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Mission Statement

Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church exists to love and worship God and love and care for others. By God's grace, we commit to help people find and follow Jesus Christ through the guidance of His Spirit and His Word.

Adopted by the Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church Council March 8, 2006

Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church Staff

Cynthia Arden

Organist

Trevor Nicholas

Choir Director

Charles Banks *(through 2014)*

Director of Basketball Ministry

Dana Jackson

Praise Band Director

Bethany Saldaña

Office Manager

Elsa Johnson *(through June 2014)*

Stacey Johnson

Director of Parenting ProGRESS

Kaleb Nyquist

Student Ministries Coordinator

Tim Olsen

Custodian

Phil Staurseth

Pastor

Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church Executive Committee and Church Council 2014

Executive Committee

Church Chair - Gregory Sager

Church Vice Chair - Joshua Hickok (moved to Recording Secretary)
LeRoy Carlson

Church Treasurer - Max Hollingshead

Financial Secretary - Mary Anderson

Recording Secretary - Matthew Fledderjohann - resigned
Joshua Hickok

Church Council

Children & Family - Danielle Hoden

Missions - Janelle Hollingshead

Music, Arts, and Worship - LeRoy Carlson and David Oseland

Property - Donald Hodgkinson

Spiritual Care - John Morales

Stewardship - Dan Carlson

Women Ministries - Carol Erickson

Youth - Amanda Englund

Outreach & Evangelism - Open

Letter from Gary Walter, ECC President



The Evangelical Covenant Church

November 2014

To All Covenant Churches

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you gather for your congregational Annual Meeting, let me say I am so deeply grateful for the partnership we share in this movement we call the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC).

You are one among 850 other congregations within our 11 regions here in the United States and Canada. As a cord of three strands – congregation, region, denomination – we impact over 2.5 million lives here and in 42 countries on five continents.

We do so as we pursue five mission priorities. We:

- Start and Strengthen Churches
- Make and Deepen Disciples
- Develop Leaders
- Love Mercy and Do Justice
- Serve Globally

We are humbled by the momentum in each of these areas. Indeed, a friend of mine who leads a different organization says the ECC as a smaller denomination “fights above its weight class.” I like that we do indeed take on out-size challenges relative to our size. Find out more on our website at covchurch.org. In particular watch the video “Multiply”, an informative and inspiring overview of how God is at work.

But I have found Kingdom progress depends on a simple foundational biblical principle. *The only way the mission of God goes forward is through countless faithful acts carried out by countless faithful people.* It is true of your church. It is also true of our partnership. And so above everything else, thank you for the countless faithful acts you carry out in ministry to your congregation, community, and beyond...and thank you for your faithful acts of partnership with your regional conference and the ECC as a whole.

I have found that good strategies mean little if there is not a good team. I am grateful to God to serve on this Covenant team with you. You will hear me say that the name Covenant really means “In it Together.” And so, together, may we go deeper in Christ and further in mission.

In Christ,



Gary Walter
President

Letter from Jerome Nelson, Central Conference Superintendent



THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

December 1, 2014

Dear Central Conference Churches:

Thank you very much for a good year of ministry in our conference. It was full of challenges and opportunities.

We were able to receive another five churches into our fellowship of churches. We continued with our efforts to assist churches in their efforts to become healthier and more missional. This even included six churches coming together for two different Navigate sessions. We participated in the denomination's Annual Meeting, which was in Chicago, by hosting what was called "Experience Chicagoland." We didn't plant any new churches but spent the year in activities to strengthen the fellowship between our existing new plants. We had a special sharing of information gathering for our Hispanic churches. We also Co-hosted a gathering with North Park University for all of our churches in the Chicago area. The purpose was to share information with those churches in an effort to promote better collaboration between the Conference and the University community.

I want you to know that I am very excited about what I believe God has in store for us as a conference in this coming year. We look forward to the new churches that will be planted, and the participation of our existing churches in making this happen. We have new ministry initiatives that we are currently working on to bring to fruition.

On behalf of the Conference staff and the Conference Executive Board, I thank you for your partnership with us in the work that God has given us to do. And as you prepare for your Congregation's Annual Meeting, please remember to select delegates to our Central Conference Annual Meeting. It will be held on April 24-25, 2015 and hosted by Batavia Covenant Church, in Batavia, IL.

