



northwest conference
developing leaders. thriving churches.

MINISTRY REPORT 2016



Develop
Leaders



Annual
Two Thousand & Seventeen
Meeting

MAPLE GROVE COVENANT CHURCH
MAPLE GROVE, MINNESOTA

NORTHWESTCONFERENCE.ORG

Develop Leaders

Dear Friends and Co-laborers for Christ,

God’s peace and abundant joy to you as we gather for our **2017 Northwest Conference Annual Meeting** at Maple Grove Covenant Church. We are so pleased that you are willing to invest this time to help move our common mission forward in the Name of Jesus. As such, it is also our hope that you come away both encouraged and fortified as we reflect on what it means to develop leaders—even as we are all called to be followers of Jesus. After all, sometimes following the Lord requires us to also be willing to lead, as challenging as that can be.



For those of you who have been at previous Annual Meetings, you will note that our format is different this year. Over the past number of years, we have had key-note presenters providing both messages at our worship services, as well as facilitation at plenary workshops. This year, however, we have invited two pastors from within our ranks to preach the Word during worship: Dennis Edwards from Sanctuary (Mpls) for the Ministerial Association Communion Service, and Marcy Baumann at Crossroads (Eagan Campus) for the Friday evening Celebration of Worship.

Additionally, we are offering breakout group workshops for both the Ministerial Association meeting on Friday morning and the meeting for church delegates on

Saturday morning. As a participant in our 2017 meetings, you should have already signed up for the workshop you would like to attend. **It is our hope that offering these alternatives will provide a context for more interaction in smaller settings, as well as resource you in ways that are of particular interest or need for you and your church.**

Please note that at our Friday evening worship service we will have an opportunity to receive an offering for Solid Rock School of Discipleship; an appropriate recipient as our theme has to do with leadership development. After all, this can never be separated from the development of the whole person, something Solid Rock seeks to do. We will also be able to celebrate the starting of new churches and the next steps in the process whereby called and gifted men and women move toward ordination in the Evangelical Covenant Church. This is also reflective of this year’s theme.

In the NWC, we focus on developing leaders and providing resources to help churches of all ages, sizes and geographic settings to be both healthy and missional. So much of this is dependent on current leaders who are godly, mature, courageous, committed, sacrificial, humble and discerning. Under the Lordship of Christ, so much rises and falls on these qualities being present in both pastors and lay leaders. This is particularly true in the day and age in which we live, where the headwinds of culture are blowing in our faces rather than at our backs.

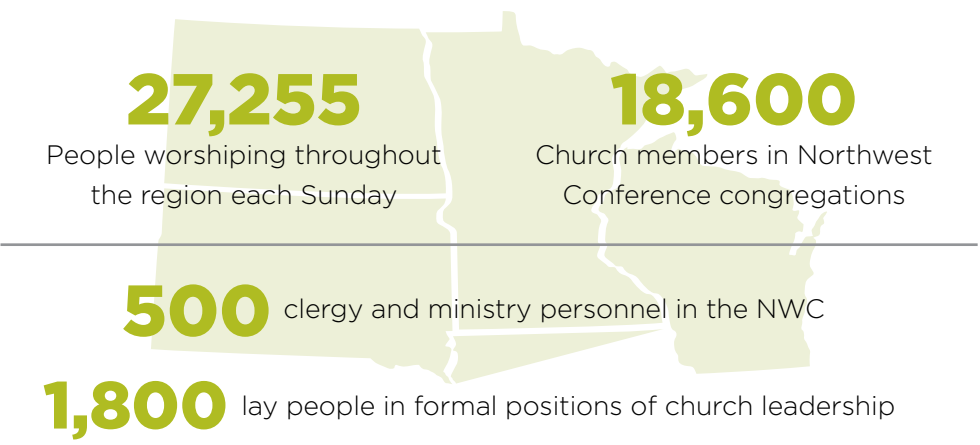
As we gather together, let us pray for God’s Spirit to meet with us and empower us to become more than we can be on our own—for the sake of our churches and for the sake of God’s mission in the world.

COURAGE!
Mark R. Stromberg, Superintendent



Developing leaders.
Thriving churches.

The **Northwest Conference** is a mission region of the **Evangelical Covenant Church**. It is comprised of roughly **140 churches** in MN, ND, SD, western WI and northern IA. These churches come in all shapes and sizes. They are **urban, ethnic, town & country** and **suburban**.



Beyond local churches, the ministry of the NWC is also bolstered by **a number of affiliate ministries including five Bible Camps. Minnehaha Academy**; a Pre-K through 12th grade school on two campuses in Minneapolis is also a direct ministry of the NWC. Its mission is to integrate Christian faith and learning.

Ministry Priorities

CONGREGATIONAL
VITALITY

CHURCH PLANTING

CHILDREN, YOUTH
& FAMILY

Ministry Support

PASTORAL CARE
& DEVELOPMENT

ADMINISTRATION

COMMUNICATION

FINANCE

Leadership is critical to fostering congregational vitality within the local church. In fact, John Maxwell suggests, “Almost everything rises or falls on leadership.” This is why we remind congregations that it takes healthy missional pastors and lay leaders to lead healthy missional churches.



