



# MINISTRY AWARDS

2019 GLC ANNUAL  
CELEBRATION  
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

LIFE CHURCH CANTON

APRIL 12, 2019



# LIFE CHURCH NETWORK

## ARV ANDERSON & LARRY SHERMAN AWARD IN CHURCH PLANTING

Life Church Canton (Canton, Michigan) started weekly services in the spring of 2003. Founding Pastor Alex Rahill and his wife Marcie already knew when they started Life Church that their intention was to plant more churches beyond Canton. By 2010 the average weekly attendance was 800-900 people and the plan of starting a new church was put into motion. Through a mutual colleague, Alex met Alan and Marcia Tumpkin and they began to talk about their shared dream to plant a church in Southfield, Michigan. Alan spent six months interning at Life Church Canton. During that time Alan received guidance, counsel, experience and a team of people sold out on the mission of planting a church in Southfield.



In late 2010, Life Church Southfield began meeting in a classroom at Ashland Theological Seminary, where 20 people met for weekly Bible study. The launch team met for a year and then in October of 2011 Life Church Southfield began to meet for weekly services. The church, which just celebrated their 7th anniversary, currently has an average weekly attendance of 310.

Life Church Livonia was birthed in a similar manner. Brian Nanninga, who had been a pastor at Forest Park Covenant Church in Muskegon, Michigan, interned at Life Church Canton before starting weekly services for Life Church Livonia in September of 2014. Life Church Livonia just celebrated their 4 year anniversary and has an average weekly attendance of 230.

In the fall of 2017, Alan was introduced to Donearl Johnson and they started to have conversations about church planting. At this point, Alan was serving part-time as the GLC Director of Church Planting as well as being the pastor of Life Church Southfield. Donearl knew that God was calling him to plant a church and he was searching for the right context in which to start. Donearl invited his friend and brother in Christ, Cameron Underdown, to join him and be a part of the journey. Donearl and Cam were invited to attend the ECC's Midwinter in January of 2018. Donearl says he knew "this was his tribe". They appreciated the ECC's commitment to the word of God, radical love and a diversity of voice. The ECC's intentional work in racial reconciliation was a deciding factor in knowing that this was the right fit for them. Donearl and Cam started an internship in February of 2018 at Life Church Southfield where they were trained in the "7 Systems of a Healthy Church". Life Church Auburn Hills signed their Covenant Agreement in December and have held preview services in January, February and March with an average attendance of over 220. They will plan to meet weekly beginning Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019.

In the fall of 2017, Alex Rahill left Life Church Canton to become the ECC Director of Church Planting. Nathan McWherter became the new lead pastor in June of 2018. Life Church Canton is now in year 16 and has an average weekly attendance of 1400.

The Life Church Network is committed to saturating the Detroit area with unique expressions of the gospel in church plants that meet the diverse needs of the city. Together they will train, empower, and finance church plants through mutual relationship and proven systems. This enables them to expand the kingdom beyond our cities and communities. They are able to do more together than apart. They are a family that believes that they can position Detroit to KNOW Jesus in a real way, GROW in obedience and devotion to him, and GO into all the world and share his power and impact.

# AR DENA DUREN

## DAVE & BETH CHILCOAT AWARD IN CHURCH OUTREACH

Kingdom Embassy is a GLC church plant in Muskegon, Michigan. Arthur Duren the lead planter, and his wife Ardena, spent most of their careers in the public school system. Ardena was an administrator for 10 years and a middle school teacher for 14 years. Arthur was a middle school teacher for 18 years and a principal/administrator for 14 years. He also coached football, basketball, and was an athletic director. In 2015, they began a weekly Bible study and were encouraged to consider starting a church. In 2016, they connected with the GLC/ECC. At first they were given space at Forest Park Covenant Church for their Sunday services. They then began leasing a building from the Christian Reformed Church (Muskegon Classis). Arthur and Ardena met with the Reformed Classis several times and shared the story of their church and their plans of outreach in the community. The Durens and their lead team hosted a meeting for the Muskegon Classis. At the end of the meeting, Arthur and Ardena were called into the sanctuary to a standing ovation. They were told that they were being **GIFTED** the building. Then the Durens and their lead team were prayed over by the Classis.

Kingdom Embassy is located across the street from the local elementary school and about 6 blocks from the middle school. The Durens noticed that some of the middle schoolers were coming over to the elementary school and waiting 30-40 minutes to pick up their younger siblings. They opened up the church as a place for the kids to wait. This was the start of the fulfillment of their dream to start an after-school program for kids in the community.

