Page 1 A message from the council

Dear Members and Friends of Church,

Once again we have so much to thank God for. During the past six months God has continued to use us for His glory and for others’ good. Our membership has continued to grow. God has taken us through challenging times and deepened our walk with Him. In the power of His Spirit our impact goes well beyond a tiny corner of West Michigan, touching lives throughout the world with words of hope and with deeds of love and mercy.

This booklet is aptly named ***Dreams and Promises***. It’s not an exact blueprint because God always has some surprises in store for us. But it is ***dreams*** from His Spirit based on ***promises*** from His Word. In the spring of 2005 as ministry leaders came together to seek a common focus for all s ministries we were impressed by the words of God to Joshua - *Be strong and courageous*. (Joshua 1:9) We all recognize that , like Joshua and the Israelites, is facing change - in our growing community, in our staff, and potentially in our building. And so the words - ***Strong in Mission, Courageous in Transition*** – were adopted as our unifying focus. We, of course, know that the ***mission*** continues until the Lord returns. We did not expect that the ***transition*** would continue for so long. The search for a Pastor of Congregational Life has been completed. Now we have begun the search for a Pastor of Preaching and Discipleship. A revised building proposal has been adopted. Since the transition continues, we have adopted the same focus for our next year. The dollar amounts stated on the following pages have been approved by the council as a preliminary budget. In keeping with inflation, the budget has increased by approximately 2.5%. Our Dreams and Promises for January 1 – December 31, 2014, including the Christian Education Fund total $ . The formal adoption of the final budget is contingent upon the congregation approving the recommendations of the council (see attached material and explanations) and pledging sufficient giving to meet the new budget. God’s promises are beneath us, ahead of us, and over us. Your promises, based upon God’s promises, will allow us to continue ***Strong in His mission***, and ***Courageous in the Transition*** that He is leading us through.

If the congregation approves the proposed motions, you will then receive a pledge card. As you pray and think about your giving, do it with boldness in your heart and confidence in your spirit. After all, the God who said, *Be strong and courageous*, also said *I will be with you; I will never* *leave you nor forsake you*. (Joshua 1:5) Together we can celebrate God’s grace and renew our commitment to *(mission statement).*

The Church Council

Page 2 Biblical encouragement for giving

**Biblical Encouragement for Giving**

**Why should I give?**

The Bible says, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will reap generously.” (II Corinthians 9:6) The deepest motive for giving is that God invites and encourages us to join Him in His work of sowing and reaping. God invests and gives of Himself to us and to our world. He takes delight in His giving, and anticipates an eternal result. When our hearts are in tune with God and with what He is doing, there will be joy in our giving. “God loves a cheerful giver,” (II Corinthians 9:7) because a cheerful giver is giving the way God gives.

**How much should I give?**

The consistent requirement of God’s people in the Old Testament age was the tithe. “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse.” (Malachi 3:10) The New Testament never cancels this standard of returning to God 10% of what we are given by Him, but a note of freedom is added by such a passage as II Corinthians 9:7, which states, “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.” This indicates that giving is to be regular and proportional. The more we receive from God, the more we are called to give.

**Why should I give, first of all, through Church?**

The key issue in Christian stewardship and giving is not raising money, but raising Christians. The giving of our resources and ourselves is a vital part of our Christian maturity. Giving, like other aspects of our Christian growth, is intensely personal, but not private. We are called in Hebrews 10:24 to “spur one another on toward love and good works.” The leaders and members of every church need to encourage one another toward love and good works, including regular proportional giving.

As we look ahead to fiscal year 2014 the elders and deacons of place this guideline before you for your encouragement. We ask you to join us in giving a significant portion of your tithe to our church for local and worldwide ministry and for our classical and denominational ministry shares. Make sure that the ministry of the church in which God has placed you prospers before the remainder of your giving is allocated to other special kingdom needs beyond . We thank you for making this matter a part of your prayers and we thank you for your ongoing support of the Lord’s work here at .

Page 3 Ministry shares and (local Christian school)

**Denominational and Classical Ministry Shares**

In addition to supporting the ministries of Christian Reformed Church, we also covenant to share our financial resources with our entire denomination. The ministry share system allows us to participate in areas of service that we couldn’t undertake on our own. As we consider the many types of ministry that are supported by ministry shares, we can gratefully say, “This is the Lord’s doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes” (Ps. 118:23).

