



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

GURNEE COMMUNITY CHURCH

4555 Old Grand Avenue

Gurnee, IL 60031-2621

**It is the mission of this church to lead people to
a growing faith in Jesus Christ.**

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 - **08/26/18**
 - **06/9/19**

Gurnee Community Church

Mission Statement

It is the mission of this church to lead people to a growing faith in Jesus Christ.

Key Values

Serving Gurnee and beyond with the love of Christ

At Gurnee Community Church, we value

searching out, discovering, and ministering to physical, emotional and spiritual needs among people of all cultures and generations, first locally and then beyond, giving everyone the opportunity to encounter Christ and His Gospel, through our open doors, compassionate hands-on service, and the sacrificial use of our spiritual gifts and resources.

Growing in Christ by nurturing one another

At Gurnee Community Church, we value

encouraging, equipping, and ministering to one another, regardless of where one is on their spiritual journey, as we grow to become mature disciples – developing a Christ-like character and an intimate relationship with God – through both shared and personal spiritual disciplines including worship, prayer, Bible study, community, evangelism, service and stewardship.

Worshiping God in all that we do

At Gurnee Community Church, we value

engaging and inspiring all who enter here, regardless of age or background, to actively and regularly worship God, both collectively and individually, as followers of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit, primarily through biblical teaching, prayer, the sacraments, and expressions of praise.

Introduction

As we bring the 2018-2019 fiscal year to a close, we are once again able to reflect back with a grateful heart for all God has done among and through us as a church.

The 2018-2019 fiscal year was another year of relative stability in our leadership team, although we have had a few noteworthy transitions.

Vonnie Johnson graciously accepted the position of Director of Congregational Care, taking over from Diana Killian, who served so excellently in that role for many years. Vonnie has already proven herself as a very capable leader, continuing the great work that Diana started. This position is a volunteer role.

In September 2018, our Director of Worship, Luke Copeland, transitioned out of his role at GCC to take a position a Senior Pastor in North Carolina. After a thorough search and review of many capable candidates, God led us to hire Mike Rancharan as our full-time Director of Worship and Creative Communication. Mike has quickly confirmed that we made a great choice, both with his ability to lead worship, but even more so with his excellent skills at building a very effective team of musicians, singers, and technical people.

Vonnie and Mike have been enthusiastically embraced by our already strong leadership team, and together they have continued to lead GCC in fulling embracing our culture of being “For Our Neighbors” in everything that we do.

The following reports represent a brief summary of the activities in ministry areas and by the specific ministry leaders. The intent was to be as brief as possible while still giving an informative review of the last 12 months.

In His Service,

Pastor Chris

Chris Stephens, Senior Pastor

- The “Sermon Prep Team” continues to be a central part of my weekly schedule. This group meets weekly to discuss the content, structure and delivery of the upcoming sermons. This produces a weekly message that was a collaborative effort rather than a solo project.
- Organizational and Personnel Changes this year:
 - As commented above, this has been a very stable year for our team of leaders, but there were still some transitions and changes.
 - Gary Miller came on to the Board of Elders at the beginning of the fiscal year, replacing Tricia Elsbury.
 - Tom Hood and Ron Kilik ended her term as part of our Board of Elders at the end of this fiscal year, and were replaced by Adam Hoskinson and Kristie Worfel as we have not begun 2019-2020. Tom was also the Chair for much of his tenure, and Elder Robin Wantoch has now stepped into that role.
 - Vonnie Johnson took on the unpaid staff position of Director of Congregational Care.
 - We hired Mike Rancharan to fill the full-time paid staff position of Director of Worship and Creative Communication.
- I personally led the search process for our new Director of Worship. Although this took a lot of my time, it was well worth the direct involvement. I sought considerable input along the way from Staff, Elders and the worship ministry teams, and the end result felt like a decision that we collectively could own.
- Co-taught the Disciple Bible Study with Pastor Brian, Pastor Paul, and our spouses.
- Developed a Lent Devotional for the whole congregation with Pastors Brian and Paul.
- Initiated some changes in our worship service format, which included the addition of a “faith story” (testimony) time most Sundays, and a change from our Welcome to the Worship Service form to a “Connection Card.”
- Initiated a push for everyone to make and wear a name-tag on Sunday mornings. This has been very well received and quickly become a part of our GCC culture.
- Along with the team of Directors, developed a **budget** for the next fiscal year. Worked with the Board of Elders to finalize that budget to present to the congregation. Again this year, this process was driven almost entirely by our Director of Stewardship, Phil Rosborough.
- Took a 3-Sunday preaching break during the summer of 2018 (it was 4-Sundays the previous year). This was one of the outcomes of the Pastoral Renewal Leave that took during the summer of 2015. This allows me to catch up on other leadership responsibilities and plan more effectively for the future. Because of other scheduling conflicts, the preaching break for Summer 2019 did not really happen, so this needs to be re-visited and re-adjusted in 2020 to meet the original goals.
- Attended the ReThink Leadership Conference in Atlanta for the fourth year in a row. This continues to be a great conference and also an opportunity for Pastor Brian and I to spend some focused time together. This year we also brought Carrie Yeaman, Director of Children’s and Family Ministries with us.
- Development of **sermon series** and ongoing preparation of weekly sermons. The sermon series for this past fiscal year have been:
 - #Adulting (1 Corinthians, part 1) - May 20 - September 2, 2018

