

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Community of Grace Lutheran Church 2025 Annual Meeting Agenda January 26, 2025

Call to Order – Mike Hamernick

Opening Song/Prayer

Business Agenda

- Appointment of Tellers, Parliamentarian, Recording Secretary
- Motion to Approve Congregational Meeting Minutes – Mike Hamernick
 - 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Report of Nominating Committee
 - Request for Additional Nominations from the Congregation
- Senior Pastor's Report – Senior Pastor Darrin Vick
- President's Report – Mike Hamernick
- Treasurer's Report – Dennis Engman
 - Present 2025 Council Recommended Ministry Funding Plan (MFP) to Congregation
 - Discussion of 2025 Recommended Ministry Funding Plan
 - Vote on 2025 Recommended Ministry Funding Plan
- Election of Council and Committee Members by Written Ballot
 - Collection of Ballots by Tellers
 - Voting Results

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

2024 ANNUAL REPORT ADDENDUM

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Community of Grace Lutheran Church

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting

January 28, 2024

Mark Schuneman, Church Council President, called the meeting to order at 11:55 AM and declared a quorum was present.

Pastor Darrin Vick opened the meeting with a prayer.

Tellers were appointed including lead tellers Dave and Arlene Nietz, with Curt and Kathy Schneider serving as assistants.

Additional appointments included Mike Kaytor as Parliamentarian and Michelle Sherman as Recording Secretary.

Mark Schuneman introduced a motion to approve the minutes from the last annual meeting held on January 22, 2023, and this motion received a second. After the opportunity for discussion, the motion to approve the minutes as written was carried unanimously.

Report of Nominating Committee:

Prior to introducing nominations for the 2024 Church Council positions, Mark Schuneman introduced members of the 2023 Council and shared their roles. Updates are as follows:

- Mark Schuneman & Michelle Sherman are stepping down after two consecutive terms.
- Mike Hamernick and Dennis Engman were nominated for a second term.
- Craig Pearson and Tim Meier were nominated for a first term.
- No additional nominations came from the floor.

Mark Schuneman introduced the names of those serving on the **Audit Committee**. Updates are as follows:

- Steve Scidmore has completed his term.
- Steve Nelson was nominated for a 3-year term.
- No additional nominations came from the floor.

Mark Schuneman introduced the names of those serving on the **Endowment Fund Committee**.

- Paul Martinson completed his term.
- Mike Kaytor was nominated to a 5-year term.
- No additional nominations came from the floor.

Mark Schuneman introduced the names of those serving on the **Nominating Committee**.

- Kyle Anderson, Irina Orf, and Joe Ehrman completed their terms.
- Frank Carlson resigned from the committee.
- Dan McMahon, Tod Sherman, Sandy Anderson, and Lisa Ehrman were nominated. The term for each nominee will be agreed upon at the first meeting of the nominating committee, with 1 member holding a 1-year term and 3 members holding a 3-year term.
- No additional nominations came from the floor.

All nominations were closed. Voting occurred with written ballots and the tellers collected the ballots.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Darrin Vick

Jeremiah 6:16: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."

Pastor Darrin has referred to this verse since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, asking the Lord "where are we going? How long is this going to last?"

Pastor Darrin sees many possibilities at the cross-roads, and is continuing to collaborate, listen and hear the many ideas that have been shared by the congregation through our work with Kairos and Associates. Above all, we will need to trust in the Lord in the process.

CGLC staff, council, and leaders from Magnusson Christian School (MCS) met on Saturday, January 27, 2024, for a 6-hour meeting to pray, listen, and discern what we have been hearing thus far. CGLC and MCS will be leaning in together in our relationship after a season that included some drifting apart in various ways.

CGLC is invited to attend the MCS Open House on Tuesday, 2/13/24, to come and see what is happening in the school, and show support for the teachers, leaders, and the school. People can also call Heather Norman, the Director of MCS, to arrange a visit.

Pastor Darrin concluded by saying thank you to -

- CGLC for being an amazing congregation for giving, serving, and being the church family.
- The church council for their talent and time commitments.
- The amazing staff of CGLC for their service and incredible gifts they utilize every day.
- Pastor Angie, the best associate Pastor he has ever worked with or known.
- His wife Angela, and his family for their love and support.
- Mark Schuneman, for his leadership and his role on the council for Pastor Darrin's entire tenure at CGLC thus far. Pastor Darrin proceeded to present Mark with a gift card to Big Guys BBQ.

