



YOU SHALL HEAR A WORD BEHIND YOU, SAYING, "THIS IS THE WAY, WALK IN IT." ISAIAH 30:21

Letter from Bishop Buss

Dear Friends,

We're taught that when we look back with a spiritual perspective, we can often see the Lord's hand gently guiding us (*Divine Providence* 187). I hope you'll glimpse some of that providential care as we look back on this past year together.

This last year, we chose a theme from Isaiah: "This is the way, walk in it" (30:21)—a reminder of how the church can help people live their faith, day by day. I am grateful for the priests and musicians of the church who offer enriching worship services week in and week out around the world. I am also grateful for our teachers who provide guidance and instruction to students from preschool through college, and on into theological school.

Beyond these mainstays, we also focused on strengthening recruitment for priests and teachers and launched the Healthy Congregations process to support revitalization.

But what truly makes the church is its people. We can see the church come to life when people rally around a memorial service or wedding, or when they give of their time and energy to present living scenes of the Christmas story, or when they gather to celebrate the dedication of a new worship space. It's also meaningful when tBoard members gather for General Church or Academy Board Meetings, just as they do in smaller numbers within many congregations. And of course, the best way for the church to come alive is by means of daily choices to live in accord with the Lord's teachings. This is the end goal of all that we do.

With the start of another year in the life of the church, we feel renewed in our mission: to spread the Lord's healing message and to call all toward a life of heavenly purpose. We ask for the Lord's continuing providential care for our church as a whole and for everyone in it.

New Church

With affection,

Rt. Rev. Peter Buss Jr., Executive Bishop

Peter.Buss.jr@newchurch.org

A YEAR IN REVIEW

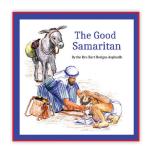
July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

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

Mission Highlights

- General Church Education sent packages to approximately 450 families this year with gifts to help them celebrate Christmas, Easter, and New Church Day. For Easter, we were able to send last year's publication, The New Testament for Young Children.
- GCED also published a new hardback children's book this year, *The Good Samaritan*, written by the late Rev. Kurt Horigan Asplundh. This charming volume (available on newchurchbooks.com). presents New Church ideas about one of the best-known stories from the Word in keepsake form.
- In October 2024, the General Church hired Baird Kistner as its first dedicated recruiter. Focused on connecting with both future teachers and theological students, Baird has partnered with the Ministry Pipeline Team and the Teacher Pipeline Team to develop new strategies and tools to attract and retain people for these two essential uses of the General Church.
- Pittsburgh New Church School staff facilitated a successful in-service program from October 24-25, 2024. Sixty General Church teachers from eight North American schools attended to focus on teaching students with learning differences. They also heard a talk on the role of parents in New Church education.
- Among the highlights from 2025 in New Church Life:
 - A previously unpublished sermon by the late Rev. Kurt Ho. Asplundh: The Responsibility of the New Church.
 - A Search for Answer About the First Humans on Earth by Donald Ridgway
 - ▶ Through an Open Door: A Path to a Stronger Marriage by Shawn Synnestvedt
 - New Church Education: The Gift of 'The Pearl of Great Price'

 a sermon by the Rev. Eric Carswell
 - A Charter Day sermon: A Call for Courage by the Rev. Derek Elphick
- General Church Outreach continues continue to strengthen NewChurch.org as a central outreach platform by making the site easier to use and more inviting to explore. Each month, we see about 16,000 unique visitors. Most come through digital outreach, but around 5,000 find us on their own through search or referrals.
- Outreach produces both long and short videos each week. Lately, we've focused on short, visually rich videos that introduce doctrinal ideas in simple, meaningful ways. Watch an example on our YouTube page: http://bit.ly/4mHUFet.
- Daily Inspiration emails now go out to 5,773 people every day. Seasonal offerings—like our Christmas and Easter series—reach thousands more. This past Easter, we welcomed 961 new readings subscribers, for a total of 1,930. During the Christmas season, we added 1,182, bringing that total to 3,681.





General Church teachers at Pittsburgh New Church School for an in-service program from October 24-25, 2024



Learn about the meaning of a lamb on our YouTube channel: bit.ly/4mHUFet

Society Milestones

- The Global Healthy Congregations initiative supports churches in becoming stronger, more focused, and more engaged by combining proven goal-setting strategies with personalized, hands-on support. Over the past year, Project Manager Jane Enis has partnered with congregations in Boulder, Colorado, Tucson, Arizona, the United Kingdom, and the newly established Midwest New Church in Maysville, Missouri. The work begins with setting five-year goals, building local volunteer teams, and implementing a 90-day system for tracking progress. Participating churches have responded with enthusiasm, using these tools to gain momentum and address challenges with greater clarity.
- Midwest New Church completed its first year as a circle with a pastor. About twenty people attend each service, which is hosted at the home of the pastor or a congregant. Rev. Calvin Heinrichs also travels to meet families in South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Kansas.
- Yamoussoukro New Church in Ivory Coast celebrated five years of gathering this year.



