



# Emmaus Road Anglican Church

## AGM Report

October 2023





# Emmaus Road Anglican Church - AGM

October 22, 2023

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Greetings Emmaus Road!

Sitting down to write a rector's report related to this last year has felt a somewhat overwhelming task primarily because it's been quite a year! Taking time to remember all that has happened this year quickly became an exercise in gratitude. The good shepherd has faithfully cared for and led us as, and I am confident that we will "live in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23

It was fall of 2022 that God provided **the Barns** as a place of worship. I am so grateful for pastor Kris Krausse and the community at Southgate Church for the generous way they welcomed us into the space. From day one it has felt like home and continues to serve us really well in this season as a church. The provision of this property allowed us to move our Eucharist services to Sunday mornings and has provided great space for our kids to learn and grow together. Having consistent space has also allowed us to live into the Anglican way of worship in some embodied ways with the addition of things like our baptismal font and processional cross. The setup has allowed us to develop more in the areas of sound and media as well. I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helps to prepare the barns for worship from week to week – particularly those who serve to setup and operate both sound and media.

I'd especially like to thank those who have poured so much into leading us in worship when we gather. Many of you have led or played at the barns and in Homes, and I am deeply grateful for the space that is consistently created at Emmaus Road to encounter and exalt God in worship. Special thanks to Alec Maynard and Adam Tippe for the leadership they bring in this area.

In November of 2022 we held the **Fire in Our Bones conference**. This weekend was designed in response to a prompting from the Lord. As we began actively discerning our next steps as a church, considering +Todd's investigation process and the winding down of Via Apostolica, we prayed that God would speak with clarity to our identity and calling as a local church. At the conference God met us in response to our prayers both corporately and personally. The things God did and said over the course of that conference set us up so well for the conversations and decisions that would follow.

First to be discerned was the question of ecclesial home (where as a church we would find our home.) God led us to a discernment process that involved a couple of dioceses in our province. As a Parish Council and a congregation, we prayed for that God would lead us to the home He had prepared. I had a clear promise from God that we would not have to strive to figure this out, and praise God he was incredibly faithful to that promise. As we prayed one God began to speak to us of the significance of geography and the strength that would come to us in aligning with **the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC)**. The diversity within this diocese made it harder to see how we fit up front, but God began to show how that same diversity also meant there was ample room of us to be who we are in ANiC. To be organized geographically results in something more like family and requires us to learn to live and worship alongside brothers and sisters not only based on what we have in common, but also considering our many differences. While this reality can be a challenge at times, it is positioned to hold us true and shape us in important ways as we grow.

On February 25<sup>th</sup> of 2023 we were officially welcomed into ANiC! +Dan Gifford, joined by several clergy from the diocese, came to welcome us in a beautiful worship service. For many of us this felt like a coming home, and I am so thankful for the providential way that God has brought us into ANiC. I have been incredibly blessed by the welcome we've received from ANiC, its clergy and congregations. Space is truly being made for us, and we are already being greatly encouraged and strengthened by those God has blessed us to call family. I want to thank all of you for the prayerful way you engaged in the conversations and discernment

of this journey. I'd also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Parish Council. They served so sacrificially and with such integrity throughout this process. The result has been the joy of as we made incredibly significant decisions and moves for us as a church.

Having been set in our new home within the ANiC the question of our name as a church came to the forefront. Over the following months we prayed and discerned whether we should make a change or not. We quickly felt God moving us toward a name change but were clear that the change in no way stemmed from a desire to discard or distance ourselves from the journey we've walked together as Via Langley. That said, it became clear that God had spoken to us of our identity and calling and wanted to give us a new name that clearly reflected who He has made us. Through another process of prayer and discernment we came to the confident reception of **Emmaus Road Anglican Church** as the name God was speaking over us. Again, I want to give thanks to God for our church and for the way he has shaped it and allowed it to become an Emmaus Road for many. We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to lead and empower us to be a place of life transforming encounter with Jesus.

