



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
Annual Report – 2018

11100 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210 • 913.345.1256 • gcpc.org

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AGENDA FOR 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

January 27, 2018

Following 10am Worship

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Opening Prayer and Call to Order

The Rev. Mitchell Trigger

Affirmation of Mission

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church celebrates the presence of the living God as we:
gather all people together in a caring Christian community,
equip people to develop and share a faith that works in real life, and
send people to serve Christ in the world.

The mission of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church is to fulfill our vision by:
capturing the heart,
freeing the soul, and
transforming members into disciples.

Suspending the Meeting of the Congregation

CORPORATION MEETING

Call to Order

Aaron Soule

Recognition of the 2019 Officers of the Corporation:

President – Aaron Soule	Secretary – Cheryl Johnson
Vice-President – Julie Passett	Treasurer – Matt McBride

Acknowledgement of Trustees:

Jacob Battaglioli, Bryan Evans, Harold Frye, Donna Goeckler, Tim Hayden, Judy Hook, Terry Kolich, Lynn Long, Julie Passett, Hilary Schmidt, Aaron Soule, Josh Sutherland, Nelson Townsend, Marcia Turner

Adjournment of Corporation

CONTINUATION OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Session Report

Cheryl Johnson

Special Thanks to Our Teams and Team Moderators:

Adult Ministry – Pat Collins	Welcoming—Kim Krueger
Children’s Ministry—Diane Schmit	Worship & Music— Sarah Evans, Barb Purvis, & Anne Stroud
Connections & Care—Lisa Feyh	Mission—Michala Walker
Endowment—David Steen	Personnel—Linda Bridges
Facilities—Marc Feyh	Finance—Matt McBride
Worship—Sarah Evans and Barb Purvis	Generosity—Tony Andersen
Youth Ministry—Susan Sutherland	Kairos—Dave Pack

Finance Report

Matt McBride

Adjournment and Closing Prayer / Blessing for Potluck Lunch

The Rev. Sue Trigger

2018 Co-Pastors Annual Report

The Revs. Sue & Mitch Trigger

Well, maybe not an annual report – more of a 2018 “last quarter” report. In a typical annual report, pastors like to tell of all that they’ve been involved in and we’re no different. That’s why this won’t be a typical annual report. We want to share with you what we **are** doing and **will be** doing in the months ahead.

As your still “new” co-pastors, our intention in 2018 (and continuing into 2019) has been to get to know you better, both as individual members and as a congregation. When we were interviewed by representatives of the Commission on Ministry of Heartland Presbytery, we were asked, “What is your vision for this congregation?” Our reply was simple: “We don’t have one.” What we meant by that was that we didn’t feel it was our place to come to the church with some preset idea of what we wanted this congregation to be. We feel as pastors that it’s our job to get to know all of you, to discover what you all are passionate about as a congregation, and to help equip the congregation to best take that passion and connect it with the community.

Sometimes that mean supporting existing ministries just the way they are; sometimes it means offering ideas for new directions to those existing ministries; and other times it means helping to discern new ministries for GCPC to be involved in to serve. None of that can be done without first knowing who you are as a congregation.

An important aspect of our learning about GCPC is becoming more aware of your history. As writer Maya Angelou put it, **“I have great respect for the past. If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going.”** Interim pastor Fred Holbrook did some tremendous work in reconciliation and organization (and did his wife Laura in Christian Education). We need to understand not only the work that they did, but why it was done.

Part of our work is also educating all of you about us and our ministry as co-pastors. It can take a while to understand how we divide up some of the work of the pastoral staff and how we share in other aspects.

