

VICTORIAALLIANCE.CA



VICTORIA

Alliance Church

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE
2019 MINISTRY YEAR

Our desire is to glorify God
by becoming a
Christ-centered,
Spirit-empowered church,
on mission making Jesus
known among us, around
us, beyond us

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

IMAGINE Christ showing up in our lives every day - 24/7. If we allow him, He will graciously take center stage in our lives. If we allow Him, He will freely empower us with His Spirit. We are Blessed!

PRAY with me: Jesus, Come and take center stage in our church - in our lives. Empower us with the presence of your Holy Spirit in our church - in our lives.

We long to be filled with dreams from you, inspired with creativity, filled with compassion, empowered with boldness, and strengthened with faith. Create in us a clean heart filled with humility, authenticity, and vulnerability.

May we be found fully dependant on you God, apart from you we can do nothing.

In 2020 we believe you will "fan into flame" the gifts you have given us. That you will bring us to our knees to pray for and to our feet to reach out to those among us, around us, and beyond us.

In Jesus' name, Amen!

WONDER with me:
What would VAC look like if this was our sincere prayer? How would we change if this was our sincere prayer?

Seeking God's face,

REV. ROB OLSEN
LEAD PASTOR/BOARD CHAIR





ADS Brian Derksen led us in a weekend of soul renewal and care.

LEANING IN

BY REV. KYLA WARD
SENIOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Do you ever notice a recurring pattern developing in your life? Like when you purchase a new car, and all of a sudden all you see on the road is the same car! As I reflect on the 2019 year of ministry at Victoria Alliance, I am struck by the number of places to which God has been inviting us to lean in, all while trusting His leading. This pattern is everywhere I look!

We have leaned in toward improved church governance, revisiting and revising our bylaws to ensure greater clarity. We've been working to develop clearer Role Descriptions for every volunteer, and to articulate as a body what our expectations are for those who serve in our community.

We have taken steps to improve our scheduling processes with the use of Planning Center, while also moving toward a system where we conduct ongoing training and development of our leaders and servers.

And who could miss the way we've been leaning in to discussions about our physical location? We've had construction on all sides, and this has stirred us to a timely discussion about our own facility and place in our community.

We have leaned intentionally toward supporting 4 missions organizations. Each of these groups are in line with our singular mission of making Jesus known among us, around us, beyond us.

We have been leaning in toward deeper moments in corporate prayer and worship. We even had opportunity to explore some ancient life-giving practices at our *By Still Waters* weekend with Brian Derksen.

We also welcomed Bekah onto our staff as Ministry Manager. We look forward to all the doors that will open as we put in place some of the key leadership we had been praying for as we dreamed about this multi-faceted position.

There is so much evidence of the way God has been graciously guiding us through this past year - it simply leaves me wondering: *What are we being prepared for?* That's a question worth leaning into in 2020!

182

*people attended our 2019
Easter Service at Oak Bay
Highschool Theatre*

166

*people attended our Daycamp
Sunday and Fair Luncheon*

174

*people attended our services on
Christmas Eve*

130

*people were in attendance on
an average Sunday morning*

METRICS

Culture is greatly shaped by what we measure and celebrate. At VAC we are aiming to set our focus on the Next Steps people are taking in their faith journey. Lets be sure to celebrate the life-change represented in every step we measure!



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

One of our key strategies at Victoria Alliance Church is to **identify and develop our lay leaders** and to invest in them in a way that fosters greater impact on mission. To this end, in 2019 we trained 27 people through our online courses on the Trained Up platform, mostly on our Greeter team and our Children's ministry team. We also helped support a team of our worship leaders, musicians, and technicians as they attended the Worship Central conference in Vancouver. We gathered all of our small group leaders together for a Saturday morning training session, building skills, sharing encouragements, and aligning ourselves with our church wide understanding of the role of small groups. The youth leadership team also built on the intention of developing and growing our skills through more regular gatherings. The Board also engaged in a leadership development session with ADS Brian Derksen in November.

A significant development in 2019 was the creation of role descriptions for more than half of our volunteer positions. This work continues now, and should be completed by summer 2020, ensuring we are compliant with our new church bylaws. The church leadership team also approved a document called an *Expression of Expectations for Volunteers*. As we continue to develop further opportunities for our lay leaders to grow and serve, this document will help to ensure we are clear with one another about our hopes and expectations for service in the community of Christ.

"The more I learn and understand about God and Jesus the stronger my faith becomes. Of all the gifts life on earth can offer us, none can compare to the gift that God and Jesus has given me."

