



**Report of The District Superintendent
2024 District Conference
Billings, Montana
April 8-10, 2024**

Two years ago, in April 2022, the Rocky Mountain District (RMD) family gathered in Nampa, ID in the aftermath of Covid-19. This was our first face-to-face District Conference since Casper, WY in 2018. How wonderful it was to be together in person rather than linked via Zoom for 90 minutes as we were in April 2020. Each one who gathered, in Nampa, was so happy to be rid of all the sadness, restrictions, controversy and even silliness of that season. For Lori and I, we were taking everything in as we believed, at the time, that that District Conference would be our last full District Conference in the RMD before electing a new District Superintendent due to term limits requiring us to conclude on July 31, 2024. At the end of my 2022 Report of the District Superintendent to District Conference I wrote, *"I firmly admit, I do not know what the future holds for Lori and I -- in truth, none of us know what the future holds for any of us -- BUT we know the ONE who does and that is enough! Let's run head first into it -- together for His Kingdom, for His Glory, with joy and in His power!"*

Since that writing, much has changed in the RMD. We have had pastors who retired, who have taken leave from ministry, who have moved to new places of ministry, who have gotten married and new pastors come into the RMD family! To the Lord's Glory, we have not had to close any churches in the past two years -- unlike the prior two years where three churches closed before and during Covid-19. The physical District Office over the past number of years has been re-built with a new roof, windows, exterior and interior remodeling as we seek to steward well the building the Lord has given to us to manage. Our future also has changed as Lori and I had no thought that we could continue serving in this role, here in the RMD. When the news came that the DS Search Committee, the RMD Nominating Committee and the RMD Executive Committee (Dexcom) were all unanimous in asking Terry Smith, Church Ministries Vice-President and ultimately the Board of Directors of The Alliance to allow us to be nominated for a fourth term -- we were beyond surprised, humbled and honored! It has always been my desire to hold on to Christ tightly and to hold everything else lightly!

In early November 2023, prior to knowing we could have the opportunity to serve a fourth term, our longtime Administrative Assistant, Mary Kraft, shared with me that she was going to conclude her role on December 31, 2023. Near the end of November 2023, we found out about the change that could happen with us being allowed to stay in the RMD. I asked Mary if she wanted to return after a planned spiritual internship she had already lined up, however, Mary

decided she would not be coming back in April 2024. Thus, it was a “changing of the guard” with Mary leaving after two plus *decades* as Administrative Assistant to two DS’s and countless staff people! Lori Wiggins and Candy Tweedy have been excellent in “job-sharing” Mary’s former role. One thing that ISN’T changing is that Rev. Chris Tweedy will be continuing to serve in his role as Assistant to the District Superintendent. Chris has served our District Family with amazing skills and evidencing the spirit of Christ among us for nearly nine years! We are all **deeply appreciative** of Chris and his ministry in the RMD! Mr. Scott Thorson will also continue to serve in the Director of District Services role which he began in February 2022.

At the concluding 10:45 a.m. service of District Conference on Wednesday, April 10th I will be sharing several things as we look forward to the next season of ministry -- if Christ does not come back first! The rest of this report will largely look back at the previous two years and report on some of the activities. Chris and Scott also have important information in their reports.

While we look back and remember Covid-19, inflation and many other challenges we hang on tightly to the twin truths found in John 16:33, where Jesus said “*In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world*” and the Apostle John who wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in I John 4:4 “*greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*”

Ministry Reports

Alliance Women

For over thirteen years now, the District Alliance Women’s Retreat has been held yearly in either Billings, MT (generally the odd years) or Bozeman, MT (generally the even years). The 2022 retreat was held before the 2022 District Conference and was reported on at our last District Conference. The 2023 District Alliance Women’s retreat was held March 24-26, 2023, at The Billings Hotel and Conference Center. The theme was *Radical* and the speaker was Bobbi Quiggle from Minnesota. 192 women attended the retreat and gave \$2,527.14 which was split between the work of District IW Laura Rodriguez and Envision in El Salvador. In addition, Mercy Market Ministries was on hand and sold many crafts that have been made in southeast Asia to help women and children get out of the sex-trafficking environment so prevalent there. Due to District Conference and the later date of Easter in 2024, the District Alliance Women’s retreat will be held April 26-28 in Bozeman, MT.

Breaking The Barriers (BTB) Grant

The Breaking The Barriers Grant is a \$20,000 grant, payable over two years that accredited churches can apply for. The purpose of the grant is to assist eligible churches to break through ministry, staff and facility barriers. The recipient for 2023-2024 was Community Alliance Church in Havre, MT.

The application information for 2024-2025 will be sent out in the April 2024 RMD News. Applications may be submitted to me (jwiggins@rmdcma.com) by July 15th. The recipient of the grant will be decided upon by Dexcom and announced in the September 2024 edition of the RMD News.

Camp Ministries

Please see Chris Tweedy’s Report. We are glad to have Zach Zirbel from Dickey Lake Bible Camp (DLBC) in Trego, Montana and Alex Hickinbotham from Yellowstone Alliance Adventures (YAA) in Bozeman, MT with us these days at District Conference!

Children's / Youth Ministries

Please see Chris Tweedy's Report. We are happy to have Mrs. Leah Broach, Alliance Kids National Director and Rev. Scott Wakeley, Alliance Youth Director with us for District Conference!

Church Health

Chris Tweedy and I have been working in this area for the past two and a half years since we last had a full-time person serving in this area. When Eric & Kathie Oleson moved back to California after three-years here, I made the choice to not hire another staff person as I believed I would be leaving this role this year and I did not want to be seen as promoting someone for District Superintendent (essentially finding my successor).

