

Converge Great Lakes' 135th Annual Meeting

“...These leaders knew what Israel should do and the best time to do it.”

1 Chronicles 12:32b GNT



First Baptist Church
751 Grace Way
Medford, WI 54451

October 18-19, 2019
featuring pre-conferences
on October 17th

Welcome to FBC!

Brian Wipf, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church



We are happy to host the 2019 Converge Great Lakes' 135th Annual Meeting.

We're thankful to God for His hospitality to us in Christ, and we extend that same

welcome to you.

We have worked alongside Converge Great Lakes staff to make your stay and participation at the conference both worshipful and encouraging. We're looking forward to being with you here. Welcome!

Shift!

Ken Nabi, Regional President Converge Great Lakes

Do you sense it? There's a big shift in our culture, and it's hard to miss. There seems to be a greater polarization and disconnection from the church than ever before. Fortunately, our Christ-given mission remains the same as we are charged to *take the unchanging gospel to an ever-changing world.*

We are glad you have come. We have a great opportunity to stand for truth AND lead with love. It is our desire that the Holy Spirit will rekindle your love for Christ and give you what you need to lead His church with love in your community.



Free Wi-Fi

You are welcome to use the public Wi-Fi at Faith Baptist Church during the Converge Great Lakes' 135th Annual Meeting.

Converge_Conference
Password: FBCwelcome

Save the Date!

Converge Great Lakes'
136th Annual Meeting
October 15-17, 2020

Salem Baptist Church
Ashland, WI

Annual Meeting Resources

3	Welcome	12	Exec Director of Church Planting Report
4	Overseer Candidates	13	Exec Director of Church Strengthening Report
5	General Schedule Business Meeting Agenda	15	Executive Director of Urban Affairs Report
6	PreCon Workshops & Breakouts	16	Financial Reports
7	Saturday Breakout Speakers	19	Vendors and Ministry Partners
8	Board of Overseers' Report	21	Map of First Baptist Church
9	Regional President's Report	22	Call to Commitment

Meet the Overseer Candidates

Introduction to Board of Overseers' Candidates

Nate Abuan **First Term (3 year)** **Valleybrook Church, Eau Claire, WI**

I have been a pastor at Valleybrook Church in Eau Claire since 2011. I began in youth ministry and am now the Associate Pastor. I enjoy being on the preaching team, equipping volunteers for ministry, and helping small groups become a place where people can grow in their faith. My primary spiritual gifts are teaching and administration. I have been married to my wife, Rachel, for 11 years, and have two beautiful daughters: Isabel (5) and Briella (2).

I am interested in serving because I want to help more churches. I was on staff at Valleybrook when the church went through a crisis in 2015. That's when I met pastors and leaders from Converge Great Lakes who worked prayerfully and diligently to bring restoration to Valleybrook. I now want to do whatever I can to help more churches and missionaries start and stay healthy. I would also welcome the opportunity to learn from other leaders so that I can continue to grow in my leadership skills and love for God.

Dan Vergin **First Term (3 year)** **Good News Baptist, Mosinee, WI**

I began attending Good News Baptist Church in 1989 and was baptized by immersion in 1990. In 1994, I joined the Elder Board, eventually becoming the Board Chairman. With encouragement from the elders, I began doing pulpit fill as needed. I was also asked to join the GLBC Conflict

Resolution Team where I served as chairman until Dr. Dwight Perry was hired as the DEM. In 2002, I received my License In The Gospel Ministry through the GLBC and served around the district as pulpit fill when needed. I remained Chairman at Good News until I left to help start New Day Christian Church with Aaron Winowski and a small core group of people. I remained in leadership and served as church chair until 2011.

In 1990, I was hired as the Chief of Police at the Schofield Police Department which merged with the Weston Police Department in 1994 to create the Everest Metropolitan Police Department. I served on the Board of Directors, became president of the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, and remained Chief until my retirement in 2009.

Brian Petersen **First Term (3 year)** **Community Church, Fond du Lac, WI**

I have been attending Community Church in Fond du Lac for over 20 years, becoming a member in 2002. My wife, Linda, and I have been active in this church. We became small group leaders at a time when there was a shortage of them, and we are currently leading a group. I have held the positions of treasurer, elder board member and am currently Church Chairman. Any success has been made possible by the grace of God.

I enjoy teaching classes at church, participating in church outreach and serving in leadership. Connecting with people to help them feel welcomed, wanted and cared for by the church is an important ministry so that they may know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that they may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Professionally, I am a financial advisor. It has been an enjoyable career for the past 21 years, and at this time, I have no plans to retire.

Roy Peebles **Second Term: (3 year)** **Turning Point Church, Kenosha, WI**

I have served in Kenosha, Wisconsin as the founder and pastor of Turning Point Life Church since 2011.

My mission is "Loving and empowering people into becoming amazing followers of Jesus Christ". This was

cultivated by connecting people to one another and Christ through the ministry. I served with another Converge church for 15 years as Associate Pastor prior to serving in the Kenosha area. I have been married to my best friend, Betty, for 30 years and have 3 adult children.

I am motivated by my passion and desire to unify with others who have a vision of working with the community to encourage positivity and productivity to transform lives. I enjoy the responsibilities of leading, teaching, and equipping my Turning Point Life Church family. I am passionate about helping others gain access and exposure to opportunities to serve God! I spent years working as a corporate professional in Information Technology where I retired in 2011 after 35 years.

The Board of Overseers function as the visionary, spiritual leaders of the district. They are responsible for the development of long term policy and direction as it relates to the vision, and hold the Regional President accountable for the implementation of that direction.

General Schedule

October 17-19, 2019

Thursday, October 17

Pre-Conference Gatherings

(Registration required)

- 1-5 p.m. #1 Church Planter Gathering **Rm 131**
- 1-5 p.m. #2 Multi-Staff Gathering **Rm 117**
- 1-5 p.m. #3 Solo Pastor Gathering **Rm 118**
- 1-5 p.m. #4 Latino Pastor Gathering **Rm 133**
- 1-3 p.m. #5 Do It Right Seminar **Rm 129**
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner

Friday, October 18

- 8:30 a.m. Event Check In / On-Site Registration
- 9 a.m. CGL Prayer Gathering
- 11 a.m. Business Meeting
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch (on site)
- 1:30 p.m. Session 1 - Ken Nabi
Shift: Theology Must Drive our Strategy - Reviving the Priesthood
- 5:15 p.m. Dinner (on site)
Session 2 - Ken Nabi
Shift: Discipleship AND Evangelism in Your Gatherings - Refusing to Assume
- 6:30 p.m.
- 8:30 p.m. Dessert Reception

Saturday, October 19

- 9-10 a.m. **Saturday Morning Breakouts**
 - #1 Ministry to Next Gen **Children's Area**
 - #2 Ministry to LGBTQ **Rm 119**
 - #3 Different Journey - Same Mission **Rm 117**
 - #4 Financing Expansion & Growth **Rm 118**
- 10-11 a.m. **Saturday Morning Breakouts**
 - #1 Ministry to Next Gen **Children's Area**
 - #2 Ministry to LGBTQ **Rm 119**
 - #3 Different Journey - Same Mission **Rm 117**
 - #4 Financing Expansion & Growth **Rm 118**
- 11:00 a.m. Session 3 - Ken Nabi
Shift: Servant Leadership Always Plans to Replace Itself - Empowering Boards
- 12:30 p.m. Close

Business Agenda

Friday, October 18, 2019 - 11 a.m.

