



northwest conference
developing leaders. thriving churches.

NORTHWESTCONFERENCE.ORG

MINISTRY REPORT 2017



FORWARD
IN HOPE MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN,
YOUTH & FAMILIES

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Children, Youth & Families

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

God’s continued peace and joy to you as we gather for our **2018 Northwest Conference Annual Meeting** at Buffalo Covenant Church. We are grateful for this time together and your willingness to be a part

of this gathering as we reflect on one of our ministry priorities in the Northwest Conference; that being ministry to, with and for Children, Youth & Families.

We are pleased to have a number of special guests with us this year. Among

them are Tim Ciccone, Director of Youth Ministry for the Evangelical Covenant Church, and Tiger McLuen, the Former President of Youth Leadership for nearly three decades. Tim will be preaching at our Ministerial Association meeting on Thursday night, and Tiger will be sharing God’s Word with general delegates at the Friday evening worship service.

Additionally, we are offering **workshops** once again for both the Ministerial Association meeting on Friday morning and the meeting for church delegates on Saturday morning. 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.

At our Friday evening worship service we will receive an offering for CHIC; an appropriate ministry for our giving as we know what an impact this experience has had on so many of the younger people in NWC churches. In fact, the NWC consistently has the strongest turn out of all the regional conferences in the Covenant!

We will also be celebrating the starting of new churches and the next steps in the process whereby called and gifted men and women move toward ordination within the Evangelical Covenant Church. One wonders how many of these individuals were influenced as children to follow Jesus. And now we have the privilege of witnessing the fruit arising from the faithfulness of those who came before us.

When I was a child, I would hear people say that younger people were the “Church of tomorrow.”

Actually, that is only half the story. Rather, the reality is this ... *“People like me are the Church of yesterday and today. Our children are the Church of today and tomorrow. We are all part of the Church today, but we are always handing off the gospel baton to those who follow after us.”*

And friends, the Church of today and tomorrow trumps the Church of yesterday and today. It must be because we are an evangelical people with a message of hope and faith to be shared. It is something we “pay forward” even as it has been given to us by faithful and godly women and men.

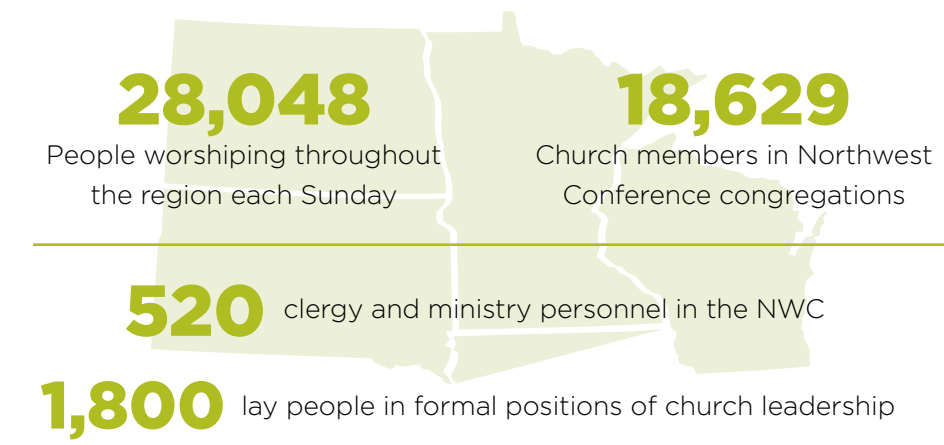
May God be pleased with our labor through the power of the Holy Spirit and, in the words of the song: *“May all who come behind us find us faithful!”* Thanks for coming and welcome!

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



Why is Congregational Vitality an important ministry priority for the NWC and the ECC? To answer this question I'm going to turn to Peter Greer and Chris Horst's book, "Mission Drift: The Unspoken Crisis Facing Leaders, Charities & Churches." Greer and Horst offer the following observation, **"There is an unspoken crisis for churches, which without careful attention, inevitably sees them drift from their founding mission.** It's that simple. It will happen slowly, silently, and with little fanfare, a routine drift from their original purpose, and many will never return to it."

Because of this tendency they suggest, "Ministries need to remember how important it is not to sell off their vision especially when times are tough. If we continue to apologize for our faith, conceal its importance, and drift from our core, we will lose the very uniqueness our world so desperately needs."

