



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

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.**

Table of Contents

Mission Statement and Key Purposes

Introduction by Pastor Chris Stephens

Reports from Pastors and Directors of Ministry Areas

- **Chris Stephens, Senior Pastor**
- **Brian Walter, Associate Pastor**
- **Ronald Milton, Director of Adult Education**
- **Luke Copeland, Director of Worship & Creative Communication**
- **Charlie Quint, Director Assimilation**
- **Nancy Westover, Director of Missional Living**
- **Diana Killian, Director of Care Ministries**
- **Michael Rivera, Director of High School Ministries**
- **Josiah Goering, Director of Children's and Middle School Ministries**
- **Stacey Rowan, Director of Preschool**
- **Steve Wantoch, Director of Stewardship (including year-end financial report)**
- **Nikki Behler, Director of Administration**
- **Gary Elsbury, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

Report from the Board of Elders

The Meetings of our Church

- **Congregational Meetings:**
 - **08/16/2015**
 - **06/12/2016**

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.**

Worshiping 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

This 2015-2016 fiscal year marked the completion of my 12th year as pastor here at GCC. A lot has changed in the last 12 years, although I can not take personal credit for very much of it. We have a completely different format for worship, a completely different Sunday morning schedule, a completely different governing structure, and an almost completely different staff. What remains the same, however, is the focus on Jesus, a dependence on the Holy Spirit, and a love for this Gurnee community.

The 2015-2016 fiscal year was yet another year of transitions in our leadership team. As much as a value stability and longevity in leadership positions, the reality is that the large size of our leadership team means that transitions will be inevitable. Amidst all of these necessary changes, I was reminded that we have had no long-term vacancies, and that we have a robust leadership culture at GCC with a very “deep bench” of leaders capable and willing to serve. This is a blessing.

As this fiscal year has come to a close, we were blessed with a series of adult baptisms celebrating new life in Christ. We have added a section to this year’s annual report listing baptisms, weddings, deaths, and similar important data.

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

- Organizational and Personnel Changes this year:
 - Nancy Westover took on the role of Director of Missional Living, and has developed a great team of advisors to assist in the overall direction of this important ministry area.
 - Luke Copeland was hired as the full-time Director of Worship and Creative Communication in the Fall of 2015.
 - Jack Haldeman left the position of Director of Assimilation because of a job-transfer out of state. Charlene Quint is currently transitioning into that role.
 - Michael Rivera announced that he would be transitioning out of his position as Director of High School Ministries effective the end of the fiscal year.
 - The roles of High School and Middle School ministry Directors were combined to create a new role of Director of Student Ministries, and Josiah Goering has now transitioned into that role.
 - The position of Director of Children's Ministry previously held by Josiah was expanded to a full-time position of Director of Children's and Family Ministry, and Carrie Yeaman was hired to fill that role.
- Compiled the **Annual Report**, consisting of summary reports from each of the Directors
- Planning for **Thanksgiving Dinner** and surrounding activities
- Planning for **Christmas Eve** services and surrounding activities
- Along with the team of Directors, developed a **budget** and proposed to the Board of Elders. Worked with the Board of Elders to finalize a proposed budget to present to the congregation.
- Took Pastoral Renewal Leave (PRL) for 12 weeks over the summer (June 15 to September 5, 2015). The goals of the leave included rest, reflection, and study surrounding congregational leadership and goal-setting. Those goals were certainly accomplished, and I returned renewed and ready for the next season of ministry.
- Attended the ReThink Leadership Conference in Atlanta, which was exclusively for senior pastors. The main topic was the effective development of and alignment of strategy for your church.
- Out of some of the work done during PRL and the ReThink Leadership Conference, the Directors and Elders have begun a process of working on a defined set of strategies for GCC that flow out of the work done on the Key Purposes in 2008-2009. The Key Purposes are now being viewed as "Key Values" that will define our unique priorities and culture as a church, whereas our strategies will more specifically governed the ministries and projects we pursue.
- Development of **sermon series** and ongoing preparation of weekly sermons. I opted for longer series this past year, moving more comprehensively through longer books than we have in the past. The sermon series for this past fiscal year have been:
 - Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (during PRL) – June 5 - September 6
 - Pastor Brian, Elder Paul Kattner, and Ron Milton were preaching
 - Unchained (second ½ of Galatians) – September 13 - November 22
 - Make Room for Christ this Christmas (Advent) – November 29 - December 27
 - A Fool and His Money (Stewardship) – January 3 - January 10

- True Expressions (Psalms) – January 17 - February 7
- Turning Point (Lent / Luke) - February 10 - March 27
- MOVEMENT (Acts) -- April 3 - August 14
 - We will continue in Acts September 11, with a different title

