

# COAST HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

## 2018/2019

### LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY REPORTS



Coast Hills Church is a Jesus centred community,  
creating gracious space through acts of generous love

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# LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Another year has passed for our community at Coast Hills! Once again we have seen our community shaped by this practice of being Jesus centred, creating gracious space, and loving generously.

What a blessing to finally have our Ministry Center complete; with more than double the space we had before, plus multiple meeting rooms, a beautiful kitchen, a board room, a stage, storage space, and a multi-purpose room. Speaking of kitchen, the food made for Youth Alpha by Herta Janzen, Christine Hildebrandt, Chantal Hilton, and Tina Dunbar has become a bit of a legend.

The Leadership Team would like to thank the staff and the many volunteers who jumped in to help make Ajay's transition so smooth. In particular, thank you to Tony Ekkert, Lucas Strom, Joy Fast, Harold Ekkert, Marissa Davidson, and Tom and Jamie Janovsky, who tirelessly served our youth; the Listening Committee: Erin Julihn and Harold Ekkert, and to the Interim Worship Lead Team: Trev Conkey, Jesse Geddert, Simon Janovsky, Kim St Pierre, and Jay Iseli! This was an incredible gift to our community.

Our staff is always amazing, serving our community in so many visible and invisible ways! Thank you Dani, Tracy, Kevin, and most recently Julia! We look forward to another year ahead of practicing, serving, learning, and creating space as we pursue what it looks like to follow Jesus together.

## Leadership Team

Corey Julihn (Chair), has completed the second year of his first term with one year remaining. Debbie Schmidt (Treasurer) has completed the first year of her second term, and is currently on sabbatical due to health reasons. Harold Ekkert has completed his first term, and will continue on with a second term. Sheryl Reimer-Kirkham (Secretary) has completed her first term and will be transitioning off LT. We are so grateful for Sheryl's thoughtful and prayerful contributions to our team! Kevin Snyder as our Lead Pastor does not have a term.

Submitted by Corey Julihn (on behalf of LT)

# CHILDRENS MINISTRY REPORT

Kidz Life is as dynamic, eclectic, diverse, and beautiful as the individuals who participate in it. We actively embrace our mission of being a “Jesus centred community, creating gracious space, through acts of generous love”. We recognize that our mission is more than just words. And we do this with an investment in our vision of “Helping people discover and follow Jesus”.

Being Jesus centred is the foundation of what we do in Kidz Life.

We will be completing our first full calendar year in partnership with the Meeting House curriculum. The Meeting House Preschool and Kids Curriculum embraces that “kids are active and creative; growing and bursting with ideas. Jesus taught that the kingdom of God belongs to them. Kids learn how each story in scripture connects to God’s big story, and ultimately points to Jesus”. It has been a year of success and growth and Kidz Life plans to confidently move into our second year of curriculum with Meeting House Kids.

In Kidz Life, a “normal” Sunday is built around a weekly lesson that is structured with a God Story, a Big Idea, and a Key Verse. Each lesson comes with a Conversation Starter, Intro Activity, Small Group Activity, Craft, Key Verse Activity, and Prayer Activity.

Each class also has an Incentive Program for the curriculum year. The Incentive Program is unique to the class and based on a point system that works towards tiered rewards. Depending on the age and the dynamic of the class, points are earned for actions including looking up a memory verse in the Bible, actively participating in the Key Verse Activity, bringing your Bible with you to class, using kind words and actions (raising your hand, taking turns, etc). The class collaborates to determine the reward tiers at the beginning of the year and either achieves the rewards at set intervals throughout the year or accumulates points through to May. The incentive rewards are experience based, fun, and centred on building community with peers. All classes have seen great success in this program this year.

We know that God is there when his Word is read, preached, loved and obeyed. The Lord says, “I am watching over my word to perform it.” (Jeremiah 1:12) When the Bible speaks, God is with us.

