

OCTOBER, 2024



GRACE CHURCH

# ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL MEETING AND CELEBRATION  
OCTOBER 27, 2024 | 6:30PM  
HOSTED AT GRACE HARBORCREEK

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>A LETTER FROM PASTOR DEREK.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>AGENDA.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ANNUAL CELEBRATION 2022-2023 MINUTES.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2023 MINISTRY YEAR BUDGET.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2024-2025 BALLOT.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>FINANCIAL REPORT.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>MEMBERS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PASTORAL LICENSING.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>GRACE CHURCH MINISTRY UPDATES.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>NOTES.....</b>	<b>20</b>

# A LETTER FROM PASTOR DEREK

Dear Grace Church,

As I look back on this year, one word comes to mind, “preparation.”

It seems that God has been preparing his church for the next chapter of ministry. In this past year, we’ve seen incredible signs of life and spiritual fruit. The number of lives changed by Grace is staggering.

But underneath it all, I believe God has been preparing us.

Obviously, there have been many preparations around our new Awake the Lake initiatives. Our staff has been involved in one grand reshuffle: new courses are being written, new strategies are devised, new roles are assumed, new skills are being learned, and new methods are activated.

It turns out that transitioning the church from a modern church-growth approach to equipping everyday Christians to live out their faith in real life is a big deal!

There has been a spiritual preparation, too. Our journey through the gospel of Mark on Sundays has framed our expectations for discipleship in this new era. There has been a growing hunger for the words and ways of God. And just as we begin to announce that we will be de-emphasizing the importance of attendance numbers, God continued to expand our impact. We set non-holiday attendance records through January, welcomed over 7,000 people to Christmas at the Warner with 241 volunteers serving over two days, and baptized almost 100 people in one event at Beach 8 with nearly 700 people watching.

It almost feels like a pregnancy: growing and nurturing new life and getting ready for a season of giving birth. Creating new callings and influences, new ministries and non-profits, new locations, and new church partners. God has been preparing us for something new. I can’t wait to continue on the journey with you.



This year’s annual celebration will be a can’t-miss event, and as a member of the Grace family – I’d urge you to be there. We will put a stake in the ground and mark God’s faithfulness until now, and we will talk about what’s next on our journey together. We will culminate our time with a town hall-type conversation about our Awake the Lake vision. I love you guys so much.

I’m honored to be your pastor.

**Pastor Derek**

## 2023-2024 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- **Welcome: Pastor Derek**
- **Recognition of New Members** *(see page 10 for complete list)*
- **Convening of Meeting: Bill Hunter**
- **Minutes of Previous Meeting: Bill Hunter**
  - **MOTION:** That the church approve the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting (pgs. 3)
- **Presentation of Elections Ballot/Vote: Pastor Derek Sanford**
  - **MOTION:** That the church approves the names on the ballot for election to office (page 7)
- **Presentation of Pastoral Licensing of Keith Hardin & Will Bakker: Pastor Derek Sanford**
  - **MOTION:** That the church license Keith Hardin & Will Bakker as pastors of the gospel upon unanimous recommendation of the Elders (page 12)
- **2023-24 Financial Report and 2024-25 Budget: Aaron Lundberg**
- **Closing of Meeting: Bill Hunter**
- **Year-In-Review Video**
- **Message: Pastor Derek**
- **Worship & Prayer**





# MINUTES

OCTOBER 27, 2024

2022-2023

**MOTION:** That the church approve the minutes from the Annual Meeting.

Annual Celebration 2022-2023

Minutes | October 15, 2023

Grace McKean

The 2023 Annual Meeting was called to order by Church Chair Tom Hesch at 6:35pm.

