GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Governing Council Summary Report

October 2026

The Governing Council met on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, for our monthly meeting. Lynette led us in opening devotions and prayer. Below is a summary of key ministry updates, facility developments, governance planning, and financial reviews.

MINISTRY & STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor Justin shared an encouraging Lead Pastor report detailing how God is at work across our various ministries and celebrating the dedicated work of our staff team:

Children, Youth & Young Adults

Our ministries for children and youth are thriving across the board! Shena and her team are seeing fantastic engagement in Children's Ministries, with GEMS and Cadets kicking off this past week and already maxed out in attendance. In Youth Ministries, Thomas and Nevaeh are doing great with Edge (middle school) and Summit (high school) both off to an excellent start.

Chinese Ministry

We welcome Mandy as our volunteer Chinese Ministries Coordinator. She leads a weekly Life Group meeting with 15–20 native Mandarin speakers to learn more about Jesus. Furthermore, 10–20 people are utilizing Wordly (our live translation app) weekly.

Parenting Night

An intentional parenting night led by Pastor Justin, Thomas, and Shena is scheduled for October 29.

Spring Break Missions

Missions trips to Mexico and El Salvador are proceeding as planned for spring break.

FACILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Montessori Wing Design Kickoff

Following last month's decision, architectural design firm Keystone has been officially retained to create layout options for staff offices in the Montessori wing. A kickoff meeting will take place shortly with key leaders. While no final decisions have been made regarding the future of the Montessori wing, these designs will help guide our discussions on our options and the associated costs as we discern future plans.

New Church Signage

The outdoor sign replacement is moving forward and is expected to be installed in the next few weeks.

FINANCIAL PLANNING & BUDGET REVIEW

Betty (treasurer) joined Governing Council to review the first draft of the 2026/2027 fiscal budget as our fiscal year end (November 30) approaches:

Current Fiscal Year Status

Operational and ministry needs continue to be carefully managed as we track year-to-date giving, with the goal of fully meeting our anticipated budget needs by the end of November.

2026/2027 Budget Outlook & Key Changes

As we refine line items for next year's budget, key changes and priorities include:

- Debt for the initial church building project is now completely paid off and no longer needs to be budgeted.
- Proactively saving for major building component repairs and replacements as our facility ages, following the schedule recommended by the Infrastructure Development Task Force (IDTF) earlier this year.
- Anticipating future changes needed to support growing ministries and staff.
- Simplifying how we budget and pledge denominational ministry shares to make it clearer and easier to manage.

Process & Next Steps

Council and staff will finalize specific line items over the next month. A draft budget will be reviewed and approved by Governing Council and Full Council in early November before being presented to the congregation for a vote at the congregational meeting later that month.

VISION, GOVERNANCE & FALL PLANNING

Ministry Outcomes & Leadership Culture

Pastor Justin presented structured annual ministry outcomes and goals for staff. We are grateful for a healthy, positive employee culture across our entire team.

Prospective Elders Evening

Final preparations are being made in collaboration with the Ministering Elders for our upcoming gathering in October to which we have invited some potential future elders to learn more about what it means to serve as an elder at Gateway. This evening offers a warm opportunity to build relationships, share how Gateway Elders serve, and answer any questions.

Fall Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for our Fall Congregational Meeting on **Monday, November 23**, taking place in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR). We are currently discussing potential new meeting formats to enhance engagement and fellowship.

In Christ's service,

On Behalf of the Governing Council Elders

Nathan Gorter: Governing Council Chairperson