



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

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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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

During this 2016-2017 fiscal year, GCC and I shared a special milestone in both of our histories: after 13 years and 3 months as Pastor at GCC, I became the longest serving pastor in the entire 157 year history of GCC. As I have commented on in previous years, much has changed in the last 13 years, and although I cannot take personal credit for most of it, I have been blessed to be a part of what God continues to do in us and among us. We have a completely different format for worship, a completely different Sunday morning schedule, a completely different governing structure, and an almost completely different team of leaders. What remains the same, however, is the focus on Jesus, a dependence on the Holy Spirit, and a love for this Gurnee community.

The 2016-2017 fiscal year was a year of unprecedented stability in our leadership team. I place a high value on stability and longevity in leadership positions, and we managed to achieve that this past year, as rare as it has been. With this stable team experienced leaders, we spent considerable time praying and seeking God and developing a set of concrete strategies for GCC for the foreseeable future. These 5 Strategies capture the essence of our culture as a church, and they also outline for our leadership team those areas of ministry where we desire to put our attention and resources. The conclusion of this process was the following 5 Strategies. (Note: Each of these strategies is phrased as as if the intended outcome of the strategy has already been achieved)

Strategy #1 - A focus on prayer, worship and the Bible

Each of us is collectively and individually engaged in authentic prayer, God-glorifying worship, and transformative biblical learning.

Strategy #2 - A deliberate focus on children, youth and seniors

We have created engaging growth environments for children, youth, families and seniors that are generation-specific in audience yet intergenerational in approach.

Strategy #3 - Systems for moving people into groups and serving

We have sustainable systems that move each of us into groups and serving opportunities.

Strategy #4 - Growth and care through group life

Each of us is an integral part of at least one group where we give and receive care and encouragement in our spiritual growth.

Strategy #5 - Ministry and evangelism through serving

Each of us is equipped and exercising our spiritual gifts for gospel centered evangelical service to our church and community.

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:
 - As commented above, this has been a very stable year for our team of leaders, but as the fiscal year came to a close, several leaders chose transition out of their respective roles, and so several transitions happen concurrent the transition from 2016-17 to the 2017-18 fiscal years. This consisted of:
 - Paul Kattner and Laura Kassel ending their service as members of the current Board of Elders
 - Steve Saunders and Amy Gibes being elected to the role of Elder to serve on our current Board.
 - The congregation called for Ordination of Paul Kattner to Christian Ministry - this will take place in the Fall of 2017
 - The congregation called Paul Kattner to the newly created role of Associate Pastor of Adult Education - a part-time unpaid staff position. This position reports to the Senior Pastor.
 - Steve Wantoch ended his time as Director of Stewardship, but at the same time accepted the role of Chair of the Endowment Fund Ministry Team
 - Phil Rosborough accepted the role of Director of Stewardship
 - Charlie Quint as Director of Church Connections transitioned to reporting directly to Pastor Brian where she previously had reported to Pastor Chris. This was to bring a better balance in the number of direct-reports for Pastor Chris and Pastor Brian.
- 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 a 4-Sunday preaching break during the summer (both summer of 2016 and summer of 2017). 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.
- Attended the ReThink Leadership Conference in Atlanta for the second year in a row, which was exclusively for senior pastors. The main topic was the effective development of and alignment of strategy for your church. This conference has fueled our efforts toward developing the strategies mentioned in the opening of this Annual Report.
- Much of time this past year was spent leading the leadership team of Elders and Staff in the development of the 5 Strategies. As a result of this work, the Key Purposes are now being rephrased and are now viewed as our "Key Values." These Key Values (printed in the beginning of this Annual Report) define our unique priorities and culture as a church, whereas our strategies will more specifically govern 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 (most of the year was spent in Acts). The sermon series for this past fiscal year have been:
 - MOVEMENT (Acts) -- April 3 - August 14, 2016
 - Healing for the Troubled Heart -- August 21 - September 4, 2016
 - SHIFT (Acts) -- September 11 - November 20, 2016
 - ReTHINK Christmas (Advent +) -- November 27, 2016 - January 8, 2017
 - Healthy Faith Habits -- January 15 - January 22, 2017
 - UNFINISHED (Acts) -- January 29 - February 26, 2017
 - Last Words (Lent, Last words of Jesus from the cross) -- March 5 - April 16, 2017
 - MISSION CRITICAL (Spiritual Gifts) -- April 23 - May 14, 2017
 - What the World Needs Now (1 John) -- May 21 - September 3, 2017

