



northwest conference  
developing leaders. thriving churches.

# BUSINESS SESSION GUIDE

& SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS



Develop  
Leaders



Annual  
Two Thousand & Seventeen  
Meeting

MAPLE GROVE COVENANT CHURCH  
MAPLE GROVE, MINNESOTA

# The Northwest Conference in its 133rd Annual Meeting // April 27-29, 2017

## Friday, April 28

1:00 p.m.

Registration Begins

2:00 p.m.

New Delegate Orientation

2:30 p.m.

Business Session #1

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

James Volling, NWC Chair

Approval of Minutes by NWC Executive Board from 2016 Annual Meeting

Approval of Agenda for 2017 Annual Meeting

Host Greeting from Maple Grove Covenant Church

Pastor Craig Case

Greetings & Update from the Evangelical Covenant Church

Mark Seversen,

Director of Missional Congregations

NWC Superintendent Report

Mark Stromberg, Superintendent

NWC Ministry Director Reports

Jon Kramka, Director of Congregational Vitality

Mike Brown, Director of Church Planting

### ***Living Legacy Churches***

*Emmaus Road Covenant Church, Hopkins, MN*

*Good Shepherd Covenant Church, Blaine, MN*

### ***Church Fellowship Group since Last Annual Meeting***

*Lighthouse Covenant Church, Pastor Dee McIntosh, Minneapolis, MN*

### ***Signing of Church Planting Covenant Agreements***

*Awaken Covenant Community, Pastor Dan Lukas, St. Paul, MN*

*Midcurrent Covenant Church, Pastor Sten Carlson, Hudson, WI*

*Lakeside Covenant Church, Pastor Steve Anderson, Chanhassen, MN*

Kara Stromberg, Director of Children & Family Ministry

Ginny Olson, Director of Youth Ministry

Jeff Burton, Director of Pastoral Care & Development

NWC Ministerial Association

Darren Olson, Chair

CHET NWC

Greg Ellis, Coordinator

Celebrating 40 years of Women in Pastoral Leadership

Jan Bros, Abbey Way

“3-Strand Strong” Church Giving

Mark Seversen, Mark Stromberg & Jim Volling

Presentation of the Northwest Conference Budget

David Brown, NWC Treasurer

Sandy Norris, Director of Finance

Presentation of the Northwest Conference Ballot  
The Mission and Ministry of Minnehaha Academy  
Presentation of Minnehaha Academy Budget

Rebecca Nguyen, NWC Secretary  
Donna Harris, President  
Dan Bowles, Director of Finance  
& Business Operations

Covenant Trust Company

Steve Allison, Financial Services Representative

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5:45 p.m.

Dinner (Reservations Required)

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7:00 p.m.

Worship Celebration  
"Experience It!" - Message by  
Marcy Baumann - Crossroads Church, Eagan Campus  
Introduction and Dedication of Ordinands  
Living Legacy Churches  
New Church Fellowship Groups  
Special Offering for Solid Rock School of Discipleship  
BLESS Intentional Evangelism

*Dessert Reception for Ordinands and New Fellowship Groups Following Service*

## **Saturday, April 29**

8:30 a.m.

Worship

9:00 a.m.

Business Session #2

Covenant Enabling Residences  
Camping Ministry in the NWC  
NWC Women Ministries  
Approval of Northwest Conference Budget  
Approval of Minnehaha Academy Budget  
Ballot Results

Dana Norton, Executive Director, CER-MN  
Brian Alnes, Executive Director, Lake Beauty  
Rachel Kleinschmidt, Consultant

10:00 a.m.

Elective Workshops

*Invitation to the 134th Northwest Conference Annual Meeting  
April 26-28, 2018 at Buffalo Covenant Church, Buffalo, MN  
Theme: "Forward in Hope: Ministry with Children, Youth & Families"*

12:00 noon

Lunch (Reservations Required)



# The Evangelical Covenant Church

March 2017

TO: Annual Meeting of the Northwest Conference  
Rev. Mark Stromberg, Superintendent  
Mr. Jim Volling, Conference Chair

Grace and peace to you as you gather in the bond of Christ.

**Three Strand Strong.** This biblical image comes from the book of Ecclesiastes, which declares that 'a cord of three strands is not easily broken.' That's our partnership defined at its core: the local congregation, the conference, and the denomination working together.

We, as a cord of three strands, work to accomplish God's mission in our communities, in our conferences, and around the world. We base our work around our five mission priorities. Together, we start and strengthen churches, make and deepen disciples, develop leaders, love mercy and do justice, and serve globally. This mission is only possible because of the combined efforts of the congregations in your region, together with the over 850 churches that make up the ECC today in the United States and Canada.

Be sure to watch for the Northwest Conference's 3 Strand Strong video being shown at this Annual Meeting. It's an inspiring look at the compelling Kingdom impact through our combined efforts. Because of our strong partnership in our shared mission, we accomplish much. We invite you to visit [www.CovChurch.org](http://www.CovChurch.org) for information, stories, videos, and resources on all that is happening with the ministries and initiatives of the Covenant all around the world.

In addition to your conference annual meeting, we'd love to have you join with hundreds of other Covenanters June 22-24 in Detroit, Michigan for **Gather 2017**, the Evangelical Covenant Church's annual business meeting. The annual meeting of the Ministerium will take place just before Gather. Once again, the Detroit Metro churches are hosting Impact Detroit, a powerful time of workshops and hands-on experiences that will impact the city of Detroit as well as each delegate who participates.

I am grateful to serve this movement in partnership with people like you. With God's help, may we remain *Three Strand Strong* in our shared mission and ministry.

In It Together,

Gary B. Walter,  
President

**NORTHWEST CONFERENCE OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH // APRIL 29-30, 2016 // LAKEVIEW COVENANT CHURCH, DULUTH, MN // “SERVE GLOBALLY”**

Northwest Conference (NWC) Chairperson James Volling called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm. He welcomed everyone and announced the theme of the year as “Serve Globally.” Jim talked about a concert that he and his wife attend every year, in which last year’s theme was “Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men” and how this is lived out as we extend the gospel message around the world. Chairperson Volling then led in prayer.

**MINUTES OF THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING AT NEW BRIGHTON, MN**

It was noted by Chairperson Volling that the Minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting at Salem Covenant, in New Brighton, MN were approved by the NWC Executive Board, on behalf of the delegates. Further, Chairperson Volling stated the following Motion: That the Executive Board of the Northwest Conference, on behalf of the delegates to the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Northwest Conference, be authorized to approve the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting at the next formal meeting of the NWC Executive Board. A second was made and motion approved.

**AGENDA FOR 2016 MEETING APPROVED**

Chairperson Volling added the addition of Marlys Wilson speaking for the NWC Women’s Ministries. Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made and seconded. Motion carried.

**HOST GREETING FROM LAKEVIEW COVENANT CHURCH**

Pastor Brett Schmidt, Associate Pastor, greeted all attending, and spoke about spring here in Duluth. He spoke about the busyness in their church, from a new lead pastor, to a missions visit, to a funeral for a 3 month old where the father stood up to talk about God’s faithfulness. Pastor Schmidt said that despite all of the differences in the pastors and congregations here represented, God’s faithfulness is the same.