May God bless you richly,

Rev. Jerome Nelson
Superintendent

Church Chair's Report - Gregory Sager

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. – 2 Timothy 2:15

The ongoing witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ through Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church continued through its 127th year in 2014 because of the willing hands and hearts of many workers whose efforts and testimonies bear witness to a ministry approved by God. Please take the time to read through this annual report and learn about what those willing hands and hearts have done on behalf of the Body of Christ over this past year.

Our average Sunday morning attendance was down a bit in 2014, although our giving remained generally stable, and even showed a slight increase at the end of this year. We have many generous and faithful people who are a part of this church, and for that we praise God. We also welcomed in one of the largest groups of new members this summer that the church has had in many years, for which we also praise God! And our baby boom at RECC continues, and, as is always the case, we thank God for the blessings that each of these tiny new lives represent within our church family.

After many years we have concluded our Wednesday night basketball ministry to the youth of our community, a ministry that seemed to have naturally run its course. We thank God for the positive atmosphere and exposure to the love of Christ that were presented to at-risk youth both inside and outside of the Ravenswood neighborhood for many years through the work of people such as Charles Banks, Ron Johnson, and the late Jim Bone.

Much gratitude is due to the leadership of the church who facilitate a great deal of the ministry and function of our congregation. In particular, I would like to thank my fellow members of the executive committee: Joshua Hickok (vice-chair), Max Hollingshead (treasurer), Mary Anderson (financial secretary), Joshua Hickok (first as vice-chair, then as recording secretary), departed recording secretary Matthew Fledderjohann, and the pastor. Many thanks as well to the rest of the Council, including Dan Carlson (stewardship commission chair), John Morales (spiritual care commission chair), Don Hodgkinson (property commission chair), LeRoy Carlson and Dave Oseland (worship commission co-chairs), Janelle Hollingshead (missions commission chair), Amanda Englund (youth commission chair), and Carol Erickson (women's commission chair). I would also like to give a special thank-you to Danielle Hoden (children & family commission chair) who is leaving the Council after two excellent years of service, and to LeRoy Carlson and Don Hodgkinson, who have agreed to leave their current positions on the Council to become the church's new chair and vice-chair, respectively.

Continued on next page

Thank you as well to our church staff. They include our pastor, Phil Staurseth; office manager Bethany Saldaña; pastoral intern Taylor Burgoyne; student ministries coordinator Kaleb Nyquist; Parenting ProGRESS director Stacey Johnson; music director Dana Jackson; organist and choir accompanist Cynthia Arden; and custodian Tim Olsen. Thanks also go out to these former staff members who left RECC this year: pastoral interns Luke Oliver and Chris Wall, basketball ministry director Charles Banks, and Parenting ProGRESS director Elsa Johnson.

Each of these people, and many others, have been a blessing and a great help to me in my position as church chair. Thanks to all of you who have made my work easier as I conclude my term of office at the end of this year.

May the Spirit of God strengthen and renew each of you as we prepare to enter a new year in service to our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the work of his church at the corner of Damen and Ainslies avenues here on the North Side of Chicago.

In Christ,

Gregory Sager

Pastor's Report - Phil Staurseth

As always, it is an honor to be your pastor, preacher, and friend.

This year we've begun something a little new at least as far as pastoral ministry here at Ravenswood. We've been led in worship by the narrative lectionary. It is a 9 month project of reading the entire trajectory of our scripture. We began in early September and will continue on through the end of May. We started with Noah and themes of creation as we hosted Dr. Jim Bruckner who was our guest preacher on rally day; we continued on as we've considered the life and times of Abraham & Sarah, Moses & Myriam, David & Basheba, the kings and the prophets and now the life of Jesus and the early church. This year we are committed to the whole story of God and God's children. God is creator, redeemer, sustainer. God offers mercy, justice, and salvation for the world. God calls us to join in this character of God and God's work in the world.

A helpful refrain that sort of summarizes our project this year is found in the Biblical story of Ruth and her commitment to Naomi and Naomi's people the Israelites. And it is this: Your people will be my people. Your story will be my story. And in these words, Ruth-the-outsider's story gets sucked into the story of the children of God. And so this year we are exploring the question, do we know our story? And as we do, we also consider how it is we continue to enter that story?

The greater narrative lectionary project began at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul Minnesota and is supported by their faculty and staff. More information can be found at the following website: www.workingpreacher.org. Follow links to the "narrative lectionary."

While this is our first year joining the worldwide narrative lectionary movement, last spring we followed the new testament portion of that lectionary when we considered the gospel of John; this winter we will follow the gospel of Matthew.