- Call to Order
- Open with Prayer
- Introduce Moderator and Officers
- Approve Business Meeting Agenda
- Introduce New Churches
- Present and Approve Ballot
- Approve 2018-2019 Financial Statement
- Men of Issachar by Ken Nabi
- Present 2019-2020 Budget
- Thank Board of Overseers
- Close with Prayer
- Adjourn

Pre Conference Workshops

Thursday, October 17, 2019, (1 to 5 pm)

1. **Church Planter Gathering:** When Church Planters gather together to share their passion and best practices, everyone grows. This gathering is for active and new church planters who want to learn and sharpen their skills. *Facilitator: Glenn Herschberger Rm 131*
2. **Multi-Staff Gathering:** This round table gathering of pastors (with at least one more full-time staff person) is an opportunity for like-minded pastors to learn from one another. *Facilitators: Ken Nabi and John Anderson Rm 117*
3. **Solo Pastor Gathering:** The most common calling in the CGL movement is the local pastor who shepherds a congregation of 150 people or less in faithfulness to Christ. Many times, the practices shared in conferences are not practical or helpful to the solo pastor. This informal gathering aims to bring pastors together for encouragement and to share what they are learning to be most fruitful. *Facilitator: Gary Harrison Rm 118*
4. **Latino Gathering:** This is a gathering for those pastors uniquely focusing their efforts on reaching Latino communities. It is an opportunity to share best practices with one another. *Facilitator: Marenri Duboy Rm 133*
5. **Do It Right Seminar (1-3 p.m.)** This training has become a hallmark event helping churches get their financial record keeping in order according to IRS guidelines and best practices. New churches and smaller churches with personnel turnover or facing challenges would be greatly helped by this time and training. *Facilitator: Sarah Motiff Rm 129*

Saturday Breakout Sessions

This year, we are eager to provoke great conversations around the following topics:

- #1 **The Challenge to Engage The Next Generation:** Today's young people bring unique challenges to parents, churches, and overall ministry. Too many churches see their youth grow up and abandon local church engagement while maintaining a measure of spiritual curiosity. This session will take a look at the challenges churches face as they disciple 18, 19, and 20 somethings in the coming era. *Facilitator: Pastor Laurel Bunker Children's Ministry Area*
- #2 **Ministry to the LGBTQ Community:** In a short period of time, cultural norms have radically shifted around sexual identity. This shift has made traditional biblical Christianity in America increasingly at odds with the culture. This session will take a look at how to engage the topic and population with a readiness that is uncompromising and filled with grace. *Facilitator: Dr David Clark Rm 119*
- #3 **Different Journey—Same Mission:** The calling of a pastor's wife is unique from her husband and yet vital to the church in every way. From one church to the next, pastors' wives carry similar burdens often making the difference in ministry fruitfulness. In this "come as you are" session, we will take a look at unique aspects of the pastor's wife and God's divine invitation for that role. *Facilitator: Rebecca Tilma Rm 117*
- #4 **Converge Cornerstone and Financing Your Ministry:** Converge has a loan fund called The Cornerstone Fund which aims to help the local church advance its ministry in a fiscally responsible way. Many pastors and churches do not know how to access this incredible resource which is uniquely positioned to help our Converge movement. The Cornerstone Fund now offers a *Free Financial Review* for any church considering a building project. This session aims to give pastors a clear path to understand and access this lending resource. *Facilitator: Barb Ehlers Rm 118*

Meet Our Breakout Speakers

Breakout Sessions are offered twice on Saturday Morning (Schedule on page 5)



#1 The Challenge to Engage the Next Generation

Facilitator: Laurel Bunker

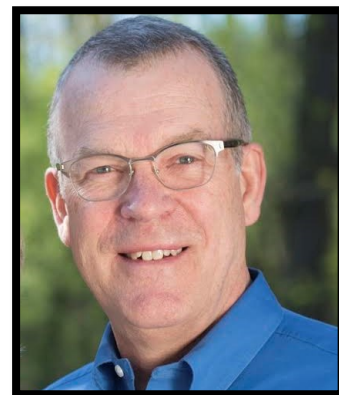
Pastor Laurel Bunker is the Associate Vice-President of Christian Formation and Church Relations for Bethel University and serves on the President's Executive Committee providing strategic guidance on critical issues facing the student body. Pastor Bunker speaks all around the country and functions as the pastoral connection to the student body.

For further discussion: l-bunker@bethel.edu

#2 Ministry to the LGBTQ Community

Facilitator: Dr David Clark

Dr David Clark is a professor of theology and apologetics at Bethel Seminary and is known for his engagement of difficult issues with intellectual rigor and relevance. Recently retired from the role as the VP and Dean of Bethel Seminary, Dr Clark aims to build bridges to the local church and leadership development through education. For further discussion: d-clark@bethel.edu



#3 Different Journey—Same Mission

Facilitator: Rebecca Tilma

Rebecca has been a pastor's wife for over 22 years and serves with her husband, Dave, at a church in Milwaukee, WI. Their path in ministry has led them to serve in small churches, large churches, church planting, campus planting, solo-pastor contexts and multi-staff contexts, but Rebecca's heart is passionate about helping women take the next step on their spiritual journey whatever that might be. She deeply loves the people and city of Milwaukee, but finds an even greater joy in seeing her four children, ages 14, 12, 10 and 8, grow in Christ themselves.

For further discussion: RebeccaTilma@gmail.com

#4 Converge Cornerstone and Financing Your Ministry

Facilitator: Barb Ehlers

Barb Ehlers is the Relationships Specialist for the Cornerstone Fund and she connects with churches around the country providing the necessary groundwork for them as they explore lending needs. She loves the local church and longs to see it flourish wherever it is serving. Cornerstone provides a free financial analysis to any church interested in starting a conversation toward a building and/or needing a loan. For further discussion:

barb.ehlers@converge.org



Board of Overseers Report

Pastor John Anderson, Board Chair

I have the privilege of hearing firsthand stories of how God is using the district to *start and strengthen churches*. And, let me tell you, it is really happening!

This is so much more than a slogan or even a great mission statement. There are stories of how God is providing for our new church planters and stories of how churches are being turned around through difficult situations. God is on the move!

Just recently, I had the opportunity to hear testimonies of what God is doing in our rural communities through the *Rural Church Matters Conference* that our district sponsored.

This next year, as a board, we are going to be working on what we can do to increase our effectiveness in serving you. We long to see more of our churches actively connect with each other and the district staff. We want to be able to represent you in anticipating ministry needs and opportunities for the future. We want to better help our Converge staff prioritize and plan to accomplish our mission. The great news is that each board member will bring their God-given gifts and unique strengths to help us grow in our effectiveness.

After being in the district for over 20 years now, I know one thing is true. I can't do ministry alone, and neither can you. Pastors, if you haven't yet connected to a LEAD Team or joined with other district pastors, do it! Be intentional and reach out. I know you challenge your church to be connected with each other. I want to challenge you to do the same with other pastors and leaders. Pick up the phone. Send an email. My heart is absolutely certain that we can accomplish so much more when we partner together to be on mission together.

