## Living Out Faith Courageously

Annual Report 2025





### Message from the Executive Director

Nearly 1 in 5 youth in Canada, aged 15 years and older, meet diagnostic criteria for a mood, anxiety, or substance use disorder.<sup>1</sup> As both a parent and a leader of a student ministry, this statistic is concerning.

**But they are not alone.** In fact, Scripture reminds us that we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). Our predecessors, who faced their own seemingly insurmountable struggles and hardship, persevered to leave us a legacy of courageous faith. Now it's our turn to carry it forward.

But we don't do it alone. Because courageous faith isn't lived out in isolation; it is nurtured in community. Ambassadors for Christ in Canada (AFC) and our forebearers are part of the cloud of witnesses that is cheering on this next generation. We spur them on to fix their eyes upon Jesus so they too, can "run the race marked out" with courage and perseverance.

"As Jesus followers, we're called to live beyond ourselves. To make decisions (big and small) that honour God, even when no one sees."

As Jesus followers, we're called to live beyond ourselves. To make decisions (big and small) that honour God, even when no one sees. Jesus' way of life is counter-cultural and thus, takes great courage to live out. This is the prayer and passion of our staff, volunteers, and students.



AFC is unique in Canada's student ministry landscape. We are an intergenerational ministry that is contextualized to our Chinese ethnicity and cultural community. This position is intentional. We believe that students who fully embrace their identity in Christ (including their ethnicity) can partner more effectively with God in His redemptive mission.

Our predecessors stood courageously in this calling and we carry the baton forward likewise.

Standing with you in courageous faith,



Darren Lung
Executive Director

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2023001/article/00011-eng.htm



# A New Look for an Enduring Mission

## A year ago, AFC embarked on a journey to refresh its brand and communications.

Rebranding usually brings to mind an aesthetic change—new logo, new colours. While that is part of the exercise, the impetus for AFC was a desire for clearer articulation of the organization's purpose, a more cohesive visual presence, and messaging that communicated the future of the ministry.

## We're excited to share with you our new look!

After 50+ years of ministry, this new brand identity celebrates our past while launching us into what God has next for AFC.

The 'Upward Arrow' concept represents the student ministry space, where youth are encouraged to pursue Christ (vertical direction), in the context of community (horizontal direction).

The layers on the arrow represent the legacy of the past 50 years, how courage has been built upon courage, and the intergenerational nature of our ministry. The lines are in the style of a traditional Chinese stamp, paying

homage to a previous AFC logo as well as our Chinese heritage. AFC has a rich legacy, and it is upon this that we stand, poised to continue on in our mission.

**Our name and the mission remain the same.** In fact, we are only more sure of who we are than ever before. The rebranding process has led AFC to reflect on God's faithfulness to date, seek Him with open hands, and ask ourselves hard questions.

We are committed in our calling to be a unifying presence in the student ministry space and Chinese church community; nurturing courageous faith in the next generation. We emerge from this season of introspection with so much more than a new logo and colours (though it does look pretty great, if we may say!). This exercise, in itself, has been one of courageous faith.

This new brand will be rolling out gradually in the coming months, so stay tuned. We hope you'll join us in celebrating this important milestone in the journey of AFC.



加拿大 基督使者協會

## 2025: Witnessing the Growth of Courageous Faith

AFC journeys with students throughout their most formative years, nurturing courageous faith in Jesus that embraces their Chinese identity and their surrounding community.

## Junior High Stepping In

The junior high season of life is the quirky crossover from 'kid' to 'teen'. It's the season of being too old but also too young, too cool and yet still not cool enough.

Our junior high ministry calls students to **step in** to owning their faith. A courageous faith means not hiding behind what one's family is doing, but making the move to discover it for themselves, asking questions and investing in community.

Through regular junior high gatherings like EXT78 and annual conferences like AFC Teens Conference, students are growing in courageous faith.

"Courage means for us to do what is right, even if we are not seen. God doesn't tell us to live a life of comfort but to face challenges with his help. 'Boldness' is better lived out together." - Ashley, grade 7

AFC's work in junior high ministry offers an early introduction into a personalized faith journey. It is also extending the intergenerational impact of AFC's ministry, giving more opportunity for continuity and discipleship over time.





# High School Stepping Up

The high school season of life is a complicated time of discovery and excitement but also confusion and perhaps even fear. The natural tendency can be to be overwhelmed by it all, and retreat inward.

AFC invites high school students to **step up** and live out their faith. At this stage of life, faith lived courageously means choosing to push through even when it's difficult.

#### **AFC Teens Conference (TC)**

AFC Teens Conference is a pivotal opportunity for teens to step up in their faith and use their talents and passions towards courageous faith. For the six months leading up to TC, high school volunteers are mentored, developed and coached to lead various aspects of the conference. They grow in skill and as leaders.

