



The Report of the District Executive Committee (DEXCOM)

Rev. Scott Dixon

1 Peter 5:1-4

¹To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ²Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

The DEXCOM has been described as the Elder's Board for the District family. A seat at that 13-member table carries significant responsibility and privilege. We are aware of the challenging Biblical passages that flesh out what an elder is to be and to do. Peter lays down the rich word picture of the shepherding individual that cultivates the servant mindset while acknowledging Jesus as the Chief Shepherd. We have been exploring ways to invite His functional leadership over our team. To listen to Him and move humbly towards His voice. Wow! He has delivered! Here are some of the things DEXCOM does and practical illustrations of Jesus leading the way.

DEXCOM meets in person every 6 months (via Zoom since Spring 2020) from a Monday evening through early Wednesday afternoon. In addition, we conduct small scale meetings via email and Zoom. On several of those occasions, and primarily through the voice of our leader Brent Trask, we consider our four-point calling as a DEXCOM.



1. Be clear about the big picture from the 10,000-foot level

In an **overview** way we ask, Jesus what would You have us be about? What is going on in our world, how are people doing life and how does this translate into our churches and their reach into the community?

DEXCOM has grappled with and engaged in discussions, Q & A, and debate about our National Vision Prayer, Mission Statement, COVID-19 Response, and our District Big 3 (Disciple-making – a disciple who makes disciples; Spirit-empowered – seek renewal; Mission – reach the least reached).

Significant effort also went into the **big picture** crafting and implementation of the Issachar Project recommendations. The District staff did most of the leg work, but then they laid out proposals with an openness to significant input and change by the DEXCOM. In the initial stages of looking at how the District Staff teams would play out, the DEXCOM gave affirmation to the reallocation of resources to facilitate the Operational Team setup and the Innovation Team setup. After more listening prayer we pushed pause on the configuration of the Field Engagement team. Jesus gave us a sense of too many changes in a compressed timeline. Later as Brent brought Clint Mix on staff, Clint did extensive research and a listening tour of the District. He then offered a variety of possible scenarios for Field Engagement. We spent hours asking questions, providing suggestions, push back, and changes.

DEXCOM commends the District staff for their flexibility, humbleness, and focused commitment to implementing what we believe Jesus would have us do with the broad view of this new venture.

2. Ensure our people are led to experience the Mission and Vision

Brent wisely challenged us to personally experience the big three vision. This posture has assisted us in being more effective asking about the WHY and the WHAT. We are careful to leave in the hands of our District Superintendent the HOW (implementation) and, under his direction, the operations of the staff.



2021 District Conference

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3. Give attention to the spiritual vitality and overall health of the whole Western Canadian District (WCD) flock (Acts 20:28-31)

With the wide-ranging perspective DEXCOM brings we are charged with shepherding the health of the WCD family. To watch the flock, to hear reports, to check in, to use our networks, and to take the pulse.

One of the things we continue to hear is how challenging the COVID-19 experience has been. Many positive opportunities have been exercised for which we are thankful to God. We see the implementation of the Issachar recommendations evolving which we continue to affirm. However, COVID-19 related fatigue, stress, and conflict have been a growing reality in the church world. In Spring 2020, a sober financial appraisal had us budgeting a considerable deficit of over \$500,000 in 2020/2021. Like our churches, DEXCOM was faced with the possibility of a financial crunch while weighing an increased call for member support. Several District Staff had retired or left so we were short in terms of full-time equivalent hours (FTE) in the spring of 2020. What to do? DEXCOM prayerfully considered this and strongly (prophetically) believed that God would provide.

In faith we authorized the hiring of another Field Engagement Team Director for the Edmonton and north region. Brent was then able to round out his Directorship Team by hiring Graham English (February 2021). We believed this would encourage enhanced member care and Issachar implementation, both directly from the Field staff but also through the development of peer hubs, skilled specialists (lay and clergy), and other resources. Now 14 months after the deficit budget was approved, because of the continued generous giving by God's people, careful stewardship by our District Staff, and the opportunity to benefit from some government grants, God has provided. Our District Treasurer informs us that we are no longer forecasting a significant deficit and may even finish this year with a slight budget surplus. Praise Jesus.

DEXCOM was privileged to officially commission and pray for our 4 directors: Doug Balzer - Director of Innovation, Sheri McKenzie – Director of Operations, Clint Mix – Director of Field Engagement South and Graham English – Director of Field Engagement North.



2021 District Conference

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The Alliance Canada

4. Be stewards of our District Superintendent (DS) as a resource for the church

DEXCOM is charged with resourcing and working towards the well-rounded health of Brent. To pray, support, encourage, challenge, and give counsel to our DS. How is this done?

At our twice yearly in-person/zoom meetings we do in-camera with Brent. He gives a candid survey personally (spiritually, emotionally, physically) and on the state of the District noting elements DEXCOM should be apprised of. There is time for Q & A with Brent, and then he leaves the room and DEXCOM has an open discussion. The Vice-Chair is tasked with gathering the comments and presenting them privately to Brent. Often, DEXCOM comments on how blessed we are to have our leader. A godly man, with apostolic gifting, a heart for the church, for believers, and for those not yet part of the family. At the end we lay hands on Brent praying for him, his family, and his ministry.

DEXCOM was pleased to grant Brent a sabbatical in the opening months of 2020 (standard practice for DS's who are entering their third and final term). At DEXCOM's request, Brent graciously put his sabbatical on hold and returned early to assist our WCD staff in responding to the COVID-19 situation and in supporting our leaders and churches. He has been asked to make up that sabbatical time later.

Finally, in January 2021 DEXCOM commissioned a 360° review of Brent as he moves into the last two years of his final term.

Financial Matters

DEXCOM receives and reviews regular financial updates, reports, budget recommendations, and forecasts. Most of the resource management is done by our District Treasurer (Joanne Janzen), Director of Operations (Sheri McKenzie), Finance Manager (Luisa Castiblanco), Accounting and Benefits Administrator (Zona Wilson), and our volunteer finance committee. The financial statements are then reviewed by a DEXCOM appointed external accounting firm and finally presented to District Conference itself.



2021 District Conference

The Western Canadian District
The Alliance Canada

Properties, Facilities, and Administrative Matters

DEXCOM considers capital projects for new facilities or redevelopment of existing ones, land purchases/sales, leasing, and rezoning. There is consultation, scrutiny of a decision profile, approval, and in some cases loans to facilitate these ventures. Frequently DEXCOM is asked to contemplate these projects using group email discussion. Then we move to an anonymous (managed by a singular administrator) voting platform for a final determination. Volunteer staff member Steven John (Property Development Consultant) has been an invaluable resource to our churches in this regard. A complete list of approved projects has been provided in the Operations-Asset Management section of the DS Report to District Conference.

Several churches have been working with Lawrence Stalder (Bylaws/Governance Consultant) to implement Bylaw changes for their local church expression. These changes are signed off on by the District Superintendent and then by DEXCOM.

Appreciation

Operating behind the scenes in a crucial role known fully only to God is our intercessors team. A group of people committed to pray for our District and its leadership. Thank you for your power-filled support.

District Conference typically brings change, and this time round is no exception. There are 5 of the 13 members finishing their serve on DEXCOM. With a full heart we say thank you to those concluding Joanne Janzen (District Treasurer), Henry Tseung, Cynthia Baum, Johnson Charles, and Byron Allen. We appreciate their service and will miss their valuable input.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of DEXCOM,

Rev. Scott Dixon
Vice-Chair