- No One Like Him (the doctrine of God) - September 9 - October 14, 2018
- Free to Be Me (1 Corinthians, part 2) - October 21 - November 25, 2018
- Refuge (Advent) - December 2 - 23, 2018
- Strategic Partnership - December 30, 2018 and January 6, 2019
- Explore God (series done by many churches in the Chicagoland area at the same time)
 - January 13 - February 24, 2019
- Are You Ready? (Lent) - March 3 - April 14, 2019 + Easter April 21
- This Is Us (1 Corinthians part 3) - April 28 - June 23, 2019
- Learning From Elijah - June 30 - July 28, 2019

Brian Walter, Associate Pastor

- Planned and taught Destination Israel group, a study preparing for a visit to the Holy Land, with over 20 participants in attendance.
- Created and assembled a daily journal/devotional for participants to use on the Israel trip
- Participated in VBS by teaching one of the daily lessons and providing group games for all elementary students as well as providing support in various ways
- Served at Feed My Starving Children with our youth group and our confirmation students
- Attended and helped lead Panama Mission Team meetings
- Served alongside our youth on the Panama Mission Trip
- Prepared material for fall Phase event for parents
- Assembled and organized a parent resource center
- Engaged in a Pastoral Renewal leave for the months of September, October, and November
 - Participated in a pilgrimage in Scotland with music artist Jeff Johnson
 - Read, prayed, and reflected during a personal silent retreat at Christ in the Wilderness retreat center
 - Visited four pastors that have impacted my walk with the Lord through the years
 - Worshipped weekly with friends and family members at their churches
 - Explored and rested with family in Greece
 - Lead a group of 21 people from GCC as we experienced Israel together
 - Returned to GCC on Sunday November 25th
- Assisted in a Candlelight service for those that have lost a loved one over the past year
- Officiated funerals for Phyllis Lencioni, Paula Aeschlimann, James Korah, Burt Main, Nancy Long, Frank Ventura, Dorothy Bonovitz, Barb Hintz, Norm Trecartin, Grace Griffith, and Art Creaney.
- Attended and served at the Senior Christmas bash with 60-70 in attendance
- Baptized Ashley Nystrom as Alpha concluded their fall semester
- Assisted in planning and organizing the Men's No Regrets event
- Cotaught Disciple Class with 22 participants
- Began confirmation for the 2019 class: Camden Lencioni, Faith Hintz, and Marco Guagliardo
- Assisted with Men's Breakfast at GCC with 50 men in attendance
- Assisted with the planning and promotion for the men's No Regrets Conference
- Helped lead the No Regrets Men's Conference with just over 200 men in attendance

- Participated in the staff/elder retreat at the University of St. Mary of the Lake
- Assisted in producing a Lent devotional
- Participated in the planning and leading of our Ash Wednesday Service
- Lead an Explore God small group with 8 participants
- Attended the Orange Conference in Atlanta Georgia with Pastor Chris and Carrie Yeaman our director of Children and Family Ministries
- Assisted in the planning and leading of our Good Friday service/experience
- Served at Feed My Starving Children with the confirmation students and Veritas
- Assisted in planning and leading of Men's Playbook event hosting Ronn Read from Man in the Mirror with 37 men in attendance
- Visited Adat Hatikvah Messianic Synagogue with our confirmation students

Paul Kattner, Associate Pastor

Each Annual Report aligns with my anniversary as your Pastor of Adult Education – this edition marks my second year. I remain humbled to have been called to pastoral ministry by my home church and I am grateful for the support and encouragement of many – and for the many kindnesses extended toward me and my family during this season.