- Because of her background in Christian Education, Sue oversees some of the most time consuming and programmatic teams, such as Children’s Ministry and Adult Ministry, and is a resource for all things Christian Education. But Sue is also an Evangelism Coach for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and will offer lots of input for doing outreach in the community.
- Mitch will be the liaison with the Outreach Teams, Kairos and Mission, as well as Generosity & Finance and Nominating.
- In a number of areas, Mitch & Sue will share oversight. Since Deacons is the primary connection with members for pastoral care concerns, we will both be involved, although Mitch will be the primary contact with Deacons. When it comes to hospital visitation or pastoral care, we recognize that members may prefer one or the other of us to make the call and we are fine with sharing that. It only makes sense that both of us will be involved with the Worship & Music Team, since we share equally in worship responsibilities. The same holds true for the Executive

Committee and the Personnel Team. The Book of Order requires that co-pastors take turns moderating both Session meetings and meetings of the congregation.

- Both of us are already active within the Presbytery. Mitch is now serving on the Stewardship Division and will lead a workshop at the annual Stewardship event in March 2019. Sue is now serving on the Congregational Ministries Division.
- We're doing our best to get to know all of you, but grant us "grace" as we work at putting names to faces.

We again give everyone thanks for the gracious welcome you have given us and our son Charlie. We are especially grateful for your care and concern as we dealt with the death of a family member and several friends. There has been a ground swell of compassion and support as the congregation has mourned the death of Gary Blankers as well as family and friends of church members. In the midst of great sadness there has been great love. Grace Covenant and Overland Park are quickly feeling like home to us, and we look forward to getting to know the congregation and the community better, so that our ministry may truly help meet needs within the church and outside its walls.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Revs. Mitch and Sue Trigger, co-pastors

CLERK OF SESSION

2018 Annual Report

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP as of December 31, 2017

507 Members

Gains in 2017

Reactivated	3
Profession of Faith	11
Reaffirmation of Faith	1
Transfer of Membership	1
TOTAL GAINS	16

Losses in 2017

Transfer of Membership	(8)
Inactive	(9)
Death	(6)
Transfer Affiliate	(0)
TOTAL LOSSES	(23)

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP as of December 31, 2018

500 Members

BAPTISMS

Savannah Adaline Baker	Aberdeen Ryland McClain Duffert
Braydon Jace Baker	Henry Brett Frye
Aria Elizabeth Bradford	Hyein "Hayne" Kang
Finn Gregory Bratton	Kaiden Luke Miller
Chance Connell	Esme Minaschek
West Connell	Evelyn Rae "Evie" Schmidt

DECEASED MEMBERS

Jack Barber	Becky Schwenke
Gary Blanks	Shirley Trueblood
Marcia Eberly	Kathy Waxman

NEW MEMBERS

Andrew Alka	David Minaschek
Christopher Alka	Megan Minaschek
Logan Callender	Madeline Passett
Chris Cabe	Kylie Sutherland
Brooke Connell	David Terry
Kipp Connell	
Hayne Kang	

Team Reports

Worship and Music

Worship Team

1. During the winter and spring months, Worship Team continued its work of securing scripture readers, coordinating communion, planning special services and preparing the sanctuary for each liturgical season, including Lent and Easter.
2. In May, Worship and Music teams combined, per the recommendation of Pastor Fred Holbrook, for the purpose of consolidating teams, and avoiding duplication of efforts. The synergies of Worship and Music are inherently and theologically intertwined. The result has been a pretty large team, with 15 members, meeting on the first Monday of the month. We currently have 3 moderators, Anne Stroud, Barb Purvis and Sarah Evans. Our staff representatives are Pastors, Sue and Mitch Trigger, and Rebecca Prater.
3. Prior to combining our teams, the Worship team has made an intentional commitment to be theologically strong and in alignment with our Reformed tradition of Worship. We regularly ask ourselves, why we at GCPC do a certain tradition, where the tradition came from, and further, do we want to continue with that tradition. That intentionality continued as we welcomed our new co-pastors, Sue and Mitch Trigger and began working with them during the season of gratitude, Advent and Christmas.
4. You can be assured that focusing on both the What and the Why of each worship service involves a lot of thinking ahead and hands-on preparation. Members of this team are definitely not afraid to roll up their sleeves and pitch in, no matter what the task and we are grateful!
5. Prior to combining Worship and Music Team, the Worship team consisted of Nancy Kalesz, Nancy Steen (scribe), Jami Howe, Julie Passatt (Elder rep), Chelly King, ◀ Meredith Watson, Melanie Townsend and Nelson Townsend (Elder rep), along with Barb Purvis and Sarah Evans, Co-Moderators . Nelson moved to another team in June and Jacob Battaglioli (Youth Elder) joined the team.
6. 2019 will find us continuing to learn with and support Sue and Mitch, to explore the best ways to accomplish our work given the new team structure, and to do all we can to be sure every GCPC worship experience is meaningful to each and every individual who comes through our doors.

