



2017
ANNUAL REPORT

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JUNE 4, 2017

NORTH FRESNO MENNONITE
BRETHREN CHURCH

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PASTORS' REPORTS

Lead Pastor

Another season of ministry and an opportunity to give thanks and praise to Jesus! So grateful to all that have served and been involved in ministry this past year. Read this packet to get a glimpse of what God has been up to in our midst, and the ongoing path to which he calls us.

In regard to vision and direction, we are working on a few major items. The first is revising our structure and bylaws. A draft of the bylaws revision will come to the congregation now at our June 4 meeting. Most of the changes are just reflecting our current reality and way we have grown into ministry. Our bylaws haven't been updated in over 15 years. We have had numerous conversations and listening groups with various ministry leaders over the past 12 months to get input on these revisions and changes. The biggest strategic change is moving to one board, while retaining the function of the Board of Spiritual Ministries as a committee under the main leadership board. I invite your input and your prayers as we make some changes to help better facilitate ministry in and through NFC.

As part of some of our ministry and structure changes, we are moving to three main statements to reflect our values and help us shape and evaluate our ministries. The three statements we envision using are: 1. Jesus is the center of our faith, 2. Community is the center of our lives, and 3. Reconciliation is the center of our work. As NFC leadership has reflected and worked on these, we feel that these statements clearly communicate our ministry and philosophy at NFC, they tie in to the triune nature of our God and his ministry, and they are short, clear statements that will allow us some focus and energy to help evaluate and streamline each of our ministries. More information and background on these statements will be developed and communicated over the next few months.

Another strategic initiative just getting started is an assessment of discipleship and equipping at NFC. The Board of Spiritual Ministries and I have tasked Pastor Steve and Rhonda Dueck to lead us in a process of evaluating how we make and equip disciples at NFC, and then suggest and implement changes to help us more effectively develop and mature people on their spiritual journey. This will take place over the next year, and you will hear more about it and have opportunity to be involved as we progress.

Staff updates: At this time last year we were in a search process for a youth pastor. Vanna In has been called to that role and is just finishing his first year. He has been a great addition to our team, and has relational and evangelistic gifts which are already impacting life and ministry at NFC. Vanna continues to face immigration issues so please pray for full resolution in this area. Pastor Caitlin has now been with us for just over two years and I am so grateful for her leadership and influence. Caitlin has been facing significant health issues the past number of months. In May, Caitlin temporarily moved to half-time status and is now on part-time disability. She will continue to give primary leadership to our children's ministries. Janice Outfleet has stepped in to help Caitlin and serve as an assistant in the area of children's ministries. We will assess this at the end of June, and on an ongoing basis. The last pastoral update I have is that we are bringing Rhonda Dueck to the congregation for affirmation as associate pastor at NFC. This will

take place at the June 4 congregational meeting. Her role and job description as the Director of the Micah Project would remain the same. This change would affirm her pastoral gifting and calling.

There is a lot more going on, and the various ministry reports will pick up on the rest. The past 6 months have been full for us as a church family, including several individuals and families moving to Palm Village in Reedley, and others moving on to their heavenly home through death. I know this impacts life at NFC and that we, as a congregation, grieve the loss of great people. Know of my ongoing prayers for you and us as a church body. I continue to be energized by ministry here at NFC and am so privileged to serve as one of your pastors.

I commit the following verse to prayer for us as we strive to live into all that God is calling us to:

"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

Let us continue to love God and love others as we seek to be a faithful and vibrant worshipping and witnessing community.

Blessings,
Pastor James

Discipleship and Outreach Pastor

I was at a gas station last week filling up my tank when a guy dressed in gang attire with a low-riding car and fancy rims cranked his rap music up to a level that was deafening and disturbingly loud. Several people turned heads and wondered why this guy would do that. It seemed so rude, especially since the lyrics were obscene and full of hate and rage. A lady across from me who was also filling up at the pump adjacent to me just stared. I made a humorous comment and she then said she was from the central coast and couldn't stand Fresno. "I hate this place and can't wait to get out of here." She went on to lament the terrible things about our city. I was in a rush and didn't feel like debating her.

I wanted to tell her about all the great things happening in our city, how people's lives are being changed, folks who are finding freedom, hope and transformation from things like gangs, addictions and hopelessness. I wanted to tell her that, in spite of our challenges and high numbers of people who are caught up in negative behaviors, there is another narrative going on, one that is gaining national attention. It is a beautiful story that is happening underground in some ways, off the radar because most of the news focuses only on the bad and horrific.

