



# Rooted, Growing, & Bearing Fruit

2016-2017 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT

GRACE  
CHAPEL

*"Relevant Bible teaching, non-judgmental. Welcoming atmosphere, wonderful programs for all ages."*

*"You feel God here. They meet you wherever you are on your walk with God. Amazing church!"*

*"Started attending in 2006 and still attending. Never felt more supported at a church."*

*"There aren't many churches that I would say are worth attending even if you do not practice the religion. Sermons are interesting, relevant, and engaging. The music is always exciting and uplifting..."*

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**Grace Chapel has almost 200 reviews on our Facebook page.** We are humbled and blessed by the wonderful things so many people have said about our church. These are real people who are experiencing the life-changing presence of God, week in and week out, through our Sunday services and midweek ministries.

Here at Grace, almost 4,000 adults and kids come together in worship services each week, with hundreds watching online. Over a thousand people participate in midweek ministry programs like Celebrate Recovery, Fire, Men's and Women's Ministries, and Student Ministries. Over 1500 people are connected to one of our 107 Life Communities. It's an amazing testimony to the power of God that He's able to use a church body full of flawed people like us to draw so many closer to Himself, week after week.

But there is something stirring in our congregation. A prompting of the Spirit. Among our leadership – Pastor Bryan, our Elders, staff, and volunteer leaders – there's a growing burden for those who are far from God, who aren't part of any church at all, and aren't likely to wander in on their own.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." *Matthew 28:19-20*

It's a passage of Scripture known as the Great Commission. The words "Therefore go" were a focal point for us this year, as we embarked on our biennial Generosity Initiative, *NEXT*. The impact on the financial foundation of our church was undeniable: Giving to our General Fund was 6% higher than FY16, allowing us to contribute \$600,000 to our *NEXT* Fund Reserve for Capital Projects, bringing that reserve total to over \$1M. This will sustain our ongoing ministries and partners, and also enable us to launch the Foxboro campus and begin setting aside funds for the Wilmington expansion.

In addition to the financial growth, we were challenged to find our “GO;” that is, to discover our God-given gifts and calling to advance God’s Kingdom in this world. Many people are already responding to the call to #FindYourGo as they discover their unique contribution to changing the spiritual landscape of Greater Boston.

But to launch ourselves into action, we need a firm foundation. On the heels of our *NEXT* initiative, the Roots Challenge was a 10-week experience that included a teaching series, a small group component, and daily scripture reading and study. Over 3500 Mizizi (Swahili for “Roots”) books were given out. The Mizizi Roots curriculum, originally developed at Nairobi Chapel in Kenya, was minimally adapted for our use here at Grace Chapel.

Our Global Awareness theme this year was *Neighboring Well*, as our global and regional partners challenged and inspired us to love and serve our neighbors both near and far. Our GAW special offering enabled us to give almost \$69,000 to two critical needs:

- World Relief’s response to the Southern Africa Food Crisis, to provide food security for Malawi, following a time of extreme drought. The funds for the Southern African food crisis were matched dollar for dollar by a ministry called “One Day’s Wages,” a grassroots movement of people, stories, and actions to alleviate extreme poverty. As a result, our gift was doubled!
- World Relief’s hurricane relief efforts in Haiti, given to help relieve suffering and rebuild southern Haiti following Hurricane Matthew, October 2016.

Another highlight of this year’s ministry was the successful launch of our monthly EPIC gatherings for boomers, empty nesters, and early retirees. This missional community of over 300 people has been seeking to energize and mobilize a generation to live lives of significant love, wise influence, and generous involvement.

With the addition of Pastor Tom and Amy Boisclair (Foxboro) and Pastor Stephen and Rebekah Nykairu (Wattertown) we have a full complement of Campus Pastors serving thousands of people across Greater Boston.

