



Ministry Report

2019



Together
We Rise 
Community Matters.



**NORTHWEST
CONFERENCE**

NORTHWESTCONFERENCE.ORG

God has blessed our shared work

August 2020

Dear NWC Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of the Lord Jesus ... the Name above all names!

As most of you know, the Northwest Conference 2020 Annual Meeting that was to be held last April at Minnehaha Academy had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, we missed out on a wonderful time

of fellowship, encouragement and inspiration. We were also unable to attend to some of the normal business that is always part of each April gathering.

With all that has emerged related to the pandemic, as well as more recent events surrounding the terrible

death of George Floyd and subsequent upheaval in our nation, it has felt like a “disconnect” to send out information relative to that which would have been shared at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Quite frankly, it feels like there has not been an appropriate time to provide a report on past ministry in the NWC from 2019 with all that our churches and pastors have had to do in these days of disequilibrium.

And yet, NWC leadership is ultimately accountable to our churches and those delegated to represent them under normal circumstances. Therefore, we have now chosen to make the information that would have been distributed in person via hard-copy available in electronic form on the NWC website and in this PDF.

“We offer this in thankfulness for the ways that God blessed our shared work in the past, confident that He will continue to use all of us for His glory and neighbor’s good ...”

Again, please keep in mind that this material is primarily intended to be a retrospective accounting of ministry in 2019. Therefore, do not be surprised that it is shared without many references to current events which were unknown at the time that these materials are intended to address.

We offer this in thankfulness for the ways that God blessed our shared work in the past, confident that He will continue to use all of us for His glory and neighbor’s good, even in the midst of our current challenges and opportunities.

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.

27,962

People worshipping throughout the region each Sunday

18,279

Church members in Northwest Conference congregations

520

Clergy and ministry personnel in the NWC

1,800

Lay people in formal positions of church leadership

MINISTRY PRIORITIES

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

CHURCH PLANTING

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

MINISTRY SUPPORT

PASTORAL CARE & DEVELOPMENT

ADMINISTRATION

COMMUNICATION

FINANCE

Committed to pursuing vitality together

This year's Annual Meeting theme of "Together We Rise" is a perfect reflection of our journey in the ministry of Congregational Vitality over the years.

Recently, several of us took the time to retrace the development of Congregational Vitality in the ECC since its inception in 2006. What was evidenced throughout this review



was that everything God has accomplished through church revitalization happened through us doing it together.

From very early on, a verse that helped shape this collaborative approach for us was Ecclesiastes 4:12 ... "A cord of three strands is not easily

broken." We have always approached vitality ministry from this set of relationships ... strand one being the local church. The second strand being the Conference. The third strand being the Denomination.

And what we have experienced is that this three-corded strand has been forged into a divine partnership as we have

"... everything God has accomplished through church revitalization happened through us doing it together."

submitted to the Holy Spirit in our pursuit of seeing God's mission renewed in/through the local church.

And it's this shared mission that reminds me of the African proverb that says, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together!"

So friends, as we press forward in this ministry of Congregational Vitality, may we remain committed to pursuing it "together."

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

What are we seeing?

A.W. Tozer states that "the Church is in constant need of renewal." This past year we saw 27 NWC pastors/congregations engage in various vitality initiatives through the NWC and the ECC. The common pursuit is a more faithful and fruitful outcome for the Kingdom!

Consultant Ron Edmondson suggests several key components beyond the movement of the Holy Spirit necessary for church renewal:

- **Admitting you need to revitalize.**
- **Letting go of the right to control.**
- **A vision of something better.**
- **A history worth revitalizing.**
- **Leadership willing to lead change.**
- **A tenacity to weather storms.**
- **Committed people.**

May God's renewing work continue in and through our churches for His glory!



FIRST COVENANT CHURCH, RIVER FALLS, WI

"Our church has been following the Congregational Vitality Pathway, with coaching from the NWC. We have sought God's leading and now we're into the 'Implementation Phase.'

Our current plan will help us more intentionally serve together as we continue on our vitality journey.

It's an exciting process as we see how God is at work within our church, our mission to the River Falls area and the world!" - Pat Stevens, Vitality Team Chair

RICE CREEK COVENANT CHURCH, LINO LAKES, MN

"The vitality tools we have been introduced to have helped us envision how

God will use our small congregation in the coming years.