Our staff continues to facilitate 4 small groups that have been regularly studying the texts from the narrative lectionary. Two of these groups meet in homes; two meet at church on Thursday nights.

In regard to Thursday Night ministry at Ravenswood, we are in our second year of helping to support the Covenant Youth Collision on the North Side of Chicago on these nights. While our youth group continues to be part of the Collision program our Thursday Night Dinner has also enjoyed the opportunity of feeding their crew of 20+ students and leaders in their discipleship program that meets at our church every week.

I continue to count it a privilege to work with and alongside this church.

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Together we have worshiped. Many of you have taken part in leading Ravenswood in weekly worship—singing, reading, serving, preaching, preparing, adorning the sanctuary, and more. Thank you.

Together we have proclaimed the gospel and responded to it. We've done this in word and deed, in prayer and devotion, on Sunday and during the week, in service and in giving, in worship and in life, as reflected in the many voices and stories that follow in this annual report. Thank you.

Together we have shared in community life. We've started with our fellowship time after church, an extension of our week of worship and our call to ministry, and continue to move toward small groups and deeper friendships. Along with this, so many people in our congregation contribute significantly to our community life by serving on committees and boards and on the council, as Sunday School teachers, and volunteers all over the place. Thank you.

There are certain milestones in our congregation to celebrate that will not necessarily be mentioned in other reports this year. They are as follows:

- Baptisms & Dedications—We continue to celebrated the sacrament of baptism together as well as dedicate our children to the Lord. Praise God. Samuel Huibregtse, was baptized on January, 12 2014; Maren Curran, dedicated to the Lord on January, 26, 2014; Lee Fledderjohann was dedicated to the Lord on May 18, 2014; Elin Johnson was baptized on May 24, 2014 at a gathering at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp; Dane Lettinga, dedicated to the Lord on August 17, 2014; Wesley Hollingshead, dedicated to the Lord on October 12, 2014.
- Confirmation—on May 11, 2014 we confirmed Jose Rilo.
- Membership—on June 1st, we voted to accept 11 new members into the life of Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church. They are Kristen Coughlin, Marianne Dunlap, Bryan Johnson, Kari Johnson, Neal Johnson, Stacey Johnson, Shari Reyes, Stan Rosendahl, Mary Spriggs, Kelly Vetter, and Sam Vetter.
- Witness to the Resurrection—On occasion we have joined to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and remember the lives of people who have died. On December 5, 2014, we gathered to celebrate the resurrection and the life of Martha Elizabeth Edgren,; Peace be to her memory. (June 9, 1921-November 26, 2014)
- Weddings — May 9, 2014: Jennifer Harris & Travis Bailey; October 5, 2014: Renee Lick & Trevor Nicholas; October 19, 2014 Karena Enz & Drew Hayes.

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- Internships—Taylor Burgoyne joined our staff this year as pastoral intern as he prepares for ministry in the life of the Church. We are so glad that he is part of our crew through the spring of 2015. Pastor Luke Oliver was with us as pastoral intern through the spring of 2014 and was recently called to pastor the First Covenant Church in Superior, Wisconsin. Pastor Chris Wall, our pastoral intern from 2011-13, worshiped with us through the winter of 2014 and this year was called as Associate Pastor of Youth & Congregational Life at Evangelical Covenant Church in Attleboro, Massachusetts.
- Leadership Change—this year we celebrated the ministry of Elsa Johnson our Parenting Progress Director as she and her family moved to Oregon. We also welcomed Stacey Johnson as our new director of Parenting Progress. Thanks be to God.
- Speaking Engagements—at the end of July, 2014, with the encouragement of the Pastor Relations Committee I was the camp pastor at Covenant Point Bible Camp.
- Many more milestones are given in the various reports of the church.

In this next year may God find us faithful even as we have found God faithful—even as God continues to knit our story into God's story in the world.

Thanks be to God,
Pastor Phil

Women Ministries Commission Report - Carol Erickson

Looking back over 2014 Women's Ministries main focus was focused on Hospitality!

We were involved with Special coffee hours celebrating six Baptism/Dedications after worship with cakes and a special touch.

We hosted four baby showers the first was for Wesley Hollingshead in February, in April was Lee Fledderjohann, August was Dane Lettinga and September was Celeste LeRoy, This congregation was most generous. Our goal was for these couples with their babies to feel loved and cared for.