The TC2025 theme was **Be Bold** – a call to our youth to live and love like Jesus. Our

keynote speakers, workshop hosts, and conference exhibitors all contributed to this message, encouraging students to live their faith out loud, putting the love of Jesus on display for all to see.

"I experienced God's love for us on a deeper level and what true community feels like. Being courageous doesn't always look like heroic acts but can also be about being vulnerable with others."

- Joyce, TC volunteer student leader

TC continues to grow. In 2025, there were 738 attendees, a 15% increase from the previous year, and 55% more student volunteers than the year before.

AFC's work in high school ministry provides a training ground for the next generation of leaders. The seeds of leadership that are sown as students step up will bear fruit in post-secondary and beyond.



# **Post-Secondary** *Stepping Forward*

The post-secondary season of life is the last stage before they begin 'the rest of their lives'. While young people at this stage may have asked questions about their identity before, never have they sought the answer with greater urgency.

AFC calls post-secondary students to *step forward*. A faith lived courageously means recognizing that it's not all about you and instead, engaging actively with the people, places, and issues around you.



Students involved in Chinese Christian Fellowships (CCF) shared that this year, they sought to grow as Christ-like leaders by stepping out of their comfort zones. Students were "excited about helping others to explore and grow their faith," and they are seeing that "God is constantly working" through their fellowships.

### **Mission Trips**

Our partnership with OMF continues to provide post-secondary students an



extraordinary cross-cultural, short-term mission trip opportunity to witness God's work in a different context.

"I don't have to be afraid to walk into the unknown. God will always be there and will always be working, whether I see it or not. I just have to allow God to work and live in complete surrender." - Adrian, Queen's University student

#### Frosh ConneXion (FX)

Frosh ConneXion is an annual event connecting incoming first year students to the larger CCF community. This year, attendance grew by 36%, demonstrating the passion and hunger for relational connection especially in this season of transition.

As the final stage of the student journey, AFC's post-secondary ministry continues what we began in earlier stages, and launches students forward towards courageous faith.





## **AFC Staff Team**

#### **Internship Program**

Over the last 4 years, our staff team has grown tremendously in strength and numbers. We've given particular focus on developing our AFC Internships, a crucial pathway to developing Jesus-centred leaders for AFC and the broader Chinese church community. Four of our five 2024-2025 interns have continued with AFC on a long-term basis, and one went on to full-time seminary studies.



The leadership of AFC is committed to creating a flourishing organization where staff are not just 'workers', but grow in their faith, develop their skills, and truly flourish. We know that when our staff are cared for, invested in, and enjoy their work, that will bear good fruit.



"I feel the work I do has a positive impact on my community and is fulfilling."

- Clarence Pong, Digital Media Team



"AFC cares about rest and Sabbath, which helps me serve out of a place of listening and hearing God's voice. I enjoy building deep, spiritual relationships with those I serve."

- Jessie Yang, Post-Secondary Team



"I feel a burden on my heart to dedicate all my time and effort to the work of the Gospel. In light of eternity, I cannot imagine any more meaningful work than to bring people to God and to have them know Him."

- Nathan Au, 2025-2026 Intern

### **Executive Leadership Team**



**Darren Lung** *Executive Director* 



Jillian Chong

Director of People
and Culture



Letty Wong

Director of

Field Ministries



## AFC - Building Strength Through Partnership

The mission of AFC is too great for us to accomplish alone. We are meant to do this with others in the body of Christ, furthering our respective missions together.

## Asian American Centre (Fuller Seminary)

In collaboration with Fuller Seminary's Asian American Centre (AAC), AFC will be piloting the first ever Asian-Canadian Formation Group in November 2026. Choosing Jesus doesn't erase the other aspects of our being, it enhances them. In fact, we believe that we should be serving God with our whole being. Our partnership with the AAC is one step toward living out AFC's value of embracing the God-given aspects of our ethnic and cultural identity, for His glory.

#### A Rocha Canada

90% of Canadian Christian youth are worried about climate change and nature loss. Additionally, over 90% of young Christians believe that caring for creation is an essential aspect of discipleship and the church's mission.

AFC is partnering with A Rocha Canada for a 10 day missional learning experience in Vancouver in the summer of 2026. A Rocha Canada is a Christian organization that is dedicated to equipping the church to live out God's calling to care for creation. Taking a spiritual and scientific lens, this experience will be a unique opportunity for AFC staff and students to learn with heart, head, and hands.

#### **Staff Development and Learning**

Last year, we partnered with eight Christian academic institutions and organizations, including Wycliffe College, Tyndale University, Alpha, and Scripture Union Canada, to sharpen the theological thinking and leadership skills of our staff. We encourage and equip our staff to thoughtfully grapple and engage with the complex issues facing the Chinese Canadian church community today.







## Investing in the Next Generation: Partner With Us



Here are various ways your giving can support the mission of AFC.