**GREETINGS AND UPDATE FROM THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH**

Al Tizon, Executive Minister, Serve Globally, welcomed everyone on behalf of the ECC, shared that this is his first conference Annual meeting in his new role. He gave greetings from 120 missionaries who represent the ECC, and greetings from the president of the Democratic Republic of Congo who is here in the states for a month. Within Serve Globally, they see all of the five priorities within the ECC across all cultures and around the world. He also spoke about how the world isn’t just over there anymore; the world is here.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Mark R. Stromberg, Superintendent, expressed his thanks for Lakeview Covenant and the work that they’ve done to put this event together. He also recognized the delegates that came to the meetings and appreciates their dedication to take time off. Mark talked about his call to this ministry and this role and has been involved in so much of the ministry of the NWC. He talked about the impact of our local churches, camps and school, especially as we join together. Mark thanked the staff and pointed out the staff information to the delegates to read through and thank them. He asked the delegates to put the conference staff on their prayer lists. Mark pointed out the 3 ministry priorities- Congregational Vitality, Church Planting, and Children, Youth & Families in the NWC. Therefore, we are staffed according to our priorities. He spoke also about the mission and vision of the conference as well. He thanked the delegates for the wonderful things that their churches are doing. He reminded delegates that churches that are struggling are still making an impact and changing their world for Christ. Mark thanked the churches for their resources given to the NWC. Financial support is important, of course, but time volunteered is so valuable, for volunteers on the executive board, and some of the other key organizations within the NWC like the Ministerial Association. He encouraged delegates to go back and share with their congregations about the NWC ministry and challenge them to give faithfully to the NWC through time, talent & treasure.

Thanks Colleen Nelson and Tim Coyer for serving on the NWC Executive Board and for the three board members on the MA board who are finishing their terms on the board and are volunteering again for another set of years. He expressed his thankful for Dr. Donna Harris as president of MA. And for Christi Pease who was president of the Women's Ministries.

Covenant Community Bible Experience will be coming to the NWC. See [www.covchurch.org/cbe](http://www.covchurch.org/cbe). Look for information on this. He is also working on a 10 month cohort of pastors who will learn to evangelize and to equip their churches to evangelize. It is wonderful to build houses, serve soup, etc., but we need to be able to share what the hope is that we have in Christ. Mark finished by reading a poem Truth and Grace by Darrelyn Tutt. And John 1:14.

## **LIVING LEGACY CHURCHES**

Compass Covenant Church- St. Paul, MN

True Light Covenant Church- Minneapolis, MN

Rebecca Nguyen, NWC Secretary, stated that Compass Covenant Church, St. Paul, MN and True Light Covenant Church, Minneapolis, MN voted to close this past year. The NWC Executive Board has acknowledged receipt of the decision of each to close. Therefore, we are acknowledging the closure of these two churches to be included in the official Minutes of the NWC 2016 Annual Meeting.

## **NWC MINISTRY DIRECTOR REPORTS**

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY: Jon Kramka, Director of Congregational Vitality, broke out his Vitality tie- he was given this as a gift from a church who appreciates the work that he does. Jon has had 5 years in this ministry area. "10 Healthy Missional Markers" have been developed. They contextualize these for local churches and are available at no charge for churches to use. The Vitality Pathway helps churches move forward. Personal renewal is emphasized as an important part of congregational renewal. Cord of three strands which show the ECC, NWC and local churches working together. Living Legacy churches have been affirmed and supported and the resources they have left are put in to planting new churches, as well as working with revitalization churches. We have seen the trajectory of churches closing flat line instead of increase as it has in the past. As we continue to press in on God's purposes and priorities, we know that we will continue on healthy paths. Jon pointed out his report in the Ministry Report

handout. Metrics are important in healthy churches. But let's look at some that are important as well. Are we building true meaningful relationships? Are we proclaiming the good news as truly being good news for today? Is there an increase in the number of leaders, mentors, missionaries, and teachers? Are we seeing an increase in the number of people being sent to start new ministries and churches? Are we raising up our kids to expand the ministries of the church? Finally, Jon encouraged everyone to be healthy missional leaders in their community and church in this shared pursuit.

CHURCH PLANTING: Mike Brown, Director of Church Planting, is excited about the fact that churches that are 20 years or newer make up 30% of the NWC churches. He continues to be excited about the commitment of the NWC to start 50 new churches by 2025. We're seeing more community based ministries, more people being reached by the local church. When you see in the news that the church is dead- don't believe it! The local church is growing and is healthy and is exciting. The big goal of 50 by 2025 is daunting, scary, exciting, expensive, wonderful, and hard. There are risks involved but the call is no less because every church planted, no matter how long its life span, has an impact! Church planting is normative, it's something that must be done. Denominations that don't have a church planting strategy are in decline. Also small churches are much more likely to plant more churches. In other words, you do not need to be a large church to participate in this venture. We've had churches become parent churches to new church plants, and we've had a district of churches all band together to support and plant a church in their region. Since our last annual meeting, we've had four new churches start. Since we've started this goal at our 2014 Annual meeting in Rochester, we've had eight new churches start. The four new fellowship groups and their pastors are:

- The Door Covenant Church, Pastor Jack Shields (Blaine, MN)
- Laotian Covenant Church, Pastor Vong Luangkhamdeng (Brooklyn Center, MN)
- Seeds Covenant Church, Pastor Dale Durie (SE Minneapolis, MN)
- The Story Covenant Church, Pastor Matt Anderson (Powderhorn, Minneapolis, MN)

It's looking like Pastor Dee McIntosh of Lighthouse Cov-



enant Church will be our next church plant, happening in July. Finally, Mike thanked the conference staff for the parts that they have had in keeping the church plants healthy, equipped, supported and thriving.

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY:** Kara Stromberg, Director of Children & Family Ministry, shared how she loves working with children because it reminds us that Jesus turned things upside down. He encouraged the children to come to him within a culture that taught children were not important. Sixteen churches have a full time person supporting children and family ministries. 88+ churches have only volunteers to run their children's ministry- they have to figure it out- but they love children and ministry. Kara has help from the Children & Family Commission. Networking, connections, and resource identification are priorities. We make sure that we have safety procedures in place to resource to churches. Are there larger churches who have well developed curriculum and resources and events that we can share with small churches? We help with transitions, making sure that new people are equipped, keyed in to other leaders and resourced for the ministry they will do. An upcoming event is "Go! Serve." It's for families with kids in elementary school to help families to both learn and serve together. There are still spots open. In the Twin Cities, there is a faithful group of people who meet to connect with other volunteers and staff in a connections group that meets monthly at Salem Covenant in New Brighton. Thanks for the honor to serve the next generation of leaders.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** Ginny Olson, Director of Youth Ministry, spoke about Barna research polls that are not looking good, so it's no wonder that churches across the nation are indicating that youth ministry is a priority. Churches that see youth ministry as a priority have healthy groups, growing amount of youth learning about God and staying in the church. CHIC was last summer and we saw the impact of the NWC's priority of youth. We have MUUUCE for Jr. High students in the summer. We have MOVE- 22 ½ hours of serving the community, worship, sleeping in the gym, playing and learning about God. We wanted to show students that in a world of Instagram and snap chat, that they can impact their community in positive ways. We also support our volunteers and staff in youth ministry. There are monthly connection groups that meet to solve problems, support each other and the youth in our conference. Ginny shared that the best example she had of the tremen-

dous youth people in our conference is from the Midwinter Conference. The youth pastors were asked to come and pray if they were struggling. One of our pastors went up for prayer. The rest of the pastors were encouraged to come up and pray for a pastor in their conference if they saw them needing prayer. When our youth pastor turned around, she saw 20 or more of our youth pastors standing behind her, supporting her with their presence and in prayer.