Understanding God's calling for us both encourages us and challenges us. I remain grateful for the resources that the NWC offers and for opportunities to meet with other pastors on the journey as well." - Toni Schwabe, Pastor

TRIMONT COVENANT CHURCH, TRIMONT, MN

We stepped into vitality in September through Veritas. It was an emotional day for us. For some, there was grieving as we realized we are not what we use to be. For others, words were provided to describe the things that were being experienced. For some people, they sensed a fresh hope for today and our future.



As newbies to this journey, hope has become our friend and companion. We are anticipating that the Lord will continue to bring to completion the work He began 125 years ago." - Todd Van Zee, Pastor

Every church was at one time a plant

Every new year that passes is cause to pause and reflect on all the amazing things God has done over that time frame. This past year was no exception. God was at work in my life, in the Northwest Conference, in the life of our pastors and churches and certainly in our new church planting.



Starting new churches is one of our Conference's key ministry priorities. The beauty of this ministry priority is that we have the privilege of doing it together. Our planting is a partnership between the Northwest Conference, the Evangelical Covenant Church and our local churches. And we are particularly blessed

to have a group of churches that not only understand the priority of church planting but are willing to invest in making it happen.

Lifeway research states that only about four percent of all churches in America ever get directly involved in the starting of a new church. Our numbers in the Northwest Conference are consistently much higher. We even have entire districts of churches partnering to see a new church started in their part of the Conference. I still continue to pray, however, that every church in our Conference might see itself committing to support new church planting. As we've said before, every church was at one time a church plant, whether one day old or 150 years old. The New Testament call to plant churches and make disciples has never gone out of style, and the need is only growing over time.

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. It was a stretch for us, but we, as a conference of churches, stepped out in faith. And God has been hearing our prayers by raising up gifted church planters, providing support through your churches, and helping

us to start new churches in neighborhoods, communities and cities that we might not reach any other way. He has also opened the door for us to see a number of Latino churches planted as we acknowledge and embrace the fast-growing Latino community throughout the NWC.

Just since January, we've already had the privilege of starting three new church plants. We are praising God for raising up gifted pastors, support churches and great partnerships. Even as we celebrate these new churches, we are all aware that we are living in an unprecedented time. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have placed a hold on the starting of any additional church plants as we all are trying to keep people safe, and wait to see what the duration and impact will be. In our training we repeatedly tell our new church planting pastors that church planting will be hard. In this current season, it is beyond challenging. Having said all that, God is on His throne, and is going to bring innovation, change and draw people closer to Himself through this crisis.

"The New Testament call to plant churches and make disciples has never gone out of style ..."

Please pray for all the churches we've started over the last few years. These very young churches are just infants and are facing many challenges. Forty-two percent of attenders in church plants are new believers, according to a recent study. Yet, God will prevail in drawing people in and helping them find a relationship with Him.

I have so much appreciation for our Conference churches and each of you. We walk together in the good times and the challenging seasons, but always we are better together.

*By His grace and for His glory,
Mike Brown, Director of Church Planting*



THE CROSSING

LOCATION: Houlton, WI
PLANTER: Michele Arndt
DATE STARTED: March 2019
ATTENDANCE: 44
APPROPRIATIONS: \$33,600



EPIPHANY

LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN
PLANTER: Kevin Farmer
DATE STARTED: April 2018
ATTENDANCE: 131
APPROPRIATIONS: \$12,000



LAKESIDE

LOCATION: Chanhassen, MN
PLANTER: Steve Anderson
DATE STARTED: June 2017
ATTENDANCE: 115
APPROPRIATIONS: \$38,600



CROSSVIEW SOUTH

LOCATION: Mankato, MN
PLANTER: Brian/Sandi Asker
DATE STARTED: June 2019
ATTENDANCE: Residency
APPROPRIATIONS: \$47,169



GENESIS EAST

LOCATION: North St. Paul, MN
PLANTER: Aaron Freer
RESIDENCY: June 2017
ATTENDANCE: 53
APPROPRIATIONS: \$45,600



LAOTIAN

LOCATION: Brooklyn Center, MN
PASTOR:
DATE STARTED: July 2002
ATTENDANCE: 40
APPROPRIATIONS: \$2,000



EDEN COMMUNITY

LOCATION: Coon Rapids, MN
PASTOR: Trin Peterson
DATE STARTED: May 2018
ATTENDANCE: 47
APPROPRIATIONS: \$45,600



