

John 17:21

...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.
May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

**GREAT LAKES
CONFERENCE**

April 29-30, 2022
Columbus, OH
GLC Annual Celebration

That We May Be One in Christ



GLC Documents 2021-2022

- ◆ **Delegate Documents**
- ◆ **Ministry Reports**
- ◆ **Church Plants under Covenant Agreement**
- ◆ **Camps**



Table of Contents

Delegate Documents– 2022	Page
<i>Delegate Orientation</i>	3
<i>Agenda</i>	6
<i>Nominations</i>	8
<i>Sample Ballot</i>	10
<i>Joining Churches</i>	11
<i>Closed/Withdrawn Churches</i>	12
<i>2021 GLC Annual Meeting Minutes</i>	15
Ministry Reports 2021-2022	
<i>Greeting from ECC President</i>	18
<i>GLC Executive Board Chair</i>	19
<i>GLC Superintendent</i>	21
<i>GLC Ministerial Association</i>	23
<i>GLC Spiritual Directors Network</i>	25
<i>GLC Women Ministries</i>	26
<i>North American Japanese Outreach (NAJO)</i>	27
<i>GLC Executive Board & GLC Staff</i>	28
<i>GLC Churches 2021</i>	29
Church Plants under Covenant Agreements:	
<i>Director of Church Planting</i>	30
<i>One Hope Covenant Church</i>	31
<i>The Movement Church</i>	32
<i>Lighthouse Church</i>	33
<i>LifeChurch Auburn Hills</i>	34
<i>LifeChurch Riverside</i>	35
<i>Mosaic Covenant Church of Grand Rapids</i>	36
<i>The Freedom Room</i>	37
Camp Reports:	
<i>Camp Mission Meadows</i>	38
<i>Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp (PLCBC)#</i>	40



Delegate Orientation

2022 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.



Delegate Orientation (cont.)

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



Delegate Orientation (cont.)

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)



Agenda

42nd Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Conference
April 30, 2022

I. Organization of the Meeting

- A. Call to Order..... Tom Sharkey
- B. Approval of Agenda Tom Sharkey
- C. Welcome.....Tom Sharkey
- D. Approval of Committees
 - i. Credentials Jody Eidnes
 - ii. Tellers.....Jody Eidnes, Peg Wolter
 - iii. Sergeants-at-Arms.....Bridget Reynolds, Veronique Sweet, Dan Wolter, Peg Wolter
 - iv. Parliamentarian..... Roy Nichols

II. Greetings from the Evangelical Covenant Church.....Steve Klimkowski

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

IV. Report of the Nominating Committee..... Tom Sharkey

A. Election of Officers and Board Members

V. Good News Report- GLC Church PlantingGarth McGrath & Alan Tumpkin

VI. Joining Churches.....Garth McGrath

A. One Church, Louisville, KY

VII. Superintendent Report Garth McGrath

VIII. Closed/Withdrawn Churches..... Garth McGrath

A. Artisan Covenant Church, Rochester, NY

B. Nueva Vida, Jamestown, NY



Agenda (cont.)

C. Gateway Covenant Church, Powell, OH

IX. Good News Report- Church Vitality....St John’s Ev. Covenant Church, Millersburg, OH

X. Finance Officer’s Report (2021 Financials)..... Kim Carlson

XI. Good News Report- Church Leadership..Keystone Church/Center of Life, Pittsburgh, PA

XII. New Business:

A. New Camp Director for Camp Mission Meadows.....Garth McGrath

B. 2022 Budget Kim Carlson

C. Interim Budget for 2023.....Kim Carlson

D. Approval of 42nd Annual Meeting Minutes..... Tom Sharkey

E. Approval of Ordination Candidates Tom Sharkey

XIII. Good News Report- Church Outreach.....City Covenant Church, Detroit, MI

XIV. Old Business:

A. Church Planting Initiative.....Garth McGrath

XV. GLC Staff Q & A GLC Staff

XVI. Election Results for Officers & Board Members Tom Sharkey

XVII. Installation of Officers & Board Members..... Garth McGrath

XVIII. Expression of Thanks to Retiring Board Members.....Garth McGrath

XIX. 2023 GLC Annual Celebration Location..... Jody Eidnes

XX. Adjournment..... Tom Sharkey



GLC Executive Board Nominations

Trustees

2yr term

Mark Nelson, Austintown Community Church, Austintown, OH

Mark's current ministry role is Lead Pastor of Austintown Community Church in Austintown, Ohio, a community situated outside of Youngstown. It is his joy in ministry to see people grow in faith and understanding of the extravagant grace of God given to us through Jesus Christ. He has been married to his wonderful wife, Corrie, for 20 years and has four incredible daughters. Mark feels that serving on the executive board will be an opportunity to continue to grow as a leader, as well as an opportunity to bring his past experiences in camping ministry, missions, and pastoral ministry to the table.

3yr term

Harvey Cozart, Lighthouse Church, Richmond, KY

Harvey was introduced to the Covenant by John Teter, a Covenant Pastor who had been on the staff of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in California. He served as a Campus Pastor with InterVarsity for 10 years at Eastern KY University and the University of Kentucky. Sensing a call to pastoral ministry, Harvey went to Asbury Theological Seminary where he received an M.Div. and eventually a D.Min. He then served for 8 years as the Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Richmond KY. In 2017, Harvey became a Church Planter for the ECC and planted Hope City Covenant Church in the inner-city area of Richmond. In 2019, the plant merged with Madison Community Church, so that in 2020, the two became Lighthouse Church. He has been the pastor of Lighthouse for the past two years. At present, he also leads an initiative in the Richmond Community called Give and Go, a sports ministry mentoring program for youth in Richmond. He is married to Melissa (for 25 years), who serves as a Staff Counselor at Eastern Kentucky University and has two children. Melissa and Harvey spend a lot of time traveling to watch their children participate in sports. He is looking forward to being a voice for the southern region of the Great Lakes Conference. He wishes to speak to the needs of rural churches in the south, especially around bringing together racially divided churches to help move them forward in multi-ethnic ministry.

Ardena Duren, Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church, Muskegon, MI

At Kingdom Embassy, Ardena serves on the Lead Team, works in the Children's Ministry and Women's Ministry, is the office administrator, and the director for the Kingdom Compass after-school program. Ardena is a retired educator. She has taught in the classroom and has been a school administrator. She has been married to Pastor Duren for 36 years (June 2022). They have two adult children and seven grandchildren. Ardena has been involved in church work since she was a teen. She believes it is an honor to serve the church and looks forward to serving on the board.

Brian Rudy, Thornapple Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, MI

Brian has been a member of Thornapple since 1991 and in that time, he has served in many adult, youth, and children's ministries. He served as an elder from 2008-2013 and has been elected to serve again as an elder for 2019-2024. Brian has primarily worked as a finance executive for various companies, often during periods of growth or transition. He is an advocate for good process and best practices. Brian is married and has 3 children. He enjoys the outdoors, learning, travel, sports, and board games. Brian would like to serve on the GLC Executive Board, because as he struggles to understand the recent cultural shifts away from God and away from others, yet because of Christ he has hope. He is encouraged by our opportunities to worship, work, and witness together that all may hear His voice and know His love. Brian looks forward to journeying together in helping every GLC congregation become a healthy, missional church. That we may be one in Christ.



GLC Ex. Board Nominations (cont.)

Officers

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

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 has enjoyed serving on the GLC Executive Board as he has been able to use what he has learned to further God's Kingdom and make good use of his time in retirement.

Sara Charlton, St. John's Covenant Church, Millersburg, OH (Vice Chair)

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. Sara served as a transitional pastor for a small, rural church in Kansas before accepting the call to serve at St. John's. She has enjoyed serving on the GLC Executive Board since her election in 2020 and is happy to serve the Great Lakes Conference in whatever ways the Lord calls her to. In her spare time, Sara enjoys reading mysteries, baking, and spoiling her niece.

Amorette Clausen, Forest Park Covenant Church, Muskegon, MI (Secretary)

Amorette has been involved at Forest Park as a member of the Pastoral Search Committee, the Personnel Relations Team, the Children's Ministry, and the Student Ministry. Currently she is 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, 15 and 12 years old. Amorette is excited to be considered for the GLC board secretary position. She enjoys serving on the board, seeing it as an opportunity to learn and grow from others and honor God with her leadership gifts.

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

Katherine currently serves as the Treasurer at Hope and was on the Pastoral Search Committee. She has also been involved with women's small groups, as a lay pastor, and with inner healing. Also, she serves as the Interim Treasurer of the Charlotte Mason Community School board. Katherine is a CPA and works part-time at Authentic, Inc. which is also her husband Melek's current employer. They have two daughters. Katherine wants to continue serving 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.

