



GENERAL CHURCH NEWS AND UPDATES

SPRING 2017

The mission of the General Church is to help people live a heavenly life through the teachings of the Lord God Jesus Christ in His Second Coming.

Greetings to all General Church members and friends.

I recently had the privilege of visiting two of our congregations that have reached significant anniversaries. The Sower's Chapel in Sarver, Pennsylvania, marked the 30th year since the beginning of the congregation. The celebration at the Sower's Chapel included a congregation and friends dinner Saturday evening, sharing many memories and delightful stories, followed by recognitions on Sunday.

The Sunrise Chapel in Tucson, Arizona, celebrated the 30th year for their church building. The celebration at Sunrise Chapel included Friday evening presentations by the Rev. Frank Rose on the history of the building and congregation, and I showed them a sampling of New Church churches around the world. On Saturday evening, there was a concert by Frank's and Louise's children, and several "TED style talks" by members of the congregation.

Congratulations to both of these congregations for taking the steps they did 30 years ago and their faithful development of these uses through today. May the Lord continue to bless them.

In June the clergy will meet with the boards of the General Church and the Academy to consider the uses of the Church going forward, in preparation for the bishop selection process that will take place the following year. The clergy will also be soliciting counsel throughout the Church in the upcoming year. I look forward to working toward a smooth transition for a new Executive Bishop in 2019.

Thank you,
Rt. Rev. Brian W. Keith
brian.keith@newchurch.org



GENERAL CHURCH EDUCATION

Education Leadership Retreat

General Church Education hosted an Education Leadership Team Retreat on February 9-10. There were 18 administrators in attendance, some with years of administrative experience, and others just getting started in their leadership capacities. Attendees represented eight General Church schools (Glenview, Oak Arbor, Pittsburgh, Bryn Athyn, Kempton, Caryndale, Toronto and Washington), the Academy Girls and Boys Schools, and the Education Department at Bryn Athyn College.

The retreat centered around four main goals:

1. Exploring how best to articulate the vision and practice of New Church education to today's prospective parents. Sessions were led by the **Rt. Rev. Peter Buss Jr.** and **Dr. Roberta Nolan**, Director of Admissions for Bryn Athyn College;
2. Focusing on teacher professional development, led by **Scott Daum**;
3. Reviewing curriculum development processes, led by **Rebekah Russell**;
4. Furthering relationships and mutual support among administrators in New Church education.

This is a summary of an article written by Rt. Rev. Peter Buss Jr. for the March/April 2017 issue of *New Church Life* (p. 164). The [full article can be found online](#).

Sunday School Conference

General Church Education recently held a conference for Sunday school teachers in North America and Europe. Twenty-two Sunday school teachers and pastors from 13 societies joined us for this energizing event. The focus was on challenges and opportunities facing Sunday schools in the 21st century. The opening plenary, [936 Sundays](#), given by Peter Buss Jr. and Sarah Odhner, highlighted the importance of the 936 Sunday opportunities in a child's life from birth to age 18 for instruction in the Word, community and service. Further plenaries provided space for identifying

Sunday school challenges, re-framing the challenges as opportunities, and identifying steps that could be taken to make positive changes. A choice of workshops was offered to bolster teaching confidence, introduce new resources and help leaders manage their programs.

GCED honored teachers for their years of volunteer service to General Church Sunday schools, with special recognition going to Lyn Perry for 41 years of teaching Sunday school! One attendee reported, "I now have more confidence in initiating and giving energy to a teen Sunday school program." Another shared, "I am returning home with renewed vision and encouragement." We welcome questions and comments gced@newchurch.org.



The Sunday School Conference was organized by Janet Carswell Lockard, Rachel Glenn, the Rt. Rev. Peter Buss Jr., and Sarah Odhner. (picture by Katherine Jutras)



OUTREACH

Journey Video Production Continues to Grow

The Journey Video Team has recently brought on the talents of Luke David and Ben Kees as part-time employees. Stay connected and see the amazing work they're creating by subscribing to the [New Church Journey YouTube channel](#) and liking the [New Church Journey Facebook](#) page. Below is an example of their amazing work.