**PASTORAL CARE & DEVELOPMENT:** Jeff Burton, Director of Pastoral Care and Development, shared that this is his third year serving in this role. But it was in this very spot, as lead pastor, where he was commissioned to this role after being pastor at Lakeview for 7 years. There's never been such a critical time for pastors to have support in their roles. Church is more complex, pastor's roles are more complex and there is a need for support. Pastors have so few ways of measuring how they are doing in their ministry that they tend to gravitate towards numbers. Because even strong and involved members now attend on average 2 times a month vs. 4 times a month, pastors need to be equipped, educated, prayed for and supported by affinity groups as well. We have over 30 different chaplains serving in the NWC- they now have a group to get together and support each other. In addition, we knew that pastors needed support in the area of human sexuality. So Dr. Gary Strauss was hired to offer trainings to pastors in the last year. Also, four mini retreats in 2015 and two this year were held at camps. They were low cost, thanks to our camps, and were a chance to help pastors rest and be rejuvenated. We are also intent on giving resources to our local churches who ask how they can care for their pastor. We've had lots of conversations around Pastor Relations Committees, how much vacation do we give our pastor, and other questions that lay leaders have. As lay leaders, you ask, "What is the total cost of hiring/having a pastor?" But Jeff works with pastors asking, "What is the total cost of BEING a pastor?" There are financial considerations, but more importantly there are personal, emotional, mental and physical considerations. Jeff works with pastors through these questions and issues along with pastors in transition- retiring, out of a call, changing jobs. The Apostle Paul, in one of his letters, speaks about the physical pain that he's gone through, but at the end speaks about the weight of his daily concern for the church. This is a pain that we can't see on our pastors and Jeff helps them navigate this.

## **NWC MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION**

Reverend Herb Frost, Chair of the NWC Ministerial Association, was introduced by Jim Volling. Reverend Frost spoke about his thankfulness that Mark is a pastor to the pastors and of his thankfulness that Mark takes time to be a pastor and a leader. He thanked Mike for his leadership and laughter in his role as a church planter. The membership of the NWCMA is ordained clergy. He wanted to make sure it's clear that we are blessed that the board and staff of the NWC resource the NWCMA. He thanked the officers, who are volunteers. Herb also wanted to talk about pastoral pressures. These pressures include loneliness and isolation, cultural change and complexity, all work and no play, challenges of the job, neglect of lifelong learning, and working with staff pastors.

## **CHET NWC COORDINATOR**

Greg Ellis, CHET NWC Coordinator, talked about how one of the fastest growing areas of the conference that does not speak English as a first language, is Spanish. CHET is based in Los Angeles. CHET NWC meets for 13 weeks every Monday night at MA (thanks for the generosity). The course is made up of six parts. It meets in six classrooms to study the life of Christ in their language. We are having our 3rd graduation coming up and everyone is invited to celebrate with these 12 students who have gone through all 6 parts. We are excited to begin to develop the opportunity to offer ministerial courses that CHET – LA has been offering. We'll be able to hear more about that next year. Greg's roles include making sure that the classes happen, that the teachers have resources and that everything is coordinated with CHET – LA. Please remember CHET NWC in your prayers, remember the pastors of the four Spanish speaking congregations in the NWC, and the teachers and mentors involved with CHET NWC.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE NORTHWEST CONFERENCE BUDGET**

David Brown, NWC Treasurer and Sandy Norris, Director of Finance. David Brown introduced himself and thanked each church for the continued support of the NWC. Financial reports begin on page 14 of the Business Session Guide with our accountant's review report. We will highlight a couple of items and encourage you to review the reports over night. We will answer questions tomorrow before we vote.

Sandy Norris directed us to page 15 of the Business Session

Guide – the Balance Sheet. In business terms, the NWC has a value of \$1,646,244. We know that this is tangible and the NWC has great intangible value as well. Sandy walked us through the Statement of Activities. She used this as a means of sharing what we can watch for in our local churches. We have a new connections group for lay leaders and others who work with finances in the church. Find the next meeting on the NWC website. Dave highlighted the proposed budget on page 22 of the Business Session Guide.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE NORTHWEST CONFERENCE BALLOT**

Rebecca Nguyen, NWC Secretary, presented the ballots as shown on pages 24 through 26 in the Business Session Guide, showing nominees for the NWC Executive Board (5 year terms) as Barb Dusek (Faith Covenant Church, Burnsville, MN) and Mark Hovestol (Roseville Covenant, Roseville, MN) as well as nominee for NWC Executive Board Chairperson, James Volling (Excelsior Covenant, Excelsior, MN) for a one year term. Nominees for the Minnehaha Academy Board of Trustees – new members, Erik Anderson (3 year term) (Crossroads Covenant, Woodbury, MN), and Keith Meyer (5 year term) (Hope Covenant, St. Cloud, MN). Returning Minnehaha Academy board members- John Ahlquist (2 year term) (Maple Grove Covenant, Maple Grove, MN), Tom Johnson (5 year term) (Roseville Covenant Church, Roseville, MN), and Kathy Parten (5 year term) (Bethlehem Covenant, Minneapolis, MN).

The NWC Executive Board previously made motion to accept nominees as stated, it was seconded and motion carried. The ballots were distributed to each delegate and the results to be presented the following day.

## **THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF MINNEHAHA ACADEMY**

Dr. Donna Harris, President, said that this is her 7th year of ministry at MA as president. She thanked the NWC for their support of the ministry of MA to students. She updated us on the STEM lab facility, some renovations that the school is working on, experiments to the International Space Station, and our work with Empty Bowls ministry. She talked about the accreditation process that they went through this year. Last year she talked about the donation that was given to enhance spiritual formation. There have been many programs, bible curriculums, spiritual ministry days for teachers/ faculty, chapel speakers and more because of



these funds. There will also be a spiritual formation assessment coming up. She highlighted the MA Cultural Field Experiences including experiences of students living with families in the Twin Cities for a week who are from a different culture. She thanked the NWC for their support. And then she introduced Dan Bowles, Director of Finance and Business Operations.

#### **PRESENTATION OF MINNEHAHA ACADEMY BUDGET**

Dan Bowles, Director of Finance and Business Operations, talked about the MA audit on page 10 in the Business Session Guide. It was a good audit. On page 12 on the bottom, he pointed out the total net assets. On the budget, he pointed out that they have budgeted for 806 students and asks for your prayers that there is a stabilization and increase in students. One of the big changes is the refinancing of MA's long term debt and has significantly reduced their interest payments. Our budgeted draw from reserves have been dropping, with the ultimate goal of the eliminating this completely. He ended by thanking the delegates for their support and their church's support and NWC's support in enabling students to attend MA.

