MARKHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. JUNE 20, 2022

MODERATOR’S COMMENTS

Good evening.

Welcome to the June Congregational meeting. This is one of the three Congregational meetings required by the MBC Constitution. This is the Annual General Meeting of the Corporation. You will note that at this meeting the tasks are three-fold. [[1]](#footnote-1)

a) To set the programs for the year[[2]](#footnote-2) and receive report from committees

b) Receive the report of the Public Accountant

c) Elect Directors, officers, and Committee members

The term Congregation is an interesting one. Some synonyms in the Thesaurus include, Flock, Worshippers, Churchgoers, Parishioners, Gathering, Throng, Assembly.

 Recently, I heard that some visitors to MBC were told, “It is more than a friendly church It is a family”

What a lovely description” If it was you who said this, Thank you! So, let’s add “family” to our description of our congregation.

We are all members of God’s family. As such we must take care of the family business. The Lord is the head of the Church, so this is God’s business. We come together, three or more times a year, not just to adhere to the Constitution, but in fellowship, to affirm each other as we work together.

 Thank you for giving up this lovely evening to join with the family of Markham Baptist Church.

The main event for this evening will be the election or re-election of committee members. Thank you to Sheila for taking on this important committee. Sheila and her committee members, Alexandra Vega, and Lorette Matadi have spent many hours and much prayer and energy making contacts with people to encourage them to participate.

You will also be hearing reports from each of the current Directors who chair committees. In addition, we have two other directors, Valerie Milligan, and Lois Fagan. I want to thank each one of the directors of your consistent prayer and wisdom as we dealt with issues throughout the year. You made serving as Moderator so much easier.

Thank you to Barbara Lake who often drove miles to be in Markham or was struggling with the internet in Fergus when she would rather have been with Eliza Jane. Thank you Barbara, for your service and leadership of the Deacons Committee over the past two years.

Does anyone know what it is like to take minutes of a meeting. We have been blessed by Gihanni for keeping us and our records secure and legal. Thank you Gihanni. A New Year’s resolution for 2022-2023 is for people to get their reports in ahead of the meetings.

I want to thank each of members of each committee. You have worked tirelessly throughout this past year. It has not been easy to always be working via zoom and telephone and not seeing the smiles of your colleagues.

John Riley and his team have kept the operation of our building safe, well maintained, and clean even when we could not be here. He also works with the “Tech Team” so we can watch from home, if we are not well enough to be present or we can watch the sermon again to get some point we were wondering about. Thanks to Management Team and the Technology team.

Tony Serio has stepped in to chair the Christian Education and Outreach committee. Thank you Tony and your family for the energy and enthusiasm you have brought to this important committee. We look forward to your report. We are thrilled by the new people who have joined us and thankful for their participation

Special thanks to Marion Waldron our Treasurer and her Finance team. Such an important ministry. Marion is my neighbor, so I know how hard she works for MBC. I have seen her desk and her dining room table covered in papers. She always knows the answer to any niggling little question.

Special thanks to Niran and Funke Oyedemi for heading up the Plan to Protect program. Thanks to Ruth Currie, Kimberly, and Laura Rowe for their help on that work too

Alexandra without question is our angel as well as running a social service in her “spare” time. Thank you Alexandra, we could not possibly list all the things you do for us. Even sending out Zoom links to us in the middle of the night.

The MBC response to the needs of the Ukraine was wonderful. At least 2 relief kits are on their way. Thank for your generosity and thoughtfulness. Having a family from Ukraine with us in person brought reality to the sad news, that we watch on the news each day. Please pray for all the people of Ukraine, particularly our brothers and sisters. Pray too for Anastasiia and Daniil and Sophia who have moved on to Manitoba, pray for Roman and Tetanniia. The wonderful news is that Roman has found work.

 In the past two years MBC provided opportunities to consider two justice issues. Racism in 1920/21 and Indigenous Dialogues in the past few months. Did you know that over 80 people registered to attend our “Indigenous Dialogues” sessions”? People from BC to Newfoundland to Guatemala attended. Several Churches in York region were represented. We all discovered much about Canadian History that we had not known or not previously acknowledged.

 The Facilitator Rev. Dr Terry LeBlanc so graciously led us from his home in PEI. Terry is professor at several universities, in Canada and USA. I encourage you to look up Dr LeBlanc on the web for a wealth of information about his work.

Chief Sally Martel shared her experiences from Kirkland Lake. She is a survivor of the Residential Schools.

An evaluation survey will be sent out soon to get reaction and input for next year’s events.

Please pray for reconciliation with our first nations peoples.

A special thanks to Kaitlyn MacDonald and Sam Khiatini who along with Pastor Craig were the team that made this possible. Thanks to Alexandra, who did all the registration and sent out the Zoom information.

 The team does not have a name yet. Justice or Social issues committee or team has been suggested.

Under consideration for 2022/ 2023, is justice as it relates to poverty and housing. Ref. Micah 6:8

 If you share our concern for Justice and would like to make suggestions as to topics or would like to join this planning committee please speak to Pastor Craig or me.

I want to congratulate Pastor Craig on his election as President of CBOQ, What an honour ! We know that Craig is already working 24 X7 in caring for us. He embodies the concept of a Good Shepherd. We know that the Lord will be by your side Craig. We are concerned for you, and pray that God will give you good health, energy, strength, and the wisdom for the tasks.

The congregation should know that, while our budget plans include honoraria for some Guest Speakers, donations have been received to cover the expense of extra guest speakers to relieve Craig for several more Sundays when he may need to speak at other churches or just have a day off.

To serve the Lord as Chair the Board of Directors is an honour. Thank you for this opportunity.

 Respectfully Submitted

Patricia McGee

Moderator

1. Markham Baptist Church **General Operating By-Law No** 2 September 22, 2014. Page 8 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. We set our programs when we approved the budget in the Fall Meeting [↑](#footnote-ref-2)