*To start and strengthen churches...
This is so much more than a slogan or
even a great mission statement.*



John Anderson, Lead Pastor
Hope Community Church
Shawano, WI

Regional President's Report

Pastor Ken Nabi

It is such an honor to be able to watch the churches of Great Lakes grow and multiply, knowing Christ is being lifted up all over Wisconsin and the UP. I count it a privilege to be invited in to your churches to see how God is using people all over the district to share the love of Christ with a broken world, and together we have made great strides in accomplishing our mission to start and strengthen churches. Below is a snapshot of the six major areas I oversee.

Leading the CGL Staff Team: Converge Great Lakes is enjoying the benefits of staffing stability as we have had no major transition in the last year with our core staff team. We now have 5 full-time staff serving the district: Ken Nabi as Regional President, Glenn Herschberger as Executive Director of Church Planting, Gary Harrison as Executive Director of Church Strengthening, Richard Brown as Executive Director of Urban Ministries and Captive Project, and Sarah Motiff as Accountant and Payroll Specialist. In 2019, we added a new staff. Archer Leupp, Missionary to Law Enforcement, has joined our team as a fully funded missionary within Great Lakes. He is serving as an LE Chaplain and is willing to help other pastors form chaplaincy programs in their area.

In the fall of 2018, the Board of Overseers approved the closing of the Madison office, but it has taken most of 2019 to make this happen. We are officially no longer in that office space. We have embraced the reality of a decentralized staff environment and are working on how to leverage this for maximum service to the local church. This strategy will free up about \$20,000 of expense for an underutilized office. We do, however, meet twice a month as a staff via video call for information sharing and development of focus. On one of those calls, the admin staff joins the discussion. This has proven vital to our way of communication and coordination of ministry efforts. Thanks to Karen Nabi and Melissa Meyer who both serve diligently behind the scenes making ministry work for you. In addition to working hard to stay connected as a staff team, we strive to stay connected with each of you through our monthly newsletter. Be sure to read each issue to find out how God is working throughout our district.

Working with Senior Pastors: Converge Great Lakes' staff have embraced the coaching effort to help pastors and leaders develop their skill sets. I am actively coaching several senior pastors and am finding this to be an excellent investment of time and energy. Hardly a day goes by without a Great Lakes pastor reaching out for ideas on counseling, board development, conflict resolution, capital campaigns, etc. We find ourselves spending more time proactively helping churches than just responding to crises (which we also do, as needed). Gary Harrison, Glenn Herschberger and myself have now completed the two-step training in the Auxano Church vitalization process, and we are finding these tools to be helpful in focusing energy and efforts amongst our leaders. We welcome the opportunity to connect with you to help implement some of these ideas in your congregation to get it moving forward and upward.

Leadership Boards and Transitions: In this position, I read more constitutions than I ever thought possible. Most of the time, it leads to fruitful discussion and is helpful in getting churches to both embrace a more biblical model of leadership and to get out of the rut of micro management and into more ministry implementation. Gary Harrison and I are actively working on a board training model that we can deploy to our churches in a variety of ways to maximize the leadership horsepower of each church.

One of the most critical connection points the district office has is during pastoral transitions. This year we had 5 pastors step down or retire which meant we were connecting with each of those boards, helping them review their polity and needs, and in some cases, helping arrange an interim pastor during transition. We had 2 churches successfully utilize the P3 resource for pastoral placement with great success, and we have coached other search committees in disciplined processes for searches.

Ken Nabi
Regional President of Converge Great Lakes
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k.nabi@convergegreatlakes.org



Pastors who have moved from CGL ministry positions this year are:

- ♦ Ron Weller in River Falls, WI (The River)
- ♦ Wade Hetrick in Appleton, WI (Community Church—Appleton)
- ♦ Keith Hurlbut in Phillips, WI (First Baptist Church—Phillips)
- ♦ Gabe Brennan in Balsam Lake, WI (East Balsam Baptist Church)
- ♦ Steve Bialy in Fond du Lac, WI (Thrive Church)
- ♦ Mike Hill in Ironwood, MI (Woodland Church)

We welcomed these new senior pastors to the district:

- ♦ Maxx Katzbeck in Appleton, WI (Community Church in Appleton)
- ♦ Renaldo Ghenov in Milwaukee (epikos east campus)
- ♦ Ed Wade in Milwaukee (epikos north campus)
- ♦ Jory Lawson in Fond du Lac (Thrive Church)
- ♦ Danny Francis in West Allis (Beloit Rd Baptist Church)
- ♦ Shawn Kelly in DePere (Oakbrook Church)

We also helped church boards make the tough decision to close in the last year. These decisions are always hard and painful, but a necessary part of life and growth for them and for us.

- ♦ New Day Church in South Milwaukee, WI
- ♦ Torrent Church in Prescott, WI

Board development and pastoral transitions remain one of the most critical times the district office can be of assistance and is one of the best things we can do to help pastors leave well and churches develop a forward looking mindset for the next key leader. Please don't hesitate to contact myself or Gary Harrison as soon as you know a transition is likely. Timing is everything.

Lead Team Coordination: Converge Great Lakes aims to be a blessing and helpful support to each and every church and pastor but the need is too great for a small staff team to be able to successfully meet every need. The LEAD Team Captains are the leaders we are aiming to invest in to coordinate ministry efforts. This year has been a kind of reorganization with an effort to get some new leaders in key positions and we still have a few gaps. It is our goal to have every pastor be able to connect with their regional LEAD Team for support, encouragement, and strategic planning for kingdom expansion through church planting.

Our current LEAD Teams and Captains are:

- ♦ Milwaukee: Chuck Marshall
- ♦ Southwest: Jeff Lovell
- ♦ East Central: Adam Utecht
- ♦ Northeast WI: Mark Schmechel
- ♦ Upper Peninsula, MI: Kevin McIlhany
- ♦ North: John Dudley
- ♦ North Central: Rod Ankrom
- ♦ Central: Kim Swenson
- ♦ West: Brad Moore
- ♦ St Croix Valley: Tim Porter
- ♦ Couley Region: Travis Albrecht
- ♦ Southeast: Open

*One of the most critical connection
points the district office has is during
pastoral transitions.*

Coordinating with the Board of Overseers: Converge Great Lakes is a movement of churches across WI and the UP of MI. As such, we have representatives from around the district who speak into key issues and give guidance to me and my staff team. The Board of Overseers meets in person only 3 times a year. These leaders are precious and vital to the health of Converge Great Lakes, helping it remain a grass roots and organic organization. Their collective wisdom is dearly needed and has been so helpful in critical discussions. One such example is the sale of Wood Lake Bible Camp. CGL is working on a variety of issues related to the proceeds from that sale. The Board of Overseers authorized funds for the 85th and final celebration at WLBC which went extremely well. They also authorized \$70,000 for the creation of a scholarship fund to help college students interested in youth and camping ministry to get summer

scholarships toward education. The first scholarship was awarded this summer. The Board authorized a fund created to help renovate the original chapel that was the birthplace of our entire district. \$30,000 was given toward that renovation and restoration. All of these proceeds came from the sale of the camp, and we are working on other opportunities to leverage the precious dollars toward Kingdom expansion. Please thank the board for their tireless investment and selfless concern for the well-being of CGL.

