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# SEEING CLEARLY

TO FOLLOW IN OUR MASTER'S FOOTSTEPS  
 GLC ANNUAL CELEBRATION

DELEGATE DOCUMENTS

## DELEGATE ORIENTATION

### 2019 Great Lakes Conference Annual Meeting

**WELCOME** to the Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Conference. It is the hope of the Great Lakes Conference Board that these pages will acquaint delegates with the procedures and information for this meeting, described in the **Constitution of the Conference** as the *General Assembly*.

The **purpose** of this Annual Meeting is the same as the purpose of the Church of Jesus Christ—at all times and in all situations—*to discern and to do the will of God*. Depending on the circumstances, there are several ways this may be done; the circumstances of the Annual Meeting - the size of the delegation, the complexity of the issues that will come before us - require that we proceed more formally than is usually necessary in smaller Christian gatherings. We proceed according to the *Conference Constitution and Bylaws* as well as **Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised**. At first, some of the language used on the floor of the Annual Meeting may seem strange to you, but you will soon understand it as a kind of oral “*shorthand*” that keeps the business moving along. A brief glossary of some common parliamentary terms is at the end of these pages. The reason for a rather strict adherence to these rules may be stated as follows:

- It protects the right of the majority to decide
- It protects the right of the minority to be heard
- It protects the rights of individual members, both those present and those absent
- It prevents a “**railroad**” of the Annual Meeting by manipulation
- It prevents an emotional “**stampede**” of the Annual Meeting.

Though other elements are factors, three elements basically determine the direction of each Annual Meeting:

- the delegates
- the Boards and Commissions of the Covenant - particularly the Executive Board
- the Moderator.

### I. THE DELEGATES

The individual delegate is the principal “*building block*” of the Annual Meeting. This person must act to receive the reports, to approve recommendations, and to question and debate the issues. Every delegate has the right to speak in the Annual Meeting, but those who do not speak are just as vital to the process as those who do - the power of decision rests with all the delegates.

Discussion, debate, the exchange of ideas and information are, however, at the heart of the process, so these are encouraged. Here are some **guidelines** if you wish to speak on the floor of the meeting:

1. Approach a microphone and wait for the Moderator to call on you.
2. Seek the floor only when the subject you want to talk about is under discussion.

3. When you have been recognized, speak to the Moderator and tell him/her what is on your mind. *You do not have to make a speech to the Assembly; you are speaking to just one person, and the others are listening in.*
4. If you have a question about procedure, ask the Moderator; if you have a question about the subject under discussion, the Moderator will call on the person who is most likely to have the answer.
5. You may speak once to an issue, and not again on the same issue as long as someone else, who has not yet had a turn is seeking the floor.

If you have an item that does not relate to the proposed Agenda and you wish to present it to the meeting, it is preferred that you present this, in writing, to the Moderator prior to the Annual Meeting. Opportunity for changes and/or additions is given at the time of adopting the Agenda.

### II. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The Members of the Executive Board, and others so designated, are the chief “*resource persons*” on the floor of the General Assembly. The Executive Board is the mover of almost all the recommendations that arise from the Agenda, which it also prepares. All recommendations are subject to the amendment, referral, or rejection of the Annual Meeting.

As the mover of most of the recommendations on the Agenda, a spokesperson for the Board is usually granted what the Rules call “*preference in recognition*.” This is the privilege of a mover to speak first to his own motion. *(Please note that motions arising from a Board, Commission, or Committee do not require a second; they already have more than one supporter.)*

### III. THE MODERATOR

The Moderator of the General Assembly is the Chair of the Conference Executive Board. The Moderator’s responsibilities are:

- to interpret and apply the rules of the Meeting
- to expedite the business of the Meeting
- to see that all persons involved in the Meeting are treated fairly
- to clarify what is happening
- to advise delegates in the procedures of the Meeting
- to maintain the discipline and joy of Christian fellowship.

A final word about “**decorum**” in the Meeting. There are rare times when spontaneous applause expresses affirmation and unanimity in the Meeting, but applause during a debate, when there is an obvious difference of opinion, is not fair to the opposing side.

Motives of other persons may never be impugned during a debate. The merits of the motion, and not the motives of the mover, are the issue under debate.

*When the Meeting is in session, move to and from your seat quickly and quietly.*

### A BRIEF GLOSSARY OF COMMON PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

**AMEND, MOVE TO** - Most motions may be amended on the floor of the Meeting, particularly when they deal with the business rather than the procedures of the Meeting. When an amendment has been seconded, it must be debated and decided, or otherwise dealt with, before the motion it seeks to amend may be further considered.

**APPEAL, FROM THE RULING OF THE MODERATOR** - A delegate is testing the Moderator's ruling against the opinion of the Meeting. The motion to appeal requires a second. An *affirmative* vote by the Meeting sustains the Moderator's ruling.

**BALLOT, TO ORDER THE VOTE ON A PENDING QUESTION TO BE TAKEN BY** - The Bylaws and Rules specify that certain questions be decided by ballot. Questions other than these may also be decided by ballot if a majority of the Meeting concurs with a request from a delegate for it.

**DIVISION OF THE ASSEMBLY** - This is a vote by rising. It may be demanded by any delegate to verify a vote taken by a voice or by show of hands, or may be ordered by the Moderator when a vote by show of hands or by voice has been "*too close to call.*" If it is still not possible to discern the outcome visually, the Moderator may order a count by the Sergeants-at-Arms. A majority of the Meeting may also order a count.

**INFORMATION, POINT OF** - Asking a question about the business at hand.

**MR. or MADAME MODERATOR** - The traditional form for addressing the Moderator from the floor of the Meeting.

**ORDER, POINT OF** - A delegate calls the Moderator's attention to a possible breach of the Rules. If the delegate is not satisfied with the Moderator's subsequent explanation, he may appeal if the point has been raised concerning an actual ruling of the Moderator.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN** - An advisor to the Moderator on Parliamentary Law.