The Good News is that a new movement is growing in Fresno/Clovis and the faith community is playing a vital role in making this revitalization and renewal possible. God is raising up people in a variety of sectors of our city to serve as leaders and agents of change. North Fresno Church is playing an important role in this movement that is impacting neighborhoods. I am proud to represent our congregation at many city gatherings as we take the call to seriously love our neighbors, seek the peace of our city

and proclaim the Gospel in both word and deed. Thank you for being part of this Kingdom work! It is an honor and joy to serve alongside you.

Submitted by Pastor Loren Dubberke

Fresno Area Community Enterprises

FACE (Fresno Area Community Enterprises), North Fresno Church's Community Benefit Organization that was launched in 2013 continues to grow and partner with many organizations, agencies and churches across the city that are seeking community transformation. The latest organization that we are collaborating with is Habitat for Humanity which has provided lots of work in the area of water-wise landscaping for our Rock Pile Yard Service work crew. We have shared our story of doing church-based community development work at a number of places, including City Summit, Fresno Leadership of Young Professionals, Fresno Pacific University and the SoEnt Conference at Butler Avenue Church.

Our two social enterprises, Rock Pile Yard Services and MOU (Moving on Up) are currently employing seven men part-time. Four part-time staff and eight interns help oversee the weekly programs that take place throughout the year. The Micah Project, directed by Rhonda Dueck, will graduate its 4th class of interns in June. Fresno State and Fresno Pacific continue to partner with us through providing quality interns.

On May 4th, 240 people attended our 5th Annual FACE Celebration Banquet which raised over \$30,000. Our gym floor was painted this past year, which was the result of a gift from a member in the community. Moving on Up (MOU) received a \$1,500 grant in October for our moving and furniture distribution business.

NFC plays a very strategic role in partnering with FACE through volunteers, donors, and sharing facilities. We are grateful for the partnership. To read more about stories of transformation, please visit our website at www.facefresno.org.

Special thanks to our Board Members, Staff and Interns for their dedication and service to restore hope and renew the Robinson/Hoover neighborhood.

Submitted by Pastor Loren Dubberke, Executive Director

Children and Family Ministries Pastor

This has been another great season for NFC's Children and Family Ministries. We as a community have continued to follow Jesus' example to love and value children and follow the call to make disciples. There has been so much goodness and growth that has come from learning, playing, and trying new things this past year.

Sunday mornings we start our week strong in **Children's Church**. Our students, aged 3 years through 2nd grade, have an opportunity during both services to interact with a Bible story through games, music, and crafts. Our great teachers and Junior Helpers make this a fun and engaging time as they worship together.

Our **Sunday School** classes have each taken on a role of their own. Our preschool-2nd grade classes love to sing and re-tell the Bible story. The 3rd-4th grade crew

corresponds with their STARS (Seniors That Are Really Special) and our 5th-6th graders walk over to San Joaquin Gardens once a month to bless our friends there. We are enjoying our Shine curriculum and learning how to be peacemakers as we navigate some lesser-known Bible stories. Thank you, dedicated Sunday School teachers, as you help our students be the hands and feet of Jesus!

BLAST (Bible Learning And Spiritual Teaching) is thriving during the Second Service thanks to our helpful teachers. This special service for 3rd through 6th grade students gives a “think out loud” approach to Bible learning and parallels the passage or theme being taught in the Sanctuary. Our students have had significant times of sharing and prayer during these age-appropriate gatherings.

This has been a monumental year as we welcomed a large number of beautiful babies to our congregation! Our **Nursery** is being managed by Janice Outfleet and Meredith Young and provides a safe space for babies and parents every Sunday. Monica Guzman and Kathy Thiesen have been available Wednesday nights to care for those who come. A handful of staff and volunteers have spent time playing with the youngest members of our community and help our families worship well.

Our **Wednesday night programs** continue to provide a space for creativity and community. Our younger classes find time for Bible learning, crafts, and playing games with one another. Our older students choose which area they would like to grow as they engage with Scripture: Visual Arts, Performing Arts, and Team Building. Our hard-working group of leaders make this a safe and fun place to be.

We had a busy summer which started with following Joseph’s journey through Egypt in our week-long **Vacation Bible School. Summer Camp** at Camp Keola was an experience to remember as campers connected with God outdoors and found renewed joy in Christ. A number of us gathered for **Movie Nights** and families spent time together outside of programmed events to be the body of Christ.

