



REnew



CBOQ ASSEMBLY **SUMMARY**

JUNE 9-11, 2022 | Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church + Online

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE MINISTER



Thank you all for being part of Assembly 2022. I hope that you have been revived and renewed as we worshiped and learned together as a CBOQ family. It has been life-giving for our staff to reconnect and remember with you over the last few days. Can you reimagine how God will create new streams within your life and ministry? Our God will do wonders if we all extend the teachings from Assembly beyond ourselves, our churches and communities.

I would like to thank Gordon T. Smith, our Learning Session Leaders, and Sanctus Worship for inspiring and challenging us during these past few days. We thank you for opening our eyes through your shared wisdom and insights. Gordon exhorted us to welcome one another, welcome the stranger, and welcome the Holy Spirit. May the Lord use these reminders so that we can perceive the new thing that He is preparing for us.

Delegates, thank you for fully engaging in every opportunity of CBOQ Assembly! CBOQ's mission and vision relies on the decisions made by you as representatives of member churches. CBOQ cannot fulfill our mandate without those faithfully appointed to represent member churches and associations. Thank you for the sacrifices you have made.

We are grateful for the prayers you offer on behalf of CBOQ's board and staff team, and other CBOQ churches. Thank you for those who joined us for the 21 days of prayer in preparation for Assembly. We will continue to pray together and for each other! I can't wait to hear and share stories of how God has been using your churches as streams within the wasteland of this world. Finally, I ask you to celebrate and enjoy what follows and depend on each other for hope, joy, strength, and encouragement. You are distinct and unique. You are not alone. Thanks be to the Christ.

With Hope and Joy,

Tim McCoy, Executive Minister



THURSDAY

JUNE 9

CBOQ Assembly 2022 was a hybrid of in-person and online gatherings. From the moment Assembly started, you could feel the warmth and gratitude of fellowship as people came together. Because this was our first in-person conference in two years, we felt a real rejuvenation as participants walked through the doors. For those who were unable or not yet comfortable joining in person, we offered an online Assembly for viewing. This year, our theme ReNew came from Isaiah 43:19, which says, *“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”* May the Lord inspire you as you read the summary of Assembly 2022. May God’s presence be with you each day so that you can remain ReNewed.

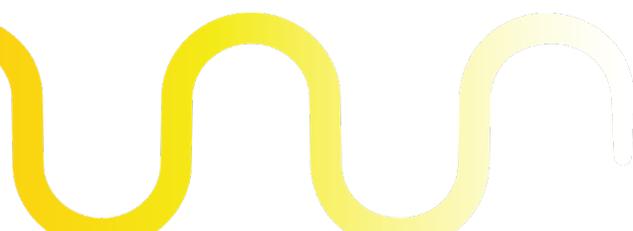
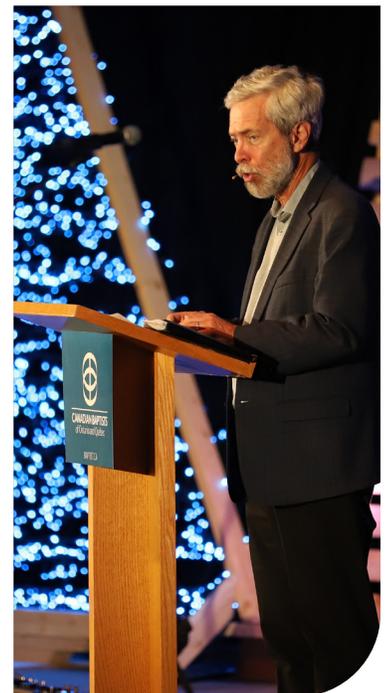


“WELCOME ONE ANOTHER”



Tim McCoy, Executive Minister for CBOQ began with a land acknowledgement. Rev. Julian Wong, Senior Pastor of SCBC, offered a warm welcome to everyone and an opening prayer. He spoke highly of the CBOQ churches and shared his thoughts on how God has been doing amazing things through them. Following Rev. Wong, Jada Smith from Immanuel Baptist Church, Toronto, and Bob Davies, from Kanata Baptist Church, were introduced as our MC's. Both offered expressed excitement and gratitude for being together with CBOQ family at Assembly, and Jada introduced Sanctus Worship who took to the stage and set the tone for our hearts and minds as we worshiped through music. Through the “Ministry Voices” video montage, we were inspired by many who continue God's work, learning to pivot during the pandemic in order to connect and serve their communities. Tim McCoy welcomed our family of churches and thanks to our delegates and for being able to be together, in person.

