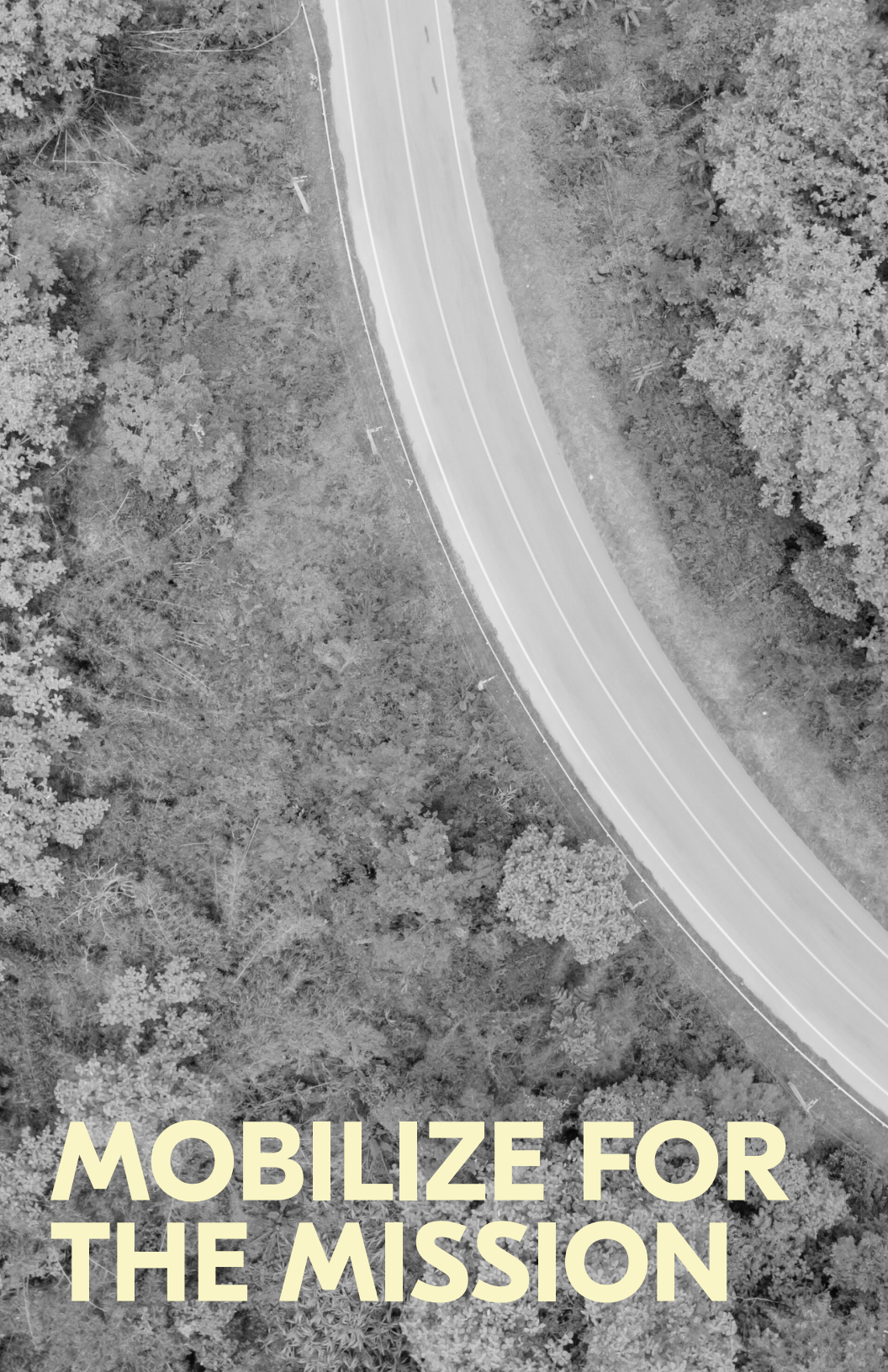
ALPHA

This year was a year of firsts as we hosted Alpha on Sunday mornings during the second service and offered childcare for the first time. Over the span of the 12-week course, we had an average of 33 participants, 17 of whom signed up the day before it started, and 5 new leaders stepped in to fill the gap. A team of 27 volunteers made Alpha possible! One woman who took advantage of the childcare accepted Jesus and got baptized – in total, 3 people accepted Christ at Alpha and 4 got baptized!

“

I really felt the Lord speaking to me directly. The leaders were willing to be vulnerable and share pieces of their uncertainties in their walks with Christ. I felt very heard and seen and there was a lot of love shown.

