

Governing Council Summary Report

September 2026

The Governing Council met on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, to begin a new season of ministry, welcome new leadership, and discern upcoming opportunities and projects for Gateway. Below is a summary of key discussions, decisions, and ministry updates.

LEADERSHIP & COUNCIL TRANSITIONS

We opened our meeting with devotions and prayer led by Pastor Justin. As we stepped into this new council year, we expressed our deep gratitude to **Matt Tinsley** as he wrapped up 5 years of faithful service as elder and Governing Council Chair. We also thanked **Ron Vanderwal** for his dedicated service as elder and chair of deacons for the last 3 years.

We are pleased to welcome **Ben Arends** and **Matt Wikkerink** (chair of Deacons) to Governing Council.

Following the reaffirmation of the Covenant for Office Bearers, we confirmed the assignment of council roles for the coming term:

- **Council Chair:** Nathan Gorter
- **Vice Chair:** Bryan Kornelius
- **Clerk:** Phil Vanlaar
- **Building & Grounds Liaison:** Ben Arends
- **Staff Liaison:** Lynette Brandsma

FACILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Montessori Wing Improvement

We continue to explore options of renovating the aging Montessori wing to be staff offices. The Infrastructure Development Task Force (IDTF) brought forward a recommendation to hire architectural design firm Keystone at \$14,200 to provide an office layout renovation design for pricing and planning. This will provide greater clarity on costs as we discern future plans, and was unanimously approved by Governing Council.

New Church Signage

To improve visibility and welcoming messaging for our community, we approved a recommendation for a sign and reader board to be installed by Bourquin Signs, alongside work to manage ditch foliage to keep the new sign clearly visible. We are still finalizing the design.

MINISTRY & COMMUNITY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor Justin shared several exciting updates as our fall ministries launch:

- **Life Groups:** We are thrilled to launch 20 Life Groups this fall, our most ever, fostering deeper connection and spiritual growth across our church family.

- **Alpha Program:** Gateway will be offering the ALPHA course for those seeking to learn more about life's biggest questions. This will begin in a few weeks.
- **Gateway Leadership Conference:** Scheduled for this Saturday, September 12, this is the first ever all-volunteer conference for Gateway.
- **Extreme Weather Shelter:** Planning is underway with Sparrow and ministry partners to host the extreme weather shelter again this winter, caring for vulnerable neighbours in our community.
- **Missions Opportunity at the Esther School:** We continue to discuss ways that Gateway can partner with our missionary Leslie Arends as she explores missions trip opportunities to the Esther School.

VISION, GOVERNANCE & FALL PLANNING

Nathan presented an overview of leadership models, boundary principles, and council roles. Over the next few months, Governing Council will work to formalize annual goals, and Pastor Justin will present annual ministry goals.

Additionally, a joint Prospective Elders Evening is planned for October with our Ministering Elders to foster leadership development and collaborative discernment. We hope this will allow potential future elders to learn more about what it means to be a Gateway Elder, as well as allowing Council to learn more about possible future elder candidates for nominations. Work on the 2026/2027 fiscal budget is underway and will be presented in October ahead of the November Congregational Meeting.

In Christ's service,

On Behalf of the Governing Council Elders

Nathan Gorter: Governing Council Chairperson