- A motion was made to approve the minutes from the 2021-2022 Annual Meeting by the Elders of Grace Church. Second by Dick Page. No discussion. All in Favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

## Ballot

- Derek made a presentation of the election ballot. Ballots were handed out when members entered the worship center. Voting is for members only. The two Elders listed below are up for Re-Election. They are seeking another two-year term. Elders can serve up to six total years:
  - Bill Hunter & Dennis Wagers
  - TJ Hesch is also on the Ballot to renew a two-year term as the Treasurer of Grace Church.
  - Tom Hesch asked for the motion to approve these names on the ballot for office. The Elders of Grace Church made the motion. Motion seconded by Shirley Schell. No discussion.
- Pastor Derek discussed the process and reasoning for Pastoral Ordination. A video of Mike Crisman's road to ordination was shown.
- The Elders of Grace Church motioned to ordain Mike Crisman as a minister of the gospel after a unanimous recommendation from the Ordination Council. Motion seconded by Bob Schell. No discussion.
- Votes will be announced at the end of the meeting.

## Financial Report

- Aaron recognized that the staff does a great job with the budget and finances of this church.
- Showed "Generosity" Slide. The total amount of giving was just over \$3.8 million this year. We are up compared to what we budgeted. Thank you for your faithfulness
- Showed "Operating Summary" Slide. Operating Revenue exceeded budget by \$69,000. Note: There was an error in the initially published Annual Report that showed the Operating Revenue exceeded the Budget by \$354,000. The correct number of \$69,000 was conveyed at the Annual Meeting.
- Operating expenses were under budget by \$140k. Reserves are \$281,173.
- 2023-2024 Operating Budget: \$3,661,534. Budgeting for Deficit after depreciation expense to be \$249,339. We are very financially healthy.

- Showed “Financial Position” Slide
  - \$7.5M in Equity
  - \$5.3M in Liabilities
  - \$12.8M in Assets.
- Thank you to those who gave extra for debt reduction. If Grace were to pay all of its liabilities with its assets, we’d have about \$7.5M left over.
- No debt on GLI
- We continue to position ourselves wisely for the future. We are in a healthy place, and we believe that the decisions we are making now will have ripple effects for years to come. If you have questions, we are an open book. Email TJ: treasurer@whoisgrace.com, Aaron, Mike Crisman, who helps with finances at the Sites level, or Jeannine Thompson, our Development Lead.
- Derek Sanford announced the voting results for Elders, Treasurer, and Mike Crisman’s Ordination. The votes were tabulated, and all elders and officers were affirmed into their positions. Mike Crisman was affirmed for ordination at Grace Church.

## **Pastoral Ordination – Elders and Congregation**

- Derek: Mike received Licensing last year and has fulfilled all duties to get full Ordination. In our denomination, each church has the authority to ordain its pastors. It is a recognition of 3 things: Mike’s personal salvation, his call to ministry, and his doctrinal beliefs. Our Elders recommended Mike for Ordination. A council (Brian Weber, Dan Nold, Mark Hinman, Keith McGarvey, Jean Keubler, and Derek Sanford) unanimously recommend to this congregation that we confer Ordination on Mike.
- Words of encouragement from several members via a traveling microphone.
- Derek: The word in Greek for ministry is diakonos, which means to Serve. Ministry belongs to the entire church family, not just the pastoral class. But to the whole body. We are all priests. We have three classifications of pastor ministry: Site Pastors/Life Group Leaders – you are fulfilling a shepherding position in our church. Licensed Pastors – more formal recognition – weddings, funerals, etc. Ordained Pastors – called to a lifelong ministry. Jesus appointed 12. Later, he selected Stephen, Philip, and Barnabas. In Acts 6, there were Deacons appointed. Hands laid on them. When Paul and Barnabas were commissioned, there was praying, fasting, and a laying on of hands. When Paul talks about Timothy, Paul and a group of Elders laid hands on him and set him apart for ministry. Some sort of supernatural gifts came on him in that process. This is a very Biblical Holy moment. I am very excited to have this congregation ordain Mike Crisman. Acts 20:28. We have the privilege to Commission Mike to a life of ministry.
- Laying on of Hands with Elders, Staff, Family, and Friends. Derek prayed over Mike and then presented him with a Certificate of Ordination.

