

MEMORANDUM

To: All Great Lakes District Church Pastors, Leaders and Affiliates
From: Carlan Bounds [Chairman of GLD Board of Directors]
Date: September 1, 2017
Re: Important Information on our Mission, Vision, Ministry, Church Plants, Budget, Churches Joining and Leaving the GLD, 2018 Board and Nominations Committee Ballot.

INTRODUCTION

This memorandum is sent out to you, in advance of our Annual District Conference as important reading, to inform and educate you as to:

- GLD's vision for our five state area
- Regional and area ministries
- News of church planting activities
- Proposed Budget for 2018
- Board of Directors Nominations for 2018

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is with acclamation from all that we thank our District Superintendent, Rick Thompson, and his staff of Regional and Area Superintendents, Director of Church Planting, Church Consultants, Accountant, and Administrative Associate for their always excellent and extraordinary service in the support and care of our churches. As a board we pray for this vital ministry team and covet your prayers as well, to keep them and His work before our Heavenly Father.

GLD MISSION

The Great Lakes District exists to glorify God by multiplying healthy churches among all people in our sphere of responsibility (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Western Ohio and Northern Kentucky).

2017 CHURCH MINISTRY

Shepherd Search
Empowering Your Search for the next Pastor
A Major Ministry of the Great Lakes District

The transition of a church to the next pastor can lead to a new chapter of fruitfulness or frustration. The Great Lakes District staff of superintendents are experienced in empowering your search. Shepherd Search by Rick Thompson is a proven process. Here are some insights we trust will be useful to you

<http://storage.cloversites.com/greatlakesdistrictfca/documents/Shepherd%20Search.pdf>

1. Prayerful Preparation

The GLD Search process is saturated with prayer. The worship service bulletin asks for prayer each week. For instance, the first prayer request might be that God would guide in the selection of the search committee for the pastoral search. One prayer request every week keeps the congregation involved in the search as they labor in prayer.

2. Personal Presentation

The GLD Search Process clarifies the information that needs to be gathered and posted on line such as a Community Profile, Church Vision Statement, Core Values, and Strategy of Ministry, Church Constitution and By-Laws, and last Church Annual Report.

3. "Prophetic Profile"

"Prophetic" means to "shine forth the truth." The GLD Search Process equips you to build a unique truth filled pastoral profile that empowers you to read resumes and recognize your next pastor. Your GLD staff are "on call" during your search.

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|-----------------------|---|
| • Family | married or single; children at home or empty nest |
| • Leadership style | director, influencer, collaborative, or steady (DISC) |
| • Spiritual gifting | apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers |
| • Education | Bible College or seminary required? |
| • Special Experiences | missionary service, urban experience or other |
| • Wiring | entrepreneur, manager, or technician |
| • Community fit | urban, suburban, rurban, or rural |

4. Pool of Resumes

The GLD Staff equips you to work with www.ministerconnection.net our “eharmony” type tool that matches your completed church profile to 100's of vetted potential pastors. Churches also seek resumes from friends, seminaries, and trusted sources.

5. Personal Behavioral interviews

The GLD's Shepherd's Search gives your search team a template of the critical questions to ask and key insights on how to do a behavioral interview. We are also available to give counsel on reading your top resumes in your pastoral search.

6. Preaching

As your team narrows the search the preaching ministry of a potential candidate is critical to evaluate in person if possible and with more than one person's input.

7. Pastoral candidate

As your team recommends one pastoral candidate to the congregation the GLD Staff can point you to resources on several approaches on how to present your candidate. Once your next pastor is called we can serve you with an installation service that honors God and continuing person care, ministerial opportunities, and valuable equipping.

We are grateful to God that He still calls pastors to serve a local church through a healthy search process by equipped local leaders and the final call of the congregation. Here are some of the new gifts of Christ to our GLD churches over the past few years.

CHURCH PLANTING

We continue to strive for healthy GLD churches planting new churches that plant more churches.