IGLESIA UNIDAD

LOCATION: Fridley, MN
PLANTER: Erico Ortega
DATE STARTED: May 2018
ATTENDANCE: 29
APPROPRIATIONS: \$18,002



LIGHTHOUSE

LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN
PLANTER: Dee McIntosh
DATE STARTED: July 2016
ATTENDANCE: Closed
APPROPRIATIONS: \$13,000



MIDCURRENT

LOCATION: Hudson, WI
PLANTER: Sten Carlson
DATE STARTED: May 2017
ATTENDANCE: 180
APPROPRIATIONS: \$37,600



NORTH CITY

LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN
PLANTER: JD/ChristianAnn Larson
DATE STARTED: October 2017
ATTENDANCE: 60
APPROPRIATIONS: \$63,549



NUESTRA ESPERANZA

LOCATION: Brooklyn Center, MN
PLANTER: Hector/Betty Reyes
DATE STARTED: June 2019
ATTENDANCE: 27
APPROPRIATIONS: \$14,000



Seeing children’s ministry as a priority

In the seven years that I’ve served as Director of Children & Family Ministry, we’ve focused on building community among leaders, curating resources for churches and advocating for leaders who feel God is inviting them to dive deeper into leadership—all while encouraging churches to see children’s ministry as a priority, not a strategy.

I’ve been honored to serve in this way and to help build well-resourced networks of children’s ministry leaders.

When children’s ministry leaders gather together in person or online to talk about Sunday School, VBS, recruiting volunteers or child safety and protection, our meetings are never just about the program or policy. These con-

Each month, you will find NWC children’s ministry leaders gathered over lunch, huddled in prayer clusters, sharing ideas over e-mail, posting best practices on Facebook or logging into a video conference or webinar. The collegiality and connectedness in the NWC has enabled our children’s ministry leaders to have influence nationally, as well, including planning and implementing the pre-Midwinter Children’s Ministry Connection in Chicago, and serving alongside denominational efforts to resource children and family ministry leaders.

Personally, this past year involved a transition for me, as I shifted from working exclusively with children and family ministry leaders to serving in a broader leadership role as Associate Superintendent. As I step more fully into this role, I will continue to oversee children and family ministry, in addition to other responsibilities.

Through it all, our goal remains the same: healthy leaders serving healthy churches so that people can know Christ. I’m grateful to serve in this way.

Kara Stromberg, Associate Superintendent



“Through it all, our goal remains the same: healthy leaders serving healthy churches so that people can know Christ.”

versations are grounded in a deep love for children and a desire for the Church to come alongside families so that faith can be nurtured in the home.



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

Jan. 5 Recharge

March 30 NCP Financial Leadership Training, Linwood Covenant, Wyoming, MN

April 5-6 MOVE, Hope Covenant, St. Cloud, MN

April 23 Embrace Workshop, Hope Covenant, Grand Forks, ND

April 25-26 NWC Annual Meeting, Hope Covenant, Grand Forks, ND

May 16-17 CY&F Retreat, Lake Beauty Bible Camp, Long Prairie, MN

June 15-22 AIL, Adventurous Christians, Grand Marais, MN

July 18-21 ECC Triennial, City Center Marriott, Minneapolis, MN

Aug. 1-3 MUUUCE, Crossroads Church, Woodbury, MN

Oct. 26 NCP Financial Leadership Training, Alexandria Covenant, Alexandria, MN

Connection Events & Cohorts

- Church Planter's Connection
- Children & Family Ministry Connection
- First Call Cohort
- Re:Connect
- Youth Pastor's Connection
- Evangelism Cohort



Learn more about upcoming Northwest Conference events at northwestconference.org



Youth Ministry going strong in the NWC

Youth ministry is active in the Northwest Conference. In 2019, we launched a new coaching cohort program for youth pastors. Every month for 10 months, six youth ministry coaches met with six participants. Every other month, we gathered for community and focused teaching around topics like ministry goals, developing volunteers and risk management. The growth among participants and in their youth ministries, was remarkable.

April saw 132 high school students and their leaders from 17 NWC churches meet at Hope Covenant in St. Cloud for MOVE—a 22-hour retreat focused on living out Jesus' words in Matthew 22:37-39, "No Excuses." Students were challenged by Stephanie O'Brien to wrestle with their excuses and to get creative in living out Jesus' commands. On Saturday morning, the groups spread throughout St. Cloud serving organizations that focus on neighbors in need—like teenagers in the foster care system, refugees and those trying to eradicate sex trafficking. That afternoon, youth groups spent time discussing what were the issues in their own communities and creating solutions that addressed those needs.