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY, POINT OF** - Asking a question about the application of the Rules in the business at hand.

**PERSONAL PRIVILEGE, POINT OF** - A delegate believes that his rights or the rights of another are being infringed upon.

**POSTPONE TO A CERTAIN TIME** - A delegate may move to postpone the item under discussion until a later point in the Meeting. The motion requires a second and is debatable.

**PREVIOUS QUESTION, MOVE THE** - A motion to cut off debate on an issue which requires a second, and a two-thirds majority. An affirmative vote merely cuts off debate and is *not* a vote on the motion under debate.

**PUTTING THE QUESTION** - Taking a vote

**RECONSIDER, MOVE TO** - A motion to reconsider an item previously voted upon may be made at any time, though it may have to wait until other business has been dealt with before it can be taken up. If a majority decides that the item previously voted upon will be reconsidered, debate on it re-opens, and another vote is taken (or it is otherwise disposed of, by referral, etc.). The motion to reconsider has unique characteristics: It may be made only by a delegate who originally voted with the prevailing side on the item; it may be made no later than the day following the original vote; it cannot apply to an item when provisions of it have already begun to be carried out (such as the signing of a contract); and it cannot be itself reconsidered.

**REFER, MOVE TO** - Not to be confused with a motion to **table**. A referred motion goes to a Board or Committee as designated by the *Motion to Refer*. It requires a second and is debatable.

**SECOND** - A seconder need not agree with the motion or vote for it. He need only agree that the motion deserves the attention of the Meeting.

**SUSPEND THE RULES** - It is possible to suspend a rule that is standing in the way of accomplishing what the Meeting clearly wants to do either by motion or by unanimous consent. Bylaws may not be suspended unless they are in the nature of "*rules of order.*" This is a complex issue, with each instance subject to the interpretation and ruling of the Moderator.

**TABLE, MOVE TO** - (Or "**LAY ON THE TABLE**") Unlike a referred motion, a tabled motion goes nowhere. No one considers it, or studies it, or does anything with it, until a motion passes to "*take it from the table.*" If this never happens, the tabled motion is never again considered.

*Prepared, in the main, by Everett L. Wilson (Moderator of the 1985 Covenant Annual Meeting) in consultation with Robert H. Peterson (Moderator-1983).*

*Revisions by Evelyn M. R. Johnson (Moderator-1986) and Duane Aschenbrenner (Parliamentarian-1986).*

*Revisions by Rev. David S. Dahlberg (1992).*

## NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2020 GLC ANNUAL MEETING

### OFFICERS

#### Thomas (Tom) Sharkey, Boardman, OH (Chair)

Tom served First Covenant Church of Youngstown, OH as Senior Pastor for over 31 years before retiring last September. He grew up in New York City in a Roman Catholic family. Following a period of atheism in high school and college, Tom came to a personal faith in Jesus and began attending a Covenant Church near the college he was attending in Springfield, MA. After sensing (and fighting mightily against) a call to ministry, he finally surrendered and went on to earn a Master of Divinity degree from North Park Seminary in 1979. He served as the Pastor of Community Covenant Church in Hopkinton, MA from 1979-81, Associate Pastor of North Park Covenant Church in Chicago, IL from 1982-88 (where he was also adjunct faculty at NPTS), and Senior Pastor of First Covenant Church in Youngstown, OH from 1988 until his retirement. Tom's theological perspectives have been strongly influenced by British theologians & scholars, including John Stott, C.S. Lewis, Michael Green, Alistair McGrath, John Lennox, N.T. Wright, and many others. He loves apologetics and is passionate about teaching and preaching. Tom's long tenure in Covenant ministry (41 years) and his long history in the Conference (31 years) give him a depth of knowledge and experience in Covenant life that will be beneficial to the Conference Board. Tom and his wife Lucy have two adult children, including a son (Stephen) who is also a Covenant pastor and Church planter in the East Coast Conference (Highrock Quincy Covenant Church). In his free time, Tom enjoys reading, playing with his grandchildren (six of them now!), spending time with dear friends and reminiscing about the days when he used to do (before his knees gave out) competitive trampoline and springboard and platform diving.

#### Doug McCann, Stoneridge Covenant Church, Allison Park, PA (Vice Chair)

Doug serves as a Sunday school teacher, a member of the preschool board, and as the Treasurer at Stoneridge Covenant. Doug recently retired from Highmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield, where he worked as an actuary for 29 years. Doug is married and has three grown children. He enjoys bicycling and swimming in his free time. Doug would like to serve on the GLC Executive Board because he wants to use what he has learned to further God's Kingdom and make good use of his time in retirement.

#### Cheryl Schut, First Evangelical Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, MI (Secretary)

Cheryl grew up as a "Baptist preacher's kid" and joined the ECC after marrying her Christian Reformed husband Mark. She says that the Evangelical Covenant Church was the perfect mesh for joining their slightly different upbringings. Cheryl has served in many different capacities over the years, including teaching Sunday School to preschoolers, working in the nursery, volunteering as a MOPS Mentor Mom, and participating in the Union High School Card Ministry to name a few. Cheryl has worked part time as a bookkeeper for a tape wholesaler for the past 24 years and helps with special projects for her husband's CPA firm. She finds her true joy in being a wife, mother of 3 grown children, and "Gumma" to 4 beautiful grandchildren (and 1 grandpuppy!) She has been on the Finance Committee of the GLC Board for the last 4 years and is looking forward to a new opportunity to serve!