Brian Walter, Associate Pastor

- Assumed additional preaching and leadership responsibilities as Pastor Chris was on Pastoral Renewal leave July - August
- Oversaw Ronald Milton as he completed an internship for Moody Bible Institute
- Oversaw Paul Kattner as he completed field education for Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- Worked with Nikki and others to promote a great fall 2015 line-up of adult ministries (CBS, Disciple II, Small Groups, Daniel Plan, Men's studies, and Sunday morning studies)
- Worked alongside Pastor Chris to implement a Disciple II class using Wayne Grudem's *Bible Doctrine*
- Co-taught the Disciple II class with Pastor Chris, Paul Kattner, Emma Cramer, and Joe Gibes
- Attended Kidmin 2015 Children's Ministry Conference in Chicago with Josiah Goering and Evette Fordham
- Oversaw Confirmation Sunday with Daniel Inmon, Erin Kattner, and Daniel Lense confirming their faith and becoming members of GCC.
- Co-officiated and Emmaus Gathering with Pastor Chris at GCC
- Over the past year I have intentionally invested in and sought to equip the following individuals over the past year: Josiah Goering, Michael Rivera, Stacey Rowan, Diana Killian, Ronald Milton, Daniel Lense, and Christina Walter
- Assisted in the promotion, planning, and execution of men's No Regrets Conference with 221 in attendance
- Attended a one day Simply Youth Conference in St. Charles, IL with Josiah Goering and Michael Rivera
- Kicked off Confirmation for 2015-16 with three confirmands: Andrea Hintz, Clayton Main, and Sam Inmon
- Carrie Yeaman and team held Women's retreat with 67 in attendance
- Assisted in kicking off Financial Peace University with Glenda Durst and Maria Holimon leading
- Co-taught Disciple class with Bob & Jan Bennett
- Worked with Pastor Chris and elders on staff transitions
 - Michael Rivera answered God's call to step down from his position as Director of High School Ministries
 - Josiah Goering accepted the new position of Director of Student Ministries
 - Carrie Yeaman accepted the position of Director of Children and Family Ministries
- Margie Carrick agreed to be the ministry lead for Women's Ministry
- Attended the Orange Conference with Pastor Chris in Atlanta, GA

- Encouraged Dave Stouwie as he attend the Set Free Global Summit on pornography - praying through with Dave, Fran Yanuzzi, and others on what proactive steps GCC can take against porn in the future
- Attended The Gathering Family Ministry Conference with Carrie Yeaman and Josiah Goering
- Oversaw final planning and preparation for the 2016 Panama youth mission trip
- Oversaw with Tom Hood quarterly Small Group leader gatherings
- Officiated funeral services for Ruth Minikel, Carolyn Miller, Dick Welton, Sallye Flood, Ozzie Koetz, Eric Wiatr, Mildred Lundeen, and Walter Heidrich
- Officiated weddings for Dan & Kaitlin Hood, Mike & Eileen Rancharan, and Timothy & Jennifer Ortiz
- Made many hospital, nursing home, and home visits

Ronald D. Milton, Director of Adult Education

Topical Class Studies

- *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* class by Peter Scazzero
- 32 week series called *The Story* by Randy Frazee
- Changed the 8:00am Topical Sunday School hour to 10:00am
- Studied a 7 week series called *The Doctrine* by Francis Chan
- *Revelation Book by Book* (Right Now Media) by Richard Bewes

Adult Sunday School Class

- Series on Psalms
- Series on Mark
- Series on Life of David

Men's Sunday School Class

- *21 Day Dad's Challenge* by Dr. Carey Casey
- *Raising Kingdom Kids* by Tony Evans
- A study on marriage by James McDonald
- *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell

Men's Group Activities

- The *Explicit Gospel* by Matt Chandler
- Showing the movie "Courageous"
- *The Resolution for Men* by Stephen Kendrick
- *Wild at Heart* by John Eldredge
- Men's "No Regrets" Conference
- *Seeking Allah finding Jesus* by Mabel Karesh