The Associate Pastor of Adult Education is (obviously) responsible for the adult education programs of the church. I am pleased to report the following:

- Two years ago we rolled out the Next Step *brand* for adult education at GCC and it has taken hold and become a comfortable and known identifier.
- The Next Step Display Board in the Narthex has become a well-used source for informational cards for all the current classes and programs available to adult learners.
- We continue to employ a promotional plan for all adult education and related adult programming and groups: this includes an ongoing commitment to provide Connect bulletin inserts, Display Board informational cards, a gcchome.org presence, and promotional slides for the narthex and sanctuary (none of which would really be possible without the support of many others – with a special note of appreciation to Nikki Behler).
- The Adult Education Newsletter started last year as a monthly publication has now become 'seasonal'.
- This year we hosted several mini-retreats under the Adult Education banner: *It's Just a Phase* for parents was attended by 25 people (with a follow-up group study entitled: *Parenting Through the Phases*), *Love Talk* for married couples was attended by 40 people (with a follow-up marriage group entitled *I Choose You* facilitated by Laura and Chris Stephens – also with around 40 attendees).
- For the first time in a long time we hosted a women's retreat with a live speaker: Dana Marie Arnold conducted a half-day session the Saturday following the No Regrets men's conference. Nearly 120 women attended from GCC and neighboring churches. Our host committee was fabulous: Carrie Yeaman, Michelle Peterson, Denise Nagode, Cassidy Sutfin-Bird, Natalie Knebel.

- I provided administrative support and was part of the teaching team for our Adult Sunday AM classes. This year we covered the Sermon on the Mount, the book of Genesis, the subject of the Exodus. Thanks to Steve Saunders and Joe Gibes (and John Skillman) for teaching this class with me.
- Provided administrative support and was part of the teaching team for the *Disciple Bible Study* (a 34-week class taking participants through the full breadth of the biblical text – 22 people started this class and 21 people completed it!). Thanks to Chris and Laura Stephens, Brian and Linda Walter, Steve and Kirsten Saunders, and Lynn Kattner for blessing this class with their teaching.
- Provided administrative support for several topical classes held on Sunday morning or midweek: *Neighboring 101* (taught by Paul Worfel), *Revolutionary Parenting* (taught by Tony Guagliardo), and *Lies Women Believe* (various teachers).
- Keith and Tracy Krieb continue to lead the Lake County Bible Study group that meets at GCC on Monday evenings – this year they studied the book of Genesis.
- I facilitated one of the break-out sessions for the No Regrets Men's Conference (topic: *Real Men Study Their Bibles*).
- I was the keynote speaker during a GCC Men's Breakfast: we looked at Joseph from the OT as a model of being 'steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord' (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- Worked alongside Pastors Chris and Brian to develop a Lenten Devotional used by our congregation during the Lent sermon series.
- Created a Life Journal reading club as a follow-up to the Lenten Devotional and associated readings – a small group now meets on the first Sunday of each month.
- Worked with Pastor Chris to plan and implement the Men's Adventure Trip at Chain O'Lakes State Park.
- I officiated my first wedding in September 2018!
- Each Thursday I participate with a group that meets to support the development of sermon messages preached here at GCC.
- I was blessed to preach 6 times between July 2018 and June 2019.

I am encouraged by the eagerness many in our congregation have for growing in their faith by taking a Next Step and am grateful for the many people who have taken on leadership/teaching of these various classes and events.

In closing, as I reflect on this past year, I am in awe of how faithfully we are being served by Pastors Chris and Brian and the entire professional and para-professional staff here at GCC. These servants love the church deeply and have taught me what it looks like to have a servant's heart. I am blessed to serve alongside each of them.

While we are growing as a church in the area of adult education – the best is yet to come – and may God receive the glory!

Mike Rancharan, Director of Worship and Creative Communication

- Was brought on staff in November 2018.
 - Given access to various software needed to complete duties
 - PCO, Music Stand
 - Songselect
 - Servant Keeper
 - Dropbox
 - Google Drive
 - Mail Finalweb client (gcchome.org email)
 - Canva
 - Received work laptop, iPad, was set up with a phone line
 - Filled out additional paperwork
 - Sent blast email to all individuals involved in some way with music in the past to meet on a 1 on 1 basis in the coming weeks to get to know the team and for the team to get to know me
 - Over the first several months, searched for office furniture at reasonable prices (desk, chair, bookshelf, couch & sofa)
 - Also scheduled 1 on 1 lunch meetings with members of staff and directors over the first several months
 - Received training on how to use GCC's audio/visual tech
 - Yamaha Mixer in sanctuary
 - MediaShout lyric presentation software
 - Lighting board
 - Wireless/wired mics/lavs/face mics
 - TARTs PC - archived storage locations
 -
- Christmas 2018 planning (advent)
- No Regrets
 - Assembled full team of instrumentalists and singers including horn section
 - Selected music and arrangements, led rehearsals
 - Started "Big Band" Sundays every 5th Sunday out of the positive response
- Ran sound, sang and played for funerals
- Ran sound for weddings
- Trained sound techs for CYT
- Assisted with and participated in Handbell choir
 - Purchased new materials to care for the bells
 - Had the bells serviced to repair several broken bells
 - Arranged music to fit the octaves of the bells we have
- Invested in and grew worship team
 - Encouraged involvement from individuals outside of GCC, fostering partnerships and unity
- Purchased equipment needed to maintain working audio or increase efficiency
 - iPads - for Singers/instrumentalists & TARTs team