So my question for you is this: **“Within your congregation’s leadership culture, are you fostering Godly character, competence and conviction among your leadership as they steward the mission of your church?”**

If you are seeing evidence of Godly leadership, continue in what you are doing to maintain this. If you are not, honestly and courageously seek out ways to re-establish this critical component to your church culture. Leadership matters when it comes to discerning and doing the will of God.

Know that I am grateful for the opportunity that I have to serve as your Director of Congregational Vitality—for the privilege to support and walk with pastors and congregations in their pursuit of greater congregational health and missional impact. I encourage you to take full advantage of the leadership training opportunities being provided at this Annual Meeting and of the leadership resources available through Congregational Vitality. **Let us continue to foster a culture of Godly leadership within our congregations and the Church.**

On the following page, I have provided additional reflections from NWC churches who are currently pursuing congregational revitalization. I pray that their testimonies will inspire other congregations to do the same.

For the cause of Christ and His Church!
Jon Kramka, Director of Congregational Vitality

Leadership is critical to fostering congregational vitality within the local church.



ABBAY WAY COVENANT, MINNEAPOLIS, MN
“As a 10-year-old church plant, the support of Congregational Vitality resources to help us pay attention to the movements of the Spirit at this stage of our life is much appreciated and essential for our health as a church community.”

BETHEL COVENANT, ELLSWORTH, WI
“Through our vitality journey God has been teaching us that He can be trusted. In a church with plenty of ‘Good Ole Days’ to look back on, we have noticed a marked change from dwelling on the past to getting excited about what God can still do right here.”

BETHLEHEM COVENANT, MINNEAPOLIS, MN
“It has been over seven years since we started the Vitality Pathway.

I think particularly helpful has been the reminder that church culture is the main driver of church health and vitality, even over strategy. So our church leadership has remained committed to the hard, and sometimes slow work of culture-shaping.”

BIWABIK COVENANT, BIWABIK, MN
“I highly recommend that each congregation take a serious look at the Vitality Pathway and begin their journey toward being a healthy congregation Healthy things grow!”

CALVARY COVENANT, EVANSVILLE, MN
“I have been serving for about a



year, and many of the early fruits I am seeing are because of the wisdom within Congregational Vitality.”

THOMASTOWN COVENANT, STAPLES, MN
“More than anything, Congregational Vitality reminds established churches that, ‘You matter. You are an essential element in God’s kingdom plan today. God loves you just the way you are, but He also loves you too much to leave you there! So let’s get going! And let’s go there together!’”

What are we seeing?

- **8 NEW CHURCHES** began the Congregational Vitality Pathway and participated in Veritas.
- **NUMEROUS CHURCHES** identified a need to connect their people to personal Bible reading and participated in the **Community Bible Experience**.
- **THE LARGEST NUMBER OF NWC CHURCHES** over a year’s cycle (7) utilized the CV assessment tool called PULSE.
- **CLUSTERS OF PASTORS** have developed around the Conference to extend mutual support in vitality efforts.





“Thank you” are the first words that come to mind as I think about this last year. To each of you, and your churches, we want you to know we are grateful for your faithfulness and support of Northwest Conference ministry, and of our Church Planting efforts.

At our 2014 NWC Annual Meeting we introduced a bold initiative called, **“50 by ’25: Our Mission to Plant.”** With the announcement, we publically and prayerfully committed to see 50 new churches started in the Northwest Conference over a 10 year period.

God continues to be faithful as we have prayed, listened, met with churches, raised funds, assessed planting pastors, provided training and support, and have seen new churches begun in our conference. **At this Annual Meeting, we get to celebrate the signing of three Covenant Agreements.** These signed documents signal the official beginning of each new church.

Earlier in the year, we saw the birth of Lighthouse Covenant Church in North Minneapolis, with Pastor Dee McIntosh. That brings the total number of new churches to four in this last fiscal year. God is raising up another generation of pastors and churches that are reaching new neighborhoods, communities and cities that we would not have reached any other way. **This brings our total new churches planted since we kicked off 50 by ’25 in 2014 to 13. Only 37 more churches to go to reach our goal!**

Our newest churches are all getting off to a great start with strong, healthy support churches coming alongside to provide prayer, people, funding and other resourcing. For those of you who are looking at nearby communities and neighborhoods and thinking, “They could really use a Covenant church presence,” please contact me to see how you and your church might be part of making that happen.

Planting new churches is truly a partnership. The Northwest Conference, the Evangelical Covenant Church and your church—or even a group of churches—will make this mission priority reality. **The impact of your love for God, your generosity, and Kingdom thinking are creating more stories than we can tell of changed lives and eternities.** The vision is taking root and growing! So, thanks again for your willingness to say yes to Jesus and see these new mission outposts come to life throughout the Northwest Conference.

By His Grace and for His Glory, Mike Brown, Director of Church Planting



“The impact of your love for God, your generosity, and Kingdom thinking are creating more stories than we can tell of changed lives and eternities.”