#### Katherine Kayser, Hope Community Church, Detroit, MI (Treasurer)

Katherine currently serves as the Treasurer at Hope and was on the recent Pastoral Search Committee. She has also been involved with women's small groups, lay pastors, and inner healing. She was the Treasurer of the Covenant Community Care board from 2010-2016. Katherine is the Financial Director of Image by Design Plastic Surgery, which is her husband Melek's business. They have two daughters, Elizabeth and Evelyn. Katherine wants to serve on the board because she has a passion for the Lord's work, and she hopes to use her financial background to help further the Kingdom.

### TRUSTEES

#### Bruce Baehr, Grace Evangelical Covenant Church, Clay, NY

Bruce has been a member of Grace since 1995 and was called to serve as Associate Pastor to Youth and Children in November of 1996. During his time at Grace, he served as Interim Lead Pastor for 16 months while Grace was in the search process of calling a new lead pastor, and he now serves as the Associate Pastor to Families and Youth. Bruce has served on the CHIC Council and led the Human Service Team at CHIC four times. He presently lives in Liverpool, NY with his wife Barbara and their grandson, James, when he is not away at college. Bruce has three adult children, one of whom is on staff at Zion Covenant Church in Jamestown, NY.

#### Gina Roberts, City Covenant Church, Detroit, MI

Deacon Gina is a dedicated and trustworthy servant at City Covenant Church/Mission:City. Over the past eight years, she has worked tirelessly in God's kingdom through a myriad of positions ranging from driving the church van to church administrative duties. Possessing a tremendous compassion for the homeless community, she is the founder and originator of Lovestar Ministry. Gina continued this Godly initiative in the Brightmoor Community by facilitating the Forgotten

Harvest Food Ministry, which serves over 600 people a month. Her greatest joy is spending time with her wonderful husband Bernard and beautiful family. As the mother of four and the grandmother of seven. Gina's cup runneth over! She is willing to serve in whatever capacity that furthers the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Her alternative goal is to one day stand before her Lord and hear, "Well done my good and faithful servant!"

#### Sara Charlton, St. John's Covenant Church, Millersburg, OH

Sara has served St. John's ECC as the solo Pastor since November 2018. She grew up in a non-Christian home and came to know the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ during her freshman year at North Park University. Sara graduated with her B.A. in History and MDiv from North Park. Upon graduating with her MDiv in 2017, she took an interim pastor position in Kansas for fifteen months and then moved into the GLC to accept the solo pastor position at St. John's. Sara believes serving on the GLC Board will benefit all parties involved: her church, the GLC, and herself. She is looking forward to the opportunities to grow in faith and leadership as she serves. In her spare time, Sara enjoys reading mysteries, baking, and spoiling her niece.

#### Amorette Clausen, Forest Park Covenant Church, Muskegon, MI

Amorette has been involved at Forest Park as a member of the Pastoral Search Committee, the Personnel Relations Team, and the Children's Ministry. Currently, she is a small group leader in the middle school Student Ministry team and is also a women's life group leader. She works as a high school counselor and is married to Shane, who is an electrician. They have two children, 13 and 10 years old. Amorette is excited to be considered for the GLC board because she hopes to have the opportunity to learn and grow from others and honor God with her leadership gifts.

### CAMP MISSION MEADOWS BOARD

#### Tom Jones, Grace Fellowship, Titusville, PA

Tom has served Grace Fellowship in many capacities over the past 11 years, including being part of the church board, volunteering as a Sunday school teacher and giving the tithing message. Professionally, Tom has served over 16 years in education as a math teacher and administrator and 32 years as a restaurant owner. In his free time, he enjoys the outdoors, coaching youth and church family activities. Camp Mission Meadows was a part of his faith formation in junior high and high school. While attending North Park, camping ministry was always a part of his summers. Tom is married to wife Jean, and Mission Meadows is the first place his three sons speak of when reminiscing of fun family experiences. Because of the significance camping ministry had in his life—and his desire to see Mission Meadows continue to impact the faith of others—Tom wants to contribute by serving on the Mission Meadows Camp Board.

#### Donald Pangborn, Zion Covenant Church, Jamestown, NY

Don is the business manager at Zion. He and his wife Elaine have three grown children. Don was born and raised in the Jamestown area, except for a short break when he fulfilled his military obligation. While growing up, he was a member of the Ross Mills Church of God until he became a Covenanter when his children were small. He retired eleven years ago from Truck-Lite Co., after thirty-four years of service as an Assistant Controller. Don wants to serve on the board to help other board members understand the financial position of Mission Meadows, using his accounting background. Most importantly, he sees serving on the board as serving his Lord in this way. Although he has never been a camper at Mission Meadows, he has a strong connection through his wife, children and grandchildren who have all been campers at Mission Meadows.

#### Aaron Reinard, Scandia Covenant Church, Scandia, Russell, PA

Aaron is the solo pastor of Scandia. As a youth/worship pastor for 23 years and growing up in church, he has been involved in a variety of different camps and camping ministries. He loves camp, but there's something different about Mission Meadows. God has uniquely positioned us to be THE place for camping and retreats in the entire region. He and his wife Marjorie have three children: Corban, Tobiah, and Elias. In his spare time, Aaron plays ice hockey, restores vintage paintball markers, and plays Munzee.

#### Carolyn Palmquist, Deer Grove Covenant Church, Palatine, IL

Carolyn is the bookkeeper for Deer Grove. She is also a small group leader and serves on the finance team. Carolyn provides accounting support for churches in the Central Conference that wish to outsource their accounting, and she works part-time teaching Pre-Kindergarten. Carolyn and her husband, Dan, have one son. She is a life-long camper and supporter of Camp Mission Meadows (CMM) and can bring organizational, accounting, and relational skills, and enthusiasm for the continued ministry of CMM. Carolyn worked on the CMM staff in 1980-1982 and was on the planning committee for the 2013 staff reunion. She grew up at Bethany Covenant Church in Lyndhurst, Ohio.