Submitted by: Sarah Evans and Barb Purvis.

Music Team

In 2018 the Music Ministry at Grace Covenant

- ξ continued to provide quality musical & spiritual leadership in and outside of worship. Our gifted and dedicated music staff, comprised of Rebecca Prater, Linda Dover, Denice Trawicki, and Daniel Cole worked with a wide range of volunteer leaders and musicians to create remarkable experiences.
- ξ **In 2018 our music ministry had**
5 vocal/instrumental, 3 handbell, and 5 instrumental ensembles.

These ensembles included

- ξ **STUDENT ENSEMBLES:** Celebration! (K-5th grades), Exaltation! & Ex! Ringers (8th-12th grades), & Youth Band (6th-12th grades)
- ξ **ADULT ENSEMBLES:** Praise Team, Chancel Choir, Jubilation! Ringers, Charter Ringers, Dixieland Band, Clarinet Quartet, & Ukes of Grace
- ξ **INTERGENERATIONAL ENSEMBLES:** Chancel Brass & Symphony Orchestra (8th grade – adults)

Outreach Activities & Music Events in 2018:

- ξ Our new timpani were played for the first time on Music Appreciation Sunday – Sunday, February 11
- ξ Hosted the regional Suzuki (Strings) Association of the Americas Workshop – Saturday, February 17
- ξ Chancel Choir shared “Songs of the Cross” – Good Friday – March 30
- ξ Celebration! (Grades 1-5) shared their songs in both services – in A Mini Musical of the Many “I Am” Statements of Jesus – Sunday, April 15
- ξ Exaltation! (Grades 8-12), Adults, & Instrumentalists presented the Pulpit Musical/Drama, *Celebrate Life* by Ragan Courtney & Burly Red, in both services – Sunday, April 29
- ξ Bell Fest XXX – Theme: *Handbells Rock the 1950s to today!* – Trey Bures, Kathy Bures, Chris Krug, & Celia Nicholas, directors – Sunday, May 6
- ξ Senior High Mission & Music Trip to Colorado Springs, CO – June 16-23 + M&M Led Worship @ GCPC – Sunday, July 1
- ξ Hosted a Handbell Workshop for our 3 handbell ensembles & guests. Clinician: composer, arranger, & editor for Hope Publishing Co., Brenda Austin – Tuesday & Wednesday, August 7-8
- ξ Hosted the Overland Park Orchestra & NAVO Chamber Orchestra’s rehearsals – Fall of 2018
- ξ *A Christmas Exclamation!* – a day for gifts (silent auction to support the M&M Trip) and an evening for carols – presented by our children’s & youth choirs, youth band, & handbell ensembles – Sunday, December 2
- ξ “Songs of the Season” were shared in 8:50 Worship by Praise Team, solos & ensembles & in 11:05 Worship by Chancel Choir, Charter Ringers, string quintet, woodwinds, & percussion – Sunday, December 16

- ξ Exaltation! – Chancel Choir – Vocal & Instrumental Soloists – Guitar & Organ shared their songs in our 3 Christmas Eve services: 5pm, 7:30pm, & 10:45pm

Submitted by Music Team 2018

Linda Dover – Staff, Judy Hook, Chris Lindsay – Clerk, Rebecca Prater – Staff,
Celia Nicholas, Michelle Gailliez-Frye, Jacob Battaglioli, & Anne Stroud – Moderator

Education and Nurture

Children's Ministry Team

Children's Team continued to be busy in 2018 ensuring our programs are enriching educational experiences. In 2018, we said good bye to our Interim Director of Christian Education Laura Holbrook and began being guided under the direction and leadership of Co-Pastor Sue Trigger.