- Bought missing pieces of a drum kit that was in storage so we can have a portable kit for worship services not in the sanctuary (Youth worship, Harvest Party, Park City Kids event, Picnic in the Park and others to come)
- 2 KSM mics
- 2 Wireless monitor systems
- MP3s, sheet music
- 2019 Lent Season planning
 - Ash Wednesday
 - Good Friday
 - Easter
- Partnered with Spero (youth worship team) to have Youth-led worship on several Sunday mornings
- Female-led Sunday worship
- Male-led Sunday worship
- Finished up a fiscal year at GCC
- Helped out at VBS w/live music/sound
-

David Ulrich, Director of Church Connections

- The annual church picnic was held on August 18, 2018 at Viking Park. There was one worship service at 11am, followed by a Ministry Fair and potluck lunch.
- Two new member luncheons were held and six people became members as a result
- An all-church luncheon was hosted and catered by GCC on April 28th. It was very well attended.
- DIY name tags were introduced for all on Sunday mornings

Nancy Westover, Director of Missional Living

- Oversaw the Missional Living Team which now consists of Hank Rastelli, Ken Roscher, Ranell Stigall, Kirsten Saunders and Laura Main in monthly meetings
- Currently overseeing organization and preparation of team going to Kenya
- Changed from electronic payments to monthly checks for all supported ministries
- The team interviewed two partners who changed missions this year: Amy Deming who moved from AIM to Reliant/Perspectives in World Missions and the Fowlers who moved from Reachglobal to Word of Life. They both continue to serve in ministries that are consistent with GCC policy so support was continued for both
- Approved the use of Discretionary funds for the following:
 - Support for Hannah Gibes who is working in church planting with AlongSide Ministries in France for one year.
 - Support for Anna Main for a summer outreach trip with CRU to Alaska
 - Support for Parker Main as a Team Leader on a summer outreach trip with CRU to Puerto Rico
 - Additional support for Amy Deming as she transitioned missions, as well as personal support during her illness
 - Support for Kimberly Lense to participate in a summer Leadership Training Program with Navigators

- Funding for a water collection system at Kijabe Guest House, Kenya in anticipation of the upcoming mission trip there in fall 2019. The Manyaras requested this because water supplies are becoming very scarce in the area during the dry season.
- Applied for and received two grants from the Endowment Fund:
 - \$4000 to build a fourth-grade classroom at Abba's House in Kenya
 - \$5000 to help with the purchase of a newer truck for the Furniture Ministry at LOVE, INC.
- Local Outreach events;
 - Thanksgiving Dinner for naval personnel and local families
 - Weekly Food Pantry
 - Furniture Ministry through LOVE, INC
 - Operation Christmas Child providing about 130 gift boxes for children through Samaritan's Purse
 - Coats for Clearview, providing coats, hats and gloves for needy students
 - Park City Events- Provided backpacks with school supplies to 100 students, Fall Harvest Festival and Children's' Day Outreaches to several hundred people
 - Kindred Life Ministry Sippy Cup and Golf Outing Fund raisers.
 - Kids hope USA, a mentoring program to at risk students at Clearview School
 - Threadz- Two events partnering GCC families with LOVE, INC clients
 - for fall school supply and uniform shopping and pizza lunch
 - for Christmas present shopping by parents while children had a party at Journey Church in Waukegan done in conjunction with LOVE, INC and other Waukegan churches
- Supported missions
 - GCC Community Compassion Fund
 - Love in the Name of Christ (LOVE, INC.)- a local organization that helps churches meet the needs of some of the neediest in our communities
 - Kindred Life Ministries- a local organization that assists young unmarried mothers and their families
 - Intersarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF)- local chapter at College of Lake County directed by Katie Chambers. Lara Archibald left IVCF this year.
 - Independent gospel missions- Paul and Leah Manyaras in Kenya
 - Loving Indeed- Simon and Margaret Muhota and Abba's House in Kenya
 - African Inland Mission- Shepherd's Little Lambs Feeding Center in Kenya
 - ReachGlobal- Carlos and Suzanne Tejada in Costa Rica
 - Word of Life Ministry- Jon and Bianca Fowler and the WOL camp in Panama
 - Pioneer Bible Translators- Carsten and Thea Colburn
 - Reliant-Amy Deming
 - Man-in-the -Mirror- assist church with Men's ministries
 - Go Together - Gurnee evangelism and community Prayer Room