Brian Walter, Associate Pastor

- Encouraged Men from GCC as they attended the Next Step Leadership Training event
- Assisted with the transitions for Carrie Yeaman into her position as Director of Children and Family Ministries and for Josiah Goering into his position as Director of Student Ministries
- Helped to organize and promote a successful fall kick off for Adult Ministries with small groups, men's Bible studies, women's Bible studies, Sunday school, and Community Bible Study
- Helped organize four new small groups this year
- Joined a small group to lead by example that small groups are an important part of being connected with GCC
- Oversaw with Tom Hood small group leader gatherings throughout the year
- Community Bible Study transitioned to Lake County Bible Study as the study did not attract the 60 plus attendees that were required by the Community Bible Study organization
- Worked alongside Josiah Goering, our student ministry director, and Enjoli Figueroa to organize, kick off and oversee GCC's after school program - the Venue
- Celebrated with Ronald Milton as he completed his master's degree program at Moody Bible Institute and transitioned out of the Director of Adult Ministries position to pursue full time ministry opportunities elsewhere
- Evaluated and reorganized Adult Ministries with Pastor Chris with ministry leads reporting directly to the Associate pastor and with elder and congregational approval welcomed Paul Kattner as the Associate pastor of Adult Education. Pastor Paul will be reporting directly to Pastor Chris.
- Asked Chris Russell to be the ministry lead for small groups and he accepted the role. Working with Chris to educate ourselves on how to lead a small group ministry.
- Welcomed Laura Lense as the ministry lead for College Ministry, a brand new ministry. Laura hosted a very successful summer Bible study for students.
- Initiated hosting mini retreats, short 4-6 hour retreats on various topics and for various audiences. Helped to host four mini retreats this year: Rock Solid Men with Ronn Read (Sept 17), Holy Spirit Seminar 1 with Jonathan Siever & James Chambers (Oct 29), Holy Spirit Seminar 2 with Jonathan Siever & James Chambers (Jan 2), and a Women's Workshop with Joyce Dahl (Mar 11).
- Oversaw Confirmation Sunday with Andrea Hintz, Clayton Main, and Sam Inmon confirming their faith and becoming members of GCC.
- Organized and led Men's Adventure Retreat at Expeditions Unlimited in Baraboo Wis.
- Helped to organize, kick off, and lead Confirmation for 2016-17 with 10 students: Lucas Guagliardo, Terra and Margaret Herberger, John Gibes, Johnny Hooten, Lincoln Scherer, Caden Sheahan, Brody and Luke Stamison, and Nicole Ulrich.
- Helped organize and promote a Daniel Plan Study with Margie Carrick and Laura Main leading.
- Hosted Frank & Sylvia Saavedra, former missionaries with Word of Life Panama and now missionaries with Reach Global and part of Jon Fowlers team in Panama.
- Assisted in the organization, promotion, and leading of the men's No Regrets Conference with 176 men in attendance
- Promoted and ,along with my wife Linda, led seven couple through the Love & Respect marriage material
- Assisted in researching, implementing, and creating follow up material for church wide Spiritual Gifts Inventory utilizing Group Publishing's online Spiritual Gifts Discoveries
- Worked alongside the staff and elders in determining key strategies for GCC.
- Attended the Orange (children, youth, and family) Conference in Atlanta Georgia with Pastor Chris.
- Officiated a Candlelight service at Warren Funeral Home for those that had lost a loved one in the past year. As well as officiating funeral services for: Rama Quigley, Lee Kobus, Barbara Cooper, Patricia Olson, Florence Yoder, Margaret Barnas, Richie Bakken, and Robert McQueen.
- Assisted the care ministry team by making many hospital, nursing home, and home visits and calls.

Luke Copeland, Director of Worship and Creative Communication

- For the creative communications ministry at Gurnee Community Church, this has been a year of growth.
 - We have expanded the size of our volunteer pool for Sunday morning worship
 - We have re-launched the drama ministry
 - We have launched a videography team
 - We have re-invested in social media communications
- This has also been a year of personal growth for me.
 - I started on my Masters of Divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.
 - I took on the full brunt of my position- not only music, but also the visual and technical aspects of my job.
- This has been a year of investment in people.
 - We have been developing a more consistent rotation of teams to lead worship on Sunday morning.
 - We have been developing the volunteer leaders of those teams.
- This has been a year of investment in equipment.
 - Last November, we purchased and installed a brand new Yamaha TF 5 digital mixer in the sanctuary.
 - This April, we purchased new bulbs for all the spotlights in the sanctuary (install date in August).
- This has been a year of exciting and engaging special services
 - Our Christmas Eve services included 5:00, 7:00, and 11:00 service times.
 - Our Ash Wednesday service called upon deeply traditional liturgy.
 - Our Good Friday Experience took people on a unique journey alongside Jesus.
 - Our Easter services were a tremendous team effort that included the choir, a small orchestra, and a large, energetic band.
- This has been a year of service.
 - For the first time since the event began, our Thanksgiving Dinner included a “music room,” complete with guitars, piano, and percussion instruments.
 - We sang carols for some of the less mobile members of our church family during the Christmas season.
- This has been a very successful year for ensembles.
 - The chancel choir continued to sing in the 9:00 service once a month.
 - The bell choir re-launched and at its peak had 12 members, a very strong number.
 - The GCC Quartet shared several special numbers on Sunday morning.
 - The TruKids have sung several times for the congregation, and even played handbells once.
- This has been a year of learning.
 - In October, we redecorated the stage, to a very mixed response. After many productive conversations with various people, we undid the changes. We are still in the process of assessing the best way to move forward visually on Sunday mornings, while still honoring our traditional heritage.
- This has been a year of collaboration.
 - I had the opportunity to take on a substantial role in VBS/VBX this summer.
 - I met one-on-one with more than 30 volunteers and staff members to discuss vision and direction for the ministry.
 - I worked alongside other staff members to plan services, sermon series, and special events.
- This has been a year of blessing
 - I have personally seen a wonderful shift in the congregation’s engagement on Sunday morning. Boisterous singing, raising of hands, and a general feeling of excitement has begun to spread. Although these seen things are not in and of themselves good or bad, I believe they are the product of an unseen movement of God in response to fervent prayer.
 - There has been an opening of trust and communication between me and the many volunteers who help make Sunday morning services happen. I have had countless transparent

