



Annual Meeting Review & Approval May 2nd & 3rd 2025

MINISTRY PLANNING CYCLE 2025 ➤ **Looking forward 3 to 5 years** **God's Calling | Our Ministry Plan for the Great Lakes Conference**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Conference affirms the 3-year MPC Framework (proposed in 2025) and empowers the staff to pursue the specified MPC Planning Actions within the allocation of resources specified in the 2025 Budget.

Comments:

A. The motion does not limit the Staff to just these MPC Framework Planning Actions;

B. If it is determined along the way that additional resources are needed they will need to be approved in advance by the GLC Board and raised prior to expenditure

A. Why has God placed your church - with the congregation you currently have - in the community where you are located?

Why are you there?

B. What resources (opportunities, relationships, skills, talents, strengths, or other assets) are already in place that are helping you move in the direction of where/how you believe God has called your church?

C. Is there a gap in the church's resources that needs to be bridged in order to fully move into where/how God has called the church?

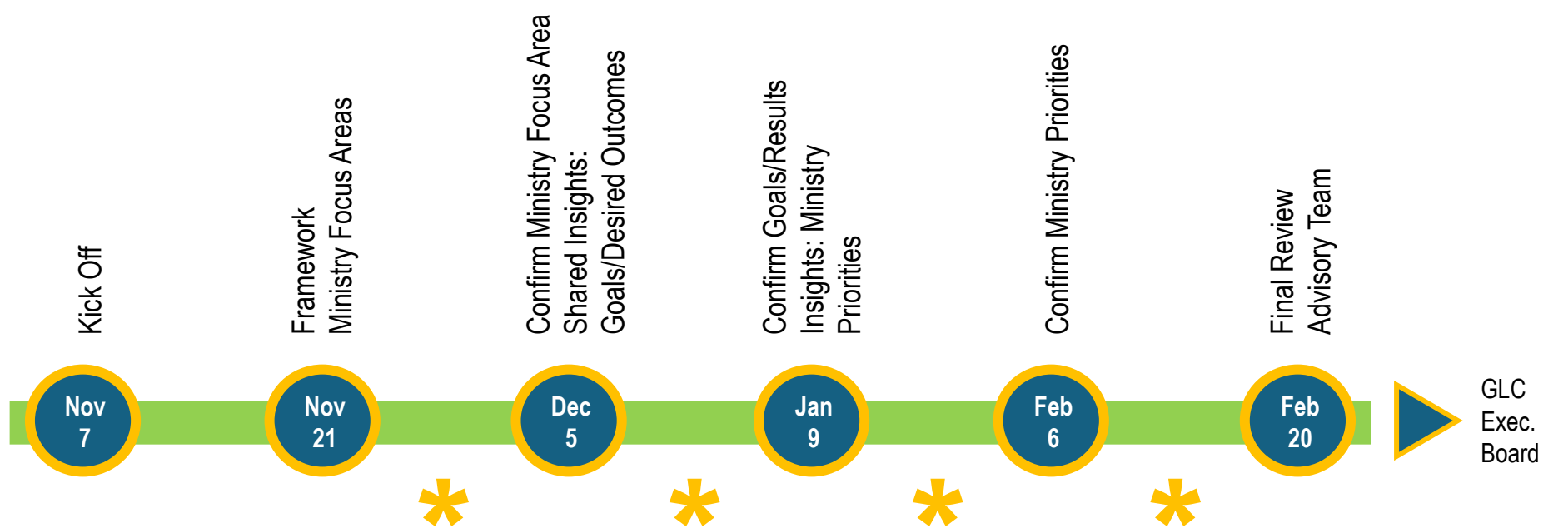
Additional Questions for the Delegates (2024 Celebration)


What Conference resources are you aware of that currently assist your church?

What resource, training or process could the Conference provide that would equip and enhance your local church ministry?



- **Deb Abbott, Thornapple Ev. Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, MI**
- **Kendall Churchill, First Covenant Church, Youngstown, OH**
- **Sue Gerritsen, Evergreen Covenant Church,**
- **Ken Johnson, Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church, Muskegon, MI**
- **J.T. Madison, Evangelical Covenant Church, Port Allegany, PA**
- **Joe Muzzi, Crossroads Community Church, South Lyon, MI**
- **Michael Neal, Faith Covenant Church, Farmington Hills, MI**
- **Daniel Pardue, One Church, Louisville, KY**
- **Gina Roberts, City Covenant Church, Detroit, MI**
- **Jared Van Voorst, Life Covenant Church, Canton, MI**
- **Karen Yeversky, Zion Covenant Church, Jamestown, NY**
- **Doug Parker (Facilitator), Thornapple Ev. Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, MI**
- **GLC Staff- Garth McGrath, Jody Eidnes, Peg Cichon**



 Content Development Workshops
(Garth, Jody, Doug P (facilitator))



850 Insights from GLC Churches



1
Strengthening Churches

2
Identifying, Developing, & Training (pastors, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers)

3
Connecting Churches (to each other and shared resources)

4
Resourcing Churches to Reach and Serve Their Community (for outreach and growth)

5
Starting New Churches

1 Strengthening Churches

Goal: Support the health and ministry potential of the local church from conception through the many phases of congregational life.



