



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

This is your invitation to participate in the Sherwood Park Alliance Church Society's Annual General Meeting on Sunday, November 26, in the Main Auditorium 15 minutes after the conclusion of the 10 a.m. service (approximately 11:20 a.m.).

In choosing this time and location we're seeking to make the meeting as accessible as possible for as many as possible. And we'll try to get through everything in an hour or less!

As we approach this year's AGM, my prevailing emotion is one of gratitude. This is the first time in 3 years that I'm issuing this invitation without a reference to the pandemic (that one doesn't count!). The past ministry year was finally conducted in a manner more closely resembling "normal," and for that I'm exceedingly grateful.

Highlights from '22-'23 include:

- Testimonies of life change as demonstrated through baptism – 52 people took this critical faith step, all between April and May, with the majority linked to our thriving Kids and Youth programs.
- Group engagement continued to rise, with 764 adults participating in Mid-Sized, Life, and Support groups.
- The entirety of our follow up and next step strategies for those identifying as new to our community was retooled and revised.
- We turned a corner in our worship culture, with palpable new energy and growth in our Worship Arts and Tech teams.
- The Online Ministry Enhancement project took shape, with technical installation taking place over the summer and the new website going live this fall.
- We established a supporting partnership and commissioned an International Worker Family from our church – Caleb and Amie Poole (serving in South Africa).
- Facilities improvements included: classroom, playground, and technological upgrades for SCA; roof repairs and 13 rooftop heating unit (RTU) replacements; removal of portables and rink; the addition of an accessible playground for the Treehouse Preschool ministry.
- Despite forecasting a deficit budget, we finished the ministry year with a modest surplus, all while being able to utilize the resources of our Compassion Fund to make significant contributions to Strathcona County housing initiatives, agency partners like The Mustard Seed, and through direct assistance to individuals and families needing a hand up.

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- The Board of Elders and Pastoral Team completed their overhaul of our Mission, Vision, and Values language, settling on 3 P's:
  - A statement of **Purpose**: (A Place to **Belong & Become** Deeply Rooted Followers of Jesus)
  - Specific ministry **Priorities**:
    - **Next Gen** (ministry to the next generation of Youth and Children)
    - **Groups** (good things happen in rows, but the best things happen in circles)
    - **Empowering Leadership** (equipping congregants for ministry leadership)
    - **Digital Ministry** (hybrid, in person and online ministry is our new normal)
    - **Supporting Christian Education** (realizing the redemptive potential of SCA)
  - Emphasis on timeless spiritual **Practices**, pathways to a life of deep, intimate communion with God: Sabbath, Prayer, Fasting, Solitude, Scripture, Simplicity, Community, Generosity, Hospitality, Service

The proposed AGM agenda includes a handful of items requiring membership action based on the *Societies Act*, the Local Church Constitution, and SPAC bylaws.

- Approval of the SPAC Society 2023 audited financial statements.
- Appointing an auditor for the 2024 fiscal year.
- Electing 4 individuals to 3-year terms on the Board of Elders.
- Affirming 2 individuals to serve as Members-At-Large on the 2024 Nominating Committee.

Please see the following documentation (either on the website or in this packet), including financial reports and biographical information which accompanies the report of the Nominating Committee.

There's much to be grateful for, and I'm looking forward to sharing more updates and information on the 26<sup>th</sup>. And as always, we'll happily provide an opportunity for members and congregants to ask any questions they have. I hope to see you there!

You matter, and you belong here.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Hochhalter  
Lead Pastor

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