conversations, and it feels like people are learning that they can trust me to listen and respond to their ideas, passions, and concerns.

The year to come will exciting and fruitful! With a tremendous amount of conversation and guidance, our ministry has made a lot of small changes to increase our effectiveness, scope, and excellence. We have already begun to see the benefits of these changes, and I am confident that our best days of ahead of us. Next year is the year of harvest!

Charlie Quint, Director of Church Connections (previously called “Assimilation”)

- The Church Connections Ministry includes Greeters, Ushers, Secret Shepherds, Coffee and Fellowship ministry, and New Members.
- This has been a year of blessings and a year of firsts.
 - GCC Information Directory (first one ever!!) is now available at the Info Desk
 - GCC Welcome Package (first one ever!!) is now available at the Info Desk
 - Secret Shepherds ministry was started to identify newcomers, make them feel welcome, give them a welcome package, and get them connected if they desire
 - Training for Secret Shepherds, Greeters, and Ushers was conducted in April and May (first time ever!!)
 - New procedures for first-time attenders and new-comers have been implemented.
 - Inter-generational potluck lunches were re-instituted, planned with Carrie Yeaman (Children and Families) and well attended.
 - New member luncheon was held in the Spring and several new members were accepted into GCC on April 30, 2017.
 - Participation questionnaires were sent to directors and leaders and input into the database to assess congregational participation /leadership in ministries.
 - Personally met and connected with a number of newcomers.
- The next big things coming up and the projects at the top of my "To Do" list:
 - CPR Training for Secret shepherds, greeters, and ushers
 - Create a team of potluck dinner helpers
 - Annual training for Secret Shepherds, Greeters, and Ushers

Nancy Westover, Director of Missional Living

- Oversaw changes in the Missional Advisory Team with the departure of Hannah Goering and Betty Hollemon and addition of Ken Roscher. The team also consists of Hank Rastelli and Andy Yeaman.
- Jean Trecartin has resigned as our quarterly financial coordinator to be replaced by Adele Dixon.
- The Team completed a Policy statement for Missional Living and sent it to all partners for acknowledgement and acceptance.
- The Team interviewed five individuals/couples requesting financial support from GCC and three seeking permission to present their mission and fund-raise from the congregation.
- Two classes of the course *Helping Without Hurting* were taught, one in Adult Sunday School and one on Monday evenings with a total attendance of about 15 ministry leaders.
- All ministry Teams within GCC were asked to respond to a self-evaluation created by the Missional Living Team, based on the five GCC strategies and the values expressed in the GCC Missional Living Policy.
- Alpha ran 2 courses this ministry year – one starting in September and another starting in January with good responses reported.
- Big Events:
 - Thanksgiving Dinner

