

## January 2024 COE Report

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Thank you for reading this post, which is intended to keep Northview's congregation informed when it comes to the discussions and happenings around the elders' table.

We were privileged to have Dr. Steve Brown join us for the meal, and then bring us up to date on the happenings at Columbia Bible College. In case you don't know, Steve is the new President of CBC, after having taught there for a few years, and with a career that has included President of Arrow Leadership, an organization originally founded by Dr. Leighton Ford in 1991, who was Billy Graham's brother-in-law. (Personal Note: My wife, Elsie, was saved at a Leighton Ford crusade). Steve and his wife are members of Northview. As President of CBC, he hopes for strong collaboration between the college and our church, focusing on three P's: Prayer, Perspective, and Partnership. He is the author of two books: *Leading Me*, and *Jesus Centered*.

Steve was accompanied by Derek Rogusky, Chief Financial Officer of CBC, and also a Northview member.

As always, it was our privilege to pray with several Northview members and attendees, who are facing a variety of challenges. This is always a highlight of our evening together.

One of our priorities as a church is the call to make disciples, with an emphasis on church planting. At this time, there are two areas receiving our greatest attention, and requiring the highest levels of discernment.

The first is in Chilliwack. Anyone with a Chilliwack and area postal code was invited to an information meeting that was held on January 28th, with 83 in attendance. With that much interest, the next steps are to do more research into the community, with Ezra (who now spends 50% of his time in the Multiplication matters) taking the lead.

Here's what we already know about Chilliwack:

- Population: 114,000
- Growth rate: 2%/year until 2035, then 1.5%/year until 2040
- Spiritual need: 49.4% claim to be non-religious (5th highest in Canada). Note, that's non-religious - not "non-Christian"
- There are currently approximately 62 churches in Chilliwack. It's estimated that 6 have a weekly attendance of over 1,000
- Northview has a database of over 700 people with Chilliwack postal codes
- Approximately 200 Northview attenders live in the Chilliwack area



We'll keep you informed as we proceed, but if it's to be, here's the anticipated time-line:

**January/February 2024** - Interest meetings, engagement with BCMB and local MB churches

**March 2024** - COE Decision on whether or not to proceed

**March to May 2024** - Discern a potential church planting pastor

**September 2024 to Spring 2025** - Pre-launch and team-building gatherings, most likely in Centre Court at Downes Road

**Late Spring to Summer 2025** - Soft launch in Chilliwack

**Fall 2025** - Full launch in Chilliwack

All through the process, we appreciate your prayers, encouragement and support, that the Lord's will be done.

We are also in discussions with Tri-City Church in Coquitlam, which we helped launch a few years ago. They are now exploring the possibility of a new church plant in Maple Ridge, and have asked us to partner with them. Again, we have a number of Northview attenders who live in the area.

As you probably know, Thaleia Sawatzky has determined that the Lord is calling her to return to her private counseling practice, which she left 12 years ago to join our pastoral team. After she concludes her time on staff, Thaleia (and husband Mark) intend to continue to attend and serve at Northview. We are really appreciative of their service to our church.

Development continues to work their way through the endless list of details to get approval and then complete the building project which will result in a new worship centre. It is still optimistically hoped that shovels can go in the ground in June this year, but it really is dependent on the City of Abbotsford's review and approval process.

Development is also working with our Mission Campus to determine their future needs, and the possibility of replacing the original worship centre with a new one, seating 800-1000. On Christmas Eve, their three services saw over 800 in attendance.

Finally, Development is also involved in an on-going discussion regarding the best way to structure a registered charity to hold our property and potential future assets which would allow for greater flexibility and accountability. After review by the COE, we are seeking input from Stewardship.

And speaking of Stewardship, giving has continued to be very strong, with all of our campuses exceeding last year's contributions, and expenses being below budget. The number of donors increased by 13%, and there was an overall increase in total giving by 27% in large part due to our successful start to our capital campaign. Thanks for all of your support!





Governance brought forward a Formal Partnerships Policy, which clarifies which local ministries we are committed to supporting, in much the same way with global missions.

We were pleased to have Jon Pasiuk, Campus Pastor at East Abby, join us for the evening, and bring us up to date on this part of our family. With the change of leadership in 2022, there have also been movements of people as you would expect. Many of those who are new to the East Abby campus are the families of those attending Abbotsford Christian School, where we conduct our worship services. Please continue to pray for Jon and the rest of the team there. God has been very good!

May the Lord bless you and yours as we share in this incredible ministry that is Northview!

Phil Routly