Chris has been working with churches in the area of evangelism and discipleship among other areas of responsibility. You can read about this ministry in his report. I have been working with various churches on ministry planning, administration and bylaws among other things. When we found out that we would be given the opportunity to stay for a full four-year term I spoke with the Dexcom and am working toward hiring another Assistant to the District Superintendent whose role likely will include church advance, leadership development, ministry coaching and possibly other duties.

Below you will find statistics from The Annual Report of Local Churches for 2022 and 2023. I am thankful that we were able to receive information from each of our 57 churches for this report. I rejoice with each of the people that received Christ through the auspices of our RMD church ministries! I greatly rejoice regarding each one who chose to follow the Lord in obedience concerning baptism! Each person represents a story of the Lord reaching down and using someone to share Christ with these folks -- *and they responded!* Some might have responded the first time they heard the Good News, others it might have been after many, many years of numerous people faithfully praying for them. Having served in small towns (population 300 and 3,000) as well as lived in areas of 300,000 to 4,000,000 people, there are many many reasons *for* growth in some areas (in-migration, older people leaving smaller towns and moving to larger ones for retirement, health care, be nearer to family, etc). In such instances our churches should *expect* to grow! In other places in our district, there is a noticeable out-migration of young people and older people to the point where maintaining a consistent average attendance requires the addition of new attenders. Regardless of the factors that we face, let us not be weary in well-doing and re-double our efforts to reach those apart from Christ -- and all the more as we see the Day approaching!

Average Overall Attendance in 2022:	5,814
Average Overall Attendance in 2023	5,966
Overall salvations reported in 2022:	315
Overall salvations reported in 2023:	326
Overall baptisms reported in 2022:	244
Overall baptisms reported in 2023:	248
# of churches with no salvations reported in 2022:	16
# of churches with no salvations reported in 2023:	11

of churches with no baptisms reported in 2022: 20
of churches with no baptisms reported in 2023: 17

of churches with no salvations reported in 2021, 2022 & 2023: 5
of churches with no baptisms reported in 2021, 2022 & 2023: 6

Crown College

Each year, it appears, the headwinds of culture continue to buffet Christianity in America. This is ever so apparent in the realm of Christian higher education. Nyack College was closed in 2023 when their accrediting agency revoked their accreditation due to lack of finances thereby making students ineligible for federal financial aid. Crown College, and another Christian college in Minnesota had to sue the State of Minnesota due to a very specific law passed by the state legislature and signed by the Governor that would have eliminated state aid from hundreds of students already and soon to be enrolled! Years ago, this would have been unthinkable! Against such headwinds, Crown College is standing firm and was able to get an injunction from a judge staying the implementation of this law while the merits are argued in court. The Becket Fund has been representing Crown in this litigation. President Denton has been leading Crown well including the first new women's dorm being constructed in forty-five years! Enrollment continues to hold firm and the commitment to being boldly Christian remains *the* rallying cry at Crown! We are happy to have Dr. Bill Kuhn and Mr. Alec Testerman with us from Crown College at this year's district conference!

District Advance Fund

Please see Scott Thorson's report. One major happening regarding the District Advance Fund (DAF) was the handing out of the RMD Ministry Grant at District Conference in 2022. Each RMD Church received a grant from \$5,000 - \$50,000 based on their giving to the DAF in 2021. Thirteen churches received the minimum grant of \$5,000 which was more than their giving to the DAF the previous year. The purpose of the grant was to assist our churches during the massive inflationary pressures at that time. A total of \$640,000 was given out via this grant. Some churches used their grant funds to pay for propane for the winter while others added ministry staff positions and still others finished building projects.

Dexcom

For more than half my life I have actively served on Dexcom's in four different C&MA districts. This thought came to me as I was reflecting back on *all* the various RMD members of Dexcom that I have had the privilege of serving with over these past twelve years. I have been humbled and honored to serve with the many great men, through the years, who have given sacrificially of their time and wisdom.

Our bylaws state that Dexcom is comprised of nine members, each elected by District Conference to a four-year term. Except for the District Superintendent, a person can serve two full four-year terms before being off at least a year. At least two members of Dexcom must be laypersons, at present we have three laypersons on Dexcom. The complete list of Dexcom members includes:

Rev. Jonathan Wiggins, DS, Chair Rev. John Reese, Vice Chair (Great Falls, MT)
Mr. John Thomas, Secretary (Evanston, WY) Rev. Nick Ristow, Treasurer (Bozeman, MT)

Mr. Ruey Barnett (Belgrade, MT)
Rev. Bryan Loewen (Red Lodge, MT)
Rev. Ken Simon (Lander, WY)

Rev. Phil Jones (Gillette, WY)
Mr. Dan Runner (Saratoga, WY)

During our tenure serving here in the RMD, it has been my desire to have two of our three regular meetings each year be held “on the road.” This enables our senior leadership team to get acquainted with some of the places that are impacted by their decisions.

