
Westview Christian Fellowship Year in Review
January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Part I. Ministry Life of the Organization

The stories shared in this report provide a picture of how we've seen God at work in our neighbourhood and church over the course of 2019. As you'll see reading the stories, 2019 has been a special year. 2018 was full of transition, a transition that we're still experiencing, but with our new board, new leaders, new financial support from MCEC Churches in Niagara, 2019 has definitely felt like a new birth. Adding to this, Caleb Ratzlaff, our Convener has also started the TiM program and we've initiated the ordination process for him with MCEC. In terms of board leadership, our long-time board chair, Will Klassen, has wisely decided to step down at this time and, as of January 2020, we'll be welcoming Grazia Shepard into the board chair post. We are very thankful for all the work Will has done over the years, we wouldn't be around if it were not for his work and vision.

A. Fast facts and list of leaders

How many baptisms did you have? _____0_____

Has attendance grown, declined or remained constant?
 Grown _____X_____ Declined _____ Constant _____

How many funerals did you have? _____2_____

Who is the current church treasurer? _____Kristina Nickel_____

Who is your current leadership group?

Name	Position
<u>Will Klassen</u>	<u>Board Director</u>
<u>Dick Janssen</u>	<u>Financial Advisor</u>
<u>Vic Ratzlaff</u>	<u>Lay Pastor</u>
<u>Erika Klassen</u>	<u>Lay Pastor</u>
<u>Grazia Shepard</u>	<u>Board Member</u>
<u>Vern Martens</u>	<u>Board Member</u>
<u>Rose Sherwood</u>	<u>Board Member</u>
<u>Sam Allcock</u>	<u>Board Member</u>
<u>Brenda Krumrei</u>	<u>Board Member</u>
<u>Kristina Nickel</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
<u>Jennifer Symonds</u>	<u>Board Member</u>

Staff:

<u>Jane LaVacca</u>	<u>WC4W Executive Director</u>
<u>Caleb Ratzlaff</u>	<u>Convener</u>
<u>Jeniffer Bonhof</u>	<u>Administrator</u>
<u>Nell Klassen</u>	<u>Bookkeeper</u>

B. Impact story from the Westview Community

Mary, one of the women we had hoped to join our leadership team in 2019, moved to Niagara Falls this Spring. Nevertheless, this is a cause for celebration. 2019 marks the first wedding anniversary of our dear Mary and Keith. Before marrying Keith, Mary was born in North Bay and spent her childhood in group homes. At an early age, she moved out on her own before getting married. Unfortunately, the family she married into took control of her finances, stealing her monthly disability cheque. When Mary started attending the Centre, she decided to

learn to read, so she could, among other things, understand her Ontario disability cheque. And that's what she did. It wasn't long before she stepped out on her own again, leaving an unhealthy relationship, and volunteering to read scripture at church. A few years later a stronger, more independent Mary met Keith and they were joyfully married at Westview, surrounded by a community of support. After being on different social housing lists her entire adult life, Mary and Keith were finally accepted into a Niagara Regional Housing unit in Niagara Falls. Although we don't see them as often, we're grateful to have this couple bringing their unique gifts to our community as we watch them enjoy their newfound financial independence. More often than not these days, you'll find Keith working on his art, Mary chatting with friends, or the two on a date in the Falls. Life is beautiful and Mary is leading the way.

C. How WV relates to the community.

WC4W (Update)

- In the Centre's 11th year we've continued to see our community grow. New women come each day while other participants find employment or permanent housing. Our gratitude flows two ways at once: we are so thankful for all of the women who take a chance on us, and step out to find a community of support at Westview; and we are thankful for the supporters outside our doors who, like the participants, work tirelessly to raise money and bring in donations. Thank you.
- WC4W by the numbers in 2019:
 - Hot Breakfasts: 8020
 - Hot Lunches: 11055
 - Clothing and linens given away (Trash bag size): 1600
 - Loads of Laundry: 1110
 - Hair Wash and Cut: 610
 - Hygiene Supplies: 3120
 - Apartment Kits: 36
 - Daycare Services: 512
 - Bus Tickets: 1650
 - Pantry Purchases: \$13 565.00
 - Hours of paid pre-employment: 6890
 - Volunteer Hours: 4300
 - Medical/Dental: 660 hrs.