Our church participates in "Take-them-A-Meal" lending a helping hand to those new families, by bringing over a meal to their house after the baby arrives in the first few weeks. This is not just for first time babies, but any new births.

Bad weather in June did not stop us from celebrating Jen & Travis Bailey's marriage with a cookout/wedding shower which was moved indoors. In September, we had after worship a wedding shower for Trevor & Renee Nicholas (Trevor/Choir director).

Our two interns, Chris & Courtney Wall and Luke & Carolyn Oliver were honored at a special Coffee Hour as they moved on to their new churches.

On the second Wednesday of the month a group of Ladies go out to lunch at 11:30am to a restaurant. Watch the bulletin for the location each month if you would like to join them.

In April was our Spring Ladies Tea, held at the Erickson's home. Twenty-five ladies were served tea/coffee with their choice of delicate homemade cookies and sandwiches by Roger & Ray. A delightful morning of fellowship was had by all.

In November Lorri Yurick was helping me put together our Serving Committees for 2015. We had an informational session on a Sunday morning during coffee hour to encourage others to get involved, and to explain how you can participate. Lorri has been assembling the Serving Committees for 8 years!

A Big Thank you to all the people who serve Coffee Hour on a weekly basis. Our serving committee chairs have been Judy Edstrom, Janice Erickson, Marlene Glowen, Nona Michael, Joyce Oseland and Lorri Yurick.

I would also like to thank Mary Anderson and Joyce Oseland who have helped with every shower this past year! Also, I am so grateful to Bethany Saldaña for all her office support she gives the Women Ministries Commission!

Faithfully Serving,

Carol Erickson

Women Ministries Chair

Property Commission Report - Donald Hodgkinson

Let us celebrate another a good year for the Property Commission. Ravenswood is blessed with so many people who have the talents and contacts to keep the church building and grounds in working condition. Thanks to Roger Olsen, Craig Glowen, Ray Erickson, Josh Hickok, Terri Olsen and Don Michael for the work they do behind the scene. Many times, one of these members sees something that needs to be fixed and gets the repair done before I even know that there was problem. Many repairs and projects, seen and unseen have been completed in the past year.

I would like to thank Ray Erickson, Bryan Johnson, Scott Johnson, Carol Erickson and the rest of the Green Team for their hard work in keep the outside of the church looking so nice.

I would like to specifically thank Tim Olsen for his work as the custodian. With all the use of the church building, Tim quietly goes about making sure the church is clean for all the church uses.

As we move into 2015, Ryan Johnson and the Property Commission would like to move forward and implement some of the ideas that the congregation has approved for the sanctuary including the carpeting, curtains and sound system.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald M. Hodgkinson
Property Committee Chair

Children & Family Commission Report - Danielle Hoden

The Children and Family Commission exists to help Ravenswood Covenant Church serve the children and families of the church and community by valuing the education and support of our children while sharing God's love with others. The commission oversees a wide range of programs and projects that occur throughout the year.

Highlights from the year –

- Sunday School for birth through grade 6 meets every week during the worship service.
- Confirmation class for grades 7 and 8 meet every week at 9:30am.
- Sunday School teachers and volunteers meet every Sunday morning for First Word, which is a time of prayer, scripture reading, and sermon reflection led by Pastor Phil.
- I would like to extend my thanks to the tireless efforts of the faithful Sunday School teachers:
 - Nursery care: Andrea Molina, Carol Molina, Kevin Donnelly, Karin Mejia
 - Beginner's class: Joyce Oseland, Barb Johnson, and Terri Olsen
 - Primary class: Lorri and Eli Yurick
 - Secondary class: Kerry Staurseth
 - Confirmation class: Greg Sager and Kaleb Nyquist
- First Word for kids is a newer program that started in Fall 2013. Volunteers include, Carol Erickson, Pete Jackson, Kari and Neal Johnson, and Kelly Vetter. Attendance is around four children each week. The children have spent time in the loving care of these volunteers. They learn Biblical lessons, such as Fruits of the Spirit.
- Once a month, grades 1-6 are combined to give the regular Sunday School teachers a little break from teaching and a chance to sit through an uninterrupted worship service.
- On Easter Sunday, 75 people attended a lovely buffet breakfast. Special thanks to all people that helped make the breakfast a success.
- Mother's Day was celebrated with passing out flowers to all women. Thanks to Lorri and Eli Yurick for coordinating and donating the flowers!

