

# ELDER'S UPDATE

2021

## Thrive Spiritually - Build Community - Reach the Lost

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings to all. I am so thankful for all who in some ways are connected to Spruce Grove Alliance Church. If you connect online currently, we still call you our family and endeavor to grow together by means of virtual fellowship. I want to express special appreciation to our tech team and staff, who have demonstrated flexibility and innovation to help us reach out and care for each other. I find one of our strongest bonds is praying with each other and for each other. This happens at board meetings, morning prayer meetings, mens' and ladies' meetings, friends getting together, or by phone. Several times I have received a prayer by email or text. This has encouraged me to spend more time in private meditation and prayer for all of you.

Thank you for supporting all the board nominees at our recent AGM. We welcome Kenton Breitkreuz as the only new board member. We miss Tim Wiebe who served his maximum six consecutive years. Our board has added Paul Friesen to serve on the executive as secretary. Thanks Paul, Gerald and I look forward to working together. Our transitional lead pastors, Jim and Brenda Regehr complete the executive. We meet to plan the agenda for the next board meeting as well as to deal with urgent matters between regular board meeting. Please submit items that you want the board to consider two weeks in advance of the board meeting which takes place every third Tuesday of the month.

I trust our unity on the board will lead to unity of the church as a whole. This does not mean uniformity but using our different perspectives to build a stronger and more resilient congregation that will reach a diverse community with the love of Jesus. How we reach people with the message of Jesus' love may change, but the message never changes. We are privileged to be Jesus' messengers and the community will see Jesus by the love we have for them and each other.

As I think about the vision of our church, I have reviewed my personal life vision, "To share the love of Jesus with the world, one person at a time." Let me again encourage you to remain in Jesus' love and to love each other.

Blessings, Henry Banman, Board Chairman.

**Average Weekly****Attendance:****April: 861**

(535 online + 326 in person)

**May : 695**

(596 online + 99 in person)

**June: 687**

(422 online + 265 in person)



## Transition Team Update

The process of transition continues to move onward. February 2021 through to June 2021 we were in a time of discovery and assessment. Once that time was completed, starting in September 2021 we moved on to prepare for a look forward.

Out of the assessments we arrived at five questions that we believed would give the leadership insight into the congregation's perspectives on the future ministry of SGAC. Those five questions were:

1. What key aspects of who we are (facility, resources, talents) will help us determine how we reach out both locally and internationally?
2. What characteristics would build relationships within the church and encourage people to come as they are?
3. How can we create a culture (not a program) of seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus and the things of the Holy Spirit together as a congregation?
4. What would make you feel an integral part of the congregation?
5. How do we draw from the strengths of each generation to encourage growth at SGAC?

Many of you are familiar with these questions as you attended the World Cafe on October 13th. Your contributions are presently being reviewed and themed with the intention of determining the values and vision of SGAC. The outcomes will be shared with the congregation at the Semi-Annual Meeting in January 2022. These outcomes will give focus to the vision of SGAC and help identify the values that will govern the implementation of the vision.

The Transitional Prayer and Planning Team (TPPT) will be preparing a profile of Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and Parkland County. Alongside this the TPPT will also prepare a profile of Spruce Grove Alliance Church. These profiles along with the results of the World Cafe will be used to identify the areas that SGAC as a congregation can focus on in ministry.

All this work will be brought together to help the leadership identify the characteristics that will be sought in the new lead pastor. The candidating package that will be used for the pastoral search will be available by March 2022.

These are exciting times and we would encourage you to pray for the TPPT and the Elders as they work to revitalize the Vision, Mission and Values statements of the Church. In the month of January 2022, there will be an opportunity to pray together, seek the Lord's face with the intention of joining our vision with His vision.



It is our privilege to journey with you in this transition.  
Blessings Jim and Brenda Regehr

<b>Average Weekly Attendance: (cont.)</b>	<b>July : 643</b> (324 online + 319 in person)	<b>August: 690</b> (297 online + 393 in person)	<b>September: 696</b> (345 online + 351 in person)
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## Future Development Team Update

The FDT has been working hard since the last update in April. You may have noticed the work behind the blue fence in the back. Check your email in the coming weeks for a newsletter update by email. If you do not receive our newsletter by email you can sign up on our website at [www.sgac.net/newsletter](http://www.sgac.net/newsletter).



## Church and Politics Team Update

The committee for investigating the intersection of church and politics submitted their final report to the elder board in September. I want to thank the committee members that diligently worked through an incredibly difficult topic. It was a pleasure to work through this issue with people whose wisdom and grace permeated the whole process. For those who wish to read the report, they can contact the church office. If anyone has question regarding the report or anything else regarding the process, please contact one of the elders or Pastor Steve.