## **Support A Staff Member** *Monthly Giving*

Every AFC staff member is a living embodiment of courageous faith. Each builds a Ministry Partnership team that supports them through prayers and finances, covering their salary and ministry costs. Would you consider supporting one of our staff on a monthly basis?

#### Staff Financial Aid Fund - \$50,000

Last year, as an organization, we were able to support our staff by subsidizing several of their individual staff accounts by over \$50,000. Doing so catalyzed their support raising efforts and enabled our staff to focus on their respective ministries.

#### Digital Media Ministry - \$40,000

As a student ministry, we need to communicate Gospel truth through channels, tools,

and messages that are relevant to our young audience. To date, due to limited resources and in-house expertise, we have taken an ad hoc approach to communications. But the urgency is upon us as we cannot let 'the world out there' be the only voice in the lives of the youth. We need an updated website, current technology and equipment, and the guidance of communications specialists to develop our young Digital Media team.

#### Staff Learning Fund - \$35,000

The ministry of AFC requires leaders who can thoughtfully grapple with the realities of our increasingly complex world. We have committed to developing them theologically, in their leadership skills, and in their intellectual capacity.

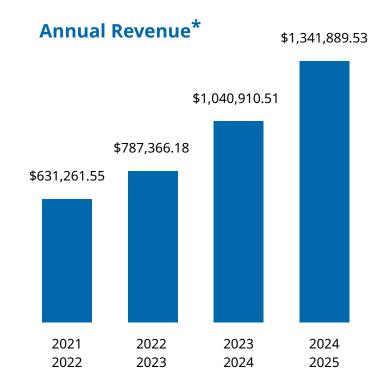
To support us in any of these ways, visit: www.afccanada.org/support-donate



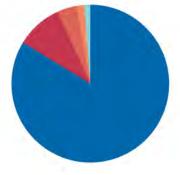
## **Financial Standing**

AFC has been blessed by the generosity of many faithful men and women who, like us, are passionate about seeing the next generation nurtured towards a courageous faith.

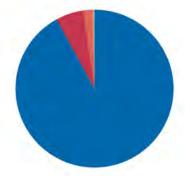
We give thanks to God for His gracious provision, and the enduring support of so many in our community. Your financial support enables us to continue on in this important mission.











Contributions	\$ 1,123,218.00
Conference Registration Fees	\$ 127,316.66
Other	\$ 54,484.96
<b>Government Grants</b>	\$ 20,419.91
Non-Donation Sponsorship	\$ 16,450.00

Ministry Programming	
Office and Administration	
Fundraising	
<b>Professional Fees</b>	
Amortization	

\$1,165,233.58 \$71,813.22 \$23,626.77 \$3,600.00 \$2,163.19

<sup>\*</sup> Figures are based on AFC's ministry year that runs from September to August.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Due to AFC's fiscal calendar (January to December), figures for 2025 are pre-audit. Final audited figures will be posted to the website when available.

### **Alumni In Action**



Ken Yee Chew, a recent alumnus of the University of Guelph and former CCF student leader, was elected to Guelph City Council in 2022. He is the first Canadian Chinese and youngest city councillor

in Guelph's history. Drawing from his cultural background of Hakka Chinese Malaysian descent, Ken's leadership style is shaped by his faith and his commitment to helping others thrive and find common ground.

"Public office can be one of the most practical expressions of faith by using the office to engage all corners of the community.

It means empowering council colleagues and city staff to model selflessness and a spirit of service, even when it's not always reciprocated. It also means demonstrating excellence and integrity to help residents and stakeholders navigate the system, in hopes the overflow of goodwill will spread positively throughout our community.

Each day, I'm challenged to share the Gospel through both word and deed, by being open about my faith in Jesus through my personal testimony and by living out His example."

- Ken Yee Chew, City Councillor, City of Guelph

Ken's contributions are an example of AFC's vision becoming reality: to cultivate courageous communities for the flourishing of all.

## Message from the Board of Directors

True discipleship is not about doing more, but a transformed heart that follows Jesus in every area of life. For 50+ years, AFC has journeyed with students, primarily of Chinese descent, helping them grow in attentiveness to God's voice and live as faithful stewards of His calling.

Our new look marks more than a rebrand it reflects renewal. This renewal flows from our organizational growth in trusting God and responding in obedience.

True discipleship always multiplies transformation—changing both those who serve and those who are served. The work of AFC is not only for students to be transformed,

#### **Board Members**

Vice Chair: Rev. David TinSecretary: Esther TangTreasurer: Karen KoMember: Helen ShenPersonnel: James LauMember: Rev. Joel Tang

but for our staff and community to grow in faith as well.

Join us in our mission—through prayer, giving, and mentorship—as we continue discipling the next generation and advancing the Great Commission.



**Abraham Wong** *Board Chairman* 



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