Women's Group Activities

- Women's Retreat

Luke Copeland, Director of Worship and Creative Communication

- For the creative communications ministry at Gurnee Community Church, this has been a year of transitions.
- From July-October 2015, Michele Christensen, served as interim worship director. She focused on involving singers and musicians who had previously been uninvolved in our music ministry, and on giving certain volunteers opportunities to lead worship. She expanded the size of our volunteer base, launched a vocal quartet, and encouraged the re-launch of the middle and high school-aged song-and-dance "praise team."
- In November 2015, GCC hired me as the Director of Creative Communications. I was charged with responsibility for directing both the musical and visual elements of our Sunday morning worship services, as well as involving myself wherever appropriate in the musical ensembles that were already in place.
- With the help of the pastors, I planned three special services this year: Christmas, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday. It was a year of experimentation, as we tweaked and altered services that have looked very similar for a number of years. All three special services were very successful, and elicited very positive feedback from the congregation.
- In December 2015, I and several members of the congregation launched a Saturday night prophetic/spontaneous worship ministry. We have been meeting and working together every 2 weeks since then, and are looking forward to opening up ministry to the congregation very soon.
- The Sunday before Christmas 2015, we had about 10 volunteers go caroling to the shut-ins of our church membership. The feedback from both the carolers and the shut-ins was very positive.
- Starting in January 2016, I launched 2 "think tanks," one for each Sunday morning service. We have met every three months since then, focusing on assessment of the services, and brainstorming for the future.
- We have had several opportunities over the past several months for the development of our ministry's volunteers. These include, but are not limited to, establishing a rotation of volunteer worship leaders, holding training sessions for our Technical Arts volunteers, inviting our musicians out on two Saturdays for extra practice, and even teaching a free beginning guitar class for six weeks in May and June.
- From my very first week, I have been involved with the chancel choir. All the way through May 2016, Jonathan Cramer continued to serve as its director. This summer, he accepted a full-time job at a local middle school, and stepped down as choir director. I will assume his responsibilities in the fall.
- In June 2016, we re-launched the bell choir, after a hiatus of about a year. We have seven ringers, and hope to increase that number in the future.
- Three times since I arrived, I have worked with the pastors and some artists within the congregation to design banners for sermon series, and to plan for future changes to the stage. We are still in process with the latter, but should be enacting some visual changes early this fall.
- I have also dedicated many hours, throughout the year, to sitting down with elders, musicians, artists, leaders, and even worship directors from other local churches, to

analyze the past, assess the present, and plan for the future of the creative communications ministry here at GCC.

- This year has been a year of transition, but the coming year is going to be a year of change! I have learned so much in my short time here, and heard a lot of great ideas and godly wisdom from some wonderful people.
- I look forward to seeing and participating in the ways that God is going to use the many creative members of our congregation to do the ministry of Gurnee Community Church in the coming months!

Charlie Quint, Director of Assimilation

(Also previously Jack Haldeman)

- This Ministry transitioned leadership during the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Thank you to Jack Haldeman for leading the Ministry through the spring of 2016. Charlie Quint will be assuming directorship in the new fiscal year.
- The Assimilation Ministry includes Ushers and Greeters, Fellowship Time, New Members and Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
- The Ministry Directors led a series of weekly informational sessions in the Spring of 2016 to describe the nature and needs of each Ministry.
- Six new members were received into the congregation.

Nancy Westover, Director of Missional Living

- Appointment of Nancy Westover as Director of Missional Living.
- Designation of a Missional Living Advisory Team consisting of Hank Rastelli, Hannah Goering, Andy Yeaman, and Betty Hollemon.
- The Team clarified the vision and purpose of Missional Living at GCC and began work on policy for Missional Living.
- Alpha ran 2 courses this ministry year – one starting in September and another starting in January. Response was good with several baptisms.
- Big Events:
 - Thanksgiving Dinner
 - Help Portrait
 - Operation Christmas Child
 - Coats for Clearview
 - Park City Harvest Fest and Spring Childrens' Day
 - Kindred Life Ministry Chili Cookoff and Golf Outing
 - Team of 7, brought requested clothing and supplies for Abba House, a local Christian orphanage and served for two weeks with our partners, Paul Manyara, Simon Muhota and Little Lambs completing two building projects, a school classroom and a house
- Continued Kids Hope USA, a mentoring program for grade-school kids, working with Clearview School.
- Expanded the Threadz ministry, a Love INC "gap" ministry that provides school uniforms for kids in the Waukegan school system who cannot afford them.

- Created a Missional Living Presentation that was used as informational for potential new members, as well as on the GCC website
- Supported Missions:
 - GCC Community Compassion Fund
 - Love, Inc
 - Kindred Life Ministries (formerly Teen Mothers Choices)
 - InterVarsity (College of Lake County, Lara Archibald)
 - Independent Gospel Missions (Paul & Leah Manyara)
 - World Missions Far Corners (Simon Muhota)
 - Little Lambs Feeding Centers – Kenya
 - Reach Global (Jon & Bianca Fowler/Panama)
 - Word of Life (Mirko and Tracy/Panama)
 - The Go!Project c/o Christ Together (Gurnee evangelism effort)
 - Man-In-The-Mirror Ministries (Ron Reed)
 - Discretionary Missions used for local outreach
- Other Ongoing Activities
 - GCC Food Pantry
 - PADS meal support
 - Love INC furniture delivery
 - Clearview School (winter coats, snacks during testing, scholarships for summer camp)

Diana Killian , Director of Congregational Care

Team members include: Adele Dixon, Nancy Gordon, Diane Iwema, Vonnie Johnson, Sue Kilik and Martha Schmidt. We Report to Pastor Brian and meet with him every other month.