## Nominations for Elected Church Offices

### ***Elder (4-Year Term)***

Troy Stanfield\* (\*Returning Elder)

### ***Nominating Committee (1-Year Term)***

Sue Corbett (LEX), Bonnie Doremus (WIL), Gerald Ng (WAT), Emanuel Tucker (LEX)

### ***Audit Committee (1-Year Term)***

Eric Bergstrom, Larry Warfield, Renato Zeppi

### ***Moderator (1-Year Term)***

Cynthia Parker

### ***Clerk (1-Year Term)***

Abby Baird

*The 2016 Nominating Committee consisted of the following Grace Chapel members:*

Duschia Bodet, Gerald Ng, Emanuel Tucker, and Gladys Vargas

## New Members in 2016-2017 Fiscal Year

Gergory Ainsworth	Charles Killilea	Lynda Powers
Tom Boisclair	Thomas Lee	Ali Raja
Amy Boisclair	Jean Lee	Danielle Raja
Robin Cain	Edna Lee	Margie Roffee
Ian Ceicys	Beverly Lillehei	Douglas Ruiru
Linda Cerdone	Lionel Lim	Grace Ruiru
Yuji Che	Yingyun Lu	Diane Sackos
Tien-Lih Chen	Joseph Lynch	Suzanne Schintzius
Gary Cinfinix	Tammy Lynch	Terrie Smith
Betty Creager	Philip Lynch	Henry Stanaford
Gerard Daly	Christopher Lynch	Amanda Stewart
Pamela Fahrenkopf	Marie Marchesseault	Brian Stewart
Neal Flint	Emma Martin	Jennifer Sullivan
Winifred Flint	Robert Monroe	Vikedo Terhuja
Drew Glazier	Linda Monroe	Alice Tewksbury
Lori Glazier	Cristina Moreno	Harlan Tewksbury, Jr.
Arthur Hamilton	Enrique Moreno-Ferro	Kathy Wilson
Sabrina Hamilton	Edmund Neal	Mark Wilson
Phillip Henry	Francine Nelson	Hilary Witcher
Ashley Howe	Jim Petipas	Adam Woods
Michael Howe	Beth Petipas	Polly Woods
Jodi Jenkins-Ainsworth	Katy Pimentel	Guang Xu
Emmanuel Joseph	Joseph Pinciaro	Sue Yie
Lanese Joseph	Ashley Pinciaro	Tao Zhang

## Membership Summary

Church Membership: April 30, 2016 .....	1904
New Members: May 1, 2016 - April 30, 2017 68 .....	68
Reinstated:.....	4

<i>(Transferred/Dropped by Request)</i> .....	(18)
<i>(The following Members went home to be with the Lord)</i> .....	(13)

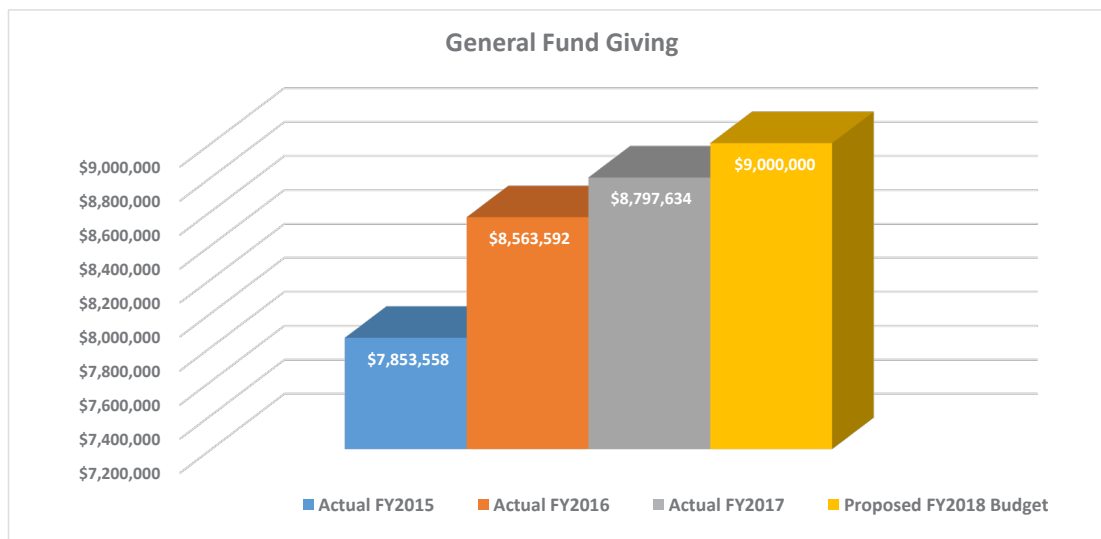
Edith Gadoury, Robert (Bob) Andrews, Robert (Bob) Little, Laura Rich, James Drown, William Horwood,  
Marilyn Hamilton, Charles Eksoozian, Robert Wert, John Minter, Robert Fantasia, David Hannum, Thora Eames

