



## An Excerpt of The Bridge App Usage Stories by Classis July 2020

These stories indicate the many different ways in which local churches are using The Bridge App. A handful have been selected from each classis. We encourage you to take the time to read these and see all of the different ways that churches are utilizing the features of The Bridge App to enhance ministry in their local setting.

### Classis Alberta North

Bethel CRC in Lacombe sends out weekly “At-Home Faith Formation tips” with links to a number of sources. They set these all up at one time by using the easy ‘publish from’ and ‘publish until’ feature of ANNOUNCEMENTS. They publish weekly “Order of Worship” announcements with the order of worship attached so members will be able to follow along and join in with the service at home.

From January to July 2020, donations made by way of The Bridge App show the following: First CRC in Red Deer received over \$97,000; Trinity CRC in Edmonton received over \$53,000; Covenant CRC in Edmonton received almost \$28,000. There have been over 1,000 donations made by the churches of Classis Alberta North with a total of \$215,000 during the months of January to July 2020. All of these donations were made prior to having ACH/debit giving available.

As of July, First CRC in Red Deer has over \$1700 set up in recurring donations. Some donations are set to weekly, some to monthly and some to bi-weekly. These recurring donations are for the church’s budget and for special causes like World Renew. They communicate to their members via the ANNOUNCEMENT feature of the app and have posted 52 announcements from January to July. These announcements include relaying weekly bulletins, links to special services and special offerings.

### Classis Alberta South/Saskatchewan

Covenant CRC in Calgary has posted 41 ANNOUNCEMENTS between January and July. They use the PRAYER feature to communicate needs within their members, which enables members to care for each other. They list the need. A user can search for contact information of the person in the DIRECTORY on The Bridge App. For their children’s ministry, they include direct links to ReFrame Media’s kids’ ministry material.

Iron Springs CRC have published their DIRECTORY and most households have a photo attached. They have their YouTube channel on WATCH and post an audio file of their sermon in ANNOUNCEMENTS. 85% of their users have logged onto the app at least once in the past month.

The Indigenous Christian Fellowship in Regina has enabled the GIVE feature and receives donations to their ministry.

Emmanuel CRC in Calgary sends out weekly ANNOUNCEMENTS with their bulletin or e-newsletter attached. They have received over \$68,000 from January to July 2020 using the GIVE feature. In comparison, they received almost \$10,000 in all of 2019. They use The Bridge App to send out a link for members to register to attend worship in person.

### Classis BC North West

Smithers CRC has 166 users. These users have an average of 160 log ins per user in month of July! They use The Bridge App to send out a daily audio devotional based on the Psalms created by their pastor. Users simply click the link and listen to the devotional. The administrator has used the ‘publish from’ and ‘publish until’ feature to have the daily devotional leave the app after the appropriate day, making it easy to administer.

Nelson Avenue CRC has seen \$600 set up on recurring donations either as weekly, bi-weekly or monthly donations to their church budget as of July as part of the GIVE feature. Weekly ANNOUNCEMENTS with the bulletin attached to read has helped members worship from home and stay connected.

First CRC of Vancouver has an average weekly attendance of 110. They have imported their 95 member household list to the DIRECTORY where photos of members have been added to almost all of the households. They share weekly congregational prayers using the PRAYER feature. They actively use The Bridge App to communicate with their members about church activities with at least weekly ANNOUNCEMENTS.

### Classis BC South/East

Cornerstone CRC in Chilliwack has received over \$15,000 using the GIVE feature between January and July. 70% of users logged on at least once in July. Three of its users have over a 1,000 log ins!

The Bridge CRC in Langley is a smaller church with average attendance of less than 100. They used The Bridge App to communicate 47 announcements from January to July of 2020 allowing their members to stay connected. This communication included “Church News”, “Bridge Updates”, “Congregational Meeting” info with Zoom meeting links, and much more. They enabled their members to WATCH their YouTube channel on The Bridge App with its weekly sermons and prayers. They included Psalms of encouragement every couple of days. Moreover, using the GIVE feature they received over \$6,000 from January to July.

### Classis Chatham

Essex CRC had a new pastor arriving during the Covid-19 epidemic. A call was sent out to its members to add photos to the DIRECTORY on The Bridge App to make it easier for their new pastor and his wife to get to know people better. ANNOUNCEMENTS from January to July totaled 59 and were comprised of their weekly church bulletin, weekly church news updates and special notes about reopening for worship. Their new pastor even used the ANNOUNCEMENTS feature to send out information about his recent purchase of a new home!

First CRC in Chatham uses the ANNOUNCEMENTS feature of The Bridge App to send out weekly bulletins. They had links to live stream events such as a funeral and a link for a Zoom coffee meeting. They utilize the PRAYER function. Their active users logged onto the app 158 times in the month of July.

Western University Campus Ministry has been able to accept donations via the app using the GIVE feature. From January to July, they have received almost \$6,000. Even with Covid-19 closing down campuses, they were able to continue to receive gifts for their ministry.

### Classis Eastern Canada

Charlottetown CRC has 65 users seeing 95 log ins per active user in the month of July alone! In ANNOUNCEMENTS they posted a google form for members to sign up for church worship attendance.