**Stephen Zimmerly, Hope Evangelical Covenant Church, Indianapolis, IN**

Stephen is the current Chairman of the Mission Meadows Board, and would like to see three things accomplished before his second term is completed: the finalization of Mission Meadows as an LLC, the undertaking of a multi-million dollar capital campaign, and paying off the outstanding balance for Mission Meadows' new pool facility (which will happen as part of the capital campaign). Stephen is actively involved at Hope Covenant in Indianapolis. He currently serves as the Secretary on the Church Council, the Chair of the Public Relations Committee, and is on the executive council. He is also a member of the worship team and contributes to a number of other church committees. Stephen is employed by the University of Indianapolis, where he is a professor of English Literature. He and his wife Rachel have three young children, Nolan, Ephraim, and August. They are expecting a fourth child, their first girl, in May. Stephen spent many summers at Mission Meadows as both a camper and a staff member and has been a family camper many times in recent years. God has used Mission Meadows to bless him and his family and countless others during its long history. He would be honored to continue to serve as a board member. Stephen believes that Christian camps are invaluable resources through which God's love can be shared with those who may not experience His love in their everyday lives. As Mission Meadows approaches new changes and ongoing improvements to its facilities and functions, he is humbled at the opportunity to serve the camp in this way.

**Carri Montgomery-Madison, Evangelical Covenant Church, Port Allegany, PA**

Carri serves as a youth volunteer, women's bible study leader and on the Deacon Board at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Port Allegany. She has a BA in social work and a Master's in human relations and was the former marketing director for Covenant Village of Northbrook. Carri currently works as a substitute teacher. She and her husband, J.T., lived in Italy for three years and have one daughter named Lily. Carri has a love of Mission Meadows and its outreach to all ages. It is a special place to her family.

**Fred Rizutto, St. James Parish, Jamestown, NY**

Fred worked at Mission Meadows for nine summers as a youth from ages 16-25. These were the most formative summers of his life for his faith. Because of this, he wants to help ensure that Mission Meadows is functioning at a level that is self-sustaining for generations to come. It is important to both himself and his community that Mission Meadows remains an anchor for faith-based camping on Chautauqua Lake, amidst a time when other camps in the region are closing their doors and operations. Fred is married to Danyel and has two children. Part of his family had the recent opportunity to assist Mission Meadows with cooking and serving lunch for a large group of campers. In his own words: "Spending those few hours there 'working' was such a refreshing experience. I was again reminded of the magic of the place. I want to be a part of preserving that Spirit for generations to come." In his spare time, Fred enjoys photography, travelling with his wife, fishing with his boys, watching his youngest play sports, and being a fan of Babe Ruth.

**PORTAGE LAKE COVENANT BIBLE CAMP (PLCBC) BOARD****Krista Umanos, Kentwood Community Church, Wyoming, MI**

Krista is an active member of Kentwood Community. She is a licensed attorney in the State of Michigan, and has spent the last six years serving and assisting veterans in West Michigan while in the employ of the U.S. House of Representatives. She volunteers regularly in the Children's Ministry and is engaged in a mentor relationship. Camp means so much to Krista, husband Ben, and their young daughter. They were married in the chapel in 2012, and Krista considers it a great honor to have the opportunity to use her spiritual gifts and talents to serve the camp and further its mission to impact every life for Christ.

**Cindy Pointe, First Evangelical Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, MI**

Cindy is a member and regular attendee of First Covenant. She has served on the Leadership Team, as a Sunday School teacher, and VBS volunteer. She has helped with the Children's Christmas Program, and Hallo-luia Party, and has been a communion server. Cindy stays busy as a Speech Language Pathologist and hosts monthly dinner meetings for a junior high youth group of girls. Cindy believes in the camp's mission, and has experienced it first-hand via 20 years of First Covenant, Women's Retreats, and sending her own children to kid's camps. Cindy, along with husband Frank (aka Bear), were honored to share why camp is so special to them at the PLCBC fundraiser Gala last November 2019. She loves Jesus and is excited for this opportunity!

**Tim Padgett, Christ Covenant Church, Wixom, MI**

Tim has served C3 in a variety of ways. He has been on the leadership team, worked with the youth and children, and has been part of events planning, micro groups, and community groups. Tim works in the sports and entertainment industry in the Detroit area. He has a deep passion for PLCBC and its mission of "Every Life Impacted for Christ," and has had the opportunity to watch the mission come to life for many years. He and his wife Kristen met at PLCBC 29 years ago. They have two children, Josh and Ella, whom they love dearly and are their pride and joy. He has created fund raising events for the camp over the years, and looks forward to helping PLCBC in the future.

**Justin Saxton, Forest Park Covenant Church, Muskegon, MI**

Justin currently serves as the Youth Pastor at Forest Park. He and his wife, Melissa, have four young children. Not only is Justin invested in Portage Lake as a youth pastor, but also as a father, all four of his kids attend camp, as does he and his wife. They have brought many people to camp over the years and it has become one of their favorite places to rest and seek God. Justin loves all that camp does to serve the churches in the GLC. He and his family have served Portage Lake in a variety of ways over the years, and if he can be helpful, he is happy to serve on the board. Justin's family loves being on the water in the summer. They take any chance they can to swim, boat and enjoy the beaches. The rest of the year they spend time meeting their neighbors as they chase down soccer balls, Frisbees, and Lola, their black lab.

