

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





Our Purpose

We exist to grow loving communities of Jesus-followers who live and share his irreligious message.

Vision

To introduce spiritually curious people to the Jesus-centred life, through a movement of Jesus-centred churches.

Values

We are committed to non-violence, peacemaking, and being agents of reconciliation.

— Peace

Community—

We believe that God created us for relationship with him and with each other.

We challenge ourselves to live simply so that we can give generously.

— Simplicity

Mission —

We move beyond our spaces to share the gospel with people and care for them.

Letter from Senior Pastors and Board Chair

We've continued to live in the tension of significant challenge and discovery this past year. All of us navigated the stress of the many uncertainties, difficulties, and losses the pandemic brought. But even in those hard places, we also experienced God's presence with us in finding new ways to serve others, connect with our church family, and pursue our vision as a church.

As you check out this year's Annual Report, you'll see that God has led us to a new determination to GO – to embrace our local communities by being parish-minded; to grow together as disciples by connecting in Home Churches online and in person; to generously invest our gifts and finances to have a Kingdom-impact; to share the irreligious message of Jesus locally and beyond our borders through livestreaming; and to engage our kids, youth, and families by providing discipling experiences and resources.

But we also know that after 18 months of uncertainty, there's a wide range of feelings, emotions, and expectations around what church will and should look like. While some can't wait to be back together in person, others are more hesitant. Some are excited to explore new opportunities for ministry, and others are longing for stability and familiarity. We want to create a welcoming environment for everyone by extending patience, love, and grace as we find our way forward.

Church will look different, but our vision and purpose are the same. We still exist to grow loving communities of Jesus-followers who live and share his irreligious message, and we're committed to introducing spiritually curious people to the Jesus-centred life through a movement of Jesus-centred churches.

Be reminded that through all this change, uncertainty, and tension, Jesus continues to be with us and wants to transform us with his love. This Good News hasn't changed!

Faith, Hope, and Love,



Bruxy, Darrell, Maggie



OUR MINISTRIES

Adult Ministries

Funding Home Church, hubs, local events, pastoral care, volunteer training and appreciation, plus resourcing and compensation for our parish pastors.

Shared Ministry Expenses

Resourcing and training for our staff team, covering administrative costs, and compensation for our senior pastors, IT, accounting, and HR staff.

Facilities & Rent

Renting spaces for Sunday services and other gatherings, meetings, rehearsals, and funding storage facilities, utilities, and maintenance of the Oakville facility.



Communications & Weekend Service

Producing and distributing teaching for our parishes, our livestream/online experience, as well as funding tech, parish support, and communications staff.

Compassion

Supporting people in our own communities and around the world through local initiatives and our partnerships with World Vision, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), and BIC Canada Global.