Midwest New Church gathered in a home for church on Sunday



Rt. Rev. Peter Buss, Jr. and Yamoussoukro New Church congregation after church

CLERGY



Rt. Rev. Brad Heinrichs with Mandla Stole (L) and Patrick Mbali (R) in Buccleuch, South Africa

Clergy Meetings

- o Ivorian Clergy Meetings in Abidjan, September 14-16, 2024
- Western US Clergy Meetings in Phoenix, March 3-6, 2025
- European Clergy Meetings in France, May 12-16, 2025
- Full Council of the Clergy Meetings, Bryn Athyn June, 23-27, 2025

Episcopal Visits

- Rt. Rev. Peter Buss, Jr. visited Brazil for the first time as Executive Bishop. He was able to meet with all clergy there and preached in three locations.
- Rt. Rev. David Lindrooth traveled to Stockholm, Sweden and oversaw the ordination of Eric Sjödin.
- Rt. Rev. Brad Heinrichs made a trip to West Africa and presided over dedications of the temples in Togoville, Togo and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Minister Moves

(Effective July 1, 2025)

Rev. Erik Buss became the Pastor of the Oak Arbor Church and School. He also took on the role of Residency Program Coordinator, a new program designed to structure the support of newly ordained priests within their first two years of service.

Rev. Grant Odhner took on the role of National Pastor for the United Kingdom.

Pending visa approval, Rev. Olaf Hauptman will become Pastor of the Boston New Church. Rev. Eric Sjödin became Assistant to the Pastor of the Stockholm Society.

Rev. Sylvain Agnes became the Regional Pastor for West Africa.

Rev. Scott Frazier succeeded Rev. Dr. Andrew Dibb as Dean of the Theological School in Bryn Athyn.

Rev. Evariste Dakouri became National Pastor for Ivory Coast.

Ordinations & Candidacy

- ► Patrick Mbali, SECOND DEGREE (Buccleuch, South Africa)
- ► Mandla Stole, SECOND DEGREE (Buccleuch, South Africa)
- ► HyunJin Yang, SECOND DEGREE (Hurstville, Australia)
- Eric Sjödin,
 FIRST DEGREE
 (Stockholm, Sweden)

- Thomas Jackson, FIRST DEGREE (Bryn Athyn, United States)
- Daniel Calvo, FIRST DEGREE (Bryn Athyn, United States)
- ► Theolog Frits Bot of the Netherlands has received his first Certificate from the Bryn Athyn College Theological School. He is the first student to be authorized as a Candidate through the Theological School's remote education program.



Rt. Rev. David Lindrooth officiates the ordination of Eric Sjödin in Stockhom, Sweden

DONOR PARTICIPATION

Your gifts sustain the programs and resources covered in this report.
Thank you to all who support the mission of the General Church.



newchurch.org/give

Membership

- Membership (July 1, 2024) ~ 5371
- ► New Members ~ 50
- ► Resignations ~ 8

- ► Deaths of Members ~ 41
- ► Membership (June 30, 2025) ~ **5372**

Board of Directors

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Rhett Brown
Erin Busby
Greg Clay
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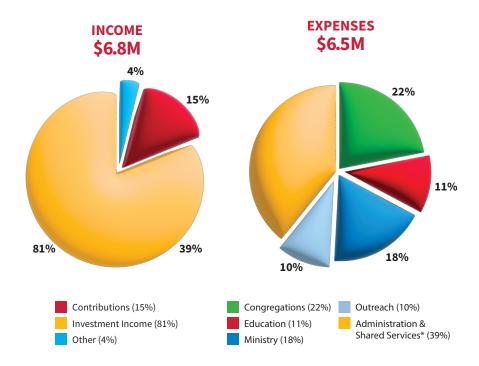
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Rene Johnson
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Catherine McQueen
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Ex-Officio Members

Peter Buss, Jr. David Frazier Bradley Heinrichs David Lindrooth

FINANCE



Financial Highlights

- Total revenue for the fiscal year finished strong. Contributions and investment income rose since last year, helping the General Church to continue delivering on our mission.
- Our steady donor base helped carry the impact of fewer estate gifts, maintaining overall giving levels. The number of donors increased by 3%, helping us post roughly a 5% surplus.
- We spent about 22% of General Church budget on support for congregations. Strategic spending, such as the minister and teacher development initiatives, is aimed at meeting long-term worship and school needs.

David Butler, Controller
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David Frazier, Executive Director David.Frazier@newchurch.org

Note: This financial summary is unaudited. Audited results will be shared once available.



^{*}Administration and Shared Services support the spiritual, administrative, financial, technological, and operational needs of the church to ensure its mission is effectively carried out.