We were blessed to have Gordon T. Smith, the President and Professor of Systematic and Spiritual Theology at Ambrose University and Seminary in Calgary, as our Keynote Speaker for Assembly 2022. Gordon spoke about one of the most engaging conversations we are having this day, the hospitality of Christians. The bible tells us that we are not only to be hospitable to others in our church, but to all others. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the Glory of God. Hospitality grounds our life, our work, our witness and is an essential spiritual practice; it is a way of being. Gordon referenced Romans 15:7 which says, “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God”. He highlighted three distinct movements and elements to hospitality. Firstly, to welcome the other into our space. Secondly, to accept others as they are, create a safe space, and let the other be “other.” Thirdly, to attend to one another through empathetic listening. Gordon emphasized that we will not always get this right. We will apologize, learn to listen, create policies and respond to the call to be hospitable. We are living and claiming Christ's hospitality in our lives.



FRIDAY JUNE 10

The morning started with an invitation to Guided prayer for the AGM, giving time speaking to the Lord and hearing from Him so he could help guide and lead the events of this day. “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.”
– Mark 1:35.



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PART 1

“[The] Board adopted an act of commitment to listen to God, to pray for each other, be a community, and have an attitude of respect and openness.”

Each year our Member Churches and Associations gather to conduct the necessary business at our AGM. We also affirm our values and set a direction for our CBOQ Board and Staff. The direction Assembly supplies focus on four areas: church resources, development of leaders, fostering partnerships, and strengthening identity/relationships.

The AGM started with Rev. Matt Wilkinson, Director of Next Generation Ministries for CBOQ welcoming everyone and thanking our lead sponsors. Rev. Craig Rumble, 1st Vice President, CBOQ Board, and Janice Charko, our Board Chair, declared the session open as Craig reviewed the delegate procedures. Evelyn Warren, 2nd Vice President, CBOQ, led the organizing motions.

The minutes of 2021 Assembly, as recorded in the CBOQ Assembly Book of Business 2022, were approved. New members Stone Bridge Baptist Church and Community on the Mount were recognized, and their delegates were welcomed with huge applause to this and succeeding Assemblies.

Helena Bergen, Executive Director of CBWOQ, was our inspirational partner in mission and her video showcased the many ways in which they serve Baptist women not only across Ontario and Quebec but also as partners around the Globe. Eva Mak, CBOQ Board member, prayed for CBWOQ. Janice spoke of the Board's dedication and board members were asked to stand and be recognized. In 2017, the Board adopted an act of commitment to listen to God, to pray for each other, be a community, and have an attitude of respect and openness. Last June, the Board approved the selection of an executive staff team member as recommended by the search committee. As a result, we welcomed Rev. Ken Foo as CBOQ's new Director of Church Life and Leadership. Last September, the Board approved the new strategic plan recommended by the strategic planning committee for a launch in 2022. The strategic priorities are:

1. Continue to provide core resources and programs to equip our churches and leaders
2. Strengthening baptist identity and polity
3. Innovate and share new church models and expressions
4. Cultivate church leaders, prioritizing future pastors
5. Develop a sustainable financial model





After Assembly 2021, the Board approved a core document review team and approved the new compensation development tool for pastors.

Eleanor Emmott, CBOQ Board Member, spoke of the membership review process and timelines. A missional team looked at the core documents such as This We Believe, CBOQ Baptist distinctives, covenant agreement, and ascertained that some bylaw changes are needed. A full bylaw revision is going to be necessary and in the next year. A clean copy of the bylaw will be shared with constituents for review. The Board Report as published in the book of Business 2022 was adopted. Ninette Bishay from Adams and Miles LLP was appointed as the licensed Public Accountant to hold office until the close of the next annual meeting of members.