Total Membership: April 30, 2017 .....	1945
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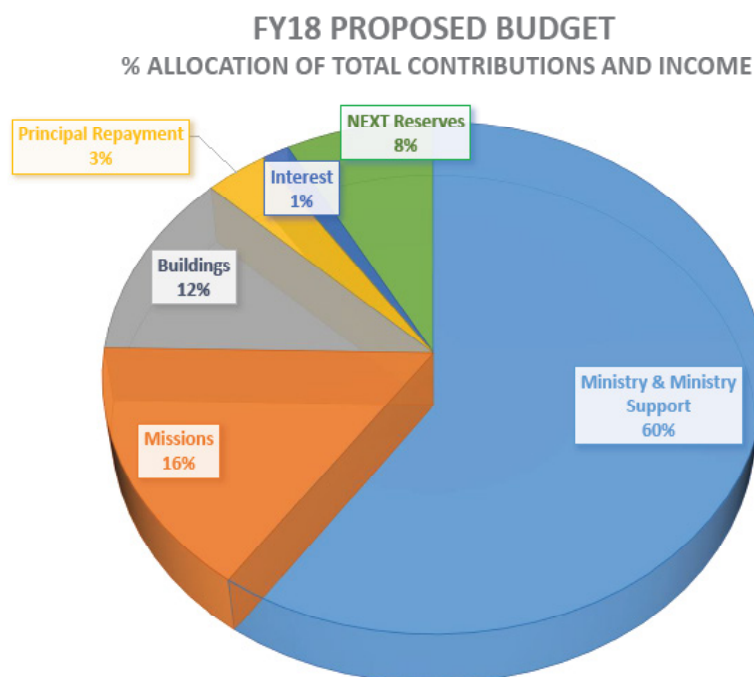
<i>Baptisms: May 1, 2016 - April 30, 2017</i> .....	48
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## A Congregation of Increasing Generosity

FY2017 was another extraordinary year. In a macro environment which saw 59% of churches experience flat or declining giving and the average church budget decreased by 20%, we were blessed to have general fund giving increase by 3% over FY2016 to approximately \$8.8M. Giving was aided by the congregation's noteworthy response to our most recent generosity initiative, *NEXT2018: Therefore, Go...*



The projected two year intention from our faithful givers represents a 22% increase over the previous generosity initiative. This is inclusive of approximately \$1.4M in "GO" gifts. The Intention Cards completed through this process serve as a valuable planning tool as we both complete our annual financial budgeting and evaluate the funding of future growth initiatives, like the launch of our Foxboro campus.