Ministry Shares provide support to:

Back to God Hour Various Denominational Services

Home Missions Denominational Ministry Programs

World Missions Calvin College and Seminary

Canadian Ministries Board CRC Publications

We are also part of Classis , a group of # area Christian Reformed Churches. Classis has ministries that exist because these # churches work together. These include:

Classical Student Fund Ministries Board

Classical Expense Fund

For fiscal year 2014 the cost for this part of our ministry is expected to be **$** .

**. Christian School**

As a family of believers, we have made a commitment to encourage parents to raise their children to know, love, and serve God. While this responsibility belongs first and foremost with the parents, we also believe that it is important to assist parents by helping to support Christian schools. One of the ways we demonstrate this is through our willingness to be a supporting church of Christian School.

In 2007/08 the cost for this part of our ministry is expected to be **$ .**

Page 4 Worship ministries

*“Worship the Lord with gladness: come before Him with joyful songs.  
 —*Psalm 100:2

(Mission statement): Both happen in our worship. Guests often first experience life at (church name) through our worship times. Our own faith is built up as we worship and listen. We share our joys and needs together in prayer and conversation. Every week members and friends alike gather to grow into greater intimacy with God through worship that celebrates His goodness, communicates His Word and challenges us to serve others – all reflecting our congregation, our community and our Reformed heritage.

Music is an integral part of our worship, exalting Christ, enhancing our praise and strengthening our faith. Vocal and instrumental music, drama and the visual arts all help us to *worship the Lord with gladness*.

The following are included in our Worship Ministries budget:

Salaries for:

Pastor of Preaching and Discipleship

Director of Music and Worship

Assistant Director of Music and Worship

Worship Expenses:

Worship Resources Cherub Choir

Drama material Communion Elements

Guest musicians Visual Arts

Music materials Conferences and Training

Copyright licensing Orchestra materials

Accompanists Worship events

In fiscal year 2014 the cost for this part of our ministry is expected to be **$ .**

Page 5 High school

Goal Statement: To MODEL and discover Christian community through acceptance of and service to all people as we REACH to high school students, BUILD authentic relationships with them, challenge them to LIVE OUT their relationship with Jesus by accepting, serving, and reaching out to others.

We, the High School Ministry, strive to be a Christ-centered community that encourages and challenges students to live life with Jesus by reaching out to people who don’t know Christ. The programs listed are opportunities for relationship building, learning, fun and growing together.

The following are included in the High School Ministry budget:

High school worship

Student LIFE Groups (Small Groups)

*Cross Training*

Going Public

Retreats (Fall, Winter, Three Day Service and Discipleship)

Montana Discipleship Camp

Youth Unlimited Convention

Special Needs Ministry

Youth Pastor salary

In 2014 the cost for this part of our ministry is expected to be **$ .**

Page 6 building fund

“Mission Statement” are greatly enhanced by the facilities God has given us. The sanctuary is used for worship each week. The offices hum with activity. The pastors’ studies provide places for reflection, prayer, and quiet conversation. The classrooms, worship center, and all-purpose room are used every day by ministries touching people for Christ. Well-kept grounds reflect God’s care for His world. As stewards of our facilities, we must keep them in good repair.

Included in the Building Fund expenses are the mortgage and capital improvements required for the facility. Our building is now over years of age, and it is apparent that more major maintenance issues will need to be addressed. With the current and anticipated growth of our congregation we will continue the process of evaluating our facility needs and how to address them.

Included in the Facilities budget are the following:

Cleaning services Facilities Coordinator salary

Building Closer Insurance

Maintenance Snow removal

Lawn care Trash service

Supplies Van expenses

Utilities – church, barn, youth house Landscaping

Mortgage Carpet

For fiscal year 2014 the cost for this part of our ministry is expected to be $ **.**

Page 7 administration

In “(mission statement)” our various ministries touch 800-900 lives each week. Planning, leading and implementing these ministries would be impossible without a team of paid staff and hundreds of volunteer hours. Personal needs and requests, ministry needs and requests, phone calls, tasks and information are responded to every day. The administrative support provided enables to more effectively and efficiently challenge believers and call neighbors.