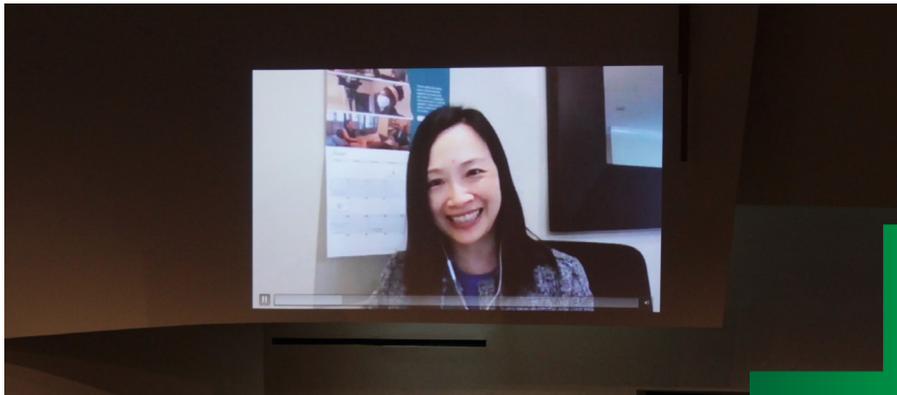
TREASURER'S REPORT

Koon Wah Leung presented the 2021 Financial Report, sharing that CBOQ was in a good financial position for 2021, transferring less than planned from approved fund transfers. Revenue met budget and expenses were lower than budget. For every dollar that churches gave to CBOQ, we gave an equivalent of almost 70% back to churches and partners through grants and subsidies. In 2021 God has blessed CBOQ with strong fund balances. Total fund balances and investments grew in 2021. Many of these funds are restricted. We are working with the Investment Committee and Board to invest wisely to balance growth and risk.

Most of all, thank you for your prayers and generosity to our CBOQ family through contributions of 2-5% of receipted church revenue. For those who are struggling, reach out to us early. There could be loans, subsidies, and partnerships that might be able to help. For those who have reserves or extra, consider investing in kingdom building through certificate loans which support church mortgages within CBOQ. God has richly blessed us and we are grateful. The complete details of CBOQ's Financial Results and 2021 Audited Financial Statements can be found in the Book of Business. The 2020 Financial Results and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31 were received and passed. The 2022 Revised budget and the 2023 Draft budget was received and passed as presented by Adam Cree, Associate Director of Finance.



*“Thank you for
your prayers and
generosity.”*



During the AGM, the CBOQ Board gladly received valuable questions, concerns, and support from delegates that demonstrated how much we collectively care for our family of churches. All motions were passed. Matt Wilkinson adjourned the meeting for a lunch break to end Part 1, thanking the Board for their leadership and for the family of churches whom we have the privilege to serve. A recognition video ended the morning session and Matt gave a special call out from Tim McCoy to Rev. Muriel Carder and Rev. George Cawfield for their 74 and 76 years of dedicated service, respectively.

This year lunch was outside. Our food truck vendors took great care of the attendees offering delicious dishes to anyone who stayed at the church.





THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PART 2

Rev Karen Wong, introduced us to Jennifer Lau, Executive Director of CBM, who shared their global missions work to help the poor, the children, and war-torn countries. Jennifer thanked CBOQ and our churches for continuing to support CBM to embrace the broken world through word and deed. Karen prayed for CBM.

The Executive Minister's Report was jointly delivered by Matt Wilkinson and Ken Foo. They started with a simple question: isn't it good to be ReNewed? To renew is to resume after an interruption, and what an interruption we just went through these past two years. Christ has made us new and we have a chance every day to recommit our lives to his service. Thanks Be to God.

Ken took us on a journey with the word Remember. As we enter a new reality coming out of COVID, do not forget, remember that God has been faithful. He has and always will be the same God who will take us into the next unknown. Faithful God back then, faithful God today and faithful God tomorrow.

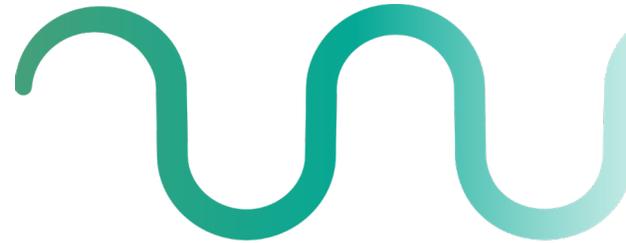


ReNew
ReMember

Koon Wah Leung reminded us of how it felt to Reconnect. The Communications and Member Care team has missed visiting member churches and is excited to share stories of how God has renewed your mission and expanded church beyond the building. We are inspired by how God has led you to new expressions and models of transformation and connection. Hebrews 10:24-25: “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Her second word was Resilience. We know the last few years have been hard for churches and pastors. We need to have resources in place like revitalization, youth leadership development and foundational programs of evangelism, discipleship and spiritual formation so our churches can thrive. The finance and investment committees are working towards financial resiliency too. James 1:2-4 reminds us to “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

ReCONNECT ReSILIENCE



ReIMAGINE

“NextGen is moving the church forward, by building regional connections and communities.”

