



EXPERIENCING CHURCH IN A FRESH NEW WAY



2014-2015 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT



FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR



"They were all together in one place. Suddenly..." - Acts 2:2

Back in September we declared our Ministry Focus for the year to be, "All Together," with the intent of leaning into the getting closer dimension of our ministry. Little did we know, when we selected those two words, that the year would culminate in an unforgettable One Church Sunday, with over 4,000 of us literally "all together in one place," experiencing a powerful work of the Spirit! 100 people came forward to be baptized – it was a scene right out of Acts 2! But the Lord knew the end from the beginning, and it is just one of many evidences of His gracious and powerful work at Grace Chapel this past year. *Here are just a few of the highlights...*



The *Come Together* series in the fall cast a biblical vision for vibrant community life from the book of Philippians. We set our sights on truly being *one church* across many campuses and services. September also saw the Grand Opening of the East Lexington campus, which has been building momentum and a sense of its unique approach to "living faith together outside the walls" throughout the year.

The *NEXT* Generosity Initiative renewed our vision for reaching and raising the next generation, while challenging us to take our next step forward as givers. And many of us took that step! In spite of a snowy finish, nearly 800 people turned in Intention Cards, including 180 new givers to Grace Chapel. Most indicated they were increasing their giving; the average increase was 28%! Our first major step toward fulfilling that vision was to bring Pastor Ruthie Seiders on board to serve as our Pastor of Next Generation Ministries.

Lexington became a campus in its own right this past winter, as Dave Ripper was named Campus Pastor and a Campus Leadership Team was formed. Already the Lexington congregation is sensing new vitality, closer community, and a vision for serving and reaching our neighbors.

During Lent, our *At the Table* series gave us an opportunity to get closer to one another and to Jesus as we gathered each week to hear his farewell message to his disciples and to us. Our Sunday teaching was enriched by weekly gatherings of 138 Life Communities and 34 specially-formed Table Groups.

Easter Sunday saw the largest single Sunday attendance ever at Grace Chapel, with 6800 seekers and believers gathering to consider the "Unbelievable" news of Christ's resurrection. The best part was that many of those guests returned for the rest of the series, as we discovered that honest doubt is not the enemy of faith, but the companion.

Sensing a special moving of the Spirit in our midst, we set aside our planned teaching series as we seek MORE of God's Life, Love, and Spirit in our lives and church. We want to be ready for whatever might want to do in and through us in the year and years to come. And if One Church Sunday was any kind of indicator, we have a lot to be excited about as we look to the future!

After 15 years serving Grace Chapel, I am as grateful as ever for the gifted, passionate, and joy-filled staff I get to work with, beginning with our Executive Pastor, Bill Burke. I'm also excited about a new generation of leadership emerging on our Elder Board, with some fresh perspective and readiness to tackle the next chapter. I'm feeling especially grateful for the many years that Tom Colatosti has provided such visionary, capable, and godly leadership to the Board. We will surely miss his presence around the table, but the Board is well-positioned for the future, and is already finding it's rhythm under Victor Gerdes' thoughtful and strategic leadership. And, along with the apostle Paul, I thank my God every time I think of all of you, and your partnership in the gospel, from the first day until now!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Wilkerson".

Bryan Wilkerson
Senior Pastor

FROM THE CHAIR OF OUR BOARD OF ELDERS



Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure and privilege to write this letter on behalf of the Grace Chapel Board of Elders, reflecting on some of what God has privileged us to witness this past year, looking forward with expectation to what is to come and to express appreciation and thanks to those who have served so faithfully.

NEXT... and MORE

"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord...so the next generation will know them, even the children yet to be born." Psalm 78:4-6

"So he said to me, 'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.'" Zechariah 4:6



2014-2015 has been a remarkable and wonderful year of ministry. The *NEXT* Generosity Initiative kicked off in the fall has both inspired generous giving and is immediately funding *NEXT* initiatives.

- We are beginning to live out Grace Chapel's vision and mission to reach and raise the next generation of Christ-followers, to mobilize people for missional living, and to resource our campuses for growth and impact.
- Ruthie Seiders joined the Grace Chapel staff in the spring as Pastor of Next Generation Ministries
- Aligning with our multi-site strategy, the Lexington Campus received Dave Ripper as Campus Pastor, a leadership team was formed and a vision for growth and impact is emerging.
- Our giving has increased by 12.7%. We finished the year with a balanced budget. Never has this congregation given more to the general fund of the church.
- The Nominating Committee had the privilege of selecting four candidates for the Board of Elders for 2015-2016, which for the first time will include women.
- The "MORE" teaching series has encouraged the congregation to open our hearts to the Spirit in renewing ways.
- The ministry year's focus on "All Together" across four campuses culminated in the spring with us worshipping together 4000 strong on One Church Sunday in May.

In each of these areas we are seeing a fresh and powerful move of God's Spirit across the congregation.

God's Story Never Ends

In keeping with our commitment to the mission of transforming lives with the surprising message of God's grace and to revitalizing the Grace Chapel congregation year by year by leading our congregation deeper, closer and wider in Christ, the Elders are seeking the Lord's will for the future. Toward that end, the Elders have created three task forces to foster the discerning process.

Strategic Planning - to discern and articulate strategic objectives, challenges, and next steps toward fulfilling our mission and vision over the next 5 years.

New Campuses - to explore opportunities for new GC campuses and church partnerships in the Greater Boston area.

Outreach and Growth - to equip our congregation to bring the Gospel to a broader range of communities, and to articulate guiding principles and practices for missional living inside and outside the Grace Chapel's walls.

Thanks

In all these things we give praise to God for his leading, guiding and wisdom; and thank you for your faithful service, generous giving and loyal support.

Our deepest appreciation goes to more than 800 faithful volunteers who serve with dedication, commitment and excellence in scores of ministries. You all serve God and His children with grace, love, passion and dedication. Without your faithful and often sacrificial service Grace Chapel would not be the church it is today.

We thank you, our congregation, for your commitment to Christ and His Church, for extraordinary unity, remarkable faithfulness and a generosity that has brought amazement, tears and joy to pastors and elders.

On behalf of the entire congregation, we want to thank all the pastoral staff for who they are and for what they do. They are God's gift to us and serve us with integrity, dedication and love.

The Elders especially recognize the competency, the skill the passion and commitment of our Executive Pastor, Bill Burke and express our deep thanks, admiration and love to Pastor Wilkerson for his Godly leadership, his faithful and effective expositing of God's word week after week, for his pastoral love for each of us, and for his concern for the spiritual growth of the congregation.

I want to thank my fellow Elders for their service to you and to God. It is an honor, joy and privilege for me to work with these humble, wise, dedicated and Godly servants.

Lastly: thank you, Tom Colatosti, for your many years of senior leadership on the board, the example you set in prayer, in faith, in humility, in boldness, and in unwavering service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Gerdes".

Victor Gerdes
Chairman, Grace Chapel Board of Elders

LEXINGTON CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS



Lexington: Grace Chapel's "Newest" Campus

Four years ago, when we sensed God leading us to form new Campuses in nearby communities, we leaned heavily on Lexington as the location that offered resources and support for these new campuses. But as we've grown with our "one church in many locations" approach to ministry, we are realizing the need to refocus attention and resources on Lexington as a campus in its own right. While it's our first location, we're thinking of Lexington as our "newest" campus!



In January, I was thrilled to be asked to be the Campus Pastor, assisted by our Pastor of Outreach and New Campuses, Richard Rhodes.

We immediately began forming a strong Leadership Team of 35 godly men and women who are committed to revitalizing and growing our Lexington campus. Together, we're working on the following strategic goals:

- Strengthening the "connectedness" of our Lexington Congregation: We plan to create events, outings, and experiences to help provide more organic connection opportunities for people on the fringes of our campus community. We hope to see more people getting integrated and involved in life in Lexington!
- Improve the experience for visitors in Lexington: We've refurbished the Welcome Center and are changing some of the processes we use to make new people feel like a part of our community. And it's our goal to make our largest campus feel a little smaller by creating "Section Communities" – you'll hear more about that this fall.
- Partner with the Next Generation Team: We feel it is vital to the growth and vibrancy of our Campus to invest heavily in the Next Generation of Children & Students here in Lexington. Look for opportunities to explore what it means to be a faith-parent in the coming months!
- Train Workers through Faith & Work Collaborations: We believe that people who do not presently come to church will be reached by equipping both our older and younger generations of workers to live out their faith through their work in deliberate and formative ways.

We are thrilled with the new enthusiasm we already sense for invigorating ministry here at the Lexington Campus. We are seeing many new people coming and getting involved, and people who have been here for years becoming more engaged. We had over 600 Lexington folks serve during Spring Serve, many Lexington people were baptized at the One Church Sunday service, and over 200 attend the Gary Black, Jr.'s *The Divine Conspiracy, Continued* event in March.

Richard and I are looking forward to continued growth in the depth of our relationships and the breadth of our outreach. We love being both the oldest and the youngest Campus!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dave".

Dave Ripper
Pastor, Lexington Campus and Young Adults Ministry

WILMINGTON CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS



Wilmington: Continued Growth and Vibrant Ministry

As we come to the end of this ministry year, I find myself incredibly grateful to God for another rich season of ministry at Grace Wilmington. As the growth in our numbers continues, we find ourselves bursting at the seams! On a typical Sunday we have about 500 people worshipping in two services, with another 200 children and students participating in Kidstown and Student Ministries. This past Easter, we surpassed our high-water mark for attendance on a given Sunday with 1088 people attending our three services – God is so good!

But attendance numbers are only one indicator of ministry vitality. Signs of life can be seen through the breadth of what's happening in Wilmington as well. Adam Rowe has led our Student Ministry to make great gains this year which include the addition of a leadership development track, a budding High School group, and the launch of a service component where our students are using their gifts throughout the church on Sundays. In Kidstown, we welcomed Sharon Stacy to our staff. Sharon continues the work of leading our incredible team of volunteers as they demonstrate the love of Jesus, and guide our kids in discovering the goodness of following Him.

Plug-In participants filled our round tables with rich and dynamic discussions, and a small group of young adults gathered regularly for discussion and community. Dr. Marv Wilson offered a Sunday morning class on "The Jewish Roots of the New Testament," and our Fall and Spring *Alpha* courses provided a safe and comfortable space for people to explore their faith.

Other highlights include:

- Renewed strengthening of our Life Communities through our *At the Table* Lenten teaching series.
- A growing Women's Ministry, with Wednesday morning and evening Bible studies and a Saturday event that drew 180 women for meaningful connection and growth.
- Our first few monthly men's breakfasts have created an opportunity for men to get to know each other.
- Our first ever "School of Rock" event, organized by worship leader Josh Jacob and team to help develop the worship and musical gifts of the next generation.
- We've built a deeper connection with our community, by hosting last spring's Wilmington High School's Promenade, welcoming local kids to an exciting Vacation Bible School week, hosting an Open Mic night, putting on our second annual *Trunk or Treat* event, and another terrific *Spring Serve* community service day that brought Wilmington churches together in serving others.
- We've developed a deeper connection with our nearby regional partners - the Hope Center in Lynn and the Place of Promise in Lowell.
- Dozens of Wilmington young people and adults served on Summer Missions teams all over the world!

It's hard to believe how far God has led us in such a short time! But we are convinced that we haven't arrived yet – we believe we are just beginning. The staff and leadership team of Grace Wilmington are looking to God for the *more* He might have for us in the years ahead, and are excited to be a small part of building His grand Kingdom here in Greater Boston!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom VanAntwerp".

Tom VanAntwerp
Pastor, Wilmington Campus



WATERTOWN CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS



Watertown: Coming Together, Reaching the Community

The deepest strength of the Watertown campus continues to be our strong local presence in Watertown and the surrounding communities. Over 75% of our attendees are people that live in Watertown or one of our five bordering towns. This has led to a deep, growing sense of connection among our leaders and attendees, as we share life and do ministry together.

As our sense of community grows, so does our ability to live on mission and work toward social justice together. Our partnership with the Trotter school continues, along with support for their food pantry, gifts of uniforms for students, and books for their library - hundreds of books have been donated to their library by Grace Watertown folks the last 2 years.



Harvest Fest was a huge success in October. Over 800 people came through our doors, had a great time, eating hundreds of hotdogs, cotton candy, and cider donuts. The dunk tank was just right for me and Pastor Bryan to get soaked on a warm fall day! Most importantly, the event communicated to our neighbors that we want to serve them and care for them as a good neighbor. Several families who visited are now regularly attending Grace Watertown. We've also launched an outreach partnership to teenagers, with Cru High School in Watertown. There is a strong core of students involved, and we look forward to how God will use the group to impact the youth of Watertown.

Somehow with three services for Easter, we stuffed over 450 people into our small sanctuary, and many have stayed around for our *Unbelievable* series to explore their questions of faith. We are starting to average around 60 kids on a Sunday morning in Kidstown, and that means our space is a little crowded. Our next big project will be exploring together with a team of folks, and our elders, ways to meet the growing demand for space for vibrant, growing ministry!

It is exciting times to be a part of Grace Chapel in Watertown, and I await with a great sense of expectancy how God might be forming and shaping us as individuals, as a community, and as one church in 4 locations, for His purpose to reach our towns, our city, and the nations for Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Robert".

Robert Frazier
Pastor, Watertown Campus

EAST LEXINGTON CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS



East Lexington: a Fresh New Church Experience

A local presence of God's people, living faith together, beyond the walls of the church.

What a difference a year makes! Last year in May, our leadership team of 40 adults and students (the first students ever to serve on a GC leadership team) was commissioned to start the East Lexington campus in leased space at Lexington Christian Academy. God has guided us as we transformed the potential "limitations" of a Sunday only location into assets that are shaping our lives and ministry.

Our multigenerational approach is fostering fresh expressions of church: (1) our next generation contributes to and worships alongside our adults in our worship services; (2) children are "commissioned" just before the message to an interactive, "one room schoolhouse" Kidstown that is staffed by teams of students and adults; (3) we are all developing deeper relationships as we share "Community Meals" twice a month after our services.

An excited core group wearing "Come Experience Church in a Fresh New Way" on the backs of multi-colored T-shirts, welcomed folks at our Grand Opening on Sunday, September 28. Over 185 people worshipped, played games in the gym, and enjoyed food and jazz on the patio outside the Activity Center.

We have a great staff team! Our worship leaders, Justin Ellis and Santi Paredes share the joy of drawing us into the presence of God each week in a relaxed and family friendly setting. Joyce Swagerty has been key in setting support systems in place and is lending her creative skills to keep us connected through our weekly newsletter. Jocelyn Peirce, who joined our staff in March as Director of Students and Children, is bringing fresh insights to our Kidstown model and developing ways to invest in the relationships and spiritual growth of our middle and high school students.

Other highlights include:

- We enjoyed a sunny, warm day in September as we celebrated Vision Sunday with a cook-out around (and in!) Lexington Christian Academy's pool.
- An Epiphany "journey" on January 6th set the tone for future women's gatherings with a rich combination of reflection and sharing.
- *At the Table* Lenten small groups and inspirational presentations by East Lexington folks this spring are shaping our vision for Adult Discipleship.
- We served beyond the walls: monthly meals for Windsor House (adult daycare) and STEPS (young adult drop-in center) in partnership with Community Cooks; material assistance drives for Salvation Army; Christmas gifts bags for Lexington Healthcare; and ELX folk were "on mission" in Guatemala, Honduras, and Moldova.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Baker".

Dana Baker
Pastor, East Lexington Campus



NOMINATIONS AND CLERK'S REPORT



Nominations for Elected Church Offices

Elder (4-Year Term)

Kurt Drescher*, Cynthia Fantasia, Don Jin*, Belle Liang, Priscilla Seuss, Adonis Vidu
(*Returning Elder)

Nominating Committee (1-Year Term)

John Dorr, Mark MacDonald, Joanne O'Donnell, Jose Paulino

Audit Committee (1-Year Term)

Marilyn Gentilotti, Gerry Moore, Larry Warfield

Moderator (1-Year Term)

Audrey Wang

Clerk (1-Year Term)

Barbara Dorr

The 2015 Nominating Committee consisted of the following Grace Chapel members:
Kevin Johnson, Elder Chair; Tom Colatosti, Elder; Dale Atlas - at Large; Dieke Browne - at Large; Suzanne Leslie - at Large; Emanuel Tucker - at Large

Report of the Clerk

Baptisms: May 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015	26
Church Membership: April 30, 2014	1712
New Members: May 1, 2014 - April 30, 2015	163
Reinstated:	8
Less	
Transferred/Dropped by Request.....	33
Inactive members dropped by BOE vote:	0
The following Members went home to be with the Lord.....	14
John Andrews	Lois Ings
Judson Carlberg	Eunjin Kim
Lilly Chin	Thomas Kincaid
Trisha Cronin	Frances Mairs
Patricia DiRe	Ann Murphy
Betty Fotler	Dot Ritchie
Charles Granata	Jackie Wert
Total Membership: April 30, 2015	1836

New Members in 2014 - 2015 Fiscal Year

Emba Allison
Jonathia Ang-Mueller
Simonne Arkinstall
Steve Arkinstall
Tanya Auger
James Bain
Abigail Baird
Melissa Baker
Geoffrey Batstone
Meghan Batstone
Heather Behrens
Larry Behrens
Timothy Blosser
Michele Breene
Timothy Breene
Kathleen Bridge
W. Keith Bridge
Leslie Brunner
Barbara Burgos
Kristi Burns
Robert Burns
Julia Carrier
Charles Casello
Nagda Chassedin
Katherine Chau
Ginny Clapp
Neil Clapp
Deborah Clark
Priscilla Clark
Joelinda Coichy
Andrea Colten
Marissa Coords
Fernanda Costa
Brian Craig
Kathi Crook
George Darrell
Godelinde Degroot
Laurie Devereaux
Courtney DiStefano
Frederick DiStefano
Martha Donohue
Nancy Dubois

Colin Duncan
Susan Duncan
Sunni Falconer
Robert Franklin
Maila Frazier
Robert Frazier
Anthony Freddura
Peter Garcia
Marilyn Gentilotti
Peter Gentilotti
Benjamin Gilde
Danielle Gilde
Joseph Gordon
Laura Gordon
Matthew Gordon
Melony Gray
Ginaya Greene
Andrew Gregorowicz
Heather Gregorowicz
Pascha Griffiths
Paul Griffiths
Fiona Han
David Haschig
Tammy Haschig
Cynthia Heitmeyer
David Heitmeyer
Charles Heseltine
Patricia Hil
Thomas Hill
Scott Hinchliffe
Cheryl Holland
Stanley Holland
Michelle Hoshino
Esther Hu
Claudia Huntwork
Michael Huntwork
Gene Hyun
Jewel Hyun
Judith Jameson
Roman Jedras
Rufina Jedras
Priscilla Jennings

Kevin C. Johnson
Shari Johnson
Paul Jorgensen
Robin Jorgensen
Han Kim
Myung Kim
Tammy Kim
Yoon kynug Kim
Sharron Kirchain
Leah Knight
Christopher Kwolek
Deborah Kwolek
Jayan Landry
Sal LaRicca
Laura Larson
Constance Lee
Molly Leong
Debra Locke
Kysa Lovvoll
Thomas Lovvoll
Jean Daniel Lys
Mark MacDonald
Susan MacDonald
Daniel MacDow
Caroline Macharia
Al MacLeod
Donna MacLeod
Ling Chai Maginn
Robert Maginn
Anita Maillet
Lucy Marchese
Bill Marcley
Niesja Marcley
Helen McKnight
James Mercier
Christopher Messina
Julie Messina
Daniel Mitchell
Lalucia Mofokeng
Dovile Murray
Eileen Ng
Gerald Ng

Annie Ngugi
David Niles
Heather Niles
Eloy Nolivos
Virginia Nolivos
Erich Ou
Jason Paxton
Laura Paxton
Donna Peterson
Hauwa Poloma
Amy Pritchard
Jeanne Pustell
Stephen Pustell
Jonathan Quick
Sonny Ribourg

Charles Robinson
Radshabi Robinson
Jennifer Ross
Mary Sampson
Raymond Sampson
Emily Schweikart
David Sebney
Carolyn Sheild
Kay Smith Conrad
Aimee Southworth
Cristina Steele
Grant Stoffel
Tiffany Stoffel
Jamie Strzepek
Kenneth Strzepek

Charlene Sugrue
Stephanie Sugrue
Elizabeth Surratt
Sandrine Tagni-Kounga
Carrie Tibbles
Silvia Tolonen
Andrew Valenti
Gail Valenti
Sue Verity
Jean Willets
Ryan Wise
Edward Woods
Maura Woods
Ying On Yan
Elizabeth Yost

TREASURER'S REPORT



What a mighty God we serve! He once again demonstrated His ability to provide abundantly when we ask expectantly. To further our call to do God's work, we prayerfully entered the past fiscal year with a significant call for increased giving so that we could further our efforts to be faithful stewards of our expanded territories. Additionally, because we know God's grace has no bounds, we wanted to prepare for the next set of opportunities that the Lord may have on the horizon.

And, as it says in Matthew 7:7-8, our prayers were answered: *"Ask and it will be given; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."*

FY2015 was an extraordinary year as your core giving to our General Fund, increased 12.7% over Prior Year to \$7.8 M. The following is a summary of our unaudited financial results for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2015 and the proposed budget for the year ending April 30, 2016.

FY2015 Financial Highlights

The General Fund giving budget of \$7,964,115 was approved for FY2015. Actual General Fund giving during FY2015 totaled \$7,853,428, a 12.7% increase over FY2014. Total revenue, including General Fund contributions, registration fees, facilities, interest and rental income, was \$8.54 million in FY2015, up 10% from the prior year. Funds to support missions were \$1.7 million in FY2015, representing 21% of contributions.

Approximately, 90% of General Fund giving goes directly to supporting our church ministries now on our four campuses - and to our regional and global missions partners. The remaining amount is used primarily to pay down the principal and the interest on our mortgages. We paid \$563K to reduce our debt obligations in FY2015, resulting in a remaining mortgage balance of \$4.9 million as of April 30, 2015.

Our *NEXT* initiative saw almost 800 families turn in commitment cards to support Grace over the next two years, including 180 new givers to Grace Chapel. Most indicated they were increasing their giving; the average increase was 28%! This faithful giving has allowed us to fund a *NEXT* reserve for future opportunities and also provides the foundation for our budget goals for FY2016.

Opportunities in FY2016

As we look ahead to FY2016, there are once again many exciting developments at Grace Chapel. To support those efforts and prepare us to capitalize on new opportunities, The Board of Elders proposes a General Fund giving budget of \$8,675,000 for FY2016. This represents a 10.5% increase over prior year.

Additional Staffing. We ended FY 2015 with several important positions either unfilled or newly filled. In FY2016 we will fill those positions and also look to bolster our ministry and support in the areas of greatest need.

Technology Infrastructure. With four campuses, the need for a seamless and robust technology infrastructure is paramount. Sunday morning experiences at Wilmington, Watertown and East Lexington campuses depend on the technology equipment and the personnel operating that equipment. Our FY2016 budget calls for further investment in these ministry-multiplying technologies.

Missions. As the Lord allows us to broaden our reach regionally and globally, we continue to find opportunities to engage in building His kingdom through strategically aligned missions partners. In FY2016, we aim to allocate more funds towards our missions partners.

TREASURER'S REPORT



NEXT Fund Reserve. In order to allow us to respond to new opportunities as they present themselves, the FY2016 budget also provides for incremental resources to be placed in reserve. We are expectantly awaiting God's calling to further his Kingdom.

It truly is wonderful that the Lord would do His work through Grace Chapel and bless us in the process. We continue to place our faith in the Holy Spirit to guide us in achieving God's purpose and we thank God for His goodness and we thank you for your faithfulness and generosity!

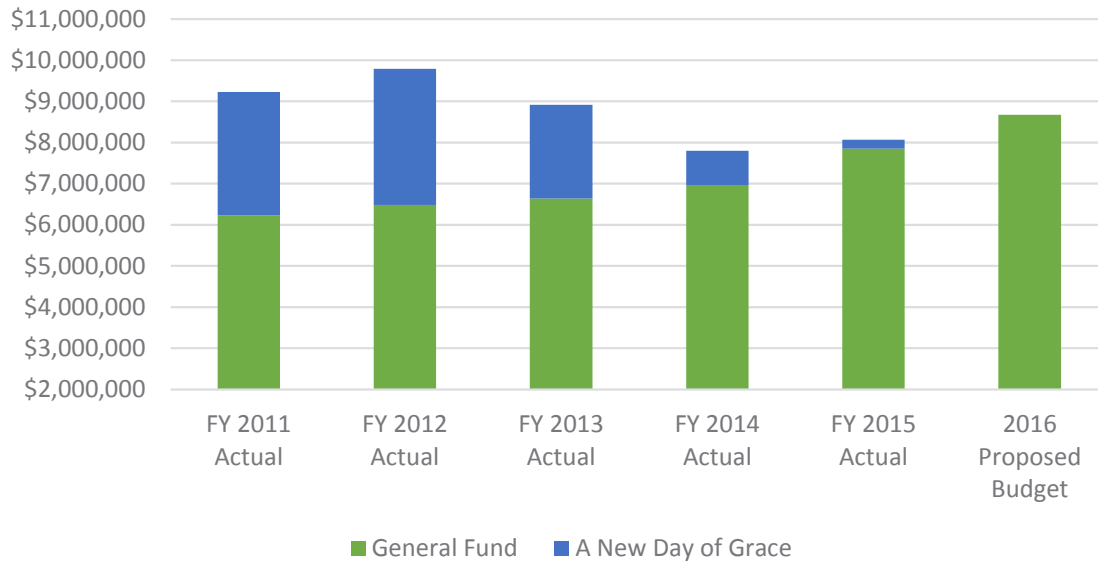
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy L. Stanfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'S'.

Troy Stanfield
Treasurer

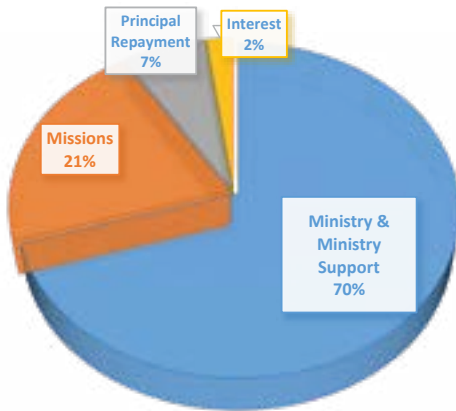
FINANCIAL INSIGHTS



Giving Totals



FY15 GENERAL FUND SPENDING



FY15 TOTAL MISSIONS FUNDING \$2,000,000



Year End Mortgage Balances (in Millions)



2015-2016 ANNUAL BUDGET



Statement of Revenues and Expenditures For Budgeted Activities For The Fiscal Years ending April 30th

	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Forecasted Actual	FY2016 Proposed Budget	\$ Change vs. Actual	FY16 vs. FY15 % Change over Prior Year Actual
Revenues and Transfers					
General contributions	\$ 7,964,115	\$ 7,853,428	\$ 8,675,000	\$ 821,572	10.5%
Contributions for Short Term & other Missions	\$ 225,000	\$ 232,566	\$ 101,395	\$ (131,171)	-56.4%
Program registration and other income	\$ 271,518	\$ 194,608	\$ 205,400	\$ 10,792	5.5%
Other Income	\$ 196,400	\$ 259,623	\$ 207,225	\$ (52,398)	-20.2%
Total Revenues and Transfers	\$ 8,657,033	\$ 8,540,225	\$ 9,189,020	\$ 648,795	7.6%
Expenditures for:					
<u>Operating Activities -All Campuses</u>					
Ministry	\$ 6,477,376	\$ 5,849,248	\$ 6,717,605	\$ 868,358	14.8%
Missions	\$ 1,450,457	\$ 1,490,488	\$ 1,606,855	\$ 116,367	7.8%
Missions - Short Term Mission Trips	\$ 235,000	\$ 242,566	\$ 111,395	\$ (131,171)	-54.1%
Interest Expense	\$ 181,340	\$ 188,404	\$ 176,494	\$ (11,910)	-6.3%
Total Operating & Other Expenditures - All Campuses	\$ 8,344,173	\$ 7,770,705	\$ 8,612,349	\$ 841,644	10.8%
<u>Non-Operating Activities</u>					
Mortgage Principal Repayment	\$ 312,860	\$ 312,821	\$ 323,671	\$ 10,850	3.5%
Additional Debt Reduction	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ (250,000)	-100.0%
"NEXT" Fund Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 253,000	\$ 253,000	
Total Expenditures for Non-Operating Activities	\$ 312,860	\$ 562,821	\$ 576,671	\$ 13,850	2.5%
Total Expenditures	\$ 8,657,033	\$ 8,333,527	\$ 9,189,020	\$ 855,494	10.3%
Surplus (loss)	\$ -	\$ 206,699	\$ -		
"NEXT" Fund Reserve	\$ -	\$ 206,699	\$ -		
Net after reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		

MINUTES 2014 ANNUAL MEETING, 6/8/2014



Annual Meeting Minutes for Grace Chapel

June 8, 2014

CALLED TO ORDER & PRAYER - Audrey Wang opened the meeting with procedural instructions and prayer at 12:36 PM.

ELDER REPORT - Tom Colatosti also spoke regarding meeting procedures. Three elders (Paul Bodet, Rich Swanson and Roy Ciampa) are stepping down this year and Tom thanked them for their years of service on the elder board. He noted that Pastor Bryan is effective as a "real" person with character and integrity. Tom thanked him and the staff for their dedication and hard work in our church.

SENIOR PASTOR REPORT - Pastor Bryan Wilkerson noted that teaching from the pulpit this year included scripture from both the Old and New Testaments. He is pleased that many people are talking about being "on mission" in various aspects of their lives. Alpha and Plug-In classes have grown, Life Communities have increased, and our Facebook pages are seeing more activity. plus SpringServe involved all campuses this year. Pastor Bryan recognized Cynthia Fantasia and thanked her for her many years of ministry. He also thanked the entire staff noting that many are new and younger, which means fresh and exciting ideas. He feels this Pastor Bryan acknowledged that this has been a great year and is excited about the future.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - Kevin Johnson identified the new elder nominees as Ken Fong, Jimmy Su and Dan Post. The slate of nominees for the nominating committee, audit committee, moderator and clerk were also announced.

2014 TREASURER'S REPORT - Paul Bodet announced that Troy Stanfield will be the next treasurer. This was a remarkable year of giving with a 5% increase over last year. We GC ended the year with a balanced budget and a surplus of \$84K. One Militia Drive was sold and the Watertown and East Lexington campuses were opened. Wilmington's expenditures are now covered through its campus giving, which has been accomplished in less than three years — a phenomenal achievement. Ninety percent of our revenue is a result of congregational giving with the remaining 10% from other contributions. GC expends 93% of our total revenue for missions and ministry costs. It was pointed out that and we are almost too efficient in our expenditures, which could hinder our growth and overextend our the church staff. We are very generous in our giving to outside missions. Most churches give 10 -15% of their budgets; we give 20%. This year's special offerings totaled approximately \$270K and were given to special ministries outside of the regular budget. Our debt is being managed efficiently to and is being reduced at a faster pace. With the *New Day of Grace* campaign is winding down, and we need the general fund to take up the slack so that we GC can achieve its specific goals for the coming year. Certain steps are needed to move toward growth in giving. The ANDOG campaign has gone overexceeded its goal of \$9 million to \$9.4 million. The proposed budget for 2015 is \$8,657,033, which will allow us to take advantage of opportunities God presents to us. Specific needs noted are: additional staffing, a potential new campus, ministry programs and communications, and investments in technology infrastructure and missions. The congregation was thanked for its generous giving.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR ABOVE REPORTS - From Watertown two questions asked:

- What is the percentage allocated to missions? (20% as noted above)

- Are there any new campuses on the horizon? (None at this time but discussion occurs as warranted)

GOVERNANCE BY LAW CHANGE PROPOSAL - Roy Ciampa read the recommended proposed change of the bylaws in section 8.1.D of one word - "The Board of Elders shall consist of the Senior Pastor and at least ten but no more than twenty men members elected from the congregation."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE BYLAW CHANGE -

- Will there be a specific number of women vs. men elders? (No percentage is stated nor intended and the Board of Elders will not be dominated by gender, background or fields of knowledge.)
- What is the number of votes needed to pass this bylaw? (2/3 majority of the membership)
- How will this proposed change shape or improve the church? (There will be better decisions, better use of gifts and a stronger board. Women partner, complement and work well together and will be models for younger women at church.)
- Are elders the "be-all, end-all" in church? (No, Elders do an important job but not above what many others do in the church.)
- Are absentee ballots available for members who are unable to attend the voting on June 15, 2014? (No, members can cast their vote next Sunday (6/15) during all services on all campuses including the evening service in Lexington. The bylaws would need to be changed to allow for absentee ballots.)
- Why revisit this issue after seven years? (The previous bylaw change proposal was different and only 40% of the church members voted resulting in a 50/50 split.)
- Other opinions were expressed ranging from total support and acceptance of the bylaw change to opposition as expressed by both members and non-members. Roy Ciampa and Pastor Bryan addressed concerns and worries. Tom Colatosti noted that the church functions with many people using many gifts and there is no hierarchy involved.

CLOSING PRAYER - Tom Colatosti closed the meeting with prayer at 2:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Dorr

ONE CHURCH SUNDAY MAY 18, 2015



Loss of faith? Grace Chapel begs to differ

By Amelia Pak-Harvey, apak-harvey@lowellsun.com

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The following article is being reprinted with permission from The Sun of Lowell.

LOWELL -- Standing in a pool of water in the middle of the Tsongas Arena, Sophie Stone was about to embark on the next phase of her life.

Holding up a sign that read "assurance," the 16-year-old from Brookline was baptized before thousands of people Sunday.



The massive service was part of Grace Chapel's "one church" Sunday, attracting people from all four of its Greater Boston locations to one worship ceremony in Lowell.

The church has grown explosively since its 1948 beginnings in a house in Lexington. As its congregation grew beyond capacity, the church opened locations in Wilmington, Watertown and East Lexington from 2012 to 2014.

The church -- and the thousands who flocked to Lowell for worship Sunday -- buck a national trend of a decline in Christianity.

The country's portion of Christians fell from 78.4 percent to 70.6 percent between 2007 and 2014, according to a Pew Research Center report of 35,071 people. Meanwhile, the unaffiliated group -- those who are agnostic, atheist or nothing in particular -- grew the most, from 16.1 percent to 22.8.

One reason for the rise of unaffiliated could be because millennials are entering adulthood with less connection to Christian churches than older generations, according to the report.

Yet plenty of young families and teenagers squeezed into the rows of the Tsongas Arena on Sunday, including Tyngsboro resident Karen Latham.

Latham grew up going to Grace Chapel's Lexington location, where her 20-year-old son also worships when he comes home from college.

"It's in touch," said her son, David, of Grace Chapel. "It keeps the message relevant. It realizes it's the 21st century, and it accommodates to that."

The church certainly keeps in touch with modern times -- contemporary Christian music rings before and after Senior Pastor Bryan Wilkerson's sermon, which included references to the New England Patriots and a Christian rapper.

Young and old believers alike were baptized in shirts that read, "Experience church in a fresh new way."

And the church even keeps pace with the faith's changing face -- the Pew report found that minorities increased among Catholics and mainline Protestants, respectively making up 41 percent and 14 percent of those populations.

Grace's songs are sung in a variety of different languages -- Tamil, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese.

Even Boston Celtics head coach Brad Stevens, an occasional worshipper at Grace, made it Sunday to talk about his faith.

He recalled two mission trips he took to the South as a teenager, after which his friend told him what he learned.

"He kind of took away from it that he was able to look at God not only as a source of comfort but a source of inspiration," he said. "I think that was a great moment for me."

After drying off from her baptism, Stone and her 14-year-old brother, Jackson, were all smiles.

"I feel this was an important step in my faith," she said. "We've been going for three and a half years, and everything's been leading up to this point."

Although Christianity may be declining culturally, Pastor Dave Ripper argued that genuine Christian faith like that at Grace is on the rise.

"The only credit we can give it to is the work of God and what Jesus has done," he said of Grace Chapel's growth.

The Redgate family of Billerica joined Grace, attracted to the various services it offers for children. They attended a church with such offerings in California, and wanted the same for their youngest daughter, Claire, 6.

"That was important to us coming all the way from California -- to make sure she had a place to grow up like her brothers and sisters did," Kelly Redgate said.

Her husband, James, said they like being a part of a church that does things in the community. The government isn't being supportive of Christianity now, he said, and that's creating a chasm.

He urged those who are losing touch with their faith not to give up on church as a whole.

"Find someplace you feel comfortable to worship and go," he said. "Because there's a church place for you. Everyone has a place."

Follow Amelia on Twitter and Tout @AmeliaPakHarvey.

Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/news/ci_28137908/loss-faith-grace-chapel-begs-differ