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- May almost produced another rained out picnic..almost! Even though there was standing water and the river was level with the picnic site. The picnic was held at the forest preserve anyway. Food was graciously donated by Lorri and Eli Yurick. Special thanks to Brian Heneghan, Roger Olsen, Bob Wurster, Marlene and Craig Glowen, and all the Sunday School teachers for making the picnic a success.
- In June, the Sunday School Teachers and First Word volunteers were recognized and prayed for during worship. The children of the church also recited a sweet poem and small gifts were passed out to the teachers and volunteers.
- Father's Day was celebrated with work tools being given to the men of the church following worship.
- Also in June, Ravenswood partnered with North Park Covenant Church to participate in Vacation Bible School. Madeline and Wesley Edstrom; Leah Jackson; and Elsa Johnson were the kids that attended from Ravenswood.
- In September, the Sunday School year was kicked off with Rally Day, which included a great pancake breakfast – thank you Kerry Staurseth, the Rilos, Gabriel Edstrom, Janice Erickson, and Marlene Glowen for cooking, serving, and cleaning up the breakfast. Promoted children were recognized with new Bibles, Sunday School teachers were introduced as part of the short program.
- On December 14, the Annual Sunday School Christmas Program was presented as part of the worship service. Special thanks to Pastor Phil, Jen Bailey, ALL Sunday School teachers, parents, Phil and Allison Hoden, musicians, and sound board people in helping make the program a success. A special fellowship hour followed service with delicious cookies and cupcakes. Thanks to Janice Erickson for helping coordinate and thanks to all the people that baked and donated goodies! Lastly, a huge THANKS to the KIDS for working so hard and sharing the Gospel with the church congregation and community!

I would like to extend my gratitude to Pastor Phil, the Sunday School teachers (all of them), and the Council for their support and prayers throughout my term as Children and Family Chair. Thank you to my husband and parents for tremendously supporting my efforts by providing care for my children, time, money, and service. Lastly, I want to extend big thanks to Bethany Saldaña, the RECC office manager. She was always there to answer my questions, honor my requests, and make me look good and organized. I would not have been successful without her.

It has been a blessing and honor for me to serve the Lord and church for the past two years in this way. I look forward to seeing how Christ will move in the lives of the children at Ravenswood in 2015 and beyond!

Grace and peace,

Danielle Hoden

Children and Family Commission Chair

Mission Commission Report - Janelle Hollingshead

We continue to support the Feijoos (Ecuador), Gardeens (Ecuador), Mambos (Congo), Swansons (Belgium), Becca VanWeerdhuizen (Philippines), Kara (Bladel) Gustafson (Covenant Youth of Alaska), and the Faulkinburys (Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp) out of our budget.

We continue to support Drew Hayes (West Africa) and KICY out of mission funds and designations.

We had an encouraging time in Virginia working with the staff at Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp.

Drew Hayes and Becca VanWeerdhuizen came and visited our church and thanked us for our support and prayers.

We had another successful Missionary Christmas for Barbara Swanson. Kari and Neal Johnson served on the Mercy Ship as nurses.

Dr. Glenn Palmberg visited our church and talked about local mission opportunities that our church could get involved in. Many people were inspired and excited about this ministry.

Come find us or anyone on the Missions Commission if you have any requests, suggestions, need more information, or if you want to get involved.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant missions.

Janelle Hollingshead

Youth Commission Report - Amanda Englund

It has been a great joy to be able to serve as the youth commission chair for Ravenswood, working alongside Kaleb. The youth at Ravenswood have been very busy this past year and will continue to be very busy in the months to come in anticipation and preparation for CHIC 2015, Kaleb and myself will be leading a group of 5 or 6 high school students to CHIC 2015 this summer in Tennessee.

All of the things the youth get to take part in would not be as easy to accomplish if it were not for the help of several volunteers that have helped out this year.

- Mary Anderson
- Ric Anderson
- Hannah Auger
- Zach Auger
- Max Hollingshead
- Elsa Johnson
- Stacey Johnson
- Kathleen McCarrick
- Ben Oftinoski
- Adria Pearson
- Greg Sager
- Jonatan Saldner
- Colleen Staurseth
- Ellie Weihsmann

A huge thank you to all of them for taking the time to help out and work with the youth in our church.

