

2018.19 ANNUAL REPORT



COCHRANE
ALLIANCE CHURCH

**WE ENVISION A THRIVING TOWN
SHAPED BY 1000S OF PEOPLE
EXPERIENCING THE TRANSFORMING LOVE OF GOD.**

WELCOME TO



cochrane
HOW THE WEST IS NOW

ESTABLISHED 1871



FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

One of the shortest stories Jesus ever told was about a little seed of mustard. Unplanted, it appeared small and unassuming. Once grown however, it grew into a significant plant providing shelter and shade to the entire garden... Jesus' point? Although he and his story appear unimpressive at first, they are, "alive with power in enough people in the world to be in fact trees of shelter and loaves of food for the needy all over the world."

As a church in a small community in Western Canada, it's a privilege to be part of what Jesus is doing to bring life to our part of the garden! How might he use us to grow a thriving town shaped by 1000s of people experiencing the transforming love of God? While its not our role to build roads or plan neighborhoods, we do believe Cochrane Alliance has three primary callings:

to bring people together,
to invest in their spiritual development,
and to launch them into service in the power of the Spirit.

In 2018-2019, we saw evidence fruit in each of these fronts.

We continued to see many new families connect with our church community--some of whom met Jesus personally and were baptized only a short time later.

Students and adults got the chance to explore the big questions of life through Alpha--at the church on Sunday mornings and on school campuses during the week.

In summer we planted seeds at parks throughout the town through our Backyard Kid's Camps (a collaboration with Bow Valley Baptist Church) What an opportunity to share good news with 100's of kids, many who'd never heard much about Jesus before!

Our men's and women's ministry brought people together in transparent and authentic relationship while dozens of people experienced healing, and forgiveness through Freedom Session and Grief Share.

On Sundays, we saw God grow us as *unreserved* worshippers.

We did all this while investing intentionally in *other* parts of the global garden like Montreal, the Middle East, Guatemala, SE Asia and on university campuses in Calgary.

Thank *you* for your investment and involvement in the growth of Jesus' work here in Cochrane and around the world. Thank *God* for multiplying our gifts and acts of service, using them for his glory and for the good of other people. Read this report to catch a glimpse of how he's growing seeds into something significant.



JASON KOLEBA
LEAD PASTOR

40 YEARS



The first service of Cochrane Alliance Church was held on February 4, 1979 in a rented space at Cochrane High School.

1979

Services began in the first phase of our current facility on June 1, 1986. The sanctuary was located in the space where our atrium is now.

1986

The second phase of our church building began in 1995 and was dedicated on March 2, 1997. This included the addition of our current sanctuary.

1997

On July 24, 2016, we held our final service in the building prior to our third renovation of this building.

2016

After 13 months meeting in our temporary home with afternoon services at Bow Valley Baptist Church, we held our first service in our newly renovated facility on September 10, 2017.

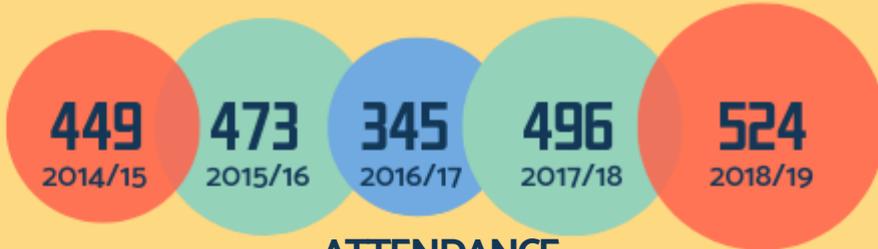
2017

On February 3, 2019, we celebrated our 40th Anniversary!

2019

BY THE NUMBERS

WEEKEND WORSHIP



ATTENDANCE



LIFE CHANGE



*40 of these decisions came at BKC in partnership with BVBC

VOLUNTEERS



people served in 613 volunteer opportunities in our church and the community of Cochrane!

MEET THE MACGREGORS

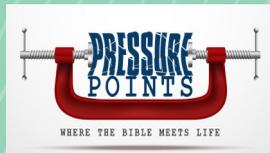
In August 2018, we were invited by a friend to Cochrane Alliance for the end of summer pancake breakfast. We had been looking at churches in the area in hopes of rekindling our relationship with God and wanting to raise our 4 year old daughter Emilia with a church family. We felt so welcomed that we began attending Cochrane Alliance that next weekend. We began to see a real change in our own relationship, and we also found new friendships with people in the church.