When God crosses our “normal” Sunday with a child’s “normal” Sunday, the result can be extraordinary. Where God gets involved, we have anything but “normal”.



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Living out our mission also extends beyond the classroom. There are opportunities to expand lessons at home with Meeting House weekly resources available on their blog. We also continue to learn and grow in full congregation church family services. We also shared acts of love at our first Kidz Life Angels Event, including card making for our neighbours; cookie decorating for hospitality on Sunday; tag making with messages of hope, joy, peace and love that was shared with all at our Christmas Eve service; and donations of food, toys, money, and service as we partnered with the Cloverdale Christmas Hamper. We continue to love like Jesus in our mission of supporting our sponsor child Moses in Kibaale, Uganda, and in acts of service on Sunday and at community events.

Our goal this year is to continue to grow in all of these areas and to also move towards developing and hosting Ministry Centre Kidz Life workshops and events. In the months ahead we will be working on Kidz Life Parent Info Nights, Parent/Family Simulcast Events, and fun Kidz Life events like Pajama Movie Night.

As we reflect on the past year and look toward the year ahead, we are significantly invested in how Kidz Life strives to create gracious space. It is the people involved that are integral in making our mission so much more than words.

The kids belong to the kingdom of God. The leaders are shepherds that pray, teach, love, and lead them on their discovery of Jesus. Together it is a symbiotic relationship tethered with a desire to partner with families to disciple this extraordinary group of kids.

For those who serve in Kidz Life (past, present, and future) be encouraged.

Children's ministry is unique in the life of the church. It is simultaneously one of the most challenging and rewarding ministries. There are few ministries in the life of a church that can leave you exhausted and refreshed quite like working with kids....Leaders in children's ministry are caretakers, teachers, playmates, mediators, and role models. These roles produce tired bodies and full souls. Ministering to kids is exhausting. Yet, there is nothing so satisfying as seeing kids learn deep biblical truths for the first time, begin to trust Jesus, and grow in relationship with him.

# CHILDRENS MINISTRY REPORT

For those who are considering serving in Kidz Life, know that there are many reasons to be involved:

Reaching children is a top priority for our church.

Children are important to God. While Jesus was on earth, he made a point to welcome children and to affirm their value.

Serving in Children's ministry multiplies your efforts long term. This ministry allows us to impact the future in a direct way. When you love and teach kids on a Sunday, you are also influencing generations to come.

Serving kids will make you a more patient person. Where else can you gain this excellent fruit of the Spirit in as little as one hour each week?

In Kidz Life, the number one qualification is love. If you love God and his children, then there are many different ways for you to help.

As we look again to the year ahead, we do it with love and anticipation for what God has planned for the kids who fill our classes, including their families, and all of us called to love and lead them.

It is our prayer that leaders find deep satisfaction in our sometimes difficult and thankless work. We pray we find satisfaction in presenting the gospel to kids. We pray we find fulfillment in teaching small kids big truths to blow their minds and ground their feet. In a culture that is constantly shifting, we pray we resolve to continue teach children the immovable truth of the gospel and the person of Jesus, even if we don't see any results in our time with them.

Credit to Meeting House Kids & Ministry-To-Children

# YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

It has been nothing short of a privilege to step into the role of the Youth Director for Coast Hills and be able to witness and engage with our students on a weekly basis. It's a beautiful scene to see so many different personalities, ages, and faith walks all coming together for a common purpose: to growing in knowing God, knowing ourselves, knowing each other. As 7pm on a Thursday hits you'll see our youth opening the front doors to the ministry center and come running in - it's truly an amazing picture!

## Youth Alpha

I began my role during the middle of our Alpha series where our students were discussing some big questions of Christianity: Does God Heal Today? Why does Evil exist? How do I share my faith?