President's Report: Mark Schuneman

Thinking about the past year, Mark looks to April 1 for the Egg Hunt when we received a foot of snow and the event was still pulled off successfully, with the Lord providing the way for CGLC to be a light in our community with close to 500 people attending.

Other highlights included the food packing event for Haiti, VBS success, and many other ways we showed God's love to our community.

Mark asked the staff to stand for a round of applause for the amazing work that they do.

Mark asked Britta to take the stage to introduce a new platform, a fully integrated administrative system to better serve the needs of the staff and congregation. It replaces MyCG and is called Church Center. The benefits include -

- More user-friendly platform
- Automatically updating app
- One software instead of multiple

Data has been securely transferred to the Church Center platform. The last two years of giving history are in the process of being transferred. Historical access to 7 full years of giving data will be available. When the transfer is complete, MyCG will be scrubbed.

Data protection and privacy is a high priority. Each person will have the ability to control what data they have available in Church Center.

Next steps for the congregation:

- Download Church Center, with the directions that were distributed.
- Update your contact information in Church Center
- Upload photos of you and your family to Church Center

This will be our new giving platform, and you can also register for events on it. For current recurring givers, a letter will be sent out from Mike Mathisen.

On Sunday mornings in February, there will be a help desk available for people to work with Mike Mathisen to privately set up their giving from 10:00 am – 10:30 am. Additional times will be added in March if needed. You can also contact the information desk during regular business hours for assistance.

Church Center also provides a digital directory, which is not publicly accessible. It is an opt-in directory, and people must be invited in and approved by a staff member, with options on how much data they want to share in the directory. If you do not receive an email to join the directory in the next week, please contact the staff.

Pastor Angie's Report

Pastor Angie's last sabbatical leave was in 2016, and she will be taking her next sabbatical from April 1, 2024, through June 14, 2024. This period starts the day after Easter and ends the day before the Garage Sale. The time away will allow Pastor Angie to spend more time with her family for special occasions.

She will also be working on a project in preparation for the 140th anniversary of CGLC in four years. She will be streamlining previous historical summaries to pull them together into a cohesive document. She thanked the congregation for providing this sabbatical gift and opportunity to her.

Treasurer's Report; Andy Hennig

Andy reviewed the 2023 financial results highlights.

2023 Ministry Funding Results

- Fully funded ministry and added some back into reserves.
- Total Income - \$1,526,290
- Total Expenses - \$1,517,085
- Building Reserve Fund Balance of \$688,497
 - \$234,259 increase in Building/Reserve Fund in 2023 including -
 - \$221,306 Employee Retention Credit (Covid Era Government Grant). This one-time gain is not reflected in the income in the budget.
 - \$9,205 Income from 2023
 - \$3,748 balance in Canopy of Grace 2.0 roofing project which has been completed and paid. This account has been closed and is now in the general fund.

Our present Endowment Fund balance is \$1,053,303.

- New Gifts in 2023 - \$16,150

- Distributed in 2023 for Facility Needs - \$64,585
- See handout for the facility projects that were funded by the endowment fund in the Endowment Fund Report that was distributed.

Next, Andy introduced the 2024 budget proposal for \$1,680,700. This total is \$154,409.97 above the 2023 actuals. Anticipated Total 2024 Expenses of \$1,679,860 is \$62,775.34 above 2023 Actuals.

Andy reviewed pertinent details regarding increases and decreases in expenses for line items in the proposed 2024 budget:

- Rent increase for our partners has been agreed upon with them.
- Fees for ministry activities will now be accounted for in the budget.
- Approximately \$148,000 increase in contributions and offerings
- Expenses
 - Worship – no change.
 - Groups – increased by \$5,450.
 - Service - no change.
 - Care – senior outreach increased by \$500.
 - Operations – increased approximately \$30,000 due to insurance, utilities, and custodial expenses.
- Personnel budget reflects full year salaries for recent hires and raises for staff at an approximate increase of \$25,000.
- Missions – no change.

Questions/Discussion

- Do we need the same number of furnaces? Yes, all of them are needed because of how the church was built. Consolidating them would require an additional \$500,000. The new furnaces are significantly better than the old ones.
- Are the reserve funds being invested, and is there income from them? Yes, they are in an interest-bearing account, and it generated approximately \$18,000 of interest last year.

Following this review, Mark asked for a voice vote to approve the 2024 budget, which passed.