## **Year-In-Review Video**

- Eric Taylor moved to close the business portion of the meeting, which was seconded by Bill Hunter. The meeting closed at 7:19pm.

# 2023 MINISTRY YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

## GIVING

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
MINISTRY/OPERATIONS	\$3,479,938	\$3,342,824	\$137,114
TRANSFORM	\$97,530	-	\$97,530
MISSIONS	\$116,456	\$106,800	\$9,656
DEBT REDUCTION	\$23,011	-	\$23,011
BENEVOLENT	\$95,666	-	\$95,666
<b>GIVING TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,812,601</b>	<b>\$3,449,624</b>	<b>\$362,977</b>

## GENERAL FUND

Giving Distribution	1073 Giving Unit % of all Giving Units
\$1-499	27.9%
\$500-999	14.2%
\$1000-4,999	37.3%
\$5000-9999	12.6%
\$10000+	7.9%
Average Giving per Giving Unit: \$3,075	

## TOTAL

Giving Distribution	1107 Giving Units % of all Giving Units
\$1-499	28.5%
\$500-999	14.5%
\$1000-4,999	36.9%
\$5000-9999	12.2%
\$10000+	7.7%
Average Giving per Giving Unit: \$3,302	

## 2023 OPERATING SUMMARY

**TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE \$3,615,570** (\$69,383 better than plan)

OPERATING EXPENSE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
PERSONNEL	\$1,741,083	\$1,850,076	(\$108,993)
MINISTRIES	\$432,410	\$547,621	(\$115,211)
OPERATIONS	\$774,061	\$723,566	\$50,495
MISSIONS	\$251,034	\$217,952	\$33,082
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,198,588</b>	<b>\$3,339,215</b>	<b>(\$140,627)</b>

**Surplus/(Deficit)** after non-cash items      (\$134,692)      (\$369,028)      \$234,336

Transform	\$16,090
Reserves	\$281,173
Benevolence	\$27,330
<b>Restricted &amp; Designated Funds</b>	<b>\$324,593</b>

**Debt Balance: \$3,339,471**

## 2024 MINISTRY YEAR BUDGET

**TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE \$3,661,534** *(Budgeted)*

OPERATING EXPENSE	BUDGET
PERSONNEL	\$1,934,726
MINISTRIES	\$497,721
OPERATIONS	\$812,326
MISSIONS	\$167,422
TOTAL	\$3,412,195

**Surplus/(Deficit)** *before non-cash items* (\$249,339)

**Depreciation** \$540,000

**Surplus/ (Deficit)** *after non-cash items* (\$290,661)

# BALLOT

OCTOBER 27, 2024

2024-2025

**MOTION:** that the church approves the names on the ballot for election to office.

## ELDERS



**1 | BILL HUNTER**  
(CHURCH CHAIRMAN)



**\*2 | MIKE ALABRAN**  
(ELDER CHAIRMAN)



**1 | DENNIS WAGERS**



**\*2 | CLEVE WRIGHT**



**\*2 | DAVE CASE**



**\*2 | NATE BURTT**



**\*2 | GREG HALL**



**MIKE CRISMAN**



**SCOTT MICHEL**



**KEITH HARDIN**



**AARON LUNDBERG**

## TREASURER



**T.J. HESCH**

### LEGEND

**\*ON THE BALLOT  
FOR A VOTE**

- 1 - ONE-YEAR TERM**
- 2 - TWO-YEAR TERM**
- - NEW ON THE BALLOT**
- - PREVIOUS ELDER**
- - STAFF ELDER**



# FINANCIALS

OCTOBER 27, 2024

## 2024 MINISTRY YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

### GIVING

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
MINISTRY/OPERATIONS	\$3,592,598	\$3,351,884	\$240,714
TRANSFORM	\$19,980	-	\$19,980
MISSIONS	\$180,049	\$151,000	\$29,049
DEBT REDUCTION	\$38,445	-	\$38,445
BENEVOLENT	\$111,156	-	\$111,156
<b>GIVING TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,942,228</b>	<b>\$3,502,884</b>	<b>\$439,344</b>