- Sunday School continues with the Growing in Grace and Gratitude curriculum. We have also began using this curriculum in our 2s and 3s classroom. This year due number of children in each age group, classrooms divisions were changed. In the summer we offered Sunday School titled “Unroll the Scroll,” in which we taught children biblical chronology. Children had lots of fun “unrolling the scroll” and learning about different biblical figures.
- We feel very blessed with our faithful and dependable teachers and leaders who fulfill their baptismal promise to love and nurture our children.
- In the fall we welcomed ATW training from Lisa Engleken with the Disciples of Christ Church. This training provided guidance to our ATW teachers on proper teaching techniques and provided great feedback and guidance on different dynamics which occur.
- SMASH continues to be offered to our 1st through 5th graders. The kids love to get together to play and learn how to live as God would want us to. This year the kids are learning about the Fruits of the Spirit. We have also incorporating a mission theme into each month’s lesson, so the children learn to help others and learn about the many service projects Grace Covenant participates in.
- In June we held our week-long Vacation Bible School that was attended by 75 children. Our theme was Rolling River Rampage. GCPC took on a very “forestry” look. On Sunday following VBS, the children shared in worship and a celebration lunch followed with our very own Rolling Slippy Slide.
- Music is a priority for our children and offer music after Sunday School from 10:45 to 11 as well as in SMASH where the same music is sung and rehearsed.
- We will begin the Lord’s Supper Class and Worship Leader training in the beginning of 2019.

- Worship Bags are provided weekly and have many hands-on activities to help young children engage in worship. Thanks to our many office volunteers for changing out activities periodically.
- We continue to offer events for GCPC families as well as the surrounding communities, KDO and Pioneer Preschool, such as the Shrove Tuesday Pancake feed, an Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, and the Advent Fair.

If you are interested being on Children's Team or giving an hour or two teaching our Children in SMASH, ATW or Sunday School, contact our team's interim moderator Erin Frye or Co-Pastor Sue Trigger.

Diane Schmit, moderator; Erin Frye, interim moderator; Angela Krug, Carolyn Chaffin, Emily Hussey, Jenny Stromberg, Julie Webb, Kathy Connor, Kristy Shaw, Megan Lee, Susan Sutherland; Lynn Long, Session liaison; Sue Trigger, staff liaison

Youth Ministry Team

The Youth Team philosophy is to provide opportunities and inspiration for youth to develop a life-long relationship with God. We strive to offer a variety of meaningful worship opportunities, service and outreach events, thoughtful programming, and intentional connections with others to help youth develop and grow in their faith journey. We hope that through their involvement at Grace Covenant, youth will find strength, guidance, encouragement, and hope in Christ.

Our youth ministry at GCPC is enjoying our newly remodeled youth space. The space is very conducive to social gathering and community building which makes a big difference to our ministry. We made some minor adjustments to the space this year to continue to enhance the experience and connections of our youth.

One significant addition to our youth spaces was the replacement of our labyrinth in the confirmation classroom. After discussing and contemplating many different options to upgrade the existing labyrinth, Miles found a functional, fun and cost-effective option using interlocking fuzzy foam tiles to lay out a labyrinth. The tiles were paid for by past gifts designated for a new labyrinth by previous confirmation classes.

The biggest reason our youth ministry program is successful is because we have many caring adults who are active along with church staff to help nurture our youth in their love of Christ. We are grateful for those who minister to our youth through participation as youth leaders, Youth Team members, Sunday School teachers, Confirmation mentors, drivers, food preparers, and event coordinators and hosts. We could not do what we do for GCPC youth without these caring and dedicated servants.