Kids and Youth

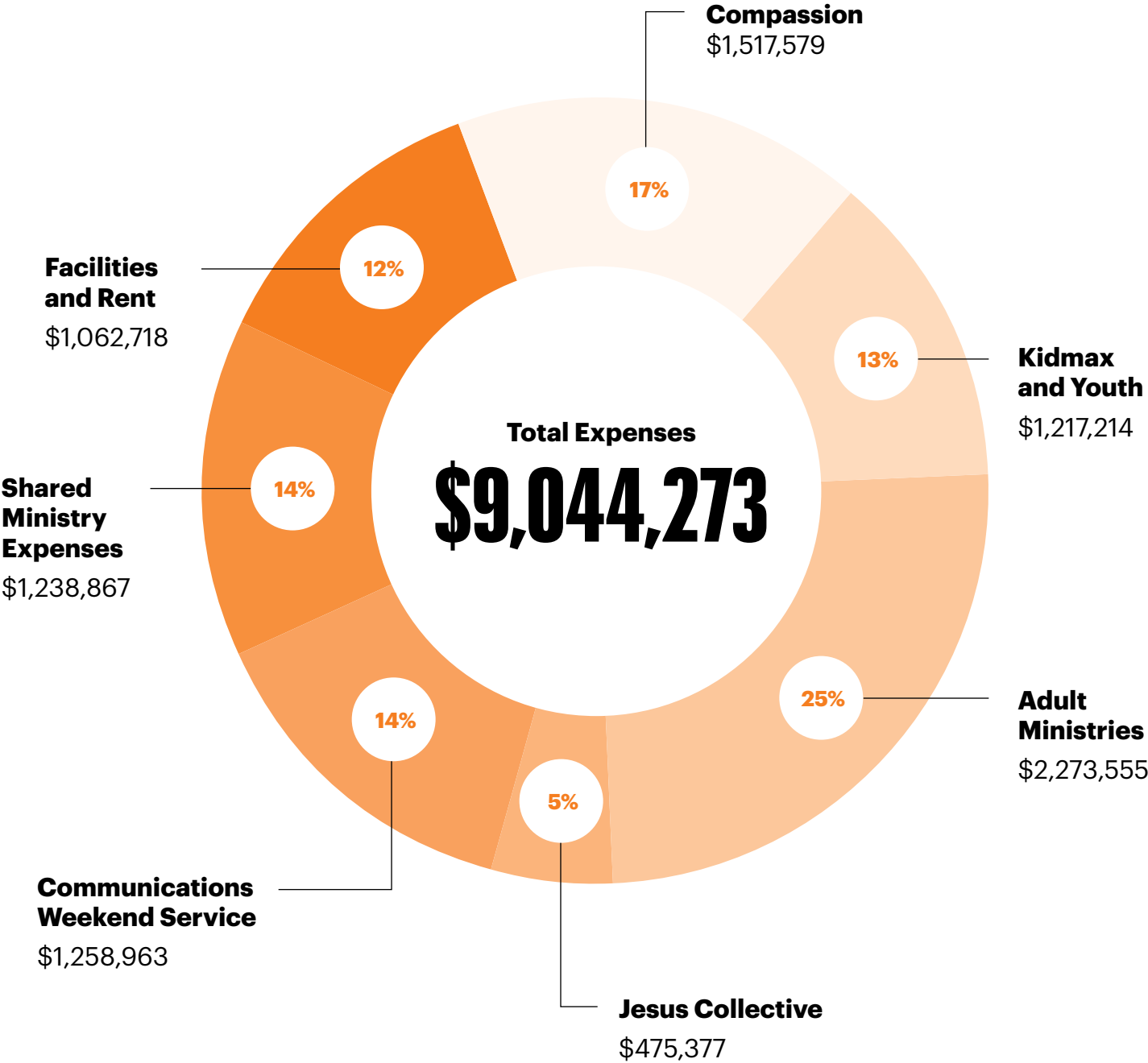
Discipling our kids and youth through relational connections/small groups, events, curriculum production, staffing, classroom supplies, and subsidies for our youth retreats or other experiences.

Jesus Collective

Planning, promoting, and organizing the framework for Jesus Collective and inviting other leaders and churches to join.

MINISTRY EXPENSES

For more information on how to give, visit themeetinghouse.com/give



HOME CHURCH



Spaces to Grow Community

For the people in an Oakville Region Home Church this meal around a campfire represents an answer to prayer. During the COVID-19 pandemic one family offered their large, outdoor property to be used in creative ways by the Home Church. It quickly became a gathering place for spiritual relationships to grow and deepen.



[Watch the full story](#)

765

**Weekly
Home Church
attendance**

(Sep 2020–Jun 2021)

1,932

**People on a Home
Church roster**

(as of Apr 11, 2021)

JESUS COLLECTIVE

Partnering with Missio Dei

Jonny and Heather are Co-Lead Pastors at Missio Dei in Salt Lake City. After a season of pandemic transitions and searching for a larger network to connect with, they discovered Jesus Collective and became a Church Partner earlier this year. Click below to read more about their journey and why Jesus Collective resonated with them.

[Read more](#)

**25 CHURCHES &
60 INDIVIDUAL**

Partners active or onboarding in our first year, representing 12 countries and 5 continents

180
One Story Kids and Youth Curriculum subscribers since launching in March 2021

18,284
Podcast downloads

1,332
People engaged in Jesus-centred events and trainings

COMPASSION



Woodland Cultural Centre

Layla Black, Programming & Marketing Supervisor, at the Woodland Cultural Centre stands in front of the Mohawk Institute Residential. Layla highlights our new partnership with the organization. She mentions that partnerships are important for us to educate ourselves about the history of residential schools and in creating a path together to move forward toward healing.



Watch the full story

\$286,785

Raised for MCC

through the Peacemakers campaign. [Read more](#)

343

World Vision children sponsored

\$125,000

Given to 18 local

non-profits from our Local Compassion Fund. With another \$125,000 planned to be given by December 2021.