#### **SOLID ROCK SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP AT LAKE BEAUTY BIBLE CAMP**

Tyler Menssen, Director of Solid Rock, was introduced and shared about the program at Lake Beauty Bible Camp and the impact it has for students just out or recently out of high school where they can learn leadership, discipleship and hope in Jesus Christ and what they can do with their talents and gifts to share Christ's love. He shared his email-tyler@solidrockmn.org and the website is www.solidrock-mn.org. He ended with a testimony from a student from the program. He asked for prayer for 20 students to come to Solid Rock.

NWC Chairperson James Volling gave a blessing for the supper and the rest of the evening. The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm until Saturday.

#### **“CELEBRATION OF MISSION AND MINISTRY” FAIR**

Held from adjournment to dinner

#### **EVENING WORSHIP**

7:00 PM Worship Celebration included wonderful songs of praise, introduction and dedication of 13 Ordinands and a missionary family, a remembrance of the Living Legacy

churches from 2015, recognition of the New Church Covenant Agreements, an offertory for a godly man, Soudinh Penkhay, to support his mission work in Thailand, a word of witness from missionaries Nils Clauson (Mexico) and Julio and Katie Isaza (Columbia), and a message from Al Tizon.

#### **APRIL 13**

Business Session Part 2 began at 9:00 am.

#### **COVENANT TRUST COMPANY**

Steve Allison, Financial Services Representative, asked that we talk about what a Legacy has done in your church, consider a gift to a ministry, and share what you've done with others.

#### **BALLOT RESULTS**

Rebecca Nguyen, NWC Secretary, presented the ballot results stating that Barb Dusek and Mark Hovestol are elected to the NWC Executive Board for 5 year terms. James Vol-ling was elected as NWC Chairperson for a one-year term. Erik Anderson, Keith Meyer, John Ahlquist, Tom Johnson, and Kathy Parten are elected to the MA Board of Trustees.

#### **APPROVAL OF NORTHWEST CONFERENCE BUDGET**

David Brown, NWC Treasurer and Sandy Norris, Director of Finance, were available for questions. The Motion previously made by the NWC Executive Board regarding the 2016-2017 Budget was seconded, and the Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINNEHAHA ACADEMY BUDGET**

Dan Bowles, Director of Finance and Business Operations, was available for questions. The Motion previously forwarded by the MA Board of Trustees and made by the NWC Executive Board regarding the 2016-2017 Budget was seconded, and the Motion carried.

#### **COVENANT ENABLING RESIDENCES**

Dana Norton, Executive Director, CER-MN, shared that Covenant Enabling Residences of MN has two locations in Duluth and one in the Twin Cities, serving 24 adults. The NWC and Women's Ministries have been so instrumental in making sure that vulnerable adults who have developmental disabilities have a safe, nice home. Volunteers from Covenant churches give time, talent, and financial resources to help our residents in many ways. She thanked the churches for everything that they do to provide and care for their residents.

## **CAMPING MINISTRY IN THE NWC**

Dave Cairns, Executive Director, Covenant Pines Ministries, stated that there are 5 camps in the NWC, more than any other regional conference. Many of our Ordinands shared that Bible Camp played a significant part in their call and life of faith. For many people, camp is that time of defining moments. He told a story about two weeks ago at the Father & Child retreat where a group of men came around a boy whose father had died the month before to be his “fathers” in this time of grief and need. He shared a story about how particular words came to him in a time of great need from what a pastor had said who spoke in 1990 at his first year as a counselor at Covenant Pines.

## **NWC WOMEN MINISTRIES**

Marlys Wilson, President of NWC Women Ministries, shared the vision of the NWC Women Ministries. One of the projects they are working on right now, Missional Moms, is a book written by a Covenant woman. There is a free devotional that goes with the purchase of the book. In March there was a women’s conference, Renewal, held at Redeemer Covenant in Brooklyn Park, MN. It was a two day event that 200 women attended. There was also an opportunity to come early and serve at a ministry. Marlys stated that they are looking forward to Triennial in Kansas City this summer. There is a bus coming from the NWC. There is also a training there for AVA (Advocates of Victims of Abuse). Additionally, because this is the 100th anniversary of Women’s Ministries in the Covenant, they will be doing a lot to celebrate that milestone. It’s also the

40th anniversary of women in vocational ministry. There will be two women from Sweden at Triennial, both who work with Middle Eastern refugees coming in to Sweden and they are available and willing to come visit and speak at your church. WM is looking for future locations for the Renewal conferences, and also looking for a new Executive Director for NWC Women’s Ministries.

## **MISSIONAL WORSHIP WORKSHOP**

Al Tizon- ECC Executive Minister of “Serve Globally”  
At 10:00 am Al Tizon presented a workshop to delegates entitled “Missional Worship”. He had Randy Bevis and Nils Clauson come speak about their missions and then led the group through a workshop on Missional Worship.

## **INVITATION TO THE 133RD NORTHWEST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING // APRIL 27-29, 2017- MAPLE GROVE COVENANT CHURCH- MAPLE GROVE, MN // THEME “DEVELOP LEADERS”**

NWC Chairperson James Volling thanked Lakeview Covenant Church, the NWC staff, delegates and the NWC Executive Board for their involvement in the meeting and ministry in the NWC.

A Motion was both made and seconded for adjournment. Motion passed.

*Respectfully Submitted, Rebecca Nguyen, NWC Secretary*

# CHANGES TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

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

### **Emmaus Road Covenant Church, Hopkins, MN**

Emmaus Road was adopted into the Covenant in 2007, and held its final service on April 3, 2016. The founding pastor was Craig Case. He was followed by Kevin Johnson.

Emmaus Road had a significant ministry partnership in Uganda where they built a well bringing clean water to a community. They also helped to build a school, a clinic and a church, which became the gathering place for the area throughout the week.

Further, they helped set up a sewing center where the women were able to sew school uniforms and clothing to sell. The church also set up a wood shop where the village was able to build furniture and other items needed for their own use and to sell.

### **Good Shepherd Covenant Church, Blaine, MN**

Good Shepherd began in 1962 with a handful of faithful Christ-followers sensing God's call to plant a Covenant church in the northern suburbs. Over the years, the church impacted the Blaine, Coon Rapids and Ham Lake areas.

In its latter years, Good Shepherd served as a Manna Market distribution site; a food recovery and redistribution ministry that served 538 households in 2016 alone. This included 136,337 individuals during its six-year history and 3,133,834 pounds of fresh produce, meats, dairy products and bakery goods were distributed during that same period.

After 54 years of faithful, fruitful ministry to Jesus, God led the church to close its doors. On Nov. 20, 2016, 178 people, representing 5 1/2 decades, attended the final worship service, giving thanks for Good Shepherd's spiritual impact on their lives and to the glory of God.