Queenston Round Table (QRT) *"Everyone has a gift to contribute."*

- *The Queenston Roundtable is led by a group of people who work, play, or live in Queenston. With an eye on the assets that currently exist in the neighbourhood, our work is driven by the idea that residents are key to lasting development.*
- The Queenston Roundtable is a budding neighbourhood association whose founders include: folks who are part of the neighbourhood, Westview Centre4women, Westview Christian Fellowship, the Niagara Community Foundation, the City of St. Catharines, Niagara Region, Start Me Up Niagara, Positive Living, Quest, and a number of businesses and other services. Today, members of Westview's community continue to volunteer their time with the QRT. Along with his co-chairs and hardworking neighbours, Caleb Ratzlaff has provided leadership to the group and helped operate the community gardens in Centennial Park, which, for the first time in a long time, has seen all 50 garden plots running at full capacity. These simple 5'x16'

boxes of soil bring an opportunity to church members, community members, and centre members to grow healthy food, enjoy nature's therapy, and to learn to work on a common project.

Westview@Night (Impact Story)

A year or two ago, Deb Nanson's doctor advised her to slow down a little. Her health was deteriorating but those around her knew that wasn't going to stop her. "I don't actually know how much she slowed down," said Erika Klassen. "But she had more hours in the day than you or I, and the energy of four people combined." Nanson passed away on May 1, 2019.

Deb, a former addict and sex-worker, turned her life around and devoted the rest of her time on earth to help others do the same. Even as she struggled with cancer, friends knew her as a fierce advocate for people who were poor or disadvantaged, and especially for women caught in the lifestyle she escaped. She went to court with them, spoke for them, and worked with them to learn basic life skills so they could speak for themselves. Nanson organized marches, talked to politicians, planned shelters and collected food for people in need.

Klassen recalls journeying out at night with Nanson, looking for women working or living on the streets. They would offer support and provide much-needed food or hygiene products. She laughs at the recollection. "I was raised a very nice Mennonite Christian church girl. I knew nothing," said Klassen. "So we just started walking. She knew the streets well, because she had been on the streets for many years herself and knew a lot of the women. She could see somebody a mile away and know who they were. She had the loudest booming voice you could possibly imagine, and in the dark, quiet street she would yell their names, from a distance, and they would literally stop dead in their tracks. You don't dare move, because Debbie just called your name."

Today, partnering with the YWCA, Westview continues Deb's weekly Street Worker drop-in. On Wednesday and Thursday nights women can find food, hygiene products, and a sympathetic ear when they need it most.

Adapted from "Obituary: Friends, family remember Deb Nanson as a fierce, passionate fighter for the needy and disadvantaged", The St. Catharines Standard. May 02, 2019

F. A few of the things WV has done in the last year to strengthen your relationships with other MCEC churches:

Each year we host a forest church service with the Commons in Hamilton. We often share resources with the Commons (speakers, music etc). We also hosted a panel on affordable housing in the Spring and another on the Consumption and Treatment Site in the fall. Both events were planned with MCEC congregations in Niagara. Youth from other MCEC churches provided food for the events. In November folks from St. Catharines United Mennonite came for a tour of our building and the women's Centre. We're blessed to receive lots of donations for the Centre's food pantry and clothing rack for the Centre from MCEC partners.

This year marks the first year Westview has begun a formal financial relationship with 5 of the 7 Niagara MCEC church. 5 churches have agreed to give \$5000 to Westview for the next 3 years (Grace Mennonite, one of these 5 churches will give based on yearly income), allowing us to hire a minister at 20 hours a week. As part of our ongoing work of becoming stronger partners, we've invited folks from other MCEC churches to sit on our board, our treasurer, for example, is a member of Niagara United Mennonite Church. We're excited about this

partnership and hope we can find ways to strengthen and maintain it.

G. A dream for WV this coming year:

A dream for the church this coming year would be to find money to build a daycare. An affordable daycare would dovetail nicely with our women's centre while providing a source of stable funding. Unfortunately, the Trillium grant submitted this year was unsuccessful, but we continue to explore all avenues.

H. Some answers to prayer in the past year:

Of all the answered prayer we've received in 2019, four special mentions are required:

- First, Jane Lavaca has stepped up to complete her first year as executive director. Jane hasn't missed a beat, working to find grants, running programs with her team of staff and volunteers, and coordinating with all of our partners. The Centre community and Westview's board of directors are grateful for all that she does.
- Second, we are ecstatic about our new teaching kitchen, made possible by an anonymous donor! Not only does the new kitchen greatly improve our ability to serve more than 17 000 meals a year, but the women of the Centre are now fully equipped to learn practical culinary skills that inspire nutritious and sustainable eating habits.
- Third, our fellow MCEC Niagara churches have stepped up with the funding needed for us to hire a ministerial staff member, Caleb Ratzlaff, at 50% time. Because of these funds we were able to build and retain a young leader who now hopes to become ordained and be a leader in the church. It's our desire to continue increasing ministerial staff hours as money becomes available.
- Finally, 2019 has been very exciting, we welcomed a new board composed of a majority female millennials. Guided by a few experienced leaders, the board is young, energetic, and frighteningly smart.

