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Connect24 is now behind us, and I praise God for this event. Delegates from 24 of our churches gathered in Dalmeny, SK for a time of connecting with, learning from, and encouraging one another. It is always encouraging to connect with these like-minded folks from around the US and Canada.

Dr. Greg Carlson did a fine job of presenting aspects of Biblical leadership, and his special plenary session regarding the proper function of boards and committees was particularly helpful. We also had a great line up of breakout sessions which were relevant for any member of the church.

We experienced powerful times of corporate prayer together for various topics, including our nations, our churches, our global partners, and the nation of Israel. We worshiped, sang, and experienced communion together. I left with my soul refreshed.

We had fun – from group outings like tours, museums, and golf to a special family game night led by Gary Krehbiel, to sitting around a big bonfire making s'mores. Meals and breaks were full of vibrant conversations and laughter. Connect is like a great family reunion.

We rejoiced at how God provided for us over the past year, but also reinforced the need for increased giving in this next year to continue ministering effectively. Our Project Offering helped increase the support for our Ministries Coordinator position, but we still have work to do.

The delegates approved our budget for FY2025, elected folks to serve as directors and on our various commissions, and handled the other typical AGM business.

My address included a challenge to each of our churches and their leaders to **take ownership**. Our Fellowship was founded 135 years ago by men and women who saw the need for mutual encouragement and accountability, and they established the structure to provide these things. It is up to us to take ownership and to continue this great legacy. The FEBC can and will have a positive impact on churches and communities when we invest our time, our talents, and our money to help it grow. Please consider how God might be calling you to take ownership for our Fellowship.

Thank you for all the ways in which you support and encourage us, especially with your prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Stone".

**Kevin Stone**

*President*

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