Man, such good questions! It is incredibly important for youth to have a safe space to be able to ask these big questions. To create an environment which welcomes curiosity about who God is, who He has declared them to be, and how He is calling them to love those around them. My desire is for youth to be able to take ownership of their faith, creating a personal relationship with Christ as they engage meaningfully with Him through a lifestyle of worship while also intentionally engaging with each other. Upon some review of this series many youth have shared a strong desire to continue with Youth Alpha next year. They loved having the opportunity to get to know one another through some practical questions that this series offers as well as some deeper discussion questions. Thank you so much to our cooks who prepared, cooked, served, and cleaned up a delicious dinner each week for our youth during this series: Chantal Hilton, Christine Hildebrandt, Herta Janzen, and Tina Dunbar! Seriously, Mennonite women CAN cook!

Here's a question for you...

Who is someone in your life that you have looked up to? When you think about someone who has influenced you spiritually, who do you think of? What about them encouraged you in your own walk with Christ?

OK.. that was more than one question.

But here's the thing, for our youth these people are our incredible team of youth leaders. These are women and men of God who have committed to investing into our students and discipling them in their walks with Christ. Recently during our leader's meeting we

# YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

were working through a passage together and were able to hear from one another how God was speaking to us through this passage in Acts, bringing to light different perspectives and ideas as to what Luke was describing. Before we were to teach our youth, we must first be learners ... and how powerful is it to learn from one another? I'm so grateful to have a team who are first and foremost disciples of Christ before they are disciplers. A huge thank you to Tony Ekkert, Lucas Strom, Tom and Jamie Janovsky, Harold Ekkert, Joy Fast and Marissa Davidson for saying "yes!" for being willing to let God work in and through you as He is calling our youth towards Him.

## Looking Ahead

### Summer Fun Dayz

During our Summer Fun Dayz throughout July and August we will be equipping our youth (grades 6-12) on what it means to be a servant leader, looking to the leaders of the Bible and applying practical lessons for our Summer Fun Dayz. Training will happen the Tuesday before every Summer Fun Dayz from 12:30-2:00. Watch the website for info!

### Youth Intern

This is incredibly exciting news to share! Coast Hills has been gifted a grant to hire a youth intern for the summer. Responsibilities will include investing into our youth on a one on one level, teaching and training our LIT, preparing a lesson and teaching our 68 youth on Sunday mornings. Please join us in praying for our intern!

### Drop in Hours

Our Ministry Center is such a blessing and we want to ensure it is used to it's full potential. During the summer on Tuesdays from 2:00-4:30 and during the school year we will be opening our rec room up for youth to come hangout and bring their friends!

Many blessings,  
Julia McDougall



# WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY REPORT

## A Rebellious Community

As we gather on Sunday mornings, it is evident how Coast Hills is a Jesus-centered community creating gracious space through acts of generous love. I have never before seen a community live out their mission statement so strongly as Coast Hills does. As I have begun my role as the Worship Director I have marveled at the reality that Coast Hills Church is committed to supporting and serving one another. It is a place where you are known. I dare say that in our culture which glorifies individualism, Coast Hills is a Rebellious Community. Let me share with you the rebellious acts I have witnessed thus far at Coast Hills:

### Within our Community:

Leading others in corporate worship is a passion of mine that grew tremendously as I studied Worship Arts at Columbia Bible College. Here I discovered my passion of walking alongside of people as they engage with God through various forms of worship elements and walk with them as they live their lives as disciples of Christ. It was with this zeal that I applied for the position of Director of Ministries: Youth and Worship. When I began my position at the end of March Coast Hills had been without a Worship Director for a couple of months. Within this great need I witnessed almost every person at Coast Hills serving in some capacity - wow! Whether it be elements that went into the Sunday morning services (set up and take down, music and prayer, hospitality, preaching), life groups who truly lived life together, or youth leaders and youth investing into each other and our community, Coast Hills looked at the "other," serving joyfully and together. In a culture of consumerism, Coast Hills is a Rebellious Community.

