GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Governing Council Summary Report

November 2026

The Governing Council met on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, for our monthly meeting. Phil Vanlaar led us in opening devotions and prayer. Below is a summary of key ministry updates, facility projects, budget discernment, and upcoming congregational planning.

MINISTRY & STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor Justin shared an encouraging Lead Pastor report highlighting vibrant ministry growth and community connections:

Life Groups & Discipleship Growth

We are excited to see deeper spiritual growth and community flourishing across our church family, with active Life Group participation now reaching 232 members. In addition, 11 individuals are participating in our Starting Point class, with most pursuing membership transfers and three exploring a public profession of faith.

Digital Outreach & Communications

Work is nearing completion on a new, accessible church website designed to improve online engagement and provide a more welcoming and friendly experience for visitors and members alike. It is scheduled to launch just before the start of Advent. A search is also underway for a Communications Specialist to help enhance our digital outreach and allow existing staff to focus more on core ministry areas, with the opening posted on our website and shared across broader ministry networks.

Weather Shelter

As of November 1, our weather shelter has transitioned back into our regular, nightly shelter. Once again we have partnered with Sparrow Community Care Society, who will serve as the primary operator of the shelter. The staff and leadership of Gateway and Sparrow are united in Christ with the vision of providing help and hope in the name of Jesus, and care to people suffering in our community.

FACILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Montessori Wing Design Progress

Keystone Architecture continues preliminary design work exploring potential layout options for staff offices in the aging Montessori wing. Keystone is currently using a conceptual option as a working foundation, and Council discussed considerations such as open-concept layouts. We hope to use Keystone's final report in our discussions on layout options, feasibility, and concrete costs as we plan for the future.

New Church Signage

The contract for our new exterior sign and reader board has been finalized. On-site installation is scheduled to take place over the coming weeks, providing improved visibility and welcoming messaging for our community.

FINANCIAL PLANNING & BUDGET REVIEW

Governing Council conducted an extensive review of the draft 2026/2027 fiscal budget ahead of our upcoming fiscal year end:

2026/2027 Budget Approval

Council carefully reviewed all operational, ministry, and staffing areas within the budget, including annual compensation and benefits adjustments for the pastors and staff. Following this review, Governing Council unanimously approved the draft budget to be brought forward to Full Council and the congregation.

Process & Next Steps

The budget will be reviewed by Full Council and presented to the congregation for final approval at our upcoming Fall Congregational Meeting.

VISION, GOVERNANCE & CONGREGATIONAL PLANNING

Prospective Elders Evening Review

Council reviewed the recent gathering held in collaboration with our Ministering Elders for invited prospective elders. The evening was an encouraging time of connection, sharing what it means to serve as an elder at Gateway, and discerning future leadership needs. Council members are completing follow-up reflections to continue refining leadership discernment in future seasons.

Governing Council Strategic Focus

Council engaged in a collaborative goal-setting exercise to evaluate current strengths and establish priority goals for the coming term. We plan to finalize these goals at our December meeting, which will provide focus and direction for the upcoming year.

Fall Congregational Meeting

Preparations are finalized for the upcoming Fall Congregational Meeting on **Monday, November 23 at 6pm** in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR). Agenda items have been reviewed and will be sent out shortly to the congregation. We warmly invite the entire church family to gather as we join together in fellowship and worship, vote on the 2026/2027 budget, and celebrate God's faithfulness at Gateway.

In Christ's service,

On Behalf of the Governing Council Elders
Nathan Gorter: Governing Council Chairperson