



Chairman's Report 2026 Annual Meeting February 27, 2026

As I write this report and reflect on the ministry of Cooperstown Bible Camp, I am reminded of three key facts, three key impacts, and two key realities:

Three Key Facts:

- Christian camping is a proven, unique and powerful medium to reach the next generation.
- The future leaders of our churches, communities and country are today's children.
- *"Whatever a child believes by the age 13 is in most cases what he will die believing ..."* – George Barna

Three Key Impacts:

- *"Christian camping is about life change."* – Bill Hendricks
- *"Camp is where people make up their minds."* – Henrietta Mears
- *"Camp aligns two of the primary methods God has chosen to reveal Himself to the world: His Creation and His Word."* – Dan Bolin

Two Realities

- Cooperstown Bible Camp is a valuable and effective ministry for evangelism, discipleship and building a sense of community among believers. CBC exists to serve the churches of the Northern Plains District as they achieve their mission.
- CBC is no longer a summer camp serving just youth. We are a year-round ministry to all ages, with constantly growing, changing needs every year.

Given those facts, impacts and realities, what was the focus of the work of the Board in 2025?

2025 Board Focus

Three key focal points characterized the work of the CBC Board in 2025:

1. Our mission
2. Board development
3. Planning

Our Mission

In 2017, our mission was brought into sharp focus and is captured in our logo:

“To make Jesus known through life-changing experiences ...

Escape, Encounter, Engage.”



We celebrated our 100th Anniversary over Labor Day weekend in 2025 – to observe the milestone of a century of “Making Jesus Known” ...

Our mission drives **everything** we do ...

Board Development

Our growing scope of operations mandates that we become a stewardship board which can be defined as *“A spiritual community called by God to steward and govern a piece of God’s kingdom work on earth ...”*

We believe healthy governance creates stability, vision, and confidence throughout the entire ministry. Over the past decade, our Board has pursued a deliberate journey toward more effective governance. In 2015, we began transitioning to a policy governance model – not as a quick adjustment, but as a long-term commitment to faithful stewardship and organizational health.

In 2022 and 2023, we completed a comprehensive review of all board policies. That milestone allowed us to reflect with gratitude on how far we have come and to recommit ourselves to continued growth to govern with clarity, unity, and purpose.

In 2023, the Board Development and Governance Committee formalized a plan for intentional board growth. In 2024, we engaged with the Christian Camping & Conference Association (CCCA) and the “Thriving Boards” approach to effective governance for Christian camping.

In 2025, we spent a day and a half (April 25-26) with our Thriving Boards coach. The experience strengthened our resolve to lead with clarity, accountability, and Christ-centered conviction as we steward the mission entrusted to us.

Planning

In 2024, the CBC Board launched a master planning process with BCI Architects, an architectural firm in Ohio that does 15 camp projects each year. Work on the master plan continued in 2025, and we had a second on-site visit with BCI Architects. Two events in 2025 heightened the need for our master plan:

1. The need to retire our beloved tabernacle which served us so well for nearly a century, ninety-six years to be exact; and
2. A housing inspection of the primary staff residence which found extensive mold throughout the structure, highlighting the need for replacement as soon as possible.

After thoughtful research, discussion and deliberation, the Board made the decision in January to retire the tabernacle in the spring of 2025. The reason was the growing threat to camper safety with an aging wood structure. The replacement of that worship center is one of several key drivers of the need for the Master Plan, to be completed in 2027.

Our primary staff residence has served the camp for six decades. With extensive, invasive black mold throughout the residence, and other serious deficiencies as well, the Board decided in July that the structure must be replaced. We don't have all the answers yet, but please stay tuned for further announcements.

At the Faithful Friends banquet at camp in November, the question was asked, "*When are you going to replace the Tab?*" Great question. We don't know yet, but the timing and prioritization of key projects will come as we bring the master plan into sharp focus. Right now, our priority is to replace the primary staff residence.

In conclusion, taken together, these three endeavors, combined with our deep commitment to God's Word and His eternal promises will give us a strong foundation on which we can continue "*Making Jesus Known*" ... as we confidently move into our second hundred years as a ministry.

I want to thank two board members who have faithfully served and whose one-year terms have concluded in 2025: Mike Adamek and Monty Mertz. Thank you, Brothers, for your contribution to our work as a Board in 2025. Oh, and one more thing ... I think Monty has set a record for the most years served on the Board: thirteen years!

Respectfully submitted for the Board of Directors

Mike Adamek
Paul Byron
Bill Crosby
Lucas Jackson

Monty Mertz
Jim Miller
Dave Moquist

Adam Glombowski, *ex officio*
Brian Wright, *ex officio*



Mel Nelson, Chair