### GENERAL FUND

<b>Giving Distribution</b>	<b>1,146 Giving Unit % of all Giving Units</b>
\$1-499	28.8%
\$500-999	12.2%
\$1000-4,999	38.4%
\$5000-9999	12.3%
\$10000+	8.2%
Average Giving per Giving Unit: \$3,135	

### TOTAL

<b>Giving Distribution</b>	<b>1,233 Giving Units % of all Giving Units</b>
\$1-499	32.6%
\$500-999	11.9%
\$1000-4,999	36.5%
\$5000-9999	11.4%
\$10000+	7.6%
Average Giving per Giving Unit: \$3,197	

## 2024 OPERATING SUMMARY

**TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE \$3,772,647** (\$269,763 better than plan)

OPERATING EXPENSE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
PERSONNEL	\$1,922,473	\$1,880,194	\$42,279
MINISTRIES	\$488,608	\$369,889	\$118,719
OPERATIONS	\$957,113	\$846,211	\$110,902
MISSIONS	\$223,939	\$167,422	\$56,517
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,592,133</b>	<b>\$3,263,716</b>	<b>\$328,417</b>

<b>Surplus/ (Deficit) before non-cash items</b>	<b>\$180,514</b>	<b>\$239,168</b>	<b>(\$58,654)</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>\$587,873</b>	<b>\$546,000</b>	<b>(\$41,873)</b>
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit) After non-cash items</b>	<b>(\$407,359)</b>	<b>(\$306,832)</b>	<b>(\$100,527)</b>

Transform	-
Reserves	\$454,406
Benevolence	\$33,048
<b>Restricted &amp; Designated Funds</b>	<b>\$487,454</b>

**Debt Balance: \$3,015,374**

If you would like to see greater budget detail or have questions, please contact Aaron Lundberg (814.480.0189 or aaron@whoisgrace.com)

## 2025 MINISTRY YEAR BUDGET

**TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE \$4,137,810** *(Budgeted)*

OPERATING EXPENSE	BUDGET
PERSONNEL	\$2,286,267
MINISTRIES	\$459,719
OPERATIONS	\$1,008,430
MISSIONS	\$212,317
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,966,733</b>

**Surplus/(Deficit)** *before non-cash items* **\$171,077**

**Depreciation** **585,000**

**Surplus/ (Deficit)** *after non-cash items* **(\$413,923)**

# NEW MEMBERS

OCTOBER 27, 2024

Beverly Beck

Jim Beck

Matt Bresee

Sue Bresee

Shawna Burkiewicz

Dianna Dias

Ken Dias

Shelley Hedderick

Shawn Johnson

James Jukkola

Michelle Jukkola

Salina Kharkovskiy

Kristina Koblyuk

Vitaliy Koblyuk

Tom Kucharik

Jael Lippert

Amanda Maphis

Greg Madru

Leah Madru

Sarah McCarthy

Charlie McConnell

Matthew McDaniel

Heather Mencer

Katie Miaczynski

Mike Noonan

Megan Noonan

Nitsa Santos

Lori Slupski

Matthew Slupski

Lily Steblak

Luke Strobel

Megan Strobel

Christine Stuart

Brad Stuart

Shawn Thornton

Nate Trott

Kevin Wahlmark

Sara Wahlmark

Michelle White

Diane Williams

Michael Wilson

Meghan Wilson

*\*please get in touch with us if we have accidentally omitted or added your name. We sincerely apologize for any oversight! [saramacosko@whoisgrace.com](mailto:saramacosko@whoisgrace.com)*