"Ministries need to remember how important it is not to sell off their vision especially when times are tough."

For Greer and Horst, **"Mission Drift is a daily battle."** And they offer these two key variables for winning this battle:

- 1. Maintaining a clarity of mission,
- 2. An intentionality to align with and safeguard it.

So due to this innate impulse toward drift and understanding vitality as the responsibility of each church—regardless of its current state of health—**Congregational Vitality is critical to the ongoing health and fruitfulness of our movement.** Therefore, we count it a privilege to partner with you in this work.

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

WHAT DID WE SEE IN 2017?

- **8 churches** participated in Veritas, **3 churches** in EPIC, and **2 churches** in a vitality refresher conversation.
- **5 OF OUR NWC PASTORS** are pursuing the Certificate in Congregational Vitality through North Park Seminary.
- **THE GROW RURAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** (an interdenominational collaborative) was launched in our region, and 11 of our rural churches participated in this day of inspiration and contextual learning.
- **12 NWC PASTORS** participated in the ECC Evangelism Cohort.



BETHLEHEM COVENANT CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

"As a historic church that is well into a process towards greater health and mission, it feels very easy to lose sight of the essential practices of vitality. As Pastor, the monthly vitality meetings with pastoral peers are helpful to me in refocusing, continuing to learn, being encouraged and in keeping my own leadership energized."
- Matthew Kennedy, Lead Pastor

CALVARY COVENANT CHURCH, EVANSVILLE, MN

"The Congregational Vitality Pathway has given many members fresh eyes in evaluating our church, our mission and health. One great outcome of our vitality team was getting new people involved in the church. And what has brought me the greatest joy is hearing testimony across the generations

of people 'getting it,' feeling more spiritually awakened. Specifically, having grandparents feel challenged to try new things because they desire to see the church flourish beyond their time." - Kendall Churchill, Pastor

EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH, THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN

"The vitality journey for us has been up and down. Veritas got our church started, and our people engaged in good conversations. We established a Vitality Team with a group of energetic and willing people, but along the way our team shrunk due to relocations or people dropping out. That has been quite hard. However, we continue to press ahead with a smaller group.



We are not where we had hoped to be, but there remain times when God's presence and activity within our team is clear, and that I find encouraging." - Bert Foster, Senior Pastor

ZION COVENANT CHURCH, ELLSWORTH, WI

"The journey of Vitality can be long and comes with many challenges. The NWC has provided great support and resource to us along the way. The Conference has truly committed to its churches for the long haul, and that is a good thing!" - Dave Hugare, Lead Pastor



Each year, as I reflect on what has happened, I'm reminded just how grateful I truly am. Grateful to God for his provision in all things. Grateful to all of you who faithfully support the work of Christ's Church in so many ways, and grateful for this fam-

ily of churches called the Northwest Conference that is on mission together to proclaim the gospel and see lives changed. **The church planting that is happening is a direct result of your faithfulness and generosity—and is it ever making a difference.**

At our 2014 NWC Annual Meeting we introduced a bold initiative called "50 by '25: Our Mission to Plant." With this announcement we publicly 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 pastors, leaders and churches. The support has been overwhelming. We have assessed planting pastors, provided training and support, made sure coaching was available, raised support and continued to see new churches begun in our Conference. At this Annual Meeting we again get to celebrate the signing of three Covenant Agreements. The signing of these documents signals the official beginning of each new church.

In January, we celebrated the birth of Genesis East Covenant Church in White Bear Lake, MN. Genesis East becomes the first of what we hope are many churches in the Genesis Covenant network. Genesis East is led by Pastor Aaron Freer.



We were also able to celebrate the birth of Crossroads Church in Hastings, MN, the newest campus of Crossroads Covenant Church in Woodbury, MN. Crossroads Hastings is led by Campus Pastor Tim Stanley. **This brings our total number of new church fellowship groups to five in this fiscal year. God is good!** He is raising up gifted leaders with a passion for reaching new neighborhoods, communities and cities, all across our Conference, that we would reach no other way. **We are also privileged to celebrate six of our new churches being received into official membership in the ECC this year.**

Our newest churches are getting off to a great start with strong, healthy support churches—both Covenant and non-Covenant—coming alongside to provide prayer, people, funding and other tangible support. I often get calls or e-mails from folks in the Conference who are looking at nearby communities or neighborhoods and thinking, "Why don't they have a Covenant church?" My standard response is to suggest that just maybe God is laying that community on the heart of your church as a nearby mission field. Nothing will move a church toward greater health and vitality more quickly than getting involved in the planting of a new church.