Board of Overseers:

- ♦ John Anderson—Chairman
- ♦ Larry Sheahan—Executive Committee
- ♦ Shannon Colwin—Executive Committee
- ♦ Doug Bostrom—Executive Committee
- ♦ Roy Peebles
- ♦ Mel Hargrove
- ♦ Joe Basso
- ♦ Joel Rose
- ♦ Chris Cooper

Converge National: I was asked this last year to serve on the Executive Committee with other Executive Ministers from around the country. Every time we meet, I am challenged and impressed by the caliber of leadership in our movement. I continue to be coached by Gary Rohrmayer, one of our most seasoned leaders in Converge, and I now routinely interact with President Scott Ridout on other issues. It is an honor to represent Great Lakes in the larger movement and to share what we are learning while listening for best practices from other seasoned leaders. Although this role requires that I travel out of state at least 3 to 4 times per year to connect with others around the country, I am able to keep up with the work load no matter what state I am in thanks to technology.

Personal Update: Karen and I celebrated our 32nd year of marriage and find ourselves looking forward to the wedding of our oldest son in November 2019. We moved to a more spacious home so I could have a home office, and that move has been good for our family. Our twin 18-year-olds are both seniors and doing very well. Our youngest is 11 years old and keeps us busy and focused. Life is full at our home.

I love what I do and pray that the Lord will help me grow to serve you more effectively. Thank you for your patience as we continue to learn and develop better resources. We want to be a healthy reproductive district reaching more people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



New Pastors' Welcome Dinner

November 21, 2019 ~ 4:30pm-7:00pm
Wausau, WI

Pastors, if you are new to serving in any position in a Converge Great Lakes' church in the last 12-18 months, we invite you and your spouse to join us on November 21st for a welcome dinner at the Great Dane Pub and Brewing Co. in Wausau, WI. We'll have a chance to get to know you, celebrate your new position, and provide an orientation about our district ministries. If you'd like to stay overnight, we'll cover your hotel room as our gift to you.

Invitations will go out the first week of November so call, text or email Karen Nabi to make sure you're on the list. 920.251.4202 ~ karen.nabi@convergegreatlakes.org

Executive Director of Church Planting Report

Pastor Glenn Herschberger

I am filled with gratitude to be able to represent our CGL District in the area of church planting and missions, I thank the Lord for this honor and all of you for the pleasure and opportunity to serve in this capacity. I am committed to helping our district churches start more churches and help revitalize churches in smaller communities to reach their neighbors for Jesus Christ. The need for new Gospel-focused churches has never been greater. Since the last annual meeting, I have continued to connect with many of our CGL pastors, boards and churches in the following ways:

- ♦ Met with leadership teams approximately twice per month and preached 15 times in our district churches
- ♦ Shared church planting vision with our 12 LEAD teams and worked with three of our teams with potential church planters
- ♦ Celebrated with Mark & Andrea Pavola at their Easter launch of Hope City Church in Duluth (April 21) and with Casey and Jen Schifelbine who launched Hub Church on September 29th in Marshfield
- ♦ Helped two planters in the process of raising support and gathering launch teams, Josh & Tina Crabb in Appleton and Alberto & Ilga Melo in Baldwin
- ♦ Administered our online CP pre-assessment called the Church Planter Profiles to 13 potential candidates
- ♦ Oversaw 10 potential church planters in the CP pipeline
- ♦ Saw 12 of our CP coaches go through our Master Certificated Coaching program with Cultivate Leadership, an 8-module course that teaches best practices for our CP coaches
- ♦ Facilitated a one-day assessment called *PEAK* with my wife, Susan, for 5 of our district churches [Prepare, Explore, Assess for the Kingdom] - a mini assessment helping churches help their people discover their unique fit for ministry
- ♦ Currently coaching four of our church planters
- ♦ Attended *Church Planting Assessment Center* in Orlando and hosted in Hudson WI in June [Alberto & Ilga Melo and Jonathan & Jenny Stone were assessed this year]
- ♦ Participated with Converge *Think Tank* National CP Directors
- ♦ Facilitated *Church Planting 201* in Hudson (February 21-22) and *CP 101* with Converge North Central District (April 4-5)
- ♦ Developed and presented a 4 hour workshop called *Coaching Pod* to 3 of our LEAD Teams to help our pastors develop the skill of coaching.
- ♦ Hosted regular coaching video calls with our CGL church planter coaches every month
- ♦ Implemented quarterly training for all new church planters
- ♦ Worked on updating the *CP Field Manual*
- ♦ Received Certification in the Auxano training in God Dreams
- ♦ Presented an *Evangelism Seminar* to 2 of our churches
- ♦ Presented session on Rural CP at *Unleashed* in Orlando
- ♦ Hosted the first regional *Rural Church Matters Institute* sponsored by the Billy Graham Center at Hope Church in Shawano on September 10th



A vigorous and continuous approach to church planting is the only way to guarantee an increase in the number of believers, and is one of the best ways to renew the whole body of Christ.

--Pastor Tim Keller

Pastor Glenn Herschberger
Exec. Director of Church Planting
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Executive Director of Church Strengthening Report

Pastor Gary Harrison

Helping Pastors and Churches Take Their Next Strategic Step

Last year, when asked what my intentions were for this new position, I had some ideas, but no track record. This has been a year of identifying and codifying tools and product testing ideas and ministries. I am now at the place where I can say that the purpose of Church Strengthening is to *help pastors and churches take their next strategic step for greater Kingdom impact.*

While it's not the purpose of this report to give you a laundry list of accomplishments, I'd like to give you a glimpse into this past year, so you can better understand that vision. Since the last Annual Meeting...

- ♦ I received extensive training in the Auxano visioning process (eight+ days total). In addition, I spent time learning about and observing a consulting process for larger churches called StratOps.
- ♦ I used that training and condensed the Auxano process into three single-day retreats, or two one-day retreats and some follow up evening meetings, designed to help a church "reframe" its vision and revisit its strategies. We piloted this with three churches (with Ken doing a fourth) and we're pretty confident this can be a game-changer for churches as they seek to improve their ministry impact. A **special thanks** to the early adopter churches – you taught us a lot! By the way, although all of Converge received this training, Converge Great Lakes is by far the leader in using it to help our churches.
- ♦ I've been developing a subset of individual "one off" trainings based on the Auxano material and have been working with church leadership teams as needed.
- ♦ I've partnered with Ken to strengthen our placement system. Currently we're using "P3" but we're working to bring our value-added piece to the table. I've been involved in two placements, with several more on the horizon. I've also been able to represent the District in an installation service and a missionary commissioning.
- ♦ I've been working with Bruce Hopler and the national "Close the Back Door" team (CTBD) in the area of elder training. David Clark from Bethel seminary, Paul Mitton from the Rocky Mountain district and I have been developing the syllabus and have "product tested" one video-based training with an elder team and one day-long seminar. As they say in the computer world, "...we'll be out of beta and releasing on time!"
- ♦ I've been able to help some churches in crisis recover and chart a fresh course. I love this part of the work as it has such direct impact.

