



Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church

2016 Annual Reports

Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation
Wednesday, January 18, 2017

*Our mission as a church is
to share the love and hope of Jesus in today's world*

Exalt Expand Equip Express

ACTS 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
(New Living Translation)

**Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church
January 18, 2017 Annual Meeting**

Table of Contents

- **Table of Contents.....3**
- **The Evangelical Covenant Church – Gary Walter, President.....4**
- **Northwest Conference – Mark Stromberg, Superintendent.....5**
- **Agenda.....6**
- **Secretary Report Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes 2015.....7**
- **Treasurer’s Annual Report 2016 – Todd Peterson.....10**
- **Senior Pastor’s Annual Report 2016 – Pastor Steve Hoffer.....11**
- **Children and Family Annual Report 2016 – Pastor Kecia Stroot.....13**
- **Youth Director’s Annual Report 2016 – Bryan Dickson.....14**
- **Special Events In the Life of the Church.....17**
- **Bluewater Board Annual Report 2016 – David Brinkman.....18**
- **Bluewater Committee Annual Report 2016 – Traci Fichter.....19**
- **Christian Formation Board Annual Report 2016 – Rachel Krahn.....20**
- **Covenant Women Annual Report 2016 – Glenda Johnson..... 22**
- **Covenant Women Financial Annual Report 2016 – Barbara Anderson.....23**
- **Deacon Board Annual Report 2016 – Nathan Acker.....24**
- **Fellowship Committee Annual Report 2016 – Dawn Kofstad.....25**
- **Missions & Outreach Board Annual Report 2016 – Darrin Smedsmo.....26**
- **Music Committee Annual Report 2016 – Ann Haaby/Val Espe.....28**
- **Pastoral Relations Committee Annual Report 2016 – Tony Fichter.....29**
- **Statistical Annual Report 2016 – Kristine Dickson.....30**
- **Trustee Board Annual Report 2016 – Rob Stroot.....31**
- **Youth Group – CHIC Financial Annual Report 2016 – Rob Stroot.....32**
- **Proposed Budget 2017.....33**
- **Current Officers and Board Members.....35**
- **Ballot Nominations 201736**
- **Behavioral Covenant.....37**



The Evangelical Covenant Church

November 2016

To All Covenant Churches

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you gather for your congregational Annual Meeting, let me say how deeply grateful I am for the partnership we share in this movement we call the Evangelical Covenant Church.

You are one among 850 congregations within our 11 regional conferences here in Canada and the United States. We are a growing, multiethnic, multi-generational family of churches with lots of heart for making a difference together. And together, we impact millions of real lives here and in dozens of countries around the globe.

But looking beyond our numbers, we share one particular trait, that of our intent to be found faithful. I see this everywhere – in our churches, in our pastors and leaders, on our mission fields, in our institutions, and wherever Covenanters serve. Our hearts' intent is to be faithfully walking *with* God and *for* God.


If we are committed to pursuing Christ, we must be committed to pursuing Christ's priorities in the world. Your congregation, in partnership with all the congregations of the Covenant, works together to achieve the five priorities we have identified: start and strengthen churches, making and deepening disciples, developing leaders, loving mercy and doing justice, and serving globally.

We are humbled by what God is doing in each of these areas. You can learn more on our website at covchurch.org, and in particular, by watching the inspiring video **Three Strand Strong** (www.covchurch.org/ministry-update-2017), which gives a snapshot of the Covenant's ministries at home and around the world.

This is only accomplished because of your support and God's faithfulness. As you reflect on the many ways that God is using your congregation, remember that one way is through this important partnership, and your partnership with your regional conference.

I am grateful to serve with you. Together, may we go deeper in Christ and further in mission.

In Christ,



Gary Walter
President



November 2016

From the Northwest Conference Superintendent

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

At the time of the annual meeting for your congregation, I would like to send warm greetings on behalf of the Executive Board and staff of the Northwest Conference. We are grateful for your church and the important part it plays in sharing the Good News of the crucified and resurrected Jesus with those in your congregation, local community and beyond.

It is our prayer that, as you look to the future, your witness may be in both word *and* deed. We also pray that God's faithfulness to you over this past year amid both joys and sorrows will fortify your trust in Him and allow you to take new steps in faithful obedience as you make decisions about opportunities set before you in the year ahead.

Please know that we are honored to serve our NWC congregations and want to be available to you when you are looking for help. We take our ministry priorities of Congregational Vitality, Church Planting, and Children, Youth & Families seriously. We are also pleased to be able to come along side our pastors and ministry staff members as needed.

Even as we pray for you, please pray for our shared ministry together. We need the prayers of God's people on our behalf, and thanks to those churches that remember to pray for us from time to time.

We are also grateful for your financial support. Simply put, we are dependent on the faithful stewardship of our member churches every bit as much as you count on the faithful stewardship of those who are part of your congregation. Thus, I would encourage you to model as a church the very thing you expect from those within your church body.

And thanks to those within our congregations who serve the broader work of the Conference and Covenant through their participation on various boards, committees, task forces and commissions. Your efforts for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ are both appreciated by us and known to God.

Your church is making a difference ... together, we are also making a difference!

May God richly bless you as you gather to make important decisions about His work through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

COURAGE!

Mark R. Stromberg
Superintendent

**Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church
2016 Annual Meeting
January 18, 2017**

Agenda

Call to Order: Jan Carr-Herseth, Leadership Council Chairperson

Scripture and Prayer: Pastor Steve Hoffer

Review of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes: January 20, 2016 meeting

Review of Treasurer's Report for December 2016: Todd Peterson, Treasurer

Report of Audit of Financial Records for 2016: Todd Peterson/Rob Stroot (Auditors Paul Krahn & Dennis Ingold)

Vote to approve Financial Audit Report

Presentation of Board/Committee Reports:

To our members: We are trying to strike a balance between fully informing you about the business of your church and keeping this meeting to 2 hours. In that spirit, the written reports submitted by the chairpersons of each board included in this report will not be read during the meeting, but please take time to read them at your convenience. If you have any questions or comments, please discuss them with the chairperson of that particular board.

Old Business:

- Pastoral Search Committee Update: Tony Fichter

New Business:

1. Appointment of Bluewater Bible Camp Board Representative: David Brinkman has agreed to continue on this board.
2. Appointment of Bluewater Bible Camp Annual Meeting Delegates: David Brinkman
3. Annual Approval of Standing Committees:
 - a. Fellowship, Worship, Music, Covenant Women, Decorating, Bluewater Bible Camp, Ministry Growth
 - b. Health Ministries is not being renewed.
4. 2017 Budget Presentation and Vote to Approve: Rob Stroot, Trustee Board Chair
5. Election of Board Members and Officers: Nominating Committee presentation of ballot for 2017
6. Charge to boards and committees to review and update guidelines/expectations of specific board or committee at the first meeting in 2017 and vote to elect officers as needed.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church

2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2016

In Attendance: Jan Carr, Pastor Steve Hoffer, Rob & Pastor Kecia Stroot, Nora Parrill, Brandon Prothero, Kelly Kofstad, Jon & Mary Lofstad, Tim & Jannell Kofstad, Shelly Melby, Gary & Karen Markstrom, Kyle & Sarah Schmiedeknecht, Kelly Christianson, Pastor Joe Elick, Robert & Melva Brinkman, Marlin & Londa Olson, Reilly Stroot, Sanford & Colleen Klamar, Billy & Kathy Brandt, Gregg & Pam Iverson, Darrin & Juli Smedsmo, David & Sheila Brinkman, Dennis & April Ingold, Tony & Traci Fichter, Ann Marie Haaby, Jayden Acker, Richard Mattson, Roger & RuthAnn Helgeson, Nathan & Brenda Acker, Don & Doris Miller, Dave & Joan Anderson, Randy & Milly Prachar, Thor & Kelsey Didrikson, Glen & Glenda Johnson, Paul & Rachel Krahn, Chris & Jeanie Hamness, Kay Prothero, Bryan & Melissa Lundbohm, Mary Huglen, Todd & Sonya Peterson, LeRoy & Karlene Mattson

Pastor Steve Hoffer opened with Scripture and prayer.

January 21, 2015 Annual Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report for December, 2015, presented by Todd Peterson, was reviewed and accepted.

Financial Records for 2015 have been reviewed. They are in order and complete, waiting for final audit.

Presentation of Board and Committee Reports: Jan Carr encouraged the church members to take time to read the written reports submitted by the chairpersons of each board at their convenience in an effort to inform them about the business of the church and to keep this meeting to 2 hours.

New Business:

1. Pastor Steve Hoffer and Nathan Acker, Deacon Chair, presented five new members for approval: Kyle & Sarah Schmiedeknecht, Dennis & April Ingold, and Sherry Nelson. They were all accepted unanimously by the Deacon Board. Todd Peterson made a motion to accept all memberships. Dave Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. Tony Fichter introduced the members of the Recruitment Team for the Youth Director position. The professional biography of Bryan Dickson was read by Sonya Peterson, Bill Brandt, Rachel Krahn, Kelly Christianson, Reilly Stroot and Jayden Acker. Pastor Steve followed up by giving comments made by two references. They are all very happy to recommend Bryan. He is available as soon as February 14, 2016. RuthAnn Helgeson asked if the committee unanimously recommended Bryan for the Youth Director. The answer was yes. Jan asked for a motion to call Bryan Dickson as our Youth Director. Tony Fichter made that motion, and Tim Kofstad seconded that motion. The motion carried.
3. Jan asked for a motion to reappoint David Brinkman as our Bluewater Board Representative. Traci Fichter made that motion. Sonya Peterson seconded that motion. Motion carried.
4. Gregg Iverson, Marlin & Londa Olson, Traci Fichter and David & Sheila Brinkman were appointed as delegates for the Bluewater Annual Meeting on February 28, 2016 at 3:00pm at the Baudette Covenant Church.
5. Jan asked for a motion to approve the following standing Committees: Fellowship, Worship, Music, Health Ministries, Covenant Women, Decorating, Bluewater Bible Camp, and Ministry Growth. Nora Parrill made that motion. Rob Stroot seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. Rob Stroot presented the 2016 budget (with no addition of the Children and Family Ministry) to be approved. Kelly Christianson made a motion to accept the budget. Gregg Iverson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
7. Rob Stroot then presented the 2016 Budget for approval with two additional options to the budget:
 - Option #1: Kecia would stay as half-time temporarily until May 1, 2016, with an option at that time to either hire a half-time permanent Children & Family Ministry (CFM) position, or a full-time permanent CFM.
 - Option #2: We budget for a full-time CFM position starting in May of 2016. The full-time permanent CFM position was presented as a partial year compensation package which would increase for 2017.

Mary Huglen made a motion to accept the full-time CFM Pastor position starting in May of 2016 to be included in the budget. Thor Didrikson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion followed:

- Dave Anderson asked for clarification on the difference between the Youth Director and the CFM Pastor. Pastor Steve stated that it would allow for more focused ministry of the k-6th grade age groups, in addition to helping and equipping families and marriages.
- Karen Markstrom stated that she would like to equip parents to raise kids biblically and to reach out to unchurched kids.
- Pastor Steve shared statistics that kids by age 12 have already formed their moral beliefs, and 4 out of 5 church leaders today grew up in Church. He stressed the importance of reaching our kids at a young age.
- Doris was interested in knowing what churches in the NW Conference have 3 full-time staff members and what the size of those churches is. She also wanted to know the size of our Sunday School now and asked for Kecia's insight on what she sees as a need in our church and community.
- Pastor Kecia said we have had some new families coming to the church, some as a result of extra effort to do Family Nights after Bluewater Camp. When we reach kids, we often reach the parents. Only 20% of Roseau County is in church on Sunday mornings.
- Pam Iverson asked if the church was looking for someone to hire prior to experimenting with new programming. Pastor Kecia stated that we are already experimenting with new Orange curriculum in two of our Sunday School classrooms.
- Pastor Steve stated that the new CFM position would not take the place of our volunteer staff but rather serve as a champion to equip the programs and volunteers we currently have to run more effectively and efficiently.
- Brenda Acker stressed the importance of training parents because too many young families are leaving the church. She said we need to help the church and families work together. It's a good thing when other adults besides the parents speak into their lives.
- Tim Kofstad stated that he is very excited for this new position.
- Dave Anderson wondered if this position may be premature since we just hired a new Youth Director. He asked if we are moving too quickly.
- Traci Fichter said that she had apprehension initially and wondered if this new position would take the place of volunteers but discovered that this is not the case. She also said that Tony felt like Dave, too, at first but changed his mind after he visited Cal Lindstrom's church. They had no kids and no young families. All their members were older and retired. He came away feeling like this is really an investment that we need to make.
- Bryan Lundbohm asked Rob about the budget and whether he felt that the church would step up their giving. Rob felt comfortable with the new position since we have a strong savings account that would give us something to fall back on if we needed it.
- Rachel Krahn stated that our Sunday School attendance is 53 right now from preschool through high school.
- Don Miller asked if we should have an Advisory Board or short-term committee that could help out and offer support for this new position. Jan stated that this position falls under the PRC since it's a pastoral position. Pastor Steve said that he is already planning on coordinating with the CF Board on the best way to accomplish the necessary support.
- Chris Hamness encouraged us to step up. He said that ministry is very time sensitive.
- Glenda Johnson said that if 17% are giving \$500, that number would double.
- Kelly Christianson thought that we would grow with the position.
- Janell Kofstad thought that the youth need to be fed more. Her grandson soaks up Christian movies.
- Sanford Klamar said that church is like a store. If we want to grow, we need to offer more.

Jan asked for a show of hands in favor of hiring a full-time Children and Family Ministry Pastor. Unanimously passed.

Our next step is to establish a call committee. The Leadership Council will have a short meeting after this meeting to finalize some details.

8. Dave Anderson presented the Ballot for the Election of Officers and Board Members for 2016. Rachel Krahn made one correction: Karen Granitz is going off the CF Board. Jan asked for a motion to accept the Ballot. Nora Parrill made that motion. Richard Mattson seconded that motion. Motion carried.

Gregg Iverson collected the ballots, assisted by Glen Johnson.

The vote was held, and the results were unanimously in favor of the presented ballot.

Jan requested that each board review the guidelines and expectations and hold elections right away to assign members to committees. This information needs to go to Elaine right away for our church records.

Gregg Iverson made a plea for ushers.

Pastor Steve closed in prayer, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Brinkman
Church Secretary

Senior Pastor's Annual Report 2016

From my perspective, one of the most significant aspects of 2016 was the process of evaluating and articulating our mission as a church. One of the things I noticed early in my time here was that no one ever said to me, "Here's the mission of our church." It was never discussed or brought up. So, in the early part of the year, I asked for and received permission from the Leadership Council to meet with all the Church Boards to begin a discussion of our church mission statement. One of the first discoveries was that the vast majority of people I met with could not articulate the mission of our church. And when reminded what the actual statement was, there was a lack of clarity about what it meant.

So the process began to either re-articulate our current statement or to develop something different. In the course of the meetings I had with the different Church Boards, I asked each person to identify the mission of the church from a Biblical perspective. The overwhelming response to this question was evangelism. This served as a starting point in the development of a new mission statement. Based on this input and my sense of the overall charge of Scripture to God's people, I presented a new mission statement and four key values to the Deacon Board. The immediate response was to vote to adopt it then and there. I was reluctant to vote on it without the Deacons spending time in prayer about this. So, at my suggestion, we waited until the next meeting to further discuss the new statement and values.

At our next meeting, there was further discussion with some wondering if it would be better to keep the current mission statement instead of changing. In the end, the Deacons voted and gave approval to present the new mission statement and values to the membership for their consideration. The new mission statement and values were the topic of several sermons in August and September and two meetings were offered for members to come and discuss the new statement. At the September Quarterly Congregational Meeting, the new mission statement and values were presented: to share the love and hope of Jesus in today's world. The values which are key in supporting this mission are: Exalting God; Expanding God's Kingdom; Equipping God's People; and Expressing God's Compassion. This new mission statement and values were discussed, voted on and approved by the membership at the September meeting.

Throughout the nearly eight-month process, I always maintained that a mission statement does not solve anything – it gives direction for how we, as God's Church, move forward. Our challenge now is to live out this mission here in our own community and I am excited to see how God will work in us and through us as we are obedient to His Word and engage in His mission.

In addition to the process of coming to our new mission statement, 2016 was a full year of ministry and blessings! We began the year by adding Bryan Dickson to our staff as the Youth Ministry Director. Bryan and his family quickly fit into our church family and Bryan's passion to serve our youth continues to be evident in all he does. We are blessed to have him and his family here.

Kecia Stroot continues to serve as an interim Children & Family Pastor working half-time. We are blessed to have her here with her passion and skill set to serve in this position as we continue our search for a full-time person to fill this role.

We also had some changes in our staffing with Elaine Wulff leaving her position as secretary in late spring. Sarah Schmiedeknecht was hired and worked over the summer doing an excellent job. When her husband, Kyle (both members of our church), was presented with a job opportunity taking them back to Michigan and closer to their families, it was an opportunity they could not decline. So, we once again found ourselves looking for a secretary/administrator. In September we hired Kristine Dickson as our secretary/administrator and she has done a fantastic job in this role. As a staff, we meet each week, beginning our time in prayer for the concerns that were shared during the Sunday Worship Service.

Over the summer our church was responsible for organizing Church Night at the Fair. We asked worship musicians from several Roseau churches to be part of the worship team that evening and I had the opportunity to preach a message on unity.

At the end of the summer we held a Baptism Service at the Roseau City Park. We shared a potluck meal together and then heard the testimony of seven people from our church who were being baptized. After hearing their stories, we went down to the Roseau River to baptize each of them. It was a beautiful night of fellowship and praise.

In the fall of 2016, our church participated in the Community Bible Experience (CBE). CBE was sponsored and promoted by our denomination (Evangelical Covenant Church). For eight weeks this fall we read through the entire New Testament and our Sunday morning sermons were based on the weekly readings. In addition, we had thirteen small groups devoted to discussion about what we were reading (ten adult groups and three student groups). All in all, we had between 140 to 150 people participating on small groups this fall. We celebrated completion of the CBE at our Fall Fest. This year, Michael Binder came and spoke to us about being called to share the love and hope of Jesus in our local community.

We just recently completed celebrating the Christmas season. We added a second Christmas Eve service this year – so we had a service at 4pm as well as at 11pm. We weren't entirely sure how many people would come to the 4 pm service, but we actually had more people at the early service than we did at the late service.

Throughout the year, I continue to meet with people in counseling and mentoring relationships. An interesting development in 2016, I have met with several couples who do not attend our church whose marriage is in a crisis situation. By God's grace, I have witnessed the healing of these marriages and am grateful to be part of that healing.

On a personal note, our youngest daughter graduated from Bethel College in the spring and is now employed in the Twin Cities as a nurse. Our oldest son got engaged in November so we are busy planning a summer wedding. I continue in the licensing process within the Covenant denomination. A total of four classes must be taken: one of the classes I took in the summer of 2016 and I have another coming up in January 2017.

It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve you as your pastor. My prayer for us this year is that we fully engage in our mission – to share the love and hope of Jesus in today's world – and that God's Kingdom would be expanded and His Name would be glorified here in this place.

by His grace,

pastor steve

Children and Family Ministry Annual Report 2016

It has again been my privilege to serve our church this past year. This year found me transitioning from a primary focus in Youth Ministry to Children's Ministry. In February, Bryan Dickson took over Youth Ministry and my focus became primarily on Children's Ministry.

In April we launched Ignite, a new youth group for 4th through 6th grade students. The name Ignite was chosen because it is our prayer that as we share the love of God and the Word of God with these young people, a fire will ignite inside them that they will not be able to contain within themselves (Jeremiah 20:9). Ignite meets every Wednesday night, including in the summer, and averages around 10-15 students. In addition to games, music, lessons and eating, we've expressed God's compassion in the community by collecting shoes to give to people who don't have them, collecting food for the food shelf, and caroling at Oak Crest and North Star Apartments. We participated in the Community Bible Experience this fall by discussing a text from each week's readings. We had some amazing discussions as the students asked everything from "How do I find out what my spiritual gift is?" to "Does everyone get to go to heaven?" A special thank you to our adult leaders Sonya Peterson, Justin Olson and David Brinkman. This energetic group of students keeps us on our toes!

Our Preschool through 9th grade Sunday School classes switched curriculums this year to Orange. Orange encourages the church and the home to work together to impact the next generation for Christ. For the Preschool through 6th grade, we expanded the opening exercises each Sunday to include the lesson for the day. During the last half hour of Sunday School, students go to their classrooms for small group time where the lesson is unpacked with age-appropriate ways to respond to God's Word. Using a fun theme each month, Scripture lessons that teach a life application. At the beginning of each month, the kids take home a flyer that gives families ways that they can connect with the lessons at home. Since all the elementary kids are focusing on the same lesson each week, it is our hope that this will foster some great family time discussing God's Word and how it can impact our lives.

Over the summer, we again had Bluewater mini-reunions as a way to keep connected with students after they return from camp. While showing a highlight video and sipping root beer floats, we encourage students and their families to discuss not only how much fun they had, but also how they experienced God during their week at camp. In an effort to stay connected with the younger students attending Bluewater and their families, I attempted to be at the church so see each week's bus off as well as to be there when the bus returned to welcome them home. Bluewater continues to impact many families in our community and has allowed us to be part of expanding God's Kingdom!

During this summer's Vacation Bible School week, I was the MC for the opening and closing sessions each night. The kids raised money to purchase goats (and cows) for the City of Joy in Rwanda, raising enough money that I got to pucker up and kiss a goat!

This year, a School Backpack program was launched, providing food for students who may not get enough food during the weekends. Helping to get this program going, I had the opportunity to work with the school, the hospital, Women of Today and the Food Shelf. Initially I was very involved in laying the groundwork for this program. Now that the program has settled into place, I have been able to step away from the hands-on work and have been recently serving as an advisor. This program has been a great way for our church to play a role in our community coming together to express God's compassion to some local families!

With the Children and Family Ministry position at half-time, I have focused my time more on the Children's Ministry side. I am excited for this ministry position to go to full-time as there is so much potential and so many needs that could be addressed with the added focus on Family Ministry. I believe that God is leading our church to reach out to and strengthen not only our own families, but also families in our community. I believe that God is going to use Roseau Covenant in big ways in 2017 as we seek to share the love and hope of Jesus in today's world!

Together in Christ,

Pastor Kecia Stroot
Interim Children & Family Pastor

F.U.E.L. (7th-12th grade youth) Annual Report 2016

2016 was a very exciting year for our 7th-12th grade youth and the adult leaders that worked with them!

From January 1 through February 15, Kecia Stroot was the Youth Director. She did a great job, and I appreciate her work over the previous two years and her help in transitioning upon my arrival in mid-February.

In January, students enjoyed sledding, broomball and the All City Youth Mid-Winter Blast at the Malung Community Center. Students enjoyed sledding, broomball, and skating. They also finished up the Gospel Journey Maui series and had a Scavenger Hunt.

February 17th was the first youth group that I officially attended. Kecia organized a get-to-know-you game and service projects throughout Roseau. Since February, the average attendance has been 35 students and 6 adults.

In March, several of our 12th graders spoke at Share night, a time to encourage others with testimonies of what God is doing in their lives. Our Seniors shared how they maintain a strong relationship with Christ and gave advice to the younger students on how they can do the same. We also attended the Silver Ring Thing – a purity conference at Hope Covenant Church in Grand Forks, ND.

Our schedule in April included a trip to Grand Forks to participate in the Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack. It was a moving experience to be able to share the love of Christ with others by packing meals for them. Later that month we were able to cook and serve the meal for the Spring Fling as a fundraiser for CHIC 2018.

In May, the youth group took a reprieve from meeting every Wednesday night to support the students that are in band and/or choir as they performed their Spring Concerts. We attended Baccalaureate and graduation as well as Graduation Sunday at church. The big event for the month was an All-City Youth Summer Kickoff that was held at First Baptist Church. We welcomed Slap Happy Comedy – a Christian comedy duo that performs an interactive comedy act similar to “Who’s Line Is It Anyway?”

Two students were nominated and chosen to participate in the Adventures In Leadership retreat in June. Micah Krahn and Grace Jordet spent a week at Adventurous Christians Camp. As they canoed through the boundary waters, they were challenged to learn about their leadership style and how to put their new knowledge into practice once they got home.

At the beginning of Summer, we invited our new 7th graders to join us at youth group, and our name officially became F.U.E.L. (Faith Unleashed in Everyday Life). For the first time ever, we continued to meet as a regular youth group throughout the summer. Summer entailed a Survivor-themed competition within the youth group. In addition to youth group, we enjoyed a Lock-in, a real-life Clue game, a Bonfire, and the Off The Charts music festival in North Dakota!

We did take a break in late July so that our F.U.E.L. students could help put on the Barnyard Round-up VBS here at RECC. It was a great chance for students to serve others as they helped in leading games, songs, and with individual classes as well.

Several of our students went to Bluewater Bible Camp this summer. We are thankful for the ministry that Bluewater has in the lives of students from RECC and the larger Roseau community.

The 6th-9th graders went back to MUUUCE on August 4th-6th. Our students and leaders participated in the action-packed weekend of speakers, music, and fun-filled events. We got to know one another even better as we had to spend an extended time getting home due to transmission troubles on the church van! Thanks to all those patient parents who met us at the church very late on our arrival home!

One of the most special events this year was the baptism of two of our students at the All Church Picnic at City Park at the end of summer. We are so proud of the students that took this important step in their relationship with Christ!

As school began, we kicked-off the year by having our first annual Gross Nite! It was a fun-filled night of disgusting water and food related games. Later in the month of September, we held a Parent’s Meeting to keep moms and dads in the loop as far as what to expect from youth group this upcoming school year. At the end of the month, the annual See You At The Pole event was held at the Roseau High School flagpole. Over fifty students came to the

student-led prayer time, and around twenty adults came to pray in their own group. The Roseau Area Youth Leaders (RAYL) provided breakfast for all who came to pray.

Beginning in October, Release Time was added to the weekly schedule. There are 6 4th -6th grade students that come on Wednesdays. We have been working our way through Colossians 3:12-17, learning about what God expects of us, His chosen, holy, and dearly loved people. After lesson time we have snacks and a game. Thank you to all of you who have so generously helped in providing snacks for our Release Time students. A special thanks to Robert Brinkman for his help in serving the snacks each week. I am very grateful for all your help!

This Fall, F.U.E.L. went to a Fall MEA Bluewater retreat with 5 other youth groups. We enjoyed fellowship with other believers and were challenged through the speaker. We also went to the Corn Maze in Warroad for an All City Youth event. We had more students at this event than any other All City event before it! At the end of the month we had a Halloween Party complete with costume contest, games and a special outreach message.

During the months of October and November, the youth group had three CBE Small Groups happening concurrently with the adult CBE groups. Twenty students and three leaders were a part of the groups during the 8-week Bible Study. It was a chance for some of our youth to develop their leadership skills as they were the main leaders each week in their groups. Students also provided babysitting during the Sunday night adult CBE groups as a CHIC fundraiser sponsored by the Deacon Board.

This year, Kristine Dickson organized a Youth Band Training Program. Students who wanted to be in our youth band on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings came and were mentored in their individual instrument by adult volunteers with expertise in that area. This went on for six-plus weeks and helped prepare our students to continue to lead worship more effectively. A big thank you to CJ Fichter, Tony Fichter, Steve & Mary Hoffer and Dennis Ingold for the time and effort they invested to help our students learn the art of leading worship. You are immensely appreciated. A total of seventeen students participated in this program.

The final month of 2016 was highlighted by our two CHIC fundraisers – cooking and serving the meal for the Adult Christmas Party and a Parent's Night Out babysitting night. There was such a positive response from the Parent's Night Out that we will be doing more throughout 2017! We also had a progressive dinner/Christmas Party. Thank you to the Protheros, Stroots, and Kristine Dickson for providing the various courses for our meal and opening up their homes to our group! We also took our voices to the West End Trailer Park and sang Christmas Carols up and down the streets in the trailer park and throughout Super One Foods – and invited people to the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in the process. Some of our students had parts in the drama for the Children's Christmas Musical. It was a fun way to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior!

Each Tuesday night we have Prayer Nights. Youth, leaders, and parents were invited to come and pray with us for the youth and for our youth group. This is and will continue to be a vital part of the ministry, and we invite you to come and partner with us in prayer in 2017 as we continue to pray every Tuesday night from 6:00-7:00pm.

Over the course of 2016 (late February through December) our weekly youth group lessons have covered the following topics/themes: 1. Jonah – God pursues us, 2. Eyewitnesses – stories of eyewitness accounts of the resurrection of Christ and how it changed their lives, 3. More Than Survivors – a study in Romans 8:31-37 on how we are made by God to be conquerors not just to get by in life, 4. Weird – discussions on how living life God's way often makes us stand out in comparison to the world, 5. What does the birth of Jesus mean to...- looking at what the birth of Jesus meant to people that were a part of the first Christmas story and what it means for us today.

I also taught Sunday School for the High School age students, preached four sermons during Sunday morning services, filled in at Roseau Manor on Sunday afternoon, participated in RAYL, and continued my education via online youth ministry courses by Youthsphere.

In all of the successes that we have had this year, none stand out more than the seven students who accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior at youth group events and the 20 others who recommitted their lives to following Christ.

God gets the glory for the successes; I am privileged to be a part of the process. In addition, I want to give a huge thanks to all of the adult leaders who sacrificed their time and effort to minister to the youth on a weekly basis and during events: Nathan and Brenda Acker, Mary Huglen, Sheila Brinkman, Rachel and Paul Krahn, Elijah McKinney, Rob Stroot, Dave and Denielle Reed and Kristine Dickson. Your help is invaluable; thank you for your love and dedication to the students.

Thank you also to those who have provided meals for youth group. The meals are an integral part of what we do on Wednesday nights and help make it possible for busy students to be here on Wednesday nights after a long day of school and maybe practice. You are true servants.

May God continue the work that He has started and take us to new levels in 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryan Dickson
Youth Ministry Director

Special Events in the Life of the Church Annual Report 2016

Baptisms:

February 14

David Robert Lund baptism
Parents: Todd & Liz Lund
Sponsors: Jarod & Jen Lund

June 5

Zander James Zimney
Parents: Derek & Tessa Zimney
Sponsors: Nick & Amanda Kvidt and Ethan Kvidt

June 12

William Scott Simmons
Parents: David & Jessica Simmons
Sponsors: Kya Lee and Tim and Laura Fugleberg

August 31

Jayden Acker
Shari Briggs
Karina Christianson
Nathan DeBoer
Aaron Jordet
Harold Knutson
Perry Roberts

Confirmation:

May 15

Alika Espe
Catie Glodowski
Ella Helgeson
Eric Hoffer
Grace Jordet
Katelyn Kofstad
Ellice Murphy
Hunter Nelson
Jodi Ostroski
Henry Sanford
Reece Strand
Troian Stroot
Luke Tangen

Weddings:

November 19

Ross Herseth & Jan Carr

Funerals:

August 17

Eileen Grand (Graveside Service and Community Luncheon)

September 10

John Prothero

Dedications:

October 23

Breydan John Fichter
Parents: CJ & Jodi Fichter
Sponsors: Grant and Caitlin Heglund

November 27

Krista Mae Smedsmo
Parents: Darrin & Juli Smedsmo

Installations:

February 7

Pastor Steve Hoffer as Senior Pastor
Officiant: Pastor Mark Stromberg

Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp Board Annual Report 2016

It was another wonderful year for Bluewater. It seems I start every year-end summary with this sentence, and what a glorious thing to be able to do. Every year there are new things to report, some that are planned by the board and staff of Bluewater, and others planned by God.

The main water well went dry this Fall, and the estimate to replace it was \$25,000. This was a little scary and a large expense that was not in the plan. However, it was replaced and is almost completely paid for.

One of the greatest things planned by Bluewater was the incredible "Welcome Center Build Blitz." There were 55 people involved including people connected to Bluewater, neighbors on the lake, friends and family, 12 from Wilkus Architects and people who have never been to Bluewater. We worked 80 hours straight and spent \$3,000 on food for the volunteers. By Sunday noon the building was 80% completed. It was an incredible feat similar to *Extreme Home Makeover* on TV. It is now completely finished and soon on the way to being paid for. Our weekend build even made the pages of the *Covenant Companion* magazine.

The camping season itself saw 904 youth campers come through who got a chance to hear about our wonderful Lord, some for the first time. In fact, we had 88 first time commitments to Christ and 187 recommitments to Christ.

On the local level, 183 of those campers came through the Roseau Covenant Church with 133 of those kids not being from our church. It is such a great ministry for the city of Roseau. Our church gave 18 full or partial scholarships to kids of all ages to attend camp, paid for by donations from our generous congregation.

The biggest news so far in 2017 is Bluewater celebrating 50 years as our Covenant Camp for the region. Praise God! There will be a celebration for everyone this summer, July 6-9, so watch for more details, and plan to join us.

It was a great year for Bluewater, and we look forward to all that God has in store for us in 2017. There is always a need, planned or unplanned. Please continue to support Bluewater with your prayers, your time and your donations. This is your camp, and God continues to touch lives through you.

Bluewater's address:
BCBC
38400 Bluewater Rd.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Also, any youth over the age of 16 can apply to work at camp in a variety of jobs. You can call Chad or Penny Persons at 218.326.6058.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Brinkman
Bluewater Board Representative

Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp Committee Annual Report 2016

2016 camp theme - "This Changes Everything"

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6 NIV)

6th Annual Bluewater Burger Bash: In March, we again used this event to kick off another year of registrations for our youth camps. This open house style event and free meal was for anyone who wanted to register or just learn more about the different camps (Youth camps, Men's & Women's retreat along with Family Camps). Hosting this early registration helps our church, our community and Bluewater too. Thank you, Didriksons, for donating all the burger!

Youth camp: We coordinated registrations & transportation for 183 kids entering grades 3-12th & 2016 graduates to attend Bluewater's June- August youth camps. With no church affiliation needed, we again saw almost three quarters (73%) of our total registrations from kids outside of our church! For the first time ever, Highlanders Camp (entering 11, 12 & 2016 grad) had a waiting list! Bluewater was able to pull in extra staff so everyone could attend! For some, this may be the only time they hear of God's love, and we are thrilled to be a part of this! What a wonderful outreach to the youth & families of our community.

Scholarships: We were able to bless 18 kids (& their families) with either partial or full scholarships (totaling \$3,580). This was possible because of the generous donations from our church family. Please pray for ways to rebuild this fund because we know some of these kids may not attend camp without this financial help. Year after year we see God's hand in helping kids attend camp.

Transportation: Vital to this ministry! Without our bus & van many kids from our area, (Warroad, & Baudette too) would not be able to attend Bluewater. A huge thank you to our bus/van drivers and chaperones who took time out of their schedules to transport these kids to camp adding to their Bluewater memories. A \$25 fee per camper helped to cover our expenses. Thank you to the trustees for helping with bus maintenance & for navigating through the DOT requirements to insure our drivers meet the safety requirements.

Mini Reunions: As a follow up to their camp experience each group (& their families) were invited to gather at our church for rootbeer floats and to watch their camp's DVD. We heard many "God stories" as they reunited with kids they went to camp with.

We were also very intentional in making sure there were several people from our church assisting families with check in, loading the bus, praying with them before they left for camp and helping them when they returned home. What a great opportunity to connect with families, answer questions, and to be the "face" of the Covenant church & Bluewater Bible Camp to them.

Visit Bluewatercovcamp.org for info about the NEW Welcome Center, camp info, and pictures!!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make Bluewater 2016 so memorable.

God is using Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp & the Roseau Covenant Church to impact lives for Christ.

What a privilege to be a part of this!

Respectfully Submitted,

Traci Fichter
Bluewater Bible Camp Coordinator

2016 Committee members

Dave Brinkman (Bluewater Board rep.), Kecia Stroot (Interim Children/Family Pastor), Bryan Dickson (Youth Director), Rebecca Jordet, Nichole Jensen, Sherry Nelson (CF rep), & Traci Fichter (local camp coordinator)

Christian Formation Board Annual Report 2016

We welcomed two new members to the CF board in January 2016: Sherry Nelson and Sarah Schmiedeknect. At the beginning of the year, we designated board members to serve on other committees of our church and assigned leaders for the various activities throughout the year. Our members served in the following areas:

Rachel Krahn -CF Chair, Treasurer and representative to the Pastoral Relations Committee

April Ingold -CF representative to the Nominating Committee

Juli Smedsmo -CF Secretary, VBS Director, Material Coordinator

Sarah Schmiedeknect –Adult SS Coordinator

Sherry Nelson -CF representative to the Bluewater BC Committee

Kecia Stroot continues to attend our meetings as the temporary Children and Family Pastor and Sunday School Superintendent. We had one board member who was inactive and no longer attends RECC.

Palm Sunday, on March 20th, was celebrated with the Preschool through 6th grade Sunday School students, led by Nichole Jensen, singing and waving palm branches during the worship service.

In March our CF board worked to organize the **CF Supply Room**. New shelves were built and installed by Kyle and Sarah Schmiedeknect. Things are accessible and labeled for SS teachers to help themselves when needed. The **Teacher Appreciation and Potluck**, on April 24th, celebrated our many volunteers who serve during the school year as Sunday School teachers and substitutes, assistants, Nursery coordinator, Children's Church coordinator and Adult SS teachers. 42 volunteers were recognized and presented with DQ treat certificates. The new Orange Curriculum was introduced to the 5th/6th grade and the 7th/8th grade classes in January. SS **Teacher Surveys** were presented and discussed with the volunteers at the end of the spring to gather feedback.

On May 15th, Pastor Steve led the service to celebrate the 13 students who completed the **Confirmation** class. The CF board hosted a potluck in their honor and presented the students with corsages and cupcakes. Leather Bibles were given from the board to each confirmation student at the beginning of their classes.

Graduation Sunday, on May 29th, honored our 14 graduates with pastries, juice and coffee before the worship service and a video tribute during the service. The graduates were also presented with corsages and a gift book from the CF board.

Thank you to our **Summer Nursery** Coordinators, Sarah Schmiedeknect and April Ingold.

Vacation Bible School (**VBS**) took over all areas of our church on July 25th -28th for ages 4 years – 6th grade. The theme was Barnyard Round-Up and was a great success with 72 students raising an offering of \$745.00 to purchase goats and a cow for City of Joy Rwanda. Bryan Dickson drove (and pushed) a tractor in the County Fair Parade while volunteers handed out promotional postcards. Thank you to our VBS director Juli Smedsmo and the 30+ volunteers who worked so hard.

The annual **Safe Children Program** and **Teacher Orientation** training was held on September 11th and 14th. SS Superintendent Kecia Stroot and CF Chair Rachel Krahn trained in 73+ teens and adults who serve in the various areas of our church's ministries. CF board members fed the volunteers during the morning and afternoon sessions. The required background check information is confidential and kept in a locked area.

September 18th, was the big kickoff for Sunday School. The CF board asked parents to fill out **SS Registration forms** for all families. This provides parent contact information along with any special needs/allergies that should be known. Pastor Kecia introduced our new SS curriculum for Preschool through 8th grade: **Orange!** -Jesus being the light of the world (yellow) and families being the heart of the home (red), together they make Orange. Due to large numbers of students in the younger classes (WooHoo!) we have 9 High School students that rotate assisting in the 3 youngest classrooms; Nursery, Preschool/Kindergarten and 1st/2nd grade. The **Sunday School Picnic** and potluck was held after church at the Malung Community Center. The CF board served grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, and the kids enjoyed the games outside. This is always a fun event for our church family.

Thank you to our **Children's Church coordinator** Juli Smedsmo and our **Nursery Coordinators** April Ingold and Anika Olson who recruit volunteers for those ministries. Children's Church was expanded to ages 3 years through 1st grade. Because of the increased numbers, it is now located in the double room at the far end of the Sunday School wing. Thank you to Juli Smedsmo for decorating this area.

During the school year, Christmas Sunday and Easter Sunday are the only time there is no SS. The CF board treated all the SS classes to a movie and theater popcorn on November 27th. Kids and adults enjoyed the **Charlie Brown Thanksgiving movie** during the SS hour. This year, Adventure Bibles were given to our three 2nd grade students. Sheldon Espe was honored during opening exercises on November 6th for his many years of service to our Sunday School and RECC.

On December 18th, Kristine Dickson did a fantastic job directing our **SS Christmas program**. The cast of "Three Wise Men and a Baby" included the preschool through 6th grade students, plus a few additional characters from our church family. Jeannie Hammnes, Molly Bicker and Mary Lofsted made sure that every person had a costume. The festive evening ended with a huge potluck dinner and treat bags sent home with every child. Thank you to all the many volunteers who worked to make this a memorable celebration of Jesus' birth.

Our CF board provided Activity bags to give to the children in attendance at the 4:00pm and 11:00pm Christmas Eve services.

Thank you to those that serve unnamed and sometimes unappreciated. We do this all for God's glory and so all might know Jesus and love Him more. We welcome any ideas, questions or concerns for the Christian Formation Board. Please contact the board Chair, Rachel Krahn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Krahn
Christian Formation Chairperson

Covenant Women Annual Report 2016

National Mission Statement:

Advancing God's kingdom through ministries that equip women to grow, serve and reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Connecting women in transformational relationships and uniting them in Christ to impact our world.

Although our women no longer meet monthly in the traditional format, their presence is continually felt in and by our church family. Many Covenant churches, including those in our own District, NW Conference and nationally, have found that the spiritual needs of their women are being met in alternate ways. In our church family, Bible studies, Bluewater Retreats and other fellowship opportunities help to keep our women involved and active.

Twice each year, the Red River Valley Women Ministries has a district gathering. All of the valley churches take their turn at hosting the event. This year, the spring gathering was in Kennedy, and the fall event was hosted by Viking. These evenings are well worth the time invested to attend. It is a great opportunity to visit with our Covenant sisters from the other valley churches.

Bluewater spring and fall women retreats were well attended and, as always, greatly enjoyed by all. We are so thankful for this beautiful place that refreshes us in all ways: spiritually, mentally and physically.

All the church serving needs were ably handled by our serving groups. We were called upon to serve for several potlucks, rallies, Fests, receptions and funerals. We believe that serving delicious food and allowing people to gather around tables in our Fellowship Hall is in itself a mission. Our whole church is blessed by the willing hearts and hands of all the women who serve our church in this ministry.

We closed out the year with a fun Christmas party and gift exchange. Many thanks go to Mary Hoffer, who hosted this event in her lovely home. It was well attended and a bountiful potluck was enjoyed by all.

Once again, we are so thankful for each and every woman in our church family, whether they choose to join in many or only a few of our activities.

May God bless our service as we do it for Him.

Respectfully Submitted,

Glenda Johnson
Covenant Women Chairperson

Covenant Women Financial Annual Report 2016

Receipts:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 6/14/16 | Deposit – Granitz Wedding Reception | \$200.00 |
| 9/16/16 | Deposit – Grand Funeral | \$225.00 |
| 10/27/16 | Deposit – Prothero Funeral | \$200.00 |
| 12/8/16 | Deposit – Carr/Herseth Wedding | \$200.00 |
| Total: | | \$825.00 |

Disbursements:

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1521 | 2/23/16 | Barb Anderson (Toddler Bibles) | \$108.63 |
| 1522 | 10/30/16 | RRVWM | \$200.00 |
| Total: | | | \$308.63 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Balance Brought Forward | 12/31/15 | \$1,978.97 |
| 2016 Receipts | | +\$825.00 |
| 2016 Disbursements | | -\$308.63 |
| Total: | | \$2,495.34 |

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Anderson
Covenant Women Treasurer

Deacon Board Annual Report 2016

The Deacon Board, consisting of 3 deacons and 3 deaconesses, is responsible for the spiritual welfare of the church, assisting the pastor in developing and maintaining a continuing program of evangelism, assisting the pastor in administering the sacraments, and in the absence of the pastor, together with the chair of the church, is responsible for the services of the church. The deacon board is also authorized to receive and administer benevolence and care for the sick and the needy.

In 2016, the deacons were blessed to be able to intercede in a number of individual needs through prayer, service and the use of the crisis fund.

Prayer continues to be our primary focus, and we spend a considerable amount of time praying for our church, pastor, country and many individuals.

The Deacon Board continues to promote fellowship time after the church service with cookies, juice and coffee, and we would like to encourage all our members to be mindful of new attenders and greet them warmly. We also continue to facilitate and encourage our church family to participate in small group studies and to be in God's word while getting connected with others. We continue to host an open prayer meeting every Wednesday at church. Everyone is welcome for Wednesday prayer.

The Shower/Bereavement ministry reaches out to those during difficult times and those grieving over the loss of a loved one. The Helping Hands ministry also provides meals for those in need. Thanks to Cindy Tangen and Traci Fichter for organizing this ministry. Thanks also to all who have provided meals.

Another role/blessing of the deacon board is to receive applications for church membership and to hear the testimonies of new members. We received 5 new members this year.

The Deacon Board appreciates the trust and support of our members. Thank you to all who serve for Him! On behalf of the committee members: Traci Fichter, Karen Markstrom, MIlly Prachar, Bill Brandt, Roger Helgeson, and myself.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Acker
Deacon Board Chairperson

Fellowship Committee Annual Report 2016

The Fellowship Committee has been creating fellowship gatherings for the church family.

The past year, the committee had a Spring Fling gathering. Youth group served the meal.

We ended the year with the Christmas party. CHIC group served the meal.

The committee is under the leadership of Gregg Iverson and Dawn Kofstad. Also in the group is Tina Espe and Pam Markstrom. Denielle Reed also joined the group for this next year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Kofstad
Fellowship Committee Chairperson

Missions and Outreach Board Annual Report 2016

We all want our Church to be a healthy Missional Church. The Mission and Outreach Board strives to be "missional" in all we do, serving our missionaries, our fellow man, and in so doing, serve our Lord. We take this job and the budget we oversee not only seriously, but to heart.

Leading up to The Feed My Starving Children Mobil Pack, several fundraisers were held including a Valentine's Day spaghetti dinner. The event was a success and allowed many people to travel to Grand Forks and pack meals.

Our church and our board continue to support our local foodshelf and Roger Helgeson spoke on behalf of the foodshelf and what it does for our community.

The Dresser Ministry is now under our board and a number were given out.

Though this will be mentioned elsewhere, this year as we talked about how we can have an impact in our community solving a weekend hunger need came up for school aged kids. Kecia brought it up, and low and behold, other organizations were thinking likewise, so an idea was borne into a community outreach to kids. Pray that these kids seek the bread of life, just as Jesus offered "Living Water" to the woman at the well.

Eric Morrow with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes shared his heart for our region, wanting to start and support FCA in our region and school and was also soliciting support. John and Darlene met one evening and shared what their last couple of years of ministry have been like in Jordan. With Owen Thompson leaving the mission field in Sweden for the call of a full time ministry in a church stateside, we were charged with the task of choosing a new missionary through the Evangelical Covenant Church of America. With the assistance of Barb Fisk, we decided to support James Tang. James came up to meet us in July and took part of the church service. James has been through so much, seen so much, unbelievable and unspeakable things and has not only lived to tell about it, he wants to return to share the love of Jesus in his native land.

We are very proud of a few of our youth who have answered God's call on their lives, and we supported their endeavors. Brittany Espe, after going through YWAM, decided to go to Vietnam and work with an orphanage. Marissa Brandt went on a short term mission trip, and Aaron Krahn spent his summer learning how to more effectively share his faith on a day to day basis. Jayden Acker just left for YWAM and we look forward to what God has in store for her and these others as they answer The Call.

Vacation Bible School this year featured raising money for "goats" for the City of Joy. \$745 was raised, and Todd and Andrea Ellingson shared later in October at the Sunday morning service what that means to the people at the City of Joy as well as giving an update on the City of Joy.

For as long as Jason Stromstad has lived in Scammon Bay, his home has been not only substandard, but downright dangerous. Through donations, including ours from Fall Fest, this last summer Jason's parsonage as well as one in another remote Alaskan village were rebuilt. Though we tried to get a trip lined up, we couldn't. Thankfully Les Mitterling from Roseau did go up there, and he talked with us about his experience.

One Sunday Pastor Kecia spoke of and offered our families the opportunity to support a child through Covenant Kids Congo and a number of kids were sponsored.

The Fall Fest donations this year went exclusively to the mission project in Haiti that Kecia and Rob are a part of. We wanted to make a large impact, rather than dividing it up into smaller parts. They desperately needed a new well, and that was before the hurricane blew off the roof of the buildings. Praise be to God with this and another separate donation, there was enough money to do both projects. Kecia would still like to lead a mission trip down here when the time is right.

Leading up to December is always a busy time from participating with Toys for Tots, sending Christmas gifts to our missionaries, and collecting shoeboxes. This year was another record for our Church. 201 Shoeboxes were collected and will be sent across the world by Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. It is not about the gifts; it is about the message contained within. Pray for the children and the families that receive them, that their lives will be transformed by Jesus.

We meet monthly not only to conduct normal business, but to pray for those whom God has called to serve in other lands and whom we are called to serve in turn.

In and for Him,

Darrin Smedsmo
Missions & Outreach Chairperson

Members:

Darrin Smedsmo, Chair
Mary Beth Hruby
Brenda Acker
Kathy Brandt
Sonya Peterson
Nora Parrill
Kecia Stroot

Music Committee Annual Report 2016

The Music Committee is responsible for planning the special music for Sunday morning Worship Services as well as for other special services throughout the year.

Thank you to Pastor Steve and Mary Hoffer, who coordinated Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve services.

As a committee, we wanted to encourage the gifts and talents of those in our congregation. Our mission is to provide a worshipful experience that draws people closer to God.

We thank those who have ministered to us through special music this past year.

We welcome any suggestions you may have and ask you to pray for God's direction in the music ministry. Our desire as a Music Committee is to glorify God in our music planning and through our worship with special music.

We would like to thank all those who have helped in the past year and also those who have joined us recently.

Thank you to our callers: Lynn Kvidt, Kay Prothero, Juli Smedsmo and Mary Hoffer.

Thank you to our audio/visual technicians: Tony Fichter, Randy Prachar, Chris Hamness, Sheldon Espe, Reilly Stroot, Brandon Prothero, Eric Hoffer, Henry Sanford and Karl Nelson.

Thank you to our pianists – worship/communion: Milly Prachar, Mary Hoffer, Sheila Brinkman, Juli Smedsmo, and Val Espe.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Haaby & Val Espe
Music Committee Chairpersons

Pastoral Relations Committee Annual Report 2016

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is a standing committee of the RECC that is mandated by our constitution. The PRC is currently chaired by Tony Fichter and the vice-chair is Jan Carr-Herseth. The PRC also includes a member of each of our boards; Rachel Krahn (Christian Formation), Sonya Peterson (Missions & Outreach), Bill Brandt (Deacons), and Pastor Joe Elick (Trustees). In addition, Kelly Christianson and Karen Granitz are included as our two "at large" members. The pastoral staff also attends the PRC meetings.

The mission and purpose of the PRC is to ensure a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship is maintained between the congregation and the pastoral staff. We do this by assuring that the needs of the pastors and their families can be brought forward for discussion, consideration and prayer. We facilitate the completion of annual performance evaluations. We deal with specific grievances and pastoral crisis. We provide positive encouragement and expressions of gratitude or thanks. Most importantly, we assume the duty and responsibility of praying for our pastors and their families.

At the end of 2016, a survey of Pastor Steve's performance was conducted based on feedback from 20 members of the Leadership Council, Boards, Pastoral Relations Committee and Pastoral Staff. Pastor Steve's overall survey score was 6.0 out of a possible 7.0. This is considered to be an overall rating of "Excellent." This is up slightly from 2015 when he scored 5.7. His highest score was 6.5 in the area of *Spiritual Leadership*, and his lowest category was 5.6 in the area of *Mission Focus*. It should be noted that the redevelopment of RECC's mission statement, **"Sharing the Love and Hope of Jesus in Today's World,"** was one of Pastor Steve's primary objectives throughout 2016. There seems to be a healthy discourse between Pastor Steve, the lay leadership of the RECC and the congregation as a whole. While there are some differences of opinion at times, there is evidence that constructive dialogue, productive cooperation and mutual support remains intact.

Based on the feedback received as part of the survey, it is clear that Pastor Steve's strengths are..

1. Biblically sound preaching and teaching
2. His love of and service to the Lord
3. Mission, purpose and vision

A discussion of his 2017 goals took place between the PRC and pastor Steve on Tuesday, December 20. The PRC was also copied and briefed on the performance reviews that Pastor Steve performed with his staff.

It is the conclusion of your PRC that Pastor Steve is doing an excellent job of shepherding the flock at RECC as Senior Pastor of this congregation. It is the consensus of the PRC that he ought to remain doing so for as long as his performance remains exemplary and for as long as God continues to call him to this ministry.

The PRC asks for the prayers of the church for our pastoral staff as they lead us through what the Lord has in store for us in 2017. We have been greatly encouraged by the dedication of our pastoral staff; they deserve and need our full support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tony Fichter
PRC Chair

Statistical Report – 1984-2016

| Year | Total Attendance Sunday Morning | # Of Sundays In Year | Average Sunday Attendance | % Change | \$/Attendee/Sunday |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 84 | 4,819 | 52 | 93 | 17.1 | \$8.20 |
| 85 | 5,163 | 52 | 99 | 7.1 | \$7.37 |
| 86 | 4,982 | 52 | 96 | -4 | \$11.17 |
| 87 | 4,846 | 52 | 93 | -2.7 | \$10.82 |
| 88 | 4,984 | 52 | 96 | -2.8 | \$10.49 |
| 89 | 5,401 | 52 | 102 | 8.4 | \$9.96 |
| 90 | 5,487 | 52 | 106 | 1.6 | \$10.20 |
| 91 | 5,895 | 52 | 113 | 7.4 | \$10.18 |
| 91 | 6,567 | 52 | 126 | 11.4 | \$9.38 |
| 93 | 7,243 | 52 | 139 | 10.3 | \$8.93 |
| 94 | 7,555 | 52 | 145 | 4.3 | \$10.90 |
| 95 | 8,263 | 53 | 156 | 9.4 | \$11.37 |
| 96 | 8,683 | 51 | 170 | 5.1 | \$11.64 |
| 97 | 9,227 | 52 | 177 | 6.3 | \$14.17 |
| 98 | 9,176 | 52 | 176 | -0.5 | \$15.95 |
| 99 | 9,479 | 52 | 182 | 3.4 | \$17.13 |
| 00 | 9,939 | 52 | 191 | 4.8 | \$18.81 |
| 01 | 10,478 | 51 | 205 | 5.4 | \$17.00 |
| 02 | 10,940 | 52 | 210 | 4.4 | \$18.02 |
| 03 | 11,319 | 52 | 218 | 4 | \$18.14 |
| 04 | 11,531 | 52 | 222 | 1.8 | \$19.08 |
| 05 | 10,057 | 52 | 193 | -13 | \$20.93 |
| 06 | 10,123 | 53 | 191 | -1.1 | \$22.57 |
| 07 | 8,845 | 51 | 173 | -12.6 | \$24.39 |
| 08 | 8,763 | 52 | 169 | -0.92 | \$24.71 |
| 09 | 8,087 | 52 | 156 | -7.7 | \$25.83 |
| 10 | 8,095 | 52 | 156 | 0 | \$26.54 |
| 11 | 7,419 | 52 | 143 | -8.35 | \$27.56 |
| 12 | 7,679 | 53 | 154 | +7 | \$29.36 |
| 13 | 7,129 | 52 | 137 | -10.7 | \$32.56 |
| 14 | 6,733 | 52 | 129 | -5.5 | \$35.89 |
| 15 | 7,279 | 52 | 143 | +10.2 | \$33.57 |
| 16 | 7,264 | 52 | 145 | +1.8 | \$36.90 |

Total Giving 2016 = \$278,795/52 (weeks in 2016) = \$5,361 (Average weekly giving 2016) /145 (Average weekly attendance 2016) = \$36.90 average per attendee per week.

Trustee Board Annual Report 2016

Happy New Year from the Trustees!

This year's team included:

- Rob Stroot (Chair)
- Todd Peterson (Treasurer)
- Dennis Ingold
- Sheldon Espe
- Mark Tangen
- Pr. Joe Elick
- Paul Krahn
- Tanner Hovda

We have been blessed with another year having a structural building on a solid foundation with working utilities and vehicles to get us where we need to go, and we're once again meeting budget. Amen!

2016 started out a bit concerning with the sewer mound backing up causing us to nurse the facilities through the remaining winter months. At this point, we're not real sure what the root cause was as everything cleared up with the spring thaw. The plumbing has been working properly since, so we concluded that it was most likely a frozen float in the tank. We will continue to watch closely this winter for any recurring issues.

We had some unexpected repairs that came with both the van and the bus. The transmission went out in the van on a youth trip to the cities. Bryan was able to get it to a shop on location down there and a rebuilt transmission was installed. The bus had a couple of concerns including the replacement of a fuel line and head gasket. Together these two issues came to about \$6500 of unplanned spend. Both vehicles were repaired without too much interruption to our youth schedules.

As most of you know, a strong effort has been put into filling staff positions over the past year. Pastor Steve started in Q4 of 2015 and Bryan started in Q1 of 2016. The Children and Family Pastor position was budgeted to be filled in May of 2016. As a result of the delay in filling the CFP position, we were able to financially cover the unplanned expenses with the vehicles.

Aside from the above listed activities, project work has been very minimal this year. Most of our efforts have been centered around typical maintenance such as lawn care, snow removal, mowing of the church fields, and plumbing and electrical upkeep. We did switch around some Sunday school rooms to accommodate a growing kid's church attendance.

For 2017, we would like to entertain (through recommendation of the decorating committee) an enhancement to the front foyer with some additional furniture and decorations. We would also like to form a committee that would provide guidance to the future of our Library.

We appreciate everyone's continued giving, both in finance and service, and the respect and support that everyone gives to the staff and our properties. We look forward to serving another year in 2017!

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Stroot
Trustee Board Chairperson

Youth Group - CHIC Financial Annual Report 2016

We have begun preparation and planning for the CHIC trip to Tennessee in 2018. To date we have had 27 kids and 7 adults express interest in attending through active participation in the initial fundraising activities through RECC. We anticipate a trip very similar to that of 2015 where we took 28 kids and 7 counselors. Our goal is to provide fundraising opportunities that would allow participants a chance to raise approximately \$1000 needed for his/her trip. Last year's costs were about \$930 each. Counselor positions will be managed very similar to last year where each traveling adult has the same opportunity to raise funds alongside the kids.

Fundraising is just getting a foothold for the upcoming trip. The team has had a couple of dinners and some babysitting opportunities. You can look forward to many more activities as these kids work to earning their trip.

2016 financial transactions are as follows:

- Starting Balance - \$2,071.57
- Deposits - \$3,786
- Disbursements - \$331.33
- Ending Balance - \$5,526.24

Eighteen months to departure! Thank you for supporting our kids!

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Stroot
CHIC Treasurer

2017 Budget Proposal

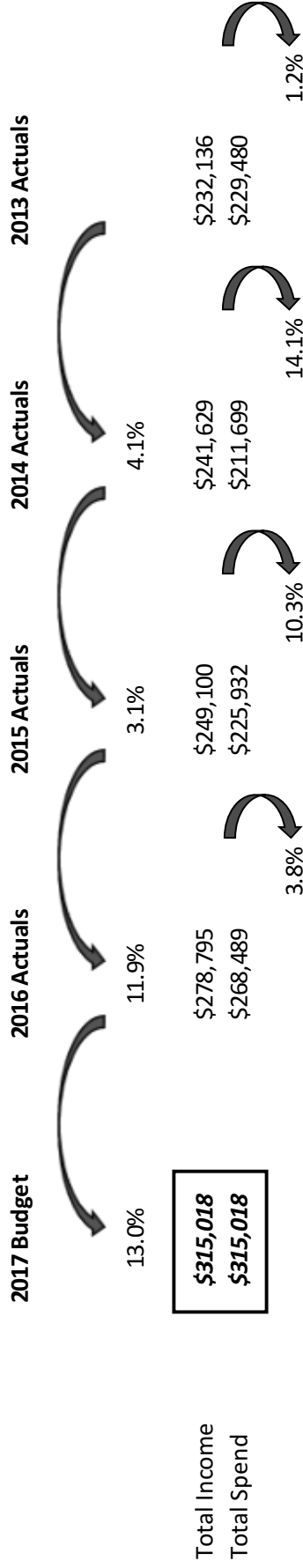
RECC

Roseau Evangelical Church
2017 Proposed Budget

| | 2017 Budget | | 2016 YTD | | 2016 Budget | | 2015 Actuals | | Percent Budget- Act increase | Percent Budget- Budget increase |
|--|-------------|----------|----------|---------|-------------|---------|--------------|---------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | Actuals | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Offerings | \$ | 315,018 | \$ | 276,044 | \$ | 302,163 | \$ | 249,100 | 14.1% | 4.3% |
| Weekly Average | \$ | 6,058 | \$ | 5,309 | \$ | 5,811 | \$ | 4,789 | 14.1% | 4.3% |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staff Compensation Package | \$ | 217,372 | \$ | 174,167 | \$ | 201,564 | \$ | 138,130 | 24.8% | 7.8% |
| Staff Travel Expense | \$ | 2,000 | \$ | 734 | \$ | 2,000 | \$ | 1,266 | 172.5% | 0.0% |
| Staff Conference Expense | \$ | 3,000 | \$ | 1,838 | \$ | 3,000 | \$ | 2,022 | 63.2% | 0.0% |
| Lead Pastor Expense | \$ | 1,300 | \$ | 511 | \$ | 1,300 | \$ | | 154.4% | 0.0% |
| Programs | | | | | | | | | | |
| Youth Director Expense | \$ | 3,500 | \$ | 4,157 | \$ | 3,350 | \$ | 3,326 | -15.8% | 4.5% |
| Children & Family Pastor Expense | \$ | 2,500 | \$ | 1,070 | \$ | 2,500 | \$ | 620 | 133.6% | 0.0% |
| Boards | | | | | | | | | | |
| Missions | \$ | 10,000 | \$ | 8,605 | \$ | 10,000 | \$ | 10,000 | 16.2% | 0.0% |
| Christian Formation | \$ | 7,735 | \$ | 6,554 | \$ | 8,170 | \$ | 7,037 | 18.0% | -5.3% |
| Deacons | \$ | 3,500 | \$ | 3,000 | \$ | 3,500 | \$ | 4,333 | 16.7% | 0.0% |
| Committees | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fellowship committee | \$ | 400 | \$ | 15 | \$ | 400 | \$ | 156 | 2566.7% | 0.0% |
| Decorating committee | \$ | 700 | \$ | 747 | \$ | 500 | \$ | | -6.3% | 40.0% |
| Health committee | \$ | | \$ | | \$ | | \$ | | | |
| A/V and Technology committee | \$ | 500 | \$ | 431 | \$ | 500 | \$ | | 16.0% | 0.0% |
| Music committee | \$ | 875 | \$ | 656 | \$ | 875 | \$ | 965 | 33.4% | 0.0% |
| Maintenance | | | | | | | | | | |
| B&G Maintenance (Trustees) | \$ | 6,560 | \$ | 5,921 | \$ | 6,560 | \$ | 8,469 | 10.8% | 0.0% |
| Utilities (Trustees) | \$ | 13,000 | \$ | 11,366 | \$ | 13,000 | \$ | 12,206 | 14.4% | 0.0% |
| Insurance (Trustees) | \$ | 8,000 | \$ | 8,649 | \$ | 8,500 | \$ | 7,511 | -7.5% | -5.9% |
| Taxes (Trustees) | \$ | | \$ | | \$ | | \$ | 2,516 | | |
| Office Equip and I.S. (Trustees) | \$ | 8,000 | \$ | 6,750 | \$ | 8,700 | \$ | 5,305 | 18.5% | -8.0% |
| Van/Bus Expense (Trustees) | \$ | 2,000 | \$ | 8,865 | \$ | 2,000 | \$ | 1,240 | -77.4% | 0.0% |
| Denomination | | | | | | | | | | |
| ECC of America | \$ | 9,885 | \$ | 9,601 | \$ | 9,597 | \$ | 8,863 | 3.0% | 3.0% |
| NW Conference | \$ | 4,941 | \$ | 4,797 | \$ | 4,797 | \$ | 4,867 | 3.0% | 3.0% |
| Donation | | | | | | | | | | |
| Guest Speakers/Musicians Honorarium | \$ | 750 | \$ | 528 | \$ | 1,100 | \$ | 750 | 42.0% | -31.8% |
| Bluewater Bible Camp | \$ | 3,000 | \$ | 3,000 | \$ | 3,000 | \$ | 3,000 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Seminary Scholarship fund | \$ | - | \$ | 1,500 | \$ | 1,500 | \$ | 1,225 | -100.0% | -100.0% |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | |
| Capital (Lobby/Office/Library Furnishings) | \$ | 4,500.00 | \$ | | \$ | - | \$ | - | -100.0% | -100.0% |
| Youth Director Search Expense | \$ | | \$ | 3,885 | \$ | - | \$ | 1,418 | | |
| CFM Pastor Search Expense | \$ | - | \$ | | \$ | 5,000 | \$ | | | |
| Miscellaneous | \$ | 1,000 | \$ | 1,142 | \$ | 750 | \$ | 707 | -12.4% | 33.3% |
| Total | \$ | 315,018 | \$ | 268,489 | \$ | 302,163 | \$ | 225,932 | 17.3% | 4.3% |

2017 Budget Proposal

RECC



\$315,018
\$315,018

| | 2016 Ending | 2017 Beginning |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Operating Fund | Balance | Balance |
| Building Fund | \$10,307.33 | \$40,000.00 |
| Crisis Fund | \$795.00 | \$24.79 |
| Memorial Fund | \$210.00 | \$5,610.58 |
| SS offering Fund | \$24.79 | \$2,725.78 |
| FMSC | \$0.00 | \$3,307.25 |
| Technology fund | -\$6.76 | \$81,000.00 |
| Seminary Scholar. | \$0.00 | <u>\$40,628.22</u> |
| Kitchen Fund | \$5,610.58 | |
| VBS Offering | \$0.00 | |
| Library Fund | \$155.49 | |
| Fall Fest | \$133.34 | |
| Bluewater Camp | \$2,725.78 | |
| BW Scholarships | \$3,307.25 | |
| Undesignated | <u>\$122,451.80</u> | |
| TOTAL | \$173,296.62 | \$173,296.62 |

2017 Budget Changes

- Added CFP Position
- Increased Decorating Allowance
- Reduced Insurance/Office Equip
- Removed CFP Search
- Added Foyer Furniture
- Added CFP Furniture
- Removed Seminary Allowance
- Added Emergency Fund
 - 25% of Operating Fund
- Added Church Mission Fund

Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church
Current Officers & Board Members

CHURCH OFFICERS

1-Year Terms

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| Chair | Jan Carr |
| Vice-Chair | Tony Fichter |
| Secretary | Sheila Brinkman |

All terms on the boards below end at the annual meeting in the year indicated.
 Board Chair Positions are all 1-year terms.

| Board | Name | Position | Term Expires |
|--|---|-----------|--------------|
| Deacon | Nathan Acker | Chair | Jan 2017 |
| | Karen Markstrom | | Jan 2017 |
| | Traci Fichter | | Jan 2018 |
| | Bill Brandt | | Jan 2018 |
| | Roger Helgeson | | Jan 2019 |
| | Milly Prachar | | Jan 2019 |
| Trustee | Rob Stroot | Chair | Jan 2017 |
| | Sheldon Espe | | Jan 2017 |
| | Tanner Hovda | | Jan 2017 |
| | Todd Peterson | Treasurer | Jan 2017 |
| | Paul Krahn | | Jan 2017 |
| | Mark Tangen | | Jan 2018 |
| | Joe Elick | | Jan 2019 |
| | Dennis Ingold | | Jan 2019 |
| Christian Formation | Rachel Krahn | Chair | Jan 2017 |
| | Juli Smedsmo | | Jan 2018 |
| | April Ingold | | Jan 2019 |
| | Sarah Schmiedeknecht <i>(moved out of state)</i> | | Jan 2019 |
| | Sherry Nelson | | Jan 2019 |
| Missions & Outreach | Darrin Smedsmo | Chair | Jan 2017 |
| | Marybeth Hruby | | Jan 2017 |
| | Brenda Acker | | Jan 2017 |
| | Kathy Brandt | | Jan 2018 |
| | Nora Parrill | | Jan 2018 |
| | Sonya Peterson | | Jan 2018 |
| | Kecia Stroot | | Jan 2019 |
| Nominating Committee At-Large Members | Dave Anderson | | Jan 2017 |
| | Thor Didrikson | | Jan 2017 |
| | Karen Granitz | | Jan 2018 |
| | Colleen Klamar | | Jan 2018 |

Current Leadership Council: Jan Carr, Tony Fichter, Sheila Brinkman, Todd Peterson, Nathan Acker, Rob Stroot, Rachel Krahn, Darrin Smedsmo, Pastor Steve Hoffer (ex-officio), Pastor Kecia Stroot (ex-officio), Youth Ministry Director Bryan Dickson.

Roseau Evangelical Covenant Church
Ballot Nominations
Annual Business Meeting - January 18, 2017

Leadership Council Officers:

Chairperson/President.....(1 year term).....Tony Fichter
 Vice Chairperson.....(1 year term).....David Anderson
 Secretary.....(1 year term).....Sheila Brinkman

Deacon Board:

Chairperson.....(1 year term).....Roger Helgeson
 Deaconess.....(3 year term).....Karen Markstrom
 Deacon.....(3 year term).....Nathan Acker

Trustee Board:

Chairperson.....(1 year term).....Dennis Ingold
 Trustee.....(1 year term).....Glen Johnson
 Trustee.....(1 year term).....Gregg Iverson
 Trustee.....(3 year term).....Rob Stroot
 Trustee.....(3 year term).....Sheldon Espe
 Trustee.....(3 year term).....Todd Peterson

Christian Formation Board:

Chairperson/Christian Formation.....(1 year term/3 year term).....Rachel Krahn
 Christian Formation.....(3 year term).....Kelly Mertens
 Christian Formation.....(1 year term).....Trish Hunter
 Christian Formation.....(3 year term).....Tina Espe

Mission and Outreach Board:

Chairperson/Missions & Outreach.....(1 year term/3 year term).....Darrin Smedsmo
 Missions & Outreach.....(3 year term).....Colleen Klamar
 Missions & Outreach.....(3 year term).....MaryBeth Hruby

Nominating Committee:

Nominating Committee at Large.....(2 year term).....Don Miller
 Nominating Committee at Large.....(2 year term).....Jill Helgeson

*Current Nominating Committee Members Jan Carr-Herseth - Leadership Council Chair, pastor Steve,
 Karen Markstrom - Deacon Board rep, April Ingold - Christian Formation Board rep, Dennis Ingold - Trustee Board
 rep, Brenda Acker - Missions & Outreach Board rep, Dave Anderson - at large, Thor Didrikson - at large, Colleen
 Klamar - at large, Karen Granitz - at large.

Behavioral Covenant

- ❖ Be Affirming To Others
- ❖ Invest In Others
- ❖ Be Respectful Of Others
- ❖ Honor Leadership
- ❖ Seek First To Understand
- ❖ Be Honest and Truthful
- ❖ Be Loving, Caring & Sensitive To Others
- ❖ Seek That Which Benefits The Whole
- ❖ Accept Conflict & Resolve Together

Based on the following Scripture Colossians 3: 12-17 (J.B Phillips)

As, therefore, God's picked representatives of the new humanity, (The Church), purified and beloved of God himself, be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind. Accept life, and be most patient and tolerant with one another, always ready to forgive if you have a difference with anyone. Forgive as freely as the Lord has forgiven you. And above everything else, be truly loving, for love is the golden chain of all the virtues. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, remembering that as members of the one body you are called to live in your hearts, remembering that as members of the one body you are called to live in harmony, and never forget to be thankful for what God has done for you.

Let Christ's teaching live in your hearts, making you rich in the true wisdom. Teach and help one another along the right road with your psalms and hymns and Christian songs singing God's praises with joyful hearts. And whatever work you may have to do, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, thanking God the Father through him.