The impact of your love for God, your passion for seeing lost people come to know Jesus and your generosity are creating a host of stories of changed lives, transformed families and so very many changed destinies and eternities. The vision is growing and expanding! Thanks again for your willingness to say yes to Jesus, step out in faith, and be a partner in bringing to life these new churches in the NWC.

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



AWAKEN EAST

LOCATION: Maplewood, MN
PLANTER: Daniel Lukas
DATE STARTED: June 2017
ATTENDANCE: 75



CATALYST

LOCATION: St. Paul, MN
PLANTER: Jeff Olson
DATE STARTED: May 2014
ATTENDANCE: 170



THE DOOR

LOCATION: Blaine, MN
PLANTER: Jack Shields
DATE STARTED: May 2015
ATTENDANCE: 44



THE GALLERY

LOCATION: St. Paul, MN
PASTOR: Noah Hormann
DATE STARTED: June 2009
ATTENDANCE: 44



GENESIS

LOCATION: St. Louis Park, MN
PLANTER: Steve Wiens
DATE STARTED: June 2014
ATTENDANCE: 244



GENESIS EAST

LOCATION: White Bear Lake, MN
PLANTER: Aaron Freer
RESIDENCY: June - Dec. 2017
LAUNCH TEAM: 48



LA BENDICION

LOCATION: Brooklyn Park, MN
PLANTER: Juan Lopez
DATE STARTED: March 2009
ATTENDANCE: 45



LAKESIDE

LOCATION: Chanhassen, MN
PLANTER: Steve Anderson
DATE STARTED: June 2017
ATTENDANCE: 100



LAOTIAN

LOCATION: Brooklyn Center, MN
PASTOR: Vong Luangkhamdeng
DATE STARTED: July 2002
ATTENDANCE: 59



LIGHTHOUSE

LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN
PLANTER: Dee McIntosh
DATE STARTED: July 2016
ATTENDANCE: 75



MIDCURRENT

LOCATION: Hudson, WI
PLANTER: Sten Carlson
DATE STARTED: May 2017
ATTENDANCE: 100



NEW COVENANT

LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN
PLANTER: Mauricio Dell'Arciprete
DATE STARTED: October 2014
ATTENDANCE: 116



RENEW

LOCATION: Eau Claire, WI
PLANTER: Jamie Staples
DATE STARTED: August 2014
ATTENDANCE: 220



SEEDS

LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN
PLANTER: Dale Durie
DATE STARTED: September 2015
ATTENDANCE: 30



THE STORY

LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN
PLANTER: Matt Anderson
DATE STARTED: September 2015
ATTENDANCE: 35



For the Kids

A nationwide movement called “Wait Until 8th” empowers parents to rally together to delay giving children a smartphone until at least 8th grade. Banding together decreases the pressure felt by kids and parents alike over kids having a smartphone, and increases the chances that kids can be kids for a little while longer.

This is one example of how both the issues and solutions to challenges have changed, and it is no different for the Church. Neighborhood kick-the-can and the expectation of weekly church attendance

“We were never their age in this age.”

we are faced with a new set of challenges and opportunities in 2018. To quote my dear friend and colleague, Tiger McLuen, “We were never their age in this age.”

In a world dominated by reactionary fear and anxiety, the Church is uniquely positioned to bring

Jesus’ countercultural message of hope and peace, especially as it impacts children.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, but now, more than ever, we need our churches to be on the front lines of innovation when it comes to ministering to anxious and broken families and kids. Your ministry probably won’t look like your grandparents’ Sunday School class, and that’s OK. The Northwest Conference understands we are better together as we prioritize ministry with kids and families.



Through regular Connection events, service opportunities like Go: Serve, training opportunities like Recharge, and the development of resources for Church Planters and ministry leaders, the NWC works to equip churches to creatively and effectively bring the hope of Jesus to hurting kids and families in relevant and developmentally appropriate ways.