***Peace Be to the Memory of Both of These Churches!***

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Trustees and Finance Committee  
Minnehaha Academy  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Minnehaha Academy (a non-profit organization) which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2016, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditors' Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

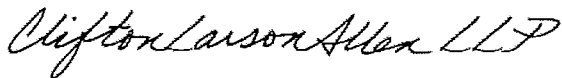
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

***Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Minnehaha Academy as of June 30, 2016, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Emphasis-of-Matter***

As discussed in Note 14 to the financial statements, Minnehaha Academy has restated its net assets as of July 1, 2015 to properly reflect the appropriate accounting treatment for agency deposits, an adjustment to prior year accrued payroll, adjustment to prior year prepaid expenses, adjustment to prior year property, plant, and equipment and net asset classifications based on donor intent and Minnehaha Academy's interpretation of accounting guidance for recording of endowment funds. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.



**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
March 7, 2017

**MINNEHAHA ACADEMY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**JUNE 30, 2016**

**ASSETS**

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,327,746
Accounts Receivable, Net	391,658
Promises to Give, Net	889,616
Investments	10,797,207
Inventories	13,036
Prepaid Expenses	58,972
Property, Plant and Equipment	
Land	1,092,952
Construction in Progress	247,564
Buildings and Improvements	39,868,373
Furniture and Equipment	3,303,360
Total	<u>44,512,249</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(16,947,629)
Net Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>27,564,620</u>
 Total Assets	 <u><u>\$ 43,042,855</u></u>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**LIABILITIES**

Accounts Payable	\$ 256,987
Accrued Expenses	29,537
Accrued Salaries	589,048
Accrued Sick Pay	274,020
Prepaid Tuition and Programs	688,463
Capital Leases Payable	27,564
Long-Term Debt, Net	12,149,643
Total Liabilities	<u>14,015,262</u>

**NET ASSETS**

Unrestricted	16,839,128
Temporarily Restricted	3,047,404
Permanently Restricted	9,141,061
Total Net Assets	<u>29,027,593</u>

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 43,042,855</u></u>
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MINNEHAHA ACADEMY  
FY2018 BUDGET PROPOSAL  
NWC EXEC. BOARD 3/20/2017

	BUDGET FY2017	PROJECTED FY2017	BUDGET FY2018	BUDGET COMMENTS
<b>INCOME</b>				
NET TUITION AND FEES	\$ 10,206,000	\$ 10,342,253	\$ 10,634,184	FY2017 Current Enrollment: 814 FY2018 Target: 841
CONTRIBUTION INCOME-UNRESTRICTED	\$ 1,044,000	\$ 1,044,000	\$ 1,044,000	
OTHER INCOME	\$ 681,000	\$ 643,000	\$ 650,500	Rentals, Summer Programs, Extended Day
DRAW - ANDERSON CLAWSON	\$ 126,000	\$ 126,000	\$ 126,000	Student Scholarships and Faculty Development
DRAW - ENDOWMENT FUND	\$ 428,000	\$ 428,000	\$ 437,000	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 12,485,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,583,253</b>	<b>\$ 12,891,684</b>	
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
WAGES	\$ 7,601,800	\$ 7,595,000	\$ 7,849,000	Average Wage Increase FY2018: 3%
BENEFITS	\$ 1,484,000	\$ 1,496,500	\$ 1,619,000	
<b>TOTAL WAGES AND BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$ 9,085,800</b>	<b>\$ 9,091,500</b>	<b>\$ 9,468,000</b>	
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>				
ADMIN, ADVANCEMENT, MARKETING, ADMISSIONS	\$ 409,220	\$ 439,220	\$ 428,220	
GENERAL OPERATIONS	\$ 487,000	\$ 487,000	\$ 494,300	
INSTRUCTIONAL and CURRICULUM	\$ 390,780	\$ 390,780	\$ 436,100	
ATHLETICS	\$ 175,400	\$ 175,400	\$ 163,900	
SUMMER PROGRAM & EXTENDED DAY	\$ 348,000	\$ 318,000	\$ 306,000	
FACILITIES OPERATIONS	\$ 623,500	\$ 623,500	\$ 618,500	
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 120,300	\$ 120,300	\$ 55,400	
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION EXPENSE	\$ 498,100	\$ 504,400	\$ 518,633	
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 3,052,300</b>	<b>\$ 3,058,600</b>	<b>\$ 3,021,053</b>	
BOND DEBT SERVICE	\$ 753,000	\$ 748,000	\$ 743,800	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 12,891,100</b>	<b>\$ 12,898,100</b>	<b>\$ 13,232,853</b>	
<b>BUDGETED DRAW FROM RESERVES</b>	<b>\$ (406,100)</b>	<b>\$ (314,847)</b>	<b>\$ (341,169)</b>	



## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT

To the Executive Board and Management  
Northwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

We have reviewed the accompanying statements of financial statements of Northwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2016 and 2015, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of the organization's management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

### Accountant's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

### Accountant's Conclusion

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Amery, Wisconsin  
April 11, 2017

**NORTHWEST CONFERENCE OF THE  
EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH  
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
June 30, 2016 and 2015

**ASSETS**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 222,874	\$ 163,923
Short-term investments	1,317,270	1,299,610
Due from churches	1,833	14,660
Endowment fund investments	451,252	355,491
Prepaid expense	28,835	28,203
Prepaid rent	5,380	5,380
Total Current Assets	<u>2,027,444</u>	<u>1,867,267</u>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Long-term prepaid lease	18,830	24,210
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Property and equipment	264,150	253,984
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>170,326</u>	<u>165,714</u>
Property and Equipment, Net	<u>93,824</u>	<u>88,270</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>\$ 2,140,098</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,979,747</u></u>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Short-term loan payable	\$ 288,939	\$ 288,939
Accounts payable	6,272	7,250
Accrued and other liabilities	8,208	24,410
Due to churches	<u>11,375</u>	<u>12,904</u>
Total Current Liabilities	314,794	333,503
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	1,343,953	1,281,287
Board designated	<u>463,549</u>	<u>358,380</u>
Total Unrestricted	1,807,502	1,639,667
Temporarily restricted	12,802	1,577
Permanently restricted	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>1,825,304</u>	<u>1,646,244</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<u><u>\$ 2,140,098</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,979,747</u></u>