Over the past two years, Dexcom members have had many extra trips and extra meetings. Since April of 2022, the Dexcom has met seven times in-person (District Office 3X; Cheyenne, WY; Belgrade, MT; Missoula, MT and Gillette, WY); had four Zoom meetings and four email votes. In addition, the Dexcom Executive Committee had two Zoom meetings and three Email polls. The Dexcom Executive Committee is composed of the DS, Vice-Chair of Dexcom, Secretary and Treasurer. Among the many actions of Dexcom:

- Appointed Rev. John Reese as Vice-Chair of the Dexcom through April 2024.
- Approved launching Montage Micro-Church Network in Kalispell, MT with Rev. Jens Sundem.
- Received with great regret the resignation of District Treasurer, Rev. Paul Sponheim, due to health concerns.
- Appointed Rev. Nick Ristow, Bozeman, MT, as District Treasurer to fill out the unexpired term of Rev. Paul Sponheim.
- Approved emergency grant in the amount of \$25,000 to assist Red Lodge (MT) Alliance Chapel in ministering to their flood ravaged community.
- Approved \$1,000 grant to Council for every official worker who attends and an additional \$750 grant for one accredited delegate from each church.
- Appointed the 2024 Nominating Committee officers and DS Search Committee members.
- Did not approve a request from the C&MA Administration to give district funds to the relocation efforts of the National Office from Colorado Springs, CO to Reynoldsburg, OH due to the recent distribution of \$640,000 in ministry grants to each RMD church during this inflationary time.
- Approved purchasing of a used vehicle for district use.
- Approved numerous building sales, property sales, building addition projects, remodeling projects and financing plans for churches throughout the RMD.
- Received and approved of the 2021 audit.
- Appointed Rev. Paul Turek and Rev. Jim Evans to four-year terms (1/23 - 1/27) on the Licensing, Ordination and Consecration Council.
- Approved a \$10,000 gift to assist a new IW family heading overseas.
- Approved credentials for 2022 as recommended by the Licensing, Ordination and Consecration Council.
- Approved three-year district investment proposal to revitalize the ministry in Polson, MT.

- Approved year-end giving in 2022 to our District IW families and single IW's and widows of RMD pastors who have entered eternity.
- Approved the 2023 District Advance Fund (DAF) Budget.
- Conducted, in conjunction with the C&MA National Office, the annual DS performance appraisal and review in 2022.
- Received with great regret a Leave of Absence request from Rev. Paul Taylor, District Secretary due to his church governance authority (elder board) asking to separate from the C&MA over 2023 Council actions regarding men and women in ministry leadership. Eventually this leave of absence became a resignation when Paul moved on to a non-Alliance ministry.
- Appointed Mr. John Thomas, layman from Evanston (WY) Alliance Church as Acting Secretary for the duration of the Leave of Absence or term of Rev. Paul Taylor.
- The Dexcom met with the Elder Board and Pastor of Discovery Alliance Church in-person in Missoula, MT regarding their letter and request to leave the C&MA and have a waiver of the reversionary clause.
- Approved Breaking the Barriers (BTB) Grant, in the amount of \$20,000 for 2023 - 2024 to Community Alliance Church in Havre, MT.
- The Dexcom met with the members and attenders of Discovery Alliance Church in-person in Missoula, MT to listen, understand, discern and hear their concerns about their request to leave the C&MA and have the reversionary clause waived.
- The Dexcom met with the pastor, elders, members and congregation of Discovery Alliance Church in-person in Missoula, MT to announce the decision to deny the request of 77% of the members to leave the C&MA and have the reversionary clause waived.
- Received and approved of the 2022 audit.
- Approved credentials for 2023 as recommended by the Licensing, Ordination and Consecration Council.
- Approved the 2024 District Advance Fund (DAF) Budget.
- Appointed Rev. Ron Lotz to a four-year term (1/24 - 1/28) on the Licensing, Ordination and Consecration Council.
- Conducted, in conjunction with the C&MA National Office, the annual DS performance appraisal and review in 2023.
- Approved 2023 year-end giving to our District IW families and single IW's and widows of RMD pastor's who've died.

Great Commission Fund

The Rocky Mountain District continues to be a leader in the C&MA regarding missions engagement! Rev. Chris Tweedy leads with passion in this area. Mrs. Lori Wiggins and Mrs. Mary Kraft did a great job in 2022 and 2023 of reaching our district goal of having an IW in every church, every year.

Giving to Alliance Missions in calendar year 2022 was \$1,444,023! In 2023, giving to Alliance Missions totaled \$1,674,215! Thank you for leading your congregations in giving to the world-wide work of the Lord!

IGNITE

IGNITE is the fall retreat for official workers in the RMD. In 2022 the retreat was held, October 3 - 6 at First Alliance Church in Billings, MT with Mr. Ken Sande. Ken previously founded Peacemakers Ministry and spoke to those gathered on emotional intelligence in his new venture called Relational Wisdom 360. Many remarked just how practical and helpful this material was as Ken presented it.

In 2023 the retreat was held September 25 - 28 at First Alliance Church in Great Falls, MT with Dr. Shawn Kennedy. Shawn brought practical, biblical, spirit-empowered messages to each one who gathered. The presence of the Lord was evident in the worship and teaching in each session! We are so thankful to have Shawn back with us at District Conference this year!

Licensing, Ordination and Consecration Council (LO&CC)

The LO&CC assists the District Superintendent in being the gatekeeper for Alliance standards in the RMD regarding beliefs and licensing of official workers. As such, they assist those in Consecration and Ordination process as laid out by the national C&MA office. Each year, a four-day LO&CC School is held which helps those in the process complete the requirements of attending a C&MA Polity Course, completing Level One Peacemakers training and classes in evangelism and discipleship. In addition, practical ministry training is offered as well as time given to accomplish the many requirements of the Consecration and Ordination process in the C&MA.

Members of the LO&CC, presently, include:

Rev. Jim Davey, (Kalispell, MT)

Rev. Jim Evans, (Twin Falls, ID)

Rev. Dennis Findorff, (Fortine, MT)

Rev. Ron Lotz, (Belgrade, MT)

Rev. Randy Neilson, (Plains, MT)

Dr. Jason Taylor, (Cheyenne, WY)

Rev. Paul Turek, (Sidney, MT)

Rev. Jonathan Wiggins (DS, Billings, MT)

On a personal level, I am deeply thankful every member of the LO&CC. These have been and continue to be interesting and exciting days -- all at the same time! I am saddened that we will be losing Dr. Jason Taylor from our LO&CC as he has accepted the call as lead pastor at Mercy (C&MA) Church in Sioux Falls, SD as of June 1, 2024. Jason has served with distinction on the LO&CC since January 2018. Thank you, to each member of the LO&CC, for serving our district so well! Elsewhere in this report you can read more of the wide variety of work the LO&CC has been a part of over the past two years.