We saw our daughter's love and interest for God grow after attending the church for a short time. Emilia asks lots of questions pertaining to God that stump us, and already she knows to reply, "Maybe that's a good one for Pastor Donna?"

Our lives have changed for the better over the last year since committing ourselves to following God. We know where to look for answers to "What should we do?", and "How do we handle this?". We are led with such strong leadership and love from the staff and the sense of belonging and community from the Cochrane Alliance family.

Matt, Nicole, and Emilia MacGregor

2018-19 SERMON SERIES



DIGITAL OVERVIEW



52,757

UNIQUE WEBSITE
PAGE VIEWS



5,037

SERMON VIEWS



26

AVG. LIVE STREAM
VIEWERS PER WEEK



246

APP USERS



390

FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS
(12% INCREASE)



5

PODCASTS
ON REAL PODCAST
LAUNCHED THIS YEAR

TOP 3 SERMONS

VIDEOS VIEWED ON YOUTUBE

1. December 23 What a Glorious Night
Jason Koleba
2. March 3 Fear of Suffering
Jason Koleba
3. February 24 Fear of Risk
Randall Heier

TOP 3 NEWS ARTICLES

1. July 25 Update 3 from Kolebas
In Asia
2. November 22 Introducing Our New
Worship Pastor
3. July 10 Introducing Our New
Children's Pastor

WORSHIP MINISTRY

It has been a wonderful transition into the role of Pastor of Worship Arts since January. I'm grateful for Julie Pearson's leadership during the first half of the year. She did a fantastic job and lead the team well! I have been blessed by the heart of our church to dig into what God wants for us and we have not backed down from going after unreserved worship.

We are extremely excited for what God did this past year and can't wait to encounter more of who God is in the coming year!

This coming year we look forward to more worship nights, workshops and training, and diving deeper into what it means to worship unreserved.



WORSHIP NIGHTS

We had 5 worship nights this past year. These were great times of praise and worship as a church. Most nights there were roughly 70 people who attended. This was also a time where we could explore more, what it means to worship "unreserved". The Lord met us in powerful ways during this time and gave us a clearer picture of who He is!



TOP 5 SONGS

MOST FREQUENTLY SUNG THIS YEAR

1. Lion & the Lamb
2. Build My Life
3. Here For You
4. What a Beautiful Name
5. This is Amazing Grace



48

WORSHIP TEAM MEMBERS



11

SERVING EACH WEEK



5

WORSHIP NIGHTS

SPECIAL SERVICE ATTENDANCE



617

JOINT SERVICE WITH BVBC



700

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



863

CHRISTMAS EVE



728

EASTER



MEET ZAK VOKEY

During our first worship night the team was super excited to press into a new expression of worship at CAC. There was a ton of unity, and the team had a very specific desire to see the spirit move in our congregation. The first time we ever did it, there was no real set out flow for the night. We had songs, and we wanted to make space for an opportunity for the people to respond. During that moment of response, it was tangible in the room that the Holy Spirit was

ministering to His people. There was bondage being lifted in the room and moments of vulnerability only the God could have brought about. Being a part of it was an honour and I desire to be usable in those moments like that for the rest of my life.

JAM KIDS MINISTRY



136

AVG. JAM SUNDAY
ATTENDANCE



90

GLUE STICKS
USED



19

CHILD
DEDICATIONS



1315

FRUIT SNACKS
CONSUMED



176

JAM LESSONS
TAUGHT

A FEW SIGNIFICANT THINGS IN PASTOR DONNA'S FIRST YEAR AT COCHRANE ALLIANCE...

- We changed our Kids Ministry name to JAM (Jesus and Me) to reinforce the importance of kids experiencing Jesus in their lives, and to give us a catchy, meaningful handle.
- We partnered with Bow Valley Baptist Church to do Backyard Kids Camps in 10 community parks; such sweet camaraderie with BVBC as we served together in Cochrane. What a great opportunity to connect with neighbors in Jesus name! Many kids around Cochrane made first steps toward Jesus.
- We have 122 amazing JAM volunteers. Seeing and hearing their passion as they love and interact with kids each Sunday is inspiring. It is thrilling to see our JAM classrooms bursting and to feel the enthusiasm as kids engage in activity and learning.
- We had such fun doing “What a Glorious Night” production at Christmas and “Light of the World” interactive experience at Easter. Volunteers planned, rehearsed, shopped, sewed and made props. Kids acted and interacted and fully engaged in these significant stories of our faith.
- Our weekday Parent and Tot ministry connected with young families in our community every Tuesday and Thursday; a wonderful way to introduce families to our church.



