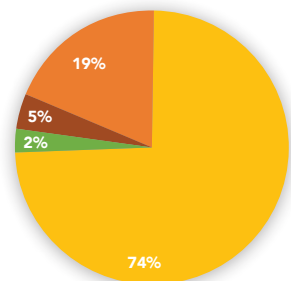
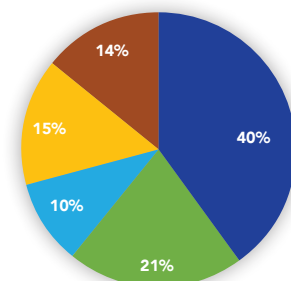


## FINANCE

**INCOME**  
5.45M



**EXPENSES**  
5.14M



■ Sales & Other (2%)    ■ Contributions (19%)    ■ General Admin (40%)    ■ Outreach (15%)  
■ Transfers In (5%)    ■ Investment Income (74%)    ■ Congregations (21%)    ■ Education (10%)  
■ Ministry (14%)

As we entered Fiscal Year 2021, the immediate global impact of COVID-19 left many questions and uncertainty of what the year would hold. Despite the potential for an adverse outcome, we are grateful for many blessings that allowed us to continue supporting our congregations and schools. We are pleased to report a positive financial position at the close of the fiscal year. The following are key takeaways from our financial results for the year ended June 30, 2021 (unaudited):

- ▶ We exceeded our Annual Fund goals for the fourth year in a row for all categories, dollars, number of donors, and number of gifts. As with FY20, we experienced lower costs for travel and the unfortunate cancellation of many scheduled events, such as the clergy meetings and the Retreat, ending the year with an operating surplus over \$600k.
- ▶ We directed some of the financial resources from FY21 to address an increased demand for digital engagement during the pandemic, by enhancing our online presence in meeting peoples' worship needs.
- ▶ The approximate \$2.2m loan from the federal Paycheck Protection Program was distributed to the benefit of eleven participating congregations and schools with need throughout the US. This Program benefitted people by maintaining paychecks to support their lives, and helping continue various General Church uses. Subsequent to the financial year close we were granted forgiveness of the loan.
- ▶ The NCIF had a strong performance with year-over-year net returns of 23%. Net returns are after all General Church operational uses were supported.

David Butler, Controller  
[David.Butler@newchurch.org](mailto:David.Butler@newchurch.org)

David Frazier, Executive Director  
[David.Frazier@newchurch.org](mailto:David.Frazier@newchurch.org)



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## FISCAL YEAR 2021 GENERAL CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

# a YEAR in REVIEW

*Real charity is acting justly and faithfully  
in whatever position, business or work  
one is engaged in, and with those with  
whom one comes into contact.*

— TRUE CHRISTIAN RELIGION 422

### Letter from Bishop Buss

The sentiment quoted from *True Christian Religion* stands as a laudable goal for us all—to act justly and faithfully in our work, and to treat all the people around us in charitable ways. As we look back on the year of worshipful and educational activities sponsored by the General Church, we see many people who have strived to do just that, often going above and beyond to ensure that worship could happen safely, that students were well-cared for, and that people felt somewhat connected in these isolating pandemic times. I am grateful for all of those efforts and inspired by the creative ways people have reached out to serve.

That is not to say that we succeeded all the time. How many of us can say that we managed perfectly the added stress brought to our lives by the constant extra precautions and frustrating limitations? How many of us have been saddened by an uptick of criticism, or frustrated outbursts, or polarization in these times? And how many of us have succumbed to the temptation to argue first and listen second, or assume the worst instead of the best?

The church is here to remind us of the Lord's presence and providence, and to call us consistently to live a heavenly life. People in heaven do their work justly and faithfully. They treat others the way they wish to be treated, looking for the good, and working supportively on the problems they encounter. My prayer is that the many people of the General Church do their part to embrace the sentiment and calling of this teaching. We have had a good year, despite its trials. The coming year can be even better, to the extent that we bring forward the gratitude for the ways that people are serving, and that we each do our part to build up and support all those with whom we come into contact.

Sincerely,

Rt. Rev. Peter Buss Jr.  
Executive Bishop, General Church  
Chancellor, Academy of the New Church  
[peter.buss.jr@newchurch.org](mailto:peter.buss.jr@newchurch.org)



**New Church**





New Church

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

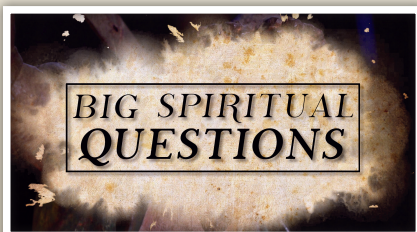
## OUTREACH

Focused on our two-step process: scattering seeds of the Lord's Church with new people and gathering the harvest by inviting people into General Church communities.