- Operation Christmas Child: Gwen Shaw and Joyce Peavey resigned as leaders to be replaced by Rich and Betty Basarich.
- Coats for Clearview
- Park City Harvest Fest and Spring Childrens' Day
- Kindred Life Ministry Chili Cookoff and Golf Outing
- Continued Kids Hope USA, a mentoring program for grade-school kids, working with Clearview School. A van was provided to those in the programs whose parents permitted them to attend VBS at GCC. Eight students were enrolled,
- Expanded the Threadz ministry, a Love INC "gap" ministry that provides school uniforms for kids in the Waukegan school system who cannot afford them.
- Supported Missions:
 - GCC Community Compassion Fund
 - Love, Inc
 - Kindred Life Ministries (formerly Teen Mothers Choices)
 - InterVarsity (Purdue University- Fort Wayne, Lara Archibald, and College of Lake County, Katie Chambers)
 - Independent Gospel Missions (Paul & Leah Manyara)
 - World Missions Far Corners (Abba's House and Simon and Margaret Muhota)
 - Little Lambs Feeding Centers – Kenya
 - Reach Global (Jon & Bianca Fowler, Panama, and Carlos and Suzanne Tejada, Costa Rica)
 - Word of Life (Mirko and Tracy, Panama)
 - Pioneer Bible Translators (Thea Colburn)
 - Adventure in Mission (Amy Deming, Georgia, USA)
 - The Go!Project c/o Christ Together (Gurnee evangelism effort)
 - Man-In-The-Mirror Ministries (Ron Reed)
 - Discretionary Missions used to add new global missionaries and help with short term projects: Betty Basarich to Haiti and Kim Lense to the Dominican Republic
 - Approval was granted to Frank and Silvia Saavedra, Reachglobal in Panama, and Gabriel and Catie Nye, short-term mission with E3 to Jordan, to present their mission and request funds from the congregation.
 - Plans are progressing for a team short-term mission to Abba's house in Kenya this coming October
- Other Ongoing Activities
 - GCC Food Pantry
 - PADS meal support
 - Love INC furniture delivery, warehouse and office support, support for Transformational Ministry program

Diana Killian, Director of Congregational Care

- The team consists of Adele Dixon, Nancy Gordon, Sue Kilik, Diane Iwema, Vonnie Johnson and Martha Schmidt and- Director - Diana Killian who report to Pastor Brian Walter.
- Some of the things we have done as a team are- Connect mailed to shut-ins and those unable to attend services. Many well-being phone calls made. Home visits, nursing home visits, assisted living visits were made. Rides and grocery shopping were done.
- A senior gathering was held on September 8th with a birthday party theme and attended by 56 people with pot luck salads, sandwiches and desserts provided. A senior lunch was held on

Valentine's Day which brought out 82 people which was catered by Salutos. Luke Copeland played love songs on the piano. Tom Hood, Brian Walter and Ron Kilik served.

- 23 MacDonalld gift cards were mailed to the college students in an Easter/Thinking of You card.
- Cards mailed: Sympathy 26, Bereavement 35, Thinking of You 166
Valentines 23, Easter 23, Graduation 14, Christmas 23* Confirmation 3, Thanksgiving to College students 25 *Christmas cards were made and mailed by Sue Kilik's Sunday School class
- Visits: Assisted Living 4. Independent 5, Home visits 34, Nursing Home 17
Rehab 2
- The dedication and commitment made by this group of ladies is a tribute to our Church family. I thank each one for their devotion. It has been a pleasure to serve alongside each of them.

Josiah Goering, Director of Student Ministries

- Events
 - Grade Bump (Aug)
 - Gurnee Days Booth promoting Venue (Aug)
 - Back to School Kick-Off Event - "Wild Goose Chase" (Aug)
 - One Retreat (Oct)
 - Kroll's Farm Event (Oct)
 - Service Night - Feed My Starving Children (Oct)
 - Turkey Trot (Nov)
 - Veritas Christmas party (Dec)
 - Winter Retreat @ Covenant Harbor (Jan)
 - Super Bowl Party (Feb)
 - Service Night @ Love INC (Mar)
 - Girls/Guys Night Out Event (Mar)
 - Experience Night (Apr)
 - End of the School Year Party for Venue (May)
 - High School Senior Recognition Sunday (May)
 - Many Hands Project Missions trip, Zion IL (Jul)
- Sunday Night Youth Group Series
 - "Veritas Values" (Sept)
 - "Upside Down" (Oct)
 - "Wired" (Nov)
 - "Another Christmas Story" (Dec)
 - "Shameless" (Jan)
 - "Deal with It" (Feb)
 - "All Access" (Mar)
 - "Datable" (Apr-May)
 - "Power Play" (Jun)
- Sunday School
 - Explore the Bible Curriculum
 - Fall Sessions (1 & 2 Peter, & Jude)
 - Winter Sessions (Joshua, Judges, & Ruth)
 - "Why Jesus" video series
 - "Paul the Apostle" video series
 - "Patterns of Evidence" movie
 - "The Bible" video series
- Changes:

- Began using Planning Center for Attendance (Veritas & Venue)
- Combined Junior and Senior high school together on Sunday nights
- Small groups became large focus of youth group nights
- XP3 Curriculum used for youth group nights