ILLINOIS

Agape Chicago, Chicago, IL
Church Planter: Jeremiah Vaught
agapechicago.com

Chicago Gospel Fellowship, Chicago, IL
Church Planter: Tim Ophus
chicagogospelfellowship.org

Christian Neighbors Church, Waukegan, IL
Church Planter: Luke McFadden
christianneighborschurch.org

Good News Church, Woodstock, IL
Church Planter: Mitch Kirchmeyer
goodnewswoodstock.org

Grace Comm. Restart, Schiller Park, IL
Church Planter: Ben Sincock

One Fellowship, Highwood, IL
Church Planter: Steven Weathers
1fellowship.com

The Brook, Chicago, IL

Church Planter: Eric Rivera
thebrookchi.com

The Village Church, Chicago, IL

Church Planter: Matt Solie
villagechurchchicago.org

Total Life Church, West Dundee, IL

Church Planter: Justin Searles
totallifechurch.com

INDIANA

Connection Church, Franklin, IN
Church Planter: Gary Walker
connectionchurchoffranklin.com

Connection Church, Greenwood, IN
Church Planter: Tony Yingst
connectionchurchofgreenwood.com

MICHIGAN

Cornerstone Church, Detroit, MI
Church Planter: Tyler St. Claire
cornerstonedetroit.org

Crossway Multinational, Lansing, MI
Church Planter: John Bell
crosswaymchurch.org

Doxa Church, Rochester Hills, MI
Church Planter: Kyle Bushre
doxadetroit.org

Restore Church, Detroit, MI
Church Planter: Mike Hanafee
resdetroit.org

OHIO

Elevation Community, Blanchester, OH
Church Planter: Phil Nelson
myelevationcc.org

Scarlet City Church, Columbus, OH
Church Planter: Jay O'Brien
scarletcitychurch.org

GLD REGIONAL AND AREA SUPERINTENDENTS

New Pastors in the GLD!



Jeff Knitt is the new Senior Pastor of [Crossview EFC in Dekalb, IL](#). He and his family (Kami and Jay), are thrilled to be back in the EFCA. Jesus turned Jeff's life upside-down while he was in college. He served overseas with Cru after college for a year, and he returned to the States to get married. After a year in the wonderful world of engineering and social work, he and his wife quit their jobs and headed to TEDS where God called them to local church ministry. Jeff has served as an associate pastor at an EFCA church in Kansas, a campus pastor at a non-denominational multisite church in Chicago-land, and now he's enjoying planting roots in a new role at Crossview EFC.



Tom Penner was installed as the Pastor of [Washington EFC in Valparaiso, IN](#), on July 16. After earning a degree in Civil Engineering, Tom received pastoral training at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree in May 1999. The Penners had lived in Michigan's beautiful (and sometimes cold) Upper Peninsula where Tom served as pastor of Straits EFC for nearly 18 years before their recent move to Valparaiso. Tom loves to preach and teach, building up the body of Christ. He is a certified Walk-Thru the Bible Live Event instructor. The Penners are now a family of 7, having been blessed with Elisabeth (13), Anne (10), Ellen (9), Kristen (7), and Carissa (3). The Penners enjoy the outdoors (all of us), sports (most of us, some more than others), music, and humor.



Brian Pipping has been installed as the Lead Pastor of [Liberty Bible Church in Chesterton, IN](#). Growing up in a pastor's home set the trajectory of his life and helped to plant a love for local church ministry at an early age. He is joined in life and ministry by his wife Diane and their seven children. Brian completed his undergrad at Trinity International and did graduate work at Dallas Theological Seminary and is finishing his D.Min. at Liberty University. He recently served as the Lead Pastor of Harvest Church in Lake Zurich, IL. Brian is passionate about teaching the word of God, making disciples who have a love for Christ and reaching those far from God. He loves the beach, water sports and his Honda Goldwing motorcycle. A special ceremony was held on April 30 to welcome Brian and Diane to the LBC Laporte Campus.