This past year we gathered for worship at the Barns and in **Home Gatherings**. A massive thank you to Mike and Sara Maynard, Tom and Lauren Williams, and Alec and Catherine Maynard for opening their lives and the homes to us as a church. Thank you as well to everyone who brought leadership, led worship, coordinated meals, etc. Home Gatherings continue to be a fruitful part of our life together, and I'm really excited to see them continue in this next year. Mike and Sara and Tom and Lauren will continue to lead in this capacity. Adam and Alexa Wowchuk are stepping in to lead a group, and Janna and I are helping to launch a fourth group to accommodate our growing numbers as a church.

**ERA Kids** is a going concern! I am so thankful to Catherine Maynard for her ongoing oversight and leadership in this area. Together with Sarah Rhea, Stuart and Anne Appenheimer, and Lauren Williams they served our kids so well this past year. Leading and teaching during our Eucharist services, planning for family services, and pulling together an amazing presentation at Christmas are among the many ways this team serves the kids and families of Emmaus Road. This year we have an incredible team in Catherine, Sarah, Doug and Danielle. We are currently needing to add 3-4 volunteers to this team in the capacity of support – please pray with us that God would add to this important part of the life of our church. Also pray as we look for opportunities to engage with the older kids and youth of our church. Our desire is to provide places for all our kids to encounter Jesus in meaningful ways.

I want to point out that ERA Kids is also an area where we're seeing real growth as a church – both missionally and organically. Missionally our kids are inviting their friends and have learned how to host them beautifully whenever they come. As well we had the joy of celebrating with several families who had kids in the past year. A highlight was the joy of **baptizing five of our kids!** Willa Wowchuk, Theoden Tippe, and James, Evelyn, and Henry Williams were all baptized this year. As their families had them baptized these children became an amazing testimony to us of God's grace anchoring us in a fresh way in the good news of the gospel.

This year we have the distinct privilege to walk an important journey with Sara Maynard as she prepares for **ordination** as a deacon. Sara was previously ordained as what Via called a deaconess, but this order was distinct from holy orders – so different than what the church has historically called deacon. When we officially became a part of ANiC Sara felt led by the lord to lay down the title of deaconess. Accompanying this humble laying down was a willingness to engage in a conversation about ordination within ANiC as a deacon. The Parish Council has enthusiastically recommended her to the bishop for this consideration, and after attending an ordination day with ANiC we hope to see her ordained in the spring! Please pray for Sara in these months of discernment and preparation. We very much look forward to celebrating together an ordination that is very right and promises to be an incredible blessing to Christ's church.

As we continue in our life together at Emmaus Road there are a few specific things I'd like to bring to highlight.

First, **we are growing**, and pray that God would help us to steward well all that means for us as a church. As we grow, I find myself praying that God would preserve the incredible community He has established. I'm also praying that everyone who comes to Emmaus Road would experience the open and generous hospitality that has so blessed many who call Emmaus Road home. We praise God for the growth we're seeing at Emmaus Road and commit to pray where we feel the 'growing pains'. I see four specific areas of need in light of our current growth:

- Need to prayer  
*First and foremost, I feel acutely our never ending dependance on God to sustain, grow, provide for, and guide us as a church.*
- Need for volunteers  
*Emmaus Road is the church it is because of all the ways the community actively participates in our life together. As we grow, so to do the opportunities to jump in and be a part of what God is doing!*
- Need for space  
*The barns have been an incredible provision for us as a church, and we plan to be here for the remainder of this year. As we are growing, we are aware that the size and nature of the facility will likely not be adequate come fall of 2023. God has been so faithful to provide space for us to gather, and we pray that He would lead us well as we look for space that will continue to serve us well as we grow.*
- Need for finances  
Finally, growth will require funds. Thank you to everyone for your faithfulness in giving this past year. We pray that as we grow, God would continue to provide all we need to faithfully carry out the call of God on us as a church.

Secondly, this year we remain committed to be a community in love with Jesus. Central to this commitment is our **Life Together**. Around our tables at Home Gatherings and the Lord's table during our Eucharist services, we deeply desire that people would encounter Jesus. Men's and Women's events, Prayer nights, and Dwell Services, are some of the ways we will create space for this life together. More significantly, Life together is about the sharing of life in the real and the everyday. As we walk daily life together, we experience encounters with Jesus much like the disciples on the Road to Emmaus in Luke 24. So, I encourage you to intentionally lean into every opportunity you have to share life with those God has placed you in community with – especially others at Emmaus Road.

