

MINISTRY DIRECTORS REPORT

Ryan Jantzi, Ministry Director

Following the crisis and return to stability throughout 2022-2024, it appears that in 2025 God opened the door wide for ONMB growth and development. I believe this is a blessing and responsibility from God in direct response to the path of faithfulness and hope that we forged in these recent years. In his 2024 report, Trevor Seath wrote,

“Please let me be a bit blunt as I end: sacrificial unity is the only path into all that God can do with a family of churches like ours.”



As I see the opportunities God is placing on our doorstep, this urgent plea feels even more striking a year later. May the Good News of Jesus go forward!

As Trevor and I worked at how our roles integrate throughout 2025, we've continued to identify that he engages primarily with our churches and ministries on a strategy and implementation level, while I engage primarily on a relational level. Of course, there is significant overlap and it's not always clear, but there is great strength in the unique partnership God has led us into. Being a part of a staff team with Kristi and Trevor is an honour and a lot of fun!

Faith & Life

See the Provincial Faith and Life Team report for a summary of activities, including reports on four new Associate Churches and one new member church to be affirmed by the ONMB membership.

Supporting Churches

Offering coaching via Facilitated Conversations to churches seeking God's direction for future mission, vision, values and strategy has been an area of joy for me in 2025. I've had the pleasure of leading both St. Ann's Community Church (in pastoral transition) and Christian Fellowship Chapel (with solid leadership under Pastor Michael Thompson) in this way. I facilitate four congregational conversations where we discuss and pray into who the church has been, who they are now and where God is leading them in the future. At the close, Trevor and I provide a set of recommendations for the church going forward. It's been exciting to see what the Holy Spirit reveals in these times.

Missional Expressions

We continue to explore and develop expressions of new disciple-making, church planting and revitalizations, with much prayer, coaching and discernment. Trevor Seath and I now share this area more fully. Thus, he highlights several Missional Expressions in his report while I point to others in mine.

Stratford Church Plant – Following years of decline, Elgin Missionary Church in Stratford sensed God calling them to close and partner with ONMB and Maple View Mennonite Church to start a new church in that location, launching in fall 2026. We are proceeding with the blessing of the previous denomination, The Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada. Rick Bruinsma will continue as the planting pastor. He and the new church will receive coaching and support via ONMB as they intend to join as an Associate Church in the coming year. Maple View has been invited to send people to this adjacent community to help start the new church.

Power Serve - This disciple-making initiative in the trucking industry, led by Darren Milley has transferred under the umbrella of Transport for Christ. This is an exciting development as they are better situated to resource and network Power Serve within the industry. We're grateful for the opportunity to help this ministry get up and running in the early years. Darren also now serves as a part-time pastor with a Baptist church in Kingston and has thus also transitioned out of our MB community of leaders.

Southeast City Church – as this church is recommended to become a full member church with ONMB, they officially leave 'Missional Expression' status. Praise God for the growth and fruitfulness of this church, planted via partnership between C2C Collective and ONMB.

New Opportunities - We are journeying with one person intentionally discerning a call to church planting in their region. Additionally, an ONMB church has committed with their members to begin intentional discernment of planting a new church in their region. In 2026 I am hosting a Church Planting Exploration Tour to Ottawa, for aspiring planters to meet and learn from 6 church planters within or friends of ONMB. Do you know anyone who might be a good fit for this?

Leadership Development

Ministry Toolbox is a new offering developed in 2025, offering 2-3 online opportunities to develop practical ministry skills per year. We ran the following online cohorts: Online Prayer Training (Winter); Art of Preaching Course (Spring); Board Governance (Fall/Winter). A cohort of pastors and lay people then meet via zoom to discuss teaching content and pray together. Our Spring 2026 offering will be Eldership & The Mission of God. We love having lay leaders join and are open to content suggestions.

Teaching Church is a model that MB Seminary has developed to provide seminary training for students and workshop training for anyone, in person. We're grateful that they've shifted their model to invest directly in us here 'on the ground' in Ontario. Three courses have been completed with 'Missional Discipleship' and 'MB Convictions - Engaging in Community' in 2025. For this offering to be sustainable long-term, we need our churches to increase engagement, participating in the development, rather than waiting until it is convenient. Does your church have people who would be interested in seminary studies, or participating in these workshops? Please encourage and point them in this direction! Our next offering is 'Caring as God's People' with Dr. Gloria Woodland, April 24-25 at WMB.

Camp Crossroads - In 2025 I served as a teacher for Family Snow Camp, The Crossroads Discipleship Program, and Summer Family Camp. The ministry of our camp among ONMB is a significant asset. I'm consistently impressed with the quality of staff who are filled with the Holy Spirit, modelling this to our kids and youth. I highly recommend that you discern how your church might step more fully into the discipleship opportunities for kids and youth at Camp Crossroads.

There are many other initiatives I've had the blessing to participate with, which you will have read in Trevor's Executive Director report. Perhaps my greatest joy as a Ministry Director with ONMB is the opportunity to connect, encouraging, resourcing, networking and praying with so many great leaders. God has blessed ONMB with many top-notch pastors, staff and lay leaders who love God, love others and serve sacrificially to lead people to Jesus. Praise God for this!

In conclusion, I repeat the appeal at the onset of this report. ONMB is richly blessed by God. I see that clearly. He's given us great people, great churches, great faith, great resources and most of all the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Why are we blessed? To participate in God's mission of blessing all people through the redeeming work of Jesus. Will we devote this family of churches to the sacrifice and unity for mission that God is inviting us toward? He is opening the door. In 2026, may we join hands to step through with his guidance.

Submitted with love and hope,
Ryan Jantzi,
ONMB Ministry Director