...the purpose of Church Strengthening is to *help pastors and churches take their next strategic step for greater Kingdom impact.*

That and much more happened this past year in my role, and I share that to help you see that we really can *help pastors and churches take their next strategic step.* So going forward, what does that look like?

(Continued on page 14)

Gary Harrison
Executive Director of Church Strengthening
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First, we're able to offer a spectrum of ministry help, depending on where the church is on it's journey:

- ♦ **Natural Church Development**, especially tailored to help leadership teams get a snapshot of their health and take intentional steps in planning and strengthening their church
- ♦ **Reframing Vision** retreats to help churches needing a "mid-course correction" to focus their impact
- ♦ **Retool Pathway** retreats that accomplish exactly what the name implies, do a pretty comprehensive retooling of the church focus
- ♦ **Individual "tune ups"** that draw on all three, applied to specific felt needs as well as **individual pastoral coaching**, either in person or via video

In addition, I'm beginning to recruit skilled pastor/practitioners in each LEAD team area, so that the impact of these tools can be multiplied. If you're interested in being a part of that crew, let's talk. I'm looking for people who have a heart for the church, and the necessary skills to help strengthen them. I would love to have a trained strengthening resource person available to each LEAD team as we move forward.

Refreshment and Renewal

I'll also be developing resources for pastors and spouses for refreshment and renewal. Currently, we're partnering with Converge National on their Compass ministry, a sort of "mid-term" reflection and assessment retreat. Wouldn't it be great to know just how to apply your gifts and skills at times of transitions in your life? This helps! Other resources on the drawing board are opportunities for pastors' wives renewal and pastoral couples renewal. Personally, I would love to see a "Pastors and Spouses Retreat" again and am doing some work in that area.

Pastoral Placement

Finally, I am ramping up even more in assisting in pastoral placement (under Ken's direction). We want to be able to offer to our churches a coaching opportunity for newly placed pastors, especially first-time pastors, so they can navigate the pitfalls that so often befall first year pastors. We're talking about actively visiting regional campuses of seminaries and Bible colleges to recruit potential pastoral candidate. We're hoping to build a relationship with them so they know their graduates will get a quality placement experience and the best chance for success. We'll know we've succeeded when that first call comes in, "Say, I have a student you should look at..."

Strategic Support

That's a lot, especially for a part-time position. In addition, funding for this position still needs to be secured to make this all happen. So stop by our display during this event and let's talk, because we want to *help pastors and churches take their next strategic step*, and that could be you!

Executive Director of Urban Affairs Report

Minister Richard Brown

Hey Brothers and Sisters!

What a year this has been. Here are just some of the great things God is doing in urban centers:



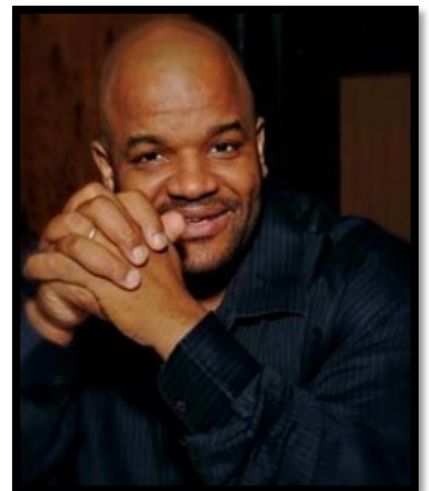
- ♦ The success of our **Pop-up Outreaches** is shown by an increase in discipleship. With the addition of our mobile oven, we will be able to get into more disenfranchised areas of the cities.
- ♦ **The Bible Blitzes** in the prisons have been met with awesome response from the state, wardens and inmates. Bible Blitzes are weekend conferences designed to help disciples of Christ get rooted in the basic doctrines of the Christian faith.

- ♦ **Bible Distributions:** The foundation of every aspect of the ministry is providing God's word and has really amplified the lives of our disciples. The choice of the "Apologetics Bible" has really helped increase the understanding of Christianity and its fundamental teachings.
- ♦ This year we celebrate Frank Woods, one of our disciples who has come full circle through the Captive Project ministry. Frank is now heading up his own ministry, Genesis Lighthouse. **Genesis Lighthouse** is a transitional living ministry that helps former inmates get acclimated to the community. PRAISE THE LORD!



- ♦ **H.O.P.E. Fest** was, without a doubt, the high point of this past year. In addition to the 72 hours of prayer, we dedicated our full-size Tabernacle to the Lord. The dedication was a celebration of all that God is, as we devoted holy adoration to God. For 72 hours, we presented ourselves as His Living Sacrifices (1st 24 hrs), Living Epistles (2nd 24 hrs), and Living Stones (3rd 24hrs). This was a pivotal celebration, as a new and exciting step for The *Captive Project* ministry. As some of you already know, the Tabernacle will be moving around the state as the Lord leads and initiating prayer gatherings in partnership with our Converge churches and partnering ministries.

Come by our table and let's talk about partnering to bring this powerful and strategic initiative to your area.



Minister Richard Brown
Executive Director of Urban Affairs
jesus4ramaa@gmail.com
www.thecaptiveproject.com

Financial Report

Sarah Motiff, Accountant



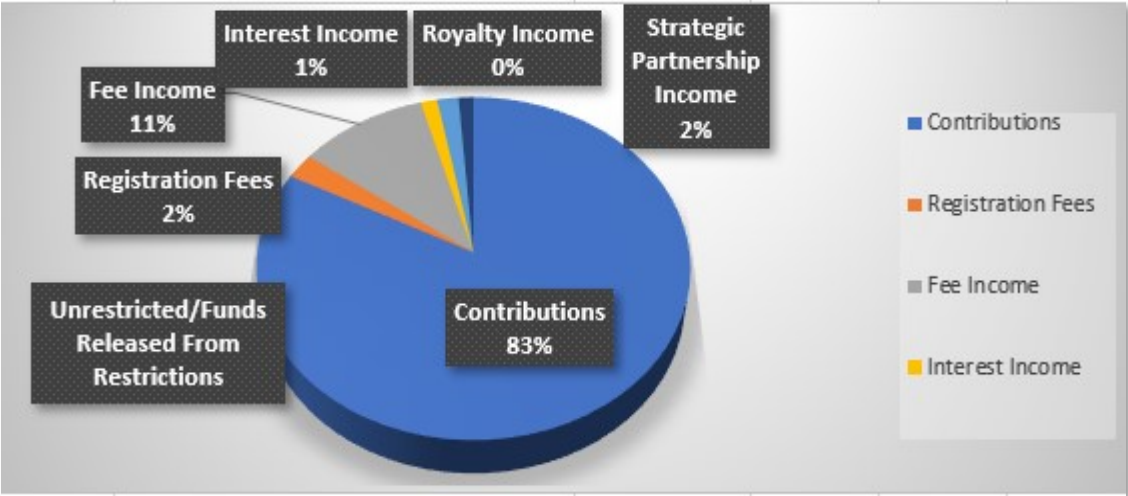
Intro

Thank you for your faithful financial support of Converge Great Lakes. What an exciting year it has been. CGL met our goals of decentralizing our office, successfully restructured our staff, and expanded our services so we are better able to serve you.