Election results returned with all the nominations approved.

Pastor Angie closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Sherman, Church Council Secretary

2024 ANNUAL REPORT ADDENDUM

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COUNCIL NOMINEES

Joe Ehrman

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Joe Ehrman, and my wife, Lisa, and I have been attending Community of Grace for nearly 7 years. Even before I arrived, though, as I was examining the CGLC website, I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me that this was where He wanted us to be, which was thoroughly confirmed when I attended my first service. Receiving a warm welcome as soon as we walked into the building, seeing firsthand the interaction between the Traditional and Contemporary worshipers in the Commons, experiencing the Holy Spirit-led worship and listening to the Christ-honoring message that Pastor Angie preached that day, all convinced me that I had found a new spiritual home. But this was kind of like coming home to me, because I had been baptized as an infant at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in my hometown of New Washington, OH and completed my Confirmation there as well. By the time I graduated from high school in 1972, though, I was an atheist and spent my college years in rebellion against God. That ended my senior year at Miami of Ohio, when I opened my heart to Jesus, but it took a few years more before I completely committed myself to His total Lordship over my entire life, a step I took while I was involved with Campus Crusade for Christ at The Ohio State University. I graduated from OSU in 1979 and met Lisa in the fall of that year. We were married in 1980 and then, after having 4 kids in Ohio and being very involved in the churches we attended, moved to Minnesota (where we didn't know a single person) in March of 1989, thanks to a job transfer with 3M. Since we have been up here, we have been involved in several churches, and I served in a variety of leadership capacities within those churches over the years. I retired in October of 2019, at the conclusion of a nearly 35-year sales career with 3M and I believe that the communication skills which I developed in my position at 3M can be used by the Lord to serve Him at CGLC.



I love reading the Bible and my greatest passion (other than Jesus Himself) has been, and continues to be, the study and teaching of Scripture. I fully affirm the truth of Hebrews 4:12, that, "...the word of God is living and active...", as it has shown itself to be in my life thru the decades that I have followed Jesus. I also affirm the necessity of the filling and indwelling of the Holy Spirit in my life, so I can operate in the gifts that He provides, according to the needs and opportunities in which He wants to use me. I am irrevocably committed to the absolute truth that Jesus is "...the Way, the Truth and the Life..." and that, as He said, "...no one comes to the Father except through me." And I am fully persuaded of the truth of Heb. 10:25 and am committed to the practice of consistent fellowship with other believers, whether in our weekly corporate church services or in the regular meeting of small groups.

During my time at CGLC I have been (and still am), involved with the Welcome Team and serving as a small group leader in Catalyst, am currently on the Groups Core Team and am also involved with the Prayer Team. Lisa and I are also still part of a very special small group which we joined after being here for only two months. I am grateful for the chance to have served on the Church Council this past year (to finish out a vacated term) and I'm equally thankful for the opportunity to be considered for a new 3-year term. It's difficult for me to put into words just how special Community of Grace has been and continues to be to me. The spirit of grace that is truly here, the welcoming attitude of everyone who attends this church, the dynamic and moving worship that we share together (in all its various styles), the unapologetically Jesus-focused and Biblically-sound preaching and teaching we receive from the pulpit each week and the tender ministry extended to the children among us, all combine to make this a very special...and in my experience...truly unique place. I believe the heart of our Heavenly Father shines through all that is said and done here! Plus, I absolutely love the fact that one of our regular slogans is that we take Jesus very seriously, but ourselves, not so much...and that we actually live it out! I am excited to be part of the journey on which God has set Community of Grace and want to serve Him, and all of you, in any way that I can, for as long as I can, as we seek to glorify Jesus in our midst and serve and impact our surrounding community with His love, truth and grace.

Stephanie Battista

I have been attending Community of Grace for about 16 years. When Mark and I started dating, I knew I needed to find a church on the east side of town, and God brought us here, on the recommendation of Mark, who lived nearby. It felt like the right place to be. We were married here in July of 2008. While we live in Vadnais Heights now, and Mark worships at St. Odelia in Shoreview. post-covid. our children have decided to attend with me, and took their first communion here in 2022.



I came to faith as a child, praying with my dad, and accepting Jesus as my savior around age 5. My family were in many different Lutheran (Church of the Master, Hope Lutheran), non-denominational (Jesus People + church plants), Assembly of God (Northside and Brooklyn Center), and a Christian and Missionary Alliance Church (Open Door) where I was the last 15 years before I came to Community of Grace. Through all those transitions, I saw strong faith in my parents, intercession in my mom. and prophecy in worship in my dad. I have met wonderful people in several small groups, and prayer groups over my time at Community of Grace.