Jim Augustine accepted the call to become the pastor of [Grace EFC in Aldeo, IL](#) in October 2015. Jim has served as the Pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Battle Creek, MI (6 and a half years), as a missionary with Cru/FamilyLife (3 years) and as a Pastor of Youth and Family at South Side Bible Church (10 years). Jim has a BA in Pastoral Studies from Moody Bible Institute. Jim and his wife Cindy (married nearly 23 years), and their six children, Anna (18), Andrew (15), Abigail (12), Alexander (almost 7), Allison (4) and Azariah (2) are excited to see what God can do through them at Grace EFC and through the church to the community. Please pray for God's will to be known at GEFC and in Aldeo as they seek to reach the lost there.



Paul Henschel accepted the call to become the Senior Pastor of [Osco Community Church](#) in Osco, IL in August 2015. Prior to coming to Osco, Paul served as the Solo Pastor of Grace Community Church in Marinette, WI (6 years) and as an Associate Pastor/Pastoral Intern of Forest Preserve Bible Church in Chicago, IL (5 years). Paul has a BA in Pastoral Studies from Moody Bible Institute and a MDiv from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Paul, his wife Tobi (married 8 years), and their three sons Caleb (4), David (2), and Luke (9 months) are excited to be a part of this wonderful church family and community as together we seek to know Him, to make Him known, and to share His love.



Bob Guilford accepted the call as the Lead Pastor of [Trinity Church in Stanton, MI](#) in August, 2015. Prior to coming to Trinity, Bob served with Campus Crusade for Christ on the college campus at St. Cloud State University and at Mankato State in Minnesota. After earning his Masters of Divinity in 1998 he went on to the pastorate with the EFCA. Bob has served in two churches prior to Trinity. He was an adult ministries pastor at Calvary Bible Church, Bourbonnais, IL (EFCA) from 1998-2007. Then he served from 2007- 2014 at Community Bible Church, Brighton, MI as an Adult Ministries Pastor and an Executive Pastor.

He was married to Kim for twelve years and had five children before she passed away at 38 years old. He then met Holly, who was serving with Youth For Christ, and were married in 2002. In 2004 they added another child to the mix of their blended family and now have six children from 10-25 years old.



Jeremy Lobdell transitioned to the position of Preaching Pastor at [Midland Evangelical Free Church](#) in November 2014. Jeremy is passionate about communicating the truth of God's Word in a way that is accurate, clear, meaningful and memorable. Jeremy holds a ThM from Dallas Theological Seminary and served as solo pastor in Missouri and as an Associate Teaching Pastor in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada. Jeremy and his family (wife, Robyn; children Ezra, Zion, and Eden) love good stories, good music, good food, good adventures, and the good news of Jesus Christ.



Richard Moore accepted the call to become the Senior Pastor of [Bluff Hall Church in Payson, IL](#) in June of 2015. Prior to coming to Bluff Hall, Richard served as the Senior Pastor (3 years) at Woodlands Creek Church, Interim Pastor (1 year) and Youth Pastor (5 years) of North Pointe Church. Richard has a BA in Christian Education with an emphasis in youth ministry and adolescent studies. He graduated in May 2014 with his Masters of Theological Studies from The University of Northwestern, Saint Paul. He will complete his Masters of Divinity in May 2016 from there as well. Richard, his wife Sarah (married 8 years), and son Wesley (22 months) are excited to join in the tradition of Bluff Hall and to help guide them as they seek to grow in their knowledge and love for the Lord and the people of the world.