Revenue

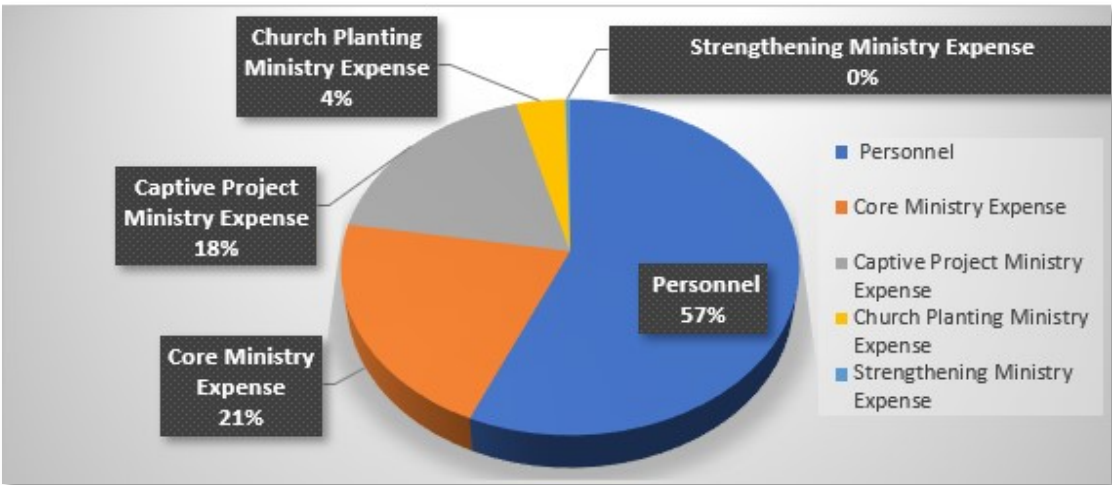
CGL budgeted \$689,600 in gross revenue for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Our actual gross revenue was \$743,072.92. Contributions are 83% of our total giving. This is a 2% increase from the previous fiscal year.

Sarah Motiff, Accountant
608-244-5000, ext. 705
smotiff@convergegreatlakes.org



Expenses

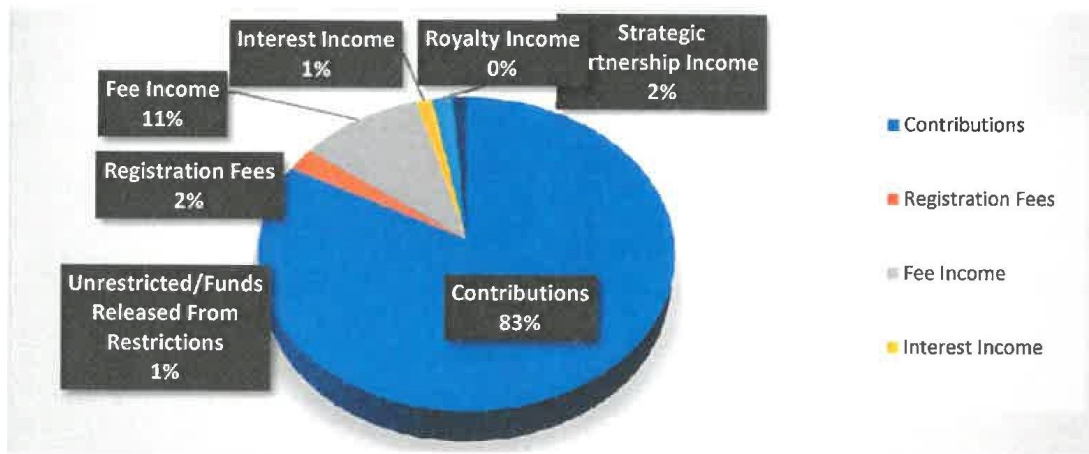
CGL had \$691,711.65 in expenses budgeted for the 18-19 fiscal year. Actual expenses were \$760,887.79.



2018 - 2019 CONVERGE GREAT LAKES FINANCIAL SUMMARY

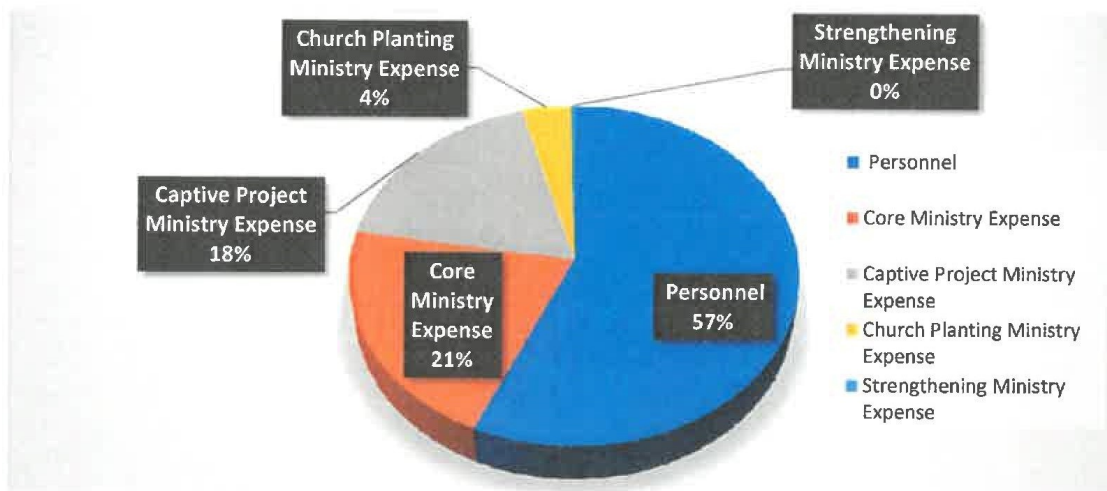
REVENUE:

Contributions	\$ 582,208.89
Registration Fees	\$ 16,734.70
Fee Income	\$ 74,369.54
Interest Income	\$ 9,424.43
Strategic Partnership Income	\$ 12,327.38
Royalty Income	\$ 28.14
Unrestricted/Funds Released From Restrictions	\$ 8,507.26
Other Income	\$ 39,472.58
Total Income	\$ 743,072.92



Expenses:

Personnel	\$ 431,340.67
Core Ministry Expense	\$ 160,237.96
Captive Project Ministry Expense	\$ 139,046.49
Church Planting Ministry Expense	\$ 29,015.24
Strengthening Ministry Expense	\$ 2,755.13
Total Expenses	\$ 762,395.49



Net Income/Loss

\$ (19,322.57)

Cash On Hand

CGL has \$652,222.19 of financial assets available within one year of the balance sheet date to meet cash needs for general expenditure. Available cash consists of cash in bank, short term investments and accounts receivable. None of the available funds consist of donor restricted contributions. It is our goal to have six months of cash reserves on hand. Six months of expenses are approximately \$380,443.90. We are well within the 6 month goal.

Please see the summary below:

Cash in bank:	\$ 905,328.76
Short Term Investments	\$ 286,487.18
Total Cash Assets	\$1,191,815.94
Accounts Receivable	\$ 11,103.27
LESS: Restricted Funds	\$ (550,697.02)
Cash Assets Available	\$ 652,222.19

2019 - 2020 budget

In the 2019-2020 budget, we were able to decrease our overhead expenses which allows us to increase our ministry budget and provide more services to our district. Overhead costs were reduced through realization of the decentralization of our office, restructuring of our staff and careful planning toward our mission. In addition, CGL through the Captive Project received a significant pledge of \$350,000 over the next 2 years allowing us to expand our total ministry services.