Kara Stromberg,
Director of Children & Family Ministry

2017 FUNDING BY CHURCH

Awaken Covenant Church
Maplewood, MN \$40,856
Catalyst Covenant Church
St. Paul, MN..... \$5,360
The Door Covenant Church
Blaine, MN.....\$36,000
The Gallery Covenant Church
St. Paul, MN..... \$36,674
Genesis Covenant Church
St. Louis Park, MN..... \$6,700

Genesis East Covenant Church
White Bear Lake, MN..... \$34,238
LaBendicion Covenant Church
Brooklyn Park, MN\$1,800
Lakeside Covenant Church
Chanhassen, MN \$22,800
Laotian Covenant Church
Brooklyn Center, MN.....\$26,000
Lighthouse Covenant Church
Minneapolis, MN.....\$45,600

Midcurrent Covenant Church
Hudson, WI\$26,400
New Covenant Church
Minneapolis, MN.....\$34,999
Renew Covenant Church
Eau Claire, WI \$10,040
Seeds Covenant Church
Minneapolis, MN.....\$38,400
The Story Covenant Church
Minneapolis, MN.....\$38,400



MOVE

DATE: March 31 - April 1, 2017
LOCATION: Minnehaha Academy South Campus, Minneapolis, MN
PURPOSE: A service and learning overnight event for high school students.
ATTENDANCE: 200



GO:SERVE

DATE: June 28, 2017
LOCATION: Redeemer Covenant Church, Brooklyn Park, MN
PURPOSE: A service and learning event for families and kids
ATTENDANCE: 100



YOUTH PASTOR'S CONNECTION

DATE: Monthly (school year)
LOCATION: Salem Covenant Church, New Brighton, MN
PURPOSE: Encouragement, connection and learning for Youth Pastors and Ministry Leaders.
ATTENDANCE: 20-40 each month



MUUUCE

DATE: August 3-5, 2017
LOCATION: Crossroads Church, Woodbury, MN
PURPOSE: An unforgettable, spiritual, high-energy event for middle school/junior high students.
ATTENDANCE: 625



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY CONNECTION - TWIN CITIES

DATES: Monthly (school year)
LOCATION: Salem Covenant Church, New Brighton, MN
PURPOSE: Connection, prayer, encouragement and learning for Children & Family Ministry Leaders.
ATTENDANCE: 5-12 each month



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY CONNECTION - WISCONSIN

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



ADVENTURES IN LEADERSHIP

DATE: June 17-24, 2017
LOCATION: Adventurous Christians, Grand Marais, MN
PURPOSE: A leadership development adventure for high school students in the BWCA.
ATTENDANCE: 19 students



RECHARGE

DATE: January - February 2017
LOCATION: MN, WI, ND and IA
PURPOSE: Several one-day conferences to equip Children and Youth Ministry Leaders.
ATTENDANCE: 1,000+



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



As I write this, our Northwest Conference youth ministry leaders are deep in the midst of CHIC preparation: organizing bake sales and spaghetti dinners, recruiting high school students, mobilizing ministry-minded volunteers, hosting parent meetings and filling out forms and seeking signatures. This major event has been part of our denomination's story since 1956. **Every three years, high school students unite together for a week of worship, education, adventure, prayer and fun.** They are challenged in their Christian faith—not only by their own youth pastor, but by leaders and peers from around the world. Why all this work for a week-long experience?

During my time as a youth ministry professor at North Park University, I heard story after story from Covenant students about how God had clearly moved in their lives at CHIC. Some came to Christ for the very first time. Others realized they had walked away from their childhood faith and re-committed themselves to following Christ. And some dedicated themselves to a life of ministry and mission. **It was during this focused time with peers and youth leaders that they became open to the promptings of God.**

Whether it's via CHIC or MUUUUCE or Bible study or confirmation, our NWC youth leaders strive to help adolescents understand who Christ is and how they

can walk with Him. They hold discipleship as a critical ministry priority.

“Discipleship is about spiritual growth, not just spiritual language. Always watch out for casual holiness and Sunday school answers,” asserts Tiger McLuen, Former President of Youth Leadership.



Our youth workers push toward students living out their faith, not just repeating empty words. They know the importance of coming together for times of learning (Recharge Ministry Conference), networking and encouragement (the Youth Pastor's Connection), leadership development (Adventures in Leadership) and serving (MOVE).

It is a privilege to serve alongside our youth leaders and our churches in the Northwest Conference as we strive to develop adolescent disciples who follow Christ and impact their world.