Carrie Yeaman, Director of Children's & Family Ministries

- Family Events
 - Christmas Ornament Decorating (Dec) - 50 people
 - Winter Wonderland (Jan) - 50 people
 - Chili Cook Off - attend (Feb) - 10 people
 - Indoor Movie (March) - 40 people
 - Easter Egg Hunt (April) - 50 children (lots of adults)
 - Indoor Mini-golf (May) - 30 people
 - VBS dinner on Friday (June) - over 100 people
 - Parents Night Out (Dec) - 31 children
 - POTLUCKS (all church) - Nov & March (about 80-90 people at both)
- Children's Events
 - Grade Bump (Aug)
 - Fire Station visit (Aug)
 - Rock Celebration
 - Nerf gun war
 - Climbing wall (May)
 - Offering (elementary and *started collecting in preschool too)
 - Fowlers - food for an orphanage (\$100)
 - Compassion International - water for a well (\$50)
 - Feed My Starving Children (\$50)
 - Christmas
 - Christmas program/song
 - Christmas Eve message
 - Goodie bags (53 handed out)
 - Christmas party and special crafts
 - Palm Sunday/Easter
 - Palm Sunday handbells/song
 - Easter message
 - VBS/VBX (June)
 - VBX added for deeper learning for older elementary
 - Theme - Passport to Peru/World Christian
 - 145 Kids
 - Approximately 85 volunteers
 - Over 30 children accept Christ as savior
- Sunday School
 - Children's Ministry
 - Switching from TruStory curriculum for Elementary and Empowered Living curriculum for Preschool to Gospel Project for all ages
- Outreach
 - Within Church
 - Welcome packets for new families
 - Bag
 - Brochure

- Magnet
 - Upcoming events
 - Directory of staff
 - Attendance awards for month of perfect attendance (24 kids largest amount)
 - Cards sent
 - New families - 14
 - Miss you - 96
 - Communication
 - Constant Contact - monthly letter
 - Bulletin Board
 - Printed upcoming events
 - Small Groups
 - Young Married (3-4 couples)
 - Mom's Groups
 - Tuesday night (working moms) 10-12 women
 - Friday morning (at home moms) 8-10 women
 - Summer Open Gym
 - Every Wednesday - average 4-6 children
 - Outside Church
 - Started a monthly Children's Directors Meeting (10 churches participate)
 - Volunteered at Immanuel's Secret Keeper Girl Event (4 GCC families attended)
 - Created list of Service Projects for families with young children
- Volunteers
 - Full set of volunteers for all areas (elementary, preschool & nursery) 61 people (not including summer helpers)
 - Thank volunteers
 - Lunch
 - Goodie bags
 - Cards
 - Preschool volunteers summer off/Summer preschool crew (18 summer volunteers)
 - Monthly team meetings
 - Elementary
 - Preschool
 - Requirements
 - T-shirts
 - Name Tags
- Ministry Improvements/Changes
 - Updating Child & Youth Protection Policy
 - 99% of volunteers are background checked
 - Updated TruKids logo and working on TruFamily logo
 - Updating Nursery
 - Enforced child pick up by adult with coinciding tag

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 –! 90 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
- 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 and families
- Created a preschool Facebook page and have utilized it in advertising and creating interest outside the church

Steve Wantoch, Director of Stewardship

FY 2016- 2017 Summary Results:

Revenue: \$837,915 (actual) ; \$826,250 (budgeted)

Expenses: \$830,899 (actual) ; \$827,660 (budgeted)

- Actual revenue exceeded budget, resulting in a positive variance of \$11,665. Expenses were modestly over budget, creating a negative variance of \$3,239.
- 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: assets in the GCC Endowment Fund Have grown nicely since November 2016, showing a 12% ROI for the last 12 months. The GCC Endowment Ministry was able to help support the church's new wireless network installation. Approval have also been given to support a new part time position for the Venue, as well as upgrades to our Nursery.
- The Counting Ministry made great strides this past year establishing best practices and training new members.
- Email year end giving statements: This has always been a tedious, cumbersome, high cost of postage task. But with the merge of accounting and servant keeper software (and a talented church administrator) we were able to timely and accurately deliver these statements.
- Congregation members also unanimously approved the FY 2017- 2018 Operating budget.
- Director of Stewardship transition: Phil Rosborough has now stepped into the Director of Stewardship role, beginning with our new fiscal year. There was a very smooth transition between us! I will remain the Team Lead for the GCC Endowment Fund Committee.

Nikki Behler, Director of Administration

- Changed Administrator hours back from 25 to 20 per week. Standard Administrator hours M-F 8:30am-12:30pm.
- Implemented Summer Office Hours 9am - 12:30pm M-F from Memorial Day to Labor Day to give afternoon volunteers a summer break and allow the main door to be locked when the Administrator leaves - better security for afternoons.
- Planning, communication and support for No Regrets, Thanksgiving, Alpha, Chili Cook-off, Fall studies, Spring studies, all room bookings, funerals etc.
- Set up Corporate Amazon Prime Account under Smile.Amazon.com with GCC as receiving charity.
- New website pages for Men's, Women's and Family Ministries.
- Replaced Phone System to internet-based system with PBX in the cloud and running over our existing Comcast connection. New system has superior support and functionality.
- Wireless upgrade completed. 18 new wireless routers and wireless hub moved out of bookkeeper's office. Computers all upgraded to CAT-6 connections.
- 3 older PC's replaced with Windows 10 machines. Administrator, Bookkeeper and Counters
- Copier replaced. New contract with new leasing company and support company. New copier is faster and higher quality but lower monthly cost.
- Servant Keeper database clean up made to reduce the number of families to less than 350. Spiritual gifts and current serving data input for current families input to database