BALLOT- Sample



GLC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Officers elected annually for 1 year term

Chair –

- Doug McCann
- _____

Vice Chair –

- Rev. Sara Charlton
- _____

Secretary –

- Amorette Clausen
- _____

Treasurer –

- *Katherine Kayser
- _____

Trustees - (Vote for 3)

Elected for a 3-year term

- Ardena Duren
- Rev. Harvey Cozart
- *Brian Rudy
- _____

Trustees - (Vote for 1)

Elected for a 2-year term

- Rev. Mark Nelson
- _____

*Denotes incumbent



Joining Churches



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

The congregation of One Church - Louisville Church
(Legal name of Church)

hereby makes application for membership in the Evangelical Covenant

Church and its Great Lakes Conference.

In doing so, we recognize and accept the responsibilities which come from undertaking our common faith, life, and mission in Jesus Christ, including through active involvement and financial support of the purposes, ministries, programs and polides of the Evangelical Covenant Church and our Conference. Submitted herewith is a fully executed Covenant Pension Fund Agreement, a copy of our Articles of Incorporation, and a copy of our approved Constitution and Bylaws.

Chair: Martin Brumby

Date: 3/3/22

Pastor: David J. Smith

Date: 3/3/22

Mailing Address of Church:

Street: 3131 South 2nd St Suite 303

City: Louisville State/Prov. KY Zip: 40208

This is to certify that the Executive Board of the GREAT LAKES

Conference on March 18, 2022 approved the application of the above-named church for membership in The Evangelical Covenant Church.

Date: 3/21/22 Signed: David M. Smith, Superintendent



2021 GLC Annual Meeting Minutes

41st General Assembly of the Great Lakes Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church April 24, 2021

I. Organization of the Meeting. The meeting was organized and conducted using Zoom as a Webinar due to Covid-19 protocols.

Call to Order. Tom Sharkey called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Jody gave instructions about how to function using the hand raise and chat functions in order to vote, move, and second.

Approval of Agenda. Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda with no discussion.

Welcome. Tom Sharkey welcomed the delegates.

Approval of Committees. Motion was made and seconded to approve the committees with no discussion.

II. Greetings from the Evangelical Covenant Church. Lance Davis gave greetings from the leadership of the denomination. Churches have adapted and created virtual environments during this pandemic. The Covenant has focused on the question: How do we sustain/build resiliency of our church leaders? Develop Leaders meetings have been held virtually, now more often due to not needing to travel and have been providing numerous resources to the conference. The conference administrators began meeting weekly with Develop Leaders as well. Administration for Cov. Orientation was transferred to North Park Theological Seminary. The conference will have its first ever virtual ordination service in June. Garth prayed for Lance Davis. Video was shown.

Report of the Board of Nominations — GLC representative. June Kenny (Faith Cov. in Farmington Hills, MI) asked for ministry leaders to consider sending names of 2 ministry leaders who have a servant's heart and have developed leadership skills, even if not through the church, and haven't been able to commit to ministry demands at the local level. Work structure for ECC board is 3 meetings per year so the commitment level may be less than at the local level.

III. Report of the Credentials Committee. Jody Eidnes announced that in attendance we have 95 church delegates, 10 board delegates, 1 institution delegate. These numbers represent 48 churches and 1 institution.

IV. Report of the Nominating Committee. Tom Sharkey presented the election of Officers and Board Members. There were no new nominees this year, only existing members up for re-election. Motion to re-elect was made and seconded and approved unanimously with no discussion.

V. Good News Report on Church Planting. Garth McGrath shared numbers for church planting capital campaign contributions and matching grant funds. Living legacy proceeds from Redeemer Cov. Church in the amount of \$250,000, largely set aside for church planting with a portion going to vitality. Church plant Life Church Riverside in Detroit with pastor Georgia Hill planted in April 2020 is thriving in ministry. The GLC is in a position to start 3-4 churches. Alan Tumpkin shared the prospective church planters: Diamond DeYampert in Detroit, MI; David Williams in Columbus, OH; Rick and Terri McGarry in Mason, MI; a possible 4th is Noah Filipiak in Grand Rapids, MI. Tom Sharkey prayed for Alan Tumpkin.

VI. Superintendent Report. Garth McGrath shared personal updates, thanked the delegates and lead-



2021 GLC Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

ers of our churches in light of a year in pandemic and civil unrest, and introduced conference staff. Garth shared about three ministries: Crescendo in which volunteer help is available for churches, Congregational Vitality where there is a focus on noticing patterns in fruitful churches, providing workshop offerings, and coaching opportunities for key leaders, and Multi-Ethnic Mosaic that will include a Do Justice Conference and an invitation to join an anti-racism cohort. There will be a town hall May 15 with John Wenrich regarding the Denomination Restructure Proposal and a GLC event in early June regarding the Denomination Resolution on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. A video of hope and encouragement was shown.

VII. Closed Churches. Garth McGrath reported that two churches closed. Upon the closing of Redeemer Covenant Church in Caledonia, MI, \$250,000 was given to the Covenant for struggling churches and planting churches. Upon the closing of Faith Community Covenant Church in Youngstown, OH, many members joined another Covenant church in Youngstown and in essence, two churches became one.

VIII. Good News Report on Congregational Vitality from Redeemer in Liverpool, NY. Bill Miller told about his church's ministry that started during Covid. Hang Time began from kids playing on the basketball court outside their church. They now have hired someone and the relational ministry is flourishing. Richard Johnson spoke by appearance in a video about Sanctuary Columbus Church about service being done in their church. They started a learning extension program for students, created a blessing box ministry (home goods, food), organized a scholarship program to address educational disparities among people of color in their city. They have started a class and a podcast around the subject of dismantling racism. Garth prayed for Bill Miller and Richard Johnson and their churches.

IX. Treasurer's Report (2020 Financials). Katherine Kayser shared the 2020 balance sheet and financial information.

X. Good News Report on Church Leadership regarding the GLC Camps: Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp, Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp, Camp Mission Meadows. Joe Faulk-inbury, Mark Eix, and Bryan Muecke each shared their respective camp successes, blessings and struggles, and Garth prayed for each of them.

XI. New Business:

Camp Mission Meadows Leadership Transition. Jackie Haines reported about the camp's creative plans for the summer.

2021 Budget. Katherine Kayser presented the proposed 2021 budget and shared the 2022 interim budget. There was a question regarding taking PPP loans which Kim Carlson answered. Discussion ensued about the PPP loan money. A motion was made to approve the budget, it was seconded, and there was additional discussion. The budget was approved with 73 yes votes and 0 no votes. A vote for the interim budget for 2022 took place as well. The interim budget passed with 71 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Approval of 41st Annual Meeting Minutes (2020). There was a motion made and seconded, and the motion passed.

Approval of Ordination Candidates. There are 4 ordination candidates: John Goss, Sem-meal Thomas, Luke Austin, Sara Charlton. Ordination candidates were approved.



2021 GLC Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

XII. Good News Report on Church Outreach. William Mack of Grace in Louisville, KY shared about the civil unrest and how they are ministering to people during protests. They have shared Jesus' love by partnering with others and by continuing ministries with children and with local women's shelters.

XIII. GLC Staff Q & A. GLC Staff became visible on the screen. A question was asked about the PPP loans. There was a motion and a second to return the PPP funds. There was discussion about this. There was a motion and a second to table the discussion. The motion to return the funds was rescinded, seconded, and the motion passed.

XIV. Election Results for Officers & Board Members. Tom Sharkey stated there were no new results to report.

XV. Installation of Officers & Board Members. Garth McGrath stated his gratitude for the GLC staff members and board members. He installed the re-elected and existing board members and prayed for them.

XVI. 2022 Annual Meeting Celebration Location. The meeting location will be held in Westerville, Ohio.

XVII. Adjournment. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and the vote was unanimous.



ECC President- John Wenrich



MARCH 7, 2022

Dear Great Lakes Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As you gather for your Conference Annual Meeting, please know how much I appreciate you. I am grateful for our partnership in the Gospel and the joy it is to be on mission together. We are truly mission friends, going deeper in Christ and further in mission.

You are not alone. You are part of a Spirit-filled union of 903 churches throughout the United States and Canada. Together, we proclaim and demonstrate the whole Gospel in our communities and around the world. We are a Gospel-centered people, grounded in the Scriptures and linked in mission.

As we come out of Covid, navigating life and ministry, we continue to experience both challenges and opportunities. What are the new realities of the post-pandemic church? Let's discover together as we remain open to the new things the Spirit is doing. May God grant us a clear understanding of how the kingdom of God is advancing so we may follow the Spirit wherever the Spirit leads.