**Lars Anderson, Calvary Chapel, Grand Rapids, MI**

Lars attended Faith Covenant Church (FCC) in Farmington Hills, Michigan from 1995-2017 and is now living in the Grand Rapids area. While at FCC, he served as the church chair for two years and was on the Vision Strategic Planning Committee. He has also served on the North Park University Board and the Covenant Trust Company Board. Lars is a National Sales Manager for U.S. Bank. He and his wife Rhonda have two daughters, Linnea and Lauren. Lars desires to use his God-given gifts and his experiences to serve God and others by helping PLCBC carry out its mission and its vision for the future. He has been attending PLCBC nearly his whole life and has supported the camp both financially and in prayer. Lars and Rhonda are regularly attending a local church and serving God.

**Luke Brogger, Saranac Community Church, Saranac, MI**

Luke is a member of Saranac Community, where he has been attending for more than 25 years. He owns a hardwood sawmill in southern Michigan. His daughter Whitney worked at PLCBC one summer while in college. Luke has been going up to camp for the men's retreat and really enjoys the time- in fact he just loves PLCBC. He looks forward to serving on the camp board. Luke is married to Renee and is father of four beautiful daughters.

**Steven Hansma, First Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, MI**

Steve currently serves the Senior High Ministry at First Covenant. He and his wife Michelle are currently Life Group leaders for the 11th grade. He has served on the Youth Commission Board and the Youth Pastor Search Committee. He also chaperoned a Senior High mission's trip to Guatemala in the summer of 2014. Steve is an electrical engineer and owns an electric contracting company. He and his wife have three boys (21, 19 and 16). He enjoys golf, bird hunting, 4-wheeling and travel. Steve has a love for PLCBC, and this summer will be his 51st straight year involved with camp. His three boys also have not missed a summer of camp and they think it is the "best place on earth." Steve is looking forward to serving on the board and being a part of the dynamic ministry of PLCBC.

**Tracy Johnson, Faith Covenant Church, Farmington Hills, MI**

Tracy and her husband, Timothy, have recently returned to FCC and are happy to be back. She works as a real estate broker with Five Star Real Estate for southeast Michigan. Tracy mainly works with buyers and sellers in the sale of residential property. She has two grown children, and she enjoys sewing, boating, gathering with friends, and reading. Tracy was fortunate to marry into a family that has a love for Christ and for PLCBC. She continues to see the many people that camp serves, those that know Christ, and those who do not know Him yet, but are seeking Him.

**BALLOT (Sample)**

GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING | MAY 2, 2020

**GLC EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*Officers elected annually for 1 year term*

**Chair –**

- \*Rev. Tom Sharkey
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice Chair –**

- Doug McCann
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary –**

- Cheryl Schut
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer –**

- \*Katherine Kayser
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Trustees - (Vote for 4)**

*Elected for a 3-year term*

- Bruce Baehr
- Amorette Clausen
- Sara Charlton
- Gina Roberts
- \_\_\_\_\_

\*Denotes incumbent

**JOINING CHURCH**

One Church Louisville



**REPORT ON CHURCHES JOINING**

The Evangelical Covenant Church  
8303 W. Higgins Rd. Chicago, IL 60631  
www.covchurch.org

Church: One Church Louisville

Street: 1212 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street

City: Louisville State: Kentucky Zip: 40203

Conference: Great Lakes Conference

Name of pastor: Ja'mel Armstrong and Matt Ness

Number of charter members: 168

Estimated Average Sunday attendance: 130

One Church was birthed out of two church plants, uniting to reflect God’s Kingdom on Earth. Located in the historic community of Old Louisville, The Avenue and The Soul Center began partnering together in ministry projects in 2013. After a number of combined outreach projects, the churches began to question whether or not we could go move forward into serving our city and immediate community as one church. This conversation became official in January of 2015. After much prayer and godly counsel and support from Alex Rahill (then GLC Director of Church Planting) and Garth McGrath (GLC Superintendent), we decided to bring the congregations together to plant a new church, not a merger. This is important because the idea was never about creating something “better.” It was about bringing together “two good things” that could launch out as one church to better serve our community needs. In January 2015, leaders from both churches were asked to begin praying about this and getting to know one another. In July, they all unanimously agreed to pursue becoming one church. One Church launched January 31, 2016. We officially signed our Covenant Agreement in May of 2016 which opened the door for the ECC and the GLC to partner providing financial support for the church. Along with financial support the GLC support provided training and coaching from church plant specialists like Alex Rahill and Alan Tumpkin and multiethnic coaches such as Kevin Butcher.

One Church currently resides in a historic two-story 13,000 square foot facility located just south of downtown Louisville. Through the help and support of the GLC and ECC we received funding to renovate the space. Ministries that One Church is currently providing for our community are:

- A monthly event for the elderly population housed next door to our facility in which we provide a meal and music while our members play games and get to know them on a personal level.
- A partnership with two local elementary schools. We provide meals for teachers and after school programming, school supplies and volunteer support for school events.
- Hosting events for congregations in our city, creating space to dialogue around racism and the impact it’s had in our city and the Church.
- Providing food, space, clothing and care for our neighbors who are homeless and addicted.

Signed by: Garth McGrath Date: 3-30-2020  
(Conference Superintendent)

## JOINING CHURCH

## Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church



## REPORT ON CHURCHES JOINING

The Evangelical Covenant Church  
8303 W. Higgins Rd. Chicago, IL 60631  
www.covchurch.org

Church: Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church

Street: 3025 Glenside Blvd.

City: Muskegon State: Michigan Zip: 49441

Conference: Great Lakes Conference

Name of pastor: Arthur Duren

Number of charter members: 185

Estimated Average Sunday attendance: 207

## History

Kingdom Embassy's story began in the Spring of 2015. Arthur and Ardena Duren, along with ten individuals who were passionate with learning about God and building his Kingdom, met weekly at Moon Elementary School for Bible study in the art classroom. The group outgrew the art room. We then moved to the library. The school year ended, and the group moved from Moon Elementary School to the backyard of the Duren's home at 1624 Jefferson. We reconvened Bible study at Moon Elementary School in the September of 2015. The class was starting to get even larger; at that point we decided we would look for another venue. The church God lead us to was Heaven's Gate.

