

# STRONGER TOGETHER 2023



Our FEB Central Region is comprised of more than 292 churches and reaches across 1 million square kilometers of rural and urban geography. Our Region (Ontario and Anglophone Quebec) is home to 15 million people and is one of the most diverse cultural spectrums in the world. The spiritual needs in our Region are, indeed, daunting.

## According to the 2011 National Household Survey:

- Nearly 42% of Canadians indicated they did not attend a religious service or meeting in the past twelve months.
- Nearly one quarter of Canada's population, 23.9%, has no religious affiliation—up from 16.5% a decade earlier.
- Ontario is home to more than 73% of Canada's Hindu population, 55% of Canada's Muslim population and more than 44% of Canada's Buddhist population.
- Since 1980 there has been an average of 2.9 churches (Protestant and/or Catholic) close every week in Canada.

In 1986 FEB Central was founded on the biblical notion that we are *stronger together* when we *work together*. The Ministry Centre is committed to helping churches network together to reach and disciple people for Christ by facilitating church planting, church health and leadership development.

## The Ministry Centre accomplishes this by:

- Providing various equipping events for pastors/ministry leaders and church planters including networking, and “Doing Church” workshops.
- Offering consultations, assisting churches to find new pastors and ministry staff, and supporting pastors/ministry leaders, and church boards in transition.
- Recruiting, training and resourcing new church planters.
- Establishing a “strategic affiliation agreement” with Heritage College/Seminary that will continue to train future leaders for our churches.

## In the past eight years, God has used the Ministry Centre staff to:

- Assist 112 churches in finding new senior pastors and 86 churches in finding ministry staff.
- Launch 64 church plants along with support, training and resources for the church planters.
- Provide 76 *Guided Ministry Internships* for students.
- Organize junior/senior high retreats; sharing the gospel with over 1700 students and seeing many professions of faith.



There is much to celebrate! However, while our progress has been encouraging there is so much more we want to accomplish. At the end of our fiscal year (December 31, 2022) 173 out of 292 (59%) churches contributed directly toward the financial needs of our Ministry Centre. We are encouraged to report \$902,597.80 was donated. This shows an ongoing need for church donations since our 2023 combined budget is \$1,926,130 which includes, depending on available funds, additional staff. Over the years, the Ministry Centre has relied on five streams of income to survive: individual donors, churches, church planting funds, investment income, and assets from sold properties in order to meet budget. Although our auditors annually approve the books and delegates annually approve the recommended budget at the Regional Conference, the Regional Board boldly decided (in 2013) that our Region can no longer be sustained by this free-will donation based model. Thankfully, the proposed Stronger Together model was approved by our churches at the Regional Conference in 2014 and calls for:

### Participation

Pastors are *expected* to recommit to model a spirit of inter-dependency by participating in Regional opportunities such as Association meetings, equipping events, and the Regional Conference. The term “fellow worker”—used twelve times by the apostle Paul—is a translation of the Greek word *synergos* from which the English word *synergy* is derived. *Synergy* implies that the whole is greater than the sum of the individual parts. We are *stronger together* when we *synergize together* to reach and disciple our Region for Christ.

### Expected Financial Support for the Region’s Combined Budget

Churches are expected to financially support the Region’s 2023 combined budget of \$1,926,130 in accordance with the fee structure. The ‘fees’ will cover the operating expenses of the ministry centre, with almost half going toward our efforts to plant 7 new churches a year. It should be noted that ‘fees’ do not include salaries for church planters; they will still require the donations from individuals and churches.

Although other Regions have instituted a percentage-based funding model— FEB Pacific 3%, FEB CAST 4%, and AEBEQ 5%—the Regional Board is convinced that the ‘fee’ model is less burdensome on churches of all sizes and better facilitates enduring sustainability.

The fee structure is as follows:

Churches General Budget (excludes capital funds)	FEB Central (Excludes donations to church planters)
Up to \$100,000	\$1,500
\$100,000 – 200,000	\$3,000
\$200,000 – 300,000	\$4,500
\$300,000 – 400,000	\$6,000
\$400,000 – 600,000	\$9,000
\$600,000 – 800,000	\$12,000
\$800,000– 1,000,000	\$15,000
Over - \$1,000,000	\$18,000



It should also be noted that:

- Exceptions will be extended to churches in crisis/transition.
- Additional fees may be required for specialized services to churches, or to reimburse the Regional ministry staff for travel, meals, or accommodation.

If all the churches were to contribute their expected 'fees', the Ministry Centre could fund:

- 19 Association Shepherds plus 4 District Shepherds to help serve and support our pastors and churches.
- More full and part-time staff for areas such as communications, church planting, Next Gen, women's ministries, and administration.

In regard to our Region's relationship with FEB National, it was mutually agreed upon that both operations would be better served by maintaining separate funding models. Fellowship National's president, Steve Jones, writes:

We wholeheartedly endorse FEB Central's new funding initiative and will endeavour to promote its success. We believe membership dues are a good fit for the Region's front-line ministry of church health, church planting, and leadership development. Fellowship National's preference is to seek support from churches and individual donors to Fellowship International missionaries, chaplains, and national ministry staff.



## Church Planters Support

Beyond the 'dues,' the Regional Board is *challenging* churches to financially support individual church planters. When donations are channeled through FEB Central, no administrative fees are applied; every dollar is directed to the specific church planter's ministry.

Together, through the generous giving of churches and individual donors, our Region could:

- Plant a minimum of 70 new churches over the next ten years.
- Continue our care and coaching network for church planters. Recruit, train, and equip many more church planters.

As FEB Central, we dream of God reigniting our movement to be one of interdependent churches committed to networking together and reaching the lost until every man, women and child belong.

**As a Region,  
we really are *stronger* together  
when we *work* together!**