Matt Wilkinson took us through the Next Generation plan that gives us hope as we Reimagine where God is taking us. How do we maximize and reimagine how we can take our youth from one step to the next? Continuing to engage and reach our young delegates will be challenging for the church. We are learning to renew our mind and reimagine how we approach the youth ministry. Renewing of our mind by embracing unity over conformity, spiritual transformation over behavioural modification and Gospel lived.

NextGen is moving the church forward, by building regional connections and communities. In your own church context, we need a family ministry strategy, working collectively to foster parents and kids to walk faithfully in the church. Reimagining how we develop young leaders and build a CBOQ leadership pipeline is key. As part of our strategic plan, we are developing a Young Leaders Collective to foster the development of young leaders in High School.

REGENERATE REVITALIZE

Tim McCoy's prayer for us: a crying to the Lord to regenerate our soul, to revitalize our ministries, to build us up in renewed relationships, to renew our strength and let us remain in Him. We are with you, we are here to encourage you, connect and support you, may it be so. The EM report was received.



Dr. Stanley Porter, President of McMaster Divinity College, provided the MDC Ministry Partner Presentation. He stated that CBOQ churches make up a substantial portion of students at MDC, recognizing our partnership and support. Ken Foo prayed for MDC.



The Nominations Committee Report by Richard Root, Chair of the Nominations Committee, was presented. Nominations were closed and the motion was carried. The persons names in the report of the Nominations Committee were hereby elected to the positions indicated in that report.



Bob Shaughnessy, Interim Pastor, Avenue Road Baptist Church, conducted the Commissioning of Officers.



Craig Rumble, the new CBOQ President, closed the AGM as past President, Janice Charko, handed over the gavel. Craig shared some wise words with us. We alone cannot be wise enough to make decisions about the future and we are less than faithful if we try to advance God's Kingdom without Him being invited to inspire our every action. I will endeavour to do, the Lord being my helper.



Plenary 2 | FRIDAY

“WELCOME THE STRANGER”

Jada Smith from Emmanuel Baptist church and Bob Davis, Kanata Baptist church, our MC’s, kicked off our second plenary session. Rev. Debbie Iverson from Little Bethel Community Church in Hamilton opened in prayer and Evelin Wharram, CBOQ Vice-President, prayed for the offering. Sanctus worship led us through an amazing time of worship to our almighty and faithful God, renewing us all in Spirit and hope.

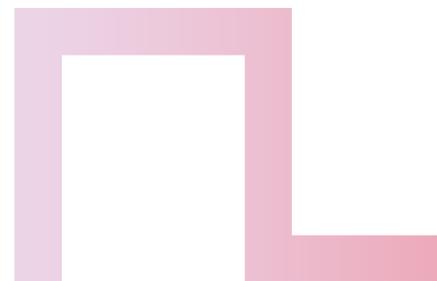
During the evening session, Gordon Smith introduced us to his second message of hospitality. Welcome the stranger as Christ has welcomed the stranger. Hebrews 13:2 says “Remember to welcome strangers in your homes. There were some who did that and welcomed angels without knowing it.” Jesus has a concern that when we offer fellowship to those who will allow us some gain, that it is the wrong hospitality.

Luke 14:14 says “and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”



Who is the stranger in our church context? Who are the poor, crippled, lame and blind to us? To offer hospitality is to offer a safe space to a stranger and listen to with compassion and interest. This type of hospitality needs to be intentional, a spiritual practice.

Gordon posed the question: How does Christ show hospitality to the other? Gordon gave the example of the Last Supper. Who is welcomed to dine with Jesus? According to the bible, Jesus was inclined to eat with anyone, that there was no fence to exclude anybody. The table is one of the most powerful ways to express hospitality to the other, including the stranger. Gordon challenged us all to rethink who is welcome at our table and whether we impose a fence at the table. Is there a place for an open table to offer hospitality to the stranger? He closed saying that if you're not prepared to go that far, at least prepare spectacular potluck suppers!



SATURDAY JUNE 11

Saturday morning started early with another invitation for guided prayer for Churches and Pastors.

Learning Sessions

Five learning sessions were offered this year.