Jonathan Eckberg began serving the congregation of [Erie Evangelical Free Church in Erie, IL](#) as Lead Pastor in November of 2014. Jonathan had slowly grown to know the church over the past 10 years though as he had lead worship for them many times at the request of the Senior Pastor, his father, Ron Eckberg. "Because of the family ties I knew the church before we began talking about me coming on staff. I think it served the process well, because they already knew who I was and what I stood for and they had seen me do ministry. At the same time, I knew some of the struggles and strengths of the church which allowed us all to focus on answering whether I was the right fit to lead this congregation into what God was calling them to next." Jonathan also savored the chance to do ministry with his father, "It is a tremendous blessing to work alongside my dad and to gain from his wisdom and experience of 25 years of church ministry." Prior to working with the wonderful people of EEFC he spent 4 years as the Executive Director of Corporate Worship at Community Gospel Church in Bremen, IN while pursuing his M.Div in Pastoral Counseling from Grace College and Theological Seminary in Winona Lake, IN. He holds his undergrad degree in Psychology from Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. Jonathan and his wife, Erin, have one daughter (Emersyn - 13 months) and a second child due in January of 2016.



W. Ryan Steenburg is the new Senior Pastor of [Grace Evangelical Church](#) in the southeast end of Indianapolis. Ryan and his wife, Kristen, have six children. Caitlyn Rose (8), Wesley Ryan, Jr. (7), Anabelle Grace (5), Mikayla Marie (4), Joshua David Rushmore (2), and Jordan Rain (8 mo.). Before coming to Grace, Ryan served as a Chaplain in the Army National Guard, the Director of Administration for the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, founded his own ministry called Daddy Discipleship, and served as an Associate Pastor. Ryan earned the Bachelor of Arts (2001) from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Master of Divinity in New Testament Exegesis and Exposition (2008) from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and he was the first person to ever earn a Doctor of Philosophy in Family Ministry (2011) which he earned at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Ryan and his family are so blessed to be a part of the Grace family and they are looking forward to all the ways that the Lord will work.



Matt Hickok and his family had been attending a large church in Indiana, with no intention of returning to ministry, when God led them to [Community E-Free in Niles, MI](#) through vacation Bible School. "We had been going to church with a couple that my wife (Betsy) knew from work. When they moved across the country we realized that we were in a great big church and did not know another person there. We decided to take the kids to vacation Bible School at Community and half way through the week our daughter asked if we could come here on a Sunday. We did, and were so warmly welcomed by the church that we kept coming back. We did not even realize that we were sitting under an interim until about a month in." A few months later the church asked Matt for his resume. The interview process took a few months, but Matt, a Word of Life and Cairn University graduate who had previously pastored a small church near Kalamazoo, Michigan, says that the most remarkable thing was "seeing the hand of God move and direct where we were going." Matt, Betsy, Matthew Jr (11), and Liberty Grace (9) are all thrilled to be leading the church that first embraced them as a visitor, and now embraces them as their Pastor.

2018 PROPOSED MINISTRY FUND BUDGET

	2018 Budget	2017 Budget
REVENUES		
Church Contributions	475,000	465,000
Individual Contributions	8,000	6,000
GLD Conference and Events	20,000	20,000
Other Income	26,000	38,000
TOTAL REVENUES	529,000	529,000
EXPENSES		
Compensation Expenses		
Salary & Benefits	387,073	376,828
Taxes and Insurance	9,000	8,800
Total Compensation Expenses	396,073	385,628
Ministry Expenses		
Regional & Youth Ministry	7,000	8,000
Church Planting	20,000	22,500
Travel & Auto Expense	34,500	34,000
Meals	9,500	9,500
GLD Conferences and Events	20,000	20,000
Credentialing	500	750
Church Staffing & Placement	500	500
Total Ministry Expenses	92,000	95,250
General Expenses		
Communications	1,500	1,500
Telephone & Internet	10,500	10,500
Staff Training & Conferences	1,000	6,000
GLD Board	2,500	2,500
Insurance	10,200	9,500
Legal & CPA Review	250	3,500
Banking, Payroll, & Donor Support	1,200	900
Computer & Network	5,000	4,500
Office Supplies & Postage	8,500	9,000
Total General Expenses	40,650	47,900
TOTAL EXPENSES	528,723	528,778
SURPLUS	277	222

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE - BALLOT

The Nominating Committee has concluded its work and has selected the following individuals as candidates for the positions available.