Pastors James and Tina Harmon offered us the opportunity to meet at their church (Heaven's Gate Church). While at Heaven's Gate, Arthur and Ardena attended a conference because they were on a community development board. When they walked into the conference, they were shocked to find out they were also attending a conference sponsored by Start Church. While attending the conference, they looked at each other with smiles on their faces. They asked each other, "Was this a sign from God that it was time for them to plant a church?" Arthur and Ardena inquired about the process of planting a church. They took the idea back to their Bible study where they were met with great excitement. The Duren's were excited about what they had learned at the conference and how it was so well received by those who had been asking them to plant a church. The people from the Bible study were so encouraging. On January 3, 2016, what was a dream became a reality. The first Sunday worship service was held at Victory Inn Hotel in Muskegon, Michigan in the hotel's conference room.

The year started off with a bang! The first service was standing room only. There were 75 people in attendance. From January until May we averaged about 62 people. In June of 2016, God blessed Kingdom Embassy. God put it on the heart of pastor David McGowan of Forest Park Covenant Church to invite us to use their youth center for our Sunday morning worship. With the new location at Forest Park Covenant Church our attendance increased. We were excited to be able to worship in a church vs. a hotel. While at Forest Park from June 2016 until December 2016, we averaged about 120 members and visitors weekly. Forest Park was a big blessing to Kingdom Embassy. We thought we were in heaven. We didn't think things could get any better, but God let us know he was not done blessing us. On December 25, 2016, Kingdom Embassy was blessed to move into their new church home located at 3025 Glenside Blvd (The former Westwood Reformed Church of America). There

were 169 people in attendance on that Christmas Sunday Service. We have been continually excited to see so many people give their life to The Lord and rededicate their lives.

Since December 25, 2016, we have had continual growth. We are averaging close to 200 people each Sunday and anywhere from 35-50 on Wednesday for Bible study. Not only has our membership grown, but we have begun to see a real difference in the lives of not only our members, but our visitors, many of which are regular attendees. Our children's and youth ministries continue to grow by leaps and bounds. Additionally, we have been able to be a safe haven in the Roosevelt Park community for middle and elementary school students by providing an after-school program (Kingdom Compass) in partnership with Deanna Holman from New Life Community Reform church that has averaged 30 youth Monday-Friday during the school year. A number of the students that we serve have been visitors at Kingdom Embassy during our worship services which shows us that these children trust the KECC environment and its members.

## Were you parented or partnered by churches in the Covenant or Conference?

Forest Park Covenant Church allowed us to use their facility to worship as well as have Bible studies and youth activities. We didn't have a formal partnership, but they did everything to make sure we were able to worship and not worry about cost. Forest Park did everything I think a parent church could have done without calling themselves a parent church. We here at King Embassy owe so much of our success to Forest Park for the love they showed us.

## Description of meeting place:

Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church presently meet at 3025 Glenside Blvd., Muskegon, Mi. The building was formerly the old Westwood Reformed Church. The building was gifted to us by the reform classes of Muskegon. The building has a gymnasium, commercial kitchen, 11 classrooms, two offices, nursery/childcare room and sanctuary with a balcony. The sanctuary seats a little more than 350.

## How did the Covenant and Conference help this new church get started?

The Great Lakes Conference came along side Kingdom Embassy. The Conference sent Pastor Duren and Ardena Duren to an assessment training and walked with KECC every step of the way to become a church. The Conference provided training for the pastor, the leaders as well as the church. The Conference has always been a phone call away in every situation.

## What are effective ministries the church is currently providing that impact people's lives?

- Kingdom Embassy offers:
  - Marriage ministry (large and small group)
  - Men's ministry (small group)
  - Women's ministry (small group)
  - Children's ministry
  - Youth ministry
  - Evangelism outreach ministry
  - Afterschool program
  - Hands to hands program (kids and parents 0-5 years of age)
  - Prayer ministry
  - Wednesday night Bible study

Signed by:

Date:

3-30-2020

(Conference Superintendent)

## DELETED CHURCH

Fireside Covenant Church

### REPORT ON CHURCHES TO BE DELETED FROM THE ROSTER OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

**Name of the Church:** Fireside Covenant Church  
(formerly known as New Harvest Christian Church)

**Location (City, State):** Oregon, OH

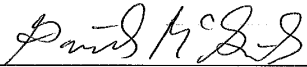
**Reason for deletion from roster:**  Closed  Withdrawn  
 Dismissed  Merger

**Number of members:** Last reported/recorded membership was 52

**Year joined the Covenant:** 2008

**Peak membership (approximately):** 150 reported members in 2009

**Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:** Voluntary Dismissal. Following the 2019 Annual Meeting of the ECC, the church voted to leave the ECC. The letter dated September 30, 2019 informing the Conference that the church had left the ECC by vote of the congregation in July 2019 indicated that the primary concerns that led to the decision were (1) the inability of the ECC to maintain unity in the body over matters pertaining to human sexuality, and (2) the inability to show love and respect: "We had hoped that unity of the body could be maintained by the larger body of [the] Evangelical Covenant and the behavior of this body would be that of love and respect. This was not the case."

Signed by   
(Conference Superintendent)  
Date 3-30-2020

## DELETED CHURCH

First Mission Covenant Church

### REPORT ON CHURCHES TO BE DELETED FROM THE ROSTER OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

**Name of the Church:** First Mission Covenant Church

**Location (City, State):** Ludlow, PA

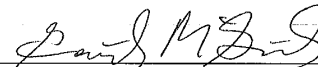
**Reason for deletion from roster:**  Closed  Withdrawn  
 Dismissed  Merger

**Number of members:** 5

**Year joined the Covenant:** 1897

**Peak membership (approximately):** Unknown.  
In 2006 the church reported average attendance of 36.  
The largest number in average attendance since 1994 was 41.

**Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:**  
In the years following the death of their Pastor, Tom Grisham (in December of 2006), worship attendance diminished until 2019 when 5 members remained. When their part time pastor, Stacy Shaffer transitioned to another church in 2019, the decision was made to close the church.

Signed by   
(Conference Superintendent)  
Date 3-30-2020



## LIFE COVENANT CHURCH

April 13, 2019

### I. Organization of the Meeting

- a. Call to order: 8:34 AM ... JT Madison  
A few guests: Cecilia Williams, Executive Minister of Love Mercy, Do Justice; Rob Hall, National Covenant Properties; Dan Melgren and Donna Lewis, Covenant Trust Co; Ron and Janet Ziegelbauer and Craig Wickstrom, Serve Globally; Dan Phillips and Rick Larman, Safe Harbor Christian Communities.  
Delegate documents were made available, as well as evaluation forms.
- b. Approval of the agenda 39th annual meeting ... JT Madison  
Corrections: XVc. Should read "39th annual meeting minutes" not "38th". Steve Ormand is replaced by board member Katherine Kayser to serve as secretary for the meeting, and Rev. Mike Zabel as parliamentarian.  
Approval of agenda: Approved
- c. Welcome ... Nathan McWherter
- d. Response ... JT Madison  
Appreciation was given to Life Covenant Church for hosting.
- e. Approval of Committees  
Motion to approve the following committees carries:
  - i. Credentials ... Jody Eidnes
  - ii. Tellers ... Doug McCann, Emilie Zabel
  - iii. Sergeants-at-Arms ... Johnny Aho, Sam DeAngelis, Andrew Gates, Rich Johnson
  - iv. Parliamentarian ... Mike Zabel

### II. Greetings from the ECC ... Cecelia Williams

The video "I Am" is shown. Cecelia encourages women of the ECC to attend the triennial gathering of women in Minneapolis, MN July 18-21st, 2019 and all to attend "Gather 2019" for the annual conference in Omaha, NE June 27-29th, 2019.  
The ECC is planting 30 churches this year, and has dedicated \$1.5 million for water to the Congo, and \$1.3 million to disaster relief.

### III. Report of the Credentials Committee ... Jody Eidnes

74 delegates, 43 churches, 1 institution, and 1 association are represented

### IV. Report of the Nominating Committee ... JT Madison

Two GLC board members have expiring terms: JT Madison and Mickey Tresh, one who has declined re-nomination, and one who resigned his position during the past year. The resigned position has been filled via GLC Board appointment by Rev. William Mack for the remainder of term of Rev. Ja'mel Armstrong.

- a. Election of Officers and Board Members  
A call was made for additional nominations from the floor: none.  
A motion to a vote on the ballot as a whole. Motion carries.  
All in favor of voting on all names on the ballot. Motion carries.  
V. ECC Board of Nominations – GLC Representative ... Britt Dahlstrom

### VI. Superintendent Report ... Garth McGrath

A word of thanks to Cecelia Williams.  
Garth gave an update on how he is doing. He shared his story, so we don't underestimate the power of being intentional in our evangelism, and to remind us that our God is a God of surprises.

Validity update – Shelly took that baton from Mike Przybylski  
Church Planting – we are gaining momentum in Nashville, Richmond KY church Hope City is moving into new rental space and seeing tremendous growth, Buchanan doing great work, LifeChurch Auburn Hills is having first weekly service – attendance over 200. GLC is facing financial headwinds and has used \$50k of reserve. Closed churches revenue was funding the planting of churches, but that money is expended. Starting a capital campaign to raise \$1.25 million over 5 years to be able to plant 2-3 churches a year over the next 5 years.

Garth introduced Alan Tumpkin, Jody Eidnes, Kari Griebel, Laura Garvey, Jack Nickels, Kim Carlson, and Dan Wolter

### VII. Recognition of Retiring Pastor ... Garth McGrath

- a. Bruce Haight (and Ann)

### VIII. Good News Report (Church Planting) ... Alan Tumpkin

- a. LifeChurch Auburn Hills, MI. Pastor Donearl Johnson reports 270 people came to their preview service, 220-230 to the second service, 170 to the third service. Prayer was given for Pastor Donearl.

### IX. Closed Churches ... Garth McGrath

- a. The Bridge Covenant Church, Detroit reports a difficult community. They worked closely with LifeChurch Southfield to become part of that community.
- b. Trinity Church of Livonia reports a loss of missional traction
- c. Trinity Church of Cincinnati also reports a loss of missional traction  
Motion from the Executive Board: The Executive Board of the GLC, with both sorrow and deep gratitude for the many years of faithful partnership in the Gospel in their respective communities, moves that Trinity Church of Livonia in Livonia, Michigan, Trinity Community Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, and The Bridge Covenant Church in Detroit, MI, having concluded their ministries and disbanded their congregations, be removed from membership in the Evangelical Covenant Church and in the Great Lakes Conference and that their removal be forwarded and recommended by the GLC Annual meeting to the Executive Board of the ECC and approved by the 134th Annual Meeting of the ECC.

The question was asked as to whether there are any legacy plans for either Trinity Church; answered that there are no proceeds from the buildings. The assets were given to their respective local communities.

The motion carries.

### X. Church Seeking Membership in the GLC and ECC ... Garth McGrath

Motion: It is with great joy and thanksgiving that the Executive Board of the GLC, having approved the membership application of LifeChurch Livonia of Livonia, MI, moves that this 39th General Assembly of the GLC approve said application and recommend that it be subsequently approved by the Executive Board of the ECC and by the 134th Annual Meeting of the ECC.