In June, we had 12 high school students head north for Adventures in Leadership. This one-week immersive and guided leadership experience does an incredible job of developing young leaders.

August saw 614 middle schoolers learn about what it means to be "Unleashed" for Jesus. That was the theme of this year's MUUUCE. From Aug. 1-3, 40 NWC churches gathered at Crossroads Church in Woodbury for amazing activities as well as worship, teaching and small group discussions.

Our youth pastors, whether they're full-time or co-vocational, work hard at connecting the teenagers in their churches and their communities with Jesus Christ. We support each other in these efforts by meeting regularly at our monthly Youth Pastor's Connections.



2020 looks to be a challenging year for ministry. At the time of writing this report, the COVID-19 virus is causing our youth pastors to re-imagine how to do youth ministry when you can't meet in person. We are supporting each other as we try to innovate and create new avenues of discipleship. The importance of having a strong force of adults who love Jesus and teenagers is needed more now than ever.

Serving with joy, Ginny Olson, Director of Youth Ministry

Isolation & depletion: Enemies of health

Since starting in this role last August, I’ve been learning the extended landscape of pastors and pastoral clusters (Districts) in the Northwest Conference. When people ask me what I do, I say that I am a “pastor to pastors.”



Last October, I spoke at the Clergy Appreciation Day at Covenant Living on the topic “Shepherding the Shepherds,” addressing the challenge and responsibility of self-care that clergy and churches are stewards of. Being a pastor in the 21st century is increasingly complex, with expanding job

descriptions and a mounting list of expectations faithful pastors and others put upon them.

According to “The State of Pastors,” an oft-cited report drawn from interviews with 14,000 Protestant pastors from 40 denominations across the theological spectrum:

- Most pastors are faring well, but one in three is at high or medium risk for burnout
- Three of four pastors know at least one fellow pastor whose ministry ended due to stress
- 43 percent of pastors are at high/medium relational risk, whether challenges in marriage, family or other close relationship
- One of two pastors say their current church tenure has been hard on their family
- One in five have struggled with addiction
- Almost one in two have faced depression
- Women, now nine percent of senior pastors—triple the percentage of 25 years ago— frequently lead smaller churches, feel greater scrutiny and are more likely than men to say they feel lonely or isolated from others

These findings remind us of the great need that pastors have to be appreciated, affirmed, supported and strengthened for the work God has entrusted to them, His faithful shepherds.

To these ends, I’ve been collaborating over these past months with Northwest Conference teams that serve our pastors. The Ministerial Care and Development Committee (MCDC) helped plan the NWC Ministerial Association Retreat in October. The MCDC assists me in providing additional care, support and encouragement to pastors. They also assist the Committee on Ministerial Standing (COMS), which interviews licensing and ordination candidates.

I have met with the Mosaic Pastors—ethnic, multiethnic and urban pastors—for mutual care, encouragement and prayer as well as pastors in several Districts across the Conference. I participated in celebrations of life at two memorial services. I’ve also had the joy of installing two pastors in their respective churches and preached at others.

I also collaborate with the ECC Leader Health and Development Team (LHDT), comprised of other conference staff across the Denomination. This team oversees the ongoing nurture of Covenant pastors and meets four times a year for shared learning and furthering best practices. When needed, I have assisted by walking alongside pastors, meeting with them individually, and overseeing local Care and Accountability teams of three to four mature pastoral colleagues. On the development front, I led a workshop at Salem Covenant Church called, “Praying for Not-Yet-Believers.” An Advent Pastors’ Retreat Day was offered at New City Covenant Church in December. For my own professional development, I participated in a three-day Coaching Intensive. Finally, over these past months, I’ve had numerous individual meetings with pastors who are experiencing a wide variety of complex challenges. I have provided counsel, coaching, mentoring and encouragement.

Being a “pastor to pastors” has been a privilege these past months, as I’ve worked with colleagues to strengthen and sustain pastoral support and development. I pray with the Psalmist: “May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands” (Psalms 90:17).

Hollis Kim, Director of Pastoral Care & Development

Thank you for the opportunity to serve

Dear NWC Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus.

