

Dear Common Ground West family,

While 2020 presented a lot of challenges, there are many areas to celebrate. We continue to see God's faithfulness with our community and would like to share a few highlights from this past year:

Permanent space - We officially have permanent space! After many years of searching and waiting we closed on our new building and land. North Liberty Christian Church was extremely generous with the sale price and we were able to secure this property without needing to take on debt. We are excited for the many opportunities that could come from having our own space and we look forward to being a good neighbor in the Pike community. Nate Smith is leading the efforts on an expansion and renovation of the building. We also have a group of volunteers from our church helping with the planning and design of the interior and exterior of the building. While we will no longer meet at Deer Run, we are grateful for their many years of hospitality and we will continue the relationship with them by providing encouragement and support for the staff.

Lead pastor search - Our lead pastor search team completed 12 months of work (thank you!!) and we are thrilled that Anthony Jones has joined us as our new lead pastor! Anthony and Chelsea and their children, Graham and Jada, moved to Pike Township in December. Anthony began working full time for CGW in January. His passion, calling, giftings and excitement have already been a blessing to the community.

Staff - Nick Morrow transitioned to the role of worship and communications pastor. Megan King has been hired as the administrative assistant and has transitioned from the interim children's ministry director to the permanent position. Sonja Kellogg-Weeks moved from an interim to permanent youth director during this time as well. Martina Gaughan continues to serve as our bookkeeper. We appreciate the perseverance our staff has demonstrated through this difficult season.

Missions - West was able to extend some extra support to some of our community and missions partners in 2020. For several months, we donated our rent payment to the food program at Pike Township Schools to support the needs of students and families. We were also able to donate monthly rent and a portion of our 2020 surplus to some of our mission partners.

Elder updates - During 2020, the elders began to implement some healthy rhythms including a weekly sabbath day away from eldering business. We also have a goal of implementing year-long sabbaticals, on a rotating basis, so the elder role becomes more sustainable. The elders are excited that Anthony has joined the team! Lastly, Marilyn Schulte has stepped into

the lead elder role. Todd McClure will remain an elder but will also be taking a sabbatical this summer for some extended rest.

Finances - Thank you for the continued generosity of your tithes and offerings. We had an abnormally high surplus (\$87,351) due to lower than expected expenses, mostly because of the pandemic, and higher than expected giving. This surplus allows us to be more generous towards our mission partners and provides more funds to cover our building renovation costs. The admin team will soon provide a more thorough update to finances and present the 2021 budget. This team of volunteers helps with our finances, HR related items, and building/property matters. We cannot express enough how helpful the admin team is to the elders and the blessing they are to our church.

We hope that this recap is an encouragement to you in the midst of a difficult season for us all. Our church will continue to be a safe place to start and grow a relationship with Jesus. In Him, we find peace, hope, and everlasting life. We are excited for this new year and the ways God will fulfill his purposes through our church.

As always, please reach out to the elders with any questions, concerns, or encouragement you may have for us: elders@cg-west.org

Blessings,

Your elders

Angie, Anthony, Bryan, Marilyn, and Todd