MEET CHELSA REES

About five years ago my husband, Garret and I and our two children Avery and Elaina moved from Calgary to Cochrane because we wanted to be in a smaller community. We started attending Cochrane Alliance Church as soon as we arrived. At first we attended off and on, but as we began to connect with other young families, I became part of a women's Bible Study group and we started to make new friends and soon felt very much at home in Cochrane Alliance.



After our third child Weston was born, I started serving in kids ministry. I always envisioned myself as a teacher and kids ministry gave me an opportunity to use that gift. For the last two years I have been helping in our preschool classes which I enjoy very much. At Christmas, I helped to sew costumes for our kid's production. It was fun serving in this way and I made some new friends in the process. Serving is a high value for me and one that I want to model for my children.

I love that our church values families and kids and I see the importance of kid's ministries. I also recognize the significance of Jesus in our home as we go about life. The Bible truths we teach our kids in church and home are reinforced as we experience life lessons on a daily basis. The opportunities to pray and talk about Jesus with our kids are sweet moments.

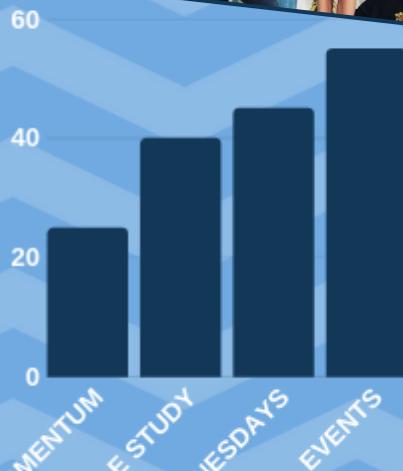
In October we will be adding a new baby to our family. I know that life will be busy and that some days it will be hard to get to church. I also know that it is always worth it. Being part of a church community that loves and learns and serves together is rich.

THANKS COCHRANE ALLIANCE!

YOUTH MINISTRY

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM PASTOR JASON

- We saw Alpha run again in two high schools; St. Timothy and Cochrane High. We saw 45 youth on average attend these student led Alpha groups. Both groups were led by youth from our church.
- We have 24 leaders serving in youth ministry. 4 of our leaders ran teaching seminars this year for our youth on a variety of topics. It was exciting to see leaders teach on areas they were passionate about.
- We had many youth connect with our ministry this year that have no faith background or foundation in their life. We are so excited that youth are coming who looking for meaningful relationships and purpose in life.
- God is building unity among churches and youth groups in Calgary and the surrounding areas. Last year the 403 network connected our youth with over 30 churches, representing a dozen denominations and over 700 youth through retreats, rallies and Alpha.



AVG. WEEKLY ATTENDANCE



60

ATTENDED
WINTER RETREAT



90

ATTENDED
TERMINAL VELOCITY



5

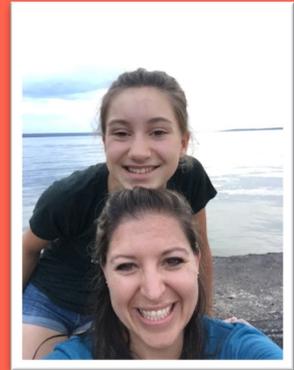
LEADERS GOT
MARRIED THIS YEAR

MEET TIANA DOHNAL

This past spring I invited girls 11 to 15 years old to join me on a coming of age adventure that lasted 13 weeks. We had 13 girls participate! We discussed all kinds of topics ranging from what a man of integrity looks like, studying women of the Bible like Ruth and Esther, self-defence with a coach, goal setting, thinking about their future, sexual purity, and skin care and cosmetics with a professional make up artist.

Throughout the weeks, we played games, had discussions, watched videos, and prayed with each other. We had quiet times of reflecting, welcomed guests who shared about their lives to challenge the girls, celebrated communion together and enjoyed lots of laughter!!!

To finish off our time together we had an evening of celebration with desserts and fathers or another significant adult in each girls life speaking a blessing over each girl! It was a powerful night that I know the girls will not forget.