*Serving with joy,
Ginny Olson, Director of Youth Ministry*

“The Church is on the edge of a massive change of leadership.” That was the highlighted text from my report in last year’s Annual Meeting report book.

We are no longer on the edge of that change. We are fully immersed in it.



Churches and pastors in transition continues to be a dominant reality across our Conference, our denomination and the broader Church landscape in America.

The Northwest Conference ended 2016 with 15

churches in the search process for lead or solo pastors (over twice what has been normal). Fourteen of those positions were filled in 2017, but a whole new group of transitions have emerged, and we started 2018 with 14 churches in the search process, and the likelihood of another four to six added to that list by summer.

Transitions are difficult, even under the best of conditions. And not all transitions are under the best conditions. **Many on our staff are involved in walking with churches and staff through these changes.** Transitions are associated with pain and hope, and we are committed to walking with you through the pain and into the hope.

Because of the large number of pastoral transitions, there is a growing need for interim pastors to assist during those critical moments. The current pool of interim pastors is much more diverse in age, gifts and experience. Because of this unique circumstance, we have formed a monthly Interim Pastor’s

Connection for the purpose of providing support, coaching and connection.

“Flourishing in Ministry” is an exciting new research project and tool for helping pastors. The Covenant is hoping for 400+ pastors to be a part of this effort. Funded by a Lily Grant, this ongoing project has already made some significant findings with a diverse group of pastors and now is at the point of being able to study the specific profiles of individual denominations.

The emphasis is on what practices produce a pastor who is flourishing in ministry. Research in this area has opened the eyes of some veteran researchers to the contemporary complexity of the pastoral role.

A prominent scholar of industrial and organizational psychology, Dr. Richard DeShon from Michigan State, who has deep knowledge of job analysis for hundreds of occupations, identified 13 task clusters important to the work of pastoral ministry and 64 personal competencies required.

Transitions are associated with pain and hope, and we are committed to walking with you through the pain and into the hope.

In summary he says, “The breadth of tasks performed by local church pastors coupled with the rapid switching between task clusters and roles that appears prevalent in this position is unique. **I have never encountered such a fast-paced job with such varied and impactful responsibilities.**”

Pastors have experienced these challenges, but now they have been identified in objective ways. More importantly, positive steps are emerging to provide a healthier environment for pastoral thriving.

Jeff Burton, Director of Pastoral Care & Development

As we prepare for our 2018 Annual Meeting, I am filled with gratitude to God for the many ways I have experienced His blessings through my 17 years on the staff of the NWC.

I have been blessed with a wonderful staff team with which to share ministry. I have been blessed by hundreds of ministry staff members and even more lay leaders serving in local, Conference and denominational settings. I have been blessed by the faithful and effective ministry of our churches, camps, school and adjunct ministry partnerships. I have been blessed by words of encouragement as well as admonitions that come from wise and discerning people.

Thank you for the privilege of serving in the Northwest Conference, particularly as Superintendent, for the past 7 years.

All of these blessings are undeserved by me. I say this to sound neither humble nor “pious.” This is not a cliché. This is simply the truth! **I know that any good thing that I either possess or have experienced is solely by the grace of God.** And often, this grace has manifested itself to me through God’s people. As such, I want to thank you as those representing NWC churches and ministries throughout our region.

And this has been a year where God’s blessings have come from unexpected sources. Certainly, the explosion at Minnehaha Academy is the most poignant example. In early August, we could not have anticipated that by mid-September the doors would be opening to a new temporary campus in Mendota Heights. We would have never foreseen the loss of life and limb as a result of the event, nor the emotional and psychological scars that such an occurrence can produce.

However, in spite of great sadness and harm, we

have seen the Lord and His people do wonderful things. There is the sense *that together we are truly rising*. A special thanks to MA leadership, as well as all faculty and staff members for their acts of sacrifice, heroism and commitment to our school. And thanks to the students for their resiliency!

I also want to thank those churches that participated in a love offering for the school. We were able to give Minnehaha a check for \$100,000. I know this was deeply appreciated. We have been blessed and, together, we were able to be a blessing. Moreover, for such a time as this, we are also blessed to see a continued growing emphasis on Christian discipleship through efforts at Minnehaha with the calling of David Hoffner, its new Director of Faith Formation.