**NORTHWEST CONFERENCE OF THE  
EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH**

**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES**

For the Years Ended June 30, 2016 and 2015

	2016				2015			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>								
Member church contributions	\$ 932,202	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 932,202	\$ 928,503	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 928,503
Appropriations from National Covenant Properties	205,304	-	-	205,304	193,992	-	-	193,992
Bequests and memorials	25,161	-	-	25,161	-	-	-	-
Interest income	38,391	-	-	38,391	40,117	-	-	40,117
Individual and organization contributions	81,342	-	-	81,342	107,944	-	-	107,944
Churches planting churches	4,588	-	-	4,588	-	-	-	-
Net realized and unrealized losses on investments	(2,431)	-	-	(2,431)	(14,672)	-	-	(14,672)
Proceeds from church closures	347,860	-	-	347,860	(1,883)	-	-	(1,883)
Miscellaneous income	71,184	-	-	71,184	50,945	-	-	50,945
Restricted contributions	-	33,358	-	33,358	-	213,872	-	213,872
Net assets released from restrictions	22,133	(22,133)	-	-	223,253	(223,253)	-	-
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	1,725,734	11,225	-	1,736,959	1,528,199	(9,381)	-	1,518,818
Total Revenue and Other Support								
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
Ministries								
Leadership development	19,122	-	-	19,122	20,282	-	-	20,282
Evangelism and church planting	400,483	-	-	400,483	410,769	-	-	410,769
Healthy churches	46,896	-	-	46,896	32,988	-	-	32,988
Total Ministries	466,501	-	-	466,501	464,039	-	-	464,039
Ministries (Non-budget)								
Second Miller fund	6,879	-	-	6,879	12,159	-	-	12,159
CHIC fund	15,254	-	-	15,254	211,095	-	-	211,095
Total Ministries (Non-budget)	22,133	-	-	22,133	223,254	-	-	223,254
General and Administrative								
Personnel	856,030	-	-	856,030	797,740	-	-	797,740
Administrative	213,235	-	-	213,235	222,899	-	-	222,899
Total General and Administrative	1,069,265	-	-	1,069,265	1,020,639	-	-	1,020,639
Total Expenses	1,557,899	-	-	1,557,899	1,707,932	-	-	1,707,932
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	167,835	11,225	-	179,060	(179,733)	(9,381)	-	(189,114)
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	1,639,667	1,577	5,000	1,646,244	1,819,400	10,958	5,000	1,835,358
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 1,807,502</u>	<u>\$ 12,802</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,825,304</u>	<u>\$ 1,639,667</u>	<u>\$ 1,577</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,646,244</u>

**NORTHWEST CONFERENCE OF THE  
EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH  
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
For the Years Ended June 30, 2016 and 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Change in net assets	\$ 179,060	\$ (189,114)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided (used) from operating activities		
Depreciation	23,369	27,085
Decrease in long-term prepaid lease	5,380	5,379
Net realized and unrealized losses on investments	2,431	14,672
Net operating changes in		
Due to/from churches	11,298	(36,958)
Prepaid expense	(632)	2,015
Accounts payable	(978)	1,058
Accrued and other liabilities	(16,202)	18,723
Net Cash Provided (Used) from Operating Activities	<u>203,726</u>	<u>(157,140)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Acquisition of investments	(126,432)	(41,921)
Redemption of investments	10,580	105,733
Acquisition of property and equipment	<u>(28,923)</u>	<u>(5,695)</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) from Investing Activities	<u>(144,775)</u>	<u>58,117</u>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	58,951	(99,023)
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>163,923</u>	<u>262,946</u>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR</b>	<u><u>\$ 222,874</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 163,923</u></u>
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES</b>		
Cash payments during the year		
Interest	\$ -	\$ 2,913

# CHURCH GIVING

## TO ASSIST CHURCHES IN COMPLETING 2017 GIVING AND SETTING BUDGETS FOR 2018

The Northwest Conference established a local church giving to the Conference goal of 5% at its 1988 annual meeting. Giving by church for 2016 and 2015 is listed below. 2016 income numbers will not be available until later this year so the gift percentage is calculated using 2015 giving and income.

*\* Gift percentage cannot be calculated because income was not reported*

CHURCH	2016 Giving	2015 Giving	2015 Income	2015 Gift %
<b>IOWA</b>				
Larchwood - Grandview	3,000	3,000	No report	*
<b>MINNESOTA</b>				
Alexandria - Catalyst	3,573	6,702	212,559	3.2%
Alexandria - Covenant	31,442	30,233	1,552,963	1.9%
Anoka - Evangelical	3,050	3,050	321,489	0.9%
Apple Valley - Restoration	217	1,524	242,818	0.6%
Baudette - Evangelical	1,500	1,500	115,731	1.3%
Bemidji - Evangelical	13,000	13,000	1,174,986	1.1%
Big Falls - Evangelical	0	0	2,450	0.0%
Big Lake - Community	0	0	No report	0.0%
Biwabik - Evangelical	720	813	85,915	0.9%
Blaine - Door	1,140	0	No report	0.0%
Blaine - Good Shepherd	3,341	1,100	187,507	0.6%
Bloomington	4,893	4,592	535,988	0.9%
Braham - Evangelical	463	1,097	133,090	0.8%
Brooklyn Center - Brookdale	6,040	6,038	478,742	1.3%
Brooklyn Center - Laotian	0	0	8,836	0.0%
Brooklyn Park - Blue Oaks	0	0	No report	0.0%
Brooklyn Park - LaBendicion	1,762	1,657	34,482	4.8%
Brooklyn Park - Redeemer	8,000	7,333	682,088	1.1%
Buffalo - Evangelical	34,000	34,000	1,691,847	2.0%
Burnsville - Faith	9,400	4,148	1,284,928	0.3%
Cloquet - Big Lake	300	300	27,816	1.1%
Cokato - Elim Mission	2,000	2,000	426,491	0.5%
Cook - Evangelical	900	1,200	63,332	1.9%
Crookston	7,100	7,100	183,978	3.9%
Dassel - Evangelical	13,874	14,376	366,686	3.9%
Dassel - Lake Jennie	850	1,030	77,094	1.3%
Dawson	4,000	4,000	206,544	1.9%
Duluth - First	10,782	10,331	452,573	2.3%
Duluth - Lakeview	20,330	20,330	1,278,026	1.6%



<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>2016 Giving</b>	<b>2015 Giving</b>	<b>2015 Income</b>	<b>2015 Gift %</b>
Duluth - Salem	9,000	9,000	295,532	3.0%
Edina - Mercy Commons	6,005	7,744	216,664	3.6%
Edina - New City	5,914	10,189	250,667	4.1%
Evansville - Calvary	800	0	104,677	0.0%
Excelsior	14,000	14,271	1,117,457	1.3%
Fairmont - Evangelical	3,516	3,459	279,284	1.2%
Foley - Maywood	4,370	4,288	139,537	3.1%
Forest Lake - Crossroads	9,650	10,465	688,322	1.5%
Fridley	5,460	5,460	157,864	3.5%
Greenfield - Riverwood	4,832	2,125	416,734	0.5%
Harris - Covenant	1,200	1,200	131,484	0.9%
Hector - Palmyra	0	1,000	107,466	0.9%
Hermantown - Gethsemane	4,189	4,571	96,123	4.8%
Hopkins - Emmaus Road	294	0	167,789	0.0%
Huntley - Community	2,000	2,000	111,602	1.8%
Hutchinson - Oak Heights	12,348	11,806	325,575	3.6%
International Falls - Evangelical	6,000	6,000	376,484	1.6%
Kennedy - Evangelical Mission	1,900	1,815	No report	*
Kensington	1,200	0	No report	0.0%
Lake Bronson - Community	500	500	31,971	1.6%
Lancaster	2,500	1,500	210,235	0.7%
Lino Lakes - Rice Creek	5,267	4,828	157,905	3.1%
Little Falls - Grace	5,804	5,079	347,664	1.5%
Lowry - Community	0	0	80,119	0.0%
Mahtowa	3,900	3,900	253,122	1.5%
Maple Grove	23,901	55,203	1,011,658	5.5%
Maplewood	Closed	23	No report	*
Minneapolis - Abbey Way	4,245	6,300	122,046	5.2%
Minneapolis - Bethlehem	7,625	8,116	576,194	1.4%
Minneapolis - City of Lakes	2,015	1,868	No report	*
Minneapolis - Community	2,500	1,250	308,000	0.4%
Minneapolis - Crosstown	9,000	9,000	323,525	2.8%
Minneapolis - First	0	1,660	909,458	0.2%
Minneapolis - Lighthouse	0		Started in 2016	
Minneapolis - New	3,385	1,915	No report	*
Minneapolis - Sanctuary	33,774	22,540	1,129,638	2.0%
Minneapolis - Seeds	969	0	No report	0
Minneapolis - Story	2,040	373	No report	*
Minneapolis - True Light	Closed	2,128	No report	*
Minneapolis - Verbo	2,495	2,005	No report	*
Monticello	4,236	4,236	176,494	2.4%