I. Prayer requests for 2020:

- Pray for the daycare and pray for all those in Queenston dying of the opioid crisis and living in vicaries housing.
- Although we are thankful for all the work Jane Lavaca does at the Centre and church we need to ask for prayer for her and her work as she began cancer treatment this Fall.
- Pray for Caleb Ratzlaff as he works through the TiM program and the ordination process with MCEC.

Part II. Financial Report

A. General Comments:

2019 has seen its share of financial successes and struggles. In terms of successes, we were blessed this year with a new kitchen and Jane was very proactive in getting grant money for new windows. Although the numbers aren't in yet for the year, we're confident that unrestricted donations for the Centre have been increasing year over year. Again much of this success is due to the diligent work of Jane and all the women who help to put on fundraisers, bazaars, and garage sales. Additionally, 2019 year marks the start of our financial relationship with other local MCEC Churches which means we're able to hire a ministerial staff person at 50% time. For all of these reasons we are grateful.

In terms of struggles, although the Sunday morning gathering continues to slowly grow as we welcome folks from the community and enjoy the fruit of young families, our tithes has taken a slight downturn this year. We rely on tithes for building costs, administration, program delivery, and a percentage of our ministerial staff salary. As building use shows no signs of slowing, we'll need to find new money in 2020 for continued building maintenance, including: replace the floor in the sanctuary and the purchase new cooling units.

B. Summarize your budget below.

WESTVIEW GATHERING	2019 (actual est)	2020 - Draft Budget
Income		
Tithes	50,000	50,000
Rental Income	22,000	22,000
MCEC (Mission fund)	9000	9000
Churches (Local Niagara Cluster)	20,000	25,000
Retained Income	2864	2000
Garden grant	1750	1700
Total Income	105,614	109, 033.30
Expenses		
Administration (incl Office Admin & Bookkeeper)*	21,500	25,020
Building and Grounds (incl. Janitorial)	27,000	26,752
Mortgage interest, principal & Insurance	13940	23,466
Program Delivery (incl. Outreach Pastor & expenses associated with church gatherings + garden)	23,500	3250
Minister***	23000	29,000
Total Expenses	108,940	107,468

*The Administration position is funded 70% by the Centre, money that flows through our budget. The admin spends much of their time working for the Centre as opposed to religious programming.

***As Erika Klassen, our outreach pastor, retires this year, we're hoping to roll the Convener and Minister positions into one and hire a ministerial staff person at 50% time.

A. List the sources of income in the funding of your ministry

WC4W

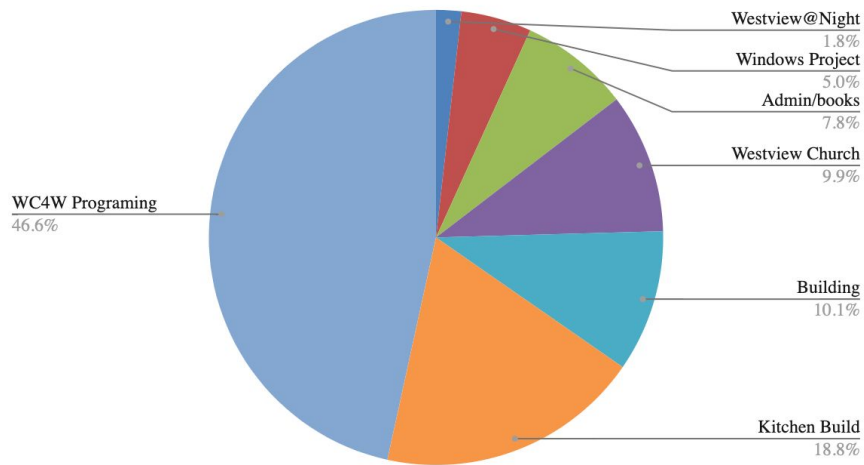
- United Way
- Niagara Prosperity Initiative
- Anonymous foundations, trusts, community groups, and churches
- Private donations
- Income from the "Plentiful Pantry" in the Center
- Income from garage sales by Center women

- Income from laundry services at the Center

WV

- Donations and rental payments for building-use by many local community organizations
- Tithes & offerings - both large and small
- MCEC
- Niagara United Mennonite Church
- Vineland United Mennonite Church
- First Mennonite Church Vineland
- St. Catharines United Mennonite Church
- Grace Mennonite Church

Expenses Jan.-Nov. 2019



Income Jan. - Nov. 2019