Orchard Alliance

This year at District Conference we again welcome Mr. Joseph Padilla, Vice President for Ministry Development at Orchard Alliance. Joseph has served the C&MA family through Orchard Alliance for over twenty years! Joseph has major certifications from the National Association of Securities Dealers and is an experienced planned giving speaker and trainer. It has been a privilege to serve on the Orchard Alliance Board for the past three years, and to be re-appointed to another three-year term by the C&MA Board of Directors. I commend Joseph to you and invite you to get to know Joseph and the services of Orchard Alliance which go way beyond loaning money to churches. To that end, you can receive help with retirement planning (which Lori and I just

finished updating from what we did with the precursor to Orchard more than thirty years ago!), and information and resources to help those in your churches be able to give many things beyond just cash in a checking or savings account.

Pastoral Growth Groups (PGG)

Pastoral Growth Group (PGG) is a place where official workers can find encouragement, relationships, prayer and support from fellow official workers serving the Lord in the local church. As the RMD is quite vast geographically, there are nine PGG's spread across our district. Each August, the leaders of the PGG's gather in Billings, MT for a time of learning and encouragement. In 2022 our speaker was Rev. Bill Malick, head of Fresh Start Churches and a former DS and National Church Planting Director in the C&MA. In 2023, Rev. Eric Oleson, former Assistant to the DS in the RMD and now back in California running his Strategic Leader Impact consulting business was our speaker. It was great to have each of these men lead our PGG leaders. Leaders of our PGG's include:

Rev. Paul Turek, Sidney, MT	Rev. Bryan Loewen, Red Lodge, MT
Rev. Tim Buckheit, Great Falls, MT	Rev. Dan Edwards, Pocatello, ID
Rev. Ken Simon, Lander, WY	Rev. Jason Fazel, Casper, WY
Rev. Jens Sundem, Kalispell, MT	Rev. Nace Howell, Ronan, MT
Rev. Jerriid Washburn, White Sulphur Springs, MT	

Prayer Retreats

In the fall of 2022 and at the beginning of 2023, Chris Tweedy and I led five prayer retreats throughout the RMD. These were wonderful times of prayer, connecting with God and with the others who attended. It was our intent to have another round in the fall of 2023 and the new year of 2024 however a variety of circumstances made it prohibitive. This initiative will rise again in the future, perhaps as it did initially or with some major changes. Stay tuned!

Transitions

Births:

Pastor Andrew & Meghan Griffin, Cody, WY a girl, Grace, 5/8/22
Pastor Lucas & Gail Baumann, Columbia Falls, MT a boy, Titus, 7/14/22
Rev. Matthew & Jeanette Griffin, Montevideo Uruguay a boy, Benjamin, 10/11/22
Rev. Evan & Lena Fowler, Rapid City, SD a girl, Lidiya, 12/18/22

Wedding:

Rev. Dan & Alexandra Edwards, Pocatello ID 10/7/23

New Official Workers:

Rev. Todd (Cassie) Auch, Community Pastor, Missoula (MT) Alliance Church 6.18.22
Mrs. Judy (Kevin) Whitworth, Special Assignment, Hospice Chaplain 7/8/22
Rev. Kevin (Karen) Frank, Assoc. Pastor, CrossBridge All. Church, Cheyenne, WY 8/1/22
Pastor Ethan (Madeline) Martin, Associate Pastor, Evanston (WY) Alliance Church 1/2/23
Pastor Patrick Lim, Young Adult Pastor, CrossBridge All. Church, Cheyenne, WY 2/15/23
Rev. Jason (Tambi) Burrough, Lead Pastor, Polson Alliance Church, Polson, MT 3/1/23
Pastor Jonathan (Amanda) Schmitt, Assoc. Pastor of Family Ministry, Canyon View Church, Hamilton, MT 2/25/23

Pastor Jeff (Stephanie) Harris, Lead Pastor, River of Life Church, Idaho Falls, ID 9/1/23
Mr. Jeffrey Walrod, Special Assignment, Missoula, MT 12/1/23
Pastor Todd (Heather) Eckert, Associate Pastor, Glendive (MT) Alliance Church 12/20/23
Rev. Mitch (Amber) Lee, Lead Pastor, Adventure Church, Kalispell, MT 1/1/24

Transferred Into The District:

Pastor Kaleb (Katlyn) Gugger, Assoc. Pastor of Worship, First Alliance, Billings, MT from Alliance NW 8/1/22
Mr. Mark (Carol) Kohl, Retired, Rapid City, SD 11/1/22
Rev. Dan Edwards, Lead Pastor, Calvary Alliance, Pocatello, ID from So. Pacific 11/1/22
Rev. Bob (Beverly) Coggins, Assoc. Pastor, Belgrade (MT) Alliance Church 1/1/23
Rev. Terry (Jennifer) Gugger, Lead Pastor, The Rock, Nampa ID from Alliance NW 4/1/23
Rev. Mark (Cheryl) Shafer, from Alliance NW to Retired Jerome, ID 10/31/23
Rev. Nigel (Pauline) Probert, Retired, Missoula, MT 12/31/23
Pastor Dan (Taylor) Wilde, Lead Pastor, Discovery Alliance Church, Missoula, MT 1/1/24

Transferred Within The District:

Rev. Bill (Wanda) Levy, Lead Pastor at Calvary Alliance, Pocatello, ID, to unassigned, Nampa, ID 6/6/22
Rev. Jens (Monika) Sundem, Lead Pastor Real Life Church, Bigfork, MT to Montage Micro-church Network, Kalispell, MT 7/11/22
Rev. Kelly (Lynn) Sloan, Unassigned to Retired, Billings, MT 1/1/23
Rev. Zachary (Sara) Kenyon, Associate Pastor, River of Life, Idaho Falls, ID to Lead Pastor, Real Life Church, Bigfork, MT 4/8/23
Rev. Paul (Cindy) Sponheim, Lead Pastor, Richey (MT) Alliance Church, to Unassigned 6/15/23
Rev. Jim (Beth) Davey, Lead Pastor, Adventure Church, Kalispell, MT to Unassigned 6/30/23
Rev. Steven (Deb) Kellett, Lead Pastor, Concluded Manville (WY) Alliance Church 8/15/23
Rev. Ritch (Judy) Grimes, Lead Pastor, Chinook (MT) Church, to Unassigned 12/31/23

Transferred Out Of The District:

Rev. Shawn (Nancy) Norton, Lead Pastor, The Rock, Nampa, ID to No. Central District 9/5/22
Pastor Matt (Melody) Ruppel, Associate Pastor, Wind River Community Church, Lander, WY to Unassigned 9/11/22
Rev. Thomas (Bethany) Thomas, Associate Pastor, Adventure Church, Kalispell, MT to Envision Thailand 10/31/22
Rev. David Guilford, Retired to Alliance Northwest
Pastor Matthew (Melody) Ruppel, Associate Pastor, Unassigned to Central District 1/10/23
Rev. Bryan (Laura) Faltynski, Special Assignment to Central District 2/1/23
Rev. Robert (Loralei) Legg, Lead Pastor, River of Life Church, Idaho Falls, ID to Unassigned 4/16/23
Rev. T. Aaron (Heidi) Hoffman, Lead Pastor, Greybull (WY) Alliance, to Unassigned 6/30/23
Pastor Kaleb (Katlyn) Gugger, Assoc. Pastor of Worship, First Alliance, Billings, MT to Unassigned 9/10/23
Rev. David (Debbie) Bottom, Special Assignment, Greybull, WY to Unassigned 10/31/23
Pastor Steve (Janice) Miller, Other Ministry, Whitefish, MT to Unassigned 11/5/23
Rev. Eric (Mandi) Peterson, Assoc. Pastor of Congregational Care, Helena (MT) Alliance

Church, to Unassigned 11/15/23

Dr. Marc (Kim) Trujillo, Lead Pastor, Evanston (WY) Alliance Church, to Eastern PA District
2/18/24

Licensed Workers To No Credentials:

Rev. Troy Mapes, Unassigned to No Credentials 1/1/23

Rev. Paul Taylor to No Credentials 10/14/23

Rev. John Curry Unassigned to No Credentials 12/31/23

Rev. Robert Legg Unassigned to No Credentials 12/31/23

Pastor Steve Miller Unassigned to No Credentials 12/31/23

Rev. Eric Peterson Unassigned to No Credentials 12/31/23

Ordained:

Rev. T. Aaron Hoffman, Greybull, WY 5/15/22

Rev. David Thomas, Kalispell, MT 10/31/22

Rev. Ryan Case, Lewistown, MT 1/8/23

Rev. Michael Michaud, Pocatello, ID 5/7/23

Rev. Zachary Kenyon, Bigfork, MT 12/17/23

Deceased:

Rev. Sylvester Belcher, Retired, Rapid City, SD 7/31/22

Church Name Changes:

Cheyenne (WY) Alliance Church to CrossBridge Alliance Church 11/1/22

Polson (MT) Alliance Church to The Bridge Church of the CMA 4/1/23

In Conclusion

One of the things I like about our RMD Conference is the time of year it is held. Perhaps by now you have figured it out that I always schedule it *eight days* after Easter! As we must have our reports out two weeks *before* District Conference I am generally reflecting on the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus while also writing this report. My heart is thankful to overflowing to the Lord for His goodness to me -- reaching down to save me from my sins, to fill me with His Spirit, to enable me to serve Him, to call me into His service full-time, to be able to serve Him together with you and with the Alliance family! Lori and I have been deeply blessed, honored and humbled to serve Christ with you for these past twelve years and we look forward to the upcoming four if Christ doesn't come back or call me home!

In addition, I am thankful to the Lord for my great helpmate, Lori! She sees me all the time, knows me better than anyone and still cares and love me anyway! This August it will be forty years that we have served the Lord together in The Alliance. I am deeply blessed with Lori's rock-solid walk with Christ, insight and kind spirit. With Mary leaving, Lori (and Candy) has stepped into a greater role of service in the running of the District Office. We're not sure how long this might go, but Lori and Candy have picked things up quite well.

For years I have said how sad it is that the world has come to know Christ-followers by what they are *against* rather than what they are *for*. I believe the Christian life is the life of "yes." Yes to Christ! Yes to the Holy Spirit! Yes to Christ being lived out in us! Yes to following His good and pleasing and perfect will (even when it doesn't make earthly sense)! Yes to Christ in us,

the hope of Glory! Oh, how many more things could be written that we have the privilege to say yes to, but I think you get the point! I look forward to being together for District Conference and recapturing the heart of Jesus!

Serving Christ Together With You,

Rev. Jonathan Wiggins
District Superintendent



Report of the Assistant to the District Superintendent to District Conference

April 8, 2024

Discipleship

Camp Ministry

The Rocky Mountain District (RMD) is blessed to have two wonderful camps operating in concert with the various church ministries across the region. Dickey Lake Bible Camp (DLBC) located in Trego, MT has been in operation since 1946 and Yellowstone Alliance Adventures (YAA) located in Bozeman, MT has served campers since 1988.