Here is what we know for certain: a dynamic expression of the Spirit's work among us continues to be the multiethnic mosaic of churches of which we are all part. The ethos of mission friends is our roots. The mosaic of mission friends is our future. As we move forward in mission, we do so not through our own strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit who is the blazing center of our mission. We cannot do the work of God without the power of God; we must be consciously dependent on the Holy Spirit.

WE REMAIN FAITHFUL TO OUR CORE IDENTIFY AND TRUE TO OUR THREE COVENANT QUESTIONS:

- Where is it written? | • How goes your walk? | • Are you alive in Christ?

This is who we are, and this is who we will continue to be. As we love and follow Jesus, I have hope for the Evangelical Covenant Church because of our roots and our core commitments. We are at our best when we are grounded in Scripture, calling out the best in each other and sharing stories of transformation and hope.

Pandemic or no pandemic, Jesus is the firm foundation of our faith. He will build his church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:8). Yes, there is both beauty and brokenness in the church, and I trust that we will be encouraged in heart and united in love (Colossians 2:2).

May you sense the presence of Jesus as you gather. We stand on his promise, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20).

Thank you again for your support of our shared mission. Together we trust in a generous God.

May God bless you and your families in every way.

John S. Wenrich, PRESIDENT, EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH



GLC Executive Board Chair - Tom Sharkey

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the only prayer of any length that we have of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in John 17, over and over Jesus prays that His followers may be one, just as He and the Father are one. This is a prayer and a command to which the Church has fallen woefully short. But it doesn't just appear in John 17. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:10,

"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."

In reading this, one might be tempted to say that it's clear that Paul knew nothing about the Church! But later, in Philippians 2:1-4, Paul again writes:

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

I believe we are called to unity. But not just any unity. A unity that reflects our unity in Christ, a unity that demonstrates His love, a unity that brings out the fellowship we have with His Spirit, a unity that calls us forth in a common purpose and mission. Our unity should be one that calls us to put selfish ambition and vain conceit behind and move forward by seeking the good of others over ourselves. There can be no greater witness to a divided — and now terribly warlike world — than the unity that can be seen in Christ's Church. This is a unity that proclaims to the world that unity is possible, that divisions are not necessary, but that we can come together if we will but seek a common purpose and bow before a common Lord.

This is my last report to you as Chair of the Great Lakes Conference. It has been a wonderful experience for these last three years, though I must admit, I am thoroughly done with Zoom meetings, and I am grateful that I can sit before you at the annual meeting in person. Throughout these three years, I have sought to address, deal with, and resolve some of the issues that were facing the Great Lakes Conference, and which have resided on the back burner for far too long. This we have done. New leadership has been brought into both of our camps. Issues around taxation and the IRS have been addressed and resolved. But now, we must move forward. We are coming out of the pandemic; moving ahead with new leadership- even new leadership in the Evangelical Covenant Church. Much is changing. Much remains the same. But the call still goes out from our Lord to be one. May we seek that unity- personally with Christ, corporately in our local churches, and in the broader conference and Covenant in our common mission together.

There is much yet to do. Good news to proclaim. Challenges to be addressed. Healing to encourage. Truth to cling to tenaciously. Let us- as one- rise to the challenges that are before us and stand forth as bold representatives of Jesus Christ. The One who is united with the Father and the Holy Spirit as one God in Trinity and Trinity in unity. May the truth of the gospel ring out from the members and pastors and leaders of the Great Lakes Conference churches so that the world may know that we serve the One who is the King of kings and Lord of lords. And may all those earthly rulers, who pretend as they are wrapped up in their own hubris to be worthy to take His throne, be taught a lesson in both humility and reality. For there is only One who reigns over heaven and earth. Indeed, the One who created them all and will one day call us all to account.

GLC Executive Board Chair (cont.)



Thank you for the privilege of serving as Chair of the GLC these last three years. It has been a privilege to work with our wonderful staff in the GLC, Garth McGrath, our wonderful Superintendent; Jody Eidnes, our uber-competent Conference Administrator; Peg Wolter (Finance Assistant), who so ably assists Jody; Alan Tumpkin who leads our Church planting efforts so well, assisted now by Phil Carr; and Kim Carlson, without whom the finances of the GLC would always remain a mystery to Garth and myself. In addition to these, I've had the privilege of working with a wonderful Executive Board, who contribute to keeping the GLC on track and moving us forward in seeking to fulfill Christ's mission here in our region.

During my tenure, we've also been able to bring on new leadership at both our camps. Marc Eix at Portage Lake and Jackie Haines at Mission Meadows. And it actually looks as though we may be able to have real summer camp this year! I pray God's richest blessing on the new leaders we have in these facilities and the good work they're doing for Christ and His Kingdom.

In conclusion, peace to you all. May we all continue to work together- as one- for the coming Kingdom and the One who leads us all.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Thomas F. Sharkey
Great Lakes Conference, Chair



GLC Superintendent- Garth McGrath

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:3-6

At the close of 2021, I once again join the Apostle Paul in giving thanks to God for the faithful partnership in the gospel shared by the churches of the Great Lakes Conference (GLC). I am particularly thankful for the churches who gave faithfully and/or sacrificially to sustain our shared ministry. Because of our partnership during the past year, people in 8 states heard the Gospel, watched Christ-followers put the interests of others ahead of their own, and observed communities of people intentionally embrace ethnic diversity and strive for racial righteousness in order to more closely resemble the body of Christ that will sit with Jesus at the great messianic banquet table of eternity. Because of our partnership, foundations were laid for the birth of new Covenant churches in our region. And because of our partnership, churches that recognized a need to regain missional traction received guidance and coaching through our Vitality Ministry, flourishing churches were encouraged and resourced to continue their good work, and our most recent church plants were coached and equipped to bring the whole Gospel to communities throughout our region in fresh and powerful ways.

In the pages of this Annual Report, you will read about initiatives of the Conference directly tied to our mission priorities of Church Planting, Congregational Vitality, Leadership Development and Outreach. Here are some introductory comments and highlights:

CHURCH PLANTING: Thanks to a generous matching grant (provided in 2019) to launch four new churches in the GLC, contributions by churches and individuals to our Church Planting Capital Campaign made it possible to plant Life Church Riverside in 2020, to provide the needed funds for Mosaic Church (2022), and to fund a significant portion of another plant in 2022. An additional grant made it possible for us to employ Phil Carr half-time to share in the technical coaching of current and prospective church planters. Meanwhile, Alan Tumpkin continued to serve the GLC on a half-time basis to guide the work of church planting, recruit prospective church planters and provide technical coaching and pastoral care to Church Planters.

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY: Because church contributions to the general fund of the Conference have trended downward in recent years and because the ECC was revising the Vitality Ministry at the denominational level, we chose not to replace our part-time Director of Congregational Vitality when a transition occurred in 2020. Since that time Peg Kohring, a Covenant Pastor in West Michigan has volunteered her services to help the ECC restructure the vitality resources and to coordinate the provision of vitality workshops and coaches to GLC Churches. In 2021, we “tested” a few of the new ECC tools and began a training process that will enable us to serve more churches in 2022.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

Our leadership development priorities in 2021 once again coalesced around equipping pastors and elected lay leaders for the challenges created by COVID-19, helping our churches lean into our calling to pursue racial righteousness, providing leadership training to address particular needs in local churches, assisting in pastoral transitions, supporting pastors in the credentialing process with the ECC, and caring for our pastors and lay leaders.

Some Highlights in 2021: Conflict - Addressing conflict in healthy ways became a persistent need in



Superintendent (cont.)

churches and the subject of countless informal coaching conversations with both pastors and lay leaders. Racial Righteousness - The GLC helped equip pastors and lay leaders to address racism in their communities by convening an Anti-Racism Learning Group in partnership with the Love Mercy/Do Justice team at our denominational office. We also hosted a one-day “Do Justice Conference” in May and an event to introduce our churches to the Resolution to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery in June. Leadership Support – We coached 19 churches in best practices to help them improve their financial accounting and reporting systems, develop fair compensation packages, or review their staffing structure. We provided a webinar to help church leaders navigate the unique challenges of financial management in a crisis. We consulted with several churches in matters of anticipated property transactions. We assisted 9 churches going through pastoral search processes. Theological Education: The GLC engaged with North Park Seminary staff to continue providing access to theological education at reduced costs for GLC church staff members. Credentialing: We guided, coached and coordinated licensing interviews for 21 pastors who either began their credentialing process or hit a significant milestone in that process. Care: The cumulative toll on pastors and leaders caused by having to constantly address COVID realities, racial tension, and political polarization throughout 2021 was significant. To care well for our pastors GLC Staff members contacted pastors individually to check in, urged participation in monthly “cluster” gatherings with peers for prayer, sharing of best practices, and mutual encouragement, financed a 3-day Spiritual Retreat for Pastors, made it possible for Pastors to visit one of our Camps for 3-day/2-night getaways at no cost, made it possible for multiple pastors to receive therapy or more intensive retreat experiences to deal with acute challenges, and we partnered with the GLC Ministerial Association Officers to provide an outstanding in-person Fall Retreat experience led by Jack and Sharon Brown.