\$15K

Given to Woodland Cultural Centre

3

Families sponsored

15 people in 3 families sponsored from Syria

50+

Local partners

and numerous of local initiatives with hundreds of volunteers

\$30,000

Given to MCC's

Indigenous Neighbours program

PARISH MINDSET



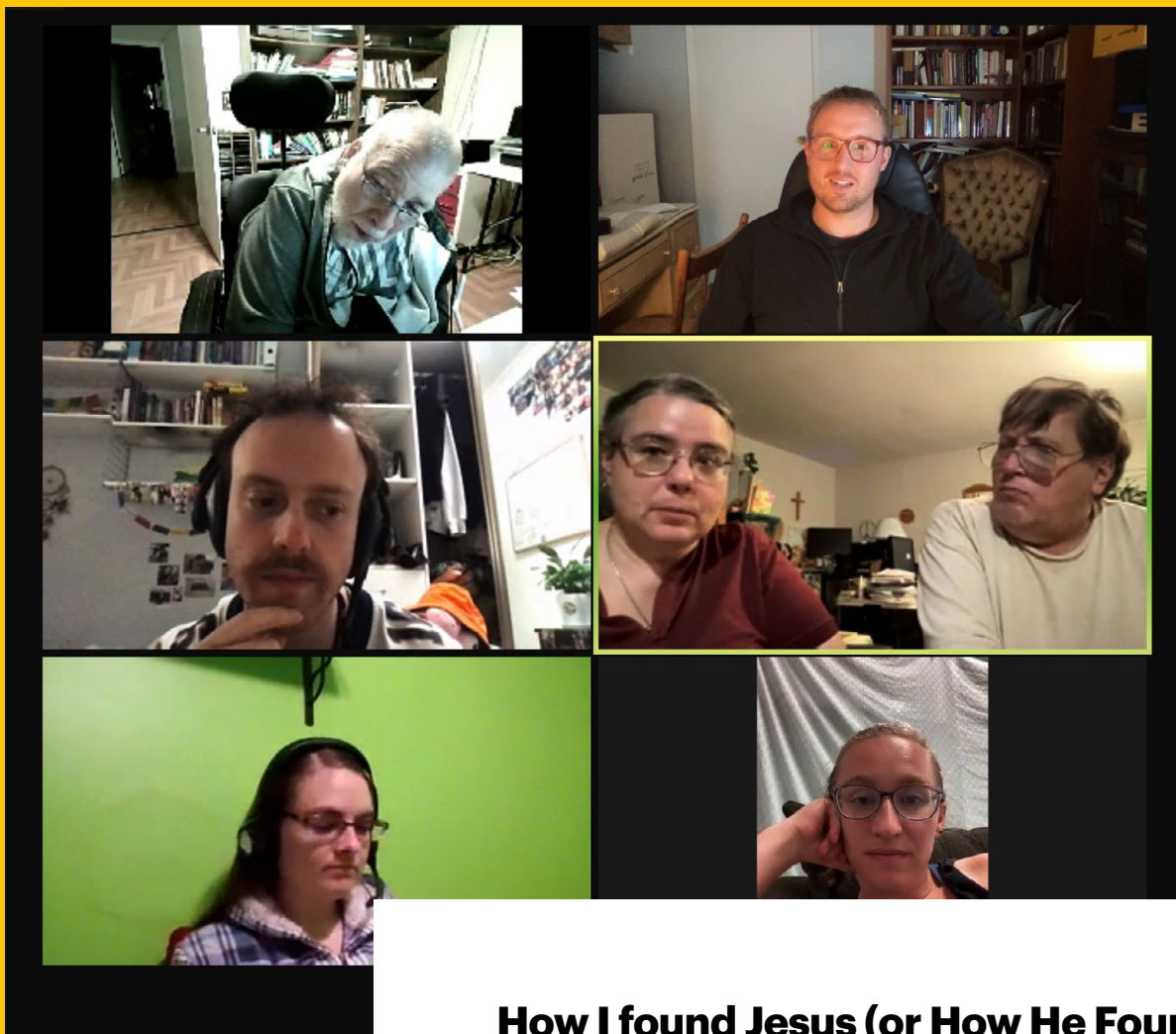
Local Lens

Downtown Toronto Compassion Team Member Melissa Poon and Compassion Coordinator Sheila Wong stand outside one of the locations used by The Dale Ministries. It's a non-profit located in Toronto's Parkdale neighbourhood, serving the marginalized population there. Melissa and Sheila both say noticing what needs there are in the neighbourhood has helped them be more focused on how to serve the community alongside others, and develop new friendships along the way.