Right now, in addition to serving as Secretary on the CGLC Council, I usher in the contemporary service, and my children, Maggie and Matt, and I help with VBS in the summer.

I have degrees in chemical engineering and environmental health and have been working in corporate health and safety governance for more than 25 years. I came to marriage and motherhood much later than most, and my kids are in 5th and 7th grades. I'm active in a book club that started here and I also run a multi-age girl scout troop.

Stephanie Battista

Andy Hennig

My name is Andy Hennig, and I have been attending Community of Grace with my family since 2015. Our family (my wife (Valerie) our kids (Martin, Graham, and Sylvia) and my parents (Volker and Carole)) transferred here in 2015 from another Lutheran congregation in White Bear Lake. It was a difficult decision to leave the congregation in which I had grown up, been confirmed, gotten married, and had our children baptized, but since coming to Community of Grace, I have felt new ways to explore my faith, and understand it more deeply. Participating in growth groups was a great way to have discussions of our faith with other members, and those have continued in various forms from the very beginning of our time My name is Andy Hennig, and I have been attending Community of Grace with my family since 2015. Our family (my wife (Valerie) our kids (Martin, Graham, and Sylvia) and my parents (Volker and Carole)) transferred here in 2015 from another Lutheran congregation in White Bear Lake. It was a difficult decision to leave the congregation in which I had grown up, been confirmed, gotten married, and had our children baptized, but since coming to Community of Grace, I have felt new ways to explore my faith, and understand it more deeply. Participating in growth groups was a great way to have discussions of our faith with other members, those have continued in various forms from the very beginning of our time here to this day. I am Lutheran to the core, and a bit of a church nerd. I have a special place in my heart for the traditional LBW liturgy, but I am also at home in Contemporary worship. I love potlucks, funny church stories, singing and writing hymns, listening to organ music, and a chat after services over a cup of Lutheran coffee.



(More)

Since coming to Community of Grace, I have been involved in choir, and various growth groups. I've been a part of many committees as well, including the Growth Groups Core Team, Ask Away Team, served on the Endowment Committee for the past 4 years (2 as chair), and was a part of the Senior Pastor Call Committee which resulted in the calling of Pastor Darrin Vick in 2019. Valerie and I have led a growth group for young families in the past, and I currently lead a growth group for Dads of school-aged children. All of these activities have provided the blessings of music, community, and spiritual growth for our whole family. My family is active in our church too: Valerie works with the Education core team and hospitality, and our kids are part of Refuge and regularly play music in services. As a family, we performed a concert this past December for the Women of Grace annual event, which was a great joy for us to work towards, and bring the ministry of music during the Christmas season.

Before coming to CGLC, I also served on council, Worship Ministry Teams, and Call Committees at our previous congregation. I look forward to being able to use the gifts I have in working with teams and leaders to fulfill the mission of Christ's church here on Earth: to be and make disciples!

Outside of church, I work at 3M as a host and guide at the Innovation Center on the main campus in St. Paul. I have lived abroad in Belgium and France, and know some French and German. I went to Concordia College in Moorhead, MN where I majored in Math and Physics. I have also been on the board of a business education non-profit for the past 22 years. I enjoy singing, hearing, and writing music. I also love golfing, acting in plays and musicals, savoring coffee, and enjoying good food with good friends.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH JANUARY 26, 2025

Membership Criteria: Must be confirmed members that have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.

Council Nominations: (Choose 3)

- ☐ Andy Hennig (3-year term)
- ☐ Stephanie Battista (3-year term)
- ☐ Joe Ehrman (3-year term)
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Audit Committee Nomination: (Choose 1)

- ☐ Damien Lapoutre (3-year term)
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

**Endowment Fund Committee Nomination:
(Choose 1)**

- ☐ Sam Pickerign (5-year term)
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Nominating Committee Nominations: (Choose 3)

- ☐ Sandy Anderson (2-year term)
- ☐ Linda Goeppinger (2-year term)
- ☐ Sheryl Curran (2-year term)
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Official Ballot Election of Council & Committee Members:

Please mark **ONLY** the correct number of responses for each category. Marking too many responses will **INVALIDATE** the ballot. The Lead Teller will determine whether any ballot is invalidated.