Between 2022 and 2023 DLBC served just over 800 campers during their summer ministry season and saw dozens of professions of faith and baptisms. During this time they continued to develop their facilities with the addition of a heated shop. This building was built debt-free and paves the way for plans to build a new chapel and cabin village in the coming years. Mr. Zach Zirbel, Managing Director, continues to lead with excellence alongside the faithful DLBC board of directors.

DLBC Board of Directors

Rev. Joe Fisher (Board Chair), Lead Pastor, Fellowship Alliance Church, Columbia Falls, MT
Mr. Luke Opp (Board Vice Chair), Member, Fellowship Alliance Church, Columbia Falls, MT
Rev. Dennis Findorff (Secretary), Lead Pastor, Fortine (MT) Community (Alliance) Church
Mrs. Anna Fenlason (Treasurer), Member, Missoula (MT) Alliance Church
Mr. Sam Kavanagh, Member, Fellowship Alliance Church, Columbia Falls, MT
Rev. Zach Kenyon, Lead Pastor, Real Life (Alliance) Church, Bigfork, MT
Mr. Zach Zirbel (Ex-Officio), Managing Director, DLBC
Rev. Chris Tweedy (Ex-Officio), Assistant to the District Superintendent, RMD

YAA, led by Executive Director Rev. Jim Hawthorne, welcomed around 5,000 people each year in 2022 and 2023 in a combination of summer programming, rentals, and winter activities. Over the last two years site work was completed for a new parking lot and access roads which were necessary to set the stage for the Ascend Campaign which began at the end of 2023. This capital campaign aims to ensure that more of the ever-growing population of the RMD has the opportunity to hear the gospel by providing expanded facilities. The \$2.7 million project will provide a new and larger chapel, a collection of new cabins, and upgrades and improvements to the dining hall. With almost \$900,000 in commitments to date, pray that the Lord will provide all the resources necessary to make the changes before the expiration of the current development permit which expires in 2025.

YAA Board of Directors

Mr. Tim Stenlund (Board Chair), Member, Faith Chapel, Billings, MT
Mr. Roy Neese (Board Vice Chair), Member, First Alliance Church, Billings, MT
Mr. Josh Vinson (Secretary), Member, Trinity Church, Bozeman, MT
Mr. Tim Wheeler (Treasurer), Member, Gallatin Valley (Alliance) Church, Bozeman, MT
Mr. Christian James, Member, Gallatin Valley (Alliance) Church, Bozeman, MT
Ms. Rene Groeneweg, Member, Gallatin Valley (Alliance) Church, Bozeman, MT
Rev. Jim Hawthorne (Ex-Officio), Executive Director, YAA
Rev. Chris Tweedy (Ex-Officio), Assistant to the District Superintendent, RMD

Children's Ministry

Since the last RMD District Conference the CMAlliance Kids team has launched two new curriculum options for children's ministry: The ONE Page and Alliance Kids Discovery Land. The ONE Page is a front and back weekly guide for children's discipleship leaders and volunteers. In three years, students will walk through the entire Bible and learn how to see the fourfold gospel throughout Scripture. Additionally, there is a missions lesson to accompany each week. Comparatively more robust than The ONE Page, Alliance Kids Discovery Land is three-year cycle of curriculum tailored to specific age groups from six months through sixth grade. With a strong emphasis on missions and teaching children to know *and* apply Scripture, this resource can be utilized across many ministry settings. The cost for The ONE Page is \$100/year and a grant of \$100 is available to any RMD church to cover the first year's expense. Compared to comparable curriculum, Discovery Land is a great value at \$800/year, and a grant of \$200 is available to any RMD church to help offset the first year's expense.

Student Ministry

Support for youth ministry in the RMD continues to develop and currently has four major components: a resource page, podcast, annual gathering, and youth team. Linked off the homepage of the RMD website, the youth leader resource page contains a host of resources and ideas for youth ministries of any size. Included on that page is the Third Thursday Podcast, a monthly show that is released on the third Thursday of each month which is designed to encourage, connect, and equip youth leaders. A combination of training, special guests, and helpful experience, this podcast is available on all major podcast platforms. April 19-21, 2024 the RMD will host the 4th Annual Youth Leader Weekend. In 2022 and 2023 nearly 60 youth leaders met for this time of training and encouragement. The RMD Youth Team – Harry Owczarek (Executive Pastor at Faith Alliance Church, Sidney, MT) and Ben McEntee (Associate Pastor at Gallatin Valley (Alliance) Church, Bozeman, MT) – continue to provide excellent connection and resource for RMD youth leaders. Their excellent ministry is deeply appreciated.

Missions

Over the last several years the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA) has used the following terms to articulate missions engagement: relationships, prayer, giving, sending, and promoting. These engagement goals are fulfilled most completely through the vehicle of partnership. Partnering with an International Worker (IW) gives a church a framework to meaningfully and consistently engage in God's global work in a manner that provides the most leverage on the missions field and engages the church in the broadest and deepest manner possible. Over the last two years many churches have committed themselves to building a culture of missions that is not merely *one of* the ministries of the church but is a thread that weaves throughout the fabric of the *entire* church. Presently 31 RMD churches are partnering at various levels with C&MA IWs.