To accommodate different student schedules and activities, we offer a wide variety of small group, education, outreach, connection, trips and fun event options for youth to engage in, including:

- Sunday School classes
- Confirmation classes
- “Connect” Youth group Gatherings
- Youth Band
- Exaltation! singers and ringers
- Peer Ministry
- Emerald City lock-in
- Hay ride
- Homeless for a Night event
- Car Wash
- Mission and Music Trip
- Presbytery wide retreats, including snow tubing/service event
- Events including college age students such as a canoe trip
- Progressive Dinner
- Souper Bowl of Caring
- Massanetta Middle School Conference
- Montreat High School Youth Conference/Triennium High School Youth Conference every 3 years
- Heartland Presbytery camps
- Random Acts of Kindness and other outreach events

Our youth program will continue to remind GCPC youth that they are God’s precious children, cherished since birth, blessed and loved beyond words.

Susan Sutherland, moderator; Jody Mason, vice-moderator, David Berry, George Bures, Danielle Dalton, Amy Grice, Pat Kowalczewski, Julie Passett, Julie Webb, Miles McDonald, Josh Sutherland, Kylie Sutherland, Marcia Turner

Adult Ministry Team

Pat Collins became Moderator of Adult Ministries in 2018, supported by Laura Holbrook, Interim Director of Christian Education, continuing the program of “Grace Studies.” In October, we welcomed Rev. Sue Trigger, permanent liaison. We continue to work to implement thoughtful studies, which includes expanding our offerings to two classes when possible.

Adult Sunday Classes

Winter/Spring – The January and February study was “Race: Listening & Learning,” lead by Nelson Townsend & Laura Holbrook. Lenten Study in March 4, 11, 18, & April 8, was a video series “The Jesus I Never Knew” by Philip Yancey. In April, we invited Kairos to present three sessions: “Peacemaking, Climate Justice & Faith in Central America, April 15”; April 22, Rick Randolph presented on “Climate Change & Poverty”; and April 29, Jo Randolph presented on the “Heartland Presbytery Guatemala Partnership.” In May, Miles McDonald shared slides from his trip to Israel. Finishing out the month, Maggie Blankers & Nelson Townsend lead two Kerygma classes on Acts. In early spring, a number of GCPC members attended Kansas City’s launch of the “Poor People’s Campaign,” at a Faith Assembly hosted by the Community

Christian Church. PC(USA)'s Rev. Jimmy Hawkins, Director, Office of Public Witness, was a guest speaker.

Summer — In June, July and August, members of GCPC shared their faith journeys and/or how faith affected their creative talents. Fred Holbrook started the series showing how everyone can map their faith journeys by mapping “The River.” Faith Journey participants were: Mac Fechting, Kevin Johnson, Beth Lillian, Dave Pack and Mikki Walker. Chris Frye led the group in painting faith rocks, while Chris Callender lead the group in his faith journey related to various songs.

Fall — Jo Randolph was Heartland Presbytery’s commissioner to the PC(USA) 223rd General Assembly, and she shared her experience. She and Rick also shared what they learned related to various overtures. Two classes were presented September 16 – October 7: “Poor People’s Campaign” Bible Study, led by Maggie Blankers; and a book discussion “Everything Happens for a Reason,” by Katie Bowler, led by Cindy Schendel. Kim Kruger gave a class on “Kindness” on October 14. A guest speaker, Dr. Mani Mani, Medical Surgeon and Professor Emeritus at the University of Kansas, spoke October 28 and November 4, on his own faith journey, as well as “Fear” and “Church: The Body of Christ. On November 11, he invited students from KU Med to speak on their travel with Robinson Scholars to India.

The year ended with a class by Laura Patton on November 18 on children and young adult books she recommended for Christmas gifts. Walter Brueggemann’s book, “Celebrating Abundance,” was used for an Advent Study.