We are now at that time of year when we look back with thankfulness at the many ways we have seen God at work through the work we are privileged to do together.

“...on behalf of the entire NWC staff, thank you for the opportunity to serve in your midst.”

I have recently commenced my 19th year as a NWC staff member and am nearing the end of my ninth year as the Superintendent. With all that has taken place over this extended period of time, it has gone by both quickly and slowly, depending on the season of ministry and its accompanying joys and sorrows. However, regardless of the season, it has been a privilege to serve the broader Conference; its pastors, lay leaders and congregations. It has also been an honor to be connected with adjunct ministries, including our camps and Minnehaha Academy.

Looking back, it has been a year of deep change in some respects ... much of it worth celebrating. We think of the joy of Minnehaha returning to a new, state-of-the-art, Upper School facility. This has truly been an amazing thing to witness in the midst of all that had transpired over the previous two years. We also celebrate the starting of new churches and the increased vitality in some existing ones since we last met. Further, we are grateful for the creative and innovative ministries that have continued to move forward geared for the children and youth in our midst. Certainly, these are all wonderful things to celebrate.

However, some of the change has been painful for some and frustrating for others. It goes without saying that

events within our own Conference, and subsequent actions by the broader Covenant, have elicited a wide range of responses from pastors and churches, both here and throughout the ECC. Certainly, actions that led to the dismissal of pastors and a church from our fellowship has been affirmed by many but also condemned by some. In this, those of us in broader ECC leadership have found ourselves navigating difficult challenges as we continue to serve the Church; seeking to remain faithful to our vows and promises—both as Covenant pastors but also as leaders outside the walls of a local congregation. In this, your prayers are greatly appreciated as we live in to the responsibilities and roles bestowed on us.

In all these things, I remain truly grateful for the partnership with the NWC Executive Board. Beyond this, it continues to be a source of joy and encouragement to work with such a godly and gifted staff. I do not question the commitment or integrity of any of our NWC team members, and I hope that their involvement in the life of our churches and ministries is a source of encouragement and support to you, as well.

And so, on behalf of the entire NWC staff, thank you for the opportunity to serve in your midst. We are inspired by the commitment of our pastors and other ministry leaders to remain faithful in their callings. We are blessed by the many lay leaders with whom we interact. And we are indebted to our churches for their faithful support, financial and otherwise, as they continue to serve the Lord in their own spheres of influence and in our shared ministry; faithfully proclaiming the truth and grace of the good news of Jesus.

Mark R. Stromberg, Superintendent



Finance



I am thankful to be able live my calling with the Northwest Conference and its churches. I am often amazed at the generosity of our God to orchestrate the convergence of the natural abilities He has given with the desire to serve His bride in this beautiful way.

I use both my ministerial and business education and experience on a daily basis as I help local church leaders consider how they will steward the resources entrusted to them to move God’s mission forward in their communities.

As much as we might wish the tasks of paying bills and producing receipts would do themselves, we all know life doesn’t work that way. I do my best to help local church leaders know how best to accomplish those and other finance-related tasks while staying within legal boundaries and assertively pursuing God’s mission for the local church.

In partnership with National Covenant Properties, we offered a day-long financial leadership workshop in the Fall of 2019 and will offer the same experience (updated for current laws and best practices, of course) in the Fall of 2020.

Sandy Norris, Director of Finance

Latino Ministry



Here are some highlights of what we accomplished together in 2019:

GROWTH: In 2019, we planted another Latino church in our region: Nuestra Esperanza Covenant Church! The new church is located in Brooklyn Park, MN, and it’s partnering with Brookdale Covenant Church to accomplish their mission together.

DEEPER CONNECTIONS: In 2019, we launched the Church Planter’s Connection En Español. We are grateful that God has allowed us to create space for connection and fellowship with all the Latino Church Planters in our region. It has been great to see Pastors Juan and Eluvia Ovando (Minneapolis, MN), Pastors Juan and Martha Lopez (Brooklyn Park, MN), Pastors Erico and Maria Ortega (Fridley, MN) and now Pastors Hector and Betty Reyes (Brooklyn Park, MN) sharing, learning and praying together.

Another thing to celebrate is that Pastors Erico and Maria Ortega and Pastors Hector and Betty Reyes came to the NWC Ministerial Association Retreat at Lake Geneva Christian Center for the first time! They had the opportunity to make new connections and experience the blessing of being part of the ECC in a fresh and unique way. We have many reasons to praise God and celebrate what He is doing in our midst, as we continue to expand the presence of Latino Ministries in the Northwest Conference.