- 1** **The Sizzle of Board Governance: Future-Facing Hope-filled Leadership**
Led by:
Sam Chaise - Executive Director, Christie Refugee Welcome Centre; Past CBM Director
- 2** **To the Philippians: A Letter Written in Lockdown**
Led by:
Stanley E. Porter - President and Dean, McMaster Divinity College
- 3** **Generation to Generation: Inter-generation Dynamics and the Texture of Congregational Life**
Led by:
Gordon T. Smith - President, Ambrose College
- 4** **Division, Deconstruction, and Don't Know What to Do?
Disruptive Discernment for the Post-Pandemic Church**
Led by:
Anna Robbins - President, Acadia Divinity College
- 5** **It takes a Church to Raise a Parent**
Led by:
Rachel Turner, Founder, Parenting for Faith





Plenary 3 | SATURDAY

“WELCOME THE HOLY SPIRIT”

Coming out of the learning sessions, we gathered for our final plenary of Assembly. The ministry voices video montage once again showed us that the Holy Spirit is working in our church family and community. Lena and Emmalee participated in the Assembly children’s program and were our special guests to offer prayer today. Sanctus Worship once again prepared our hearts and minds through music. What a wonderful way to draw our heart’s focus to God, praising Him and blessing the Lord together. The video story of the Milton Church partnership reminded us that the Holy Spirit is invited to take control of our churches and church plants as they grow and reach out to be inclusive of all nations. Oyinkansola Adeyemi from First Baptist Church, Toronto prayed for our speaker.

Much to his amusement and that of the delegates, Gordon Smith started our final session with retrieving his podium. He then began to speak on Welcoming the Holy Spirit. Welcoming the Holy Spirit is the essential soil for personal transformation within our world. To be hospitable towards one another is simply foundational. We have nothing to offer the world unless we understand what this means. All of this assumes two things:

1. Hospitality of God. That we welcome others as God has welcomed us.
2. So much depends on our response to the hospitality of God.



Gordon shared his two opening thoughts with us. One, is that we tend to polarize our head and heart, removing our feelings. With a story from his childhood, he explained how we cannot and should not separate our feelings from our faith and facts. The heart and mind are to be integrated in response to God. Secondly, as a grandfather, he learned the importance of being a tender presence in his family. Can we learn the grace of tenderness and apply it outside of our family? When we experience the grace of God, we are compelled to respond to others with gentleness, kindness and tenderness.

Gordon spoke of how the Apostle Paul exemplified this in both his behaviour and his words. Consider what it means to open wide your heart. It is the basis of our response to God. Firstly, we must realize that God has been hospitable to us and secondly, that we are hospitable to God. We are hospitable to God when we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is where our posture begins, and we need to tend to matters of the heart.

