

Annual Report 2024



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AGENDA

WELCOME

NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION (Ryan & Nicole Weller)

CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA

WORSHIP THROUGH SINGING

COMMUNION

SHARING TIME

CEDARCREEK IN REVIEW POWERPOINT

MINISTRY PLAN BUDGET

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

MESSAGE (It's growing, there's more to come!)

VOTING

CLOSING WORSHIP

VOTING RESULTS

BLESSING

LUNCH



DECEMBER 2024

Greetings Covenant Family,

I pray this finds you in a spirit of anticipation in this Advent season. As the year draws to a close, it is important to pause and reflect on the many things that God has done and is doing, and this annual letter helps me to be intentional about that pause. There is so much to rejoice over this year.

First and foremost, thank you for your prayers! When I visit your church or you send me a note, it really does mean the world to me that you are praying. I could not do the work of the church without these sustaining prayers. Second, thank you for inviting me to be part of your church services and celebrations. I love connecting with you and am so inspired by how you are responding to God's call in your local context. Your creativity as you care for your communities is encouraging and fills me with hope. Over the last year I have had the opportunity to participate in 17 local worship services and anniversary celebrations, attend four regional conference gatherings, and attend three international events. I have seen firsthand the movement of the Holy Spirit around the Covenant's multiethnic mosaic!

Additionally, I was grateful for the opportunity to engage with our students and student leaders this summer at Unite East and Unite West. What a beautiful experience to see the commitment of students and to enjoy worshiping with them. I left with a sense of great hopefulness for this generation. Thank you for sending your students to this impactful experience.

Looking forward, I am excited to invite you to Orlando, Florida, for Gather 2025. We will be celebrating 140 years of ministry as the Covenant Church, and I have invited Covenant presidents from around world to celebrate with us. What a joyful event this will be to celebrate all that God has been doing in, around, and through our collective mission. I hope that you will consider attending this celebration in June, either as a delegate from your church or as a general conference attendee. This is a unique opportunity to be able to bear witness to the global kingdom of God and to learn from leaders around the world in person. For the latest details and updates, visit covchurch.org/gather.

For God's glory and neighbor's good,

Tammy Swanson-Draheim, PRESIDENT, EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH



January 1, 2023

Greetings Pacific Northwest Conference Churches,

On behalf of the conference executive board and staff, New Year's blessings to you as you gather for your semi-annual/annual meetings. We pray that this year has started with a palpable and enduring sense of God's presence and power; that whatever you may be facing, your faith is stretching and your hope deepening. We pray that you continue to witness the guidance of the Spirit as you pray and discern as you follow Jesus. During these reorienting and sometimes very challenging times, may God richly bless you and give you all the gifts of the Spirit needed for all that God calls you into. May you continually draw from his abundance.

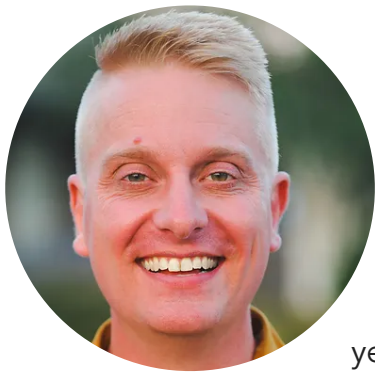
Every year I am reminded again of the gift we have within the incredible diverse collection of 75 churches and over 180 ministers that make up the conference. From Bellingham to Eugene and from Cannon Beach to Helena, we partner together to support each and explore new ministry opportunities. We start new churches together like we currently are in Bellevue, Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma and Boise (yes we're back in Idaho!). God is continuing to guide us together into our gospel vision *to be a mosaic of churches working interdependently together to transform lives and communities*. Thank you for your partnership in all of this and for what you bring to the beautiful tapestry that is the PacNWC.

This year's annual meeting will be April 27-29 in Spokane hosted by 3 churches. This will be a hybrid meeting, but we hope that you join us in person as we are planning different opportunities to experience Spokane and enjoy the many wonderful offerings in the Lilac City. For ministers, we are also adding an extra day for a special continuing ed and fun time together. Thursday the ministerium will meet at The Gathering House (previously First Spokane). Friday meetings, workshops, meals, and our prayer/worship time will be at City Covenant (previously Communitas). And our annual meeting will be Saturday at Immanuel. I'm already looking forward to being together. Hope to see you there!