Other activities

- Food Pantry managers are evaluating the products that are distributed and hours of operation
- Threadz is in need of leadership to work with LOVE, INC to evaluate and guide the manner and effectiveness of this ministry

- Multiple individuals and groups involved with LOVE, INC, Feed my Starving Children, Bernie's Book Bank and other outreach activities

Vonnie Johnson, Director of Congregational Care

- The congregational Care Team consists of Martha Schmidt, Janet Jorgensen, Cyndi Pleasant, Nancy Gordon, Adele Dixon, Sue Kilik, Diane Iwema and director, Vonnie Johnson.
- A Senior Gathering was held on December 11 2018 with approximately 80 attending, staff and elders included. Saludos chicken and salad, potato casserole and cookies (provided by the care team) was served. Everyone enjoyed the Christmas traditions that were shared.
- The Senior Event for May 7, 2019 was the "Spring Fling Bingo Bash" with prizes donated by the care team. Approximately 75 attended, including staff and elders. Sandwiches from Marianos, salads and brownies with ice cream, provided by the care team, were served.
- 17 Valentine cards were mailed to college students
- 17 Easter cards with gift cards were sent to college students
- Approx. 250 cards were sent for holidays, bereavement and thinking of you
- More than 30 home or nursing home visits were made and numerous meals, phone calls and transports were provided as needed.
- Thanks to each team member who hosted, made food etc. and for all the work and time needed to provide loving care to our church family.

Josiah Goering, Director of Student Ministries

- Events
 - Grade Bump (Aug)
 - Gurnee Days Booth promoting Venue (Aug)
 - Start of New School Year for Venue (Sep)
 - Back to School Kick-Off Extended Sunday Nights (Sep)
 - Big or Better Night
 - Nerf Wars Night
 - 9 Square
 - Gargoyles
 - One Retreat (Oct)
 - Kroll's Farm Event (Oct)
 - Turkey Trot (Nov)
 - Veritas Christmas party (Dec)
 - Super Bowl Party (Feb)
 - Senior Led Night (Feb)
 - Winter Retreat @ Covenant Harbor (Feb)

- March Madness Venue Event (Mar)
- Hokey Night Out Event (Apr)
- Experience Night (Apr)
- End of the School Year Party for Venue (May)
- High School Senior Recognition Sunday (May)
- End of the School Year Party for Veritas (Jun)
- Thursday Night Bible Study & Hang Outs (Jun-Aug)
 - Board Game Night
 - Underground Church
 - Movie Night
- Service Night - Feed My Starving Children (Jun)
- Veritas Reunion Bonfire Night for College Age (Jun)
- Beach Day (Jul)
- Six Flags Day (Jul)
- Love Thy Neighbor Local Mission Trip (Jul)
- Sunday Night Youth Group Series
 - “Stressed Out” (Sept)
 - “Limitless” (Oct)
 - “Sorry, Not Sorry” (Nov)
 - “Mine” (Jan-Feb)
 - “Famous Last Words” (Mar)
 - “Subject to Change” (Apr-May)
 - “One Hit Wonders” (Summer Bible Study)
- Sunday School
 - Alpha Youth Series (Sep-Dec)
 - Life Journals
 - Book Study in Amos (Jun-Jul)
 - Old Testament Patriarchs Abraham – Joshua (Jan-May)
 - Read Scripture Route 66 Series (Jun-Aug)
- Ministry Improvements/Changes
 - Part Time Internship w/ Stacie Hintz
 - Youth Band lead worship all school year
 - You Own It Night run by the High School seniors
 - New digital signage system tested

Carrie Yeaman, Director of Children’s & Family Ministries

- Family Events
 - Gurnee Days Parade (Aug) - 2 families
 - Labor Day Family Camp @ LGYC (Aug/Sept) - 3 families
 - Phases Mini Retreat (Sept) - 12 people
 - Fall Festival @ Kroll’s Farm (Oct) - 67 people
 - Advent Calendars (Nov) - 29 people
 - Parents’ Night Out (Dec) - 29 kids (32 kids 2017-2018)