- Connect mailed each week to shut-ins
- Many well-being phone calls made each week
- Mailed the following cards:
 - 176 Thinking of You
 - 45 Bereavement
 - 7 High School Graduation
 - 4 Middle School Graduation
 - 5 New Member
 - 27 Sympathy
 - 26 Easter
 - 25 Valentines
 - 37 Christmas
 - 11 Christmas made by Sue Kilik's Sunday School class
 - 16 Valentines to College students
 - 18 Thanksgiving to College students
- Organized card shower for Sallye Flood's 100th birthday
- 16 gift boxes mailed to College students in April
- Visits:
 - 32 Home

- 2 Assisted Living
- 11 Nursing Home
- 3 Independent Living
- 4 Hospital
- 5 Rides given
- 6 meals delivered
- 5 floral arrangements made by Betty Meness were delivered with visits in May
- Senior Gatherings in October - 43 attendee's for lunch with show and tell and May dessert with Gurnee Police and Fire presentations on safety- 40 attendee's.

Michael Rivera, Director of High School Ministries

- Events
 - Back to School Kick-Off Event (Aug)
 - One retreat Oct 10th-12th
 - Turkey Trot (Nov)
 - Veritas Christmas party
 - High School Winter retreat Feb 15-17th
 - Men's Retreat
 - Numerous Guys and Girls Fun events
 - End of the School year Party for Venue
 - Honored the High School graduates event
 - Many Hands Project Missions trip, Zion IL
 - Gurnee Days promo for the Venue
 - End of the School year party for Venue

 - Changes:
 - Moved Youth Group Night to Sunday Night
 - Started Monday & Thursday Night Small groups
 - First full year of the Venue at 3 days a week

Josiah Goering, Director of Childrens & Middle School Ministries

- Events
 - Nerf War Event - August (MS & HS)
 - Grade Bump - August (CM & MS)
 - Fall Kick-off - August (CM & MS)
 - TruKids Rock Box Celebrations (CM)
 - Climbing Wall
 - Root beer floats
 - Pizza & Pajama Party
 - Pinata Bash
 - Jump America - October (MS)
 - Christmas Party - December (CM & MS)
 - Christmas Song Performance "O Holy Night" - December (CM)

- Winter Retreat - February (MS)
- Palm Sunday Children's Song Performance (March)
- Easter Egg Hunt - March (CM)
- Easter Services - March (CM)
- End of Year Bash - June (MS)
- VBS - June (CM)
 - 199 Kids
 - Approximately 85 volunteers
 - 10 children accept Christ as savior
 - Theme - "Cowabunga"
- Thursday Night Youth Group Series (MS)
 - Your Move (July)
 - Sermon on the Mount (September-November)
 - For the Life of the World (January-February)
 - Amazing Grace (March)
 - David & Jonathan (April)
 - BASIC (April-June)
- Sunday School
 - Middle School
 - "How to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse" book series
 - Apologetics video series
 - Life Journals (Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians)
 - Gospel of John
 - "A.D. the Bible" video series
 - Children's Ministry
 - TruStory curriculum for Elementary
 - Empowered Living curriculum for Preschool
- Ministry Improvements/Changes
 - Started using Planning Center for Check-in/Attendance (CM & MS)
 - Veritas Logo Change
 - Remodel of Middle School Room
 - New Background check service - protectmyministry.com
 - Training/transiting Carrie Yeaman into role of Children's Ministry Director

Stacey Rowan, Director of Preschool

- Registration continues
- Parent Night
- Start of classes
- Back to school routines, lessons, and fall unit of study
- Early morning drop off program continues
- Parent Teacher Conferences were held. All families participated and went very smoothly. We have a couple of students sent out for additional speech evaluations and are currently working with speech pathologists outside of coming to school here. One of our students

ended up with the Lindenhurst School District and one student is getting special services with Gurnee District 56

- Field Trip to Uno's Pizzeria in Gurnee. All students participated and had a blast! We got a tour of the kitchen and restaurant and got to make our own pizzas.
- Units of study Fall, Halloween, Fall Festival parties and camping
- Posting picture weekly to the GCC fb page to keep people interested in what's going on back in our hallway!
- Baked Christmas cookies and did a sequencing day in the community room
- Continued our unit on the alphabet
- Family Fun Night – Huge Success! 104 people (children and adults) participated in a fun night of arts and crafts, building blocks, bounce house fun, food and more. Everyone from preschool showed up as well as a few church families that just wanted a fun night out! It was a great night out for everyone.
- Parent helper week we had 2 Moms and 1 Dad come in and spend the day with us
- Valentine's Day parties for both classes
- Created a GCC Preschool Facebook page and keep it updated with current events and pictures
- Worked with Melissa Haak with Little Lake County to get our preschool on their blog site and on Pinterest with a listing of our school and a direct connect to our website when clicking on our logo. We are listed in their mailing as well.
- Parent –Teacher Conferences (April) We will have both day and night time appointments for parents
- Week long Easter unit with teaching thru the Resurrection Eggs
- Pastor Brian helped the MWF class rock climb one day!
- Planning end of the year field trip/fun day
- Lesson planning for the rest of the year
- Cleaning the storage room and going thru lesson plans and books
- Ordered new tables and chairs for the classrooms
- Bulletin boards/hallway boards
- Graduation ceremony (MWF class)
- Graduation slide show
- End of the year portfolios for each student
- End of the year family picnic with all students in both classes and their families
- Compared prices with other preschools and raised the tuition for next school year \$10/class/month