* Indicates Incumbent

Board of Directors

Vice Chairman (Two year term)

- Ronn Smith

Secretary (Two year term)

- Gary Kniseley

Vice Secretary (Two year term)

- Lisa Bubar

Treasurer (Two year term)

- David Spencer

Director (Two year term)

Vote for Four

- Phil Hughes

- Tom Leland

- Osvaldo Silveira *

- Bev Steel *

Committee on Nominations

(Two year term)

Vote for Two

- Phil Bubar *

- Josh Weiland

PROFILES OF CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT POSITIONS

* Indicates Incumbent

Board of Directors - Officers

Vice Chairman (Two Year Term)

Ronn Smith serves as Lead Pastor of The Sanctuary Church in Romeoville, Illinois. Married to Michele, they have two daughters and one son. A graduate of TEDS, Ronn has previously served on the board of the Great Lakes District for 3 consecutive terms. Ronn is seeking affirmation for an elected term as the Vice Chairman of the Great Lakes District.

Secretary (Two Year Term)

Gary Kniseley currently serves as Lead Pastor at Maywood Evangelical Free Church in Rockford, IL and has been there since 2005. He currently completed his Doctor of Ministry from Southern Seminary in Church Revitalization. His passion is to build healthy disciples of Jesus Christ who reach their communities in order to share the saving gospel. He loves shepherding the flock of God and riding his Harley with his wife Adina (of 28 years).

Vice Secretary (Two Year Term)

Lisa Bubar and her husband, Phil Bubar, serve the Chapel in St Joseph, MI, where Phil is Senior Pastor. Lisa's chief ministries at their church are serving on the Women's Ministries Team, working with AWANA and Children's Ministries, and hosting a new Believer's Bible Study each year in their home. Lisa is serving a four-year term on the Nominating Committee for the EFCA. She also enjoys teaching music and playing the bassoon throughout Southwest Michigan.

Treasurer (Two Year Term)

David Spencer and his wife Dolores are among our most respected leaders in Region D. 2017 marks 31 years of marriage for them. David planted The Church of Chicago in the Beverly neighborhood on the south side of Chicago near where he grew up and today they share a facility with Elim EFC in Oak Lawn formerly led by Ron Allen. The Church of Chicago recently entered the GLD-EFCA as a full member church. David is now ordained with the EFCA. David and Dolores have been a vital part of the GLD Joshua Team traveling to Berlin, Germany in 2014 to join with the European Joshua Team. David has served on the GLD Church Planter Assessment team.

Board of Directors – Directors (Two Year Term)

Phil Hughes is a member of The Chapel in St. Joseph, Michigan, where he has served as Elder Chairman and Sunday School teacher. For the GLD Board of Directors, Phil has served as a General Director and Vice Chairman.

Tom Leland is a financial advisor, and has previously served as the GLD's Vice Treasurer, and General Director. Tom and his wife Bobbie have three daughters and a son. A member of Trinity EFC in South Bend, Indiana for over 30 years and currently serving as chairman of the church board, Tom is experienced in Building Committees and in Long Range Studies.

*Osvaldo Silveira has served since 1993 through the EFC as a full-time pastor. He currently is the pastor of Cristo Es La Roca EFC in Wauconda, Illinois, since 2005, following a successful church planting and pastoral ministry in Southern California. In addition, he is working since 2014 on a Church Replanting Project in Round Lake. He served for more than 12 years in the Hispanic National Leadership Team and in different working groups at national level. Married for 38 years with Miriam, they have two daughters, Sabrina Marcela, Registered Nurse and Pamela, married to Jeremy Lee, both Army Retired Veterans.