## Ministry Highlights

Our Ministries continue to meet within the AHS Guidelines

- Grace's Table began in May serving an average of 82 people monthly and 200 at Thanksgiving.
- VBS saw more than 250 kids this summer board the Rocky Railway.
- Monday Night Men, Daybreak and Evening Edition are currently running their fall session.
- Youth and Young Adults continue to meet regularly for Bible Study on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.
- 23 Young Adults met together at Camp Nakamun in October and over 65 youth are registered for the Youth Retreat later this month.
- AWANA began a new season in September with kids age 3 to grade 12 attending weekly.
- Faith on Fire meets one Sunday evening a month and Singin' the Gospel has returned once a month as well.
- Keenagers continue to meet in person and online on Wednesday mornings.
- Apologetics just wrapped up the Thinking Series and continues to host a Thursday evening Systematic Theology hash out session online.

**New Members: Jasmynn Barendregt, Leah Breitkreuz, Trish Boorman, Malachi Carnegie, Jeremy Friesen**



## Women as Elders Update

The journey of discussing the topic of women as elders has been a long and arduous journey but has been encouraging and stretching as we studied God's word as to what it truly says regarding this topic. This journey began back in October 2019 as the board of elders met to study scripture and address a concern that was brought forward from a number of concerned congregants that wished to understand where the Spruce Grove Alliance Church stood on this issue. Since the Alliance district has given each church the authority to decide for themselves what their stance will be regarding women as elders, a year long study by the board commenced. These findings were presented in the form of an official statement by the board at the Semi-annual General Meeting in January of 2021. This statement paper was viewed by the membership as an overreach by the board (for which the board apologized publicly) since the decision is to be made by a 2/3 majority vote from the membership and not unilaterally by the board. From this meeting, a motion was passed that a committee be formed to delve into study of the scripture as a congregation and better inform the church as to what this decision entails, what the scripture says regarding the topic, and how this decision will impact the life of SGAC.

The first event brought to the congregation from the committee was in the Spring of 2021 and involved a night with our district superintendent, Brent Trask. Brent Trask gave an informative talk on the history of how this discussion is handled by the Alliance Churches in our district as well as some of the outcomes in those churches and what we are to expect with this discussion in our church. This was followed in the summer by three individual sessions studying the related passages regarding this topic and was hosted by Pastor Jim and Pastor Steve. During the summer, the team also produced five podcasts highlighting various individuals in our congregation and how we can focus on unity in the midst of the diversity of opinion regarding this discussion. In the month of October, we were thankful to host a panel of local pastors representing various opinions regarding the subject of women as elders in the church and their viewpoints on how this has impacted the life of their churches after their decision was made. The panel discussion was followed by congregational question and answer time which proved to be quite fruitful. The final piece of the puzzle, yet to be distributed, is a Frequently Asked Questions information paper to further address questions that the congregation voiced after the panel discussion.

The congregational vote is to be scheduled at our Semi-annual congregational meeting in the New Year where the motion to be voted on is whether "That both biblically qualified women and men may be elected to the board of elders.". Thank you for your prayers and your focus on unity in the midst of this discussion. We want to be unified in our core beliefs on this as we discuss this subject and we need to exercise grace and understanding for those that hold an opposing opinion to ourselves as we demonstrate Christ-like love toward each other. Thank you to all that participated in the events this past year and we trust that the Lord will continue to have His way in our church as we seek to serve Him each day.





Henry Banman  
Chair



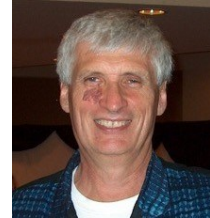
Gerald Weighill  
Treasurer



Paul Friesen  
Secretary



Kenton Breitzkreuz



Dan Ibsen



Steve Medeiros



John Olsen



Orv Perry



Brian Westra



Fred Zelensky

### SGAC Elder's Highlight - Kenton Breitzkreuz

Kenton began the first year of his first term as Elder in September 2021. Kenton is married to Laurie (27 years) and they've been attending SGAC since 2000. They have 2 children – Leah (19) and Kurt (17).

Kenton is a former farmer and graduate of NAIT. He has worked in various roles within the industrial equipment manufacturing area since 1991, and is currently a Manufacturing Engineering Manager.

During his time at SGAC, Kenton has served within the Tech Team, as Treasurer/Finance Committee, in AWANA, as Camp Counselor, two Antigua missions, as Maintenance Team Lead, and presently on the Employee Handbook Committee and with Grace's Table.

Kenton believes he was called to be an Elder. After prayerful consideration and deliberation with family, invitations from previous years resulted in decline with a peaceful heart. However, the invitation this year followed with spiritual battle. He could not find a good reason to decline, only excuses. Kenton states, "I accept this is a new season, my kids are less dependent and I'm in a slightly different phase of life; therefore, I was at peace making the decision to accept. I feel I was called to this role; I don't yet know why, but am humbled to be serving in this way."

Kenton looks forward to the challenges that will no doubt be experienced while navigating through these trying times; and also to the exciting times of transition with new vision, facility expansion and new opportunities to reach the community.

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The Elders of SGAC want to keep the lines of communication open and clear with our attendees. This newsletter is not designed to be comprehensive, but rather, to provide an overview of some things that have been happening at the board level since our last newsletter (April 2021). If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to one of our Elders in person or by email at [chair@sgac.net](mailto:chair@sgac.net). It is our goal to serve with integrity and transparency.

**Baptisms: 1 Youth, 3 Adults**