-VAC Trained-Up online participant

*In 2019 we employed our strategy to **focus missions involvement** with the hope of raising missions engagement. As a church we have worked corporately to support and release ministry through four select global and local missions initiatives.*

Missions: among us, around us, beyond us



GAF

The **Global Advance Fund** is one way we connect in our Alliance denomination's missions work to reach the least reached peoples around the world.

Total givings in 2019: \$ 9256.25
Total givers: 29
Number of VAC Prayer Partners: 4

OCC

Operation Christmas Child is an effective ministry that brings the message of hope in Jesus to countries far beyond us through gift-filled shoeboxes.

Total givings in 2019: \$ 2346.25
Total shoeboxes: 302
Number of VAC Volunteers: 10

ECY

Esquimalt Community Youth works to establish contacts with youth, to challenge them to engage in a cause, and to connect them in mentoring relationships that will inspire them to live life in all its fullness in Jesus.

Total givings in 2019: \$ 3403.35
Total givers: 20
Number of VAC Volunteers: 3

CI

Camp Imadene is committed to presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ and encouraging Christian growth. They provide unforgettable experiences that are fun, safe, and wholesome.

Total givings in 2019: \$ 4506.25
Total givers: 18
Number of VAC Summer Volunteers: 23

WORSHIP

We have an exceptionally devoted group of servant-minded leaders and team members that continue to answer the call to act as lead worshippers week in and week out, both from the platform and from the booth. It's always a good reminder to recognize that worship does not start or end with the instruments we play, the equipment that we have, or the material that we sing. If we were to show up with nothing more than ourselves, we are still called to worship in spirit and truth, responding to the movement of God through the Holy Spirit.

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Experiencing the continued exploration of the wide scope of worship through the continuation of the Free Fall Worship nights.
- 2) Making steps toward deeper relationships by responding to the call to minister to the person next to you.

"When we can talk deeper, and about more than just the weather - then we may get to connect in truer community."

-Marcello Sequiera, Worship Director

GROUPS

Connecting into a group is one of the best steps you can take to delve into our faith community, and to further the process of developing your faith.

Small groups are typically gatherings of about 6 - 8 people who meet weekly, or every other week. In small groups you have the opportunity to listen to the ideas of others, engage with helpful Bible teaching, and find a place to ask your questions, all while building relationships with others in the group.

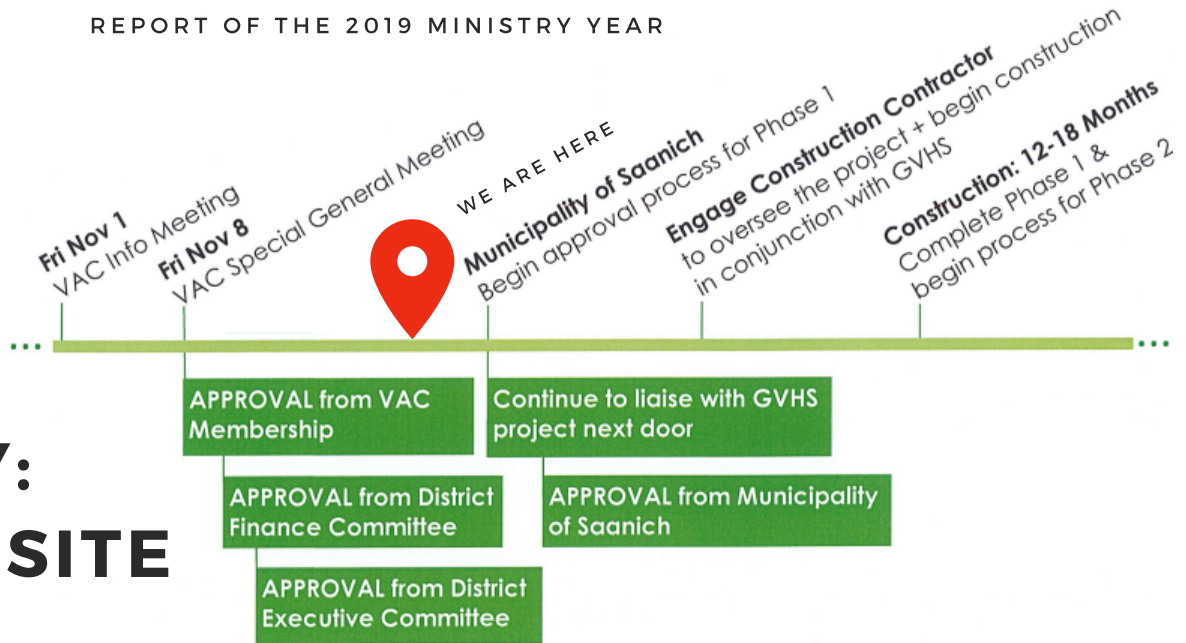
In 2019 Victoria Alliance was home to 9 small groups. If you have an interest in joining a small group, speak with Pastor Kyla or check out the Small Group ministry page on our website.