Desired Outcome: Every local church becomes a healthy, missional church; pursuing Christ and pursuing Christ's priorities in our world.

2 Identifying, Developing & Training (pastors, staff, lay leaders and volunteers)

Goal: *Invest and sow into the congregation and leadership of the local church through the identification, development, and training of their pastors, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers.*



Desired Outcome: *Local pastors, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers are identified and equipped to fulfill God's calling in their lives and in the local church.*

3 Connecting Churches (to each other and shared resources)

Goal: Cultivate a relational and digital network that creates awareness and cooperation, and leverages resources between pastors, churches, churches and the conference, and churches and the denomination



Desired Outcome: A coming together of the local churches and denominational entities for the effective and generous sharing of resources, people, and talents, to create a synergistic kingdom result (doing more together in Christ than the individual entities can do alone).

4 Resourcing Churches to Reach and Serve (for outreach and growth)

Goal: *Local churches are beacons of light and hope in their local community, delivering the Good News of Christ, serving their community, and drawing people to new life in Christ.*



Desired Outcome: *Local churches grow in their Kingdom impact as the local church loves and cares for the needs of its community and as community members respond to the message of Christ and join the local church in its mission.*

5 Starting New Churches

Goal: Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to bring together fresh expressions of the body of Christ to birth new local churches across the GLC.



Mosaic Grand Rapids

Desired Outcome: Plant 1-3 new thriving, Christ magnifying churches a year, so that the churches, as seen together, encompass the mosaic and diversity of the GLC.



New Wine Covenant Mason



Life Church Riverside

Our Mission: Helping every congregation become a healthy, missional church. Pursuing Christ. Pursuing Christ's priorities in our world.
Our Vision: To multiply to 100 missional, Christ-magnifying congregations in an increasing mosaic of communities.

Goal

1. Strengthening Churches

Support the health and ministry potential of the local church from conception through the many phases of congregational life.

2. Identifying, Developing, & Training (pastors, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers)

Invest and sow into the congregation and leadership of the local church through the identification, development, and training of their pastors, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers.

3. Connecting Churches (to each other and shared resources)

Cultivate a relational and digital network that creates awareness and cooperation, and leverages resources between pastors, churches, churches and the conference, and churches and the denomination

4. Resourcing Churches to Reach and Serve Their Community (for outreach and growth)

Local churches are beacons of light and hope in their local community, delivering the Good News of Christ, serving their community, and drawing people to new life in Christ.

5. Starting New Churches

Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to bring together fresh expressions of the body of Christ to birth new local churches across the GLC.

Desired Outcome...

Every local church becomes a healthy, missional church; pursuing Christ and pursuing Christ's priorities in our world.

Local pastors, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers are identified and equipped to fulfill God's calling in their lives and in the local church.

A coming together of the local churches and denominational entities for the effective and generous sharing of resources, people, and talents, to create a synergistic kingdom result (doing more together in Christ than the individual entities can do alone).

Local churches grow in their Kingdom impact as the local church loves and cares for the needs of its community and as community members respond to the message of Christ and join the local church in its mission.

Plant 1-3 new thriving, Christ magnifying churches a year, so that the churches, as seen together, encompass the mosaic and diversity of the GLC.

Ministry Priorities

- 1. Increase availability of resources (GLC tools, ECC tools, GLC staff time) for local churches to participate in Vitality Pathways
- 2. Support churches in developing funding sources to participate in and follow through on the church's journey towards vitality
- 3. Continue development of resources in the areas of church policies, church systems, and governance
- 4. Increase the visibility through an integrated communication plan of GLC & ECC resources and tools across all Focus Areas i.e. website, newsletter, social, conferences/gatherings, social media

- 1. Develop resource (tools and "how to") for local churches to create a succession plan (identification and training of leaders) for pastoral and lay leadership
- 2. Equip local church leaders to disciple congregants to identify their gifts and consider their calling
- 3. Publish annual listing of ECC and GLC training catalog and calendar
- 4. Increase visibility and availability of resources for pastoral care