Kanata CRC has 130 members regularly attending services. With 80 users of The Bridge App, they each had 47 log ins per active user in July. Using the GIVE feature, \$12,000 in donations were processed from January to July. 66 ANNOUNCEMENTS were posted in the first six months of 2020 including weekly sermon questions, bulletins and video blogs about current issues.

Barrhaven Fellowship has members using the GIVE recurring donation feature to give monthly to their operating/budget needs as well as to a special cause. They use the ANNOUNCEMENTS feature to keep their members updated on their building project as well as to solicit volunteers for helping out.

### Classis Hamilton

Since enabling the GIVE function of the app in February, Calvary CRC in Flamborough has received over \$58,000 in donations with over 50 different people using GIVE on the app to donate. They have members using the recurring donations feature to have automatic weekly giving to their general budget. They regularly use both the ANNOUNCEMENTS and WATCH features of the app.

Ancaster CRC has a large and active user base with over 82% of their users logging on to the app at least once in the month of July. For 2020, to date the average is over 400 log ins to the app per active user.

Immanuel CRC in Hamilton has 120 users of the app. Over 70% of those logged on at least once in the month of July. These users have been able to listen to daily devotionals posted to The Bridge App entitled “Wilderness Wanderings” that were prepared by their pastors. A member of their church shares this story:

*“Since September 2014 I have been walking. It began with a project to walk all of the streets of my hometown of Hamilton Ontario. After four years, I accomplished that goal and then I set my sights on the next town and countryside to the east and by September 2019, I had finished walking all of Stoney Creek. Recently I finished walking all of Glanbrook, to the south. It has been such a fun project. I walk by myself and take my cell phone with me to use an app that marks out my routes. During my walks, I often pray for the people in the homes that I pass by. I wanted to specifically pray for my fellow congregation members of Immanuel CRC as I walked by their house. I had thought it would be helpful to have our church directory with me whenever I walked, on the off chance that I wanted to look up an address, but it was simply not practical to do so. Our congregation started using the Bridge App. I found that I could easily access the address and phone number section from any church member from my cell phone while I was out on a walk. Once the Covid-19 restrictions hit, I missed seeing my church family very much. I used the Bridge App to call members to tell them I was walking past their house and they came to the front door to wave hello. I used it to call others and we had a safely distanced driveway visit. It is a nice feeling that I am, sort of, taking the church with me when I walk. It sure is a helpful app to have and I would highly recommend it.”*

### Classis Huron

The Journey and Stratford CRC enabled GIVE in March, at the height of the Covid-19 crisis. They added the GIVE URL link to their church's website and since then, up until the end of July, they have received donations over \$28,00 and over \$30,000, respectively, showing how quickly GIVE can make a difference.

Maranatha CRC in Cambridge has posted their DIRECTORY on The Bridge App. It has 186 families and 478 contacts listed with most are displaying a recent family photo. Their users actively engage with the app, in fact over 70% of active users had logged in during the month of July, with 79 logins per active user. They have received over \$25,000 in donations from January through to July with 33 members giving 223 donations to many of the various causes listed.

### Classis Lake Superior

Transcona CRC takes advantage of the PRAY feature of the App. They posted eight prayers in just the month of July, communicating to their members when they could not meet in person about the needs, concerns and praise items of their members.

Bethel CRC in Princeton, MN has enabled the GIVE feature. They have 10 different causes listed and, up until the end of July, have collected over \$16,000, which totals 95 transactions.

### Classis Niagara

Bethany CRC in Fenwick uses the Bridge App's ability to attach Mail Chimp publications to ANNOUNCEMENTS. They have sent out 144 announcements through January to July with prayer requests, newsletters, worship guides, meal train links and video links. Almost all of the households in their directory have photos attached, making the DIRECTORY feature especially helpful for new members.

Providence CRC in Beamsville uses the ANNOUNCEMENT feature with links posted on the app. From forms to vote for office bearers, and other issues that require member input, they have robustly utilized the announcement feature of the app.

Smithville CRC has been able to offer 35 different causes for their members to give to using GIVE in the app. Through the months of January to July, they received 236 donations amounting to over \$25,000.

### Classis Quinte

Westside Fellowship in Kingston posted an ANNOUNCEMENT just to say, "Have a Great Day". Didn't we all need to hear that three months into Covid-19 isolation?

Prior to Covid-19, they were adding an audio copy of their sermon to the app. They then started posting these sermons on YouTube. The Bridge App seamlessly helped them share this channel through the WATCH feature. 75% of the households in their DIRECTORY have photos attached. They are taking advantage of the UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS feature, by having their birthdays included in the Directory.

When they enabled the GIVE feature, they received donations from 33 donors totaling over \$22,000 in the first five months of its use.

### Classis Toronto

Bethel CRC in Newmarket has added 12 custom fields to the data they have in the portal for their members.

They have stored information for, baptism dates, previous church, marital status, profession of faith date, membership status and more in the portal.

CrossPoint CRC enabled the GIVE feature and saw their donations increase. From January to March, donations totaled almost \$3,000. From April to July this increased to almost \$36,000.

First CRC in Toronto uses The Bridge App to stay connected to its members. They have posted 123 announcements and 31 prayers from January to July. On a regular basis, they post church members' reflections on life. Many of these have been about Covid-19 and how members have been reflecting on life lived during the pandemic. What a great way to stay connected to others church members!

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