

COUNCIL UPDATE – September 6, 2022

Endings and Beginnings

As summer turns to fall, we look forward to a new ministry year and to where our God is leading us. We are thankful that many of us were able to have vacations again, gathering with families and friends, and enjoying great weather. We also said goodbye with gratitude to Pastor Kasey and Liz and we wish them God's blessings as they start their ministry in Guelph. Even though, we may now be temporarily without a pastor, we trust that our faithful God will continue to lead us in our journey as we discern His will for our church and as we allow Holy Spirit to guide us.

Special service – September 11, 2022

This coming Sunday, September 11, 2022, we will have a special Sunday service in which we will commission leaders and participants for the new ministry season. We will have an opportunity to hear Mike Glockner share a brief reflection on "what does it mean to be a church." We will also have an opportunity to participate in an intergenerational-focused event afterwards followed by a lunch together. Special thanks to Aviva Wielinga and the Canada Summer Job (CSJ) students (Victor An, Madeline Zomer, Sarah Nagtegaal, Annalise Zomer) who planned this special service together with Allison Roffel and Mike Glockner.

Worship Coordinator

Council is pleased to announce that Allison Roffel has agreed to serve as our new Worship Coordinator effective September 12, 2022. She brings a lot of experience to this role as she has been leading Worship Team and Worship Planners for many years. In this role, Allison will, among many things, cultivate new opportunities for worship within other ministries at GCRC by training and equipping leaders and members in different elements of worship. She will also work with various ministries to ensure that each Sunday morning is thoughtfully planned and coordinated. Thank you, Allison for sharing your gifts in this ministry and we are looking forward to how God will use you in this new role as we serve and worship Him together.

Challenging Conversation - Human Sexuality Report

In May 2022, about 35 members participated in a six-session listening circles on Human Sexuality Report. You will receive shortly the listening circle summary of the views and opinions expressed by members of our congregation. In June 2022, Synod has also affirmed the Human Sexuality Report. As we digest how the decisions impact the denomination and local churches over time,

- we will continue the practice of being a welcoming church to one another and to the community as we serve our faithful God together and as we place the needs of our neighbours ahead of our own.
- we will also seek guidance from classis and PCR (Pastor-Church Relations) on available resources (videos, books, post-Synod updates etc.) to help educate us further about these topics.
- we plan to invite speakers and educators from the denomination and reformed circles to come and have Q&A sessions with the congregation on topics covered in the Human Sexuality Report (for example: unchastity, pornography, homosexuality, gender dysphoria etc.).

Our hope and prayer as a local GCRC is that we continue to have a safe community for forgiven sinners to belong and to grow in faith and for us all to promote repentance in Christ according to the truth declared in the Word of God, and to be credible witnesses in the community.

Discerning His Direction Reboot

The Discerning His Direction Reboot Committee continues to work on Healthy Church recommendations to find ways and training opportunities for our church to:

- Develop an outward expression of the faith that we treasure
- Shape the way we care for each other (in new ways)
- Train leaders for leading (in a new way)
- Connect with the community around us in ways that grow the Kingdom of God

Some of us have participated in the “Gifts Survey” sessions last year and in an “Appreciative Inquiry” evening workshop earlier this year. The goal here was to recognize and appreciate God’s blessings at GCRC and the ways in which we have appreciated GCRC and how we may keep those things front and centre moving forward. This Fall, God willing, we will continue to build upon the above themes by offering a 5-week “Witness curriculum course” from Resonate to help us connect with our community in a practical and more intentional way. More information on these is coming soon via a planned Ministry moment, by e-mail and in the bulletin.

Search Committee

Our search committee continues to work diligently to identify a suitable pastor for our church. If any of you know of a pastor who you think may be a suitable candidate as our next pastor, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the Search Committee members (William Nagtegaal, Allison Roffel, Aviva Rothman-Wielinga, Len Siderius, Irene Simpson, Erin Vandenberg, Brandon Weening, Herb Westerveld). Please continue to keep the Search Committee members in your prayers as they continue to work on our behalf.

HHCS - GCRC Partnership

Our church’s lower level is now officially serving as an extension of HHCS next door (also known as the South Campus) Monday to Friday during school hours. Starting September 6, 2022, the South Campus is where grades 3 and 4 teachers and students will be meeting for classroom instructions. On September 16, 2022, the Back-to-School event will allow parents to tour and visit this new addition to the school. Special thanks to Albert Grin who managed this renovation project and for getting everything ready on time for use this school year. Also, our gratitude to the team from our church (Hank Visser, Bob DeVries, Ray Scheepstra) and from the school for taking care of the details on the business and safety matters. It is good to see how both GCRC and HHCS have been able to bless and support each other.

We serve a faithful God. Praise be to God.

In His Service
GCRC Council