

FISCAL YEAR 2018

GENERAL CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

a **YEAR** *in*
REVIEW

Thou will show me the path of life

— PSALM 16



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.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

Perhaps the biggest news item is the nomination of the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, Jr. as the next Executive Bishop. Pete's name is now before the church membership for affirmation. The clergy took extensive counsel throughout the church in preparation. The selection process itself was orderly and affirming. Six candidates allowed their names to be considered. After much discussion, prayer, and several votes, Pete was declared the nominee. If affirmed, he will be working with me in preparation to take over the office next July. I look forward to working with him this year, and to his leadership of the church afterwards. This year there have been several pastoral moves. Newly ordained Jeffrey Smith has moved to Stockholm to serve in Scandinavia. Newly ordained Judah Synnestvedt is serving in Kempton and will help out with content development for the Office of Outreach. Matthew Genzlinger has been called to teach religion at the Bryn Athyn College of the New Church. (Boston, where he had been serving, is requesting visiting ministers next year as they regroup for the future.) Garry Walsh, for personal reasons, is seeking secular work. Jean Atta has been called as pastor in Phoenix. Howard Thompson has agreed to serve the New Church of Australasia, in the Sydney area. Lou Synnestvedt has agreed to be interim pastor in Colchester.

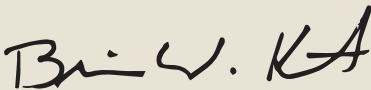
More and more of our Church services are being streamed online:

- Boynton Beach
- Bryn Athyn Cathedral
- Glenview New Church – both contemporary and traditional services
- Ivyland New Church
- Kempton New Church
- New Church Live
- New Church of Boulder Valley
- Olivet Church – Toronto
- Oak Arbor New Church

Direct links can be found at the General Church website: newchurch.org.

There were also important congregational markers – Ivyland celebrated the 25th anniversary of their building and Diepkloof, in South Africa, gained repossession of their building.

Much of what was accomplished was the affectionate worship of the Lord, taking in truths, and striving to lead lives more in accord with the Lord's Word. This was the real work of the church. It takes place in the hearts and minds of those who approach the Lord in His new revelation, seeking Him where He can be found.



Brian W. Keith
Executive Bishop
General Church of the New Jerusalem



YEAR IN REVIEW

July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

Cover photo provided by Gretchen Keith

417,436 visits to newchurch.org

(a 55% increase from last year)



- **3,007** people are currently subscribed to receive the Daily Inspiration email from Swedenborg's Writings.

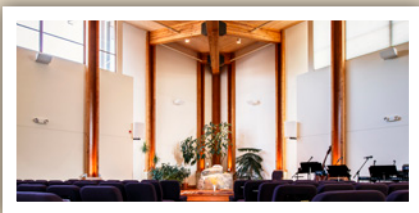
- **130** newcomers subscribed to Christmas Readings, bringing the current subscriber list to **2,266**
- **1,078** new subscriptions to online Journey Programs from newcomers.
- **431** newcomers subscribed to the daily Marriage Moats email
- **651** newcomers contacted us via email for various discussions or questions
- **1,000** print and online subscribers to *New Church Life*

European Assembly



European Assembly attendees

The European Assembly held north of London in Summer 2017 drew people from Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, Ukraine, France and even two couples from South Africa. Nearly 100 people, including 12 ministers, enjoyed many interesting and useful presentations, great human connections, and a sphere of charity and fun.



A special thank you to New Church of Boulder Valley for hosting this year's Human Resources & Treasurers' Meeting.

GCED



launched a completely new version of the New Church Vineyard website. www.newchurchvineyard.org

is primarily a tool site with a database of about **5000** resources for New Church religious education.

These resources are searchable by topic, Biblical reference, age level, activity type and several other filters so users can quickly find materials. GCED has received very positive responses.

Here are a few of the comments:

- I have just started using the new Vineyard and I love it! It is so useful to search using specific bible passages. - *Sunday School Teacher*
- I've explored the site and it's a fantastic resource! Thanks for all the work you guys put into this. - *Home School Parent*
- Just incredible! I used this site yesterday when planning for my chapel services next week. Easy to use and full of great reference material, articles and ideas for lessons, presentations and even personal study. - *Minister*



Teacher Support

31 support and evaluation visits were completed by the team of senior teachers and Scott Daum and Rebekah Russell. Seven schools participated in professional development programs on such topics as Promoting Well-being of Students and Teachers, Learning Targets, Remains, Kids Today, the Health Curriculum, and Communication Styles and Techniques. The Asplundh Foundation awarded GCED with a significant grant to continue this effort.



Science Curriculum Team

Good progress has been made by a capable science curriculum team who clarified the New Church statement of purpose and related goals and began updating the science curriculum which integrates Next Generation Science Standards with New Church content.

Journey Program

19 congregations.

Eighteen countries.