CHURCH OUTREACH

GLC staff members consistently urge our churches to use the BLESS resources of the ECC (<https://covchurch.org/evangelism>) to foster intentional evangelism. In 2021, five pastors began a new GLC Evangelism Cohort to strengthen their leadership skills in this critical dimension of their overall ministry. Because our Conference Camps play a vital role in helping our churches reach people who don't yet know Jesus – particularly youth and children, the Conference once again gave financial support to Camp Mission Meadows, Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp (owned by Wallens Creek Covenant Church in Virginia) and Portage Lake Bible Camp to help them serve GLC churches and people in their respective regions. Due to COVID, the Lego Ministry of the Conference continued in hibernation, but we look forward to churches being able to use it in 2022.

All of our GLC Ministry initiatives are designed with the intent of helping Conference churches become (or remain) - healthy, missional, fruitful and multiplying churches so that together as a Conference of churches we will continue to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world. May God bless us and empower us as we partner together to reach that worthy goal.

Garth McGrath



GLC Ministerial Association - Chair

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33

Grace and peace to you from the Great Lakes Conference Ministerial Association. The past two years have been a challenging season for pastors and for the church. The pandemic and the deep polarization within our country has accelerated changes within our churches that is shifting our thinking about what it means to be the Body of Christ within post-Christian culture. Our pastors have been faithful to continue to serve in very challenging circumstances, often with less financial and volunteer resources within the church. We give thanks for all the ways that Jesus has sustained our pastors through this difficult season and helped them to persevere in their ministry to God's people, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we begin to emerge from the pandemic and regroup ourselves in face-to-face connections that are centered in the love of Christ, many of our pastors are weary and in need of renewal and rest themselves. All of us have suffered loss, physically and emotionally. In this new season, it will continue to be important for all of us to grieve what has been lost, to relocate ourselves within our stories of faith, and to welcome joy into our lives in new ways. The GLC Ministerial Association has been intentional in providing space for our pastors to do this work, receiving renewal and rest.

One of the highlights of this past year, was connecting in person for the Fall Pastor/Spouse Retreat in Maumee, Ohio. Jack and Sharon Brown led our retreat entitled Finding Rest. We worshiped, grieved, and reset our hearts on Jesus, strengthened to return to our ministry settings. This year our Fall Pastor/Spouse Retreat will take place in late October/early November. Details will be announced in the next several months. Pastors continue to have the opportunity to receive rest, through a virtual contemplative experience (Space to Breathe) led weekly by Jennifer Andersson and other spiritual directors within our network. We are grateful that our GLC staff continue to offer this virtual contemplative space for pastors on a weekly basis on Tuesdays at 12:00pm.

The GLC Ministerial Association serves 212 active and retired credentialed pastors and chaplains within our conference. One of the major responsibilities of the Ministerial Association is to support the credentialing process of pastors through the Committee on Ministerial Standing (COMS). Rev. Robert Hoey currently chairs this committee and oversees the team of pastors who interview and support clergy through this process. If you are an ordained pastor in the ECC, we would like to encourage you to consider serving on this important life-giving team. The work of supporting and credentialing pastors is a vital part of our growth as a conference and denomination. If you have an interest in serving, please contact Bob Hoey at roberthoey64@gmail.com.

We know that self-care is not only vital to sustaining pastoral excellence but essential to staying whole as we begin to emerge from the pandemic and return to more active rhythms of service within our faith communities. For many pastors, it has been difficult to preserve these life-giving rhythms for the past two years. There are many opportunities within the ECC to help each one of us stay healthy. All of us can receive spiritual direction through the GLC Spiritual Directors Network by contacting Jennifer Andersson at jennifersandersson@gmail.com.

Nationally, the ECC offers Sustaining Pastoral Excellence grants in the areas of character, competence, and constancy, as well as the Deeper in Christ, Leadership Cohort, and the Living Forward



GLC Ministerial Association (cont.)

retreat series. The Deeper in Christ retreat offers pastors the opportunity to renew their friendship with God and reignite their pastoral imagination. The Leadership Cohort: The Art of Pastoral Leadership offers pastors the opportunity to reflect upon and strengthen their leadership. The Living Forward: Revisiting Your Call Retreat series offers clergy who are 55+ years of age the opportunity to engage in the dynamics of call later in vocational life. We encourage you to take advantage of these great opportunities for renewal and growth (covchurch.org/vocational-ministry/spe/).

With Peace in Christ,

Pam Pangborn
Ministerial Association Chair



GLC Spiritual Directors Network

2021 is the seventh year the Spiritual Directors Network of the Great Lakes Conference has been operational as an ongoing Special Ministries category within the Conference and the twelfth year of existence. In the past two years, during the Covid 19 Pandemic, our communal practices were curtailed in significant ways. Our usual approach is to gather in retreat, which was not possible in this uncertain time. Instead, we offered an online training session and provided a few books to our membership to encourage their continued well being and growth for the ministry.

We look forward to the time when The Spiritual Directors Network can once again offer one retreat per year to its members, providing an opportunity for personal renewal, collaboration, encouragement, and resourcing. In these retreats we invite guest speakers to teach on various topics related to spiritual direction that are relevant to our individual practices. At times, we provide resources such as books and other materials and we offer to pay the first year's membership fee to the denomination's Association of Covenant Spiritual Directors. During the application process to the Association, individuals are required to provide referrals from home churches and the Spiritual Directors' Network and undergo a background check. These activities performed by the Association enhance the credibility and safety of the Network within the Conference and, in our opinion, worth offering reimbursement to the Network members for.

Our network is comprised of 30 active spiritual directors, and we look for opportunities to call out the gifts in others. All 30 are eligible to attend the retreats and are seeing 60-70 directees on a regular basis. Of the individuals being seen regularly, less than 10% are Covenant pastors.

Many of our members conduct retreats and classes in their congregations and elsewhere, some also have ministries in prisons, inner healing and on miscellaneous other topics. Over 300 people are reached each year through these various ministries. Sharing our experiences with each other is part of the resourcing and networking advantages we receive when we gather at our annual retreat.

Given there is a surplus in our account, we are not requesting annual support from the Conference. Once we begin gathering again, this support request will be revisited in future years.

We have submitted our annual financial summary as part of this process and it is with deep gratitude, for the ongoing support of the Great Lakes Conference, we submit this annual report for 2021.

Patti Harrison

GLC Women Ministries- Chair



Greetings from Women Ministries of the Great Lakes Conference!

In 2021, we still were impacted by COVID and its variants. Illnesses, supply shortages, masks/no masks, isolation, deaths, employment issues, childcare issues - all took a toll on us. Through it all, was the never failing, never changing love of God.

And yet, things were changing (sometimes on a daily basis!). The Women Ministries leadership team sensed that there was a need to gather, to re-connect, even if it didn't look like 'normal'. So, we held 4 personal contemplative retreats across the conference. The format was different - it was a single day, with more time focused on one on one time with God through scripture, prayer and journaling. Feedback was positive and we plan to incorporate some of the same elements in future retreats.

Good news - we are planning Friday night through Sunday morning retreats at our 3 camps this fall (Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp, Mission Meadows Bible Camp, and Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp). Watch the Women Ministries of the Great Lakes Conference for more information or contact me at phyllisavan@gmail.com.

We are also exploring where else Women Ministries can serve the women of our conference. This could include providing resources for such topics as human trafficking (FREE), domestic violence (AVA), missionary support such as education of children in Congo. If you have ideas or would like to be involved, please let me know. We are always looking for women to serve as God has called them.

Please continue to support and encourage the women of your church to grow, serve, and reach out with the Gospel of Jesus.

Blessings,
Phyllis Van
Chair - Women Ministries of the Great Lakes Conference

phyllisavan@gmail.com



North American Japanese Outreach (NAJO)

JAPANESE OUTREACH 2021

Shunichi and Masako Miyamoto, NAJO

As for the 2021 evangelism tour in Japan, keeping in mind the current difficulties, a lot of time in their own room, and spend more time facing their own thoughts and feelings, too.

For that very reason, we want to teach the message of the Bible that everyone can respond to. To overcome this era, we will proclaim this message: "the Word of God that remains in a person's heart".

With the evangelism tour in Japan in the midst of the pandemic, we were not trying to cope with the diversification of problems in the world. Rather, we just convey the simple gospel message, which creates an opportunity for "invitation & faith response", that becomes the focal point in the depths of human hearts. **There were 16 people who were saved and another 24 made a decision to dedicate their lives to Christ.** There is some news that brings us great joy.