YAFs: Young Adults and Families

Emily Hussey leads the group. They meet monthly by Google Hangouts for discussion and planning activities. Monthly events for fellowship include events for adults only, for families, and occasionally for women or men separately. The most attended social events are the May Picnic and the Fall Pumpkin Patch Gathering. Trey Bures lead an *Animate* class during the winter semester.

Pat Collins, moderator; Maggie Blankers, Christine Hutchins, Glenda Johnson, Ellen Mohr, Dave Pack; Hilary Schmidt, Session liaison; Sue Trigger, staff liaison

Congregational Care

Connections & Care Team

The Connections and Care Team continued its work of nurturing the members of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church by organizing many events to connect people within the church and providing care for our members.

- ***Fellowship Events:***

- Bell Festival Reception (May)
 - Vacation Bible School Luncheon (June)
(coordinated with Welcoming Team)
 - M&M Concert Luncheon (July)
 - Co-Pastor Candidate Meet & Greet Reception (August)
 - Farewell Reception for Holbrooks (September)
 - Thanksgiving Eve Chili Supper (November)
- **Hospital and Home Visits** — Two team members assisted the Interim Pastor with hospital and home visits, as needed. (Pastoral Care & Member Care)
- **Ministry Fair** — On Sunday, August 26, church members were given the opportunity to sign up for Teams, Small Groups and Sunday school offerings. (Group Ministry)
- **New Members** — A team member followed up with recent new members of the church to find out if they have been able to get involved/connected with the church in addition to providing assistance or answering questions.

Lisa Feyh, moderator; Caroline Becher, Pat Collins, Karen Fankhauser,
Jean Hampton, Cathy Haun, Judy Hook, Terra Howard, Nancy Kalesz, Chelly King,
Linda Rosine, Ann Shadburn, Anne Stroud, Karen Tilma, Mitch Trigger,
Mary Ann Weyforth, Joy Wilson, Dee Zak

Outreach

Mission Team

1. Holiday “gift certificates” sales top totaled \$1,395 purchased by 20 members, plus the SMASH kids using their proceeds from Birthday Cake for Jesus cake mix jars.
2. Communion offerings and contributions to our donation partners indicate the generosity of our congregation.
3. We continue our support of Mission Co-workers Leslie Vogt and Christie and Jeff Boyd.
4. Noisy Offering donations continue to grow as congregation becomes more aware of the program.
5. We held 3 Grace in Action events, planting a native garden for Friends of Johnson County Developmental Disability Supports, sorting donations at Harvesters, and doing fall landscape cleanup at Cornerstones of Care.

Mikki Walker, Johnnie Baker, Susan Hayden, Tim Hayden, Shirley Sampson, Meredith Watson, Josh Sutherland

Kairos Team

Kairos is the ministry team coordinating GCPC's activities advocating for peace, justice, and earth care ("Kairos" is an ancient Greek word meaning "the right or opportune moment.")

A significant piece of Kairos' work is sharing information about peace, justice, and earth care issues and Presbyterian Church USA [(PC(USA)] policies on these issues. We do that through the church newsletter, our bulletin board, and the **Advocacy Spot** display outside Heartland Hall.

2018 activities were:

Peace: (1) Monitored GCPC adherence to the PCUSA *Commitment to Peacemaking*. (2) Promoted the October Peace & Global Witness PCUSA Offering which received \$955, with 25% designated to the PCUSA Bail Fund. (3) Maintained a relationship to the national Presbyterian Peace Fellowship.

Justice: (1) Educated about and sold fair trade goods, using a new cart provided by Cal Sweeten and more extensive communication. (2) Grew 150 pounds of vegetables in Grace Garden that were donated to Valley. (3) Sought and obtained Session endorsement of the Poor People's Campaign. (4) Conducted Bread for the World Offering of Letters and donated to Bread for the World. (5) Active on prison ministry issues, interacting with Atonement Lutheran Church and the Kansas City Roundtable monthly meeting to discuss prison ministry. (6) Continued to examine immigration and refugee issues. (7) Organized an adult education class on Guatemala. (8) Conducted voter education and encouragement before the November election.