- New Year's Eve Party (Dec/Jan) - 65 people (50 people 2017-2018)
- Indoor Movie (March) - 15 people
- Easter Egg Hunt (April) - 100 kids (31 kids 2017-2018)
- Grayslake Farmers Market (May) - 11 people/3 families
- Friday Fun Night at the end of VBS (June)
- Outreach
 - Within Church
 - Gave my testimony in front of church
 - Cards
 - Welcome - 14 (8 for 2017-2018; 14 for 2016-2017)
 - Miss You - 28 (51 for 2017-2018; 96 for 2016-2017)
 - Communication
 - Constant Contact - monthly letter
 - Printed upcoming events
 - TV for upcoming events
 - FB closed group
 - Parent Resource Stand
 - List of resources
 - Books to look at
 - Committee for Womens' Mini Retreat
 - Groups
 - Mom's groups
 - Tuesday Night (working moms) - 13 moms (10-12 moms 2017-2016)
 - Wednesday Morning (stay home/part-time working moms) - 11 moms (8-10 moms 2017-2016)
 - Outside Church
 - Monthly Children's Directors Meeting (10 churches)
 - Spoke at Warren H.S. to incoming freshman (mentioned Venue)
 - Summer Gurnee Park Tour averaged 9 church kids and 6.7 outreach kids (vs Open Gym 2017-2018 averaged 4-6 children)
 - Viking Park, Churchill Hunt Park, Betty Russell Park, West Gate Park, Concord Oaks, Vineyard Park, Ravinia Park, Warren Township Park, Huntclub Park, South Ridge Park and O'Plaine Park
 - Prizes: finger puppet bugs, bubbles, hacky sacks, yo yos, frisbees, pinwheels, freeze pops, magnifying glasses, paddle boards with ball, helicopter and bouncy balls
- Children's Events
 - Backpack blessing/Service in the Park (Aug)
 - Grade Promotion (Aug)
 - Fire Station (Aug)
 - Christmas Program (Dec)
 - Christmas Eve Message (Dec)

- Goodie bags 80 (70 goodie bags 2017-2018)
 - Palm Sunday Program (April)
 - Good Friday Service (April)
 - Goodie bags 21 (6 kids in nursery)
 - Easter Message (April)
 - VBS (June)
 - Gospel Games Theme
 - 150 kids (147 kids 2017-2018)
 - 13 accepted Christ (16 kids 2017-2018)
 - 30 different churches
 - over 30 unchurched
 - 115 volunteers (110 volunteers 2017-2018)
- Sunday
 - Curriculum - Gospel Project (did a short series called, Explore God, which aligned with what the adults were doing in the sanctuary)
 - Attendance
 - Average attendance (per month) 39.8; 35.7 (2017-2018); 39.5 (2016-2017)
 - Average perfect attendance (per month) 10.25; 12.1 (2017-2018); 11.6 (2016-2017)
 - Largest perfect attendance 18; 19 (2017-2018); 24 (2016-2017)
 - Rock Celebrations
 - Nerf Gun War (Oct)
 - Ice Cream Social (Feb)
 - In front of Church
 - Sunday morning routines/Thanking Youth Volunteers (Sept)
 - Talking about prayer (Oct)
 - Offering
 - St. Jude Children's Hospital
 - Reach Rescue (Dog rescue)
 - Illinois State Trooper Gerald Ellis's family
 - Lake County Veterans and Family Services
 - Volunteers
 - Whole church celebration of volunteers with gift
 - Full set of volunteers for all areas (elementary, preschool & nursery) 62 (2018-2019) vs 55 people (2017-2018) vs 61 people (2016-2017) (not including summer helpers)
 - Preschool volunteers summer off/Summer preschool crew (14 summer volunteers (2018-2019) vs 13 (2017-2018) vs 18 (2016-2017))
 - Requirements
 - Application
 - Background check
 - T-shirts, * added apron options
 - Name Tags

- Ministry Improvements/Changes
 - Attended Orange Conference in Atlanta with Chris and Brian
 - Summer Park Tour - connect church families and outreach to the community
 - FB closed group for Families with children - help connect and promote events
 - Resources for parents - mini-retreat, book resource stand, list of books and websites

Stacey Rowan, Director of Preschool

- MWF CLASS full at 16 students
- T/TH CLASS 8 students (full at 12)
- Daily lesson plans
- Monthly bible lessons
- Christmas and Easter lessons
- Birthday party for Jesus
- Resurrection eggs for Easter lesson
- Jelly bean hunt ending in sanctuary for real reason for Easter
- Pajama day Christmas parties
- Charlie Brown Christmas party
- Grinch day
- Dinosaur unit
- Safety week with visits to the fire station and a visit from lake county sheriff Mcgruff the crime dog
- Monthly visits to our MWF CLASS with pastor Chris
- Monthly trips to the Warren Newport library bookmobile for each class
- Attended NAEYC conference in Washington DC to obtain continuing education hours
- Evaluations on all students twice per school year
- 2 sets of parent teacher conferences
- Continuing advertising thru daily/ weekly fb posts and paid advertising
- Weekly staff mtg and lessons planning
- Weekly/ monthly bulletins boards set ups
- Monthly newsletters for parents and online
- Annual family fun night/ open house - approximately 100 people
- Graduation ceremony for MWF CLASS with pastor chris giving a blessing and small refreshments afterwards
- End of the year picnic for all classes