We received reports that there are people who came to faith where we preached this summer who are going to get baptized this Christmas.



We are also getting emails of thanks from various believers who came to faith through the online preaching. "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season." We're carrying this Word from the Bible with us into 2022 as we continue to serve the Lord.
(Left: Michigan returnees reunion, Tokyo)

Michigan:

Heading into September there were many new people arriving and annual events starting up. Meanwhile, we were returning from the evangelism tour in Japan. We resumed our normal classes: Bible, Cooking, Crafting, etc. In addition, we also added a "Ribbon Mesh Wreath" class, which has been a huge hit. In the blink of an eye, we had grown to about 40 participants – all wives of expat workers. With all of the activities running out of our house, our house seems more like a Community Center lately!



Considering the ongoing pandemic, most of the Japanese have been staying inside their home for a long time. As one would expect, they are so excited to get out and gather somewhere they feel safe with other Japanese. After each of the various classes, we have a Bible talk and they listen well. They are very engaged, asking various questions and it's a great time of fellowship. Afterward, we enjoy lunch with ongoing laughter. We ourselves are grateful, as it gives us joy as well.





GLC Executive Board and GLC Staff

<u>Chair</u>	<u>Rev. Tom Sharkey</u> (2022-2 nd)
<u>Vice Chair</u>	<u>Doug McCann</u> (2022-1 st)
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Cheryl Schut</u> (2022-2 nd)
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Katherine Kayser</u> (2024-2 nd)
<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Mark Henry</u> (2022-1 st)
<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Brian Rudy</u> (2022-1 st)
<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Rev. Bruce Baehr</u> (2023-1 st)
<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Rev. Sara Charlton</u> (2023-1 st)
<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Amorette Clausen</u> (2023-1 st)
<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Gina Roberts</u> (2023-1 st)
<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Rev. William Mack</u> (2024-1 st)
<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Connie Berry</u> (2024-2 nd)

<u>Superintendent</u> Ex-officio board member	<u>Rev. Garth McGrath</u> garth@greatlakes.cc
<u>Director of Church Planting</u>	<u>Rev. Alan Tumpkin</u> alan@lifechurchsouthfield.org
<u>Church Planting Assistant</u>	<u>Phil Carr</u> pastorphilcarr@gmail.com
<u>Finance Officer</u>	<u>Kim Carlson</u> kimpamcarlson@att.net
<u>Conference Administrator</u>	<u>Jody Eidnes</u> jody@greatlakes.cc
<u>Finance Assistant</u>	<u>Peg Wolter</u> peg@greatlakes.cc

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 Website: www.greatlakes.cc



GLC Churches 2021

Last Name	City	St.			
Four Rivers Church	Calvert City	KY	Life Church Southfield	Southfield	MI
Grace Community Cov. Church	Louisville	KY	West Bay Covenant Church	Traverse City	MI
One Church Louisville, Inc.	Louisville	KY	Covenant Presbyterian Church	Tustin	MI
Lighthouse Church	Richmond	KY	Evangelical Covenant Church	Whitehall	MI
Christ Community Church	Allegan	MI	Fruitland Ev. Cov. Church	Whitehall	MI
Life Church Auburn Hills	Auburn Hills	MI	Grace Ev. Cov. Church	Clay	NY
Evergreen Ev. Cov. Church	Branch	MI	First Covenant Church	Jamestown	NY
Life Covenant Church	Canton	MI	Nueva Vida Covenant Church	Jamestown	NY
Evangelical Covenant Church	Cheboygan	MI	Zion Covenant Church	Jamestown	NY
Dearborn Ev. Cov. Church	Dearborn	MI	Redeemer Ev. Cov. Church	Liverpool	NY
Citadel of Faith Cov. Church	Detroit	MI	Artisan Church	Rochester	NY
City Covenant Church	Detroit	MI	First Covenant Church	Ashtabula	OH
Detroit Bible Tabernacle	Detroit	MI	Austintown Comm. Ev. Cov. Church	Austintown	OH
Hope Community Church	Detroit	MI	Praise Chapel International	Columbus	OH
Life Church Riverside	Detroit	MI	Sanctuary Columbus Church	Columbus	OH
Love of Christ Christian Center	Detroit	MI	Journey Covenant Church	Cuyahoga Falls	OH
Messiah Church	Detroit	MI	Covenant Community Church	Fairfield	OH
Federated Covenant Church	Dowagiac	MI	Redeemer Church	Hamilton	OH
Faith Covenant Church	Farmington Hills	MI	Bethany Covenant Church	Lyndhurst	OH
Bachelor Ev. Cov. Church	Fountain	MI	St. John's Ev. Cov. Church	Millersburg	OH
Esperanza Covenant Church	Grand Rapids	MI	Gateway Community Church	Powell	OH
First Ev. Cov. Church	Grand Rapids	MI	Faith Covenant Church	Westerville	OH
Thornapple Ev. Cov. Church	Grand Rapids	MI	First Covenant Church	Willoughby Hills	OH
Harbert Community Church	Harbert	MI	First Covenant Church	Youngstown	OH
Kalamazoo Covenant Church	Kalamazoo	MI	Stoneridge Covenant Church	Allison Park	PA
Bretton Woods Cov. Church	Lansing	MI	First Covenant Church	Bessemer	PA
Evangelical Covenant Church	LeRoy	MI	Bethany Covenant Church	DuBois	PA
Christ Covenant Church	Livonia	MI	Emmanuel Mission Church	Kane	PA
Life Church Livonia	Livonia	MI	Cityview Covenant Church	Pittsburgh	PA
Faith Covenant Church	Manistee	MI	Keystone Church Of Hazelwood	Pittsburgh	PA
Kingdom Embassy Cov. Church	Muskegon	MI	Evangelical Covenant Church	Port Allegany	PA
Miracle of Faith Ministries	New Baltimore	MI	Scandia Ev. Cov. Church	Russell	PA
Evangelical Covenant Church	Northport	MI	Mission Covenant Church	Sugar Grove	PA
Forest Park Covenant Church	Norton Shores	MI	Pleasant Community Church	Warren	PA
New Hope Church	Richland	MI	The Movement Church	Nashville	TN
Saranac Community Church	Saranac	MI	Wallens Creek Covenant Church	Duffield	VA
Crossroads Community Church	South Lyon	MI	New Community Cov. Church	Buckhannon	WV
			One Hope Covenant Church	Elkins	WV



Director of Church Planting- Alan Tumpkin

2021 CHURCH PLANTING

Planting a church in 2021 was a daunting task. With national shutdowns and restrictions, many prospective church planters took a wait and see posture toward launching a church in a COVID environment. The GLC did not actually plant any churches in 2021. However, the GLC was able to provide much needed support and coaching to prospective Church Planters with the hopes of planting those churches in 2022.

Rick and Terri McGarry, New Wine Church in Mason, MI
Diamond DeYampert, The Freedom Room in Detroit, MI**
Noah Filipiak, Mosaic Church in Grand Rapids, MI*
David Williams, Life Transformation Church in Columbus, OH

Meanwhile, the GLC continued to provide coaching to our recent church planters in years 1-5 of their ministry: Life Church Riverside: An Evangelical Covenant Church (Georgia Hill) Detroit, MI (2020); Life Church Auburn Hills: An Evangelical Covenant Church (Donearl Johnson) Auburn Hills, MI (2019); Lighthouse Church: An Evangelical Covenant Church (Harvey Cozart) Richmond, KY (2017); One Hope Covenant Church (Bobby Benavides) in Elkins, WV (2017); and The Movement Church: An Evangelical Covenant Church (Joey Maldonado) in Nashville, TN (2017).

A contribution from a generous donor made it possible for the GLC to employ Philip Carr on a half-time basis to work alongside Alan Tumpkin to ensure that our youngest churches had the support they needed to remain missional and fruitful in such adverse conditions. As you will see in our church planting reports, the efforts of our church planting team produced much fruit in the form of missional traction in many of our church plants.

As we move forward with church planting initiatives in the years ahead, we continue to envision that our preferred model for planting will be the “parenting” model. In this model the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) and the GLC partner with an existing church to give birth to a new church plant. Research and our own experience continue to show that this model tends to produce the strongest church plants. However, other models for planting may also be utilized and/or considered. Other models include the “partnership” model in which multiple churches contribute to the birth of a new church, and the “parachute” model in which a church is started in a community that is not near any other Covenant Churches.

Please visit the GLC web site at www.greatlakes.cc to become a Mission Friend for Church Planting.

