

Prairie Bible Institute **Annual Meeting**

Report to the Board
of Directors
October 22, 2020



PRAIRIE COLLEGE

"... *IN* all things God works ..."

October 2020

Almost four decades ago while living through the shock of losing my parents in a car accident, I chose Romans 8:28 as my life verse. Over the years, when faced with adverse events, I have returned to claim that verse and placed my faith in the God who, ***IN*** all things, works for the good of those who love him.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it fear and isolation, along with great economic hardship as governments have attempted to protect citizens from widespread infection. As we all know, universities and colleges were mandated to be closed in mid-March and the majority of students were safely sheltering in their homes by the end of that month. Prairie quickly launched online classes to ensure students would complete their academic courses, and reimbursed room and board fees for the remaining portion of the year. Based on the few complaints that we received, it would appear that our response was appropriate and adequate.

We then went into a two-pronged strategy:

- Defense – cut costs to make sure we were still around to turn on the lights and resume classes in the fall, and,
- Offense – invest in classrooms that would allow us to deliver classes online, if the prohibition of in-person classes continued into the new school year.

It is easy to see that God has been working for the good of the college through this year and the pandemic...

I. Financial Results

In the following reports, you will hear that our revenue dropped from \$10.2 million to \$8.8 million for the fiscal year ended June 30. The majority of the decline came in the quarter ended June 30, 2020. The combination of quick and effective cost-management by everyone on the team, strong donor support, and the Federal government's Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy enabled us to end the year with a small loss of \$20,000. We have much for which to be grateful.

Our budget for the upcoming year is a break-even budget, built on revenue that is flat compared with the past year, and includes compensation increases and improved classroom efficiencies. This reflects the diligent work of every person on the team...each of us are looking for ways to improve the school's effectiveness and efficiency. I am grateful for the work of every person on our team.

II. Enrollment

We are relieved to have steady enrollment on campus this year. 90% of the students are attending in person, and 10% are online students, taking advantage of

the HyFlex technology that we installed this summer. The strength of our HyFlex technology is that students can join classes interactively from anywhere in the world, or can join from their dorm rooms when, midway through a class, they get some symptom that could be COVID, and have to go into quarantine. In addition, all classes are now being recorded and saved in a databank, and have the potential to supplement our online courses with classroom content.

In addition to our on-campus enrollment, our Online Education enrollment has climbed 30% this year. Our Prison Encounter enrollment has doubled in the past year and will likely do that again in the coming year as Gord Allert helps take us from three penitentiaries (Bowden, Drumheller, and Edmonton Max) to five penitentiaries (adding Edmonton Women's and Grande Cache). Our missional determination is that our answer is "Yes, absolutely, and thanks," whenever we have an opportunity to offer our courses in a penitentiary. Again, we have much for which to be grateful.

III. Scope Expansion

Over the past year, we have been on the radar of Alberta Advanced Education. Conversations have moved from their initial proposal to restrict our degree offerings, to recent conversations that contemplate a significant expansion of our degree offerings. This will be a part of our Board discussion on the 22nd.

IV. Strategic Partnerships

Partnerships are critical to the future of the college, because they improve the quality of our education and improve the opportunities for our students as they graduate and move into their professional careers. It is our objective to train people to meet the greatest needs of the world. We hope to do this so well that each student as they finish their program will receive two job offers. As mentioned in the Education report, Dennis Landon has developed a model to help us achieve this goal.

Discussions with Briercrest continue to move forward slowly. To get started, we hope to begin sharing faculty, registrars, and librarians over the next year. This will be a part of our Board discussion on the 22nd.

We continue to aim to be a great partner with our strategic partners and we continue to seek new partnerships. We recently received a request to explore a partnership in aviation training with a university in Mongolia that sounds like it could have potential for training their students in Three Hills. This will be a part of our Board discussion on the 22nd.

V. Campus Projects

a. Kirk Chapel – October 20, 2020

The renaming of the North Auditorium to Kirk Chapel is scheduled to take

place during Community Chapel at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Each of you are invited to join us as we recognize the Kirk clan and thank them for their many investments in the college. The renovation of the chapel will be high on our list of priorities over the next year or two.

- b. Clean-up: Tear-downs, sidewalks & parking lots
We continue to work on these projects. Obviously we sank our time and budget into the HyFlex classrooms this summer, so we hope to get back to chipping away at this list in the next year.
- c. Residence
The residence is in need of a new boiler system as well as renovations throughout the building. The bottleneck is funding, but as money becomes available, we look forward to giving it both a facelift as well as some structural improvements.
- d. PATC Expansion
The aviation program is stretching the capacity of the building, both in terms of classroom space as well as hangar space. As mentioned in the PATC report, it is our hope to double the PATC campus' size and add needed classroom and office space, as soon as funding is available.

We are looking forward to connecting with you in a couple of weeks, and are grateful for your time, advice, and support. Thank you.

With gratitude to the God who works in the midst of life's many challenges, we all wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving season.

Mark

Mark L. Maxwell
President