CATALYST

LOCATION: St. Paul, MN
PLANTER: Jeff Olson
DATE STARTED: May 2014
ATTENDANCE: 140



GENESIS

LOCATION: St. Louis Park, MN
PLANTER: Steve Wiens
DATE STARTED: June 2014
ATTENDANCE: 291



LAOTIAN

LOCATION: Brooklyn Center, MN
PASTOR: Vong Luangkhamdeng
DATE STARTED: July 2002
ATTENDANCE: 55



CITY OF LAKES

LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN
PLANTER: Dave Berge
DATE STARTED: October 2013
ATTENDANCE: 75



GRACE OUTREACH

LOCATION: St. Paul, MN
PLANTER: Paul Robinson
DATE STARTED: July 2013
ATTENDANCE: 74



LIGHTHOUSE

LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN
PASTOR: Dee McIntosh
DATE STARTED: July 2016
ATTENDANCE: 60



THE DOOR

LOCATION: Blaine, MN
PLANTER: Jack Shields
DATE STARTED: May 2015
ATTENDANCE: 41



LA BENDICION

LOCATION: Brooklyn Park, MN
PASTOR: Juan Lopez
DATE STARTED: March 2009
ATTENDANCE: 60



NEW COVENANT

LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN
PLANTER: Mauricio Dell'Arciprete
DATE STARTED: October 2014
ATTENDANCE: 120



RENEW
LOCATION: Eau Claire, WI
PLANTER: Jamie Staples
DATE STARTED: August 2014
ATTENDANCE: 228



SEEDS
LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN
PLANTER: Dale Durie
DATE STARTED: September 2015
ATTENDANCE: 37



ROOTS
LOCATION: St. Paul, MN
PLANTER: Touger Thao
DATE STARTED: June 2013
ATTENDANCE: 55



THE STORY
LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN
PLANTER: Matt Anderson
DATE STARTED: September 2015
ATTENDANCE: 40

A: ASSESS
C: COACH
T: TRAIN
S: SUPPORT

These are the ways the NWC identifies, equips and sends leaders for the mission of Church Planting.



Learn more about Northwest Conference Church Planting at northwestconference.org



Equipping Children and Family Ministry leaders and volunteers

Nearly half of all Americans who accept Christ as their Savior do so between the ages of 4-14 (Barna and National Association of Evangelicals). I doubt many of us are surprised that young people are more open and receptive to God, and I imagine many of our own adventures following God started when we were young, too. This is one of the reasons I believe so strongly in equipping churches in strategic ministry with kids and families.



Evangelism is most effective among kids.

We know that effective ministry starts with healthy staff and volunteer leadership. In fact, over 60% of our Northwest Conference children’s ministries are volunteer-led. By making an investment in ministry leaders, ministry with our children and families is strengthened because leaders are resourced, equipped and encouraged. Our work this past year has focused on connecting with children and family ministry leaders beyond the Twin Cities metro area.

This is why we support Recharge, an ecumenical training event for children, youth and family ministry leaders, held in five cities. We’ve added a children and family ministry connection in Wisconsin, and offered our first connections via Google Hangouts and Webex to accommodate those for whom travel is difficult. The family Go:Serve event is an opportunity to join together with other Covenant families to catch a bigger vision for God’s work in the world, and our ongoing foundational work to equip church planters has proven beneficial for established churches as well.

God is moving in exciting ways in Northwest Conference churches, and I am honored to help build a strong foundation of faith in our children by pursuing effective and strategic ministry with children and family ministry leaders.

Kara Stromberg, Director of Children & Family Ministry

2016 FUNDING BY CHURCH

Catalyst Covenant Church
St Paul, MN..... \$26,920
City of Lakes Covenant Church
Minneapolis, MN.....\$14,004
The Door Covenant Church
Blaine, MN.....\$42,400
Genesis Covenant Church
St Louis Park, MN..... \$28,640
Grace Outreach Covenant Church
St Paul, MN..... \$8,004

LaBendicion Covenant Church
Brooklyn Park, MN..... \$3,600
Laotian Covenant Church
Brooklyn Center, MN.....\$38,265
Lighthouse Covenant Church
Minneapolis, MN.....\$19,200
New Covenant Church
Minneapolis, MN.....\$40,280
Renew Covenant Church
Eau Claire, WI \$31,960

Roots Covenant Church
St Paul, MN.....\$6,700
Seeds Covenant Church
Minneapolis, MN..... \$44,000
The Story Covenant Church
Minneapolis, MN..... \$44,000

Children, Youth & Family Events

Youth Ministry



DATE: April 15-16, 2016

LOCATION: Minnehaha Academy
South Campus, Minneapolis, MN

PURPOSE: A service and learning
overnight event for high school
students.

ATTENDANCE: 220



DATE: May 7, 2016

LOCATION: First Covenant Church,
St. Paul, MN

PURPOSE: A service and learning
event for families and Kids

ATTENDANCE: 94



DATE: Monthly during school year
LOCATION: Salem Covenant Church, New Brighton, MN
PURPOSE: Encouragement, connection and learning for Youth Pastors and Ministry Leaders.
ATTENDANCE: 20-30 each month



DATE: August 4-6, 2016

LOCATION: Crossroads Church,
Woodbury, MN

PURPOSE: An unforgettable,
spiritual, high-energy event for
middle school/junior high students.