One of our students’ greatest achievements was rehearsing for and hosting a **Children’s Christmas Program**. Our children told the Christmas story through song and Scripture and performed a little piece of what the angels might have talked about with the coming of our Savior. A huge thank you to Christa Wiens and Kristen Co for directing this wonderful celebration!

Our neighborhood came together at the **Community Carnival** in October; a fantastic night of fun with games, prizes, music, and food. On Good Friday, we took the fun to Robinson Park with our **Easter Eggstravaganza** where we hunted eggs, played games, and celebrated Jesus. These events would not have happened without the help of Kelly Kucharski and our team of dedicated volunteers. Thank you!

The significance of **Parent-Child Dedications** and Vern and Hedy Pletz’ **Bible Presentations** for our newborns has encouraged our church family to come alongside our little ones to raise them in the grace and love of Jesus Christ. Allowing our children to lead by **reading Scripture** and serving as **ushers and greeters** is a bold and beautiful way to usher in the Kingdom of God. Well done, North Fresno Church.

The **NFC Children's Council** that meets monthly has covered this ministry in prayer and has been a huge support. They are the team that ensures we are providing a safe space for our children and support our parents and teachers well. Their creativity and heart for kids is evident in all they do!

It has been a joy and privilege to serve alongside such a loving crew and connect with the wonderful families at NFC. We never have a dull moment in our ministry as we ask questions, strengthen friendships, and have fun growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Thank you for all you do to love and bless our children!

Submitted by: Pastor Caitlin Friesen

Pastor of Worship & Music – Classic Service

We have experienced a number of changes to the classic service this year, One of the most exciting is the addition of Stephen Vincent to our roster of organists. Stephen moved to Reedley a number of years ago and has recently found North Fresno Church to be a place that is both life-giving and Scripture centered. Consequently he has volunteered to play organ for us twice a month.

Special thanks also go to the following for their untiring efforts, dedication and talent in helping us with each Sunday's worship: Larry Warkentin, piano, Carol Ollenberger, piano, Tracy Neufeld, organ, Evelyn Koop, organ, Donna Enns, organ, John Wall, sound, Ken Hawes, sound, Ben Friesen, sound, Tim Neufeld, sound, Carolyn Bell, visual, Karen Wall, visual, Judy Kulekjian, visual, Jim Enns, special music.

This year has also seen a transition in the structure and purpose of the Classic Worship Arts Council. In the past, the Classic Service Worship Council was an administrative task force. They talked about and planned pianists, organists, special music, funds for the sunshine committee, end of year choir party, Christmas choir party, etc.

As new members have come onto the council it has transitioned to an advisory committee. The current members are Milt Friesen, Bendta Friesen, Richard Unruh, Dave Dickie, Larry Martens and Bev Kopper. The council serves as a sounding board for the Worship Arts Pastor and also as a conduit for the congregation to express their thoughts about the Classic Service. The administrative details, which in the past were handled by the Classic Service Worship council, are now being handled by Milt Friesen, Larry Warkentin, Jim Enns and Leroy Thiessen. Additional assistance to Leroy Thiessen is provided by Hedy Pletz and Lollie Willems. Consequently, the Classic Service Worship Council no longer meets on a monthly basis. The council plays an important part in representing the congregation's perception of the classic worship service to the Worship Pastor and as a sounding board for current and future worship practices.

Submitted by: Pastor Milt Friesen

Pastor of Worship & Music – Contemporary Services

It has been a pleasure to serve as the part-time Contemporary Service Worship Pastor at NFC for a sixth year and as I begin my seventh I wanted to take an opportunity to call attention to some behind-the-scenes folks that help make things happen.

Planning and leading a meaningful Sunday morning worship gathering every seven days continues to be my primary focus at NFC and, while a vision for the future is vital, the consistency of weekly worship service planning establishes the foundation for future growth. Those weekly services rely on the regular recruiting, training, scheduling, and managing of multiple volunteers from our congregation and those volunteers fulfill various roles and accomplish certain tasks that make our Sunday morning services possible. Those roles and tasks include sound technicians and video technicians for each service and each event held in the sanctuary, worship leaders, service planning meetings, vocalists, leading and participating in our Praise Choir, managing platform set-up and tear-down (often twice a week), instrumentalists, maintenance of NFC instruments, regular trouble-shooting and maintenance of the sound board, sound amplifiers, video projectors, sound booth computer, lighting system, microphones, cables, and monitors. Volunteers are also regularly recruited and involved in producing and distributing weekly service audio and video, presenting scripture, special pieces including visual art and poetry, communion setup, clean up, and servers, our special services like Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve, as well as our combined services.