[Watch the full story](#)

SPIRITUALLY CURIOUS



How I found Jesus (or How He Found Me)

Jaydon met Katelyn at an online business conference about a year ago. Katelyn goes to our Waterloo parish and could tell that Jaydon was spiritually curious, so she invited him to a Bible reading group and then a Home Church. Two weeks ago, while learning about The Meeting House's vision to introduce spiritually curious people to the Jesus-centred life, Jaydon thought, "Hey, that's me!"

[Read more](#)

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



Steps we've taken so far

- **Conducted 2 Focus Groups** with racialized TMH members virtually across various TMH sites:
 - 1 Black Focus Group (Fall 2020)
 - 1 BIPOC Focus Group with Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (Spring 2021)
- **Put forward a strategy for building racial reconciliation** in TMH parishes that demonstrates diversity, inclusion and anti-racism in the congregational space.
- **Rolled out racial training** for elders (Fall 2021)
- **Increased hire of racialized staff** on the pastoral and administrative teams



Inclusion & Understanding Advisor

Denley McIntosh has been serving on our staff team in a part-time capacity as our Inclusion and Understanding Advisor. Denley brings extensive experience in this area and is working with the Senior Pastors to continue the conversation and planning around racial inclusion and diversity at The Meeting House. Denley and his family are part of our Oakville Parish and attend the BFG Home Church.

ENGAGEMENT

Livestream Viewership

(March 14 – June 27, 2021)



Sunday views **2,471**

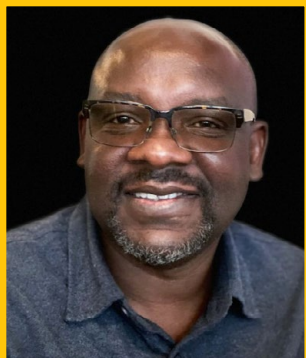
Weekly views **6,568**

Easter **3,568** (Apr 4, 2021)

Christmas Eve **3,142** (Dec 24, 2020)



Welcoming Our New Cross-regional Staff



Discipleship Pastor

We're so excited to welcome **Dr. Samuel Sarpiya** as our Discipleship Pastor in November. Samuel and his family will be moving from Quebec where he's been serving as a local church pastor. In joining our staff team, Samuel brings valuable experience in pastoral ministry, teaching, leadership development, reconciliation and non-violent response to conflict, cross-cultural engagement, and denominational leadership. His focus as Discipleship Pastor will be equipping and resourcing our elders and Home Churches as our core approach to relational discipleship.



Cross-Regional Kids Pastor

We're thrilled to have **Christie Penner Worden** as our new Cross-Regional Kids Pastor. She'll be focusing on equipping, coaching, and training Lead Pastors and Kids Coordinators. Christie is a strategic leader who's passionate about discipling children, empowering leaders, and providing effective support to those who love today's kids. She's also a wife, mama bear to three (mostly) delightful cubs, and lives with her family in St. Jacob's, Ontario, as part of our Waterloo parish.



Finance Director

Korede Agbenia joined The Meeting House staff team in August as our Finance Director. He's worked in multi-cultural contexts in four countries across industries like software development, management consulting, aviation, and e-commerce. We're so grateful and excited that he's joined us! Korede and his wife, Rele, live in Burlington with their two sons and attend the Oakville Parish.



HR Manager

We are very excited to welcome **Kim Knight** as our new HR Manager. Kim brings years of human resources, leadership, hospitality and ministry experience to our team and we couldn't be happier that she's here. Kim and her husband, John, along with their sweet dog, Parker, recently moved into their dream home, a nineteenth century gem in the country, and will join our nearby Ottawa parish.

Living in Tension

Tension can be frustrating, but it can also be constructive, creative, and empowering. Creative tension is a huge part of the reality we're experiencing right now as a church, so let's look for ways we can embrace this tension and invite God to bring good out of it.

Innovation + Stability

We live in the tension between wanting to experiment creatively with new ways of doing and being the church and wanting to provide a sense of familiarity.

Outreach + Inreach

We live in the tension between reaching spiritually curious people beyond our church and caring for those already in our church who have drifted away.

Localized + Centralized

We live in the tension between wanting to be increasingly parish-minded and wanting to gather together centrally through our Sunday livestream.

Long range + Short-term

We live in the tension between planning ahead for our long-term future and embracing flexibility in our current reality.

We believe the future of The Meeting House is small, local, and in person while also including supportive, shared, and online experiences. We embrace both realities and invite us all into this creative tension to be the best version of ourselves together.