ATTENDANCE: 605



DATES: Monthly during school year
LOCATION: Salem Covenant Church, New Brighton, MN
PURPOSE: Connection, prayer, encouragement and learning for Children & Family Ministry Leaders.
ATTENDANCE: 12-15 each month



DATES: Approx. bi-monthly
LOCATION: Cedarbrook Covenant Church, Menomonie, WI
PURPOSE: Connection, prayer, encouragement and learning for Children & Family Ministry Leaders.
ATTENDANCE: 4-5 each meeting



DATE: June 18-25, 2016

LOCATION: Adventurous Christians,
Grand Marais, MN

PURPOSE: A leadership
development adventure for high
school students in the BWCA.

ATTENDANCE: 18 students



DATE: January 2016
LOCATION: MN, WI, ND and IA
PURPOSE: A one-day conference to equip Children and Youth Ministry Leaders.
ATTENDANCE: 1,000+



Learn more about
upcoming Children,
Youth & Family events at
northwestconference.org



While Millennials may grab the headlines of the media, our youth pastors are ministering to the next generation ... Generation Z. Born beginning in 1995, this group is around 75 million in size.

Technology has been part of their everyday life since they were little, and so they move easily between five different screens a day. Their attention spans are shorter than a goldfish's—at 8 seconds—and they're so used to texting that they sometimes struggle to have face-to-face conversations. Having watched their parents go through the recession and older siblings incur monumental student loan debt, this group is more frugal, pragmatic and entrepreneurial than the generation before them.



Generation Z is causing youth leaders to rethink how they go about ministering to the youth in their communities. The role of youth pastor is needed more today than ever. Caring, Christ-focused adults who teach them how to have in-depth conversations about the things of God are something that teenagers hunger for as they make challenging life decisions.

In the Northwest Conference, we strive to equip our youth ministry leaders to know how to minister to this generation of adolescents. Whether it's through our monthly Youth Pastor Connections, or traveling together to our denomination's annual youth ministry conference, we seek to support our youth workers through networking, prayer and education.

The role of youth pastor is needed more today than ever.

*pastor is needed
more today than ever.*

We collaborate with youth pastors, as well as other ministries, to put on events designed for this generation of adolescents, such as Adventures in Leadership, MOVE and MUUUCE. We're in the midst of coming alongside churches to help them prepare for the largest event our denomination hosts: CHIC 2018. Next summer, over 6,000 high school students and leaders from Covenant churches all over the world will gather for a week of worship, experiential education, challenging messages and fun!

Thank you for supporting and praying for our youth workers as they seek to minister to this next generation—Generation Z.

Ginny Olson, Director of Youth Ministry



Pastoral Care & Development

Within the broader mission of developing healthy missional leaders, my role focuses on the personal and professional growth of our pastors and ministry staff.

The challenges—both personal and professional—have led to a much more challenging life for those in ministry. But there are signs of hope in the overall health and vitality of pastors.



I have noticed this personally with what you might call “soft data”—the impressions from being with many pastors each week. But in the last few months some of these things have been confirmed with “hard data” from a comprehensive study entitled “The State of Pastors,” conducted by Barna Research in partnership with Pepperdine University.

The project was organized around three areas; personal leadership, leadership within the church and leadership in the broader culture.

Personal health was an area of unexpectedly high improvement. Most pastors are confident and satisfied with their own spiritual, emotional and physical health. If there is a weaker among those three it is the physical health. They are also, in general, content in their home life and in their call to ministry.

Leadership in the church is seen as a growingly complex matter because of the challenge of maintaining the close church family relationships and also advancing our important mission. It has all of the dangers of running a family business where all the employees are family members.

Such complexity requires more communication, more clarity and more difficult conversations. And yet, often people look at the Church as a place they go to relax and get free of stress. Most of our NWC pastors are navigating these kind of challenges on a regular basis.

Leadership in the culture is not really so much about navigating hostility as it is about navigating obscurity. So many people do not even have a well-formed opinion of pastoring as a vocation. The culture’s opinion of the vocation is driven by opinions of religion in general or the Church.

The Church is on the edge of a massive change of leadership.

A current reality that has been shocking to many in light of the Barna report is the aging of American Protestant clergy. Since 1992 when Barna first surveyed pastors, the average age of pastors has changed from 44 to 54. Maybe more shocking is that there are more pastors 65 or older still serving churches than all pastors under 40.

These numbers are pretty close to our own numbers in the NWC. We are experiencing an unprecedented number of transitions right now. The Church is on the edge of a massive change of leadership. The growth of mentoring relationships in these years will be very important to a healthy transition. We try to facilitate those connections whenever we get a chance.

Jeff Burton, Director of Pastoral Care & Development



What’s New

We developed a new tool to facilitate a yearly check-in with our pastors who are inactive or on a leave of absence. Other conferences and the Department of Ordered Ministry in Chicago are looking at doing something similar now.