Finally, I have been thinking a lot lately about what it looks like for the church to be a missional church. By this I mean what it looks like for us to "Go forth in the name of Christ" like we commit to each week at the conclusion of our Eucharist services. This looks like fostering a heart of invitation and hospitality in our lives and our gathered life. As Home Gatherings we will be taking a Sunday every few months to intentionally reach out into our community with the love of Jesus. Most importantly, we commit to pray for those in our lives who don't know Jesus, and for opportunity to extend the love of Christ to them.

These past few years have been amazing, and my heart is full of gratitude for all of you and for all God has done and is doing at Emmaus Road Anglican Church. While I'm deeply thankful I am also deeply tired in some key ways. The end of Via Apostolica's journey and all that has meant for us and for me personally has been a lot to process. I thank God for the ways he has sustained and guided me through this past season, and for the incredible gift our church has been to me in the process. I am honestly in pretty good shape but am keenly aware of the need to let my heart catch up. +Dan and our Parish Council have approved a three-month **sabbatical** for me running from December 25 – March 27. I am so thankful for this gift of time to

pray, rest, and process. My prayer is that I would come back from these months with a renewed capacity and having grieved and processed the things I need to so I can fully engage in all God has in store!

Thank you for who you are as a church, and for so faithfully perusing the heart of God together this past year. I am truly blessed to call Emmaus Road home, and I pray that many would come to know that same gift.

For the sake of Christ,

Chad+

## Financial Report AGM 2023

As we report on Emmaus Road's financial picture, the first thing that springs to mind is praise. Praise to God for the wonderful (and at times miraculous) way he has provided and cared for us! And although God is ultimately our Provider, we recognize that he has predominantly used the faithful and generous people of Emmaus Road to provide for the needs of our parish. Thank you!

To give you a summary of our last fiscal year (July 1, 22- June 30, 23), we had budgeted to spend \$94,400, but scaled this back slightly as our actual giving came in at \$88,205. We were thrilled to be so close to our budget and again give glory to God!

For the coming year (July 1-23-June 30,24), our budget is \$104,700 to accommodate some growth and additional payroll expenses (Chad joining ANiC's pension and benefit plan). We are in faith that our budget will be very close to our actual spending, and to date we are right on target.

Currently, on an average month, our giving is approximately \$8,200 and our expenses generally come in at about \$7,900. As you can see, there is very little wiggle room between these numbers which means our cashflow management requires real attentiveness. It is our hope to see a financial buffer established of about \$5,000, to simplify our day to day cashflow management and to cover unexpected expenses.

Let's together thank our Heavenly Father for his care and provision for Emmaus Road, while we also continue to pray for his abundant provision for this year.

Sara Maynard for the Parish Council





## Emmaus Road Anglican Church - Financial Picture 2023 - 2024

	Budget 22/23	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	
<b>Income</b>				
Tithes/Offerings	\$ 87,000.00	\$ 78,848.88	\$ 97,500.00	\$7000 to \$9000 over the year
External Support	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 6,390.00	\$ 3,600.00	
Other	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 2,966.06	\$ 3,600.00	Conferences, Advent Giving
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 94,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 88,204.94</b>	<b>\$ 104,700.00</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Operations</b>	\$ 77,318.00	\$ 78,473.75	\$ 86,060.28	Salary @ 75% (addition of benefits w ANiC)
(Salary, Insurance, Office)				
<b>Presence</b>	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 4,568.63	\$ 3,300.00	
(Worship, Sundays)				
<b>Community</b>	\$ 1,530.00	\$ 1,124.97	\$ 1,530.00	
(Connection Events)				
<b>Discipleship</b>	\$ 5,460.00	\$ 3,538.83	\$ 5,460.00	
(Corpus, Kids Ministry)				
<b>Mission</b>	\$ 5,275.00	\$ 2,159.84	\$ 4,137.50	
(Local Missions, Outreach)				
<b>Leadership</b>	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 1,414.11	\$ 4,180.00	
(Leadership Development)				
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 94,383.00</b>	<b>\$ 91,280.13</b>	<b>\$ 104,667.78</b>	
Profit (loss)	\$ 17.00	\$ (3,075.19)	\$ 32.22	