### Within our Sunday Services:

Go to any contemporary church and you'll often be able to predict the typical form of service that will take place: Two minute countdown - lights go down, volume goes up. Four song worship set, video announcements, offering. Three point sermon. Response Song.

Sound familiar?

# WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY REPORT

During my interview with Coast Hills the panel shared how every Sunday has the potential to look different than the one before - this Rebellious Community captivated me. Where I have witnessed it so strongly has been in our approach to Accessible Sunday.

On the first Sunday of every month Coast Hills hosts Accessible Sunday, a service curated for those with sensory difficulties and who may not be able to engage well in a typical Sunday morning service. It rooted out of our Listening Committee Report created in January in which our congregation expressed the need to create a gracious space for those who have sensory needs. It has been incredibly meaningful to witness the willingness of the congregation to serve our fellow brothers and sisters, eager to welcome change if it means that Coast Hills will be an accessible environment where all are welcome. During our past Accessible Sunday our sound technician worked hard at creating levels in which we could still hear the music clearly while also reducing the amplification and frequency in order to better serve those with audible sensitivities. At one point as I led I had one of my ear buds out. It was the most beautiful thing to discover that I could barely hear myself through the speakers but I could so clearly hear the congregation singing together. How often do you really take time to hear your brothers and sisters joining in with one voice? It's a powerful awareness my friends. We as a staff are still learning how to do Accessible Sunday well and are very much wanting to hear and learn from you. We also recognize that to create a space that is accessible to all there will be greater needs that will arise, especially within our Children's Ministry. Thank you for being willing to do Accessible Sunday together. Thank you for living out mission statement. In a culture which finds comfort in going through the motions and playing it safe, Coast Hills is a Rebellious Community.

Within our Language:

I was recently talking with a fellow worship pastor from Victoria, BC about the topic of theology in worship music, a topic we are both equally passionate about that stems out of a desire to lead our congregation well. This topic arises out of the understanding of how we live in a very individualistic culture which has been reflected in many of the worship songs we sing together. We spoke on how our language has been changed from "we" to "me," singing more about myself and my own actions than God and the work that He has done, is doing, and has yet to do. The environment which we worship in will often aid towards this as well, turning off the lights so that "others" are not a distraction for you in your worship. Yikes!

# WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY REPORT

As the Worship Director at Coast Hills my desire is for us to be aware of the community around us and the God within us as we gather for corporate worship. Already the Holy Spirit is working in other worship leaders here at Coast Hills, calling them to lead songs of reverence as we center on Him. As we move into the Summer and Fall there will be a song selection committee formed made up of leaders and influencers at Coast Hills dedicated to discerning the songs used on Sunday mornings. Some beginning questions will be: Who in this song is being glorified? Does this song include a name or title of God? Is the language used helping me be aware of my community or does it zone in on myself? If someone with no religious background came into our church, what would they learn from the songs we sing? Would they know who we're singing about?

Don't get me wrong, there are some powerful Christian songs that have ministered to me deeply and I would still encourage others to use for personal devotion, but together as a congregation and worship leaders our worship ministry will be moving into the direction and focus of God and each other as we respond through song in corporate worship. I'm looking forward to speaking this language together! In a culture which emphasizes "me" over "we," Coast Hills is a Rebellious Community.

Let's be Rebels Together.

Julia McDougall

# LEAD PASTOR REPORT

The end of May is an interesting time. According to the seasonal cycle, it is a time of new beginnings, warmer weather, planting seeds, planning vacations, and spending more time outdoors.

In the life of our church it signifies the end of one fiscal year and the beginning of another. It was in May of 2016 when I was installed as the Lead Pastor at Coast Hills. For me then, May also brings with it a contemplative time of looking back as well as looking forward. Would you join me on a walk down memory lane as a church for a moment?