God bless you as you embark on this new year. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and look forward to what God will lead us into together. *Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day* (1 Chronicles 16:23)!

Great is His Faithfulness,

Rev. Greg Yee, Superintendent



LEAD PASTOR REPORT - NICK PRINGLE

Greetings Cedar creek Church Family,

There is much to celebrate from 2023. Let's start by **looking back**. What a year it has been! To think a year ago we transitioned from meeting on Saturday nights for worship to Sunday mornings in our own building! This has been a long awaited journey. I want to thank all who have made this transition possible and give God all the glory that we get to call this building our church home. We have done many improvements on the building to make it more welcoming. A few highlights are new carpet, paint and sound treatment in the sanctuary. Renovated farm house into office space and small group meeting space. We have purchased new signage for the street and the parking lot. We have made safe spaces for our handicap, families with young children and our first time guests. All of these changes are about care and hope. We want to care for our current church family, and set a place for those who will join us.

One highlight for me this past year was hosting our first Community Table event. Where we shared a meal and raised funds to help relocate a family from Pakistan to Canada so that they might live in a more safe place. This is a reflection of the heart of Cedar creek. As God has commissioned us; we seek to love like Jesus so through Him lives are transformed. We came together to bring our resources so that a family might move to find safer living. Caring for families in persecution has been a part of Cedar creek's history for a long time. We do this for our neighbor's good and for God's glory.

Let's **look in** at Cedar creek. It has been a joy to see how our small group ministries have grown this past year. Having the ability to have a church building has given us the opportunity to have regular gatherings and a place to invite others to. New faces have been coming to each of our small groups and deeper connections are made each week. Another place we have grown deeper is in our weekly worship gatherings. I have loved having our children present with us in worship. The worship spaces that have been created for them have been a blessing. It is a gift to have them lead with the worship team each month as well. They are using their gifts to bless our church family.

As we **look ahead**, there is much on the horizon. We are building relationships with our immediate neighbors around the property as well as the fire department across the street. I am looking forward to more opportunities to partner with community groups who need a facility as they care for our neighborhood. I want to ask you to join me in praying for our church property, that God would lead us as we desire to use this space for caring for one another and our community. May God draw new families and brothers and sisters into our church family that we might better reach our neighborhood with the love of Christ. God has a lot in store for us in 2025 and it begins with us in prayer seeking God's will for this time and space.

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." - Ephesians 3:20 NLT



ADMIN. REPORT - STEPHANIE DICKISON

The Administrative Assistant position is a multi-faceted position. It involves everything from inputting the weekly deposit and producing the worship program to organizing and publicizing events and all things in between. I also come along side of our staff, leaders, and volunteers to help them however they may need to meet their ministry goals.

This year has been a year of learning and stretching myself with technology. I was able to get us a free, non-profit account with an online design and visual communication platform called Canva. This saves Cedar creek hundreds of dollars and allows us to produce cohesively designed pamphlets, cards, invitations and publications. I have also learned a lot about another online platform that our worship team has used for years called Planning Center Online. Pastor Nick encouraged me to look at all the different things it can do. I was able to set up *all* of our teams and get it to send volunteers reminders automatically every week which has saved me a lot of time! I am planning to learn more about using this platform to track giving and create our directory.

I've participated on the Caring Team and hope all that have received cards, plants etc. felt loved on and prayed for. I've also participated on the Welcome team and I hope everyone enjoys the treats I bring on the second Sunday of the month.

I know God has a plan for Cedar creek and He answers our prayers. Last year our average attendance was around 40 and now we are 50+ on any given Sunday. We are on the right trajectory and this encourages me; I hope it encourages you too! This year my prayer is to see us continue to grow!

I truly love working here and it is a joy and pleasure to serve Cedar creek!



CHURCH CHAIR REPORT - MEG LYONS

WELCOME & COMMUNITY

Like any family that has moved into a new home, this last year has been marked by learning and living into new rhythms. What a gift of the Lord to be able to dedicate this location and the building to a new season in the life and story of Cedar creek Covenant Church.

