

FISCAL YEAR 2016

GENERAL CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

a YEAR *in*
REVIEW





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Summary of Strategic Plan

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.

THEME: Greater engagement

EDUCATION STRAND: *Educate and equip children and young people for regeneration and an eternal life of usefulness.*

We remain committed to the use of helping parents and teachers raise their children with the Lord and the things of heaven in mind, and believe the best way to do so is to gather people around the use, and make resources as readily available as possible.

OUTREACH STRAND: *Reach out with the truths of the New Church and welcome new people into the life of the church.*

We know we have an incredible message from the Lord to share. People are responding via newchurch.org; we can also be there for them with small group resources so that they can find meaning from those teachings together with others like themselves.

PARTICIPATION STRAND: *Provide avenues for greater participation in the life of the church.*

While tremendously grateful for the involvement of many around the church, we seek to welcome energy and ideas from more people—particularly those in the younger generation.

COMMUNICATION STRAND: *Develop an overall communications plan to promote the purposes and values of the General Church and seek interactive counsel in bringing them to life.*

People have a greater sense of belonging to an organization when they know what is going on, and perceive a voice in that organization's affairs.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRAND: *Develop, engage, and retain highly qualified talent that has the capacity to advance the church's mission.*

We have gifted people who give their professional time to the church. Our aim is to provide avenues for them to be as successful as possible over the course of their careers.

INTERNATIONAL STRAND: *Support the development of the church internationally.*

We are a wide-spread church for our size. It is exciting to see people around the world seeking to be a part of the General Church. Our aim is to help new congregations and pastors to get established.

To access the full version of the General Church strategic plan, please visit:
<http://about.newchurch.org/about/reports/>.

207,945 visits to newchurch.org



- including **50** newcomers signing up for the 2015 Christmas Readings program and,
 - **574** newcomers participating in online Journey groups.
- **1,894** people currently subscribe to receive the Daily Inspiration emails from Swedenborg's Writings.
 - Over **20,000** people are connected through The New Church Facebook page.



The Rev. Samuel Oumpougula Lompo, our first minister in the country of Burkina Faso (just north of Ivory Coast and Ghana), is energetically developing the church there.

He already has 3 reading groups in the capital city of Ouagadougou and holds regular worship at his home. Samuel's 94 year old father made a five hour journey to Ouagadougou to witness his son's ordination into the pastoral degree of the priesthood.



Regional clergy meeting in Brazil.

Through regional clergy meetings, held every third year, and regular episcopal visits, the bishops and ministers connected with congregations in

5 continents.



The **Healthy Church Match** program continues to be successful. This year, the Kempton Society reached their goal and because of that achievement, the society added an 11th grade to their school with plans to add a 12th grade next year. The Korean New Church Corporation has fulfilled all pledges and plans for construction are underway to provide space for worship and offices.

With the release of "Emanuel Swedenborg's Career as a Scientist," the GCEd YouTube channel now has over 70 videos. The channel reached over

854,000 views and
758 subscribers.



YouTube titles released this year. Please visit www.youtube.com/user/ncsundayschools to view the GCEd video collection.



Timothy (front row center)

Timothy, our only New Church minister in China, walked along the Yangtze River, waving a large banner saying "Swedenborgian Book Club" and speaking to many in an effort to draw attention to the New Church. In fifteen days he covered just about 300 miles, starting near Shanghai and ending at his home in Jiujiang.



19 congregations

launched the series "Living Gratefully" which explores the gifts of *Divine Providence*.

Over 800 workbooks

were sold to participants.

The Journey Program also collaborated with Bryn Athyn Church and surrounding organizations, Safe Harbor and Laurel House, to facilitate the deeply moving and successful event "Finding Hope", a morning discussion of ways to support those effected by addiction, suicide, grief, and domestic violence. The event featured Dr. Dan Gottlieb with a compassionate message of hope, as well as a panel of experts from each of the fields.



- 225 people participated, nearly half were not previously connected with Bryn Athyn Church.
- 25 of these attendees expressed interest in joining small groups.



The event culminated with the planting of a Finding Hope tree at the Bryn Athyn Cathedral.