Mauricio Dell’Arciprete, Coordinator of Latino Ministry

Communications



In 2019 my work was focused on a redesign of the Northwest Conference website, as we transitioned away from a printed newsletter and toward a more robust online avenue for sharing news and resources.

The new northwestconference.org was launched in the fall, with a heavy focus on the Stories section of the site, which serves as the growing, searchable and filterable repository of news posts, feature stories, thought leadership articles, resources, webinars and more. Our staff team went right to work developing plans to keep the Stories section of the site fresh by creating a content schedule and sub-committee focused on how to use this new tool to serve our churches. The timing of this work proved to be essential in preparing us to stay connected and provide resources in early 2020, as it became clear that the global pandemic would alter our plans for most of the year, and beyond.

Throughout the year, I also continued to coordinate and produce stories for our website and regular e-mail communications, as well as support MUUUCE, MOVE, Adventures in Leadership, the Annual Meeting and a variety of smaller regional events through design and branding for promotional materials on our website and in print.

Bryan Malley, Director of Communications

Administration



CREDENTIALING: Our Committee on Ministerial Standing (COMS) interviewed nine ordination candidates, 21 ministerial license candidates and 12 individuals requiring a credentialing update in 2019.

I provide the administrative support for this process and enjoy working with the credentialing candidates, the COMS and the Ordered Ministry.

COHORT: The office administrators from each of the regional conferences meet together with the Ordered Ministry team for a couple of days each September. Most of our time is spent reviewing credentialing policies and procedures, but there is also an opportunity to address broader questions and concerns with ECC leadership.

We look forward to being together to learn, encourage and support, and to reflect. Being connected helps us to “stay the course” and it reminds us that we are not alone.

BUILDING: We completed a number of building projects this year—additional attic insulation to address ice dam issues, the replacement of all flooring after 19 years of wear, lighting upgrades and the replacement of kitchen appliances.

Cheryl Theilen, Director of Administration



Minnehaha Academy Reimagined

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert” (Isaiah 43:19).

In 2017, shortly after the tragic explosion at the Upper School, Dr. Donna Harris led Minnehaha Academy forward with this bold vision: “Trusting in our faithful Savior, our hope and strength, Minnehaha Academy will use its unforeseen circumstances, unprecedented opportunity, elevated profile and future-focused momentum as a springboard for growth, transformation and increased Kingdom impact.”

It was this bold vision that set the course for the next two years and has now laid a strong foundation for Minnehaha’s future.

On the morning of Aug. 21, 2019, the doors to the rebuilt Upper School campus opened for the first day of classes. From alumni to students, faculty to parents, numerous individuals and groups had a hand in ensuring that the new, modern school would retain aspects of its past as well as honor the heart of who we are as the Minnehaha community.

While Minnehaha faculty and staff stand on the firm foundation of our school’s rich legacy, “Where Youth Meets Truth,” all departments are encouraged to see where God is doing a new thing in their daily work. From the classroom experience to creating a community that is vibrant and alive, faculty and staff are prayerfully considering new ways to enrich learning and help students on their faith walk.

One such way is through project-based learning. Teachers are bringing real-world projects to students in the classroom. Eighth-grade math students are working to help a French fromagerie to determine whether or not its cheese is profitable venture. Fifth graders opened a Community Cafe at the Lower School. This required the students to develop a business plan, design marketing materials and learn about health and safety regulations. Third grade students learn about economics and personal finance through a year-long Classroom Economy unit. Students earn funds and can purchase items in the classroom store.



Upper School students have the unique experience of sending an experiment to the International Space Station. They design and build a research project, meeting NASA regulations, and receive data from the ISS.

In January, Minnehaha Academy was on the national stage when our Boys’ Basketball Team played at a full Target Center against Sierra Canyon, a school from California. This game was broadcast live on ESPN, and our student athletes and community were excellent representatives of our school and Christian character.

As we walk with God and follow where He leads, we find that He is indeed doing a new thing at Minnehaha. From the exceptional and inspired work of our faculty and students to the behind-the-scenes innovations and updates, God is leading Minnehaha into growth, transformation and increased Kingdom impact.