Phil Rosborough, Director of Stewardship

- FY 2018-2019 Summary Results
Revenue 896,601 (actual) vs 852,050 (budgeted)
Expenses 855,830 (actual) vs 852,050 (budgeted)
- Began the year with the addition of 11,901 to cash reserves and 370,083 in the bank which included 100K of endowment fund earnings
- Ministry highlights included:
 - Nomination and approval of Linda Walter as head counter
 - Coordinated luncheon for counters to review and streamline processes
 - The counters continue to be an integral part of the Stewardship ministry team and under Linda's leadership continue to provide accurate and timely reporting
 - Our bookkeeper, Maria, continues to provide accurate and timely reporting of our monthly financial statements for staff and elders
 - Continued to maintain weekly Stewardship devotionals in the Connect newsletter
 - Successful 2019 pledged giving campaign yielding 493,600 of pledge commitments
 - Continued Free to Thrive giving reduced the mortgage principal by an additional 18,222 this fiscal year
 - Mortgage balance as of June 30, 2019 was 384,036.
 - The new cash rewards credit card produced 1341.00 in statement credit this fiscal year
 - The Endowment Committee had 4 meetings last year. The committee reviewed the current fund investment portfolio with our Wells Fargo advisor. The committee reviewed and approved distributions from the fund totalling 36,105 for the following: new automated security doors at the main entrance, bell tower entrance and north wing entrance, Love Inc donation for the purchase of a delivery van, and donation to Abba House
 - Developed operating budget of 881,200 for 2019-2020 fiscal year which was unanimously approved at our Annual meeting on June 2019. The approved budget included a retirement plan for qualified paid staff to begin January of 2020.
 - Finished the fiscal year with the addition of 40,771 to cash reserves and 381,085 in the bank which still includes a portion of the endowment fund earnings from last year

Nikki Behler, Director of Administration

- Weekly Connect Newsletter produced. Also online version for website
- Management of Church Calendar. Management of room and equipment bookings via Planning Center
- Management of web content for gcchome.org including new page for Seniors
- Employee Handbook completed and distributed
- New employee checklist and materials created and used for Mike Rancharan onboarding
- New out-of-office time recording sheets created in Google
- Standard staff business cards created
- Numerous funerals
- New procedures for funeral families to pay for services and for staff and volunteers to be compensated for their time
- New door locks for Main Door and Bell Tower. New software for scheduling automatic locking and unlocking
- New method for displaying slideshow in the lobby (Proclaim)
- New Connect Cards to replace the Welcome to the Worship forms
- Administrative support and promotion for Christmas and Easter Services, Thanksgiving Day, No Regrets, Living Loved Women's event, Fellowship Meal, End-of-year giving statements, Next Step classes & events etc.
- Very grateful for the help of Bonnie & Ed Bye, Adele Dixon and Cyndi Pleasant as office volunteers.

Gary Elsbury, Director of Building and Grounds

- New carpet squares were installed in the south office hallway
- New LED lighting was installed in the south parking lot
- New doors were installed at the Bell Tower entrance
- ADA access was installed at the office doors, the north east entrance doors, and the Bell Tower doors
- New electronic number access was installed at the office entrance and the Bell Tower entrance both are programmable from computer or cell phone.

Report of the Board of Elders

Tom Hood, Chair

This year was my last year as Elder. It has been a privilege to develop relationships with a variety of people at GCC as they served on the Elder Board. We accomplished the business of the Church but not at the expense of enjoying developing our relationships with each other.

The Board of Elders meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday. The second Tuesday of the month meeting is held at the Chapel at GCC and the second Tuesday of the month is held at an Elder's home.

The Elder meeting begin with sharing prayer concerns and praises. We pray and then often times discuss a book we are reading or some other topic for spiritual growth. We then entertain any particular business issues of the church.

This year we saw myself and Ron Kilik complete our term as Elder and to see Kristy Worfel and Adam Hoskinson as new additions. The remaining Board is comprised of Chris Stephens, Robin Wantoch, Fran Yanuzzu, Steve Saunders, Amy Gibes and Gary Miller.

In March, 2019 GCC and A Safe Place hosted a conference on domestic abuse at GCC for local pastors and ministry leaders. Pastor Chris moderated. The event was organized by Charlie Quint. There was a good turnout and positive feedback.

We accomplished many of the same but necessary tasks that we do each year and they are as follows:

- Each Elder Maintains a Relationship with at Least One Staff Member;
- Completed the Annual Review for the Senior Pastor;
- Set-up and Complete Annual Retreat for Staff Members and Elders;
- Review and Recommend Budget to the Congregation;
- Reviewing of Our Governing Documents for the Purpose of Keeping Them Updated.