*Bev Steel is married to Tom, and they have three grown children. She has a Masters in Speech Pathology. With Tom, Bev is one of the founding members of Midland EFC, and is a former Children's Ministry Director. She currently volunteers in several capacities at MEFC, and especially enjoys teaching God's Word to women and children. Bev seeks affirmation as Director of the Great Lakes District Board.

Committee on Nominations (Two Year Term)

*Phil Bubar is in his 23rd year as Senior Pastor of The Chapel in St. Joseph, MI, site of past Conferences of the Great Lakes District. Phil is married to Lisa, who has served as a Director of the Great Lakes District Board. Phil has served on the Nominating Committee in the past.

Josh Weiland has served for 14 years at Wawasee Community Bible Church in Milford, Indiana, the last 7 of those in the role of Lead Pastor. During that time he lead Wawasee Bible to join the EFCA and GLD. Josh holds a bachelors degree in Biblical Theology from Moody Bible Institute and a Masters in Missional Leadership. He also teaches Bible at Grace College. He is married to his wife, Hannah, and they have a 1-year-old son, Charlie. Josh's passions include teaching God's Word, graphic arts, visual communications, biking, and following the Chicago Cubs and Iowa State Cyclones!

NEW CHURCHES FOR ADMISSION TO THE GREAT LAKES DISTRICT

We are delighted to propose that the following church be admitted to the Great Lakes District:

- Christian Neighbors, Waukegan, IL
- The Brook, Chicago, IL
- Agape Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Restore Church, Detroit, MI
- Crossway Multinational Church , East Lansing, MI
- Pine Grove Church, Stanton, MI
- Doxa Church – Rochester Hills, MI (Restart)

CHURCHES FOR WITHDRAWL FROM THE GREAT LAKES DISTRICT

We advise that the following churches have decided to leave the fellowship of the Great Lakes District:

- Glen Hill EFC - East Peoria, IL (Closed)
- Village Life Church – Indianapolis, IN (Closed)
- River Valley Community – Newaygo, MI (Merger with Trinity Fellowship, Big Rapids, MI)

SPECIAL THANKS

As we look ahead to our annual conference at TIU this year we want to express a well deserved Thank You to Rick Thompson, Brett Gleason, Amanda Bruney, and Mathew Mathai who contributed greatly to this memorandum. Our conference this year will join with Trinity and the ROM Lectures on their campus. In addition to key plenary meetings, we will have several seminars planned that will be an excellent benefit for you and your ministry. It is our prayer that God will be glorified and each one will leave having been blessed and saying it was good to have been at TIU.

Conference Information and Encouragement

The conference will focus on Transformational Churches (For All People). We are delighted to have **Luis Palau**, noted **Global Evangelist**, join us Monday Evening in Worship and Tuesday morning. Luis has ministered to millions with the message of hope that only Jesus can bring. Plan to attend and let God speak to you through His Word, you will be blessed, encouraged, and enriched for the Kingdom work you do. We expect great things in our business session as well, with our Superintendent, Rick Thompson's report to the conference and our President, Kevin Kompelien also joining us during this time.

A special note for those attending the Monday evening Women's Dinner, Pat Palau will be your guest speaker, so come expecting great things.

It is truly an honor and privilege to serve our Great God by serving you, the Great Lakes District. We ask you to read through the conference material and be blessed by the reports and attend the 2017 Annual Conference praying that our great and wonderful God will be glorified. We covet your prayers for the ministry of the GLD that it will thrive with Healthy Churches, Ministerials, and Regions. Pastors and Lay Leaders are vital to these areas and we commit each and every one of you to God.

As we look forward to our conference in a few short weeks we dedicate it to His Glory with these words that come to mind from Paul when he wrote to the Ephesians (Chapter 3, v20-21). These verses are often used as a benediction, however they are our prayer for God to be Glorified.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be Glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen"

Sincerely in Christ,



Carlan Bounds

Chairman
Board of Directors
Great Lakes District