Please see the financial summary below:

Converge Great Lakes Budget Summary

	18-19 Budget	18-19 Actual	19-20 Budget
Revenue	\$ 689,600.00	\$ 703,600.34	\$ 763,920.00
Expenses			
Personnel	\$ 423,689.24	\$ 431,340.67	\$ 477,289.07
Operating Expense	\$ 116,753.11	\$ 179,913.63	\$ 94,448.76
Captive Project Ministry	\$ 126,769.30	\$ 136,753.23	\$ 148,008.96
Church Planting Ministry Expenses	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 10,779.50	\$ 40,883.21
Strengthening Ministry Expenses	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,100.76	\$ 9,040.00
Total Expenses	\$ 691,711.65	\$ 760,887.79	\$ 769,670.00
Net Operating Income	\$ (2,111.65)	\$ (57,287.45)	\$ (5,750.00)
Other Income	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 39,472.58	\$ 6,250.00
Other Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,507.70	\$ 500.00
Net Income	\$ 2,388.35	\$ (19,322.57)	\$ 0.00

Remember to include support for Converge Great Lakes when creating your budget. If you have any questions on any portion of this financial report please feel free to contact me.

Better Together,
Sarah Motiff

Ministry Partners and Vendors

You are welcome to visit each of our ministry partners and vendors in the gym. We encourage you to see what they're doing and join with them in Kingdom work. You are also warmly invited to see Converge Great Lakes' ministries in the foyer, near the registration area.



The Captive Project- Significant outreach with meaningful impact in Milwaukee.

RICHARD BROWN, Minister
www.thecaptiveproject.com
jesus4ramaa@gmail.com
414.213.9367



Interim Pastors Ministries - strengthening churches during pastoral transition for greater effectiveness.

DAVE JENKINS
Dir of Pastor & Regional Partnerships
608-886-0728 | dave@interimpastors.com
www.interimpastors.com



Brotherhood Mutual Insurance & American Church Group of WI
"Our Ministry Is To Protect Yours"

LARRY CLINTON | 414-367-7443
lmcClinton@americanchurchgroup.com
www.brotherhoodmutual.com



Converge is passionate about our churches. We believe assisting churches in finding their next pastor is one of the most important ministries we provide, and we've been doing it for years with hundreds of churches.

Converge P3 (Pastor Placement Process) can help your church find its next pastor and also help pastors determine what they have to offer, and find a church that is a good fit.

MANDY JOHNSON
P3 Administrator | O/651 633 0560
mjohnson@convergenorthcentral.org
www.convergenorthcentral.org



For over 60 years **Converge Cornerstone Fund** has helped to start and strengthen churches. We provide financial resources and services that enable churches to expand their ministries and offer competitive investment opportunities for the members of Converge.



Converge Retirement Plan has been serving the employees of Converge-affiliated churches for 50 years. Our primary goal is to provide added financial security to plan participants in retirement. The plan has two parts: Defined Benefits (pension) and the Defined Contribution.

BARB EHLERS |
Barb.Ehlers@converge.org
847 879 3236 | www.converge.org



As a leader in the Converge International Missions team my primary role is to introduce the **Converge/Timothy Initiative church** planting Partnership to our 1300 plus Converge Churches in our 11 districts. Together we can plant house church for \$333 dollars. Each house church reaches about 20 new believers with the good news of Jesus.

JERRY SCHOMMER
Director of Church Planting Partnerships
Converge/The Timothy Initiative
Cell: 612-386-9486
<https://www.converge.org/give/66758>

KEVIN MCGHEE
kevinm@converge.org
Director of U.S. Engagement
<https://converge.org/give/65745>



Wisconsin Family Council:

The mission of Wisconsin Family Council is strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in Wisconsin. Our vision is a Wisconsin where God is honored, life is cherished, families thrive, and religious freedom flourishes.

DAVE LINGLE, Dir of Church Relations
920.342.1928 |
dlingle@wifamilycouncil.org

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association
Always Good News

Continuing the lifelong work of Billy Graham, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association exists to support and extend the evangelistic calling and ministry of Franklin Graham by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to all we can by every effective means available to us and by equipping the church and others to do the same.

RICK KINDSCHI
WI State Coordinator, Church Ministry
RKindschi@BillyGraham.org
920.470. 8326 | BillyGraham.org



New Journey:

A life transforming ministry of the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, helping men break free from life-controlling addictions and restoring them to stable and productive lives of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

PAUL BLAND, Assistant Director
Safe Harbor Programming
(414) 935-0276 | paul.bland@milmission.org

JAMES GRIFFIN, Recruiter and Advocate
(414) 935-0278 | james.griffin@milmission.org

GREGORY N. NEU, M.A., Director, Safe Harbor
(414) 935-0276 | greg.neu@milmission.org
www.milmission.org



The goal of **Prison Fellowship** is to equip, connect and encourage volunteers, church communities and other organizations to collaborate on a single focus—from intake through reentry—to make disciples who make disciples, and through the process are equipped to stay out when they get out, and lead new, productive, God-honoring lives.

SAMMY PEREZ
Senior Grassroots Strategist
Sammy_perez@pfm.org | 571.252.6860

KRISTA ORTIZ
Krista_Ortiz@pfm.org

www.prisonfellowship.org



Excel Engineering, Inc., is an employee owned company providing full architectural and engineering design services and has provided professional design services to over 100 Christian Churches and Congregations. With our in-house staff we are able to provide a collaborative and fully integrated design solution. Your one stop design firm.

O/920-926-9800

TOM SCHERMERHORN NCARB, PE
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KALLIE J. OGI
Kallie.O@excelengineer.com

www.excelengineer.com



e3 Partners Ministry

Through Gospel trainings, short-term trips, International Workers, church partnerships, local evangelism, and more, we work to make disciples and plant churches across all nations.

JEAN SPRENGER
Church Partnerships
414 531 6661
jean.sprenger@e3partners.org

CAROL WILSON
CP Coordinator
carol.wilson@e3partners.org

www.e3partners.org



LEE AND REGINA BLOCH

Church Planters, Brazil
Southern Cone Initiative, South America

U.S. Cell 847-532-0854
www.christlatinamerica.org/

Converge Giving Site
<https://converge.org/missionary/lee-regina-bloch>



Christian Service Brigade is an inter-generational, single-gender, discipleship ministry that empowers and equips men to disciple boys and young men in their church and community.

BILL MELLIEN, Regional Director
2702 King Place, Eau Claire, WI 54701
715.830.9838 | wmellien@csbministries.org

www.cbbministries.org



KATIE FRIESEN SMITH, D.Min.
Director, Living The Questions
smikatj@bethel.edu | 651.638.6117



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY

Bethel University
3900 Bethel Drive | St. Paul, MN 55112
www.bethel.edu



The **Eagle Brook Association (EBA)** provides free leadership training, mentoring, and coaching to other churches based on the principles and best practices we've used to intentionally reach people for Jesus Christ.