**Grand Human Project:** The Grand Human Project, and congregations throughout the General Church, worked to improve the way we invite people into the life of the church.

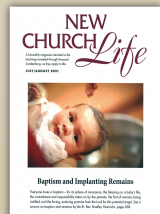
Both lay and priest-led discussions have been offered on topics ranging from grief support to reading *Heaven and Hell*. A young adults discussion group was able to maintain a small **weekly Zoom gathering** for the full year! [www.grandhumanproject.org](http://www.grandhumanproject.org).



**Big Spiritual Questions:** With more than **2,100,000 views**, **12 videos**, and a **third season on the way**, the GC Outreach team has helped people engage with life's hardest questions in their aptly titled YouTube series, "**Big Spiritual Questions.**"



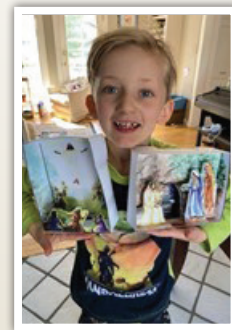
**New Church Audio:** Find sermons by New Church pastors around the world to stream or download the "**Sermon of the Week**" podcast, now available on **Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeartRadio, Stitcher**, and other podcast platforms. <https://sermonoftheweek.libsyn.com>



**New Church Life:** Has been in publication since **1881** and is available to read in print and online at [www.newchurchlife.org](http://www.newchurchlife.org)

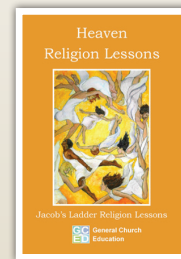
## GCED

General Church Education promoted and supported a love and knowledge of the Lord and the life of charity through New Church education for people of all ages, in homes, schools and churches.



**School Support:** GCED continued to provide support for teachers and schools throughout the year with focus on building community and managing pandemic-related stress. **New Church Teacher Competency videos** continued to be developed and made accessible to teachers.

**Religious Educational Programs:** More than **2000 packages containing religious projects and gifts** were sent out for Christmas, Easter and New Church Day. Additionally, GCED offered **54 books of lessons and illustrations** for children and teens, which were made available for free digital download. Find them at [www.newchristianresources.org](http://www.newchristianresources.org)



## COMMUNITY & ACHIEVEMENTS

The General Church supported **more than 24 congregations** with the needed adjustment to regularly live-streaming Sunday worship services.

- ▶ **314,508** unique visitors to the [newchurch.org](http://newchurch.org) website.
- ▶ **531** newcomers contacted us via email for various discussions or questions.
- ▶ **2,153** total subscribers for the *Christmas Readings*.
- ▶ **1,133** newcomers subscribed to various *Journey Programs* via email.
- ▶ **460** newcomers to *Marriage Moats* emails.
- ▶ **196** new subscribers (3,773 total) to the *Daily Inspiration* emails.
- ▶ **261** subscribers and more than 41,000 views on the *Spiritable* Podcast.
- ▶ **Over 2,100,000** views of *Big Spiritual Questions* videos.

## DONOR PARTICIPATION

Gifts directly support the programs and resources mentioned in this report. Thank you to all who support the work of the General Church. We are grateful for the strong and steady gifts from our donors.



### Membership:

Membership July 1, 2020	5,409*
New Members	37
Resignations	4
Deceased members	54
Membership June 30, 2021	5,388

Current as of June 30, 2021. A complete membership report can be found in the Nov/Dec 2021 edition of *New Church Life*.

\*Reconciliation adjustment to beginning year (88)

### Ordinations:

#### 1ST DEGREE

Justin Schorran

(All other ordinations were put on hold due to travel restrictions)



### Society Milestones:

- ▶ Kempton's retirement home, *Old School Village* opened in May 2021.
- ▶ Washington New Church School celebrated its **50th anniversary** in fall 2020.

### General Church of The New Jerusalem Board of Directors (as of June 2021):

Kay Alden	Darryl Hasen	Ex-Officio Members
Stephen Ball	Kirk Hasen	Peter Buss Jr.
Darren Bau-Madsen	Barbara Horigan	David Frazier
Allen Bedford	Brent Hyatt	Bradley Heinrichs
John Berridge	Rene Johnson	David Lindrooth
Beth Brock	Mary Jane Jungé	
Jake Brown	Ethan King	
Wade Buick	Stephanie Klippenstein	
Ian Carswell	Catherine McQueen	
Brynna Carswell-Smith	David Radcliffe	
Jesse Cole	James Uber	
Axel Coulibaly	Ned Uber	
Charles Ebert	Wayne Wadsworth	
Gustav Fornander	John Walko	
Charlotte Gyllenhaal	Tanya Woker	

*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.*