Steve Wantoch, Director of Stewardship

FY 2015- 2016 Summary Results:

Revenue: \$811,235 (actual) ; \$797,700 (budgeted)

Expenses: \$797,698 (actual) ; \$787,300 (budgeted)

- Actual revenue exceeded budget, resulting in a positive variance of \$11,835. Expenses were modestly under budget, which also generated a positive variance of \$10,368. For FY 2015-2016, a surplus was realized of \$22,203. A portion of this surplus (\$12,000) will be carried over into the operating budget for FY 2016-2017. The remaining balance, saved in the bank!
- Other financial highlights included a successful conclusion to our *Free To Thrive* capital campaign to reduce our mortgage debt. Over the 3 year life of the campaign, over \$1,050,000.00 was raised to pay down our mortgage. This resulted in our ability to refinance the remaining debt with a conventional mortgage, having more favorable terms and of course a lower principle.
- Endowment Fund update: for the most part, the assets in the GCC Endowment Fund followed the major stock market indexes and showed very little gain. For FY 2015-2016, the GCC Endowment Fund did not make any benevolent contributions, as earnings did not exceed the principle balance.
- Online Giving continues to expand. (And we believe this is a good thing!) The Stewardship Ministry evaluated other software providers, but chose to remain with our current provider. We do anticipate this way of giving to grow exponentially in the next several years.
- Congregation members also unanimously approved the FY 2016- 2017 Operating budget. Our balanced spending plan calls for Revenue and Expenses to be: \$828,200.

Nikki Behler, Director of Administration

- Room Management transferred to Planning Center and new Google Calendar on our website to make the monthly schedule look less crowded. Planning Center also prevents double-bookings.
- New room-layout documents created and posted for all bookable rooms. Also new clean-up checklists for renters of rooms.
- Spotlight cancelled both summer camps but had regular bookings for 3 seasons. A few new regular users of our facilities including 2 homeschooling groups.
- New Volunteer Opportunities web page is now on webpage
- Four new volunteers started (to add to the existing 3 volunteers) working in the Office so that by June 1016 we have volunteer coverage Mon-Fri 9am - 3pm most of the time. Office volunteers have started working on getting old paper records for baptisms, marriages, funerals and membership into electronic format for easier data retrieval and formatting.
- Servant Keeper 7 upgrade completed plus database moved to the cloud for easier access. Servant Keeper database purge – 2775 individuals removed from database.
- 5 Weddings, 6 Funerals
- Office move and reorganization of supplies. Administrator moved back to the front office, copier and mailboxes moved to Shawn's old office. Later in the year the copier was

moved again to the closet opposite room 109 to make way for Josiah Goering's office. At the same time the old mailboxes were reduced and moved to a filing system in a file cabinet in the main office.

- Phone contract renegotiated for a new 2yr contract. Savings = \$3500 over the next 2 years
- Offered monthly offering envelopes for the first time. Large reduction in annual giving envelopes ordered.
- Successful trial and first instance of emailing contribution statements. Now going to push this option for all future statements for as many people as we can
- Created car magnets as Christmas Eve giveaway
- Presented wireless plan to Endowment Committee. Plan agreed upon and equipment ordered for installation during the summer.
- Put in place a new process for collecting donations for Panama (as model for all Mission Trips)
- Online Registrations for No Regrets and Women's Retreat
- Rewrote funeral & wedding brochures
- Wrote new SOPs for Fundraising and Advertising
- Draft employee handbook created and under Elder review.

Gary Elsbury, Director of Building and Grounds

- Updated carpet in 101-A (High School room) & 136 (Middle School room)
- Finished a relamp and ballast change out thru older half of bldg, per an incentive from Com Ed energy saving program.
- Rekeyed exterior doors as a safety measure and are using the electronic door for access instead of handing out lots of keys.
- Major remodel of Middle School (Rm 136)
- Currently working to make Rm 109 the GCC History rm. Plans are to display in many different ways the history of GCC.
- Began working with the village of Gurnee on the park west of GCC bldg. GCC drive was removed to expand the park and moved our entrance to the west side of the park.
- Looking into Handicap accessibility to the stage (Chancel) area.
- Began work to help with the install of more wireless connections through the entire bldg.