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>2016 Giving</b>	<b>2015 Giving</b>	<b>2015 Income</b>	<b>2015 Gift %</b>
Moose Lake - Evangelical	7,480	8,639	506,693	1.7%
Mound - Fairview	0	0	80,473	0.0%
Mound - Mainstreet	6,600	5,925	151,174	3.9%
New Brighton - Salem	33,976	35,298	1,885,296	1.9%
New London - Evangelical	11,795	11,795	480,673	2.5%
New Richland - Vista	6,000	6,000	188,366	3.2%
North Mankato - Crossview	25,800	25,800	1,319,006	2.0%
Northome - Calvary	0	75	No report	*
Ogilvie - Lewis Lake	1,300	3,500	215,314	1.6%
Owatonna - Christ Community	274	318	109,003	0.3%
Pennock - Salem Mission	5,500	5,500	246,411	2.2%
Plymouth	20,500	17,500	2,775,356	0.6%
Princeton - Karmel Evangelical	3,254	2,440	235,887	1.0%
Red Wing - First	7,382	16,410	540,637	3.0%
Rochester - Covenant	10,320	10,320	659,273	1.6%
Rochester - NewDay	3,996	3,996	256,472	1.6%
Rochester - Salem Road	6,000	6,800	462,890	1.5%
Rogers - Nueva Vida	0	25	654	3.8%
Roseau - Evangelical	4,797	4,658	293,859	1.6%
Roseville	21,763	21,535	1,242,801	1.7%
Rush City - Evangelical	0	0	No report	0.0%
Saginaw - New Life	5,000	5,000	532,326	0.9%
Shoreview - Emmanuel	13,017	10,620	700,000	1.5%
South Haven - Lake Union	2,000	1,100	No report	*
St Cloud - Hope	6,000	6,000	350,733	1.7%
St Louis Park - Genesis	20,895	16,032	No report	*
St Paul - Awaken	16,820	11,495	215,000	5.3%
St Paul - Catalyst	7,754	4,057	No report	*
St Paul - First	5,487	4,749	No report	*
St Paul - Gallery	0	205	156,625	0.1%
St Paul - Grace	3,342	2,449	79,912	3.1%
St Paul - Roots	5,590	2,985	33,296	9.0%
Staples - Thomastown	0	1,000	53,846	1.2%
Stillwater - Bethany	1,000	1,500	87,097	1.7%
Thief River Falls - Evangelical	1,392	1,200	138,848	0.9%
Trimont - Evangelical	5,000	5,000	220,901	2.3%
Upsala - Community	5,775	4,794	375,035	1.3%
Viking	20	0	90,462	0.0%
Virginia - First	2,530	3,083	67,086	4.6%
Warren - Evangelical	1,500	1,500	166,404	0.9%
Waseca - Real Life	3,612	7,302	154,218	4.7%

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>2016 Giving</b>	<b>2015 Giving</b>	<b>2015 Income</b>	<b>2015 Gift %</b>
Waverly - Oster First	500	500	No report	*
Wheaton - Bethlehem	3,341	2,228	194,064	1.1%
Willmar - First	12,423	13,767	858,872	1.6%
Winthrop - Evangelical	2,625	2,625	132,544	2.0%
Woodbury - Crossroads	10,000	15,000	3,659,816	0.4%
Worthington - First	4,848	4,848	295,933	1.6%
Wyoming - Linwood	6,966	3,075	415,365	0.7%
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>				
Drayton - Teien	1,000	500	51,800	1.0%
Fargo - Knollbrook	5,000	8,485	176,037	4.8%
Grand Forks - Hope Evangelical	83,747	74,790	1,579,161	4.7%
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>				
Beresford - Komstad	2,053	1,914	No report	*
Brandon - Living Springs	14,276	12,241	232,245	5.3%
Brandon - Swedona	530	480	28,131	1.7%
LaBolt - Evangelical	700	700	134,055	0.5%
Lake Norden - Evangelical	500	0	No report	0.0%
Sioux Falls - Prairie Hills	10,567	13,297	448,594	3.0%
Sioux Falls - South Sudan	0	0	No report	0.0%
Stockholm - Elim Evangelical	150	150	12,952	1.2%
<b>WISCONSIN</b>				
Ashland - First	900	900	63,062	1.4%
Chetek - Prairie Lake	1,500	1,500	85,160	1.8%
Clear Lake - United	4,231	4,192	262,410	1.6%
Eau Claire - Renew	4,915	1,348	No report	*
Ellsworth - Bethel	2,040	2,040	163,256	1.2%
Ellsworth - Zion	11,240	10,276	223,196	4.6%
Grantsburg - Calvary	1,750	1,750	80,953	2.2%
Menomonie - Cedarbrook	11,750	7,983	841,684	0.9%
Mondovi - Prince of Peace	450	450	38,221	1.2%
New Richmond - Prairieview	5,717	4,522	133,631	3.4%
Poplar - Mission	19,800	19,800	664,471	3.0%
River Falls - First	18,604	17,242	975,871	1.8%
Siren	500	500	89,913	0.6%
Stockholm - Calvary	800	800	30,000	2.7%
Stockholm - Lund Mission	4,500	4,500	No report	*
Superior - First	1,800	1,800	101,683	1.8%
	<b>925,705</b>	<b>919,079</b>	<b>49,495,356</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

# NORTHWEST CONFERENCE / FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

Income/Resources	Budget	Proposed Budget
	2016 - 2017	2017-2018
<b>Released from Restriction</b>		
For Planting	107,761	143,592
For CYF		9,974
For Vitality		9,973
For Operations		42,391
Total Savings/Investment Spending	107,761	205,930
<b>Current Income</b>		
Church Contributions	900,000	900,000
Individuals and Organizations - Undesignated	65,000	65,000
Individuals and Organizations - Designated	110,000	66,250
Total Donations	975,000	1,031,250
ECC share New Church Appropriations	185,521	215,880
Bequests and Memorials		
CHET Income	13,360	10,200
Sale of Property - Proceeds Undesignated		
Total Current Income	1,179,881	1,360,117
<b>Total Available to Fund Mission and Ministry</b>	<b>1,287,642</b>	<b>1,566,047</b>
<b>Expenses/Opportunities</b>		
<b>Congregational Vitality</b>		
Revitalization and Training	9,500	8,500
Compassion, Mercy & Justice	3,000	2,500
Commissions/Task Forces	5,500	5,000
CHET	25,830	17,410
Pastoral Care and Support	8,000	8,000
Missionary Support	6,000	0
<b>Church Planting</b>		
Appropriations	377,442	434,561
Assessment and Training	22,875	29,900
New Church Support	23,500	13,250
<b>Children, Youth and Family</b>		
Children and Family	7,000	5,000
Youth Ministry	17,500	18,950
<b>Supporting Expenses</b>		
Personnel - Salaries	668,188	686,309
Personnel - Benefits	197,145	208,618
Staff Travel	45,000	27,000
Boards/Commissions/Meeting	24,350	25,475
Office	31,400	23,757
IT/Communications	42,868	38,195
Insurance	7,500	7,500
Professional Services/Consultants	6,000	6,122
<b>Total Mission and Ministry Expense</b>	<b>1,528,598</b>	<b>1,566,047</b>