To put it plainly, a lot of effort by a lot of people (most of whom are volunteers) goes into what we do on a weekly basis and our regular worship services would not be the same without their effort and continued willingness to share their time and talents. Thank you.

While NFC's Worship Commission and the 11:00 a.m. Service Worship Committee continue to serve in an advisory capacity I am looking forward to shaping the 11:00 a.m. Committee into a group that, in addition to providing feedback, helps plan and cast a vision for the future of worship at NFC. My current projects include preparation for a week of leading worship at the Central California District Church of the Nazarene Family Camp that will be held at Sugar Pine Christian Camp and focusing on further developing our understanding of the Christian year at NFC.

Submitted by: Pastor Steve Bomar

Life Groups

My second year as Life Group Director is wrapping up and I greatly appreciate the efforts of all our Life Group (including Growth Group) Leaders. We can certainly celebrate our continued engagement in biblical community and discipleship and I am pleased to report that interest in Life Groups continues to grow. I regularly receive submissions from our online NFC Life Group kick-starter and, in looking toward our fall kick-off, I am working on adding additional groups to meet the needs of those who have already expressed interest.

NFC still has less than half of the average attendance involved in a Life Group which means there is still more opportunity for growth. Ministries like Life Groups, which are built solely through relationships, rely 100% on volunteer leader involvement. That means the future growth of Life Groups depend on volunteer facilitators stepping forward. This summer we will be offering another Life Group Facilitator training course. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact me. Following the summer training course, groups will resume and new groups will launch in conjunction with the

Fall Kick-Off.

How you can help...

Please be in prayer for the Life Groups:

-For Life Group Facilitators: That God would continue to bless the current Life Group facilitators with wisdom, patience, and energy as they serve faithfully.

-For the Life Group participants: Often, especially with young children, just getting to a Life Group at the end of a long day can be a challenge. Pray that God would give energy to the participants and that meaningful relationships and biblical community would flourish.

-For new involvement: Both participants and facilitators. Being invited to a small group is one way others can come face-to-face with the beauty of the kingdom of God. For that to happen we need to be continually training up new facilitators and inviting those around us to experience life in biblical community.

If you are interested in joining a Life Group or going through our Life Group 101 (facilitator training) course, please contact Pastor Steve Bomar. sbomar@northfresnochurch.org.

Submitted by: Pastor Steve Bomar

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Administration (BoA)

This past year has been a great year of welcoming some new members to the BoA, several of whom are serving at NFC for the first time in a leadership role. We have been blessed to retreat together, pray for our church, and to meet monthly addressing the business matters of the church.

One of the major projects that have taken place this past year has been the review of the current NFC bylaws and work towards revising them. The team has read some articles and a book on church governance and decided to approach the church and board for not only revision of the bylaws but look at the governance as well. This is taking shape and will be presented at the June Congregational Meeting, and we look to move forward with some changes that I feel represent the North Fresno MB Church as it is in 2017.

I look forward to this next year(s) as I continue to serve as Moderator and work with gifted and passionate leaders in the body of NFC. Thank you for allowing me to serve you in this way.

Blessings,

Submitted by: Randy Mack, Moderator

Board of Spiritual Ministries

The role of the Board of Spiritual Ministries (BoSM) is to provide guidance for the spiritual life and direction of the church body. The board also processes doctrinal, theological, ethical and discipline issues that may arise from time to time. Finally, the

board lends oversight to the pastoral staff review process, as well as providing advice and counsel for pastoral staff.

Board Members: Glen Ewert, Michelle Mar, Susan George, Shawna Stocks, Sue Kliewer (Chair).

The board would like to thank Glen Ewert for his five years of faithful service from 2012-2017. We will miss his wisdom, his insight and his wise counsel.

Staffing

We are excited that Vanna In joined our pastoral staff in September as Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries. Vanna has spent a lot of time learning to know our youth and their families and has spent a significant time visiting them at their middle and high school campuses.