In March I attended the first ever meeting of conference-level care givers with the denominational staff in Chicago. The purpose was to share best practices and talk of intersection points in our work. The vision of the NWC in this area is now shared by other conferences, and this meeting was an illustration of that reality.

As part of working with pastoral search committees in increasing numbers, we have updated our manual that we use to help guide those committees. The new manual is leaner and reflects the new ways that we interact with churches engaged in this critical process.

SIGNS OF HEALTH

There have been more calls from pastoral relations committees and church leadership groups to inquire about ways to be more effective in the care and health of their pastors. There has also been an increase in pastors receiving sabbaticals—I know of 11

pastors last year. In addition there has been a noticeable increase in calls from pastors that I would characterize as “coaching” calls. Ultimately we believe that more coaching calls will lead to fewer crisis calls.

Northwest Conference Finance



My goal as Director of Finance is to resource and coach local church leaders in stewarding God’s resources in the local congregation. The bi-monthly Finance Connection has been a great success! We have met seven times, engaging no less than 27 people representing 19 churches. Our topics have included budget development, creating and interpreting financial reports, employment and payroll practices and a discussion of helpful (and necessary) policies. I have enjoyed getting to know these friends and deeply appreciate their work as stewards of God’s resources. If you know someone who would like to join us, please have them contact me.

Cheryl and I worked to draft an expense reimbursement policy for NWC staff. The Board has approved the document and it is being implemented. In preparation for the budget to be presented at this meeting, I reviewed restrictions on our investment accounts to evaluate how we can best use those funds to further the mission and ministry of the NWC. I believe we have a prudent plan in place to help fund our three key mission priorities of Congregational Vitality, Church Planting and Children, Youth & Family Ministry.

Sandy Norris, Director of Finance

CHET Northwest Conference



CHET Northwest Conference is our local satellite of Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos (CHET), the ECC Hispanic Leadership Training Center. **CHET’s vision is to transform communities with the good news of Jesus Christ through Latina and Latino leaders. We desire to equip Latinos/as for pastoral and lay ministry, evangelism and discipleship, church planting and community transformation.**

As CHET Northwest Conference, we currently offer the Pre-Ministerial Program, which consists of six 13-week courses on the Life of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew and Acts of the Apostles. In May 2016, we held our annual graduation ceremony, celebrating the accomplishment of 12 students who completed the Pre-Ministerial

Program. Currently, we have just under 30 students in three levels of the Pre-Ministerial program, and on May 15 we will again recognize our graduates. You are invited to celebrate with us!

CHET es una institución con un enfoque en la formación ministerial—ayudamos a las personas cuyo deseo es servir al Señor, la iglesia y sus comunidades. Si tiene interés en matricularse en el programa, favor de ponerse en contacto conmigo o se puede encontrar más información aquí: chetnorthwestconference.org. Gracias por esta oportunidad de servir a ustedes, mis hermanos en Cristo.

Greg Ellis, Coordinator of CHET Northwest Conference

Northwest Conference Communications

Throughout 2016, we focused on tightening up the smaller details that contribute to having a consistent brand. Whereas in 2015 we undertook major redesigns of our website and email communications, in 2016 we made several minor “course corrections” to continue to refine and update the many promotional and informational items we produce.

Because many of the sub-brands that represent our events and Affiliate Ministries had been created over the past 7 years since, they lacked visual coherence with one another—often utilizing inconsistent fonts and a variety of colors that are now reserved specific organizational Ministry Priority areas. We redesigned the logos for all of our Connection gatherings, and now each Affiliate Ministry has a matching logo using a consistent new color.

We also refreshed the event brands for MUUUUCE, MOVE and Adventures in Leadership, and applied many of these new rules and visuals to our website and print materials.

Bryan Malley, Director of Communications



Northwest Conference Administration

CREDENTIALING: Our Committee on Ministerial Standing (COMS) interviewed five ordination candidates, 15 ministerial license candidates and 14 individuals requiring a credentialing update in 2016. I provide the administrative support for this process and enjoy working with the credentialing candidates, the COMS and the Ordered Ministry.

BEST PRACTICES: A new expense reimbursement policy was adopted by The Northwest Conference Executive Board. Thanks to Sandy Norris for taking the lead on reviewing IRS guidelines, researching considerations specific to ministries, and writing the policy.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: I have spent a lot of time during the past year sorting and organizing historical files and documents. The job is not done (yet), but the system is in place. We are privileged to be a part of a conference with a great history.

Many of the challenges we face today are no different than those of earlier generations. The actual words we use to identify our priorities may be different, but our mission is the same. It is humbling to realize that God has called us to continue His work in this place at this time.

Cheryl Theilen, Director of Administration





A Solid Education Rooted in Deep Faith

At Minnehaha Academy, students are more than a grade and achievement is more than a high test score. **At Minnehaha Academy, we know that each student has his or her own unique God-given talents to be nurtured and celebrated.** That’s why we get to know each student as an individual and create a strong, caring Christian community where children can feel safe to learn, grow and be themselves.