Like any family that has taken ownership of a new home, there have been new things to become aware of, new things to be attentive too, but mostly there has been a new or renewed seeking of how “we” as Cedar creek might welcome, serve, and care for our community.

We have lived into a new rhythm of preparing the lobby each week to welcome those who join us on a Sunday morning. Thanks to all those who come early, and faithfully start the coffee, get the treats made and turn their faces towards the door, expectant and ready to welcome all who God brings. Welcoming our children with intentional spaces in our sanctuary, and thoughtfully curated resources and rhythms to aid them in worshiping and learning *with us*.

We have learned and lived into a new rhythm of making our building and campus safe, welcoming and useful to our community. Thanks to all those who stand attentively in our lobby on Sunday, watching for those who need an extra hand, for those who stand poised in effort to be aware and alert regarding security. The efforts to make our campus and accessible means that a team of people worked to refine our parking lot to better welcome those who need easier access, the securing of medical kits, implementation of alarm systems and parking lot lighting, and more.

We have learned and lived into a new rhythm of being neighbors and hopefully of being a place of refreshment, refuge and resource for our community. It was a delight to host a coffee trailer. It turns out that free coffee brings connection. It was a joy to share conversation with our local firefighters, to surprise passersby with a hot beverage, and to support a local business. Cedar creek was contacted, and was able to respond YES, several times, when local business asked for use of our parking lot to for additional parking needs, or when the DSHS trailer needed to be parked to offer services during the windstorms. Many delivery drivers and local police use our parking lot during the week, to catch their breath and refuel.

Cedar creek, we have leaned and lived into a new rhythm this past year. Of what it means to be consistently present, prepared, expectant, and attentive. To welcome any who comes to our campus, for worship, in their work, or wanting a place of refuge or resource. May God continue to grow us, equip us, and keep us attentive and agile. Poised, to receive. Prayerfully attuned. Practical in our response. Perpetually present for our neighbors good and God’s glory.



CHILDREN'S LEADER REPORT - SUE MITCHELL

This year we made a change in our approach to children's ministries as Pastor Nick felt led to find more ways to integrate our children into the worship life of our congregation. In seeking to be intentional about teaching our children the rhythms and patterns of corporate worship, we have created space in our Sunday services for children to be present and to participate in meaningful ways. The nursery is still available for our littlest ones, but preschoolers and older kids come along with their families into the worship service. We are learning to celebrate "the sounds of family" as we sing, pray, and come to the table together as the multigenerational church.

We have tables near the front of the sanctuary for quiet activity like coloring and reading during the first part of our service as well as bookcases with children's Bibles and books. Some weeks the children will remain in the main service for the whole time, and in those weeks worship bags (and snacks) are provided with activities for kids to do while sitting with their families. Once a month the children go to a classroom for a special teaching time during the sermon, returning for communion. Sometimes the children go out to learn worship songs, and sometimes they get to have a "Sunday Fun Day" with popcorn and a video.

In support of this model, we have acquired some new child-sized tables and chairs as well as a supply of children's Bibles and books. Families should know that the children's books are available to check out and borrow to read at home!

Thanks are due to several people who have provided leadership and valuable service in children's ministries this year. Saima Joseph led the children's teaching time on her own for many months and remains in the teaching rotation. Cathy Whitten provided and organized the worship bags this summer and Emily Bila taught worship songs. Terry and Paul Whitcomb have been faithful servants in the nursery with Terry helping to coordinate volunteers. Alison Pringle and Meg Lyons have worked to obtain the needed furniture and supplies for our activity tables, bookcases, and snacks while also being in the teaching rotation.

We hope and pray that the Lord will bring more families with children into our fellowship, and that each of us will be aware of the ways that we can be in meaningful relationships with these young lives. For some this might mean volunteering to teach or help in the nursery, but everyone can be loving and welcoming to the children and families we encounter at Cedar Creek!