Gary Elsbury, Director of Building and Grounds

- Finish running cables for the new wireless system throughout the bldg.
- Continue to work with the village on Welton Plaza.
- Install 5 sump pump stations around the exterior of building for flood control when the river rises and puts us in flood control mode.
- Continue remodel work in rm 109. This room still to be multi- purpose rm but we will also be able to display church history. (unofficially the Bill Holleman History Rm)
- Ran new cables for new phone system.
- In March the Custodian position was ended and we contracted out for janitorial services 6 days a week, working at night.
- Building a list of Long Term Capital Expenses to chart the needs for \$\$ in an account so we have the \$\$ available when needed.

Report of the Board of Elders

Tom Hood, Chair

- Upon the completion of the Church fiscal year 2016 – 2017, 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.
- Steve Saunders and Amy Gibes were nominated as Elders and approved by the Congregation. Paul Kattner and Laura Kassel left the Board. They will be missed.
- 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 amend the church governing documents to match our current practices. We have found that the Accountable Leadership principles though helpful were not completely practical in their original form. The current format has provided a much more collegial atmosphere between the Board of Elders and Church Staff.
- 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 much easier. The Board of Elders is thankful for the generous giving of the members of the Church.
- The Elders and staff participated in a Leadership retreat in February led by Chris Stephens. We had Police Chief Kevin Woodside attend the Friday night session and share his insights on leadership. The rest of the sessions were focused on establishing vision and strategy. It was a good team building exercise and the Elders are committed to doing this every year.
- The Elders have continued the process of each being associated with a specific ministry in the Church. The intent is that the Elder would encourage and provide support.
- 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 serve communion on Sundays as is needed.

Baptisms, Dedications, Confirmations, Weddings & Deaths (July 2016-June 2017)

<p>Child Baptism/Dedication Daniel John Leslie</p> <p>Adult Baptisms</p> <p>Confirmands Andrea Hintz Samuel Inmon Clayton Main</p>	<p>New Members Julie Chacko Brandon Schroetter Kelsi Schroetter Amanda Sobecki Randy Sobecki Dorothy STerling Carol Walton</p> <p>Weddings Adrietta James & John Jenkins III Tia Carr & Zachary Walter Debra Lee & Allen Booth Megan McKown & Sergio Soto Thea Stephens & Carsten Colburn</p> <p>GCC Members & Friends Deaths Juanita McPherson Rose Bandli Debra Jill Duros Margarette Florence Yoder Robert K. McQueen Donald Botimer Margaret Barnas Allen John Booth William H. Holleman Thomas K. Thomas Margaret Dena (Marge) Miller</p>
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Minutes of Congregational Meetings

Gurnee Community Church - Congregational Meeting 8/21/16

- I. Opening Prayer: Board of Elders Chairman Tom Hood welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 4 p.m. He then led the group in an opening prayer.
- II. Approval of Previous Minutes: **Motion**: Paul Kattner moved to approve the minutes of the 6/12/16 congregational meeting. Seconded by Vonnie Johnson. **Motion Passed.**
- III. Presentation of the Annual Report – **Motion**: Paul Kattner moved to receive the 2015-2016 GCC Annual Report as written. Seconded by Fran Yanuzzi. **Motion Passed.**
- IV. Welton Plaza Update – Tom Hood provided an update on the village plans for the Welton Plaza development next door to the church. Questions and discussion arose regarding paving and blacktopping the driveway and parking lot.
- V. Financial Update – Fran Yanuzzi provided a recap of the June YTD fiscal year-end financials. Questions and discussion arose from the floor regarding the balance of the mortgage, how ongoing Free to Thrive monies are being accounted for, and the need to communicate more aggressively the status of the F2T campaign.
- VI. New Business –
 - a. Sue Kilik raised a question regarding how best to encourage volunteerism for GCC ministries. This led into a time of sharing ideas on this topic – eg., using direct personal invitations, helpful reminders of opportunities, offering spiritual gift classes, encouraging people to use their spiritual gifts in ministry, providing more opportunities for pot lucks/social gatherings/fellowship, etc.
 - b. Another question arose regarding whether GCC provides outreach opportunities for areas hit by natural disasters around the country. Nancy Westover explained how GCC could/should handle these situations, and also noted the need for additional leaders to help plan/coordinate such outreach events.
 - c. Members of the congregation made positive comments about the children's programs, the biblical preaching of our pastoral staff, and the new member class.