Report of the Board of Elders

Tom Hood, Chair

- Upon the completion of the Church fiscal year 2015 – 2016, the Board of Elders consisted of the following members: Tom Hood, Chairperson, Laura Kassel, Secretary, Fran Yanuzzi, Treasurer, Tricia Elsbury, Paul Kattner, Robin Wantoch, Ron Kilik and Chris Stephens.
- The Board of Elders meet twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday. The first Tuesday is generally held at the Church and the fourth Tuesday is held at one of the Elder's homes. The additional meeting every month has helped the Elders be more responsive to issues that arise at the church as well as to assist in building deeper relationships with each other.
- An Elder meeting generally consists of a time of sharing God stories, prayer, time of enrichment and general business and personal topics that affect the church.
- Elders have continued to employ the Accountable Leadership principles this year and have worked at making changes as necessary. The Board had decided that a change was necessary in the principles and constitution to match our current practices. The Board is involved in the hiring and termination of employees and therefore the language of the governing language was amended to reflect that practice.
- The Elders received a proposed budget from Chris, Fran and the directors of the church. This year the revenue had increased a modest amount and therefore made the budget process easier to manage. After several adjustments being made by the Elders it was approved to be recommended to the Congregation for approval. The Congregation approved the budget.
- The Elders and staff are currently participating in the process of establishing a strategic plan for the church.
- Each Elder is associated with a specific person that leads a ministry in the church. That continues again this year and has provided greater involvement by the Elders in the life of the church.
- The Elders continue to invite directors and their spouses to attend an Elder meeting where we can hear what is going on in their life and to hear where we can be of assistance.
- The Elders have provided a review of Chris Stephens that included praying for Chris and his wife Laura.
- The Elders continue to pray, read scripture and serve communion on Sundays as is needed.

Baptisms, Dedications, Confirmations, Weddings & Deaths (July 2015-June 2016)

<p>Child Baptism/Dedication Jenna Rebecca Marsoobian Ty Riggins Aeberman Christopher John Milburn Harper Grace Copeland Blaire Elise Fitch Aariah M Rodriguez Aaron Rodriguez</p> <p>Adult Baptisms Angela Attiah Dave Stouwie Erica Diehl Tami Anderson Chris Russell Kelly Markle</p> <p>Confirmands Daniel Inmon Erin Kattner Daniel Lense</p>	<p>New Members Sandy Bear Luke Copeland Lindsey Copeland Cindy Hooten Charlene Quint Chris Russell</p> <p>Weddings Amber Pierce & Justin Silva Eileen Zuniga & Mike Rancharan Shavonne Ross & Matt Kearney Lisa Fitzgerald & Thomas Adepojo Jennifer Ortiz & Timothy Ortiz</p> <p>GCC Member Deaths Ruth Minikel Dick Welton Sallye Flood Ozzie Koetz John Petersen Jack "Red" Anderson Gail Slowinski Dot Cleveland Rama Quigley</p>
--	--

Minutes of Congregational Meetings

Gurnee Community Church - Congregational Meeting 8/16/15

I. Opening Prayer: Board of Elders Chairman Tom Hood opened the meeting at 4 p.m. Pam Hood gave the opening prayer.

II. Approval of Previous Minutes: **Motion**: Tricia Elsbury moved to approve the minutes of the 6/14/15, 10/26/14, and 8/17/14 congregational meetings. Seconded by Robin Wantoch. **Motion Passed.**

III. Annual Report – **Motion**: Randy Margison moved to receive the 2014-2015 GCC Annual Report As written. Seconded by Fran Yanuzzi. **Motion Passed.** Bill Holleman suggested that the annual reports should contain a listing of members who had passed away during the year, so that we can pray for their families. Tom Hood led a prayer for all of them at that moment. Bill also suggested that we include some statistics on how many people we're serving, as well as our attendance numbers. He thanked the Elders for their service.

IV. Elder Nomination Approval – **Motion**: Steve Wantoch moved to approve the nomination of Fran Yanuzzi as Elder of Gurnee Community Church. Seconded by Valerie Rastelli. Discussion ensued, whereby various members of the congregation spoke words of affirmation regarding Fran's qualifications. **Motion Passed.**

V. Search Committee Update – Adam Hoskinson gave an update on the Search Committee's activities in seeking candidates for the Director of Worship position. He shared with the group some details about the new job description, noting that it goes beyond just planning and leading the worship services. The job was posted in June 2015. Since then 18 people have responded, and 2 candidates look very promising. Further interviews are planned for those candidates. The goal is to present each of them to Pastor Chris for his consideration upon his return from pastoral renewal leave. A decision is expected by the end of September. Gary Elsbury reminded the congregation that the Sr. Pastor has the responsibility for the hiring decision. The Search Committee screens the candidates and presents the best ones for his review and consideration.

VI. GCC Financial Update – Steve Wantoch, Director of Stewardship, provided an update on the GCC financials. He noted the end of the previous fiscal year ended well, yet July 2015 was a slow month due to summer vacations, etc. A first quarter update will be included in the Connect in the 2nd week of October.