Additionally, we have been blessed as many of our churches have engaged in such things as the Community Bible Experience and the development of new ministries beyond the walls of our churches. **There are good things happening everywhere. Keep it up!**

Yet, we also know that we face significant challenges as we seek to be faithful to the Lord and to His Word. *Let’s not mess it up!* This is especially important as we are in a time of leadership transition in our denomination and continue to face cultural upheaval. Please keep all of this in mind as you pray.

May God work out His purposes in our lives and churches in the days ahead as we follow where He leads. And may we be willing to both count the cost and pay the price for our faithfulness!

Mark R. Stromberg, Superintendent

Northwest Conference Finance



As Director of Finance I continue to resource and coach local church leaders in stewarding God’s resources in the local congregation. I field questions about clergy compensation, online giving platforms, restricted fund accounting, donation deductibility, appropriate expense reimbursements, employee benefits and even some nitty gritty QuickBooks technical questions. **I enjoy interacting with servants who invest so generously, often with little recognition.**

The NWC hosted (and I presented a couple of modules) a Financial Training workshop sponsored by National Covenant Properties. Participants learned fraud risk assessment and prevention skills, why financial statements matter, aligning budgets with ministry plans and more. I am thankful for the individuals who sacrificed a Saturday, and in many cases traveled far, to participate. We are in conversation with NCP about repeating this event in the fall of 2018, most likely in the Duluth area.

Specific accounting tasks continue for our Church Plants. I provide six months of accounting services to churches coming to fruition under the 50 by '25 Church Planting Initiative.

Sandy Norris, Director of Finance

CHET Northwest Conference



CHET Northwest Conference is a collaborative ministry partnership that links ministries in our region with the resources of CHET, which stands for Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos (Hispanic Center for Theological Studies), the Covenant’s education institution for Spanish-speakers, located in Los Angeles.

Since our beginning, CHET NWC has been a recipient of the generosity of Minnehaha Academy—but with the explosion of Aug. 2, we needed to find a new site to host our classes, which Redeemer Covenant Church in Brooklyn Park has graciously offered. Currently, our primary teachers are pastors Juan López and Martha Luna of La Bendición Covenant Church, and we have students in two

classes who are nearing the culmination of their Pre-Ministerial program that consists of six courses on the life of Christ, through the Gospel of Matthew.

The Northwest Conference continues to look for the best ways to support and resource the growing Spanish-speaking population in our region. We are committed to equipping Latinos and Latinas for pastoral and lay ministry, evangelism and discipleship, church planting and community transformation. Thank you for your ongoing support as we minister to these communities that God has placed in our midst!

Greg Ellis, Coordinator of CHET Northwest Conference

Northwest Conference Communications

At the start of each year, I never fully know what new projects, events and communication needs might arise from our staff, affiliated ministries and other unforeseen circumstances. In 2017, new projects included event branding for a National Covenant Properties training event, the Jump Start: Personal Financial Retreat, and communication support following the Aug. 2 explosion at Minnehaha Academy.



Having forgotten my wallet at the NWC office on Aug. 1, I stopped by the morning of Aug. 2—just hours before the explosion. I received news of the catastrophe via a phone call from someone who was one of the first on the scene that day. **As a graduate of MA, news of the explosion was shocking and heartbreaking, and it was my honor to play a small part in keeping our churches informed, and creating visuals for the ensuing Minnehaha Academy Month, facilitated by the NWC.**

I also continued to support MUUUUCE, MOVE, Go:Serve, CHIC and Adventures in Leadership through design and branding for promotional materials on our website and in print.

Bryan Malley, Director of Communications

Northwest Conference Administration

CREDENTIALING: Our Committee on Ministerial Standing (COMS) interviewed 15 ordination candidates, two commissioning candidates, 15 ministerial license candidates and two individuals requiring a credentialing update in 2017. A retreat was held in July to review and create policies and procedures in order to strengthen the work of the committee. It continues to be my privilege to provide the administrative support for this process.



MINNEHAHA ACADEMY: I was in the office at the time of the explosion. The BOOM; the cloud of debris; the sirens; the first responders; the concern of our neighbors; and the feelings of anxiety, helplessness, concern, relief and thankfulness, are all memories of that day. As we have watched the slow and deliberate process of demolition I have been reminded of God’s ability and desire to comfort, clean up, rebuild and restore.