CARING REPORT - DAVID DICKISON



2024 was an exciting year for the Caring Team here at Cedar Creek. We had the joy of supplying Lent & Advent books to our congregation and felt honored to serve alongside our compassionate team members: Shar Brown, David Dickison (Leadership Team Liaison), Stephanie Dickison, and Lisa Norris. We are deeply grateful to each of them for their dedication to caring for our church community. Here are the highlights of our ministry activities:

Fellowship Events, Programs & Showers: The Whole Team

The Caring Team was thrilled to facilitate several fellowship events this year.

Our church cherished the meals and time spent together in fellowship, which strengthened our sense of community.

- Wedding shower for Ryan and Nicole Weller
- Food for Annual Meeting, Facility Launch event, Easter, and Christmas Eve cookies.
- Gifts for Lent and Advent

Prayer Chain Coordinator: Shar Brown

In 2024, we received 31 prayer and praise requests. Our fellow church members have been blessed to pray for comfort, healing, strength, and direction for those in need. We thank God for His many mercies and provisions. If you have a prayer or praise request or wish to join this ministry, please contact Shar Brown at prayer@cedarcreekcovenant.org.

Contact, Cards, and Flowers Coordinators: Stephanie Dickison, Lisa Norris

It has been a joy to be part of the Caring Team, creating hand made cards with love and prayers, sending gifts and flowers to those in need of encouragement, healing from surgery, or sympathy due to a loss. This past year, Stephanie sent 25 cards, and 1 plant. Lisa and Stephanie have been working together to send out birthday cards and we hope we made your day extra special!

Meals Coordinator: Shar Brown (Lisa Leonard in Spirit, always)

We offer the gift of meal coordination through www.mealtrain.com to support our church body during times of need, such as surgery, illness, birth, or other stressful events. If you have a surgery planned, having a baby or just going through a tough time, please let us know and we would be happy to support you with meals.

Finance Coordinator: Judy Melbourne

- Beginning Checking Account Balance: \$8,314.89
- Giving from Congregation: \$1,007.00
- Expenses:
- Lent & Advent Books: \$898.41
- Caring for Congregation (flowers, cards, etc.): \$1,093.59
- Ending Balance: \$7,329.89

Other Activities

The Caring Team also finds additional ways to show love, support, and promote a healthy congregation by assisting regular attendees with paying critical bills during difficult financial times.



We are always open to new team members! Many hands make light work, and we love welcoming new people! If you are interested in contributing to our congregational care efforts, please talk to any one of us. Additionally, let any of us on the team know if there is someone we can minister to in the coming year. Be blessed in 2025 as we share the love of Christ!

In Christ,

Your Caring team

Contacts **Shar Brown** Caring Team Coordinator mickeymouse0526@yahoo.com 206.261.4252

Stephanie Dickison Contact, Cards, and Flowers stephdd1991@gmail.com 253.347.0748



WORSHIP REPORT - KRISTINE NICHOLSON

This was a year of transitions and learning. Our space became our own and we had the opportunity to customize it. We also had the responsibility to learn, update, and maintain our equipment and supplies.

A couple of the most visible changes are the portable drum cage that allows the space to be flexible; and new in-ear monitors that help the music team hear each other and have controls over what they hear.

In the upcoming year, we look forward to hiring and welcoming a new worship director and supporting the new worship director to develop the ministry and volunteers at Cedar creek.

Special acknowledgment and thanks to our worship ministry volunteers. For our musicians, the countless hours spent each week learning, rehearsing, and developing our worship experience is appreciated! For our tech team, you are what makes it possible to hear the music and prayers, see the words to worship with, and livestream so we can attend even if we are not able to join in person.

As reflection on my first year on the leadership team, I have a great deal of appreciation for the wealth of skills, experience, and wisdom of each individual in our congregation...all led by God. I learned that budgeting is a thing. We made some hard decisions. Our new space came with new expenses like crawlspaces, security, housekeeping, signage, etc. I was grateful to be at the table to help discern, ask questions, pray, and see where God is leading us.



FACILITIES REPORT - KEN MCNABB

We did it. First full year in our Church Home, called Cedar creek Covenant Church. As many home owners can attest to, homes require maintenance. There were a couple of expensive surprises. The sanctuary crawlspace needed a total clean out, new vapor barrier and sump pump installed. We corrected some wiring issues, and communication from the sound booth to the stage. More is to come. We did exterior and interior painting, new carpeting, rehab of decking at the office, electrical and communications. Again, with more to come.