At VAC we also have groups that are not quite small, but not too big either. These **mid-size groups** offer an opportunity for great social connection in a casual and warm environment. Some meet weekly, others monthly or quarterly. In 2019 we had mid-sized groups gathering for our Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Youth Group, 55 plus, and Worship Ministry.

"I used to think I was fine. But now I know I'm not. I'm here (at small group) because I need help."

- small group participant

FACILITY: ON THIS SITE



"We long for our church building to be a catalyst for making Jesus known among us, around us, beyond us."

-Project Committee Member



"I was greatly encouraged by the many workers that turned out for the 2019 Spring clean-up."

-Les Smith, Facility Chair

Hastened by the construction project to the west of our property, 2019 was a year of leaning into a dialogue and discernment process regarding our future facility needs. The Board, Property Committee and General Membership all participated in the conversation, and in November agreed to move forward with a plan to pursue Phase 1 of a renovation and expansion plan that will look to develop our options to remain On This Site. (Ezra 6:7)

Full details are available on our church website

Our current Facility Chairperson, Les Smith, would add that some items on our current building will require repair in the near future. This list informs our decisions around a renovation plan.

Items requiring attention include:

- Furnaces – gas conversion done 1999
- Replacing exterior wall and windows facing Townley Lodge
- Exterior painting
- Replacing gym windows
- Flooring in foyer washrooms
- Sanctuary, balcony and foyer carpeting (approx. 20 yrs. old) & painting.

NOMINATIONS

The 2019/20 Nomination Committee are thankful for the honor of seeking God's will regarding nominees to serve as leaders on the VAC Board. Committee members are Rob Olsen (Chair), Cathy Stone (Board), Tracy Wiggins (Board), Darren Ward, Marcia Wood, and Russ Bell.

Church Board Nominations

The nominating committee places the following names in nomination to serve as Board members to serve a two year term:

RODRIGO FERACINI (Incumbent)

DAVID PARADISO (Incumbent)

Nominating Committee Nominations

The second task for the Nomination Committee is to present a list of 3 lay nominees for the 2020/21 Nomination Committee (the Board will provide an additional three members).

The Nominating Committee places the following names to be elected for a one year term on the 2020/21 Nominating Committee:

RUSSELL BELL

MARCIA WOOD

DARREN WARD

NATHAN ROBERTSON (ALTERNATE)

*"The Board has two primary areas of responsibility: governing and shepherding. Both of these aspects of board activity are spiritual in nature."
-Board Leadership Training Manual*

NOMINATIONS PROFILES

Rodrigo Feracini

Rodrigo was born in São Paulo, Brazil but has been in Canada for over 12 years and is proudly Canadian. Before arriving in Canada, Rodrigo also lived in Caracas, Venezuela with his family. He met his wife Katrina in Montreal during the first year of university, and they have been married for 8 years. Their daughter Myla is two years old and they're currently expecting their second child.

Rodrigo and Katrina moved to Victoria in September 2016 and they love exploring the outdoors and travelling to unique places. Together they can speak 5 languages. Rodrigo has served as our Board Secretary since being elected in 2018.



David Paradiso

David and Rhoda have been attending Victoria Alliance since they moved from Ottawa in 2014. They have been married for almost 27 years and have four daughters: Chloe, Sarah, Allegra and Evangelina, who are all in school.

David was born in Toronto to an immigrant family from Italy, the only one of five siblings who was born in Canada.

David has been Board Treasurer for the last two years. He has a law degree from Western University in London, Ontario and is a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada. David's career has been in the oversight and investigation of public sector agencies, including position with the Ontario Ombudsman, the Ombudsman for Canada Post, the RCMP Public Complaint Commission, the Correctional Investigator of Canada, and the RCMP External Review Committee. Currently David works as BC Deputy Ombudsperson.

They enjoy travelling as a family and eating together, preferably at the same time.