This year we invited Loren, Steve, and Rhonda to spend some one on one time with our board and share with us what is going on in their area of ministry. It is always exciting to hear what God is up to in and around NFC and have an opportunity to pray over our leaders.

Baptism and New Members

It is a joy and privilege to participate in the baptism of those who seek a deeper relationship and commitment to Christ and his church. This year we were blessed to hear the testimony of several as they shared their life story and made the decision to be baptized and/or join us in membership and we are excited to have the opportunity to continue to walk with them on their faith journey.

Pastoral Reviews

One of the responsibilities of BoSM is to provide evaluation for our pastoral staff. We are currently wrapping up the reviews for Pastor Vanna (1st year review) Pastor Caitlin (2nd year review) and Pastor Steve (6 year review) and Pastor James (11 year review).

Submitted by: Sue Kliewer, Chair

COMMISSION REPORTS

Family Life Education Commission

Adult Council

One of the places people continue to make connections and find opportunities to grow is through our Adult Sunday School classes. A number of gifted teachers and facilitators provided classes that were biblically based, reflective of our core values and relevant to everyday life.

In the fall, Jim Warkentin led a class on stewardship called the *Treasure Principle* and then another *Faith and Finance* class in the spring on Wednesday evenings. In light of the election, Aaron Wiens facilitated a class entitled *Jesus for President*. During the Winter Session, Cheryl and Peter Smith taught a class on *Nurturing Relationships* which addressed healthy ways of communicating and dealing with conflict. Another spring elective offered was on *Prayer for our Community and City*. This summer a class on

Peacemaking will be offered for the entire family. Six people joined the church and gave their testimonies after attending our fall membership class.

Some ongoing Bible classes covering the books of *Romans*, *Galatians* and *Acts* took place throughout the year. Special thanks to *Donn Rojeski* and *James Conder* for teaching and facilitating. Advent Conspiracy is a movement that calls the church to celebrate the Christmas season by encouraging people to worship fully, spend less, give more and love all. The four-week class provided practical ways to serve and give to families in need at both a global and local level. This past year, *Advent Conspiracy* featured Neighborhood Church – Fresno (new church plant), Bob Davis, our partner missionary with MB (Mennonite Brethren) Mission and the work in Thailand, MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) relief kits and food baskets for our neighborhood.

In the area of outreach and service, a number of people serve faithfully through ministries such as the Good News Club at Robinson School, Saturday Sports, GED classes, quilting, after-school Tutoring Club, and Care Teams.

SART (Social Action Response Team) continues to respond to weekly emergency needs with people in both our church and community. One ongoing challenge that has impacted the church has been the issue of homelessness. Through the generosity and hospitality of our congregation, we have been able to resource several people needing help in the name of Christ. Special thanks to John and BJ Franz for their support of SART through their calendar project which has blessed many families in need over the past several years.

Special thanks to all of our ministry teams that served through Adult Ministries this past year: The Missions Service Team, SART team, FACE board and program leaders, Sunday School Teaching Team, Robinson School Service Team, Care Teams, Men's and Women's Ministry Teams, Hospitality Team, Community Dinners, and Primetime Planning Team.

Submitted by Pastor Loren Dubberke

Men's Ministries

One of our yearly highlights continues to be our annual Men's Retreat that takes place at Camp Keola in late summer at beautiful Huntington Lake. This past year a group of 25 men representing both worship services came together and experienced quality fellowship and fun. The theme was on reconciliation by Seminary Professor Brian Ross. A small group was launched as a result of this conference and has been meeting once a month to discuss issues related to race relations.

Another way men connected this past year was through periodic barbecues that took place at different homes and backyards. Several small groups of men meet weekly and monthly to journal together, pray, or socialize. A significant work project was done by a group of NFC men who helped cut dead trees and clear brush at Camp Keola in the fall. Finally, a number of men and women serve as Allies for those in our MARATHON job training program through FACE.

Special thanks to Dwight Bartel, Ken Hawes, Bill Hambleton, Grant Jones-Wiebe, and Jonathan Nicolls for their service with Men's Ministries.

Submitted by Pastor Loren Dubberke

Women's Ministry

REACH WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

On Wednesday evenings during the fall the ladies participated in an exercise program with a spiritual emphasis and study entitled "The Life I Now Live" written and led by our own Katie Williamson. It is a 12-week guide to discovering emotional and spiritual freedom by reclaiming our physical health. We were challenged and blessed! We just completed Beth Moore's wonderful study, "Children of the Day" that we began in January. This is a video series with lectures, personal study, and group discussion based on 1 and 2 Thessalonians that encouraged us to be Christ's Light in our daily lives. Up to 20 women may gather on Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 8:00 p.m. in Room 207. We share and pray for each other. In the fall, we will begin a Priscilla Shirer series, "The Armor of God." All ladies are welcome to join us!