Continued on next page

2013 – 2014

- Jose Rilo was confirmed.
- Confirmation attendance averaged about 2
- 5th Quarter attendance averaged about 7
- Thursday night youth group average attendance grew from 6 to 8
- Sunday night high league attendance averaged about 4
- Three high school students participated in the One Life retreat at Covenant Point

2014 – 2015

- Confirmation attendance has averaged about 1
- Thursday night youth group has averaged about 3
- Senior high league attendance has averaged about 4
- Three high school students participated in the CREW retreat at Covenant Harbor.
- Due to graduating students and general lack of capacity, 5th Quarter program was put on a temporary hiatus.

Fundraisers

- Fundraisers this year have included our annual rummage sale and a bake sale.
- As we get closer to our trip to CHIC everyone can look forward to a few more fun fundraisers in support of the youth and this life changing journey they will be a part of.

Respectfully,

Amanda Englund

Youth Commission Chair

Music, Arts & Worship Commission - Dave Oseland and LeRoy Carlson

We thank the Lord for His continued blessing upon the ministry here at the Ravenswood Church, now into our 127th year of service. The worship and arts commission assumes the following responsibilities of overseeing and working with;

- the Music Director
- Choir Director
- Organist
- Ushers
- Greeters
- Communion
- Audio
- Decorations and banners
- Special Programs

AUDIO SYSTEM: Erik Brandel-Tanis, Caleb Staureth and Erin Staureth are away at college presently, but we want to thank them for their faithful service handling the audio system over the past several years. Presently, Jose Rilo along with Dave Oseland handle the duties, and just recently we have welcomed Gabriel Edstrom to the team.

CHOIR: Over a year ago (September, 2013, Trevor Nicholas assumed the position of choir director. The Ravenswood family is privileged to have this gifted director and musicologist on staff. We are thankful and have been blessed by Trevor's ministry.

COMMUNION: The commission continues to prepare the elements for our Holy Communion on Sundays. LeRoy Carlson and Dave Oseland have been in charge on alternate months, and additional Council members have been asked to serve as needed.

OTHER ITEMS: Over the year, our greeters have been assigned by Bethany Saldaña in the church office. Very often this past year assigned greeters have never shown for their assignment, and LeRoy, Dave, John Morales or other members have scrambled at the last minute to greet and provide the bulletin to worshippers. We want to emphasize to the congregation what an important ministry this is! For any new (and old) visitors attending the church, this is the first impression they'll have of the Ravenswood family, and we want it to be a good one. Please be cognizant of the dates Bethany has assigned, or let her know in advance if you have a conflict.

Beginning 2015, we are excited that Marianne Dunlap will now head this Commission, and both LeRoy and Dave have committed to assist her through the transition.

Respectfully,

LeRoy Carlson and Dave Oseland, Co-chairs

Parenting ProGRESS Report - Stacey Johnson

In June 2014, I had the pleasure of taking on the role of Director of Parenting ProGRESS. As a regular attender of Ravenswood Covenant Church for the past seven years, I was familiar with Parenting ProGRESS and the positive effect the program has on the individuals and families involved. Parenting ProGRESS is a ministry of Ravenswood Covenant Church that provides support for teen parents whose children primarily attend Ravenswood Community Child Care Center (RC4), but also works with young parents within the community if a need arises. I am very excited to join RECC's mission to support young parents and their children and believe this is where God has called me to be.

Over the course of the year, Parenting ProGRESS has supported eleven families in one way or another. Six of these families have children attending RC4 currently and two of these families come from the community. We will also have two new families starting in January. RC4 provides quality care for children in our program and I know from personal conversations the relief parents feel knowing they can attend school and/or work to provide for their family all because of the support they receive from Parenting ProGRESS and RC4.

Parenting ProGRESS has provided much support this year. One way was through weekly workshops and the implementation of an incentives program made possible by a grant from Covenant Children's Ministries. Workshops have included presentations on oral hygiene, child development and positive discipline, career and college planning, as well as cooking classes and craft sessions. This year, we have been fortunate to work with Michelle High, a graduate nursing student and Schweitzer fellow. Michelle presents a research based parenting curriculum once a month during the workshop time that showcases positive and effective parenting techniques. There are generally between four and six individuals who attend our weekly workshops. Each individual receives a Visa or Target gift card every time he or she attends a workshop. Also, during this time Ventra cards, diapers, wipes, and other baby closet items are given away on an as needed basis.