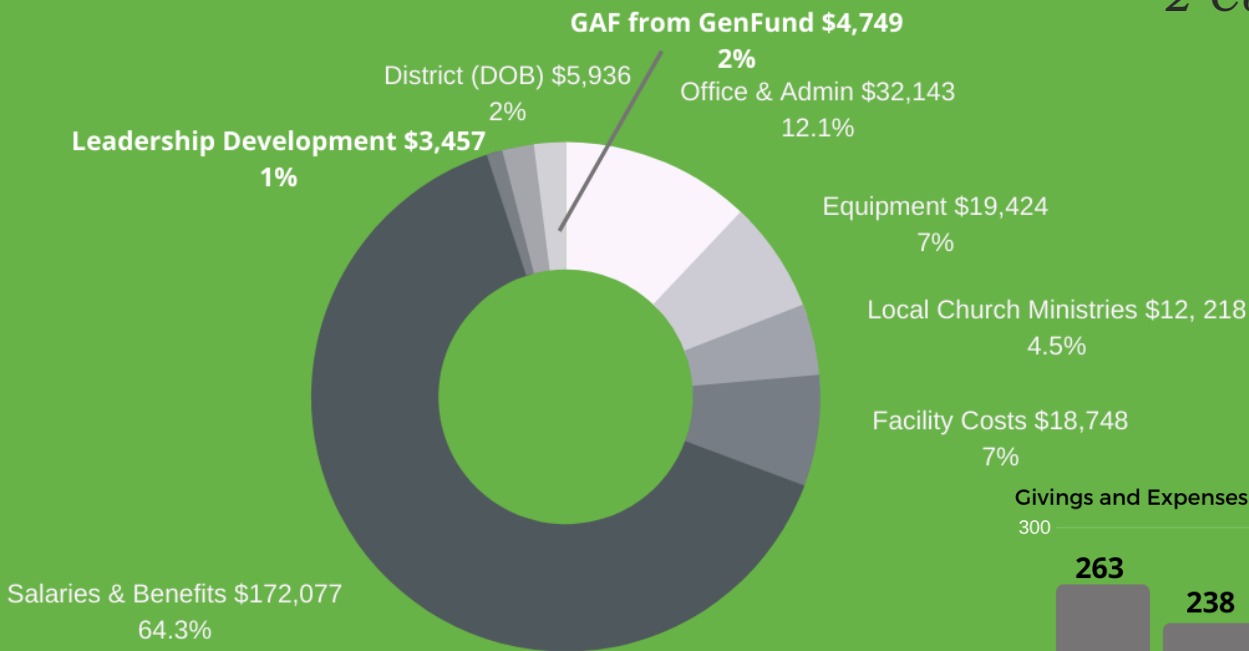
David and Rhoda cling to Proverbs 3:5,6.



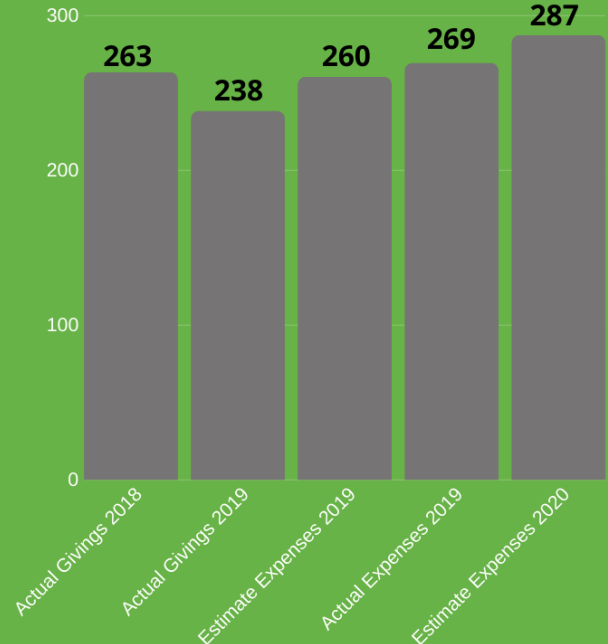
2019 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."
- 2 Corinthians 9:8*

2019 TOTAL EXPENSES \$268,753



Givings and Expenses (to the nearest \$1,000)



For a more detailed financial report, please see the AGM Appendix available online or in the office.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



"Lord, bring the Church and our neighbours, new and old, together to experience Your grace and compassion"

- Al W.



"I pray that our hearts may break for each other. May kindness, love and a Christ centered focus overwhelm frustration, selfish thoughts, and distractions. May any conflict lead to authentic repentance and reconciliation. May the continued desire for community continue to infuse our actions and behaviours surrounding worship, leading to deeper relationships both within and beyond our ministry. May we continue to faithfully serve our congregation while remaining focussed on glorifying Christ and the submission to His will."

- Marcello S.

God, please continue to encourage us in our efforts to reach out to our community, even if the gains made seem insignificant.

- Nancy D.



"Father in heaven, in Your mercy, please help us to know deeply that we can't do anything without Your power, and that Your power flows in response to prayer."

-Rachel F.