*Mosaic Covenant Church of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, MI launched in January 2022

**The Covenant Agreement for The Freedom Room, Detroit, MI starts April 1, 2022

Alan Tumpkin



One Hope Covenant Church

Pastor: Bobby Benavides
Planted: October 2017

Elkins, WV



What was the church's biggest challenge for 2021?

Can we narrow it down to just one? Obviously with the pandemic, not having our own space was a challenge. We were at the mercy of the community center that we rented for our services. They closed their doors which gave us no place to meet. In Jan. 2021, a church opened their doors to us for a bit and then the community center let us return in April. Though the kid's ministry was not allowed to restart because the community center did not want the kids interacting in the small space. Also, we were required to wear masks in the community center. So, some people wouldn't come because of the masks. All this from not having a space of our own.

Where did you see God at work in and through the church during 2021?

One way I saw God work is that our leadership team responded well to my wanting to continue the ministry of the church. We worked to continue to do things outside of being able to physically gather for worship services. We provided meals for those who were hungry and collected clothing items for the Tyrand ministries, a local ministry that has a food and clothing bank. It is the largest resource in our area for serving those who are under resourced.



What are you grateful for on behalf of the church for 2021?

I am grateful for people who have stuck with the church, who have stayed with the ministry and have stayed connected. I am grateful to be part of a denomination that values supporting ministries and pastors. And for God's goodness that provided the resources to keep us open during the pandemic. Like our drummer and his wife who were part of a youth ministry I was part of from years ago. They have taken up the Instagram account for the church and have made a real impact- one of their reels reached 10,000 people over six days.

What needs have resulted for the church from 2021?

Finances have been a major need for us. We still need to pay for rent and we need the resources to keep things flowing. Finances are tight with our lower numbers. We need a facility that is more "ours", where we don't need to constantly set up and tear down. Where we can start a youth ministry. We also have a need to grow numerically, to get our people numbers back to where they were before the pandemic.

What are your hopes, dreams, and/or goals for the church for 2022?

We want to be a church that continues to serve the community beyond the walls of where we meet. Our hope is to meet the wholistic needs of the people in the community- financial, spiritual, physical, equipping them with the tools for them to be employed (resume writing and interview skills). We want a "thinking outside the box" ministry perspective. We have a goal to improve discipleship- to equip people to be better disciple makers, to strengthen our evangelism. We have been using RightNow Media significantly towards this and are working to have at least five groups online for people to join- right now we have two. Altogether we would like to use online resources more, like for a 24/7 prayer group where there would be someone online to pray at all times. Or a daily 5 minute devotional video. However, we need to be sustainable to do all these things.



The Movement Church



Pastor: Joey Maldonado
Planted: October 2017

Nashville, TN



What was the church's biggest challenge for 2021?

The church's biggest challenge we faced was that we were still so new when the pandemic started. The foundational underpinnings of the church were not well enough established for the church to easily weather the Covid storm and keep on rolling. We were like a pregnant woman going into early labor who realizes that not everything is ready- the walls aren't painted, the crib isn't built. So that when we could finally meet together in person, it wasn't a matter of simply keeping it all going, it was a matter of needing to start over. At the end of the day the financial strain on our new small church- the limited resources and the limited number of people, has been difficult to deal with.

Where did you see God at work in and through the church during 2021?

As we take some time to recover, the biggest thing we see and celebrate is that in a world that so often defines growth as numbers we saw supernatural growth in people, not in the number of people, but in the lives of who we were stewarding. As we come out of Covid we now have a foundation that is real, solid, and strong because of people's lives that have grown through this.

What are you grateful for on behalf of the church for 2021?

I have been on a difficult journey of church planting; hoping and praying that I am doing a good job. However, I realize that I am grateful that God has shown me his incredible faithfulness. His faithfulness that we are here, that he has miraculously taken care of me, my family, and the church. He has shown us favor and grace. We know in this world we will have trouble, but he says he has overcome the world. His faithfulness has made us more resilient through the challenges we have faced. God's presence has sustained me in all of this.



What needs have resulted for the church from 2021?

Obviously, there is a resource need- in our context and culture there are more churches closing than opening. There is a tangible need of resources and finances. We need the continual prayers and support in what we are standing in. We need our hands held up by the Aarons and Hurs of the Conference. So, though we do need support in our finances, we also need support through relationship- in prayer and encouragement. We need people and other churches to come alongside our little church, to show up and be present both physically and in prayer. Personally, I need rest and encouragement. We also have a need to continue our foundational growth, to grow in the things that matter- covid exposed what really matters.

What are your hopes, dreams, and/or goals for the church for 2022?

One tangible goal is for us to physically grow in numbers. We ask- what if we were able to grow to a point where we begin, in faith, to prepare for a second service? Another goal is to continue to focus on formation and foundation. In March 2022, every Saturday morning we met for prayer; we want to be defined as a community of prayer. We had as many at our prayer Saturdays as we had on Sunday. So, we want growth in both our personal lives and in numbers. We want to impact our community through what God is doing in and through us.





Lighthouse Church

Pastor: Harvey Cozart
Planted: December 2017

Richmond, KY



What was the church's biggest challenge for 2021?

For us the biggest challenge was funding. We experienced a decrease in giving as a result of both the pandemic and the social justice issues. In terms of commitment, the people's commitment began to wane. We became challenged in terms of what we could do, a tighter budget means less ministry. Even though we own our building and had a bit in savings, still the tighter budget limited the number of people we could reach.

Where did you see God at work in and through the church during 2021?

I saw God at work in our continuous commitment to being a multiethnic church. This commitment can be seen in our leadership, our worship team and in the church body. It is God who is at work helping us to live out the commitment. Also, we saw God in our outreach to our community. Though the budget was tighter, and ministry has been harder, we have continued to have a very good relationship with the teen center that helps kids in the city of Richmond. We partner with them in "Give and Go" - to tutor kids, to mentor them, to give them the gospel, and disciple them. God has been at work as we seek to help the kids. Lots of creative ways have been found to reach these kids who are dealing with some severe issues at home. Also, we have seen God at work in the new faces that we are seeing come into our church, diverse faces - diverse in race, class, and economic status. People from different walks of life who are coming in and connecting with us and the service.



What are you grateful for on behalf of the church for 2021?

I am grateful for the faithfulness and dedication of the leadership. We have weathered some really tough storms and have maintained unity in our leadership and community - whether racial issues, political issues - we have stayed connected. We have stayed together. The gospel is the central focus that calls us together.



What needs have resulted for the church from 2021?

Some of our needs have stemmed from a need for more volunteers. We need to raise up more people to help serve the mission field. We also have financial need. We have a need for us as a church to be more mobile, to go out into the community because the community is looking for people to connect with, to talk to. We have a basic need to get out there and tell the gospel more.

What are your hopes, dreams, and/or goals for the church for 2022?

One of our goals for 2022 would be that we would be focused on being a mobile church that is focused on serving the community. That we would not settle for people coming to us, but that we would go to the community and serve them in true missional ways. Another goal would be to continue to grow as a diverse church. Our church has been very intentional at living out being multiethnic which is unique for our rural setting where the churches are typically segregated. We have a goal for more people to be discipled so that more people may come to faith.



LifeChurch Auburn Hills



Pastor: Donearl Johnson
Planted: February 2019

Auburn Hills, MI



What was the church's biggest challenge for 2021?

Our biggest challenge was going back into in person services after 18 months of primarily virtual services. Our church was only 1yr old before having to go all virtual due to the pandemic. We actually celebrated our one-year anniversary virtually. Then, emerging out of that plus the racial tension and disruption was hard on our multiethnic community. Not everyone came back to in person worship- our numbers have been fewer. Some were discouraged by our smaller numbers and asked- is it worth it?

Where did you see God at work in and through the church during 2021?

We have seen God at work in the favor we have received from the local community. We have a wonderful relationship with the school where we have met and with the city. We have been able to host outreach events. Also, we see God in the fact that there has been people willing to come back after all of the displacement and disruption, ready to relaunch the church. I felt God was telling us to be faithful, to not operate by what it looks like right now. I was able to inspire the leaders and the congregation at a time when we were still wearing masks and spaced out without a lot of personal connection.



What are you grateful for on behalf of the church for 2021?



I am grateful because we were able to begin again, and the church has handled it well. Even with discouragement the church has continued to move forward by faith. We are grateful because we have continued to see new people show up every Sunday. It has been a sign from God that there is still life in the church. We have seen people being blessed through the ministry. Also, for those that have returned to the church, our relationships have gotten deeper.

What needs have resulted for the church from 2021?