Earth Care: (1) Maintained GCPC's designation as an *Earth Care Congregation* by completing the required annual audit in January. (2) Encouraged goods recycling, including collecting 950 pairs of shoes for Soles 4 Souls and cell phones for SafeHome. (3) Worked on waste material recycling within GCPC. (4) \$588 from a grant won by Kairos several years ago partially paid for a meter to measure outdoor water runoff from church property that can be excluded from the sewer charges we pay. (5) Maintained relationships with the PC(USA) Environmental Action Network, Presbyterians for Earth Care, Heartland Presbytery Earthkeepers, and Kansas City's Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition. (6) Organized adult education classes on climate change and climate justice. (7) Studied book *Inhabiting Eden* by Patricia Tull. (8) Organized a movie night focused on plastic waste.

Peace, Justice, Earth Care: Peace, justice, and earth care are often inseparable concerns. The Poor People's Campaign speaks out against the immorality of militarism, racism, materialism and ecological devastation. Kairos has an informational and financial link to the PCUSA Office of Public Witness and to the Kansas Interfaith Alliance. Peace, justice, and earth care actions of the June 2018 PCUSA General Assembly were summarized in an adult education class.

Dave Pack, moderator; Gary Blankers, Christine Hutchins, Glenda Johnson,

Nathan Littlejohn, Ellie Nelson, Jean Nelson, Stewart Nelson, Lyn Patterson, Jo Randolph,
Rick Randolph, Shirley Sampson

Welcoming Team

In the spring of 2018 the Welcoming and Marketing Teams were merged together with a combined mission of hospitality intended to spark a relationship with guests that will hopefully extend for years to come. A key factor in this is how we promote GCPC to the surrounding community as an engaged, accepting, caring, and faithful congregation as cost effectively as possible. We focus on reaching out and bringing in people who are unfamiliar with us by presenting a consistent look and feel that conveys a message of inclusiveness and encouragement to become involved with the life of the church.

The Team oversees with the Co-Pastors, the “This Is Grace” new member orientation which will be held during Lent in 2019 and in the fall of 2019. This series of classes meet on Sunday mornings between services and covers the history of Grace Covenant, the theology and history of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), what membership means and a range of topics associated with what we believe as a congregation. Members of the Welcoming/Marketing Team communicate with guests upon their first visit and extend hospitality as they continue to visit in worship, adult/children activities and Christian education classes.

As a support ministry, the Welcoming/Marketing Team provides promotional materials for the programs at GCPC that may entice someone to visit such as VBS, special choral music, recycling/outreach/social justice events, seasonal and special worship services/activities, and more. We also create materials needed to welcome new members. We support social media posts and in 2019 will be overseeing the re-designing of the GCPC monthly newsletter. As noted by many of our newer members, the website is how they found GCPC. We keep the website up to date both in functionality and fresh content and events. It is important that a clear, brand standard is maintained throughout all pieces to show a unified look to the community.

The Welcoming/Marketing Team meets once a month and covers agenda items from team members and other team moderators. We discuss low cost, effective means of reaching people in order to grow our congregation. Over the coming year, we will continue to make updates to the website, Facebook (including expanding Instagram engagement), welcome packet, direct mail, street facing banners, and explore internal electronic signage. We will also plan on working with our new Co-Pastors to develop a unique internal/external ad campaign that focuses on members and the various ministries they are involved in.

We are always looking to add-on to our team — especially if you have a knack for writing, social media, or Google analytics, but we also need people with a passion for growing the church. If you have an interest in joining this creative team or have questions, please contact Team Moderator, Kim Krueger.

Welcoming/Marketing Team members (serving/support in 2018) included: Greg Prestridge, past moderator; Kim Krueger, acting moderator Fall 2018–present; Rosemary Gibson, Jean Hampton, Ginny Wirtz, Harold Frye, Al Hook, Jennifer Battaglioli, Terri Monrad, Amy Lafferty, Mac Fechting, Patrick Bell, Maggie Blankers.

