

Dear Covenant Christian Members,

The summer of 2013 has been a challenging time for Covenant Christian Church. Several questions have been voiced by members of our congregation. I've been asked by the Church board to respond to these questions and provide an update to the congregation regarding issues discussed in our recent board meetings.

First, I am happy to announce that Paul is returning to Covenant on August 25. We'd like to offer our thanks to those who filled in for Paul during his sabbatical. With Paul's return, I am hopeful that several outstanding issues can be completed.

Update on provisional church bylaws. The congregation voted to enact the provisional bylaws on a six-month conditional basis. Due to other key issues, including the roof and the Capital Campaign, this important issue was deferred. The board has resumed discussion on an updated draft of the bylaws. We will have this draft to congregants soon allowing time to review them before a second congregational meeting to vote on their adoption.

Access to board meeting minutes and financial reports. Both reports are available in a binder in the church office. The documents will also be posted on the church bulletin board for ease of access.

The Covenant Process. As we enter the Fall of 2013, we are approaching our annual time to covenant to the church. The board understands that the "new approach" we took to this process last year was confusing to some. The board sincerely apologizes for any confusion and miscommunication. There will be a concerted effort to communicate this process more efficiently this year, particularly what the idea of the journey teams are, their make-up, who is leading them, and the process each team will use to complete its charges. Information will be forthcoming in both the newsletter and during church services.

Church finances. Attached to this letter is a report by Financial Secretary, Jay Sohn with a quick update regarding the state of our finances. Thanks to the extremely generous gifts to the Capital Campaign we have funds to complete roof repairs and interior painting of damaged ceiling areas. Due to the extreme generosity of our church community, this work can be done without the need to borrow money.

Roof repair is underway and soon to be completed.

Shofar. Shofar is a small but growing Christian church which has been renting our facilities when not in use by the Covenant community for their services and activities. A contract and rental fees were determined and executed by the board to allow Shofar to rent our facilities until the end of December of 2013. As we approach that time, if Shofar wishes to continue the arrangement, we will evaluate the pros and cons of this relationship and make a decision about whether to continue it.

Church activity sign-up board. The Journey Up team will be evaluating the decision to use this method of recruiting volunteers for church service activities. There have been weeks where duties for church services have either gone undone or have been "covered" at the last minute by church members at the service. As the Journey Up team considers options for filling the needed roles each week, I encourage

you to let members of the Journey Up committee know of ideas and opinions on this subject. I also encourage volunteering for worship service activities... we need all the help we can get!

It is my plan in my remaining time as board Chair to continue to provide short messages in future church newsletters to keep the congregation informed. And I ask that you continue to make your voice heard to me or other members of the board.

Yours respectfully,

Geoff Wall

Covenant Christian Board Chair 2013

August 2013

Re: Report on Covenant's Finances  
August 2013

### **Capital Campaign**

We were very pleased with the Congregation response to the Capital Campaign. \$77,635 has been pledged by 29 Covenant households. 71% of the pledged money has been received to date, allowing us to proceed with the replacement of the roof and painting of the water damaged sanctuary ceiling paying for these projects in full.

The Property Committee is working on details regarding parking lot repairs and will provide an update to the congregation regarding that project once details have been worked out. It is our hope that we'll have enough money raised from the Capital Campaign to pay for parking lot repairs.

### **Weekly Giving**

Not including Capital Campaign giving or rental income from our tenant, our 2013 year to date giving is 5.2% higher than 2012 giving.

Covenant has budgeted \$144,500 in annual giving for 2013. \$96,333 is needed by the end of August to be on target. Not including \$6,000 in rental income or Capital Campaign giving, we're about \$6,500 behind with one Sunday left in August.

Before we get discouraged, please understand that giving always lags in the summer and catches up in the fall and advent seasons. Receipts are 5.2% higher than 2012 which is very positive.

### **Expenses**

As of the end of July, spending is \$6100 less than budgeted.

We truly are a blessed and generous congregation.  
Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Sohn  
Financial Secretary