Ardena, Arthur and Deanna Holman (an educator with Muskegon Public Schools) started to plan for what is now the Kingdom Compass After School Program. They contacted the Mona Shores School District and received support and cooperation. The school was able to send out info to the families about the program. Through a food service, Chartwells, they receive a free after school snack for the participants. There are currently over 60 kids from K-8 enrolled in the program and they serve about 30-40 kids per day. The program is available on Monday - Thursday from 3:00pm - 5:00pm at no cost to the family. When the kids first arrive they are given a snack, they then rotate through 3 stations that include homework/computer, table games/crafts, and gym activities. The program received a grant which allows them to give a stipend to two people, Angela and Jaise, that along with Ardena are supervising each session. They also have 4 committed volunteers from the church. They have partnered with the National Honor Society at the local high school where kids get volunteer hours to assist with the program. Other adult volunteers have come in to teach a particular skill or craft including knitting, fishing, sewing and other life skills. They have also partnered with community organizations such as First Tee of West Michigan (for free golf lessons) and the YMCA (Healthy Weight and Your Child - empowering families to live healthier).

Kingdom Compass focuses on kindness, respect and interpersonal skills. They open each session in prayer and the kids are beginning to share in leading the prayer. They also have a "no-phone" policy and encourage the students to interact with their peers and mentors. About ten percent of the kids in the program are from Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church. Other families have visited the church as a result of their kids being involved in the program.

Pastor Arthur Duren says the program *"is a confidence booster for kids. It is a safe haven where kids can get help and encouragement."* Letayah, a Kingdom Compass Student says, *"it's a great after school program. We are rewarded for good grades."*



# MIKE PRZYBYLSKI

## DAVE DAHLBERG AWARD IN CHURCH VITALITY

In 2008, while serving as the senior pastor of New Harvest Christian Church in Oregon, OH, Mike led New Harvest into the Covenant. After he retired from New Harvest at the end of 2012, he served as Interim Pastor at Forest Park Covenant Church in Muskegon, MI for the year 2013. He then served as Interim Pastor in 2014 at Messiah Church in Detroit, MI. He became the Director of Congregational Vitality in early 2015 and served in that role until retiring on October 31, 2018. Mike is a graduate of Ashland Theological Seminary and he served there on the Mentor Team of the Pastors of Excellence program from 2007 - 2014.

The opportunity to get involved with Congregational Vitality came with an invitation from Steve Armfield in 2014 to begin to work with him in serving the churches of the Great Lakes Conference. Within a few months, Steve decided to go to Sweden on interim assignment; Mike then received an offer to join the GLC staff in the role of Director of Congregational Vitality. That invitation was an opportunity to participate in the most enjoyable assignment of his life.



Through his involvement with the national staff of Vitality leaders led at that time by John Werrich, and with the support of our superintendent, Garth McGrath, he became and remains today an advocate of congregational vitality as being essential to every congregation regardless of size and present circumstances. Mike has been blessed with the many opportunities to see God at work in our churches and he believes without any doubt that, if a church gives the Holy Spirit space and opportunity, He will show up in unexpected ways and do a work beyond our expectations. The work of pursuing God's agenda and not our own remains the primary calling of the local church.

Mike and his wife, Di, have 3 grown children and 10 grandchildren. He loves to spend time with his family and is also an avid baseball fan. Presently, Mike

volunteers in his church, Washington Church in Toledo, helping to develop Bible courses and he is involved in discipleship ministry. He also serves as the volunteer chaplain for Truth@Work of Northwest Ohio, a ministry to leaders in business and non-profit organizations. Additionally, he is involved with the Eastern Region Churches United which is a fellowship of churches in East Toledo, Oregon, and other suburban communities in the region.

Mike would like to thank Garth, Steve Armfield, and the GLC Executive Board and staff for all their support during his time serving the GLC, he is honored and blessed to have worked with each one.

# FOUR RIVERS COVENANT CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

## RICHARD LUCCO AWARD IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Four Rivers Covenant Church was adopted into the Covenant as a young church plant in 2006. The church grew over the next few years and expanded to include two campuses. While the growth was exciting, changes and conflict in leadership caused structural instability, which eventually led to a church without a lead pastor and in a steep decline in attendance.