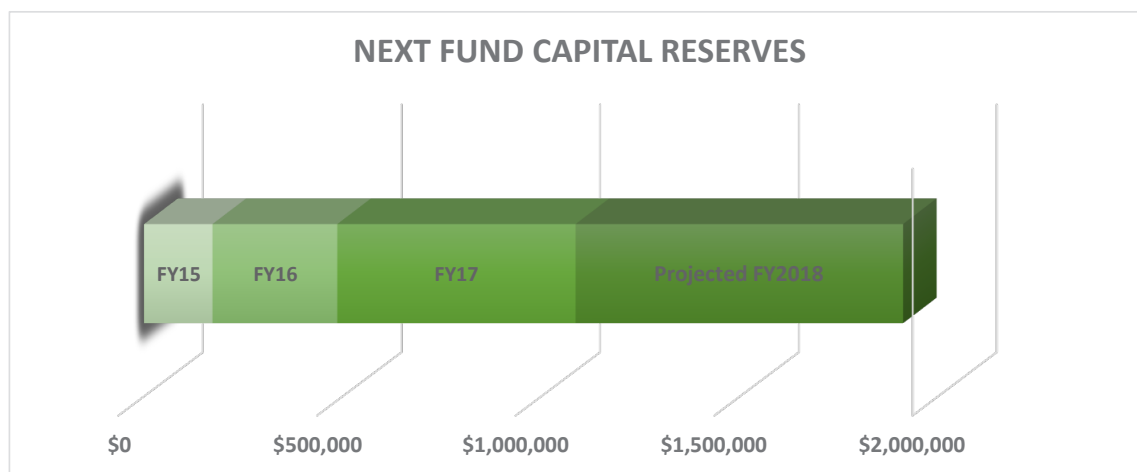
# 2017-2018 ANNUAL BUDGET

Finally, in addition to General Fund giving, special offerings and Benevolence Fund giving totaled over \$360,000! These gifts provided much needed support to our neighbors here in the greater Boston area and around the world.

*For example, your generosity provided:*

1. Provisions for more than 100 local families during Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays;
2. Additional support to our Partners at New Life Home for Women & Children in Manchester, New Hampshire, allowing them to purchase an additional home for women and children;
3. Additional Support to our Partners at Cedar Home for Girls Orphanage in Bsalim, Lebanon, allowing them to purchase materials to complete some unfinished construction projects, growing their capacity;
4. Significant donations to two of World Relief's programs:
  - Southern African Food Crisis, and our \$50K donation was matched by "One Day's Wages;"
  - Refugee work in Jordan.

When you add it all up, generous giving combined with prudent ministry spending resulted in adding \$600K into the **NEXT** Fund Reserve for growth initiatives. As always we thank God for His goodness and we thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.



## Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to FY2018, there are once again many exciting developments at Grace Chapel. To support those efforts and prepare us to capitalize on new opportunities, The Board of Elders proposes a General Fund giving budget of \$9,000,000 for FY2018. This represents a 2.3% increase over the prior year actual. We remain committed to giving to sustain God's work of reaching people and transforming the spiritual landscape of Greater Boston.



# 2017-2018 ANNUAL BUDGET



## Statement of Revenues and Expenditures For Budgeted Activities For The Fiscal Years ending April 30th

	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Budget	FY2017 Forecasted Actual	FY2018 Proposed Budget	\$ Change vs. Actual	FY18 vs. FY17 % Change over Prior Year Actual
<b>Revenues and Transfers</b>						
General contributions	\$ 8,569,294	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 8,797,584	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 202,416	2%
"GO" Gifts			\$ 300,000	\$ 825,000	\$ 525,000	64%
Contributions for Short Term & other Missions	\$ 97,721	\$ 130,000	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000	\$ -	0%
Program registration and other income	\$ 172,828	\$ 166,220	\$ 166,091	\$ 161,000	\$ (5,091)	-3%
Other Income	\$ 244,567	\$ 204,243	\$ 235,080	\$ 194,529	\$ (40,551)	-21%
<b>Total Revenues and Transfers</b>	<b>\$ 9,084,411</b>	<b>\$ 9,500,463</b>	<b>\$ 9,668,755</b>	<b>\$ 10,350,529</b>	<b>\$ 681,774</b>	<b>7%</b>
Donated Assets - Foxboro Property	\$ 2,950,000					
<b>Total contributions and other income</b>	<b>\$ 12,034,411</b>	<b>\$ 9,500,463</b>	<b>\$ 9,668,755</b>	<b>\$ 10,350,529</b>	<b>\$ 681,774</b>	
<b>Expenditures for:</b>						
<b>Operating Activities -All Campuses</b>						
Ministry	\$ 5,444,445	\$ 5,808,029	\$ 5,749,301	\$ 6,176,607	\$ 427,306	7%
Buildings	\$ 1,163,385	\$ 1,251,520	\$ 1,229,741	\$ 1,228,758	\$ (983)	0%
Missions	\$ 1,474,773	\$ 1,720,750	\$ 1,591,436	\$ 1,620,000	\$ 28,564	2%
Interest Expense	\$ 175,701	\$ 164,364	\$ 162,477	\$ 152,253	\$ (10,224)	-7%
<b>Total Operating &amp; Other Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 8,258,304</b>	<b>\$ 8,944,663</b>	<b>\$ 8,732,956</b>	<b>\$ 9,177,618</b>	<b>\$ 444,663</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Non-Operating Activities</b>						
Mortgage Principal Repayment	\$ 323,670	\$ 335,800	\$ 335,800	\$ 347,911	\$ 12,111	3%
Total Expenditures for Non-Operating Activities	\$ 323,670	\$ 335,800	\$ 335,800	\$ 347,911	\$ 12,111	3%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 8,581,974</b>	<b>\$ 9,280,463</b>	<b>\$ 9,068,755</b>	<b>\$ 9,525,529</b>	<b>\$ 456,774</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Surplus (loss)</b>	<b>\$ 3,452,437</b>	<b>\$ 220,000</b>	<b>\$ 600,000</b>	<b>\$ 825,000</b>		
FY16 Capital Asset - Foxboro Property	\$ (2,950,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Capital Improvements	\$ (188,223)					
"NEXT" Fund Reserve for Capital Projects	\$ (314,214)	\$ (220,000)	\$ (600,000)	\$ (825,000)		
<b>Net after Capex &amp; Reserve</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		



