



**Message from Greg Hochhalter, Lead Pastor:**

This is your invitation to participate in the Sherwood Park Alliance Church Society's Annual General Meeting, December 5, at 7 pm.

Please excuse the formality! But our AGM is more than a tradition or best practice. The *Societies Act* requires that non-profits hold an AGM within a prescribed time after the close of each fiscal year. Legally speaking, the church or charity must present financial statements for approval by the members, and it's generally assumed that the activities of the previous year will be discussed.

This means our AGM's are largely shaped by looking back on the previous ministry year. We'll do some of this on December 5, but I want to let you know in advance that we're going to be looking ahead as well. We need to. I say this because the 2022 ministry year, just like 2021, was dramatically impacted by the pandemic. What we experienced was more than an interruption, it was a wholesale disruption which forced us to reimagine how to do all of life and ministry.

I'm proud of how our church responded. Leaders in every area of ministry focused on what they *could* do more than on what they *couldn't*. We pivoted, we innovated, and we learned. There were successes, there were failures. In some ways we're a better church. In other ways, we're not. Honestly, I'm still trying to figure out what's happened and where to go next. About the only thing I'm certain of is this: We're not the same church coming out of COVID that we were going in (please God, let us *be* coming out!).

So, at our AGM we will present our audited financials and hear some brief reports from various leaders. And we will elect members to serve on our Board of Elders. But this year, more than usual, we're going to listen. I'm going to invite you to speak to each other and to me. We're going to pursue the Spirit's leading together and discern. Our Board and staff leaders have committed to a season of seeking God's leading for the next era of ministry. We're laying all our mission and vision statements on the alter and asking for new clarity and new dreams.





Between now and spring we're collecting wisdom and data points from many, and at our AGM I'm going to welcome your contributions and add your collective wisdom to the pile of thoughts that's already accumulating. If you could prioritize this evening and plan to attend, we'll all be better for it.

You matter, and you belong here.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hochhalter", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Greg Hochhalter  
Lead Pastor