A very real need is a need for financial resources. All of church, everything we do, has had to be different. We have had to tighten our belts, go bare bones with the budget. Stipends for the pastors have had to go away. The lack of resources has impacted the outreach budget. Though we have been known for our outreach events like the quarterly international potluck where we hosted an event with a diversity of people and faiths, we have had to limit them. Without effective outreach, we don't have as many new people coming. It impacts our reach into the community, our growth, and our future finances. Then, we needed a new place to meet as the school didn't have enough custodial staff to accommodate our gatherings.

What are your hopes, dreams, and/or goals for the church for 2022?

We have two missional priorities that tie into growth. The first priority is to make and deepen disciples. So, we evaluate everything we do by asking, how does this make space to deepen discipleship or make disciples. Second, we ask, how are we blessing our community? We are equipping people right now by employing the BLESS missional practices. Another dream is to launch the life center. A place where we are impacting the community through life skills training, training for critical thinking, computer training, programming, parent enrichment workshops, and entrepreneurial sessions where business owners will give their time to teach both youth and adults these skills. This is why we have moved to the Boys and Girls club. Our ultimate dream is to be of greater impact for the kingdom. So, we would like a consistent place to gather and engage our community so that people's lives are impacted, and families are transformed by the grace, truth, and love of Jesus.





LifeChurch Riverside

Pastor: Georgia Hill
Planted: April 2020

Detroit, MI

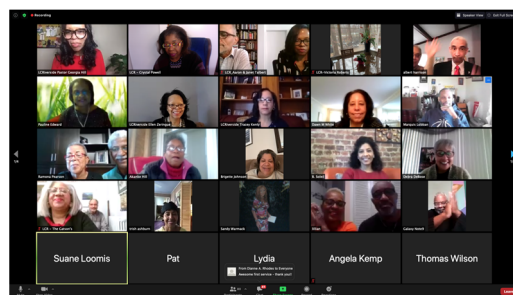


What was the church's biggest challenge for 2021?

Our biggest challenge was to keep people engaged in an online platform, while also trying to pull new people in. It was a struggle to keep hold of who we had and reach out for the new. But that is our job as a church plant, to constantly reach out beyond our friendship circles to invite people to come and be part of the ministry. All that, in addition to dealing with the pandemic drama and trauma for our members, was major.

Where did you see God at work in and through the church during 2021?

We saw God working in a lot of little ways that became big ways. So, developing relationships through an online format is a strange and interesting challenge. It turned out that the live opportunities (where we could hear and/or see each other) became very life giving. Each week, the prayer line and the bible study were very important to us. We made relationships and deepened friendships and I know that was God. This outcome is exactly why we went ahead and planted the church at the start of a pandemic, because we knew that people needed connection.



What are you grateful for on behalf of the church for 2021?

I am grateful that there has just been a lot of love poured out in the church. The people of the church have prayed for each other and have done kind and beautiful things for each other. I have been sent many notes of encouragement which have also contained donations. But the love and concern poured out for one another over all the loss during the pandemic has been wonderful. There has been lots of different kinds of loss whether loss of loved ones or loss of jobs and it has been beautiful to see the care and kindness in the church.

What needs have resulted for the church from 2021?

Our number one need is a need for our own building. Number two, is that our people need an opportunity to reach out and touch- in person. We need opportunities to serve the community- to get out and touch the community. Now that the number of people getting infected with the virus is decreasing it may be possible. We want opportunities to deal with issues of injustice and unrighteousness. We also want more opportunities to engage one on one in small group- to be in person. We have missed the face-to-face connection- we are so happy when we get to see one another. As Christians, we have missed the opportunities to use our gifts in a physical way, to lay hands on the sick or to anoint someone with oil.

What are your hopes, dreams, and/or goals for the church for 2022?

One of our goals is to celebrate those who have hung in there with us through this incredible season. We have people who have been very faithful, and we would like to celebrate them. We look forward to having our own building and to be able to engage people in the community, to be a blessing to the people in the community. Our dream for this building is for us to have live worship with live people (and not having to worry about if my neighbor is contagious) and then to be able to kick off a kids ministry.





Mosaic Covenant Church of Grand Rapids

Pastor: Noah Filipiak

Grand Rapids, MI

Newly Planted: January 2022



Seed Verse

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Church Name

Mosaic Covenant Church of Grand Rapids- Mosaic symbolizes the multi-ethnicity of our congregation, which we believe is God’s will for the church and a part of the justice and mercy referred to in Micah 6:8.

Our Vision

The Vision of this new church is: Mosaic exists to be a multi-ethnic church living out Jesus’ kingdom values, bringing racial equity and gospel freedom to the city of Grand Rapids.

Our Mission

The Mission of this new church is: To make disciples of Jesus who act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.



Our Core Values

The Core Values of this new church are:

- ◆ Racial equity
- ◆ Diversity
- ◆ Holy Spirit-driven
- ◆ Authentic relationships
- ◆ Serving the city
- ◆ Disciples who make disciples



Worship

Musical worship on Sunday morning will consist of a multi-ethnic worship team. Our style will be multi-ethnic, with elements that white, black, and Latinx people can connect with. This will include one song in Spanish each Sunday and an overall feel of contemporary black gospel, but also an understanding of song selection that includes popular white, black, and Latinx songs that audience members will be familiar with. We’d like each of these three main racial groups to have at least one song each Sunday they are familiar with. We will also do service projects at the Boys & Girls Club and in the neighborhood, reminding people that this too is worship.



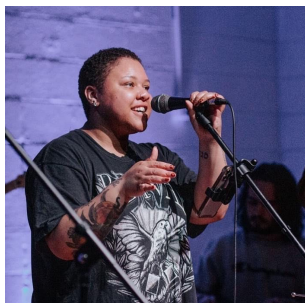
We will also do service projects at the Boys & Girls Club and in the neighborhood, reminding people that this too is worship.



The Freedom Room

Pastor: Diamond DeYampert
Newly Planted: April 2022

Detroit, MI



Seed Verse

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

Church Name

The Freedom Room- TFR provides a physical place where people will be filled with God's Spirit. And because we know 2 Cor 3:17, every room they walk into thereafter will become a Freedom Room.

Our Vision and Mission (Our Purpose)

Our purpose is to be a difference-making church family, bringing Detroiters together and to Jesus. The Mission of this new church is: to reach SW Detroit with our four pillars to create life without limits.

Core Values (Our Pillars)

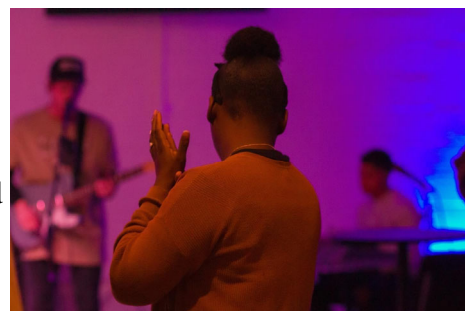
Simple Gospel - Romans 10: 9-10 helps us to embrace the simplicity and clarity of salvation. We endeavor to remove the "red tape" around following Jesus. We pursue the Simple Gospel by committing to expository teaching, spiritual formation through deep study led by Elders and thought leaders and connecting real life to the scriptures through illustrated communication.



Spirit-Filled Gatherings - Matthew 18:20 encourages us to gather by promising the presence of God when we do so. We prioritize gathering through our tri-weekly worship services, where corporate worship, teaching, prophecy, communion, baptism, celebration and interpersonal connection for all guests will take place.

SOULcial Groups - Proverbs 27:17 compares the friction that sharpens iron to the development that happens among sisters and brothers in Christ. Our groups driven discipleship model will place people with similar experiences and challenges in relationship with one another under the leadership of co-leaders to increase the efficacy of our church family.

Shocking Generosity - Acts 2:44 lays out a breathtaking model of community, where the assembled church shares their possessions to blot out need among them, and then goes on to meet the needs of their neighbors with their excess. We'll follow this model closely, and together we will shock Southwest Detroit and beyond with our lavish giving. More than money and possessions, we'll give our time, our talents, our voices, and our kindness away freely because it's our joy!



Camp Mission Meadows



Our Vision: A relational approach to a Christ-Centered experience

Our Mission: To RAISE up the next generation of Jesus followers through Relational-Accepting-Intentional-Safe and Encouraging summer camps, weekend retreats, and community programming.

Fulfilling our Mission: We have reopened! As a result of the dedication of our supporters, we have been able to re-open our doors. Children were able to come to day camp in 2021! For many of the weeks, we were at capacity! Families were able to come and camp for a day to weeks at a time. Volunteers flooded to Mission Meadows to help reopen camp! Last summer we had 38 volunteers working over 2200 hours!



Staff Update: In November 2021, Jackie Haines was appointed as the Director of Mission Meadows. Full-time staff has been hired to assist Jackie in day-to-day operations. There are currently 5 full-time employees and Mission Meadows is beginning the hiring process for summer staff.