Thanks for your patience and prayers as we have tried to make the campus a place of worship, reflection, and relationship. Our hope for the future is to be a source of hope, and a reflection of our loving God, in Maple Valley, and the surrounding community. A big shout out of "Thanks", to the many hands and hearts who have made my job, much easier, and sometimes hilariously fun. Thank you also to the staff and leadership team for help in solving the many surprises that came with getting us to this point.

As I am moving away from a leadership position at Cedar creek after 6 years, I will still be involved in facilities maintenance and projects as I am able. And I look forward to serving in the role of handyman/worshiper at Cedar creek.

Thanks Be To God

WHO WE SUPPORT

The Evangelical Covenant Church Conference..... \$7,826.00

The Pacific NW
Conference..... \$7,826.00

Missionary Kristi
Johnson..... \$600.00

Agape Myanmar Mission Church Support..... \$40.00

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Pakistani Refugees..... \$17,830.00

Vine Maple Place..... \$1,142.00

Care Net..... \$421.00

CURRENT ACTIVE CEDARCREEK MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Megan Lyons
Jonathan Lyons
Arlene Simpson
Robin Lyons
Jeff Lyons
Michael Whitten
Cathy Whitten
Chris Brown
Shar Brown
Ken McNabb
Nadine McNabb
Linda Shewey
Van Jeppesen
Lisa Jeppesen

Sunil Victor
Samuel Shad
Stephanie Dickison
David Dickison
Kristine Nicholson
Shelley Sharrett
Dave Mitchell
Sue Mitchell
Lisa Norris
Robert Johnson
Paul Whitcomb
Terry Whitcomb
Nick Pringle
Al Thomas

Current Leadership Roster

Leadership Team:

Meg Lyons
Sue Mitchell
Ken McNabb
David Dickison
Kristine Nicholson

Nominating Team:

Cathy Whitten
Stephanie Dickison
Ken McNabb (leadership team representative)

Pastoral Relations Committee:

Megan Lyons
Dave Mitchell

Cedarcreek Covenant Church 2025 Ballot

**To vote, you must be a member of Cedarcreek Covenant Church
Please only one vote per person**

Open Committee & Team Positions

The people listed are the exact number needed to fill the positions available. Term of office is listed by each name. If you would like to vote for someone, please check the box next to his or her name. There is a space for comments or concerns provided at the end of the ballot.

Nominating Committee - The nominating committee is responsible for nominations to fill the offices of Leadership Team, the at-large members of the nominating committee, the at-large members of the PRC, and any other positions assigned to it either by the Leadership Team or congregation. The nominating committee shall consist of one Leadership Team member designated by the Leadership Team, the Lead Pastor or staff member designated by the Lead Pastor, and at least two members at-large elected by a majority of the members voting at a congregational meeting.

Nominating Committee (vote for 2)

Lisa Oswald (2 years)

Ken McNabb (2 years)

Leadership Team - The Leadership Team is responsible for building, maintaining and overseeing the spiritual welfare of the congregation and for directing and overseeing all ministries and business affairs of the church. The Leadership Team is to be comprised of not less than 5 nor more than 9 Leadership Team members, one of whom shall be the Lead Pastor (ex officio). Leadership Team members shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by a majority vote of those members voting at a meeting of the congregation called for that purpose.

Leadership Team (vote for 2)

David Dickison (2 years)

_____ (2 years)
(write in name)

Conference Annual Meeting in Bellingham, WA May 1-3 Delegates (vote for 2)

Ken McNabb

Nadine McNabb

Denomination Annual Meeting in Orlando FL June 25-28 Delegates (vote for 2)

David Dickison

Stephanie Dickison

The Cedarcreek Covenant Church Leadership Team moves that the proposed 2025 budget presented at this meeting be approved.

Rules:

The approval of the proposed budget shall require a two-thirds majority vote. Please check the Yes or No box with your vote. There is a space for comments or concerns on the back.

Approval of the proposed 2025 budget?

Yes

No

Comments/Concerns: