

FISCAL YEAR 2020

GENERAL CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

a **YEAR** *in*
REVIEW

*When the Lord is with someone
He leads them and makes provision
so that all that happens,
whether sad or joyful,
may bring them what is good.
This is Divine Providence.*

— AC 6303



New Church

The mission of the General Church is to help people live a heavenly life through the teachings of the Lord God Jesus Christ in His Second Coming.

God will be with you.

— GENESIS 48:21

Letter from Bishop Buss



The teaching quoted on the cover of this report comes to mind as we reflect on the past year. The Lord in His providence has been hard at work, as He always is. He has helped us transition to our next phase of usefulness with a new Episcopal administration, He has given us energy to plan and look to the future with an affirmative attitude, He is continuing to lead us through the tumultuous impact of a world-wide health pandemic, He has helped us to see new ways of educating and worshiping and sharing our spiritual resources, He has caused us to reflect that there is room for improvement in terms of reaching true equity amongst the peoples

He created, and He has inspired us to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the foundation of our faith. While not able to honor June 19, 2020 as we had hoped via an international General Church Retreat, I am grateful for the special worship services, video messages and other ways this important date was honored. My prayer is that it continues to remind us of why we are here, namely, to live heavenly lives based on the revelation of the Lord's second coming that was proclaimed throughout the spiritual world that day.

I trust that you can look back at the year you have just experienced and see the Lord's providential care of you and those you love, and I look forward to what the Lord has in store for us all in the coming year.

With affection,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter M Buss Jr". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Peter M. Buss, Jr.
Executive Bishop
General Church of the New Jerusalem
peter.buss.jr@newchurch.org



New Church



New Church

A YEAR IN REVIEW

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

OUTREACH.....

Community, Conversation, Connection:

- ▶ **1,832 total subscribers** for the Christmas Readings
- ▶ **2,568 newcomers** subscribed to various Journey Programs via email
- ▶ **718 newcomers** contacted us via email for various discussions or questions
- ▶ **618 new subscribers** (4,040 total) to the Daily Inspiration emails.
- ▶ **700 subscribers** and more than 100,000 views on the Spiritable Podcast



Grand Human Project: The new online platform serves as a hub for spiritual seekers, and equips people to form and support their own in-person communities, grounded in New Church principles. We have facilitated **20 weekly groups, with about 75 attendees** each week. Topics include: meditation, doctrinal study, grief support, spiritual growth and prayer. To join a group visit www.grandhumanproject.org.

New Church YouTube: New Church YouTube launched in March 2020 offers weekday morning worship services from a variety of ministers, a video series called "Big Spiritual Questions", Message of the Day and much more. **30 videos have been created gaining more than 250,000 views** (averaging about 40,000/week).

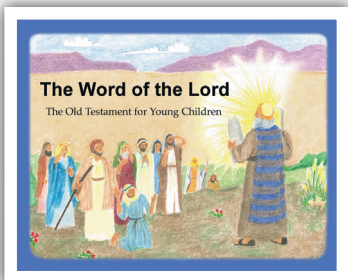


New Church YouTube Channel

New Church Audio: hosts more than **13,000 recordings** of sermons and talks. Available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and iHeartRadio.

New Church Life: has been in publication **since 1881 and is available to read in print and online.**

Translations: secured funding for the translation of the **Writings in Korean and Zulu languages** from a generous grant from the Glencairn Foundation.



GCED published a book of 56 stories from the Old Testament, simplified and illustrated for young children. These books were sent **as a gift to 571 families** and copies were given to the nine General Church elementary schools. The books have been gratefully received, being used for family worship, classroom worship and bedtime reading.

The Word of the Lord

The Educational Leadership Team, school administrators from all North American GC and ANC schools, met in February for **leadership training**. The mutual support and collaboration continued with an online book study throughout the spring. The hard work and dedication of these leaders is inspiring—particularly through the challenges that 2020 has brought to their work.



Elementary School

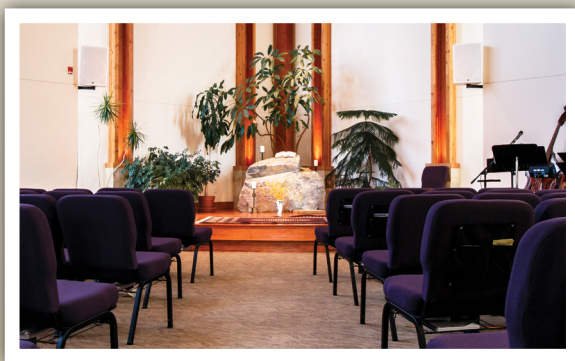


GCED's YouTube Channel

GCED's YouTube Channel: has reached more than **2 million** views and more than **2,690 subscribers**.

Society Milestones:

- ▶ Dedication of addition of the high school for the **Kempton New Church School**
- ▶ **New Church of Boulder Valley**—Celebration of 25th congregational anniversary



New Church of Boulder Valley

Thank you: Pittsburgh New Church, for hosting the Treasurers & Human Resources Meeting. And, thank you to **Bucleuch, South Africa** for hosting the first international regional treasurers meeting.

DONOR PARTICIPATION.....

Gifts directly support the programs and resources mentioned in this report. Thank you to all donors who support the work of the General Church.



Membership:

Membership July 1, 2019	5,511
New members	42
Resignations	1
Deceased members	55
Membership June 30, 2020	5,497

Current as of June 30, 2020. A complete membership report will be published in the November/December 2020 edition of New Church Life.

Ordinations:

1ST DEGREE

Rev. Richard Glenn—United States

Rev. Casimir Yao Koffi—Ivory Coast

2ND DEGREE

Rev. Mellon-Agnes Rene Lasme—Ivory Coast

Rev. "Leopold" Yaovi Kouglo Assiobo—Togo



From left to right: Rev. Segno Kodjo Ayi, Rt. Rev. Brad Heinrichs, "Rev" Leopold, and Rev. Ablam Amouzivi



*Rt. Rev. Peter Buss and
Rev. Richard Glenn*

Current Board of Directors (as of September 2020):

Kay Alden

Stephen Ball

Darren Bau-Madsen

Allen Bedford

Beth Brock

Jake Brown

Amy Buick

Wade Buick

Ian Carswell

Jesse Cole

Cheryl Cooper

Axel Coulibaly

Charles Ebert

Gustav Fornander

Charlotte Gyllenhaal

Darryl Hasen

Kirk Hasen

Brent Hyatt

Rene Johnson

Mary Jane Jungé

Ethan King

Stephanie Klippenstein

Patrick Mayer

Jennifer Pronesti

David Radcliffe

James Uber

Ned Uber

Wayne Wadsworth

John Walko

Ex-Officio Members

Peter M. Buss Jr.

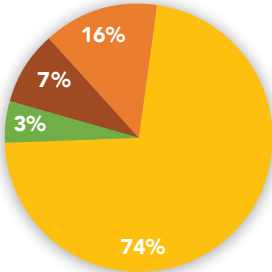
David O. Frazier

David H. Lindrooth

Bradley D. Heinrichs

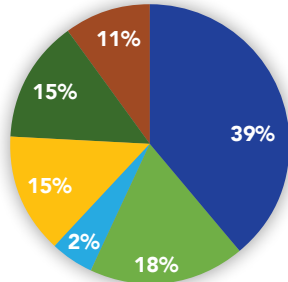
FINANCE

INCOME 5.45M



■ Sales & Other (3%) ■ Contributions (16%)
■ Transfers In (7%) ■ Investment Income (74%)

EXPENSES 5.14M



■ General Admin (39%) ■ Ministry (15%)
■ Congregations (18%) ■ Outreach (15%)
■ Non-Recurring (2%) ■ Education (11%)

After an unprecedented fourth quarter dealing with the impacts of COVID-19 on our mission and employees all over the globe, we are thankful to have closed FY20 in a positive financial position. We provide the following highlights from our financial results for the year ending June 30, 2020 (unaudited):

- ▶ We closed with an operating surplus of just over \$300k. We were supported by both loyal recurring donors and special gifts, exceeding our Annual Fund goal. We experienced significant expense savings on travel and gatherings (we sadly cancelled both the annual Council of the Clergy meetings and the Retreat), offset slightly by unplanned expenses in facilities and employment matters.
- ▶ We plan to apply the surplus from FY20 toward a combination of temporary reserves to shield us from adverse economic results from the pandemic, special short-term projects such as the Retreat now planned for 2022, and global strategic initiatives.
- ▶ In January we held our first international regional treasurers meetings in Buccleuch, South Africa, gathering together with treasurers and ministers from most of our congregations across Africa to provide training and discuss a variety of business and operational matters pertinent to the international church.
- ▶ In April, the Central Office applied for and was granted a loan of \$2.2m from the federal Paycheck Protection Program on behalf of the US affiliates. As soon as the forgiveness application process opens, we will apply for forgiveness and award financial aid grants to our eligible churches and schools across the USA. Any funds not forgiven will be returned.
- ▶ After a dramatic drop in investment markets in March, the NCIF recovered well during Q4, ending the fiscal year at +2.81% before payout draws are considered.

Wendy Cooper, Controller
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David Frazier, Executive Director
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