NFC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

On Friday, April 28th and Saturday, April 29th, ladies of all ages from seniors in high school to seniors in life, gathered for our own conference. Shawna Stocks spoke about no longer being a slave to fear and embracing our identity in Christ as children of God. We were enriched by the gift of time to focus on the Word. This was a wonderful opportunity to connect with our Lord and each other. We enjoyed worship led by Jamie Mack. We are grateful to the team of ladies that organized this special, uplifting event for the 70 to 80 women who attended!

Submitted by: Jenny Akina

Primetime

Some of the highlights from this past year were a trip to the Reagan Library, hearing guest speakers such as Chief Jerry Dyer, and a trip to the zoo. One new tradition that started recently is a monthly Friday gathering at the Gazebo Gardens where the group shares fellowship and food. This will continue over the summer.

The planning team is grateful for the support and attendance that is given to Primetime that enables the group to function.

Chuck and Donna Rayburn will be stepping down after serving on the planning committee and leadership team for nine years. Thank you, Rayburn's, for your faithful service and dedication. Pray for them and the next point people as they transition out.

The Primetime Committee consists of: Chuck and Donna Rayburn, Ron and Joann Fast, Chuck and Carla Blodgett, Sheryl and Mike Fogal, Carol Ollenberger and Bill Hambleton.

Submitted by: Loren Dubberke

Library

If you haven't visited our Library. drop in some Sunday and see our wide variety of books available: novels, biographies, Mennonite history, urban ministry and Bible commentaries. We're open between services.

Submitted by: Thea Dodds, Assistant Librarian

Missions and Services Commission

The Missions Commission has been involved in a variety of activities this year, including:

- Partnered with Eric and Krysta Manela to help provide guidance and wisdom for their future endeavors in the mission field. Since then, they have become members of the Missions Commission, lending us their passion for missions, their willingness to volunteer for anything and everything, and their exceptional commitment.
- Multiple members from the commission, among other members of NFC, attended the 'Perspectives' class that was offered locally. This class provides missions-related training and teachings.
- Member David Bertalotto led a service project to promote Fresno City Fest, an evangelistic event. He provided a car wash service for several individuals who were having their vehicles serviced at the Honesty Automotive Auto Service day, which was led by Pastor Loren and FACE.
- The commission provided support for Fresno CityFest, with Luis Palau, by distributing banners, tickets, and other informational materials in the Lobby after various church services, leading up to the event.
- Provided financial support for this year's Fresno City Summit by becoming an official sponsoring church.

Our partnership with multiple missionaries has not changed since the previous year. We have the opportunity to serve the Akin family in tangible ways, as they have been in town over the last couple months for the birth of their twins. This will be an ongoing focus, with the intent to raise funds in different ways, until their return to Bosnia.

It is unlikely that a trip to Portugal will occur this summer. Regardless, the commission will be focusing on resuming international short-term mission activity in 2018. We hope to help our brothers and sisters in Portugal prepare a team to lead a mission trip here in Fresno! The intent is to then send a team from Fresno to Portugal immediately after.

Commission members include: Sheryl Fogal, David Bertalotto, Vickie Klassen, David Kadera (interim chair), Eric Manela, Krysta Manela, and Lizzie Tapscott.

Submitted by: David Kadera, Interim Chair

Music and Worship Commission

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples." Psalm 96 :1-3

“...sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.” Eph. 5:19

These verses describe what our two services hope to convey to our congregations. Praise! Declare! Proclaim! Through singing and music of various kinds!

Both of our capable worship leaders, Milt Friesen and Steve Bomar, lead our Classic and Contemporary services so ably. Milt and Steve both provide wonderful leadership to each service. They are the oil that keeps the services running so smoothly. A big thank you to each!

Also, many thanks for those who have contributed to the various aspects of making our worship meaningful. From offering their musical skills on the piano, organ, guitars and percussion. From choir members to worship team leaders. Ushers, those who prepare and serve communion and those who provide their audio/visual skills. Also, a big thanks to the arts council who provide us with beautiful artistic pieces to enjoy. Our congregation is truly blessed with many talents.