Helping Children in Crisis | Moving Faith into Life

Kay Alden, HCIC Chair

Charity and faith make one. There is no church where there is no truth of faith; and no religion where there is no good of charity. Doctrine of Charity

Helping Children in Crisis (HCIC) is a [volunteer committee](#) that operates within General Church Outreach. HCIC was established in November 2012 to address the immediate need of orphaned children associated with the New Church in Kenya who were suddenly thrust into a life-threatening situation. Together with the General

Church Sacred Care (GCSC) board in Etora, Kenya, we currently sponsor 36 children and young adults who are being raised in the sphere of New Church doctrines.

Rev. Samson Abuga and his staff provide the day-to-day care of the children while HCIC provides the financial resources for that care. Donations provide the necessities; currently we are focused on bringing electricity and running water to the property. [Make a gift](#) to make a difference!

In February three members of the HCIC executive board traveled to Kenya to deepen the ties between HCIC and GCSC. HCIC treasurer, Roger Schrock, mentored the GCSC treasurer, Erickson Nyandieka, in financial practices. Huddled together in the office over receipts, computers and ledger books for part of each day, they emerged at the end of the week with a deep respect for each other – and a balanced budget! It is obvious to even a casual observer that all these children have bonded into a loving, supportive family. Samson's loving care truly creates a place where they can thrive.



To learn more about the General Church Helping Children in Crisis:

Visit the [Helping Children In Crisis](#) website

contact us via email gchelpingchildren@gmail.com

like our [Facebook](#) page.



Michelle King Photography

Meet a Minister

Rev. Coleman Glenn was ordained in 2009, and after serving in the Olivet (Toronto), Dawson Creek, and Westville New Church congregations, he and his wife Anne now live in Bryn Athyn, along with their two young children.

This year, Rev. Glenn has been working with Outreach to produce small group studies, as well as offering chapel services at the Bryn Athyn schools and preaching.

Next year, part of his role will include ministering to college students and young adults throughout the General Church. He hopes to work closely with pastors to strengthen connections between young adults and their local congregations, as well as reaching out to those who are more isolated. If you want to hear more about what he is doing in this area, feel free to contact him at coleman.glen@gmail.com.

New Church Spotlight: Upcoming Summer Camps

Maple Leaf Academy, Canada, June 30 - July 6, 2017

Maple Leaf is a teen church camp held in Palgrave, Ontario, Canada. The campers are mentored toward spiritual growth in a beautiful, natural environment filled with music, worship, time with friends and lots of fun. Visit their website at www.maplecamp.com, [Facebook](#) or contact Steph Kuhl at gci.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com to learn more.

British Academy Summer School, England, July 16-July 29

BASS is a church camp for teens and young adults. The camp allows participants to interact with other spiritually-minded young people in a relaxed and fun environment. Days at BASS are characterized by worship, learning, sports, creative activities, and outings to places of interest. Please contact Doug Reuter,

doug.reuter@ancss.org for more information.

Jacob's Creek Family Camp, Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, July 23-26

This Year's Theme is: Behold I make all things new!

In its 25th year, the focus of this camp is to assist participants in building a strong foundation of doctrinal understanding for spiritual growth. Get your registration forms online, jacobscreekcamp.alotspace.com and like us on [Facebook](#).

Contact Jamie and Julie Uber, 412-782-2710/ julie.uber@gmail.com

Laurel Family Camp, Somerset, Pennsylvania, July 30-August 5th

The focus of this camp is to draw people together and build a true sense of spiritual community. Registration is open and will remain open until the camp is full. Visit www.laurelcamp.org for more information and registration forms. Contact Cyd Knoble, 267-718-5465 / cydknoble@gmail.com

Strategic Plan Highlight: International

One strand of the General Church Strategic Plan ([view full plan here](#)) aims to support the development of the New Church internationally. Below, the Rt. Rev. Peter Buss Jr. shares his recent trip to West Africa.

Advancements for the Church in West Africa

Rt. Rev. Peter Buss Jr.

Exciting things happened during a three-week trip to West Africa this past March and April. Here are some highlights:

- In Tema, Ghana, a visit to every classroom of the school (220 students in total) with personal greetings to each student, and a brief explanation of what "New Church School, Tema" on the back of their school shirts means.
- A service in a new part of Ghana where 40 adults and children were baptized into the faith of the New Church, and 1 person was confirmed.
- A graduation ceremony at the Boby Church in Ivory Coast for four theological school students, to which the Rev. David Roth was invited as honored guest.