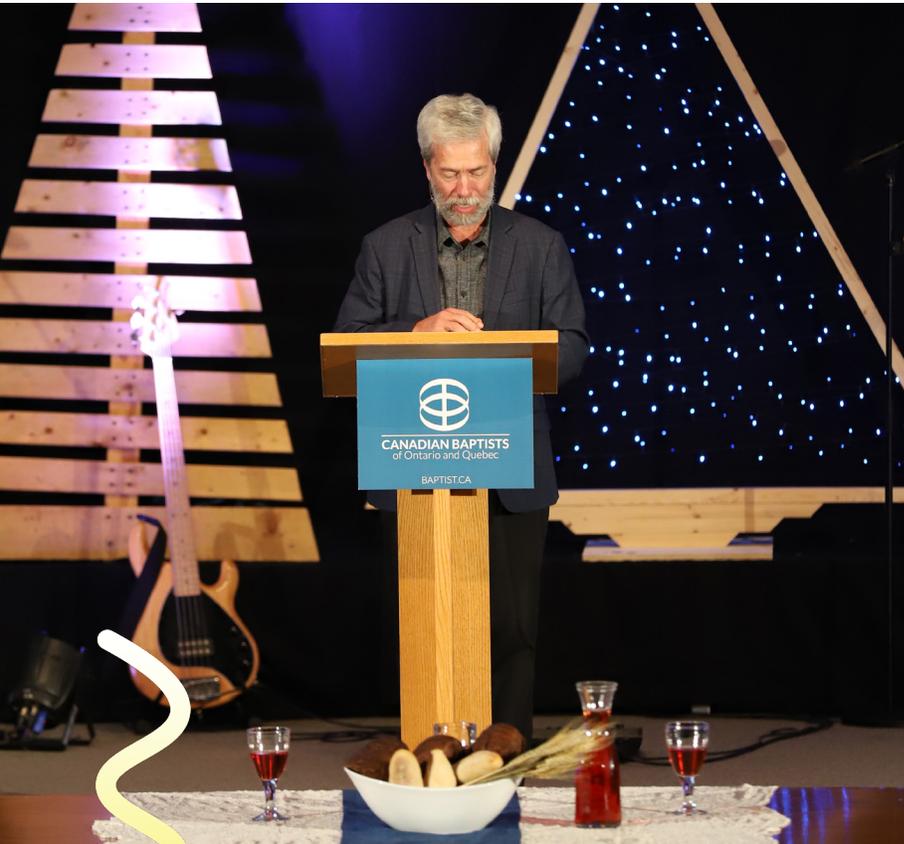


We pray come Holy Spirit come. Lift up your hearts to the Lord. Do we know how to lift up our hearts to the lord? We are reminded that worship is not mere sentimentality and it requires the integration of head and heart. Gordon stressed that true worship is from the heart with an understanding of what is happening intellectually.

We have to come to terms with what is happening to us emotionally, that is, to be emotionally self-aware. Can you answer the question; what are you feeling? We cannot be receptive to the grace of the holy spirit if we are in desolation. Desolation is not wrong, it can be a reasonable response to a broken and fragmented world. When asked what is happening to you emotionally, it may be one of the four following expressions of desolation:

1. Anger. It is not wrong to be angry when we have been wronged. However, anger is not a place we can camp. It is not our true selves. We cannot live there and allow it to take up residence in our hearts. Anger becomes bitterness if it lies within us, and ultimately becomes toxic for ourselves, others and the world around us.
2. Fear. Fear is not wrong either. It is appropriate when we feel threatened, and only God is invulnerable when threatened. We are not to reside in anxiety and worry but this can be hard in our current culture of fear and anxiety. We must recognize fear, and then cast our cares upon Him.
3. Discouragement. It is not sin; it is the understandable response to a fragmented and broken world. The problem is that if we leave it untended it can all too easily lead to cynicism and that, unchecked, leads to despair.
4. Mourning. We disparage the act of mourning like it is not the legitimate response to loss. We can still allow ourselves to mourn loss and death. However, we do not reside in either of these as it hardens our hearts.

Each of these emotions are an appropriate response. Gordon emphasized that we do not camp here, for if we do, it can harden our hearts. Gordon then referenced Hebrews 3. He asked us to consider which of these four emotions are you most vulnerable to?



Gordon praised the genius of Christian spiritual and theological tradition and how it is the integration of intellect and affect. Unapologetically a thoughtful faith. We worship through song and hymns that are thoughtful and intellectually engaging but is in the end, about the lifting of our hearts.

When we pray come Holy Spirit come we are saying:

1. Thank you and acknowledge the goodness of God.
2. We are acknowledging we need God.
3. We hear God and we have the courage to be called to do, called to say, no more and no less.

The closing message from Gordon was that reflecting on the scriptures, hospitality is a basic spiritual practice. Our understanding of work and vocation and mission of God, understanding of spiritual discipline and practice, that hospitality is our baseline. It is essential in every aspect of life, work, and witness of the church to the world. Hospitality locates all other practices and grounds our life, work, and witness. We turn our hearts toward God, then towards each other.



Rev. Cid Latty, CBOQ's Congregational Development Associate, led Communion at the Lord's table, creating space for remembrance and prayer. Sanctus continued to help us lift our hearts in worship to celebrate the goodness of God. Assembly was closed by our MC's and ended with a highlight video of Assembly 2022. Tim McCoy sent words of thanks and encouragement to our Speakers, Sanctus, Volunteers, Staff and Participants for a wonderful family reunion at Assembly. We are grateful to Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church for their generous hospitality and partnership in hosting Assembly 2022.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF ASSEMBLY 2022 (WHETHER IN PERSON OR ONLINE!)

We look forward to seeing you at CBOQ Assembly 2023!

The summary and on-demand viewing of the plenary sessions will be available at baptist.calassembly. We'd love to get your feedback via the electronic evaluation form on ways to improve the experience for you.





5 International Blvd.
Etobicoke, ON M9W 6H3
(416) 622-8600
cboq@baptist.ca
baptist.ca | @cboq