Throughout the year, we have received many donations from church members, RC4 parents, and even parents who participate in Parenting ProGRESS who want to give back to the program. Donations have included pull ups, baby clothes, toys, quilts, and school supplies. All donations received are greatly appreciated and have benefited the families involved in Parenting ProGRESS. We look forward to our annual Christmas party in a few weeks and also greatly appreciate the gifts that have/ will be donated in order to make Parenting ProGRESS parents and their children feel special and loved this Christmas season. Thank you to all who have donated to Parenting ProGRESS this year!

The mentor program is another way to support the teen parents in our program. We currently have one mentor matched with one of our teen parents but are looking to train a few more individuals as mentors in January so that more of our parents can benefit from this great program. The mentor's role is very important since they build one-on-one intentional relationships with Parenting ProGRESS parents and provide positive support to help them reach their goals.

One last support that is in place to walk alongside these parents is one-on-one meetings with me to discuss goal setting, college/career aspirations, job-related problems, social-emotional issues, or anything else the individual would like to talk about. This time together helps me build

strong relationships with each of the parents involved in the Parenting ProGRESS program and allows me to show Christ's love to them in a way they might never have experienced before. This is an honor and I am so glad I have been given this opportunity.

We were able to celebrate four graduates this year and held a successful graduation party for them in June. Two of these graduates are currently enrolled in college courses and are doing very well. Two successfully found a job and are working on setting career goals. In addition to celebrating these graduates, Parenting ProGRESS participants have enjoyed special events such as a group outing to Covenant Harbor in July and a holiday Target shopping trip on December 10th as well as a trip to see Zoo Lights.

Thank you to all who have supported the Parenting ProGRESS program this year in various ways. A special thank you to Audrey Hodgkinson, Judy Edstrom, and Carol Koeller who serve as members of the Parenting ProGRESS Advisory Board. I look forward to the coming year and to see with is in store for our ministry in 2015!

Submitted by,

Stacey Johnson

2014 Statistical Information

Membership

January 1, 2014	142
Losses by death	1
December 31, 2014	14

New Members

Kristen Coughlin
Marianne Dunlap
Bryan Johnson
Kari Johnson
Neal Johnson
Stacey Johnson
Shari Reyes
Stan Rosendahl
Mary Spriggs
Kelly Vetter
Sam Vetter

Date voted into membership

June 1, 2014
June 1, 2014
June 1, 2014
June 1, 2014
June 1, 2014
June 1, 2014
June 1, 2014
June 1, 2014
June 1, 2014
June 1, 2014
June 1, 2014

Baptisms

Samuel Huibregtse
Elin Johnson*
**At Covenant Harbor Bible Camp*

January 12, 2014
May 24, 2014

Dedications

Maren Curran
Lee Fledderjohann
Dane Lettinga
Wesley Hollingshead

January 26, 2014
May 18, 2014
August 17, 2014
October 12, 2014

Births

Lee Fledderjohann
Kara Nikaya Jackson
Keira Jule Hoden
Celeste Lucille LeRoy
Eleanor May Hickok

February 14, 2014
July 24, 2014
September 12, 2014
October 6, 2014
November 22, 2014

Deaths

Martha Elizabeth Edgren

November 26, 2014

Treasurer's Report - Max Hollingshead

Income - Total General Fund is up and this is great news.

Offerfest raised \$13,992.32 and can be found in this report as part of **Non-Budgeted Income - Other**.

You will see that a lot of the **Expense - Payroll** items are above budget and that is because the first payroll of 2015 actually debited the bank on December 31, 2014 so they appear on this report.

Expense - Personnel - Covenant Pension is double because we also paid for 2013 during 2014.

Expense - Personnel - Health Insurance has an extra quarterly payment because we paid for the first quarter of 2015 in December 2014.

Expense - Property and Maintenance is over budget but not really unexpected.

The **Net Ordinary Income** of -13,474.87 is a little misleading and is closer to -2,000 if you exclude the 2013 and 2015 payments.

The **Net Income** of -2,195.48 is also misleading because it includes Non-Budgeted Income and Expenses that include Funds (Camp, Missions, Youth, etc) that span multiple years.

It would have been nice to see a surplus but it was very surprising how everything sort of evened out at the end. I am still worried that we are consistently negative each year. We need to figure out some way to eventually pay back the NCP Demand Account Funds (Camp, Missions, Youth, etc) that are currently -38,236.07 on the Balance Sheet.