TRANSITIONS: Jessa Anderson has submitted her resignation in order to accept a position at Minnehaha Academy. We will miss her energy, creativity, passion and the joy she brings to others. Thanks, Jessa, for 3.5 years of faithful service to the Northwest Conference.

Cheryl Theilen, Director of Administration

Exceptional Academics.
Distinctively Christian.

At Minnehaha Academy, exceptional academics and Christian faith go hand in hand. Our Christian culture isn't only experienced during Chapel, it is woven deep within the fabric of daily life in the classrooms and in the hallways. As students learn and grow in a rigorous academic environment, they are surrounded by teachers and staff who lead in Christ-like love and care.

In this safe and caring community, students are encouraged to participate in new activities, pursue passions, and explore their God-given talents. It is in this community that students discover their potential. We'd like to introduce you to just a few of the students who, with the encouragement of their teachers, have discovered their potential.

MAX AND MS. BENSON

While studying the civil rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a new interest was sparked in second grader Max Gordon. This unit was being taught in his classroom with supporting curriculum in music class. Between all these learning opportunities, Max not only was eager to have his own book about Dr. King, but he discovered a new genre of music from Music Specialist Karen Benson. Max said, "I never knew about spirituals before and now they are some of my favorite songs." Benson finds it rewarding to encourage learning in students like Max—especially when they discover a new interest. "He is so full of positive energy, I wish I could bottle it."



SOPHIA AND MRS. ANDERSON

Coding is a hot new educational option for students—and Sophia Verdoorn (fifth grade) has caught the bug. After being introduced to coding during Innovation Lab, she began spending time researching advanced programs and putting them to practice (like voting apps). "I really like to code and help others if I can—it's fun," she said with a smile. Her Innovation Lab teacher, Angela Anderson, is happy to help her soar. "She's an enthusiastic and fast learner," she said, "and she's resourceful and a problem solver—it's what I love about her."

SPECIAL THANK YOU

On Aug. 2, Minnehaha Academy experienced a tragic explosion. It was your prayers and generous financial support that have helped lift us up. Thank you for walking alongside us during this difficult time in Minnehaha's history. As we move forward, we ask for your continued prayers during the planning and rebuilding period. We ask for God's guidance and wisdom so that Minnehaha will continue to minister to students for the next 100 years.

STELLA AND MR. DELBOW

Stella Kalmoe (seventh grade) hasn't always been excited about band. She said when she first started the flute in fifth grade, she struggled with it. "I didn't understand notes and rhythms and the flute is a hard instrument to learn," she said. But having a patient teacher, who has not only helped her individually as a flutist, but the entire band as musicians, has made band fun for her. "Mr. Delbow has a great sense of humor," she said, and she plans to continue playing flute. For Mr. Delbow, Lower and Middle School Band Teacher, it's satisfying to help students like Stella get over the hump of learning a new instrument, and to believe they have the potential to be a musician. "She's got a bright future," he said.



ISS TEAM AND ADVISORS

This group of students has bright futures—perhaps as scientists, mathematicians, engineers or physicians. They have had the unique opportunity to take advanced courses at the Upper School, such as AP Calculus I and II, AP Computer Science, AP Science courses (there are many) and of course the Applied Research in Engineering I and II classes, which include the International Space Station (ISS) project. "The ISS students are organized into small teams and collaborate together to accomplish their part of the ISS project," said David Tweeten, ISS advisor. "This is similar to what would happen in real world careers." All these offerings have helped support their passion in STEM careers and will likely be a stepping stone for each of them to reach their potential after high school.



MINNEHAHA ACADEMY
A NORTHWEST
CONFERENCE SCHOOL

Founded by NWC pastors and lay leaders 104 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.**