# MEMBERS REMOVED

OCTOBER 27, 2024

*The following members have been removed at their request, because they are deceased, or due to inactivity:*

Ed & Kathleen Althof

Rebecca Amendola

Jonathan Boynton

Linda Broach

Michael & Nancy Clark

Neil & Heather Donovan

Jennifer Dumas

Danae & Mikael Ervasti

Sara Ester

April & Dan Ewig

Christopher & Lorah Falzone

Marianne Foriska

Brian Gregory

Joel Guntrum

Lio Guo

Douglas & Kathy Hayes

Jon & Robin Howland

Josh Jaeger

Robert Kightlinger

Jalonna Krueger

Jerry & Julie Krysiak

Jeanne McLaughlin

Sue Miller

Bill Millspaw

Teresa Mooradian

Loretta Nelson

Brooke & Greg Proper

Richard Proper

Lindsey & Michael Richards

Alex & Abigail Scott

Jingzi Shang

David Van Honk

Dustin & Christine VanHook

Stacey Walbridge

Dan & Jeanne Young

*\*please get in touch with us if we have accidentally omitted or added your name. We sincerely apologize for any oversight! [saramacosko@whoisgrace.com](mailto:saramacosko@whoisgrace.com)*

# PASTORAL LICENSING

OCTOBER 27, 2024

***MOTION:** That Grace Church License Keith Hardin & Will Bakker as ministers of the Gospel, upon unanimous recommendation of the Elders.*

This year, Grace has the privilege to license Keith and Will as ministers of the Gospel. Keith is the Associate Site Lead for Grace McKean. Will is the GraceYouth Lead. A Ministerial license is a form of temporary certification by the local church. We license unordained pastors so they can perform all their office responsibilities while considering the ordination process. Several of our Pastors have been licensed through Grace, including Pastor Derek, Scott, Jim, Sarah, and Mike. Etc. A licensed minister of the Gospel receives all the governmental privileges and legal rights of an ordained minister.

## **The steps in the process of Pastoral licensing are:**

1. The candidate makes their desire for licensure known to the Elder Board
2. The Elders interview the candidate to determine their eligibility for licensing.
3. Upon the favorable recommendation of the Elders, the candidate is presented to the church body for a vote of approval.
4. Upon an affirmative vote of the church, a license to preach the Gospel is granted to the candidate.

We have already completed Steps 1-3 of this process, and the Elders are bringing a unanimous recommendation to the church body for a vote.

## **A word from Keith Hardin:**

I was born and raised in State College, PA. I was raised in the church with a foundation of faith and community that I have learned to appreciate to this day. Spiritually, I had a calling on my life towards ministry from a young age. Fear of the responsibility of that calling caused me to run. I had a lot of success as a youth, specifically in sports, playing basketball in my college years and proudly supporting the Nittany Lions! My relationship with God did not begin to become my own and flourish until my relationship with sports changed. My last year playing in organized sports was also the year my family of origin fractured.

The combination of the shifts in my world resulted in some of the darkest times in my life. I questioned everything I thought I knew, ran harder from my calling, and ultimately ended up being drawn into a deeper relationship with Jesus. I found community in a group of young men who were passionate and committed to chasing after God. Along the way, my story connected with my wife's story, and we began to walk together.

Five years ago, God began to speak to me about the calling from my youth. As I started exploring that calling - opportunities to serve in ways that spoke to my soul began to arise. Opportunities to lean into my God-given gifts began to emerge, and it became harder to hide/run from this calling. In September 2022, I stepped into full-time ministry. I was not entirely certain what it would look like, but I was completely confident that this was the path that God had led me to and was inviting me to begin walking on with Him.

Today, I lead the Care & Support ministries centrally and help lead as the Associate Site Lead at Grace McKean. My heart breaks for those in crisis, those walking through a storm. My heart goes out to those who have had less opportunity or who are marginalized. My wife and I continue to walk alongside each other faithfully while raising our three children: Cameron, Isabella, and Tristan.