# NORTHWEST CONFERENCE / CASH RESERVES

(designated accounts as of December 31, 2014)

## Northwest Conference Accounting of Closed Church Property Proceeds July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

	<b>Compass Covenant Church Sep-15</b>	<b>Deer River Covenant Church Oct-15</b>	<b>Maplewood Covenant Church Dec-15</b>	<b>Total</b>
Property Sale date				
Liquidated Asset Value	2,863	90,451	562,179	655,493
Reimburse NWC Grants	-2,863	-16,411	-4,165	-23,439
Forward 50% to ECC		-37,020	-279,007	-316,027
				0
Invested at Cov Trust for:				0
Church Planting		-8,885	-58,591	-67,476
Congregational Vitality		-1,111	-12,555	-13,666
Children, Youth, Family		-1,111	-12,555	-13,666
				0
Used 2015-2016 Church Planting		-25,914	-195,305	-221,219
	0	-1	1	0

## Investment Summary as of December 31, 2017

	<b>Covenant Trust Company</b>	<b>National Covenant Properties</b>	<b>Total</b>
For Church Planting	282,932	186,095	469,027
For Congregational Vitality	98,046	33,343	131,389
For Children, Youth and Family	98,676	33,343	132,019
Unrestricted Reserve	752,188		752,188
Total	1,231,842	252,781	1,484,623

# BIOGRAPHICAL INFO **BALLOT CANDIDATES**

## **NORTHWEST CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE BOARD**



### **Nichelle Kaul (5 year term)**

Nichelle has been a member of Salem Covenant Church in New Brighton, MN, for over 20 years. She earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Northern Iowa. She passed the Certified Public Accountant Exam in 1992 and the Senior Professional in Human Resources Certification Exam in 2003. Early in her professional career Nichelle worked for 12 years with a public accounting firm, first as an auditor and then human resources manager. For the past 10 years she has served as Business Administrator for Salem, handling finance and human resource responsibilities. Nichelle has also served in many volunteer leadership roles at Salem, as well as for youth sports boards and school groups. Nichelle and her husband, Scott, have three teenage boys.



### **Jeff Laabs (5 year term)**

Jeff grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan graduating from Lake Superior State University in 1976 with a degree in Accounting. He spent 36 years in accounting and finance management positions with a variety of organizations including the paper industry, newspaper publishing, food distribution and industrial film technology. He was part of a paper mill startup and re-organizing businesses for growth. Jeff was Chief Financial Officer for two organizations during his career. Since his retirement, Jeff has been on the board of Worldwide Machining and Welding of Superior, WI. He also recently joined the board of Crossroads Outreach Center, Inc., located in Ashland, WI. Jeff has been member of Mission Covenant Church in Poplar, WI, since 1990. During that time he has been heavily involved in finance and administration including a new church facility in 1995. He has a passion for church planting and using his life experience to help others. He and his wife, Diane, have six children and twelve grandchildren.

## **NORTHWEST CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIRPERSON**



### **James Volling, NWC Board Chair (1 year term)**

Jim grew up in Le Sueur, MN. He is a graduate of The Taft School in Connecticut, Harvard University, and George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., where he was Executive Editor of the Law Review. After law school, Jim had the opportunity to serve as a law clerk to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger of the United States Supreme Court. He is currently a partner at Faegre Baker Daniels LLP; one of the 100 largest law firms in the United States. Jim became a member of the Minnehaha Academy Board of Trustees in 2002, and then assumed the role of Chair in 2005. He also served as Chair of the Search Committee in 2009 that recommended Dr. Donna Harris to be Head of School. He completed his term as M.A. Chair of the Board of Trustees in 2012, and delivered the commencement address for the class that same year. Jim has also been Chair of the Boards of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and of Charis of Minnesota, Inc., a prison ministry, and has been Vice Chair of the Board of Covenant Pines Bible Camp. He has also been active in leadership at Excelsior Covenant Church, serving twice as Church Chair and twice as Building Committee Chair for two significant building projects at the church. Jim and his wife Connie have been married for 40 years. Connie is a Registered Nurse and serves as Parish Nurse at Excelsior Covenant Church. They have three grown sons, as well as two granddaughters, who are the delight of their grandparents.



# BIOGRAPHICAL INFO **BALLOT CANDIDATES**

## **MINNEHAHA ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS**



**Tim Carlson (5 year term)**

Tim’s connections to Minnehaha Academy intersect on several levels, both as an alumnus and as a current parent of four children attending the school, ranging in ages from Pre-K through High School. He is married to Erin Kilgore Carlson, a fellow alumna from the class of 1991. The Carlson family resides in Inver Grove Heights and are members of Crossroads Church, attending the Eagan campus.

Tim is the Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of AgMotion Inc. in Minneapolis, a holding company focused on physical commodity trading and risk management of grains, food and feed ingredients. He holds a BS degree in Agricultural Business Management from the University of Minnesota and serves on the Foundation Council for the Minnesota chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity. He previously served on the board of Elders for Crossroads Church and currently serves as a volunteer in the Children’s ministry and as a member of the Eagan Impact team.



**Vanda Niemi (5 year term)**

Vanda is the parent of a 2014 Minnehaha Academy graduate. She enjoyed experiencing Pre-K through high school as a parent and is pleased to continue connection with the Academy. She lives in the neighborhood of the Upper School and is a member of Bethlehem Covenant Church where she sings in the choir and serves on the pastoral relations committee.

Vanda has degrees from Taylor University, University of Minnesota, and The Ohio State University. She taught undergraduate biology for 10 years prior to going to medical school. She has been a neurologist with Noran Neurological Clinic in Minneapolis for the past 17 years.



**David Sylvester (5 year term)**

Dave and his wife, Joleen, are residents of Minneapolis and members of Bethlehem Covenant Church. They are the parents of a 12-year-old daughter, Alicia, who is completing sixth grade at Minnehaha Academy, which she has attended since preschool.

Dave is currently retired after a 38-year career as an investment portfolio manager at Wells Fargo Asset Management. He serves as an independent trustee of the Edward Jones Money Market Fund, and is a member of Bethlehem’s Finance Commission. Dave’s favorite pastimes include bicycling, cooking and serving as assistant coach of Alicia’s basketball team at Minnehaha. He also enjoys traveling with his family, especially to Guatemala, where they plan to spend several weeks this summer.



a region of the evangelical covenant church



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