



# ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2014- June 30, 2015

## **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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Chris Stephens, **Senior Pastor**

Brian Walter, Associate Pastor – **Discipleship** Ministries

Ronald Milton, Director of **Adult** Ministries

Michele Christensen, Interim Director of **Worship**

Nikki Behler, Director of **Administration**

Steve Wantoch, Director of **Stewardship** (including year-end financial report)

Jack Haldeman, Director **Assimilation**

Chris Stephen, Acting Director of **Missional Living**

Stacey Rowan, Director of **Preschool**

Josiah Goering, Director of **Children's and Middle School** Ministries

Michael Rivera, Director of **High School** Ministries

Diana Killian, Director of **Care** Ministries

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Congregational Meetings:

- August 8, 2014
- October 26, 2014
- June 14, 2015

# **Gurnee Community Church**

## **Mission Statement**

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

## **Key Purposes**

### **Serving Gurnee and beyond with the love of Christ**

A key purpose of Gurnee Community Church is  
to search out, discover, and minister 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**

A key purpose of Gurnee Community Church is  
to encourage, equip, and minister 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.

### **Worshipping God in all that we do**

A key purpose of Gurnee Community Church is  
to engage and inspire 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**

The 2014-2015 fiscal year marked the 4<sup>th</sup> full year of our “Accountable Leadership” governing structure as a church, and it can be safely said that it is no longer “new.” We have fallen into a rhythm as a congregation and as leaders, and have had the opportunity to work out the kinks in this system. As a result, this was a year of changes both in staff structure and transitions in personnel. We ended the fiscal year with a full staff, and I have a high degree of confidence that we have the right leaders on the team and each is in the position best suited for their gifts and passions.

This year also had its ups and downs regarding new ministries that have been recently launched. The Venue, and after-school program for middle and high school students, had its second full school year and saw exponential growth – at the end of the year we had 50+ students each afternoon we were open. On the other hand, the third worship service, the Coffeehouse, was closed down after a little more than a year of operation. Although the concept is solid, the Sunday at 6pm time slot turned out to be less than ideal for many people. It was the second year of the Alpha Course, and we expanded from one course (Fall start) to two courses (Fall start and Winter and winter start) – both courses were well attended and saw people coming to faith in Christ for the first time.

This fiscal year also included the formal end to the very successful *Free To Thrive* capital stewardship campaign (ended in September 2014).

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

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