I look forward to continuing to serve this congregation alongside my wife and this staff as we all do our best to align ourselves with God's will for us individually and corporately.





**A word from Will Bakker:**

Hi Church! My name is Will Bakker, and I'm the GraceYouth Lead here. I am originally from Long Beach, California—you may remember that it's the same town that Snoop Dogg is from. I grew up going to church with my parents and my sister. I knew all the verses and songs. I knew that Jesus loved me because the Bible told me so. But it didn't become personal for me until I had a profound encounter with God during worship at a summer camp called Dunamis.

I found an incredible Christian community while in college at Concordia University Irvine. Between summers at school, I worked at a summer camp called Forest Home. I'd been studying English but wasn't sure what I wanted to do. That summer at camp, as I talked to campers about Jesus and had tons of fun playing games and being in community, I found my calling. I knew that my life's purpose was to help others, especially young people, in their walk with God. To help them know Jesus more deeply. Since that time, I've been in youth ministry for almost ten years. Glory be to God.

After I graduated from college, I pursued theological training at Fuller Theological Seminary, and in 3 years, I graduated with my Masters of Divinity. My first full-time job took me to Phoenix, Arizona, where I lived and ministered for three years. At that time, I met Becca, who would become my wife. Then, we heard from Becca's brother about a youth ministry opening at a church called Grace in Erie, Pennsylvania. The more I spoke with Scott and others, the more we felt like a giant magnet was pulling us to the other side of the country. Grace's people, culture, and vision were what Becca and I prayed to find in a new church. I'm so grateful to be here and be able to continue pursuing God's call on my life!

Youth ministry is my calling, but when I'm not around church, Becca and I love going to Presque Isle with our dog. I enjoy biking, cooking, and playing all kinds of games. We are currently preparing the nursery for our daughter, who is scheduled to arrive this December!

**2023-2024  
GRACE CHURCH  
MINISTRY UPDATES**

# SERVIERIE

## SERVIERIE

Kerrie Grande, Program Director



What an amazing year 2024 has been for ServErie! We have been highly active, focusing on building, growing, and sustaining our community relationships. We have partnered with over 30 different agencies, non-profits, schools, and other churches this year and have experienced the excitement to continue to work together for the greater good of our community!

Here's a snapshot of what we have been up to this year:

We held two (2) ServErie Saturdays this year in October and February. We had over 450 volunteers who came out and served during both of those events. We served local schools and non-profits, both inside and outside of their buildings, and helped those organizations to keep actively living out their missions. We hosted our second annual ServErie Gala, "Disco Glam," at the Erie Art Museum in May. It was an incredible night filled with community members sharing parts of our Awake the Lake vision for ServErie as we move into the future.

In June, we hosted our annual ServErie Summer Project. We partnered with eight (8) of the United Way's Community Schools. The Community Schools model provides incredible resources to their families and students right inside their schools. We helped them to continue that work by cleaning out classrooms, moving supplies and boxes of curriculum to classrooms, painting a library, cleaning out a courtyard, and helping to renovate that space with benches for students to learn and build community. We also painted murals to brighten up classroom hallways and did outside work so the school grounds could be maintained leading up to the beginning of the school year.

In August, we participated in the annual Erie Gives Day, where local non-profits can partner with the Erie Community Foundation to maximize donations made in one day. That day, ServErie highlighted a small sampling of the fantastic relationships we have been building and shared some of the work we have done at local schools and non-profits in the area. It is always a fantastic opportunity to be a part of this day and share our community relationship and all the progress we can achieve together!