TOM TULBERG, Networking Director
Eagle Brook Association
P| 651-429-9227 D| 612-259-9349

www.eaglebrookassociation.com



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"We don't sell'em...we help you buy them!" We ask the right questions at the right time for the right reason. This results in improved copier contracts, waste elimination and spend reduction. (As an example, Community Church, Fond du Lac, WI saved \$29,000 on 1 copier over term.)

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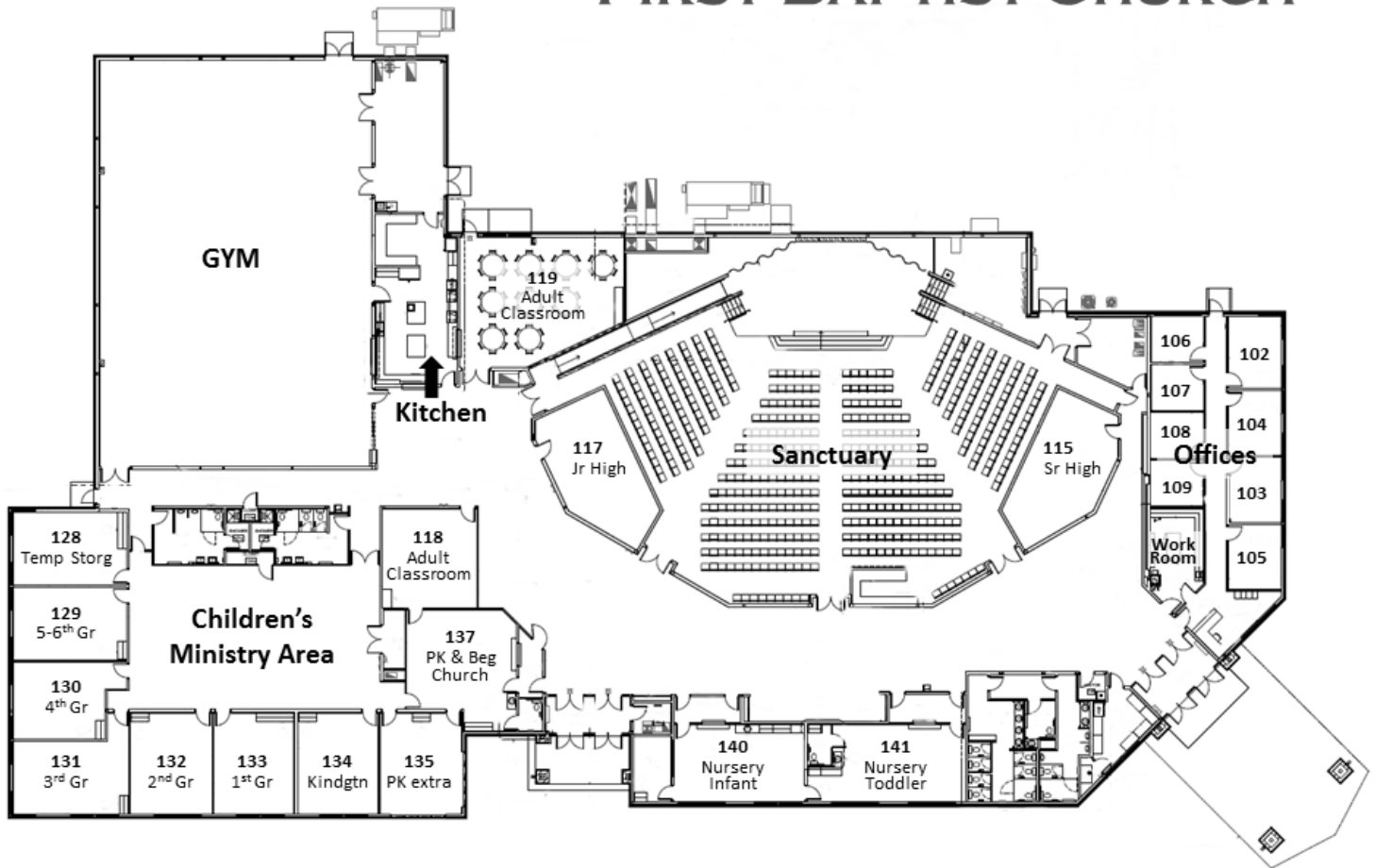
NextStep/Harvest is one of the country's largest distributors of Sunday school and VBS curriculum, Curriculum. All curriculum products are discounted 5 -10% off retail prices. Christian books and Bibles including Adult Bible Studies and Communion Supplies are also available at discounted rates.

AARON URAN
aaron@nsresources.com
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Getting Around

for Main Sessions, Childcare, Meals, Vendors, Breakout Sessions and Gatherings

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



General Meeting Areas

- ◆ Main Sessions & Business Meeting - *Sanctuary*
- ◆ Childcare - *Children's Ministry Area*
- ◆ Pre-Conferences - *See Page 6*
- ◆ Saturday Breakout Sessions - *See Page 6*
- ◆ Vendors and Ministry Partners - *Gym*

Call to Commitment

Annual Meeting Response Card

Name:

Email:

Church Name:

With the population growing faster than it has in decades, we believe there has never been a greater need and opportunity to plant more churches. We have unique opportunity to influence not only our country but also the nations as they come to us. We are committed to be lifelong learners and seek ways to innovate and to eliminate barriers that keep people from finding and following Jesus. We will not depend upon our own strength but rather depend on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. We will seek ways to learn from each other. We will find ways to encourage and inspire one another and we will generously share our resources with each other.

By 2025 in faith, I will help lead our church to embrace these convictions and raise our level of involvement:

To Pray:

- ☐ Engaging in the 21 Days of Prayer including praying for church planters
- ☐ Pray for neighboring communities until a church planter is raised up and called
- ☐ Pray for our pastors, congregations and a Converge movement of starting and strengthening new congregations.
- ☐ Pray for God to raise up church planters on Church Planting Sunday (the first Sunday in June)

To Parent:

- ☐ Plant _____ daughter church/es within the next 1-5 years
- ☐ Multiply by starting _____ campus/es in our region
- ☐ Giving \$_____ monthly, yearly or special gift towards the Church Planting Fund
- ☐ Take special offering on Church Planting Sunday, the first Sunday in June, for the next 5 years
- ☐ Adopt a church planter as a regional missionary including prayer and financial monthly support
- ☐ Send out a planter from our congregation

To Partner:

- ☐ Help strengthen a struggling church to be able to effectively engage in multiplication
- ☐ Open our church building for an ethnic church plant to use
- ☐ Send a youth team as a mission trip to a new church plant to serve
- ☐ Commit at least 1% of our budget towards church planting thru LEAD Teams
- ☐ Support a church planter financially and prayerfully
- ☐ Invite a church planter in to speak to our congregation

To Participate:

- ☐ Be willing to send a staff member or significant leader to CP Assessment
- ☐ Provide a residency or internship opportunity for a church planter
- ☐ Provide individuals or families to temporarily join the planting team
- ☐ Serve on an advisory board of a new church plant
- ☐ Engage and be active in a LEAD team in your region

Other:

☐

Notes

To track ideas, decisions, and contacts



www.ConvergeGreatLakes.org
608.244.5000 | PO BOX 14745 | Madison, WI 53708-0745