"Come to me all ye who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28



Examples of gifts sent this year: Easter book, June 19th Countdown Calendar, and Easter Sticker project.

400 families

with children ages 0-6 received early childhood gift mailings from GCEd.

"I just wanted to say thank you for the General Church Education packets which get sent out to me and my family. My son loves receiving them and always feels very important to get mail. We enjoy going through the booklets and doing activities and colouring and stickering. It's really lovely for me to have that attachment to the church in Bryn Athyn."

-feedback from parent

DONOR PARTICIPATION

We are grateful for our donors who believe in the mission of the General Church. With your partnership, the General Church is able to continue to share the teachings of the New Church.

1102 members and friends contributed to the General Church funds and New Church congregations in FY 16. This support enabled the General Church to surpass the Annual Fund goal of \$555K, reaching over **\$640K.**

Thank you for your support and loyalty!

MEMBERSHIP

Membership July 1, 2015.....	5411
New Members.....	49
Resignations.....	3
Deceased members.....	43
Membership June 30, 2016.....	5414

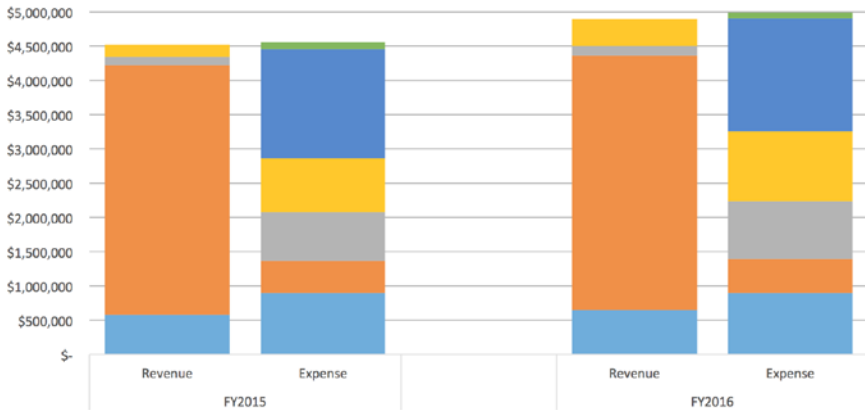
A complete membership report can be found in the November/December 2016 edition of New Church Life.

ORDINATIONS

Name	Degree	Location
Moise Bab	2	Ivory Coast
Aime Dayoro	2	Ivory Coast
Barth Gedeon Gnagne	2	Ivory Coast
Samuel Lompo	2	Burkina Faso
Eduardo Beirith	2	Brazil
Dong Yong Yang	1	Korea
Seung Gil Kim	2	Korea
Timothy	2	Korea (serving in China)
Peter Devassy	2	India

FINANCE

General Church Operating Fund Results, FY15 and FY16



Legends:

- Revenue: Contributions Investment Income Sales & Other Transfers In
 Expense: Congregations Education Ministry Outreach General Admin Non-Recurring

For the period ending June 30, 2016, we recorded greater income than the previous year in our Operating Fund, boosted by two very generous estate gifts, and fulfillment of pledges to the '08 Capital Campaign. Total gifts to the Annual Fund exceeded \$644k, an increase of \$64k over the prior year. We'd like to thank our donors for contributing to activities supporting the mission: together, we remain committed to **help people live a heavenly life through the teachings of the Lord God Jesus Christ in His Second Coming**. Your financial support and prayers are having a tremendous impact.

We had a surplus prior to unusual and non-recurring expenses for the second year in a row. Unfortunately, we incurred special costs for severance, the closing of Austin, and a corrective tax issue associated with one of the retirement plans. Despite the growth in income, we still ended the year with a net deficit of \$95k.

It is important to acknowledge that the Church's success in spreading New Church teachings is supported when each congregation is healthy and engaged. Evidence that many congregations are improving their financial health and resulting capacity to serve others continues to grow. Specifically, groups that have reduced their grants from the General Church over the past year include Kempton, Pittsburgh, and Washington (with help from the Healthy Church Match program), as well as Boston, Durban, Korea, Colchester and London. We applaud all the congregations for their efforts in this area.