Summer Ministry: Mission Meadows is re-opening our Summer Camp season in 2022. This year we will be having day camps, weeklong overnight camps, halftime camps (2 - 3 days) available for our Trailblazers (grades 1 - 6), Junior High (grades 6 - 9), and Senior High (grades 9 - 12). As we have in years past, our camps will offer children many of the fun aspects of camp including, swimming, boating, chapel time, arts and crafts, and adventure recreation time. Our theme this year is "Changing Your Game". We will look at ways to change up how you play the game of life, to

rely more on God, and trust in His provisions. We will use Philippians 4:13 "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" as our inspiration. Besides our ministry of RAISING up the next generation of Jesus followers through our summer campers, we also have a ministry with our summer staff. This year, special attention will be focused on how we pour into our summer staff. A spiritual director will be here every week to specifically pour into staff, local church leaders/pastors are scheduled to come to meet with and encourage our staff, and designated training time is scheduled to encourage spiritual development.

Retreat Season Ministry: A big part of Mission Meadows' vision is opening up the camp for churches, youth groups, and social service organizations. Children and youth can come for a week or a weekend to draw closer to God and to learn new ways to have a relationship with our Lord. Retreat groups are slowly coming back and new groups have already booked for next year. One of the new groups starting to attend is Game Changer, which is an interdenominational sports ministry designed to bring encouragement to students and coaches through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Another new group is Praise Chapel International, a Covenant Church, which plans to bring 100-150 international students to camp. Praise God!



Camp Mission Meadows (cont.)

Facilities Improvements: Mission Meadows completed an overhaul of our dorms. The ceilings to the floors have been painted, and new curtains were made by volunteers. Our docks also received an overhaul. Thanks to a generous donor, we have been able to upgrade our docks to provide more stability. Funding has been given for a new deck which is scheduled to be put up in May. Our camp received new Wi-Fi capabilities thanks to a grant that we received. Additionally, new mattresses have been purchased. The camp has been completing much-needed updates and a transformation is clearly visible.



Financial Support: Our financial supporters showed their commitment to Mission Meadows. Last year we received over \$170,000 in donations! Amazing! Donations have led not only to upgrading our facilities but the purchase of needed items such as kitchen supplies, and activities for children.

Big Picture! Building on the enthusiasm of last year, Mission Meadows will continue to encourage volunteer participation. In fact, a work week (6/5 - 6/11) is scheduled at camp where alumni and new friends can come a day, a weekend, or a whole week to get camp ready for the summer season. As we are reopening our doors, we are reopening connections. There is a sense of excitement that we are all working to help the Lord transform lives.

Jackie Haines
Director



Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp



*Portage Lake invites campers to step out of their daily routines and into Christ-centered community built around **REAL FUN** and **REAL FAITH** in an unforgettable setting.*



VISION: To impact every life for Jesus Christ through our service, witness, and programs.

When a new coach takes over a team you don't expect to win the national championship that same year or the next. Pundits usually talk about that season as a 'rebuilding year' when a staff is replaced, a new philosophy is learned, and a new vision is communicated. I honestly don't like the term because it seems like code for mediocrity and excuses. I do like what was once said about Bo Schembechler in the 1970's: "Bo doesn't rebuild, he reloads." Following the 2020 Covid summer, staff transitions, and my own steep learning curve I am choosing to see this time as a *reloading season* so that we can explode into the new year with purpose and precision.

Retreat Season

The year began by hosting a new College and Career Retreat. Given the restrictions, it was a relaxed and more spread-out event with 54 in attendance. However, it was a well-received weekend and something this age group desperately needed. The winter continued with a large high school church retreat split into two weekends due to Covid, our own Jr. High and Sr. High retreats, a fishing weekend, and various small family groups who were able to use our facilities. Groups returned in the fall with Men's, Women's, Junior High, Trailblazer, Contemplative, and Quilting retreats. While numbers haven't yet recovered fully from pre-pandemic events, we were overjoyed to accommodate these groups and see God continue to shape lives at camp.



Summer

It was so good to see folks back at camp this past summer – worshipping, playing, laughing, praying, and eating together. Our numbers were 70% of what they were in 2019 but as our summer theme reminded us, "the STEADFAST love of Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning; great is [his] faithfulness" (Lam. 3:22-23). Our staff numbers were down as well (25 compared with the normal 35+) which offered its own challenges, but God worked in our midst through numerous volunteers and high school students who gave one or two weeks to serve camp and kids. Throughout the summer ...

- ◆ 636 kid campers experienced the steadfast love of the Lord
- ◆ 464 family campers grew closer with each other, across differences, and to God
- ◆ 1,100 total campers experienced faith-filled fun
- ◆ 94 kids gave their life to Christ for the first time
- ◆ 225 campers strengthened their faith and renewed their commitment to God





PLCBC (cont.)

- ◆ 319 campers made significant spiritual decisions because of their experience at PLCBC. In total, 15% made first time commitments to Christ and another 35% recommitted their lives to the Lord. (For reference, in 2019 – 8% first time, 30% recommitments). God is SO good!



75th Anniversary

We also had the opportunity over Labor Day weekend to celebrate 75 years of ministry at Portage Lake to generations of kids and families. It began with a golf outing at Manistee National which raised over \$10,000 for camp operations and continued with a throw-back game show night. Sunday morning worship was led by former staff from several generations and the message was given by Dave Nesburg. We also held a concert and memorial service for Jerry Jacoby and Forest Dahl highlighting each of their tremendous contributions to camp, and singing music they wrote and lead for years on staff.

Staff

After searching for both an Associate Director this past year and more recently a Program Director to replace Madison Herfurth who left in September, we have found both. Kirstin Crawford was hired in mid-December as our new Program Director. Kirstin grew up in Indiana and graduated from Anderson University. She has worked at camps in the midwest and most recently completed a two-year Master's degree in Outdoor Leadership Development at Honeyrock, a camp and graduate center of Wheaton College in northern Wisconsin.



Our incoming Director of Operations and Finance will be Eric Ek. Ordained in the Covenant Church, Eric has been the Youth Pastor at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills for the past seven years. He received his undergraduate degree in Finance at North Park University as well as his MDiv. Eric also spent 9 summers at camp in various capacities including several years as an intern. He will begin work at camp in mid-March. While excited about their arrival, we are sad to say goodbye to Luci Schweigert who has been our Marketing and Guest Services Director for the last four years. At the beginning of March, Luci and her husband Devin along with their one-year-old son Bowie will be moving into Manistee where Devin is a teacher. A huge thanks goes out to the rest of our staff who has faithfully served throughout a year of transition: Kathy Smith (Office Manager), Randy Bennetts (Facilities Manager), Amanda Harju (Cook) and our interns, Sydney Ferns, Connor Fritz, Tatum Jackson, Fisher Spessard, and Amiya Zoodsma. The work they have done is extraordinary, and I am thankful for the gift they have been to me and all those who have been to camp this fall.

Capital Projects

While Covid affected much of our ministry over the past year, it apparently also infected our HVAC systems. This year we replaced 6 heaters / AC units, 2 heat exchangers, and 1 water heater. Other capital projects included: a new maintenance road from the gym to the garage, new streetlights at each of the entrances to camp, new structural beams on the outside of the Speaker's cabin and lifting of the Camp Delight house, adding 4' of new block to the foundation, and installing water mitigation pumps to eliminate moisture in the crawl space.



PLCBC (cont.)

New Dining Hall Project

As we continue to watch for construction costs to go down, we have entered conversations with friends of camp – a builder and architect – to help us with redesign tweaks. It's our hope that these shifts will help us be better postured for indoor and outdoor dining options should the need arise in the future. We've also learned from Covid that multiple options for serving whether buffet, cafeteria, or family style would also help us pivot more easily as well. All these factors in our post-Covid world are being considered. Another \$500,000 was generously given in 2021 bringing the total to approximately \$1.8 million. We continue to pray for God's guidance and timing as to what and when we build.

General Finances

I am continually thankful for the extreme generosity of the Portage Lake Camp family who over the past two years has faithfully given when we were financially lean. While we are still not back to where we were prior to the pandemic in terms of ministry and operations, we have solid financial footing from which to launch this year. The year-end cash position in 2021 is \$167,908, a more than \$11,000 increase from the previous year. The second round of PPP loans helped us considerably as did generous memorial, capital, and scholarship giving.



Given all this, I believe we are poised to *reload* as we enter a season that is already teeming with potential. Our staff and camper numbers are up. We have added new full-time staff. The invasiveness of Covid seems to have faded. Our energy and creativity are growing. We are ready to SOAR (Summer 2022 theme)!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the ministry at Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp!

Grace & Peace,

Marc Eix
Executive Director
Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp





Notes

That We May Be One in Christ



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