Finally, ServErie received an invitation to participate in an incredibly unique opportunity (in partnership with Hamot Health Foundation) to bring a remote area medical (RAM) clinic to the area. Remote Area Medical brings quality, free medical, dental, and vision care to the area at no cost to the patients. ServErie led the charge on hospitality, where we planned seven (7) meals for hundreds of volunteers. We also staffed the volunteer breakroom. Our volunteers ensured it was continuously stocked with snacks, drinks, and friendly faces! This clinic was a tremendous success for being in our area for the first time. Over five hundred volunteers were serving our community and working together for the health and well-being of Erie County. This opportunity to serve was different from others in the past, and I am confident there will be more like this as we continue to build and grow our ServErie 365 programming.

This year has been so rewarding: stepping out in faith, letting go, and fully believing that God is not only leading the way into the future but also walking beside us the whole time. He is moving, and "Awake the Lake" has become so much more than a future vision. It is already here and very much in motion. To say we are excited to see where He leads ServErie next in the coming year is an understatement! We are ready to keep moving on to what is next, and we are so grateful you are on the journey with us!





# GRACE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

## GRACE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Melanie Deppen, Executive Director



Grace Leadership Institute (GLI) had another year of growth, increased participation, and added a new program as we celebrated our 3rd year of operation. Our learning opportunities included the addition of LeadUP as well as our continued programs of Courses, Ministry Panel Nights, Leadership One Day, and the Global Leadership Summit. I am so grateful for the volunteers and team God provided to help make all of this possible!

### **LeadUP**

This new initiative stemmed from Global Leadership Network resources as a trial to encourage Christians in the workplace. We hosted a monthly, after-work-hours replay of selected topics and speakers from past years' Global Leadership Summit programs. While the idea was strong, we didn't see growth in attendance over the months as we had hoped.

### **Courses**

From Fall 2023 to Spring 2024, eight courses were offered through GLI. All were available either for grade or to audit. The instructors came from Grove City College, Houghton University, Christian Life Center, and Grace Church. Total enrollment in the courses for the year was 66. We were able to congratulate eight students who completed the three Leadership courses to earn the Christian Leadership Certificate.

### **Ministry Panel Nights**

The Regional Church Collaborative Team hosted Ministry Panel Nights again once a month. We were able to feature the stories of five churches that had been connected to the events from the efforts of an invitation through Bernie Farabaugh and the Prayer Team's visits to other churches. Over the year, we engaged 15 panelists, including pastors, church staff members, para-church leaders, and high-capacity volunteer ministry leads, to speak about timely trends and subjects in the world of churches and ministry. It has been so beneficial to have a lead team, consisting of pastors from other churches along with Pastor Derek, to determine relevant topics and moderate the discussions. Also, it was a blessing to have people from different churches come alongside GLI to greet, host, and help make the panel nights relational and meaningful to those who attended.

### **Leadership One Day**

We held two Leadership One Days on topics of Leadership and Discipleship. We experienced excellent attendance and hit capacity as we continued to present quality speakers and session leaders. Our keynote speakers were Tyler Cook, Principal of Klein Elementary School in the Harbor Creek School District, and Dr. Wayne D. Lewis, Jr., President of Houghton University. Breakout sessions included speakers from Grace Church and Christians from local businesses and non-profits. From our group of speakers, we were pleased to establish an advisory council who will speak into topic selections, suggest future keynote speakers, continue to contribute at times as breakout speakers, and help develop a pipeline of new speakers from their networks of churches and communities.

### **Global Leadership Summit**

The Global Leadership Summit (was held again at Grace Harborcreek. 196 registered, representing six churches and 32 other organizations. GLS added a programming element for NextGEN with a second-screen experience during the event. Will Bakker coordinated a group gathering with a pizza lunch on Friday, interacting with and discussing what they learned from the sessions.



### **GLI Rentals**

Having others use the GLI facility continues to be a valuable outreach factor in the community. It helps build awareness as people experience the building and are exposed to events scrolling on the screens. Several organizations have used the building for training, including National Fuel, My Sister's Keeper, The Non-Profit Partnership, AKB Consulting, Business Network International (local), ALIVE Active Shooter Survival Training, ASSIST Suicide Prevention Training, KinderCare Pre K Graduation, Erie City Moms, Gannon University, The Achievement Center, and Decision Associates.