Tom Hood thanked the congregation and staff on behalf of the Board of Elders, and gave the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tricia Elsbury and Laura Kassel,
Board of Elders

Gurnee Community Church - Congregational Meeting 2/12/17

- I. Opening Prayer: Elder Paul Kattner welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 4 p.m. Elder Tom Hood then led the group in an opening prayer.
- II. Purpose of Meeting – Paul Kattner explained the purpose for today's meeting – namely to consider whether to purchase the property on the NW corner of Grand and O'Plaine (646 N. O'Plaine Rd). We have been gifted with the Right of First Refusal to purchase it.
- III. Background – Pastor Chris Stephens provided background of the previous GCC Long-range plan and the Master Building Committee Plan. He explained the previous owner's Trust included GCC as a beneficiary to have the Right of First Refusal in purchasing the property. Currently, a bid has been made on the property and GCC can purchase it for \$1 more – at \$113,491. Pastor Chris explained potential advantages and disadvantages to the purchase. Advantages included added sight lines to the

church from the intersection, additional parking, and moving us one step closer to owning all the property on the corner. Disadvantages included no current need for extra parking, extra visibility comes at a high cost, and that our recent GCC focus has been on debt reduction. Other considerations noted were that funds for the purchase would have to be raised via capital campaign, bank loan or use of Endowment Fund, as well as the fact that other opportunities may arise to purchase it in the future. Also since the property is in a flood plain, it may continue to decrease in value.

IV. Motion – The Board of Elders moves that Gurnee Community Church NOT exercise the Right of First Refusal to purchase the property at 646 N O’Plaine Road.

Discussion opened to the congregation.

Questions arose regarding the following:

- Whether there has been any contact to the owner of the adjacent property (response: at the last contact, the owner indicated he was not interested in selling at that time).
- Who benefits from the sale of the property (response: the Hewitt Trust)
- Could we ever build on it (response: Village architects suggested not building on it but that making it a parking lot would be ok. We’ve been told we could not build anything new on it, yet it might be possible if a flood study was done and proved it wouldn’t affect the flood plain.)
- What is our current relationship with the organizations that own the properties we are currently using for parking – i.e., Welton Plaza, the Bank, Viking School, Gurnee Fire Department (response: we have good and stable relationships with all of these neighbors. Parking at Welton Plaza is guaranteed via a contract with the village.)
- Why would we pursue a property purchase that we don’t currently need when we still have a north wing that isn’t finished
- What is our current seating capacity in the sanctuary (response: 400)
- What is the cost to demolish the house and garage (response: Approximately \$20K) – some commented that this was an expensive “sign” at \$133K.
- How much are the property taxes (response: Zero for the church if we use it for church purposes).
- How were the other monies used that GCC received as part of the Hewitt Estate (response: \$100K was used to fund special projects like the Community Room upgrade, and the Youth Center, and the remaining \$100K went to the Free to Thrive capital campaign. The congregation in 2011 voted to use the monies in this way)

Suggestions arose as well as below:

- Instead of using it for parking, possibly purchase the property and put a garden there with a nice sign.
- We could possibly approach the new buyers to ask for a Right of First Refusal when they go to sell down the road. Some felt that the current purchase option doesn’t align with our current GCC vision and situation and thus should pursue this future Right of First Refusal with new buyers.

Vote taken via Ballot – **Motion passed by overwhelming majority vote.** (This means that GCC congregation decided to NOT execute the Right of First Refusal to purchase the property).

Paul Kattner thanked the congregational members for coming and said that it showed how much they care about the church. He also shared that the Elders and Directors were on a leadership retreat this weekend to further our long-term strategy. It was a great display of collaboration between the Elders and Staff!

Pastor Chris suggested we embrace the new owners and bring them a welcome basket. Charlie Quint will coordinate this. Anyone who would like to assist, please contact her.

V. New Business

- a. Steve Saunders asked about the status of the North Wing renovations and the Master Building Plan. Gary Elsbury noted that he is forming a new Master Building Committee and needs 6-8 people for a 1-2 year commitment. Anyone interested should contact him.
- b. Another question arose regarding our current mortgage. Steve Wantoch explained that we are 1 year into a 20- year loan of \$550K. Our principal is at approximately \$517K now. As F2T monies come in, we continue to pay that down, along with our monthly mortgage payments (which are 10% over the minimum payment).
- c. Sue Kilik expressed how much we miss Bill Holleman's presence – he was instrumental in the previous Master Building Plan.
- d. Charlie Quint thanked the Elders for their thoughts, discussions and efforts on this matter.