In addition to supporting partnerships, the RMD remains committed to encouraging short-term missions trips (a component of partnership), IW tour, and general giving to the Great Commission Fund (GCF). Over the last two years every RMD church has had at least one opportunity to have an IW visit and minister on a Sunday. Most (~90%) have an IW each year and are able to host them for an entire week. This is becoming rare in the C&MA and the fact that the RMD is an exception to this is due to the faithful and diligent work of Lori Wiggins who serves as the RMD IW Tour Coordinator. Over the same time period 395 people were sent from the RMD on short-term missions trips. Many applied for an RMD short-term missions grant and \$12,150 was disbursed from the District Advance Fund (DAF) to assist in this ministry. Finally, RMD giving to C&MA missions reached an all-time high totaling \$1,444,023 in 2022 and \$1,674,215 in 2023. Praise the Lord for the honor and joy of being able to join Him in His mission to reach a lost world in this way!

Church Planting

Although churches are planted using a variety of means, and processes are usually unique to each circumstance, two things can be found on the ground floor of any successful church plant: the development of disciples and leaders and an evangelistic fervor. Accordingly, ministry efforts in the RMD center on the following three aspects: evangelism, Greenhouse environments, and church planter assessment and training.

Two evangelism workshops were piloted which not only taught a theology of evangelism and the role of intercessory prayer in evangelism, but also laid out a framework for meaningful spiritual dialogue. Kingdom fruit resulted from both trainings and the workshop is now being integrated into the consecration and ordination process. A physical greenhouse is an environment that nurtures a seedling until it is ready to be transplanted into the field. In a similar way, Greenhouse Environments are ministry environments in which a leader and their team can be developed and mentored before being sent out to plant a new church. Several churches in the RMD endeavored to begin a process to create such environments, and presently nine churches are in various stages

of developing Greenhouse residencies. Church planter assessments and training occur as leaders approach various stages of development, and two such assessments were conducted in the last two years with one plant launching as a result.

Over the last two years Central Community (Alliance) Church in Billings, MT and Williston (ND) Alliance Church both transitioned from church plant status to developing church status. Praise the Lord for this milestone! Please continue to pray for them as they work to raise up and train elders and other ministry leaders.

In May 2022, RMD leadership, in conjunction with lead pastor Tim Rupp, made the decision to close Cop (Alliance) Church in Idaho Falls, ID. While the ministry was having Kingdom impact, it was clear that what was developing more closely resembled a parachurch organization than a church. Accordingly, Rev. Tim Rupp has since directed his energies toward The Strong Blue Line, a parachurch ministry he founded, that has had significant impact for Christ within the policing and law enforcement communities.

In September 2022 Rev. Jens Sundem launched Montage (Alliance) Microchurch Network in Kalispell, MT. Planted as a single microchurch, there are presently two microchurches in the network and the Lord continues to add to their number. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they seek to follow the Lord in this endeavor.

Conclusion

What a joy it is to be found useful to the Master! To reflect on these things brings a humbling awareness that, in spite of our limitations and weaknesses, it is obvious that the Lord is using the people of the RMD to accomplish His purposes on the earth. May the Lord find us increasingly open to His will – vessels more available for noble purposes, so that in the days to come He can entrust us with more of Himself and His mission.

Gratefully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Tweedy", written in a cursive style.

Rev. Chris Tweedy

2024 Rocky Mountain District Conference

Finance Report

Through generous giving by Rocky Mountain District (RMD) churches and prudent budgeting and expense management RMD finances have remained strong over the past two years. The following report will highlight financial activity and results for 2022-2023.

Budget Activity

During the 2022-2023 calendar years budgeted income was higher than anticipated while expenses were significantly under budget. Church contributions were 13% ahead of plan and overall expenses were 17% under budget. While expense were under budget overall we did feel the impact of inflation in a few specific categories such as office supplies and travel where expenditures were over budget.

Income & Expense Summary for calendar years 2022 and 2023			
	Actual	Budget	Percent of Budget
Income	2,057,065	1,815,000	113%
Expense	1,448,192	1,740,100	83%
Office	138,001	153,700	90%
Administration	1,002,989	1,116,400	90%
Church Development	163,099	173,000	94%
Church Planting	67,206	140,000	48%
Missions	60,275	99,000	61%
Disciple Making	16,622	58,000	29%
Net Income	608,873	74,900	

- See attached reports for more detail of each budget category.

Reserve Activity

A significant highlight of 2022 was the distribution of \$640,000 in ministry grants to RMD churches at our last District conference. It was a joy and blessing to read the reports of how the funds were used to advance the Kingdom. Reserve spending also included expenses related to the remodeling of the RMD District office after water damage, and grants provided to official workers to enable RMD workers to attend General Council.

Reserve activity for calendar years 2022-2023	
Income	127,404
Expense	1,188,898
Office	196,740
Administration	751,661
Church Development	58,523
Missions	61,672
Gen Council Grants	74,902
Ministry Support	45,400
Net Income	(1,061,494)

Fund Balances

The net result of 2022-2023 activity was a slight increase in equity, but noteworthy given all that was accomplished. RMD liabilities remain low, we have no debt, and liquidity is excellent. Reserve funds are currently invested in fixed-rate securities with minimal risk.