- The dedication of the Eden Chapel in Jesco Heveas, Ivory Coast, where the Rev. Evariste Dakouri serves as pastor.
- The ordination of Abel Nguessan Amahin, Étienne Mogue Beugre, and Mellon René Lasme into the first degree, and the Rev. Alphonese Tehe Zoho into the second degree in Abobo, Ivory Coast.
- A visit to some villages in Sikensi, Ivory Coast where three groups of previously non-New Church people expressed their heartfelt wish to join the General Church.
- A two-staged service in Vogan, Togo, including the dedication of the newly constructed Chapel of Jacob's Well, and the ordination of Leopold Assiobo into the first degree.

There is much to celebrate in West Africa, and, in typical African style, much celebrating in worship while we were there.



90 years of New Church sermons and classes

Wherever you are - you can always listen to New Church Audio! On the road for work, away from your congregation, or on vacation listen to the best New Church content.

Consider New Church Audio your go to place for top notch recordings of 90 years of New Church sermons and classes.

In 2016, listeners tuned in from all over the world including South Korea, Romania, Sweden, China, Nigeria and India.

Thanks to our contributors these recordings are maintained and upgraded and available to all.

Click on the links below to listen now:

[Rev. Thane Glenn, 2016, "What Can I Do?"](#)

[Bishop George de Charms, 1978, "Know Thyself"](#)



Kick start your community service idea

The mission of Charity Works, the New Church service grant, is to provide funding for young adults (ages 16-35) who wish to provide a service for those outside of themselves, in line with the model of charity described in the New Church.

Applicants also receive support, mentorship, grant writing experience, public speaking experience, blogging, resume fodder, community engagement, valuable contacts, networking, references and other benefits for every young adult working with us.

[Past projects](#) have include improving sanitary conditions in Ghana, working with Habitat for Humanity in El Salvador, and organizing a 5k race to raise funds for mitochondrial research.

What is your idea? How will you serve the community? We'd love to hear from you! Please connect for more information, ncservicegrant@gmail.com and visit www.charityworksgrant.org

A recent Charity Works project:
After graduating from the Academy Secondary Schools with honors, Tara Duggan spent nine days in El Salvador helping build adequate living spaces. The project was through Habitat for Humanity. Tara led a team of motivated young adults looking to make the world a better place through action.

We are not born to live for ourselves alone, but for others.

True Christianity 406



General Church Board Nominees



Maryland Attorney **Stephen D. Ball** looks forward to serving and learning more about General Church issues and governance.

Anne Goerwitz Ball introduced Steve to the New Church while they attended the University of Chicago. After his move to Washington DC he ordered copies of the Writings and explored the teachings of the New Church.

He was baptized in 1987. He and Anne were married that September. Anne has been a teacher in the Washington New Church School (WNCS) since 2005. All four of their children attended WNCS.

Steve worked for Members of the House of Representatives as a speechwriter, a subcommittee legislative analyst, and finally as a legislative director for a southern

Illinois Congressman. He attended the University of Maryland School of Law and started his own law firm in 1995.

Steve serves on the Board of Trustees of the Washington Society. He is a board member of Civil Justice, Inc., a Maryland group of about 100 attorneys who seek to provide legal services to low/moderate income individuals.

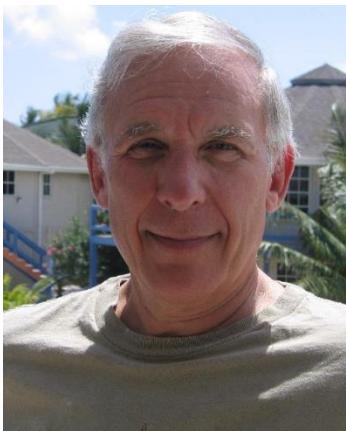


David Deibert is degreed in Electrical Engineering, and is President of WL Deibert Co., an industrial distribution company located in Upper Moreland Township.

David is married to Nancy (Inacker) and they have two children, Scott (26) and Jade (14). Neither David nor Nancy was raised in the New Church, but that fact does not diminish their love of the Writings.