VII. Pastor Chris Return – Tom Hood noted that Pastor Chris will return from renewal leave on

Sept. 6th. Pastor Brian is preaching that Sunday. The Elders felt the need to give Pastor Chris space to process the transition upon his return, so he will not be preaching that day. Tom expressed his pleasure in seeing all the leaders step up during the last few months, and thanked Brian and Nikki for being the glue that held everything together. He also thanked the congregation for being flexible during this time and encouraged everyone to be here to celebrate their return and welcome them back!

VIII. Matt Archibald Restoration Update – Tom Hood shared with the group that restoration activities continue for Matt, and that it's been a difficult, yet growing time for he & Lara.

IX. Welton Plaza Update – Tom Hood explained some detail plans for the Welton Plaza development next door to the church. It will take a couple years to complete, and will be a beautiful green space with a pergola, when finished.

X. New Business – None

Motion: Valerie Rastelli moved to adjourn the meeting upon the conclusion of the closing prayer. Seconded by Diane Killian. **Motion Passed.**

Robin Wantoch gave the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Kassel,
Board of Elders

Gurnee Community Church - Congregational Meeting 6/12/16

I. Opening Prayer: Board of Elders Chairman Tom Hood opened the meeting at in prayer at 4 p.m.

II. Approval of Previous Minutes: Motion: Steve Saunders moved to approve the minutes of the 8/16/15 congregational meeting. Seconded by Dan Brewer. Motion Passed.

III. GCC Budget Proposal 2016-2017: Fran Yanuzzi, Elder Treasurer and Steve Wantoch, Director of Stewardship presented a summary of the proposed operating budget to the congregation. Fran explained the budget in terms of what it means to GCC and highlights of changes over the previous year's budget. He also provided an update on our current financial status, namely that revenues are up 5.4% over budget, with tithes/offerings making up 3.3% of that increase over the budget. Our mortgage has been reduced to 548K, due to the Free to Thrive campaign and our refinancing in March 2016. Expenses are up .9%, yielding an overall net surplus of approximately 12K. This surplus will then be used in the next year's operating budget. Steven then went on to explain the proposed budget by each ministry area and category. The proposed budget for 2016-2017 reflects a balanced budget of \$828,200. Steve provided some additional details about the refinanced mortgage, discretionary missions increase, and that all accruals are back to their full amount. Motion: Dan Brewer moved to approve the proposed 2016-2017 Operating Budget as presented and proposed by the Board of Elders. Seconded by Randy Margison. Questions and comments were taken from the floor. These included questions about the new mortgage, whether a housing allowance is provided to the pastors, how much of the tithe/offering budget is actual "pledged" monies, missions, and special offerings. Voice vote taken for the motion approval. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. GCC Constitutional Amendment Approval – Tom Hood presented the constitutional amendments that are up for approval, relating to the hiring/firing of staff, in Articles V, Sections 4 and 5 had modifications. Also up for approval was the removal of Article XI, Section 4, which spoke to the expiration date of the current governance structure. This section was now obsolete since the congregation voted to continue this governance structure indefinitely. (See Appendix below for specific language changes as part of this motion and approval) Motion: Margie Carrick moved to approve the changes to the GCC Constitution as presented and proposed by the Board of Elders. Seconded by Steve Saunders. Discussion – none. Voice vote was taken for the motion approval. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Welton Plaza Update – Tom Hood provided an update on the village plans for the Welton Plaza development next door to the church. The village is hoping to have it completed later this year or early next year. It will affect our side driveway to our parking lot. The village has been very kind and generous to GCC, and we will receive permanent parking authority to use the parking spots in the park. Questions and discussion arose regarding how to coordinate planned village events with GCC events so as to not have a conflict in the use of the parking areas. Coordination and communication will be needed for this going forward. Questions also arose regarding the sewer lines.

VI. Status of Availability of Property on SE corner of GCC Property – Tom Hood explained that this particular property was settled as part of the owner’s estate, and the settlement gave GCC the right of first refusal to purchase the property if a bid is placed on it. The property is currently up for sale. Questions and discussion arose from the floor regarding flooding issues, GCC’s long-term vision, the condition of the house, any restrictions for using that for parking, whether we would ever use the house as is or tear it down, and status of the next door Campbell property. Per Tom, the village is not currently interested in purchasing it. The potential exists down the road that the estate could even donate the property to GCC. If a bid is placed on the property, and GCC becomes interested, this would require a congregational vote if we were intending to take on new debt to purchase the property.

VII. New Business – None.

Tom Hood thanked the congregation and staff on behalf of the Board of Elders. Betty Holleman thanked the staff and Elders for their work and dedication.

Motion: Dan Brewer moved to adjourn the meeting upon the conclusion of the closing prayer. Seconded by Stacey Rowan. Motion Passed.