The motion carries.

### XI. Treasurers Report of 2018 Financials ... Mickey Tresh

The treasurer reported that in general, the GLC is in a strong financial position with over \$500k in cash reserves. However, the GLC is currently operating in annual deficits. In the past, the sale of closed churches has provided funds for operations. Otherwise, the GLC is funded by the giving of the churches within the GLC.

Kim Carlson watches the funds, and Garth is very frugal. Typically, the GLC spends under the budget, being good stewards.

Income is a challenge this year because giving by the churches is down. 50% of income comes from a few large churches, with 4 of 8 decreasing. One-third of smaller churches increased giving, and 1/3 the same.

Expenses were cut back without hurting ministry. Operating deficit was cut back, so still in good financial position.

2018 – \$570k budgeted. 4% increase from 2017 which was thought to be reasonable.

Came in around \$500k. Expenses came in around \$43k under budget. Net loss for the year was \$52k. Church planting was all pre-funded.

The treasurer recommended that because we cannot depend on closed churches to fund the GLC, we should try to fund the church planting separately, and raise it before we plant so that we know that the funds are there.

We have a Deficit Reduction Plan – by 2018 we wanted a balanced budget. The strategy was to ask the churches to increase giving by .25% each year. How did that go? Many churches did increase. Executive board has work to do balance the budget.

In 2019, proposing a deficit again. Target of \$35K deficit. We decided to take a conservative approach to the budgeted income, keeping it equal to the actual church support of 2018. Balance Sheet at 12/31/18 is very strong at \$547k of general cash. We need \$200k cash balance minimum. We have other restricted cash including \$146k in church planting, and \$43k in restricted church plant escrows.

The GLC has small liabilities. We do have a Reserve for Church Loan Guarantees to cover any church defaults for our 50% risk.

We are funded for our current church plant.

Motion: to accept treasurer's report. Motion carries.

#### **XII. Good News report (Church Vitality) ... Garth McGrath**

A video shown of Zion Covenant Church, Jamestown – Rick Miller – more aware of what God is doing around them – these are things that the church should already be doing – prayer and patience.

#### **XIII. Old Business ... JT Madison**

- a. Camp Legal Structure/Proposed Bylaws Amendment

See handout – pp. 18-20, Old Language left, New Language right.

Amendments to the bylaws are intended to introduce new language that matches language changes in our constitution and in the new organizational documents of our conference entities including but not limited to the camps.

Correction on pg 18; section 6.1d should read "GLC Women Ministries" rather than "GLC Women's Ministries".

Restructuring relationship between the Conference and the Camps to build some legal firewalls between the camps and the Conference, and there is a change in the reporting requirements.

There was no discussion or questions.

Motion: The motion from the Executive Board is that the bylaws be amended. Motion carries.

#### **XIV. Good News Report (Church Leadership) ... Garth McGrath**

Cityview Covenant Church, Pittsburgh, PA – Christi Rooke talked about their church being intentional about racial justice in their community, that black lives matter, and the importance of reminding each other that we are made in His image.

PLBC video was played.

#### **XV. New Business**

- a. 2019 Budget ... Mickey Tresh

A deficit budget for 2019 is proposed. Income has a conservative budget, being the same number as 2018 actuals. Main income is income from the churches. Also making income on interest on the church reserves. Market based salary increases. Camps are in a good position to raise and self-support, so we propose decreasing their support. Also, we eliminated some other contributions to other ministries so that we could focus on the Conference. Proposed budget deficit of \$35k.

Motion: The Executive Board of the Great Lakes Conference moves that the 2019 budget be adopted as presented. Motion carries.

- b. Interim Budget for 2020 ... Mickey Tresh

Motion: The Executive Board of the GLC moves that it be allowed to adopt an interim budget for the beginning of 2020 until such time as the 2020 GLC annual meeting approves the full budget. Motion carries.

- c. Approval of 39th Annual Meeting Minutes ... JT Madison

Motion: The Executive Board of the GLC moves that it be allowed to review and approve the minutes of this 39th Annual Meeting of the GLC. Motion carries.

- d. Affirmation of Ordination Candidates ... JT Madison

Ken White (currently interim pastor at Forest Park Covenant Church, Muskegon, MI)

Question: Does he hold to the Covenant values with his affirmation of women in ministry? Yes, per Garth McGrath.

Motion: The Ministerial Association moves to approve and recommend Ken White for Ordination. Motion carries.

#### **XVI. Good News Report (Church Outreach) ... Jody Eidnes**

Laura Jackson reports that Lego City, borrowed by Faith Covenant Church, Farmington Hills, MI, found it to be a fun and free resource, enjoyed by all.

#### **XVII. GLC Staff Q & A ... Garth McGrath**

No questions were asked on the floor.

#### **XVIII. Election Results for Offices and Board Members ... JT Madison**

#### **XIX. Installation of Officers and Board Members ... Garth McGrath**

The officer and board member results were affirmed, and prayer said by Garth McGrath.

#### **XX. Expression of Thanks to Retired Board Members ... JT Madison**

Sincere thanks to JT Madison (Executive Board Chair) and, Mickey Tresh (Executive Board Treasurer), as well as to Cecelia Williams and her ministry.

#### **XXI. 2020 Annual Celebration ... Jody Eidnes**

The 2020 Annual Celebration will be April 24th and April 25th at Faith Covenant Church, Westerville, OH. Thank you to Sue of Life Covenant Church, for this year.

#### **XXII. Adjournment at 12: 00**

Closing prayer by Dr. Ken Harris.

*Submitted by Katherine Kayser 5/8/19*



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