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM PASTOR MIKE

- We hosted 4 Hub courses where approximately 80 people invested in their spiritual development. One course, The Time Traveler's Gospel, taught by Dr. Ryan Wilkinson, will be offered this coming year in an expanded format.
- With the help of 15 volunteers, we ran Alpha from January through March in 2019. Of the 23 participants, 4 began a relationship with Jesus for the first time and one participant reaffirmed their faith in Jesus.
- Attendance at Tuesday Men's Discipleship group grew from 12 to 30 in 2019. This group is changing its name to WING Men.
- Several Cochrane Alliance men helped stage the biggest 4th Musketeer Xtreme Character Challenge (XCC) ever hosted in North America. 124 men went on this trek led by a crew of 58.
- An average of 90 women attended SALT women's ministry events this year with over 130 women attending the Spring Tea. SALT women's ministry changed its name to Women's Connections this spring.
- In addition to planning great gathering events for women this year, Women's Connections is launching Gather on Monday evenings and Bonafide on Thursday mornings to bring women together and invest in their spiritual development.

A big "Thank You" to all who have helped support and befriend Kinan Farah who arrived in Cochrane on February 15 this year as a refugee from Syria. Kinan has attended college to enhance his English and worked at Starbucks. He enjoys spending time with his sister, Roba's family, who were sponsored in 2016. Recently, Kinan returned to Damascus to get married this September!

Although he and his sweetheart have been engaged for years,

Kinan was unable to get married while waiting in Erbil, Iraq for his refugee application to Canada to be processed. We look forward to his return to Cochrane on October 20, at which time he hopes to find work in his professional field of civil engineering, and build a life with his new bride (as soon as he can bring her to Canada). It's been an honour to walk beside and pray with Kinan. Whenever a challenge has come, Kinan's attitude has consistently been, "It's never easy, but God has always come through for me. I'm so happy for the family that he has brought around me in Canada."





MEET DALLAS O'REGAN

Who are the people at church who have most impacted me spiritually?

First of all, my wife Erica...when God was getting my attention a year and a half ago, Erica could have said I was crazy and rejected me, but instead she started following Jesus with me. What an awesome woman! Getting baptized with her was one of the best days of my life. Also my mother, who has been a tremendous support to our family, has chosen to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. I'm very proud that she will be getting baptized in the near future.

When we first started coming to Cochrane Alliance last Fall, we felt so welcomed and encouraged, especially during a very difficult pregnancy. So many helped strengthen us, especially Danelle, Mandy, Pastor Donna & MacGregor's.

The Tuesday men's group is full of guys who have helped me grow. Guys like DJ, Neal, Cam, Joel, Sheldon, Matt, Pastor Mike and the rest have given me brotherhood, wisdom, love and kindness. Rather than stab a guy in the back, these guys have my back.

Lastly, the guys I went with on the 4th Musketeer XCC made a huge impact. Pastor Jason especially encouraged me that it's OK to be a "late bloomer", and it's never too late in God's kingdom.



16

LIFE GROUPS
LED BY 24 PEOPLE



23

ALPHA
PARTICIPANTS



80

ATTENDED EVENTS TO
GROW SPIRITUALLY

CARE MINISTRY

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM PASTOR LARRY

- 22 Couples participated in our Couples Checkup workshop in March to strengthen their marriages. This fall we are excited to be offering Marriage Mentoring.
- Our Heritage Seniors Group hosted 16 events this past year, more than in any previous year.
- 28 people attended the 20 weeks of Freedom Session. This year we saw the largest number of men participating since we began two years ago.
- 8 people attended our 13-week Grief Share seminar in Fall 2018. This support group designed to help you rebuild your life after loss will be offered again this coming fall.
- Approximately 140 counselling appointments took place this past year. Approximately 50% of all counselling appointments came from the community outside of our church



25

GREETERS WELCOME
YOU TO CHURCH



9

SERVE IN
COFFEE MINISTRY



21

USHERS HELP YOU
FIND A SEAT



63

NEWCOMERS
ATTENDED
DISCOVERY CAFE



51

HOSPITAL
VISITS



26

CHAPEL SERVICES
AT 2 COCHRANE
CARE FACILITIES



MEET RAMIE PETRIE

Freedom Session is a 20 week intensive healing-discipleship journey that uncovers the roots of pain in our lives and invites Jesus Christ to heal those areas of our hearts. In its simplest form, Freedom Session is writing your story with a new, God-inspired ending. It has proven effective for people from every walk of life. Since we began offering Freedom Session in January 2018, over 80 people have enrolled and completed the course.