Tom Hood gave the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Kassel,
Board of Elders

Appendix:

June 12, 2016 Congregational Meeting – Proposed Changes to the GCC Constitution:

CONSTITUTION OF GURNEE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Adopted by the Congregation June 5, 2011

Amended: November 4, 2012

ARTICLE V – GURNEE COMMUNITY CHURCH GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Current

Section 4 – Senior Pastor

The role of the Senior Pastor is to lead the Church to accomplish its mission. The Senior Pastor shall lead the Congregation by teaching biblical truth, casting vision, and advancing the mission. The Senior Pastor shall lead the Board by vision-casting. The Senior Pastor shall lead the staff by directing them in their management of all Church operations. With regard to performance, the Senior Pastor shall be accountable to the Board of Elders. With regard to job retention, the Senior Pastor shall be accountable to the Congregation. The Senior Pastor shall hire, direct, and may terminate any and all Church staff. Church staff terminations require the approval of the Board of Elders. The Senior Pastor shall establish and recommend changes to Church staff compensation

within the congregationally approved budget in compliance with the Guiding Principles established by the Board of Elders.

Proposed

The role of the Senior Pastor is to lead the Church to accomplish its mission. The Senior Pastor shall lead the Congregation by teaching biblical truth, casting vision, and advancing the mission. The Senior Pastor shall lead the Board by vision-casting. The Senior Pastor shall lead the staff by directing them in their management of all Church operations. With regard to performance, the Senior Pastor shall be accountable to the Board of Elders. With regard to job retention, the Senior Pastor shall be accountable to the Congregation. The Senior Pastor shall hire, direct, and may terminate any and all Church staff. Church staff hiring and terminations require the approval of the Board of Elders. The Senior Pastor shall establish and recommend changes to Church staff compensation within the congregationally approved budget in compliance with the Guiding Principles established by the Board of Elders.

Current

Section 5 – Staff

The role of a staff person is to manage a specific area of Church operation. The term “staff” shall apply to all ministry leaders appointed for this management purpose, whether they are unpaid, part-time, or full-time with regard to compensation. Staff positions shall be created, filled, vacated, or discontinued based on how effectively they accomplish designated parts of the Mission Principles within the means allowed by the Boundary Principles. All such decisions are the responsibility and prerogative of the Senior Pastor, who must answer to the Board of Elders for the effectiveness of the staff. Immediate family members may not serve on the Gurnee Community Church staff at the pastor or director level (see the Guiding Principles for information on the position of Director) at the same time.

Proposed

Section 5 – Staff

The role of a staff person is to manage a specific area of Church operation. The term “staff” shall apply to all ministry leaders appointed for this management purpose, whether they are unpaid, part-time, or full-time with regard to compensation. Staff positions shall be created, filled, vacated, or discontinued based on how effectively they accomplish designated parts of the Mission Principles within the means allowed by the Boundary Principles. All such decisions are the responsibility and prerogative of the Senior Pastor, who must answer to the Board of Elders for the effectiveness of the staff. Changes to staff positions, as recommended by the Senior Pastor, require approval by the Board of Elders. Immediate family members may not serve on the Gurnee Community Church staff at the pastor or director level (see the Guiding Principles for information on the position of Director) at the same time.

ARTICLE XI – THE CONSTITUTION

Current

Section 4 – Effective Date and Vacation

A. This constitution shall become effective immediately upon ratification by a two-thirds majority of those voting thereon at a meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of such vote, such meeting having been announced at least two weeks beforehand.

B. This constitution shall remain effective and in force for a period of up to two (2) years from the effective date.

C. Not more than 120 days, but not less than 60 days, prior to the end of the two (2) year time period that this constitution is in force a meeting of the Congregation shall be held for the purpose of voting on the question of whether to re-affirm this constitution or to vacate this constitution and return to the constitution in effect prior to the adoption of this constitution. If a motion to vacate this Constitution (either in the form initially adopted or as modified during the two year period of its effectiveness) is approved by a two-thirds majority of those voting thereon, this constitution shall expire, and the constitution in effect prior to the initial adoption of this constitution shall be in full force and effect.

Proposed

Section 4 – Effective Date and Vacation

A. This constitution shall become effective immediately upon ratification by a two-thirds majority of those voting thereon at a meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of such vote, such meeting having been announced at least two weeks beforehand.

B. This constitution shall remain effective and in force for a period of up to two (2) years from the effective date.

C. Not more than 120 days, but not less than 60 days, prior to the end of the two (2) year time period that this constitution is in force a meeting of the Congregation shall be held for the purpose of voting on the question of whether to re-affirm this constitution or to vacate this constitution and return to the constitution in effect prior to the adoption of this constitution. If a motion to vacate this Constitution (either in the form initially adopted or as modified during the two year period of its effectiveness) is approved by a two-thirds majority of those voting thereon, this constitution shall expire, and the constitution in effect prior to the initial adoption of this constitution shall be in full force and effect.