In addition to strong academics, a Minnehaha Academy education is rooted in deep faith. Students’ eyes are opened to God through Bible classes, weekly chapel, and day-to-day school life.

“We are planting seeds and watching them grow,” said Greg Bestland, Lower & Middle School Chaplain and Bible teacher. “For some, learning about Jesus is brand new and for other kids it’s another layer that reinforces what they get at home.”

Starting in preschool, students learn Bible verses and stories, sing songs and hear how the Christian faith applies to their lives. Teachers and staff strive to model Jesus’ teachings of love, grace and compassion in their interactions with students and each other.

Surrounding them in a Christian environment through graduation deeply impacts Minnehaha students.

In her Baccalaureate address, 2016 graduate Gabbi Johnson said, “Many of the people I see and interact with every day share God’s love in all they do. I see that love in so many ways. Teachers pray for us, offer us extra help, and genuinely care about their students. I came to realize that the simple actions of God’s love can go a long way, usually longer than the doer of the action ever imagined. I felt called to share more of God’s love in my daily life through small actions as I had observed [others do].”

Prepared for Success with Strong Academics

Students from all grade levels are given opportunities to excel academically at Minnehaha Academy. By the time graduation approaches, they are ready to soar.

In the Lower School, hands-on STEM experience in the Innovation Lab and Science Exploration Center give emphasis on 21st century thinking skills and design. Differentiated reading instruction ensures that every child is engaged and growing at his or her level. Engaging interdisciplinary units keep students engaged in learning, starting with our youngest learners.

In Middle School, children thrive in an environment that offers meaningful learning experiences that encourage independence, critical thinking, and exploration. Project Lead the Way provides a strong STEM foundation through a design, robotics and engineering curriculum. Students may learn Latin, Spanish or French and participate in art, music, chapel and physical education.

In Upper School, the Applied Research and Engineering class provides students with the unique opportunity to send experiments to the International Space Station. Cultural Field Experiences allow students to expand their horizons through projects, culture and travel. Leadership opportunities abound in all disciplines and grade levels.

Minnehaha Academy, a Northwest Conference school

- Founded by NWC pastors and lay leaders 103 years ago, Minnehaha Academy remains a vital ministry of the Northwest Conference.
- Families of NWC churches are eligible to receive 100 percent of demonstrated financial need.
- MA is excited to continue our scholarship program for up to three students in grades K-12 (depending on space availability) from each NWC church. For more details or to apply, please call 612-728-7776 or email admission@MinnehahaAcademy.net

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY BY THE NUMBERS

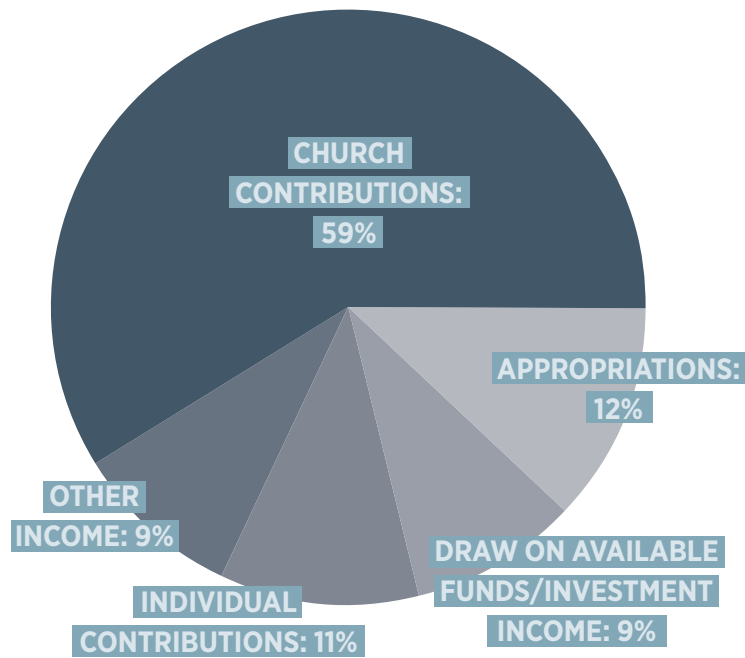
- **100%** of graduates accepted into college
- **18** AP courses
- **20** performing groups
- **26** varsity athletic teams
- **2** science experiments annually destined for space
- **3** state-of-the-art STEM labs