Ramie Petrie took Freedom Session this past year. She arrived at Freedom Session knowing that life had to be better than what she was presently living. She describes her experience this way:

“When I started the program 5 months ago, I was the walking dead. For as far back as I can remember I have felt completely worthless. I came to Freedom Session longing for something different. Each week we were encouraged to unpack the pain of our lives. I realized in a new way that I was dealing with pain-related things like self-worth, acceptance, perfectionism and deep, unresolved trauma. At times, the journey was hard and painful, but God gradually began to rebuild my broken life and heal me.

Freedom Session has completely changed my life. My friends can attest to this. I have a voice now, I have a light in my eyes, I have confidence. look in the mirror now, and I don't even recognize the woman looking back at me, and I love her. I am completely different, but I am more me now than I have ever been.”

GLOBAL MINISTRY



GUATEMALA

For nine years, we have partnered with Jesus Viene Church in San Raymundo, Guatemala. Together, we have build a school from the ground up. In 2019, the school's fifth year of operating, 140 students from age 5 -13 are attending, taught by 8 amazing teachers.

ROHINGYA

In January 2019, Cochrane Alliance sent Shirley Stephens to SE Asia. She spent a week prayerfully discerning how an Alliance team can meaningfully serve this beleaguered people in the future. Read more about this trip in her news article on our website.



GLOBAL ADVANCE FUND

\$ 56,727

Alliance workers are actively reaching out to the least-reached people groups around the globe.. When you give to the Global Advance Fund, you are directly providing for our international workers.

GENERAL FUND

\$ 52,454

The local church also supports missionaries and churches in Canada and around the globe (see below). When you give to the General Fund, you are also supporting missions.

- Jesus Viene Church in Guatemala
- Seamless Link Agreement in SE Asia
- Oasis Church in Quebec
- Local Missions Partners

\$15,000

\$12,000

\$ 5,000

\$20,454

\$109,181

TOTAL GLOBAL INVESTMENT

MEET TWO OF OUR LOCAL MISSIONS PARTNERS



RACHEL ELLERBY

SERVING WITH YWAM
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

As a member of Cochrane Alliance, I am thankful to be backed and supported by people who have known me my whole life in what God has called me to in the Middle East. Serving in this area can be a challenge, but it's reassuring to know that I have a community of people who have stood with me over the last six years. I appreciate the years of financial support and the ongoing prayer--I couldn't do what I do without your faithful partnership. The Middle East can be transformed into millions of people following Christ by the His Body standing together by going, giving and ceaseless prayer! Thank you for believing in me and God' call on my life!

After 18 years of life and ministry in Russia, God moved us to Cochrane and gifted us with the supportive fellowship of Cochrane Alliance. With Cochrane as home base, we continue to serve with SEND International. Two years ago we transitioned from leadership over SEND's work in Russia to leadership for teams of workers across North America -- some reaching out to immigrants in major centres, others taking the light of Jesus to isolated communities in the far North. Between the time we spend travelling to these locations and in the virtual world of online meetings, we at times feel fractured and unable to be fully present anywhere. We are so grateful for God's incredible gift to us of Cochrane Alliance Church! You include us in your lives and let us serve where possible. We are humbled by your interest in our ministry with SEND, financial support, and partnership in praying for God's kingdom among the unreached.



JOHN & SHARON WICKER

SERVING WITH
SEND INTERNATIONAL

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS

I would first like to thank all of the Elders - John Wicker, (vice-chair), Jon Schwab (secretary), Blaine Ellerby (Treasurer), Brad Smith, Jon Cox, Doyle Peterson, Ian McCulloch and Jason Koleba.

Lot's done this year. We had a great meeting between all the board members and spouses with all of the staff and spouses. Great way to connect!

It was the 40th anniversary of the Church with some huge cakes to celebrate!

We had a board retreat with spouses at camp Chamisall to discuss healthy sexuality and what is the leadership vision with respect to this subject facilitated by Graeme Lauber.

We worked on holding ourselves as a board by structuring and standardizing board and pastor evaluations.

We did some deep work on improving the church vision, purpose and mission of the church, lead by Jason and the pastoral team with the help of a support committee comprised of Doyle Peterson, Dean Beaudry. We then had over 70 members of the congregation attend a discussion evening around the new vision, purpose and mission.

FRANC GODRI

CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF ELDERS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TREASURER

“Memorable” would be the best way I could describe this past fiscal year for Cochrane Alliance Church. A few months into fiscal 2018/2019 (October/November), it became apparent to the Board of Elders and the Finance Committee that giving wasn’t quite as strong as we had hoped and prayed for. With the close oversight of the Finance Committee and direction from the Board of Elders, non-essential spending was restricted and proactive financial reviews were conducted by various committees.