David discovered the New Church in 2007 after realizing that the beliefs of the New Church were exactly as those that he and Nancy had held for decades. The New Church community warmly welcomed the Deibert family, and David and Nancy were able to expand their spiritual wisdom.

David possesses the understanding of the fiduciary responsibility needed in keeping an institution healthy. He is also knowledgeable in targeted marketing and operational technologies that make a business efficient. He has extensive board experience (having served 16 years as a Lower Moreland school director, and is currently serving as a Bryn Athyn Church Board member). David will combine these skills and love of the church with the energy of other General Church board members for the benefit of our spiritual community.



Charles Ebert is married to Faith (Craigie) and they are active in the New Church of Boulder Valley and committed to growth programs locally and worldwide.

Chuck is a partner in an online trading firm, but he spent much of his adult life as a teacher of mathematics and computer science at Bryn Athyn College of the New Church. He also led the STAIRS project for computer searching of the Heavenly Doctrines. Chuck earned his PhD from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Previously Chuck chaired the Outreach Committee and served as chair and vice chair of the Nominating Committee. He also served on the Education Committee and the GC Strategic Planning Committee.

Chuck is anxious to re-join the GC board and lend strong support to its leaders and programs that are vital to the health and growth of our Church.



Axel Coulibaly lives with his wife, Alex and two sons, David and Nathan in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, where he actively participates in the development of the General Church. Bilingual in English and French, Axel is fond of travelling, reading and sports. He had the opportunity of visiting a dozen countries including Denmark, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and India.

On the professional side, Axel has 10 years of experience in Logistics and Freight, and he is currently the Cargo Manager at National Aviation Services (NAS) in Abidjan Airport, Côte d'Ivoire, after spending a few years at Emirates Airlines and Maersk Line.

In addition to his degree in Marketing / Sales, Axel holds a Lean Six-Sigma

certification (Process Management), a Business Development certification and a Management, Leadership certification.

Axel would be honored to join the board of the General Church in Africa and around the world.

Please follow link to see a [complete list of the General Church Board of Directors](#).

General Church Membership | Why join?

Anyone is invited to participate in the worship and the life of the New Church. To become a member of the General Church, you must be baptized by a New Church pastor and be at least 20 years old. Why join?

- Members are able to vote on important Church matters at church-wide General Assemblies,
- and may also join a local congregation (although this is not a requirement) and vote in all its proceedings (see below for information on joining).
- After three years of membership, individuals are free to join the General Church Corporation — the organization dealing with financial and legal matters for the Church.
- To be considered for a Board of Directors nomination, nominees must be a General Church Corporation member.

You may join by [filling out the online form](#).

Alternatively, you may download and complete the [application for membership form](#) and mail it to the Office of the Bishop, PO Box 743, Bryn Athyn, PA, USA 19009-0708.



Appreciation Event for Giving Society

On May 9th, the Academy and General Church honored its planned giving donors, the **Johnny Appleseed Legacy Society**, by hosting an appreciation tea at Cairnwood Estate.

Elmo Acton, Candidate for the General Church ministry, and Theolog Jeffrey Smith spoke about their studies at the Bryn Athyn College Theological School. They both expressed gratitude for how the General Church and Academy make it possible for them to study and eventually serve the General Church.

Hyland Johns and Sylvia Parker both spoke and gave a testimonial about their desire to help the Church and schools further their mission and reach and promote the Heavenly Doctrines through their planned gifts.

A planned gift is any gift that is deferred to the future. Examples include:

- a bequest in your will
- a Charitable Gift Annuity
- insurance policies you may no longer need
- a donation of property
- or a distribution from your IRA

If you would like more information or if you have already included the Church in your estate plan, please contact Mark Wyncoll, mark.wyncoll@newchurch.org or (267) 502-2423.



June 2017

June 2017 is New Church Month of Giving!

Help us reach our **Annual Fund goal of \$570,000**. The General Church Annual Fund is the unrestricted fund that supports our greatest needs in the areas of General Church Education, Outreach, New Church ministers, congregations and more.

Give locally. Give centrally. Give charitably.

[Give today!](#)

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If our newsletter needs work, please tell us.

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 Forward to a Friend

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Members & Friends

Our mailing address is:

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