Administration

Personnel Team

- We believe that our work with Rev. Holbrook in the past year has put the Personnel Team in a great position to welcome the Triggers to ministry at Grace Covenant.
- We used the time normally spent doing staff evaluations as an opportunity for the staff and pastors to get to know each other a little bit and hear about how things work, and some areas that may need revising.
- We have kept the staff apprised of benefit options (health care and retirement) available for them through the PC(USA) so that they can make the best choices to meet their needs.
- We are blessed with a staff who work hard to keep processes working smoothly while also creating new opportunities for growth, experience and coordination with each other and the congregation. Many thanks for all of them as we look forward to the new year with Mitch and Sue Trigger.
- The Personnel Team continues to be a resource for the staff as we are able. We welcome comments, kudos and offers to help by joining our team!

Linda Bridges, moderator; Mary Sue Thomas, Andrew Frye, Janis Blansit,
Donna Goeckler, Nelson Townsend, Mitch Trigger, Sue Trigger

Facilities Team

The Facilities Team had an eventful and productive 2018 with many ongoing and new projects. Several planned projects were delayed/deferred to 2019 because of weather and contractor issues (refinish front doors and parking lot repairs). On a positive note Sanctuary lighting replacement was started and will be completed in 2019! Notable projects completed included Narthex hardwood floors refinished, repainted Narthex walls and columns, replaced Weekday Entrance retaining wall and landscaping, and installed new landscaping along the West wing. The team was busy with many more projects, big and small — buried 5 more downspouts to get water away from the building; maintained and removed trees around the property; cleaned gutters and picked up lots of leaves; repaired lawn sprinkler system to keep it operating efficiently and installed a water meter to get monthly sewer create from JCWW; reseeded West wing west and north yards; repaired Restroom exhaust fans, mulched both playgrounds; repaired/replaced water faucets, valves, piping, sinks, toilets; repaired/replaced aging HVAC equipment; repainted Pastor offices, cleaned all office carpets and furniture; repainted Rooms 3 & 4; replaced mailbox. As you can see, a lot was accomplished, and our budget was spent. There is much more work to be accomplished in 2019, so please consider helping out where and when you can.

Marc Feyh, moderator; Larry Baker, Paul Thomas, Mike Lorimer, Dave Peck, Cal Sweeten, Knute Rosche, Matt Stromberg, Mike Basel, Seth Lorimer, Mike Fitzgerald, Drew Monrad, Daniel Buller; Bryan Evans, Session liaison; Patrick Bell, staff liaison

Finance Team

Finance Team Annual Report

During 2018, Generosity Team and Endowment Team were incorporated into Finance Team. This was accomplished in the third quarter of the year, and we are still working on monthly/quarterly/annual task completions. Finance Team feels that our church remains in good financial condition, and the church remains debt free.

Recap Of 2018:

1. 2018 Budget was presented and approved as a balanced budget.
2. However, we ended 2018 with a net loss of \$65,380.
3. We collected 96% of 2018 pledges – \$23,330 short of the budgeted amount.
4. We collected \$7,542 towards the per capita expense – short \$7,458 of the budgeted amount.
5. We collected \$47,582 on Non-Pledged Income – short \$39,918 of the budgeted amount.
6. Combined expenses were \$15,619 less than budget (\$844,978 actual versus \$860,597 budgeted).
7. We have cash reserves of \$318,113 which is 4.4 months of total expenses.

The 2019 Budget has not yet been finalized — that process will be explained in greater detail during the Annual Meeting.

Faithfully submitted,

Matt McBride, moderator; Team Members: Tony Anderson, Bryan Evans, Doug Firebaugh, Terry Kolich, Mike Mattix, Debbie Miller, Cathy Nance, Christa Rupp, Aaron Soule, David Steen and Tom Stroud