This short report cannot mention everyone by name who offer their talents and gifts as a sacrifice of worship to the Lord. Thank you to all who do so without thought of remuneration.

Blessings,

Submitted by: Arnie Prieb

Stewardship Commission

“Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.” 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)

In October, we hosted a 6-week video series called “The Treasure Principle”. We learned about storing up treasures in heaven. Those who attended found the insights and stories shared by Randy Alcorn challenging and thought provoking.

The highlight of the year was raising \$60,000 for the Courtyard/Playground project. We are thankful to everyone who participated. Our congregation, from young to old, came together to finish the campaign just in time for our January 22nd Congregational Meeting. It was amazing to see the generosity and joyfulness this project generated. The plans are complete and the playground equipment is on order. We hope to complete the project in the weeks following Vacation Bible School.

The 2017 budget will be challenging for us. We are confident “God will supply all our needs, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”. We are trusting everyone to do their part in reaching our goal of \$810,414. This is a 2% increase over the 2016 budget.

Through the first 4 months of the year of 2017 budget year, giving is behind budget \$31,762 (11.8%). However due to prudent spending by our staff, our cash flow is only negative \$10,649. We are currently using Cash Reserves to cover the difference. Our goal is to maintain a 3-month Cash Reserve. Our current Cash Reserves are \$137,553 or \$35,558 below our goal. All current obligations have been paid, including our conference and district commitments.

The Stewardship Commission is watching the numbers closely. Because of past giving trends, we believe no action is necessary at his time. We are trusting God to provide as he has in the past.

The Stewardship Commission has identified a long list of deferred maintenance and capital improvement items as well as some human resource needs. This is the first step in developing a long-range plan for available funds once the building loan is retired in February of 2019.

Members of Stewardship Commission are: Jim Warkentin (Chair), James Aleru (Treasurer), Karen Wall, Howard Posten, and Russell Lee (NFC Business Administrator).

Submitted by: Jim Warkentin, Chair

Kitchen/Hospitality

The kitchen staff would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped prepare and serve meals this year. Without everyone's help, this ministry would not be possible.

The major events of the 2016-17 year included 4th of July Pancake Breakfast, fall kick-off, an all congregation luncheon, the FACE Banquet, Barbecue in the Park, and the Thanksgiving potluck dinner. In addition to these events, the weekly donuts and coffee are served on Sunday mornings during the fellowship time and are prepared by Brett Mar and his team.

We would also like to thank all our NFC ushers and greeters from both 1st and 2nd services. We appreciate all that you do and your conscious choice to make NFC the most welcoming environment to both our members and visitors.

Submitted by: Kelly Kucharski, Hospitality/Events Coordinator

The Micah Project

The Micah Project has had a significant fourth year. We recruited and interviewed together with the Pink House from InterVarsity and with Casa Shalom from the Bridge Church for this year's interns. Due to the generosity of Vern and Hedy Pletz and NFC, we were able to again invite six interns to be part of the Micah Project this year: Jazmin Arias, Krystal Crater, Jabbari Cumbry, Annaliese Herms, Mike Klaassen and Robyn Verhalen. In August we were able to stay at the Koop's home in Grover Beach, which provided us time and space to get to know each other a bit, create some goals for our journey, and do some studying together before diving into this 10-month adventure of discipleship, community development ministry, and leadership training. During our January winter retreat at the Wiens' cabin we explored our strengths and how God has uniquely created us to make a difference in this world. I am grateful for this year's NFC mentors: Tonia

Dubberke, Kristen Co, Dan Ray, Jennifer Wanless, Steve Bomar, and Katie Williamson who have provided a safe place of consistent processing for our interns during this journey.

Attending the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) conference in Los Angeles, CA in August was a highlight for us! The variety of main speakers as well as break out sessions expanded our conceptions of Christ-centered community development, as well as providing us with a great foundation for our learning this year. It was great to have so many from NFC join us for this conference as we were inspired and challenged by some amazing leaders from across the country. In March the interns attended Fresno City Summit where Noel Castellanos, the CEO of CCDA, was the keynote speaker as the 10th anniversary of this gathering was celebrated with the theme of "Testify". The interns were a key part in providing a dessert social for the conference.