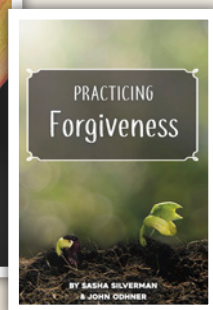
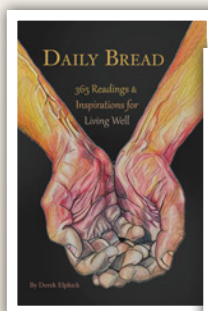
Hundreds of small groups.

Thousands of people served.

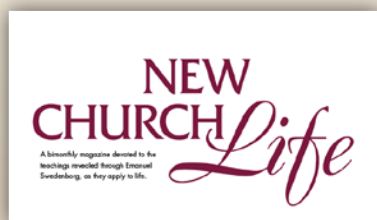


This year marks the **10-year anniversary** of the Journey Program. Journey Programs provide an opportunity for personal growth and spiritual transformation. They focus on stories and themes from the Word, with insights and opportunities for reflection, for concrete application to your life. (See January/February 2018 *New Church Life* article).

General Church Outreach reoriented the Journey campaigns to reach out and build online communities out of the thousands of people who regularly turn to www.newchurch.org to read New Church content. This new direction will form communities that are meaningful and easily accessible to the individuals involved.



Outreach publications and Journey Programs such as *Practicing Forgiveness* and *Daily Bread* are available at www.newchristianresources.com.



New Church Life

The revamped *New Church Life* can be read online or via paid subscription. Reader favorites are: Exclusive news from around the Church and Academy and a wide range of articles by both clergy and laity. It can be read at www.newchurchlife.org.

DONOR STATS

We are grateful for the **823** donors who contributed over **\$1,440,000** towards the work of the General Church. 40 new donors joined! 522 donors were recognized as members of the 1890 society, for donating for 3 or more consecutive years. 5 donors committed to a planned gift benefitting the General Church.

Thank you to all our donors.

To make an online gift go to newchurch.org/give

MEMBERSHIP

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Membership July 1, 2017..... | 5428 |
| New Members..... | 149 |
| Resignations..... | 5 |
| Deceased members..... | 54 |
| Membership June 30, 2018..... | 5518 |

The complete report regarding these FY2017-2018 numbers will be found in the upcoming November/December 2018 edition of *New Church Life*.

ORDINATIONS

| Name | Degree | Location |
|-------------------|--------|---------------|
| Jeff Smith | 1 | United States |
| Mandla Stole | 1 | South Africa |
| Judah Synnestvedt | 1 | United States |

BOARD MEMBERS

Terms Expire 2019

Beth Brock
Andrew R. Bruell
Robert M. Dike
Darryl G. Hasen
Kirk Hasen
P. Blake Hill
Lee Horigan
Brent H. Hyatt
Daniel P. Martz
David Norman
David Radcliffe

Terms Expire 2020

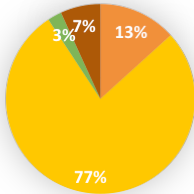
Kay R. Alden
Stephen D. Ball
Jake C. Brown
Ian B. Carswell
Axel D. Coulibaly
Charles H. Ebert
Gustav Fornander
Mary Jane Junge
Ethan King
Patrick Mayer

Terms Expire 2021

Bengt Boyesen
Amy C. Buick
Wade Buick
Cheryl Cooper
Rene Johnson
Stephanie Klippenstein
Jennifer Pronesti
Ned Uber
Wayne Wadsworth

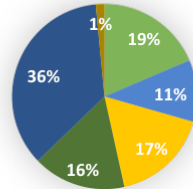
FINANCE

INCOME 5.0 M



- Contributions (13%)
- Investment Income (77%)
- Sales & Other (3%)
- Transfers In (7%)

EXPENSES 4.95 M



- Congregations (19%)
- Education (11%)
- Ministry (17%)
- Outreach (16%)
- General Admin (36%)
- Non-Recurring (1%)

At the close of another fiscal year, we have many things to be grateful for and are pleased to be able to give you the following highlights from our financial results for the year ending June 30, 2018 (unaudited):

- We expect to close FY18 with an operating surplus of about \$45k. This result was supported by generous contributions to the Annual Fund, and less expense in Ministry costs than in FY17; offset by an increase of total compensation costs (general inflation) and unexpected costs associated with resolution of various employment and legal matters.
- Annual Fund giving increased 32% over FY17. FY18 totals included some larger, non-recurring gifts. We are thrilled to see contribution income gain some ground as a larger percentage of total income (13% this year vs. 11% last year); an indicator of fiscal health for the Church.
- The Westville congregation in South Africa had an amazing fund-raising year for Healthy Church Match, fulfilling their match goal a year early! Their HCM project involved major upgrades to their school facilities, and we sincerely congratulate them for their hard work and success. There has been an increase in people receiving New Church education as a result of this partnership. Several other congregations are still collecting on their HCM pledges, with the final close date of June 30, 2019 rapidly approaching.
- The General Church also received several generous restricted gifts including to GC Education, Outreach and the Endowment. These gifts allow for expanding uses and increasing financial stability.

Wendy Cooper, Controller & David Frazier, Executive Director