Balance Sheet for calendar years 2022-2023			
	Dec 31, 2023	Dec 31, 2022	Change
Assets	2,102,462	1,980,104	122,358
Liabilities	64,537	26,637	37,900
Equity	2,037,925	1,953,466	84,459

Reporting Notes

A few notes are helpful in framing this report properly:

- Pursuant to the guidance from the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, of which the RMD is a member, a full audit was conducted for 2022. We received a positive opinion, and no issues were reported. A financial review will be conducted for 2023.
- Accordingly, depreciation is reported for 2022 expenditures, but not for 2023.
- All reporting is calculated using an accrual accounting basis.
- The RMD's fiscal year is a calendar year.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Thorson
Director of District Services

Budget Report

2022-2023

	2022-2023 Actual	2022-2023 Budget	Percent of Budget
Total Income	2,057,065	1,815,000	113%
Office Expense	138,001	153,700	90%
Professional Services	36,403	48,400	75%
Office Expense	9,022	7,000	129%
Communication	26,049	30,000	87%
Equipment	32,842	30,200	109%
Facility	33,685	38,100	88%
Administration Expense	1,002,989	1,116,400	90%
Dexcom	45,434	33,000	138%
LO&CC	19,158	23,000	83%
PGG	23,013	32,000	72%
District Conference	1,963	16,100	12%
Ignite	24,795	25,000	99%
Staff Development	7,845	10,000	78%
Ministry Partnerships	34,400	34,400	100%
Administration	160,884	157,500	102%
Personnel	685,497	785,400	87%
Church Development Expense	163,099	173,000	94%
Church Development	72,191	121,000	60%
Church Investment	50,829	0	
BTB Grant	40,000	40,000	100%
Closed Church Maintenance	80	12,000	1%
Church Planting Expense	67,206	140,000	48%
Church Planting	21,536	30,000	72%
Subsidies	45,670	110,000	42%
Missions Expense	60,275	99,000	61%
Global Link	18,763	35,000	54%
IW Tour	29,362	34,000	86%
STM Grants	12,150	30,000	41%
Disciple Making Ministries Expense	16,622	58,000	29%
Men's Ministry	0	13,000	0%
Alliance Women	8,833	8,000	110%
Youth Ministry	6,814	13,000	52%
Children's Ministry	975	24,000	4%
Total Expense	1,448,192	1,740,100	83%
Net	608,873	74,900	

Reserve Activity 2022-2023

	Alliance Women	AMIGO Fund	Pass-Thru	Reserve Fund	Total
Total Income	15,559	74,887	76,785	127,404	294,635
Church Contributions		44,588	626		45,214
Interest Income				81,029	81,029
Other Contributions	5,395	30,299	76,159	6,412	118,265
Sale of Assets				24,400	24,400
Church Closure Income				7,408	7,408
Misc Income	10,164			8,155	18,319
Total Expense	15,263	76,646	76,785	1,188,898	1,357,593
Office				196,740	196,740
Administration		(900)	75,000	751,661	825,761
Church Development				58,523	58,523
Missions	14,693	77,546	1,785	61,672	155,696
General Council Grants				74,902	74,902
Disciple Making Ministries	570			45,400	45,970
Net	296	(1,759)	-	(1,061,494)	(1,062,958)

Notes:

Sale of assets-sale of automobiles.

Pass-Thru includes an anonymous gift to DLBC that was sent through the District office.

Administration-ministry grants

Church Development-grants in support of work at churches

Missions-gifts to RMD IWs

Disciple Making Ministries-\$45,400 grants for attendees of LIFE

Balance Sheet 2022-2023

	Dec 31 2023	Dec 31 2022	Change
Assets	2,102,462	1,980,104	122,358
Bank of America	0	72,031	(72,031)
Merrill Lynch	0	41,871	(41,871)
Western Security	220,310	0	220,310
Orchard Foundation	1,540,433	1,496,316	44,117
A/R & Other Current	189	2,656	(2,467)
N/R District Churches	82,600	108,300	(25,700)
Fixed Assets	258,930	258,930	0
Liabilities	64,537	26,637	37,900
A/P & Credit Cards	58,641	21,312	37,329
Payroll	5,896	5,325	571
Equity	2,037,925	1,953,466	84,459
Property	258,930	258,930	0
Reserve Cash	1,442,555	1,228,880	213,675
Reserve Loans	82,600	108,300	(25,700)
AMIGO Fund	9,464	21,323	(11,859)
Alliance Women	14,289	13,419	870
Operating	230,087	322,614	(92,527)

Notes:

In 2023 we transferred our Bank of America and Merrill Lynch accounts to Western Security Bank.

**Nominating Committee Report
Rocky Mountain District Conference
First Alliance Church - Billings, MT
April 8-10, 2024**

The following individual is nominated to serve as District Superintendent for a four-year term (2024-2028)

- Rev. Jonathan Wiggins, Billings, MT

The following individual is nominated to the District Executive Committee in the position of District Treasurer for a four-year term (2024 -2028):

- Rev. Nick Ristow, Bozeman, MT

The following individuals are nominated to the District Executive Committee for a four-year term (2024 -2028):

- Mr. Ruey Barnett (Lay Member), Belgrade, MT
- Rev. Phil Jones, Gillette, WY
- Rev. Bryan Loewen, Red Lodge, MT

Continuing to Serve (2022 - 2026): Mr. John Thomas, Secretary (Lay Member), Evanston, WY; Rev. John Reese, Great Falls, MT; Mr. Dan Runner (Lay Member), Saratoga, WY; Rev. Ken Simon, Lander, WY

The following individuals are nominated to the District Nominating Committee for a two-year term (2024 - 2026):

- Rev. Dusty Benner, Boise, ID
- Rev. Cade Bichel, Riverton, WY
- Rev. Tim Buckheit, Great Falls, MT
- Rev. Micah Dalbey, Missoula, MT
- Rev. Jason Fazel, Casper, WY
- Rev. Evan Fowler, Rapid City, SD
- Rev. Harry Owczarek, Sidney, MT
- Rev. Phil Elmer, Glendive, MT (alternate)
- Rev. Munya Takawira Havre, MT (alternate)

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. John Thomas, Chair
Rev. Jim Evans, Vice-chair
Dr. Tim Buckheit, Secretary
Rev. Dusty Benner
Rev. Micah Dalbey
Rev. Jason Fazel
Rev. Harry Owczarek