Brian Walter gave the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Laura Kassel, Board of Elders

Gurnee Community Church - Congregational Meeting 6/11/17

- 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**: Robin Wantoch moved to approve the minutes of the 8/21/16 and 2/12/17 congregational meetings. Seconded by Steve Saunders. **Motion Passed.**
- III. GCC Budget Proposal 2017-2018 -- Pastor Chris Stephens presented a summary of the proposed 2017-2018 operating budget to the congregation, which reflects a balanced budget of \$837,500. He explained the highlights of changes over the previous year's budget. **Motion**: Kristy Worfel moved to approve the proposed 2017-2018 Operating Budget as presented and proposed by the Board of Elders. Seconded by Steve Wantoch. Questions and comments were taken from the floor. Free to Thrive capital campaign contributions were encouraged to continue, as they go directly to reduce the remaining mortgage. Josiah Goering explained the proposed change for a new staff position for Venue Lead. A request to the Endowment Fund committee will be submitted to fund this new position as a trial for one year. **Motion passed.**
- IV. Approval of new Elders: Tom Hood explained to the congregation that two Elders are retiring from the Board (Laura Kassel and Paul Kattner), and thus two new Elders are being nominated to fill the open positions, namely Amy Gibbs and Steve Saunders. **Motion**: Charlie Quint moved to elect Amy Gibbs to the Board of Elders. Seconded by Steve Saunders. **Motion Passed.** **Motion**: Phil Rosborough moved to elect Steve Saunders to the Board of Elders. Seconded by Charlie Quint. **Motion Passed.**
- V. Associate Pastor Job Description – Tom Hood presented the updated job description for the Associate Pastor position. He explained the purpose of the changes.
- VI. Motions regarding the Ordination of Paul Kattner – Tom Hood explained the process of ordination for congregationally governed churches, and in particular for GCC. He went on to explain that Paul Kattner is seeking ordination and that the Elders have discussed/prayed about the matter as well. The Elders feel that Paul is a great candidate for ordination, given his recent achievement in receiving his M.A. in Theological Studies, as well as demonstrating the necessary gifts and character of a pastoral leader and biblical teacher. As such, they also feel he would be a perfect fit for the new Associate Pastor position. The Elders are now recommending to the congregation that Paul Kattner be ordained as a Christian minister at GCC. **Motion**: Curt Innes moved that in response to his expressed call and the leadings of the Holy Spirit, we do set apart Paul Kattner for the Christian Ministry through the solemn act of ordination. Seconded by Fred Kattner. **Motion Passed.**

Tom then went on to explain the process of calling and convening a Vicinage Council as part of the necessary steps for ordination. The Council of Vicinage is a council of pastors and delegates from theologically like-minded churches in our area.

Motion: Margie Carrick moved that

1. We bid the below named Churches and other Churches to be named later, by Letter Missive, to be present, by Pastor and a delegate (or two delegates if there is no settled Pastor), at a meeting date and time as agreed to by the Board of Elders and the candidate, to review our proceedings with respect to the ordination of Paul F. Kattner, to meet and hear the candidate, and to advise us with reference to the same; and if judged fitting, to proceed with us in a Service of Ordination to be held on a later date as collectively agreed by the Council of the Vicinage, our Board of Elders, and the candidate. Each invited Church shall be entitled to one vote, and the total number of invited Churches answering the roll call shall constitute a quorum.

The Churches to be invited include:

- a. Lakeland Evangelical Free Church, Gurnee, IL
- b. Village Church of Gurnee, Gurnee, IL
- c. Immanuel Church, Gurnee, IL
- d. Life Church, Gurnee, IL
- e. Joy! Lutheran Church, Gurnee, IL
- f. Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee, IL
- g. New Abbey Church, Gurnee, IL
- h. Epicenter Church, Gurnee, IL
- i. La Vina, Gurnee, IL
- j. House of Prayer, Gurnee, IL

2. We direct Paul Kattner and Chair of the Board of Elders to prepare a list of additional churches to be invited as official members of the Council, as well as a list of the individuals to be invited and seated as honorary members of the Council.

3. We direct the Senior Pastor and the Chair of the Board of Elders to prepare and send the formal letter of invitation to the Churches (the Letter Missive).

Motion seconded by Steve Saunders. **Motion Passed.**

VII. GCC Organization Chart – Tom Hood shared the revised organization chart for the staff at GCC. He explained in particular that the congregation has the authority and privilege to call a pastor to a pastoral role within the church. **Motion:** Carol Wright moved that GCC calls Paul Kattner to the position of Associate Pastor of Adult Education. Seconded by Fran Yanuzzi. **Motion Passed.**

VIII. New Business –

a. Gary Elsbury raised the question whether a plan was in place for continued efforts towards debt reduction. No current plan is in place beyond the continued encouragement to the congregation to give to the Free to Thrive campaign, along with our regular mortgage payments. Not everyone is aware of the previous campaign and thus we need to raise the awareness of this periodically.

b. A question arose about whether we've met the new neighbors who purchased the Hewitt property.

c. Tom Hood reminded the congregation about the Eva Dooley visit to GCC on Tuesday, June 13th and invited everyone to join in the worship service to be held that night at 7pm.

Tom Hood thanked the congregation and staff on behalf of the Board of Elders.

Paul Kattner gave the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Tricia Elsbury and Laura Kassel, Board of Elders