- 1. Develop a technology team that develops, maintains, and monitors a self-populating interactive database: GLC tool sharing resources among churches (people, tangible assets, ideas, best practices, and technology tools)
- 2. Oversee, guide, and fund the technology team as they develop the GLC interactive database resource tool that will contain shareable resources among churches (people, tangible assets, ideas, best practices, and technology tools)
- 3. Communicate exhaustively, the availability and usage of the GLC wide interactive resource tool
- 4. Create opportunities at every GLC event to foster connections between pastors, lay leaders, churches and the GLC and the churches

- 1. Encourage/communicate to local churches how to use MissionInsite to better understand their community
- 2. Provide help to the churches to move forward from understanding their community to actual community connection
- 3. Provide to churches resources and equipping workshops focused on Evangelism, Outreach, Compassion, and Justice and Mercy ie BLESS
- 4. Share stories of local churches using their facilities to reach their communities

- 1. Identify and train Church Planters
- 2. Identify parent/partner churches
- 3. Raise funding for Church Planting
- 4. Identify and train Church Planting Coaches

Our Mission: Helping every congregation become a healthy, missional church. Pursuing Christ. Pursuing Christ's priorities in our world.
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Ratings in Red

Ministry Focus

1. Strengthening Churches

2. Identifying, Developing, & Training (pastors, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers)

3. Connecting Churches (to each other and shared resources)

4. Resourcing Churches to Reach and Serve Their Community (for outreach and growth)

5. Starting New Churches

Goal

Support the health and ministry potential of the local church from conception through the many phases of congregational life.

Invest and sow into the congregation and leadership of the local church through the identification, development, and training of their pastors, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers.

Cultivate a relational and digital network that creates awareness and cooperation, and leverages resources between pastors, churches, churches and the conference, and churches and the denomination

Local churches are beacons of light and hope in their local community, delivering the Good News of Christ, serving their community, and drawing people to new life in Christ.

Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to bring together fresh expressions of the body of Christ to birth new local churches across the GLC.

Desired Outcome...

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Local pastors, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers are identified and equipped to fulfill God's calling in their lives and in the local church.

A coming together of the local churches and denominational entities for the effective and generous sharing of resources, people, and talents, to create a synergistic kingdom result (doing more together in Christ than the individual entities can do alone).

Local churches grow in their Kingdom impact as the local church loves and cares for the needs of its community and as community members respond to the message of Christ and join the local church in its mission.

Plant 1-3 new thriving, Christ magnifying churches a year, so that the churches, as seen together, encompass the mosaic and diversity of the GLC.

Ministry Priorities

1. Increase availability of resources (GLC tools, ECC tools, GLC staff time) for local churches to participate in Vitality Pathways **2.45**

2. Support churches in developing funding sources to participate in and follow through on the church's journey towards vitality **1.82**

3. Continue development of resources in the areas of church policies, church systems, and governance **1.59**

4. Increase the visibility through an integrated communication plan of GLC & ECC resources and tools across all Focus Areas i.e. website, newsletter, social, conferences/gatherings, social media **2.27**
1. Develop resource (tools and "how to") for local churches to create a succession plan (identification and training of leaders) for pastoral and lay leadership **2.09**

2. Equip local church leaders to disciple congregants to identify their gifts and consider their calling **2.36**

3. Publish annual listing of ECC and GLC training catalog and calendar **1.82**

4. Increase visibility and availability of resources for pastoral care **1.36**
1. Develop a technology team that develops, maintains, and monitors a self-populating interactive database: GLC tool sharing resources among churches (people, tangible assets, ideas, best practices, and technology tools) **2.36**

2. Oversee, guide, and fund the technology team as they develop the GLC interactive database resource tool that will contain shareable resources among churches (people, tangible assets, ideas, best practices, and technology tools) **2.18**

3. Communicate exhaustively, the availability and usage of the GLC wide interactive resource tool **1.82**

4. Create opportunities at every GLC event to foster connections between pastors, lay leaders, churches and the GLC and the churches **2.27**
1. Encourage/communicate to local churches how to use MissionInsite to better understand their community **2.0**

2. Provide help to the churches to move forward from understanding their community to actual community connection **2.45**

3. Provide to churches resources and equipping workshops focused on Evangelism, Outreach, Compassion, and Justice and Mercy ie BLESS **2.18**

4. Share stories of local churches using their facilities to reach their communities **1.18**
1. Identify and train Church Planters **2.20**

2. Identify parent/partner churches **2.20**

3. Raise funding for Church Planting **2.30**

4. Identify and train Church Planting Coaches **2.20**

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