



CHURCH MINISTRIES REPORT

GERALD DYCK, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MINISTRIES

I started this new chapter in October, and it's been an amazing beginning. I was blessed to spend the first six weeks on the job accompanying Keith Poysti to various churches, including a northern road trip. I've been continually reminded how blessed we have been to have had Keith help guide us as our conference pastor these past years. Thank you Keith & Heidi, you have both been role models on how to love and bless those you encounter. You are missed.

I learned a lot by observing Keith. Like any learning experience, the biggest thing you learn is how little you know and how much more there is to learn. To that end, I have plotted out what this next year looks like. It includes many meetings with our pastors and leaders, getting to know them, and learning how best to encourage and resource. At the same time, learning from them. I also intend to meet with the staff of our churches regular. Not only that, but also to offer workshops throughout the year for ministry leaders in various roles (such as Children's, Youth, Worship, Administration, etc.)

Some events I am looking forward to:

- Pastor and Spouse retreat on Hecla Island in May. This is a wonderful few days to connect, rest, and be encouraged.
- This June we will be holding a pastor credentialing orientation in Winnipeg for leaders wishing to be credentialed.
- Participating in Focused Ministry weekends with Manitoba churches.
- And personally, a mission trip in July to Haiti with the youth group from our church Westside Community Church in Morden.

A verse that has been key for me is 2 Corinthians 3:16-17: *For whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.*

I love the Church, and working with the Church is the most beautiful opportunity and challenge I'll ever encountered. We're only human, perfection is not the goal: we are whom God wishes to use to "lift the veil," so that the world will see the beauty and truth that is found in knowing Jesus Christ. "*For wherever the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.*" We are the ones to carry this gospel message to our neighbours, friends, family, and to all we come into contact with. We are the message that this freedom is palpable and possible. There's no better way to share that message than through the Church – God's people!

As I make my way through our province, meeting leaders and experiencing expressions of teaching and worship with brothers and sisters in Christ, I'm continually renewed and amazed at the group of people God has assembled to carry out his mission. It's a privilege and honour to serve you and your churches.