Last year, I ended with – “Let’s see what God has in store!” Again, I can’t wait! You will see some significant changes as GLI becomes Grace’s Training Center. This will represent the BUILD Your Calling section of our new pathway. We are currently brainstorming and developing the infrastructure and processes to support new trainings being developed and piloted this next year. It will be a great year of building as we participate in what God is doing with Grace Leadership Institute!





# GRACE HARBORCREEK

Pastor Mike Crisman



It can be hard to look back and fully appreciate how much happens in the span of a year. And as I sat down to write this and looked at pictures of my daughters from one year ago, I quickly realized that God has done so much over the last 365 days. And that is absolutely true for Grace Harborcreek!

Over the last ministry year, we have had the privilege as a congregation to bless our community in new ways. Collectively, we provided hundreds of dollars worth of food to the Ella Cochran Food Pantry so that they could give Easter dinners to those in need. We served the educators on Erie's east side by providing free coffee and treats during multiple in-service training days for local teachers. We also hosted school administrators and community school directors for an appreciation lunch at the church building. And we continued our prayer walks ahead of the school year for each district in our community.

We also expanded old and new relationships with other churches on the east side. I had the opportunity to begin new friendships and develop working relationships with three local pastors. Volunteers from Grace partnered with Wesley UMC to serve alongside their church as they put on a community Easter Egg Hunt in Wesleyville. We hosted an ecumenical gathering of congregations to lunch together and share testimonies of God's faithfulness. Not to mention our usual participation in the Harborcreek and Iroquois Baccalaureates and the Harborcreek Community Thanksgiving Service.

I am so thankful for the ministry that God has given us as a church, and especially that I get to do it with each and every one of you at Grace Harborcreek. Together we are following Jesus as we live out God's story every day, everywhere. After seeing the impact we've already had in our community, I can't wait to see what else God has in store for us in Ministry Year 2025!



# GRACE MCKEAN

Pastor Scott Michel



Every year, I write one of these summaries, and I start off by looking back at the one I wrote the previous year. Here is how the 2023 report started... "In September of 2022, we found ourselves without staff leads for our Life Group and Worship Ministries. By December, we added the vacant position of a youth lead to the mix." In my opinion, the highlight of that report was the volunteer leaders in each of those areas remaining steadfast and immovable. Many of them stepped up in some fantastic ways, and it is because of their faithfulness I believe we have experienced what we have this past year here at Grace McKean. Here are some highlights that I think reflect the faithfulness of God and the faithfulness so many of you have demonstrated:

- Ten new leaders stepped up to lead a new Life Group this past year!
- An influx of new musicians and vocalists have started using their gifts to lead us in worship!
- 92 people publicly professed their faith through baptism!
- GraceKids is currently averaging just under 200 children per Sunday! (A 12% increase)
- Weekly attendance has increased by 7% from 2022! (We are averaging 1200-1300/week)

Then there are the countless stories of people coming to Grace McKean for the first time. Whether the result of moving into the area, having watched on TV for the last couple of years, and deciding now is the time or the result of a personal invite, each person I have talked to has said they have felt so welcomed by this congregation. Well done, Grace McKean, well done!! To each of you who have stepped up, who have sacrificed and toiled in the work of the Lord....THANK YOU!!! God is writing one heck of a story here. My prayer is that we all see the part that we get to play in the story He is writing. That story also includes the beginning of a new chapter for me as I step into a new role in our church and hand the reins to Andrew Silbert. To say I am excited to see what God has in store for him as he shepherds our McKean family is an understatement. God knew what He was doing when He brought Andrew to our doorstep.

With all that said, I want to close with these words from Paul as I wrap up my last official duty as McKean Site Pastor. Grace McKean, please know that "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart." (Philippians 1:3-7 NLT). Keep being awesome for Jesus where you live, learn, work, and play!!!