The interns and I have met together weekly on Tuesday evenings for dinner, study time, and community life. We have journeyed through eight modules of learning this year with reading assignments connected to the study topics: City and Christian Community Development, Biblical Community, Church, Evangelism, Reconciliation, Relocation, Redistribution, and World Changers. We have been fortunate to hear some amazing local speakers as we have gathered together with the Pink House and Casa Shalom. Having these partners has enriched our learning as we have met together to study, reflect, and be challenged on where we see God at work in our city and how we can partner together with others in sharing Christ's peace and reconciliation with Fresno.

The interns have faithfully given of themselves in their weekly ministry assignments. They have connected with the neighborhood and church especially through the FACE tutoring club, NFC children's and youth groups as well as partnering with the Terraces at San Joaquin Gardens.

I am incredibly grateful to the North Fresno Church body for your faithful financial and prayer support. You have welcomed this group of Micah Project interns with open arms and invested in getting to know them. Your words of encouragement to them and to me have been a blessing! Thank you for partnering together in raising up the next generation of world changers!

Shalom,

Submitted by: Rhonda Dueck, Micah Project Director

STAFF, LEADERSHIP AND COMMISSION MEMBERS – 2017-2018 MINISTRY YEAR

New terms begin July 1

Staff

James Bergen, *Lead Pastor*
 Steve Bomar, *Pastor of Worship and Music*
 Loren Dubberke, *Pastor of Outreach and Discipleship*
 Rhonda Dueck, *Micah Project Director*
 Caitlin Friesen, *Pastor of Children and Family Ministries*
 Milt Friesen, *Pastor of Worship and Music*
 Vanna In, *Pastor of Student and Family Ministries*
 MaryLyn Jones-Wiebe, *Office Administrator*
 Kelly Kucharski, *Hospitality and Kitchen Coordinator*
 Mike Klaassen, *Facilities*
 Russ Lee, *Business Administrator*

Board of Spiritual Ministries

*James Conder	2017-22
Sue Kliewer, Chair	2016-21
Shawna Stocks	2015-20
Susan George	2014-19
Michelle Mar	2013-18

Board of Administration

*Randy Mack, <i>Moderator (2nd Term)</i>	2017-19
*Jane Isaac, <i>Member at Large (2nd Term)</i>	2017-19
*James Aleru, <i>Treasurer (1st Term)</i>	2017-19
*Jim Warkentin, <i>Stewardship (1st Term)</i>	2017-19
*Melody Kruse, <i>FLEC (1st Term)</i>	2017-19
*Sharmaine Whitten, <i>Member at Large</i>	2017-19
Bev Kopper, <i>Secretary</i>	2016-18
Arnie Prieb, <i>Worship</i>	2016-18
? _____, <i>Missions (1st Term)</i>	2016-18

Board of Spiritual Ministries Rep.
(determined by the Board)

Commissions & Committees

Family Life Ed. Commission (FLEC)

*Melody Kruse, <i>Chair</i>	2017-19
*Carol Jones, <i>Children's Ccl (1st Term)</i>	2017-19
*Lizz Tapscott, <i>Youth Ccl (1st Term)</i>	2017-19
*Irma Conder, <i>Adult Council (1st Term)</i>	2017-19

Worship and Music Commission

*Arnie Prieb, <i>Chair</i>	2016-18
* <u>Open</u> , <i>Classic Svc Ccl (1st term)</i>	2017-19
*Aaron Kroeker, <i>Contemp Svc Ccl (1st term)</i>	2016-18

Missions Commission

<u>Open</u> , <i>Chair (1st Term)</i>	2016-18
Corey Klaassen, <i>(1st Term)</i>	2016-18
David Kadera <i>(1st Term)</i>	2016-18
Vickie Klassen <i>(1st Term)</i>	2016-18
Krista Manela <i>(1st Term)</i>	2016-18
Dave Bertalotto <i>(2nd Term)</i>	2016-18
*Lizz Tapscott	2017-19
*Eric Manela	2017-19

Stewardship Commission

*Jim Warkentin, <i>Chair</i>	2017-19
*James Aleru, <i>Treasurer (1st Term)</i>	2017-19
*Karen Wall, <i>(1st Term)</i>	2017-19
*Irma Conder, <i>(1st Term)</i>	2017-19

* To be affirmed or re-affirmed for another term.

Thanks to those who have served and have or are stepping off leadership roles: Gisella Bigbee, Steve Ewert, Sheryl Fogal, Steve Freeland, Howard Posten, Glen Ewert, Krystal Klaassen