-Max Hollingshead (Treasurer)

Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through December 2014

	Jan - Dec 14	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
General Fund		
Basketball	2,400.00	2,400.00
E-Giving	16,900.00	
NCP Interest Acct 2822-113	3,925.53	4,000.00
Online Giving	27,683.62	
Sunday Offerings	162,970.20	
Sunday School Offering	45.00	
General Fund - Other	0.00	206,500.00
Total General Fund	<u>213,924.35</u>	<u>212,900.00</u>
i300 Property Income		
301 RC4 Rent	7,200.00	7,200.00
303 Use Of Parking Lot	10,650.00	9,200.00
Total i300 Property Income	<u>17,850.00</u>	<u>16,400.00</u>
i700 Youth Income	0.00	120.00
i800 Uncategorized Income	6,131.00	
Total Income	<u>237,905.35</u>	<u>229,420.00</u>
Expense		
100 Missions		
101 Central Conf. Min.	2,000.00	2,000.00
102 Evangelical Covenant Church	2,000.00	2,000.00
104 Feijoo	3,000.00	3,000.00
105 Becca VanWeerdhuizen	1,000.00	1,000.00
106 Congo Tech Assistance	0.00	1,000.00
107 Covenant Missions	4,000.00	4,000.00
113 Drew Hayes	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total 100 Missions	<u>13,000.00</u>	<u>14,000.00</u>
200 Payroll		
201 Senior Pastor	52,962.83	52,400.00
202 Administrative Assistant	20,199.00	19,890.00
203 Music Director	3,675.00	4,147.00
204 Custodian	7,520.58	7,242.00
205 Pastoral Intern	2,699.83	3,150.00
206 Organist	9,029.54	8,752.00
208 Honoraria	800.00	900.00
209 Choir Director	1,800.00	1,250.00
210 Nursery Care	1,185.00	2,250.00
211 Basketball Consultant	1,499.95	2,400.00
212 Social Security/Medicare	5,362.52	
213 Accompanist	1,800.00	1,250.00
220 Parenting Progress Director	12,492.45	11,934.00
226 Youth Minister	16,125.00	15,500.00
230 Payroll Expenses		
231 Precision Payroll	1,448.94	1,800.00
Total 230 Payroll Expenses	<u>1,448.94</u>	<u>1,800.00</u>
Total 200 Payroll	<u>138,620.64</u>	<u>132,865.00</u>
300 Personnel		
301 Conference / Travel	1,470.54	2,500.00
302 Covenant Pension	12,830.50	6,400.00
303 Out Of Pocket Expenses	358.18	800.00
304 Gifts	100.00	300.00
305 Workers Comp	2,107.75	2,300.00
306 Health Insurance	23,691.35	18,700.00

Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January through December 2014

	Jan - Dec 14	Budget
Non-Budgeted Income		
Benevolence	975.00	
Camp	8,974.40	
Missions	2,835.00	
Softball	1,000.00	
Youth	2,709.87	
Non-Budgeted Income - Other	15,267.67	
Total Non-Budgeted Income	31,761.94	
Total Other Income	31,776.79	
Other Expense		
Non-Budgeted Expense		
Benevolence	575.00	
Camp	5,515.60	
Missions	4,829.75	
Softball	5,814.01	
Youth	962.50	
Non-Budgeted Expense - Other	2,800.54	
Total Non-Budgeted Expense	20,497.40	
Total Other Expense	20,497.40	
Net Other Income	11,279.39	
Net Income	-2,195.48	0.00

Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2014

	Dec 31, 14
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1. Northbrook Bank & Trust	24,816.78
2. Northbrook B&T - SCRIP	100.38
3. NCP Certificate 2822-113	261,699.88
4. NCP Demand Account	
Benevolence Fund	400.00
Camp Fund	9,426.49
Capital Improvement Fund	20,882.37
CHIC Fund	2,624.37
Ione Anderson Mem Fund	1,070.00
Mission Fund	4,684.10
Organ Fund	44.00
Youth Fund	102.64
4. NCP Demand Account - Other	-38,236.07
Total 4. NCP Demand Account	997.90
Total Checking/Savings	287,614.94
Total Current Assets	287,614.94
Fixed Assets	
4900 N. Damen	2,100,000.00
Fixtures and Furnishings	150,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	2,250,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	2,537,614.94
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	3,204.54
Total Accounts Payable	3,204.54
Total Current Liabilities	3,204.54
Total Liabilities	3,204.54
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	2,583,747.75
Retained Earnings	-47,141.87
Net Income	-2,195.48
Total Equity	2,534,410.40
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,537,614.94