Learn more about the exciting things happening at Minnehaha Academy by visiting our blog, blog.minnehahaacademy.net/blog or by following us on social media.



MINNEHAHA ACADEMY A NORTHWEST CONFERENCE SCHOOL

Founded by NWC pastors and lay leaders 106 years ago, **Minnehaha Academy remains a vital ministry of the Northwest Conference.**

Families who are members of NWC churches are eligible to receive **100 percent of demonstrated financial need.**

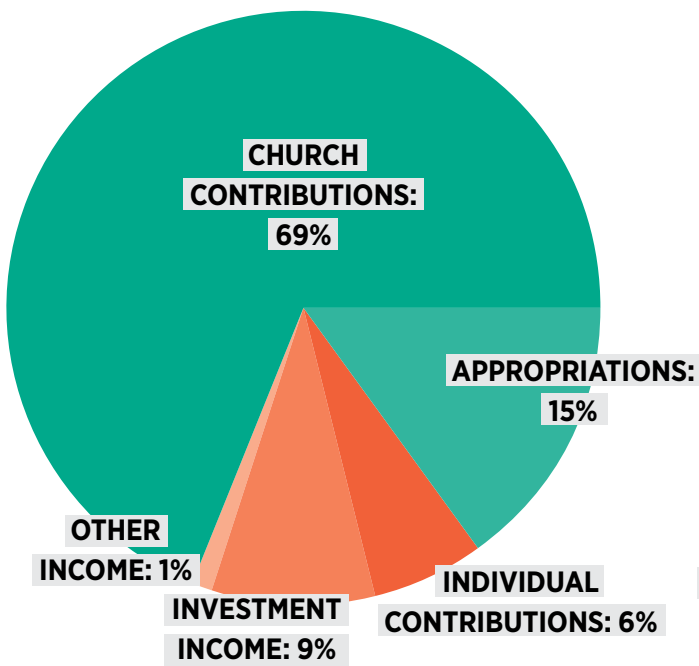
MA is excited to continue our scholarship program for up to three students in grades K-12 (depending on space availability) from each NWC church. For more details or to apply, please call 612-728-7776 or e-mail admission@MinnehahaAcademy.net

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY BY THE NUMBERS

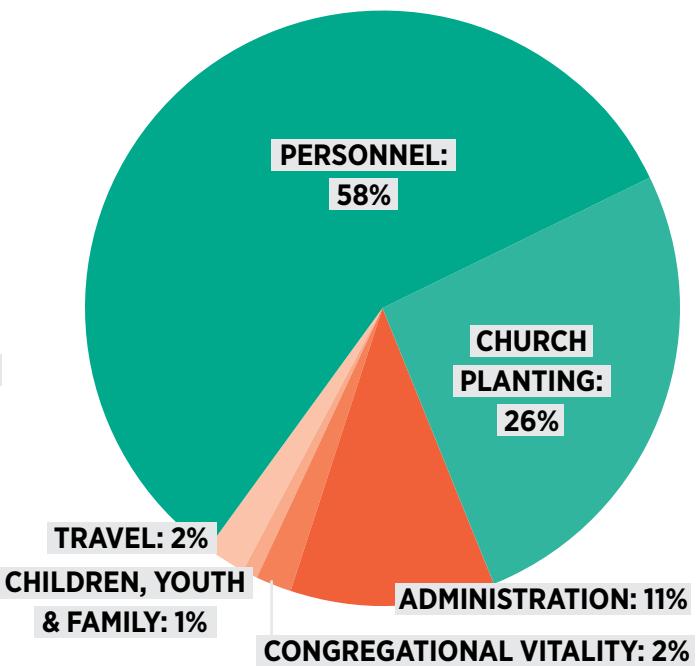
- ➔ **PreK-12** learning opportunities
- ➔ **29** performing groups
- ➔ **29** varsity athletic teams
- ➔ **100%** college acceptance rate

Visit minnehahaacademy.net for more info

2019/20 NWC BUDGET
INCOME: \$1,332,817



2019/20 NWC BUDGET
EXPENSE: \$1,619,175



Gap between income + expense (\$286,358) intentional draw on reserves

2019/20 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: 7.1.19 NWC Cash Reserve Balances: \$199,030 designated Children, Youth & Family; \$198,338 designated Congregational Vitality; \$712,882 designated Church Planting; \$810,198 Unrestricted/Discretionary; \$1,920,449 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.

2019/20 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.

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