”



**MOBILIZE FOR
THE MISSION**



Zihua Roofs



Nepal Christmas



Nepal Team



Wellspring Rwanda

GLOBAL *Missions*

The Okanagan is our backyard, but our heart is for people around the world. We want to see everyone, everywhere filled with the life of Jesus! Here are just a few snapshots of how we are investing in that work in collaboration with our global partners

- Over the course of the year, our partners at Beautiful Gate Church baptized many new believers in remote, mountain villages across Nepal. These men and women had never heard the name of Jesus until recent years
- In March, The Beautiful Gate Society hosted the Engage Disability National Conference in Kathmandu. This gathering raised awareness about disability inclusion in churches, emphasizing biblical principles of recognizing and valuing persons with disabilities. With over 331 participants, the conference empowered church leaders and volunteers to take tangible steps toward inclusion. It also fostered collaboration between Christian organizations, disability advocates, and church leaders, resulting in new partnerships and action plans to enhance accessibility in churches across Nepal.
- In April, Zihuat Roofs Society completed its 500th roof install since inception in 2011. This represents 500 different families served and 500 times the good news of Jesus has been shared in Zihuatanejo!
- In Spring, another group of Indigenous women graduated from the New Story program at Camp Caroline, Alberta. Each woman explored the truth of her identity both as an Indigenous woman and as a follower of Jesus. Each was given opportunity to learn and to grow spiritually, educationally, socially, and vocationally.
- In the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2025, we will send 2 teams to the Mexico City region to invest in Alliance partnerships there. A group of youth and young adults will do youth and children's ministry in the city of Puebla in July. In October a small group of adults will put on a leadership retreat for Alliance pastors and spouses in the region, giving them needed time and space to rest and recharge.

We're so grateful for these stories, and many more that we don't have space to share. A big shout-out to our partners, to our Global Missions Leadership Team who facilitates this work and to all within Vernon Alliance who make regular financial investments in our Global Missions Fund!

\$24,500

NEPAL

Developing churches in remote villages, educating the church in ministry to the disabled, and serving Tibetan refugees

\$6,380

MEXICO

Providing protection from the elements to Mexican families in the name of Jesus

\$5,400

MONTREAL

Creating pathways for integration, discipling & retention of African & Caribbean new Canadians within Oasis church

\$4,200

WESTERN CANADA

Providing a safe and nurturing space for Indigenous women on their healing journey

\$4,200

RWANDA

Offering life-changing, inclusive, quality education to Rwandan learners

\$4,200

MIDDLE EAST

Investing in East Africans by providing engineering expertise, spiritual development and leadership training

\$1,050

ZIMBABWE PROJECT

Creating opportunities for education, health care & employment through sustainable development

\$79,198

GLOBAL ADVANCE FUND

Supporting Alliance ministries and workers around the world who bring good news to people who haven't heard the name of Jesus

\$10,346

CANADIAN MINISTRIES FUND

Developing new Alliance leaders and churches across Canada

LOCAL *Outreach*

COMMON THREADS

Common Threads serves our community in a tangible way every Monday and Thursday with hot, sit-down meals and free clothing – all supported by friendly volunteers willing to pray for and help guests in many ways. All are welcome!

100
Weekly Guests

4,528
Volunteer Hours

18,000
Items of Clothing

366
Crock Pots Served

“

The Family Pantry blesses struggling families with dignity, grace, and love. Each week we see friendships form and lives touched not just through the provision of food and clothing, but through prayer and genuine care. Showing Christ's love seems to happen naturally in this space. A special bonus has been the strong bonds growing among the volunteer team. This ministry is truly a blessing to many.

”

We initiated “prayer boxes” into our Common Threads program this year. The boxes are placed on the tables for our guests to access and share their prayer request. We have seen an increase in guests willing to share their circumstances with us so we can pray for them, and our Prayer room has been more frequently utilized.

THE FAMILY PANTRY

The Family Pantry is open every Thursday from 2-4pm and presently supports 52 families representing approximately 176 individuals. Families in need are referred to the program through our social service and health organization community partners. The amount of food provided is dependent upon family size, and families are provided with the opportunity to choose their own grocery items from our grocery shelves.

We have given out over \$20,000 worth of groceries this year, 1,700 items of clothing, and served over 50 families in need in our community. The Family Pantry provides a unique opportunity to reach families not part of a local church and share with them the love of Jesus through our support and prayers. In spending our time and resources in a ministry like the family pantry we are mobilizing for the mission in our local community. During our May food drive, we set a goal of gathering 150 grocery bags worth of pantry items. Thanks to donations of goods and financial contributions by our church family, this goal was successfully met!

\$51,633

LOCAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Common Threads & Family Pantry

\$47,928

CIF PARTNERSHIPS

(Eagle Bay Camp - \$12,000, Upper Room Mission - \$12,000, Vernon Arts Society - \$3,400 and Vernon and District Immigration Society Association - \$10,000)

\$16,515

SCHOOL SUPPLIES PROGRAM

\$2,550

CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT

\$2,624

OTHER LOCAL DESIGNATES

\$937

LOCAL SUPPORT & COUNSELLING

FACILITATE GOD-ENCOUNTER

A black and white photograph of a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. He is looking down and playing a white electric guitar. To his right, another person is partially visible, also playing a guitar. A microphone on a stand is positioned in front of the second person. The background is dark and out of focus.