Baptisms, Dedications, Confirmations, Weddings & Deaths (July 2018-June 2019)

<p>Child Baptism/Dedication Albany Heinrichs Aiden Welch Rainen Cramer Charlotte Hayner Collin Hoskinson Molly Sroka</p> <p>Adult/Young Adult Baptisms Ashley Nystrom Stephanie Nystrom Andrea Velez</p> <p>Confirmands Andrea Velez</p>	<p>New Members Terri Bunsen John & Cindy Klimt Bob St. Antoine Sheila Trenkle Mary Ann Voeks</p> <p>GCC Member/Friend Weddings</p> <p>GCC Members & Friends Deaths Matthew Aleksich Dorothy Bonovitz Glen Braden Art Creaney Mario Gomez Grace Griffith Barbara Hintz James Korah Nancy Long Burt Main Louis Poe Norm Trecartin Frank Ventura</p>
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Minutes of Congregational Meetings

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, August 26, 2017 4:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Elder Board Member, Steve Saunders, opened the meeting at 4:05pm; Steve Saunders gave the opening prayer

Approval of the last congregational meeting:

- Margie Carrick made a motion to approve, Tricia Elsbury second.
- Minutes approved unanimously

Presentation of ANNUAL REPORT, July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

- Motion to receive by Tricia Elsbury, second by Dorothy Harris
- Motion approved

Report from the Master Building Committee

- Gary Elsbury, chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, led the discussion, along with Steve Saunders. Steve managed the congregational survey to gain input from congregants on how best to use and improve building facilities.
- There were 150 responses, mostly from “older” congregants, the committee is looking into how to survey families with children still at home.
- Has been 16 years since moving into the new facilities.
- Survey showed key concerns
- Building security (new locks are being installed)
- Congestion and layout of narthex (efforts are being made to expand the narthex, relocate the coffee bar, and to create an accessible family bathroom)
- Exterior signage with “rundown” appearance, also improve signage within the building
- Accessibility for those with disabilities
- Survey Showed Positives of Building
- Public Spaces
- Location in center of town
- Availability for community use
- Expansion possibilities
- Focus of survey was not on development of north wing, but there were comments on the possibility of using the space for non-profits GCC is affiliated with
- Next Steps for Committee-survey families with children living at home, focus on improving accessibility of facilities, and continue to work on current
- projects and short term improvements.
- Questions and Answers- A question was asked if congregants could be asked to fund
- various building improvements. Chris Stephens explained how short and long term capital building projects are funded, how the endowment fund is used at times for projects, and what the regular budget provides for.

Chris Stephens gave an update on search for worship pastor position. Two top candidates will be visiting GCC in the next two weeks. Worship services have been planned ahead until Thanksgiving/Advent.

Steve Saunders closed in prayer at 4:55 pm.

Submitted by: Amy Gibes, Elder Board Secretary

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, June 9, 2019 4:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Members in Attendance: 33

Meeting was called to order by Tom Hood at 4pm.

Tom Hood gave opening remarks and introduced the agenda for the meeting.

Phil Rosborough, Director of Stewardship, led a detailed discussion of the proposed 2019-2020 budget with a Power Point presentation, including a proposed new 403(b) retirement plan for eligible employees of the church. Margie Carrick moved to approve the 2019-2020 budget, Tricia Elsbury seconded. Discussion continued concerning excess revenue and what plans are in place if giving plateaus. As of now, the excess revenue is part of the church's cash reserves. Chris Stephens, senior pastor, explained how the cash reserve system operates. Mention was made of the current mortgage and possible efforts to retire it by 2022. The motion to approve the budget passed unanimously by voice vote.

Tom introduced the proposed changes to the constitution and led the discussion. The changes to the document were read aloud and explained. Steve Saunders moved to approve the notated changes to the constitution, Dave Ullrich seconded. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Elder nominations for Adam Hoskinson and Kristie Worfel were introduced. Copies of the nomination forms were handed out to all present. Mention was made of the high caliber of these two candidates. Adam and Kristie were unanimously approved as new elder board members by voice vote.

The floor was opened to discussion. Tom Hood and Ron Kilik, who are retiring from their board responsibilities this July, were thanked for their faithfulness and work on behalf of GCC. Robin Wantoch was mentioned as a possible new board chair. This will be voted on by the board soon. Mention was made of how to encourage more members to attend the annual meeting by inviting friends and/or including refreshments or a meal. A brief discussion included "waking up" the Free to Thrive campaign in order to eliminate the church mortgage debt and possibly finish the north wing.

A minute of silence was observed to remember church members who have recently died.

Tom concluded the meeting with closing remarks and prayer at 5pm.

Respectfully Submitted in His Service, Amy Gibes GCC Secretary