Visit minnehahaacademy.net for more info





2016/17 NWC BUDGET INCOME: \$1,528,598



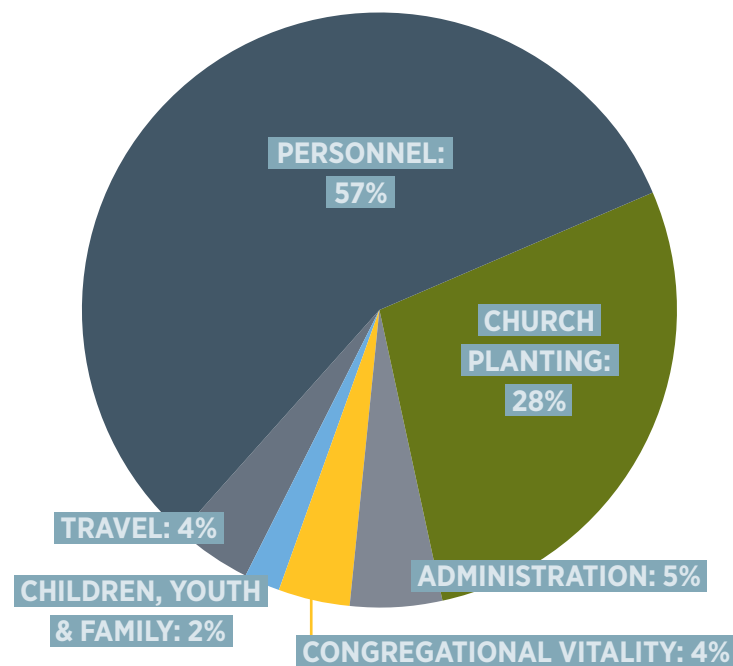
➔ 2016/17 INCOME Notes:

Individual Contributions: Includes designated and undesignated contributions to the NWC.

Appropriations: Money the NWC receives from the ECC for Church Planting. The NWC and ECC invest equally in all new church plants.

Draw on Available Funds: The NWC has cash reserves of \$1,484,623 (12.31.16) designated for Congregational Vitality (\$131,389); Church Planting (\$469,027); Children, Youth & Family (\$132,019);

2016/17 NWC BUDGET EXPENSE: \$1,528,598



and Unrestricted/Discretionary (\$752,188). Some of these funds are readily available, while some are in dedicated Trust Accounts with Covenant Trust Company and can only be withdrawn at a rate of 5% per year.

➔ 2016/17 EXPENSE Notes:

Personnel: Compensation for all staff included. Staff time used for direct ministry to churches for Congregational Vitality, Church Planting, Children, Youth & Family and Pastoral Care & Development.

Mission

The Mission of the Northwest Conference is to engage, empower, and equip healthy missional leaders, as we believe that this is an essential component in growing healthy missional churches.

➔ EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jim Volling, Chair and
Minnehaha Academy Liaison
Excelsior Covenant, Excelsior, MN

Jan Bros, Vice Chair
Abbey Way Covenant,
Minneapolis, MN

David Brown, Treasurer
Brookdale Covenant,
Brooklyn Center, MN

Rebecca Nguyen, Secretary
Brookdale Covenant,
Brooklyn Center, MN

Sheila Anonsen
Grace Covenant, Fargo, ND

Barb Dusek
Faith Covenant, Burnsville, MN

Dennis Edwards
Sanctuary Covenant,
Minneapolis, MN

Mark Hovestol
Roseville Covenant,
Roseville, MN

Paul Knight
HOPE Church,
Grand Forks, ND

Marc Peterson
Crossroads Covenant,
Forest Lake, MN

Mark R. Stromberg
Superintendent
Northwest Conference

ADVISORY
Donna Harris, President
Minnehaha Academy

Herb Frost, Chair
Darren Olson, Acting Chair
NWC Ministerial Association

Rachel Kleinschmidt, Ministry
Consultant, NWC Women
Ministries

➔ STAFF



Mark R. Stromberg
Superintendent



Jon Kramka
Dir. of Congregational Vitality



Mike Brown
Dir. of Church Planting



Kara Stromberg
Dir. of Children & Family Ministry



Ginny Olson
Dir. of Youth Ministry



Jeff Burton
Dir. of Pastoral Care & Development



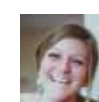
Cheryl Theilen
Dir. of Administration



Sandy Norris
Dir. of Finance



Bryan Malley
Dir. of Communications



Jessa Anderson
Administrative Coordinator



Greg Ellis
Coordinator of CHET NWC

COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Stay connected with news, opportunities and stories from around the NWC. Pick up a copy of the IMPRINTS newsletter at your church, subscribe to the UPDATE e-newsletter, and check our website for event details.

✉ 3106 47th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406

📞 612.721.4893 or 1.800.756.6692

💻 northwestconference.org / info@northwestconference.org

SECOND MILER GRANTS

- Real Life Covenant Church, Waseca, MN - \$2,074.43
- Living Springs Covenant Church, Brandon, SD - \$1,551.00
- The Story Covenant Church, Minneapolis, MN - \$1,768.00
- Grace Covenant Church, Fargo, ND - \$1,873.00

THANK YOU!