With a dedicated team of 48 volunteers serving in both band and production roles, our worship ministry works together to create meaningful and passionate worship environments. Our heart has remained focused on helping people encounter God and worship Him. Whether through music, sound, visual media, cameras, or behind-the-scenes support, every person on our team plays a vital role in pointing others towards Jesus and the full life that he offers. It's been a year marked by commitment, creativity, and a shared desire to see God glorified through all we do.

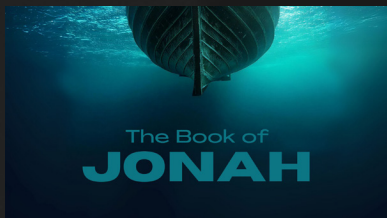
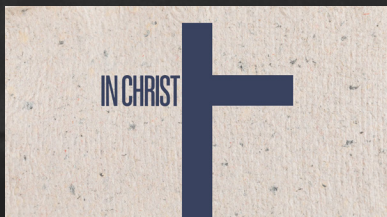
From September 2024 to May 2025, we introduced monthly Renew Worship & Prayer Nights (8 total), drawing an average of 89 attendees.

ERS

WEEKEND NUMBERS

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Weekend Average:	689	736	725
Easter Sunday:	1,071	1,227	1,223
Christmas Eve	1,380	1,888	1,774

WHAT WE STUDIED



“

One home group did an Easter outreach at a retirement residence, where several residents accepted Christ. One elderly lady was resistant to the message at first saying she didn't believe it however by the end, the Holy Spirit revealed himself to her and she exclaimed "I Believe!" then accepted Jesus as her Saviour.

”

B.L.E.S.S.

In fall we invited the whole church to participate in BLESS groups where we discovered a simple way to reach out to our friends, family and neighbours who don't know Jesus - Begin with Prayer, Listen with Care, Eat Together, Serve in Love and Share Your Story. In one home group, studying BLESS resulted in one person serving their neighbour by painting their living room and dining room for free. We can tell BLESS is still impacting our group leaders. One leader still signs his email with "BLESSings"!

BAPTISM

Baptism is an essential aspect of what we do at Vernon Alliance. It is a public statement of our deep devotion to Christ. Our 23 baptizees completed our baptism info session, shared their testimony, and entered the waters of baptism. For us, this is more than simply a pleasant event; it is an expression of a transformed life through the grace of God.

22

**Decisions
for Christ**

23

**People
baptized**



SUPPORTING THE MISSION



OPERATIONS

Report

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!

Year	Revenue	Expenses
2023-2024	\$1,730,060	\$1,625,195
2024-2025	\$1,754,797	\$1,676,620



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, 82% of spending is through the General Ministry Fund (which supports ministry, admin, and facility costs), a total of 15% of dollars are spent on Local Outreach and Global Missions, with 3% being expensed through the Building Development Fund.

OUR *Volunteers*

We are profoundly grateful for the dedication and hard work of our nearly 385 volunteers. Our volunteers support us in every area of our church ministry. Without their unwavering support, our church and its many ministries simply could not thrive. Their commitment is the heartbeat of our community, and we are truly blessed to have each of them.





OUR *Team*

JASON KOLEBA
Lead Pastor

KELLY JOHNSON
Director of Operations

TRUDY KEMPER
Financial Manager

MEL REIMER
Facilities Manager

BOB MACLEOD
Custodian

GABRIEL MCLACHLAN
Custodian / IT Tech

JOCELYNE DINWOODIE
Office Administrator

CAROLINE BOUMAN
Office Assistant

DAVE MACPHEE
Pastor of Discipleship & Care

AMY FITCHETT
Intergenerational Pastor

KATY SCOTT
Children's Ministry Coordinator

LEVI MOHR
Pastor of Youth & Young Adults

JOSIAH FALK
Youth Ministry Apprentice

KARIN GALLIE
Common Threads Coordinator

TALIA WIELINGA
Family Pantry Coordinator

MARNI ROGERS
Administrative Manager for
Discipleship & Care

JOEL FRIESEN
Worship Pastor

ANYA GLANZ
Communications Manager

MICHAEL CUMBERS
Production Manager

RACHAEL ERNST
Guest Experience Coordinator

SHAUNA BORROWS
Executive Assistant to the
Lead Team

HUMAN RESOURCES

We have said goodbye to Juanita Goodfellow, Cara Holder, Stephen Christensen, Leif Carbol, Ali Kooger and Tommy Stokes, and welcomed Josiah Falk as Youth Ministry Apprentice, Gabriel McLachlan as IT Tech and Custodian, Talia Wielinga as our Family Pantry Coordinator, Rachael Ernst as our Guest Experience Coordinator, Anya Glanz as our Communications Manager and Michael Cumbers as our Production Manager.





VERNON

Reunion

2601 43rd Ave | Vernon, BC V1T 3L1