When informed of the shortfalls, you answered His call and gave from the heart! The last few months of the fiscal year, we experienced a significant giving increase, so much so that it rivaled any December (typically the best giving month of the year)! Once again God is faithful!

Regular mortgage payments were reduced to \$20,000 per month early in 2019 to assist us with our monthly cash shortfall. As of

June 30, 2019, our mortgage balance was \$2,458,199.

Thank you to those that have given to B2B and the retirement of our mortgage. The fund total income was \$319,116.

In looking at the 2019/2020 fiscal year, our goal is to ensure we effectively manage our funds through these challenging economic times, while supporting our staff, their goals, and the vision of Cochrane Alliance Church. Our overall operating budget (General Fund) for this upcoming fiscal year is \$947,152 which represents only a marginal increase over 2018/2019.

In closing, thank you to each one of you that give to Cochrane Alliance Church. I ask that you continue to keep our financial picture in your prayers, and consider how you could contribute to further His word and kingdom here and around the world.

BLAINE ELLERBY

TREASURER
BOARD OF ELDERS

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

GENERAL FUND

2017-18

\$854,781
INCOME

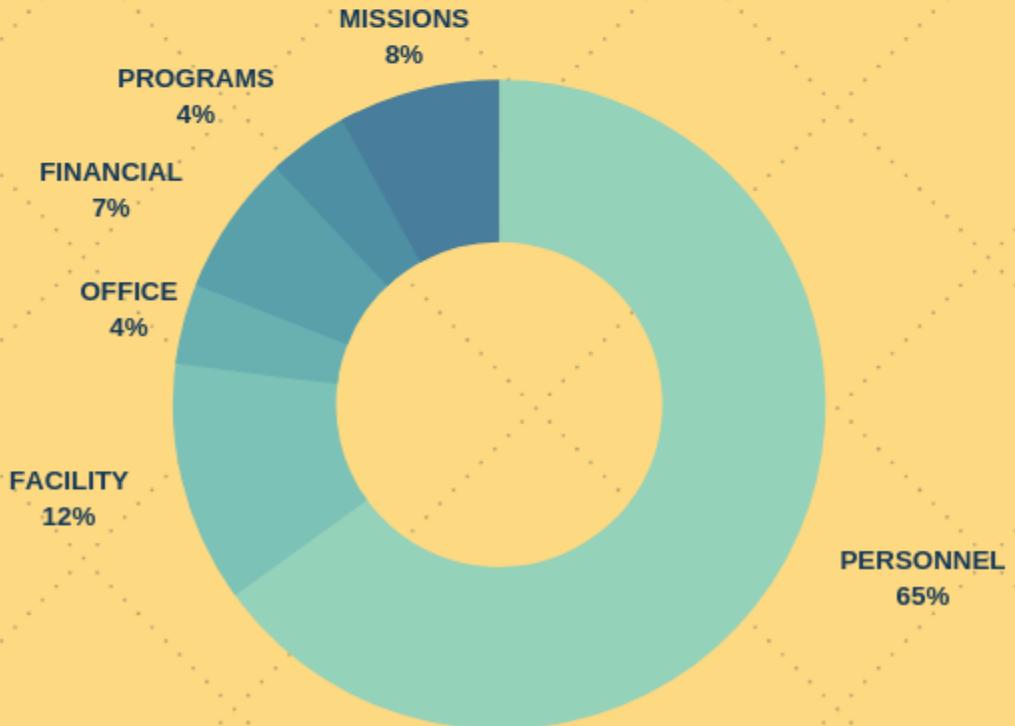
\$874,919
EXPENSES

2018-19

\$903,073
INCOME

\$903,909
EXPENSES

2018-19 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES



General Fund numbers above do not include interest expenses on building loan.

BUILDING LOAN

\$319,116
BUILT TO BUILD
INCOME

\$236,370
PRINCIPAL
REPAYMENTS

\$106,226
INTEREST
PAYMENTS

BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund is used to help people in need in our church and the community.

\$14,328
TOTAL
DISBURSEMENTS

RENTAL REVENUE

\$22,477
TOTAL
INCOME

39

SINGLE TIME
RENTERS

23

MULTIPLE TIME
RENTERS

122

TOTAL RENTAL
UNITS

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