Our church's vision statement is... "We are a Jesus-centered community creating gracious space through acts of generous love." This statement came out of a breakfast meeting we had two and half years ago with leaders and influencers. I remember inviting Life Group leaders, Kidz Ministry volunteers, Sunday morning greeters, Youth leaders, bakers, money counters, and many others to that meeting to help to set the course direction for the future of our church. In fact, I remembering inviting someone to this meeting, and their response was, "I am not a leader or an influencer. Are you sure that you want me there?" Yes, I was sure I wanted them there! You see, we are called to be the priesthood of all believers, and 2 Peter 2:9 reminds us of this: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." In this past month, as I have been looking forward to our AGM, I have often thought of that meeting and the cross-section of people who were a part of it. It was out of that meeting that the Leadership Team refined our vision statement. I am encouraged that this is the vision I am responsible to hold before us as a congregation. This is not something that I came up with myself, but rather, it came from within our community, and I hold it out before us.

We are so grateful that we were able to move into our new ministry centre last fall! This has been a huge blessing for our staff, youth, and wider community. It is because of the shared vision and generosity of our community that we are now able to have a home base from which to work and to host. There have been so many people who have helped in many different ways to make this dream a reality. I might add that it was during this last year that Tim and Chantal Hilton donated their half of the ministry centre to the church, so that we now share this property all together! I am reminded of Acts 2:44, just after the Holy Spirit was given to the believers, and the believers

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inspired to give to one another - "And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had." This was a sign that the Holy Spirit was with them! So, thank you to everyone who has contributed in the ways that they have been able to - what a beautiful picture of the kingdom! I am looking forward to what God will be doing in and through the ministry centre as we continue to be faithful to live out our shared vision.

During this year we also experienced a staffing change. What an absolute pleasure it was to have Ajay and Carlee Klassen as a part of our community for those two and half years. Ajay brought stability, leadership, joy and structure to our community in the areas of worship arts ministry and youth ministry. I want to personally thank the Leadership Team for the ways that we were able to lead this transition time, with grace, transparency and wisdom. What a gift to be able to host a send-off for Ajay and Carlee so that they could go back to the church they both grew up in! As we were getting ready to send them off, we were also working very hard to discern the next person to fill that position. I want to thank you as Coast Hills Church for engaging in patient prayer, as the listening committee did the hard work of engaging with the congregation to discern our needs as a church going forward. As a result, we were able to find a wonderful Director of Ministries: Youth and Worship, in Julia McDougall! In the near future, I look forward to telling you the longer story of how God lead Julia to us, but for now, I can say that we are so thankful for Julia! Julia is a wonderful leader with a keen sensitivity to the Spirit and the ability to draw out gifts and abilities in people. She loves others deeply and with much joy. I am so thankful to be a part of such a great community that was able to walk through this major transition so well together.

I have had many conversations with people who have said that Coast Hills has been a place for them to re-engage in church again after giving up on church, or to get to know church for the first time. This is a direct result of us as a Jesus- centered community providing gracious space for people. In the last few months, our Listening Committee heard that we have many people in our community with sensory needs, and so in order to provide gracious space, we have an Accessible Sunday on the first of the month. We have been wonderfully surprised to see some people who have heard that we have this service, and they have started attending Coast Hills now. One person



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said, "I find most churches too loud. I haven't been able to be in church for a very long time. Thank-you for doing this!" This is the same Sunday that we also celebrate communion. This is very intentional, as we want to include those who feel on the outside, so that they know that they are welcome, and that we are all a part of the body of Christ. What a beautiful picture of God's kingdom!

Looking ahead, I will continue to hold out the vision of this church so that we may grow more richly as a Jesus-centred community that creates gracious space through acts of generous love. My prayer is that we will understand more fully who Jesus is, and how that impacts us, both within us, and also as we move outwards. We gather around a person, Jesus Christ, who is our Lord, savior and the leader of our lives. It is because Jesus is shaping us that we will impact our families, friends, and communities with the same grace and love that we ourselves have received, as we create gracious space through acts of generous love.

Grateful to be your pastor,  
Kevin Snyder