Churches in the NWC (as of 12.31.16)

IOWA

Grandview, Larchwood

MINNESOTA

Alexandria Covenant, Alexandria
Catalyst Covenant, Alexandria
Evangelical Covenant, Anoka
Restoration Covenant, Apple Valley
Evangelical Covenant, Baudette
Evangelical Covenant, Bemidji
Evangelical Covenant, Big Falls
Svea Hill Community Covenant, Big Lake
Evangelical Covenant, Biwabik
The Door Covenant, Blaine
Bloomington Covenant, Bloomington
Evangelical Covenant, Braham
Brookdale Covenant, Brooklyn Center
Laotian Covenant, Brooklyn Center
Blue Oaks Covenant, Brooklyn Park
La Bendicion Covenant, Brooklyn Park
Redeemer Covenant, Brooklyn Park
Buffalo Covenant, Buffalo
Faith Covenant, Burnsville
Big Lake Evangelical Covenant, Cloquet
Elim Mission, Cokato
Evangelical Covenant, Cook
Evangelical Covenant, Crookston
Evangelical Covenant, Dassel
Lake Jennie Covenant, Dassel
Dawson Covenant, Dawson
First Covenant, Duluth
Lakeview Covenant, Duluth
Salem Covenant, Duluth
Mercy Commons Covenant, Edina
New City Covenant, Edina
Calvary Covenant, Evansville
Excelsior Covenant, Excelsior
Fairmont Evangelical Covenant, Fairmont
Maywood Covenant, Foley
Crossroads Evangelical Covenant, Forest Lake
Fridley Covenant, Fridley
Riverwood Covenant, Greenfield
Harris Covenant, Harris
Palmyra Covenant, Hector
Gethsemane Covenant, Hermantown
Community Covenant, Huntley
Oak Heights Covenant, Hutchinson
Evangelical Covenant, International Falls
Evangelical Mission Covenant, Kennedy
Kensington Covenant, Kensington
Community Covenant, Lake Bronson
Lancaster Covenant, Lancaster

Rice Creek Covenant, Lino Lakes
Grace Covenant, Little Falls
Lowry Community Covenant, Lowry
Mahtowa Covenant, Mahtowa
Maple Grove Covenant, Maple Grove
Abbey Way Covenant, Minneapolis
Bethlehem Covenant, Minneapolis
City of Lakes Covenant, Minneapolis
Community Covenant, Minneapolis
Crosstown Covenant, Minneapolis
First Covenant, Minneapolis
Lighthouse Covenant, Minneapolis
New Covenant, Minneapolis
Seeds Covenant, Minneapolis
The Sanctuary Covenant, Minneapolis
The Story Covenant, Minneapolis
Verbo en Accion Covenant, Minneapolis
Monticello Covenant, Monticello
Evangelical Covenant, Moose Lake
Fairview Covenant, Mound
MainStreet Covenant, Mound
Salem Covenant, New Brighton
Evangelical Covenant, New London
Vista Evangelical Covenant, New Richland
Crossview Covenant, North Mankato
Calvary Covenant, Northome
Lewis Lake Covenant, Ogilvie
Christ Community Covenant, Owatonna
Salem Mission Covenant, Pennock
Plymouth Covenant + The Extension, Plymouth
Karmel Evangelical Covenant, Princeton
First Covenant, Red Wing
NewDay Covenant, Rochester
Rochester Covenant, Rochester
Salem Road Covenant, Rochester
Nueva Vida Covenant, Rogers
Evangelical Covenant, Roseau
Roseville Covenant, Roseville
Evangelical Covenant, Rush City
New Life Covenant, Saginaw
Emmanuel Covenant, Shoreview
Lake Union Covenant, South Haven
Hope Covenant, St. Cloud
Genesis Covenant, St. Louis Park
Awaken Covenant, St. Paul
Catalyst Covenant, St. Paul
First Covenant, St. Paul
The Gallery Covenant, St. Paul
Grace Outreach, St. Paul
Roots Covenant, St. Paul
Thomastown Covenant, Staples
Bethany Covenant, Stillwater

Evangelical Covenant, Thief River Falls
Evangelical Covenant, Trimont
Community Covenant, Upsala
Viking Covenant, Viking
First Covenant, Virginia
Evangelical Covenant, Warren
Real Life Covenant, Waseca
Oster First Covenant, Waverly
Bethlehem Covenant, Wheaton
First Covenant, Willmar
Winthrop Evangelical Covenant, Winthrop
Crossroads, Woodbury/Cottage Grove/Eagan
First Covenant, Worthington
Linwood Covenant, Wyoming

NORTH DAKOTA

Teien Covenant, Drayton
Grace Covenant, Fargo
Hope Covenant, Grand Forks + Emerado

SOUTH DAKOTA

Komstad Covenant, Beresford
Living Springs Covenant, Brandon
Swedona Evangelical Covenant, Brandon
Countryside Covenant, LaBolt
Evangelical Covenant, Lake Norden
Prairie Hills Covenant, Sioux Falls
South Sudan Covenant, Sioux Falls
Elim Evangelical Covenant, Stockholm

WISCONSIN

First Covenant, Ashland
Prairie Lake Covenant, Chetek
United Covenant, Clear Lake
Renew Covenant, Eau Claire
Bethel Covenant, Ellsworth
Zion Covenant, Ellsworth
Calvary Evangelical Covenant, Grantsburg
Cedarbrook, Menomonie
Prince of Peace Covenant, Mondovi
Prairieview Covenant, New Richmond
Mission Covenant, Poplar
First Covenant, River Falls
Siren Covenant, Siren
Calvary Covenant, Stockholm
Lund Mission Covenant, Stockholm
First Covenant, Superior

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