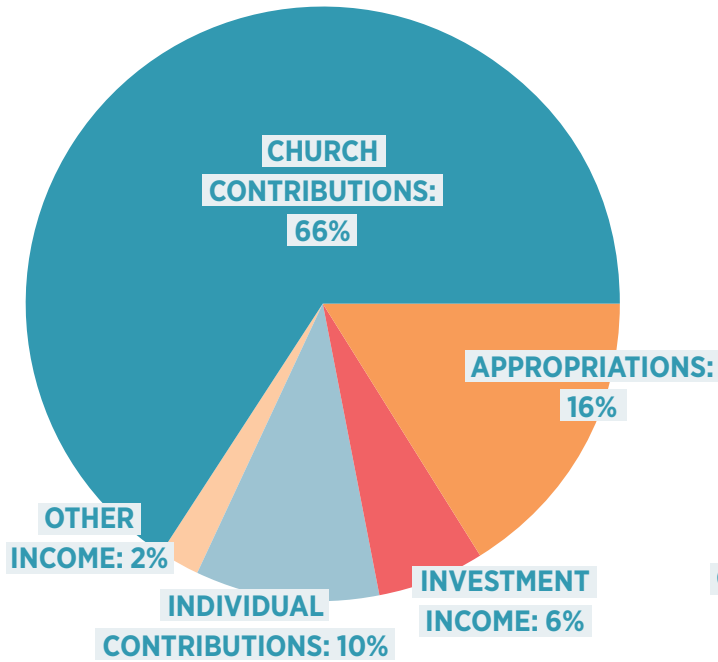
MA is excited to continue our scholarship program for up to three students in grades K-12 (depending on space availability) from each NWC church. For more details or to apply, please call 612-728-7776 or email admission@MinnehahaAcademy.net

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY
BY THE NUMBERS

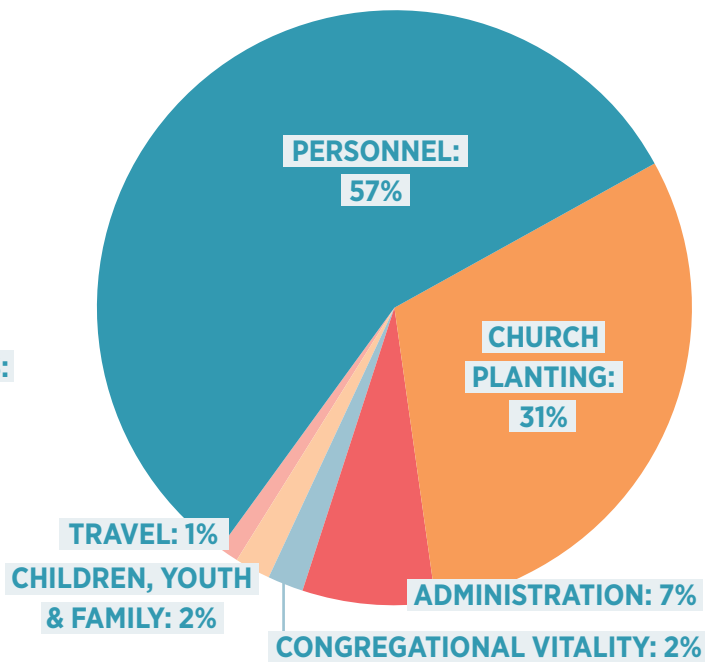
- 18 AP courses
- 20 performing groups
- 26 varsity athletic teams
- 100% college acceptance rate

Visit minnehahaacademy.net for more info

2017/18 NWC BUDGET
INCOME: \$1,360,117



2017/18 NWC BUDGET
EXPENSE: \$1,566,047



Gap between income + expense (\$205,930) intentional draw on reserves

2017/18 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: 7.117 NWC Cash Reserve Balances: \$186,378.65 designated Children, Youth & Family; \$183,752.14 designated Congregational Vitality; \$754,963.10 designated Church Planting;

\$788,621.74 Unrestricted/Discretionary; \$1,913,715.63 total reserves. 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.

2017/18 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

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Minnehaha Academy Liaison
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Roseville Covenant,
Roseville, MN
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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

SPECIAL GIFTS GIVEN

SECOND MILER GRANTS

- Northwest Conference, Minneapolis, MN - \$1,689.52
- Maywood Covenant Church, Foley, MN - \$1,800.00
- Calvary Covenant Church, Grantsburg, WI - \$2,080.30



CHURCHES IN THE NWC (AS OF 12.31.17)

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
Lakeside Covenant, Chanhassen
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
Awaken Covenant, Maplewood
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, Pennoch
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/Hastings
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

WISCONSIN

Prairie Lake Covenant, Chetek
United Covenant, Clear Lake
Renew Covenant, Eau Claire
Bethel Covenant, Ellsworth
Zion Covenant, Ellsworth
Calvary Evangelical Covenant, Grantsburg
Midcurrent Covenant, Hudson
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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