

In 2018, the Executive Director of Canadian Church of God Ministries, Ken Wiedrick, expressed his intentions to retire in 2020. A search committee was struck in early 2019. George Lutzer was presented to the Board of Directors as the candidate of choice and the Board was unanimous in acceptance. At Leader Connect February 20-21, it was our privilege to witness the passing of the mantle from Ken to George and the words of blessings and prayers of commission prayed over them.

LeaderConnect included a time of confession and repentance, culminating in a solemn assembly. (Julie will be sharing more in her report). I feel that, in light of this two-year project and the process of "Healing the Heart of the Church", George is inheriting a district that is healthier and readied for a new thing God will do in us.

We were privileged to hear George's story and insights into his heart for ministry through an interview in the Friday morning sessions. He has an amazing story of how God got his attention and birthed a passion in his heart to see every person know that they are loved and cared for deeply by their creator. That translates to a desire that everyone know the good news of Jesus.

After 25 years of ministry as Pastor of Grace Point Church of God in Edmonton, George is excited to be leading the church district into the next thing God is doing.

George began on the eve of LeaderConnect and will transition for three months until Ken Wiedrick's retirement.

LeaderConnect 2020 – AGM delegate report - Julie Wiebe

Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020 Solemn Assembly (delegates and church leaders came together "solemnly" in holy reverence, humility and awe before God) was the culmination of the work of the Canadian Church of God Healing the Heart task force that has been working through a process over the last two years. This was the climax experience of reviewing the history of district churches and was a special time to reset our relationship with God addressing our faults and failures and corporate sins generationally. There is much to celebrate and be thankful for as God has blessed and guided through many challenges but there has also been significant pain experienced along the way. These painful episodes challenged the District to go to God and hear Him. The reasons for corporate ill health needed to be faced and repented of and then claim God's gift of healing to bring the renewal of spiritual health. Thursday was such a time.

Various representatives of the Canadian Church of God Ministries stood before the Lord and the assembly, repenting on behalf for our corporate failings over the years. This was indeed a solemn and powerful time as individuals repented for the District church leadership during different decades of the 115 years existence of the Church of God in Western Canada. Elements of the Solemn Assembly were taken from Ezra 9 & 10 (God is the One who restores us; confession is needed; leaders are to exercise mediatorial authority i.e. speak for those in the past and for each other on behalf of the congregation and body of Christ; acknowledgement of sin's impact – recognize and identify with the perpetrators in inflicting these sins on others and the failure to own these sins responsibly; recognize that there will be resistance to the idea of correcting these sins; the need to engage in real and symbolic acts of repentance – making the 180 degree turn from sin to call on Christ to restore).

As individuals shared representing different times and events confessing specific corporate sins and sought repentance as well as offering forgiveness for wrongs done – these were holy moments of healing and restoration as pain and responsibility was owned and acknowledged.

The District is seeking to move ahead with a fresh start, a clean slate, with God and His people. Some local churches endeavoured to also have a fresh start and renewal following the Solemn assembly process.

Upon leaving LeaderConnect 2020, each church was given a symbol of "getting in tune" with God – a tuning fork. The theme was and is, "Those who have ears to hear, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to our District".

Might this become our theme too ...what is the Spirit saying to Wetaskiwin Church of God?
(If you would like more about the Solemn Assembly a booklet is available at the front desk)