The following are included in our Administration budget:

Salaries for these part time positions:

Administrative Director

Administrative Assistant - Membership

Communication Assistant

Financial Assistant

Administrative Expenses:

Staff training/education Leadership training for staff/council

Office supplies/equipment

Technology - equipment/support/training

“Firstfruit” Promotion Miscellaneous church wide expenses

In 2014 the cost for this part of our ministry is expected to be **$ .**

Page 8 childrens

*“Planting a seed…Tending a plant…Growing to serve.”*

—I Corinthians 3:6

We celebrate as we continue to assist families in laying down a spiritual foundation for children. We touch the lives of 60 “little ones” each week, 120 elementary aged children, 10% of those guests, along with 100 middle school aged children, 30% of those being guests. Our goals for Children’s Ministry are for each child to come to know our living God, to develop as a faithful follower equipped to share God’s love and to enjoy being part of a loving community. The church helps by providing funding for these ministries.

Each year brings positive changes in our ministry. This year has been no exception. The GEMS are enjoying getting accustomed to a new curriculum. Our lower level classrooms have new round tables and all of the classrooms now sport whiteboards replacing the old chalkboards.

Included in Children’s Ministry are the following:

Children’s Ministry Director salary Nursery

Little People’s Church Children and Worship

Kingdom Kids GEMS

Cadets Conferences/Conventions

Turning Point Summer Worship Programs

Curriculum/Supplies/Events Equipment

Some of the changes we look forward to in 2007/2008 are a computer scheduling program for nursery volunteers and new curriculum for Children and Worship that will be more closely aligned with the Little People’s Church program.

***Invest in the future with returns for today!***

Anticipated cost for this ministry is **$** .

Page 9 congregational life

*Being a Family Together*

We are children of the Heavenly Father; He unites us into one family. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, and under the direction of our new Pastor of Congregational Life**,**

we discipline ourselves to follow Christ in our attitudes and behavior. Our lives are changed as we experience Christ more intimately. We learn to care increasingly for one another as we challenge one another to grow spiritually. There are numerous opportunities for growth, meeting a variety of needs.

Included in the Congregational Life Ministry is:

Pastor of Congregational Life salary

The following is a partial list of ministries that help us become a stronger family of God:

Elder visitation Pastoral Care Providers

Pastoral counseling “Discover Georgetown” classes

Small Groups Respite Care

Prayer Ministry Fellowship activities

Network class Meals Ministry

Library (Resource Center) Membership directories

Hospitality Team

Adult Education opportunities include:

SIS (Sisters in Spirit) – Women’s Bible Study

Men’s Life

Tuesday Morning Men’s Bible Study

AAA (Adults of All Ages)

Ladies Christian Fellowship

School of Prayer

In 2014 the cost for this part of our ministry is expected to be **$ .**

Page 10 outreach

As we “mission statement,” we increasingly feel led to also “rest of mission statement.”

They may be our relatives, coworkers, neighbors or the people with whom our

missionaries work around the world. We are committed to providing the training,

programs and opportunities which will enable and encourage each of us as we seek to

tell our neighbors about Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit help them to

know Him as their Savior.

Our local outreach training and ministries include:

S.O.N. Exposure (Summer Outreach Nights) Food Pantry

“Becoming a Contagious Christian” classes ALPHA

Community Parent/Family Programs (i.e. Movie Night) Friendship bags

After school program involvement (i.e. VBS program) Work with Love I.N.C.

Advertising/Communication with community *SHINE* newsletter

Our worldwide outreach support includes:

Serve projects (individual, high school, and church-organized international)

Missionary monthly financial support for:

NAMES AND LOCATIONS OF MISSIONARIES LISTED HERE

For fiscal year 2014, the cost of this part of our ministry is expected to be **$** .

Christian Education

“A Christian Education for all members of the family, expressed by adult study opportunities, youth and children programming and the **support of Christian day school**.”

The above statement is one of ’s core values. As such, we are committed

that all children of church members have the opportunity to attend Christian schools as a

part of our ministry. This commitment requires that Christian Education be funded by the General Fund in the same manner that all other ministries are funded. In this way the entire church provides for the Christian Education of all its members who are enrolled in a Christian day school. Providing support for this core value recognizes the value we as a congregation place on training our children

“in the way of the Lord.”

For fiscal year 2014 the cost for Christian Education is **$ .**

The preceding amount supports children of members enrolled in the following schools:

SCHOOLS LISTED HERE