In 2015, members of the existing leadership team decided it was time to close the doors to both campuses. But a group of about 25 church members who were deeply committed to advancing the Gospel in their community disagreed with the decision and contacted the GLC to ask for help. The GLC intervened and supported them in their decision to re-open the doors to Four Rivers Church, focusing on the Calvert City Campus. Over the next couple of years this group of families and leaders faced even more challenges and difficulties as they worked hard to shore up the foundation of the church. The sacrifices and endurance of the people who stayed cannot be adequately expressed in words. They knew God had called them to stay together and to continue the presence of the church in their community.

In 2016, Roger and Dawn Choate returned to Four Rivers Church, having reconnected with some of the families and leaders of the church who came to serve and volunteer at the Choate's non-profit ministry Healing Projects, in Paducah. As God began to weave the lives of these families back together they began to pray and dream about what God might do again in – and through - Four Rivers Covenant Church.

In May 2018, the church called Dawn to be the lead pastor. The past year has been a year of re-planting. New families have joined the church, veteran families have found new ways to serve, and an overall joy and excitement about all God is doing has permeated the congregation! Sunday morning attendance has doubled and sometimes tripled! A youth group has been launched. Many in the congregation have become involved with local and global service projects. They have invested in leadership development. They have remodeled the foyer of the church building! They now regularly contribute to and invest in the work of both the GLC and the ECC. They celebrate and embody the gift of standing "Three-Strand-Strong" in the larger mission of God in the world: Church – Conference – Denomination.

Words cannot adequately describe the gratitude for what God has done! They are so filled with hope in the future that their vision statement for the year is "Find Hope Here!" God has resurrected them as a family and a local community of faith. All things are possible! God is great and worth 1000 hallelujahs!!

Those who have served in leadership the past 2 years include:

- Tony and Vicki Borden
- Ross and Rhonda Howard
- Larry and Janet Springer
- Dawn and Roger Choate
- Jeremy and Kendra Wallace
- Michael and Susan Jett
- Chris and Debbie Wallace



# PAST MINISTRY AWARD RECIPIENTS

## ARV ANDERSON & LARRY SHERMAN AWARD IN CHURCH PLANTING

2018	New Community Church
2017	LifeChurch Livonia Leadership
2016	Harlan & Wendy Henderson
2015	Brittany Barlow & Abbie Golden
2014	Alex Rahill
2013	Jerry Ricks
2012	Herb Kolbe
2011	Father Paul Chateau
2010	Scott & Tracey Austin, Jason & Lisa Condon, Mike & Mel Muscarella
2009	Caleb Skinner
2008	Lois Johnson
2007	Dan & Lisa Johanon
2006	Jim Wallis Sr.
2005	Arv Anderson

## DAVE & BETH CHILCOAT AWARD IN OUTREACH

2018	Maria Koliantz
2017	GLC Evangelism Cohort Leaders
2016	Shunichi & Masako Miyamoto
2015	Melissa Williams
2014	Bruce & Barbara Baehr
2013	Rick Miller, David Trospen, Sharon Hamilton
2012	Marge Palmerlee
2011	Judd Hamilton
2010	Don Schiewer
2009	Alan & Deb Asp
2008	Keystone Church of Hazelwood & Stoneridge Covenant Church
2007	Monique Holliday
2006	Dave & Beth Chilcoat

# PAST MINISTRY AWARD RECIPIENTS

## DAVE DAHLBERG AWARD IN CHURCH VITALITY

2018	Forest Park Covenant Church
2017	John Wenrich
2016	Federated Covenant Church
2015	Kelly Casey
2014	Keith Cheli
2013	Bill Anthes
2012	Russ Carlson
2011	Sarah Giordon
2010	Josh & Alycia Meriweather
2009	Bob & Joanne Gielow
2008	Steve Armfield
2007	David Dahlberg

## RICHARD LUCCO AWARD IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP

2018	Laura Garvey & Tamra Soderberg
2017	Ja'mel Armstrong & Matt Ness
2016	Greg Applequist & Steve Armfield
2015	City Covenant "Mothers of the Ministry"
2014	Shaun Marshall
2013	Dan Wolter
2012	Richard Lucco





## **GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE**

6900 N. HAGGERTY RD. SUITE 90

CANTON, MI 48187

734-451-4670



**WWW.GREATLAKES.CC**



**INFO@GREATLAKES.CC**



**GREATLAKESECC**



**@GREATLAKESECC**

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