

STATE OF THE CHURCH – YOUTH, SMALL GROUPS, COLLEGE, AND UP FELLOWSHIP

KAIROS Over the past year, our fellowship group has shifted between virtual and in-person gatherings, in response to the changing provincial recommendations and restrictions. We were able to keep some of the staple elements of our fellowship, namely our bible studies, movie nights, and special events as we did before, but we have also incorporated new activities such as online group games and even a murder mystery. During the height of the first wave, we transitioned fully to virtual gatherings but we were all very glad to continue in fellowship with another and enjoy each other's online presence during such uncertain times. As we all continued in isolation, with summer approaching, we did not feel that we could just end Kairos for summer break as we knew the kids craved the social interaction. As we followed all the provincial regulations and suggestions surrounding social gatherings and public safety. We met up bi-weekly, capitalizing on the amazing summer weather and extended daylight hours to do outdoor activities, such as biking and barbecuing. Despite the reduced frequency of meetings, the regular gatherings were a source of stability for all of us. We are thankful for everything God has done to support us through the more difficult times earlier this year, without God's grace and mercy Kairos wouldn't have been to consistently meet up. For our gatherings in person, we have had an average of about 15-20 people, while our online gatherings have been a little less of about 15-18 people on average. Once again, while still following all the necessary public health regulations we will also continue to prioritize keeping Kairos active, in whatever capacity possible.

SMALL GROUPS Majority of the church small groups have been meeting up regularly by means of virtual meetings throughout the time of pandemic. Virtual meetings have been the source of encouragement and comfort for many members adjusting to the dramatic changes of our world all the while acclimating to the new normal. The group that suffered the most during the pandemic was the small group members that had young children. They had the most difficult time adjusting their schedule to meet with one another regularly so as a result, they were not able to keep the meeting going once the pandemic started. We would like to ask for your prayers for the families in these age groups that God would continue to protect and guide them during this difficult and challenging times.

COLLEGE MINISTRY AND UP FELLOWSHIP College Ministry is continuously growing in faith and is constantly evolving. There is a lot of hope for our future generation who have been greatly involved in building up the ministry. The early stages of the ministry started during the lockdown beginning in April when anxiety and stress was increasing as a result of the uncertainty from what was happening. The presence of a church community was sorely missed, and the soon to be graduating class of 2020, as well as the teachers, longed for the weekly in-person interactions we enjoyed before the pandemic. As a result, the online summer Sunday school started in May. In August, summer Sunday school evolved into a tight knit Small Group consisting of college students. This group were instrumental in branching out into a larger hybrid (in-person and virtual) Sunday school class for post-secondary students which began in September. The ministry has garnered traction due to the support of college

students, Sunday school teachers, and parents, so the FEC UP fellowship was re-established. Now, with the support of students, young adults, their parents, and Sunday school leaders, the college ministry is going strong. Recently many young college students have volunteered to join UP Fellowship committee and they will be given an opportunity to exercise their spiritual gifts by serving in the church. What fuels these students have been the discipleship ministry that begun in the middle of summer where we are continuously building relationships and a community that support each other to grow in their faith as Jesus' followers. Overall, the dreaded pandemic that disrupted individual and collective lives has turned out to be an opportunity to for us to build college ministry and re-energize UP fellowship.