# MINUTES 2016 Annual Meeting, 6/5/2016



## GRACE CHAPEL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER** – Audrey Wang opened the meeting with procedural instructions and prayer at 12:41 PM at the Lexington campus. The meeting was simulcast to the satellite campuses.

**VOTING SUNDAY** – June 12, 2016 – All members must be present for the paper ballot with membership confirmed prior to voting.

**ELDER REPORT** – Victor Gerdes reported several highlights from the previous year that included Ruthie Seiders work as the Next Generations Pastor, Tom Lee as the new pastor for the East Lexington campus and Dana Baker taking on the role of Pastor of Multicultural Ministry and Social Justice. He spoke of our partnerships with Christ Church in Amherst, NH and the Foxboro church. Pastor Bryan's teaching series has been inspiring while the Drama and Tech teams have kept us engaged. Congregational giving has been generous and strong.

The Elder responsibilities were discussed and Victor spoke of the elders being involved with various ministries in addition to their board duties. The core aspect of the board is governance by following the bylaws and our Lord. In addition, the elders have spent up to one third of their time focusing on three specific areas - multi-campus strategy, long-term strategy from a new perspective, and the church's relevancy in today's changing society. Victor extended thanks to the many ministry volunteers, the pastoral and support staff, the elder board and Pastor Bryan and Bill Burke for their hard work and dedication. Retiring Elders Bobby Bose and Kevin Johnson were recognized for their individual strengths and contributions to the elder board.

**SENIOR PASTOR REPORT** – Pastor Bryan Wilkerson recapped the teaching journey of Rediscovering Jesus for 40 weeks. He also reported on:

- **Staff Development and Transitions** – In Lexington, Barry O'Brien will be retiring in June and Missy Stanaford and Ashley Pinciario have become the directors of early childhood and children's ministry, respectively. Trevor Panarello is both the new contemporary worship leader and media technology assistant. Sheryl Lackey is completing her first year as the Pastor of the Community of Women. The summer internship program is a success and is being continued. Watertown campus Pastor Robert Frazier is leaving to plant churches in the Boise Idaho area. In East Lexington, Pastor Dana Baker has transitioned to Pastor of Cultural Ministries and Social Justice and Pastor Tom Lee is the new campus pastor. Pastor Bryan extended his appreciation to Bill Burke as executive pastor and looks forward to more time working together.
- **Strategic Planning Process** – We are looking to refresh our strategic outlook as the world is changing rapidly. Richard Rhodes is leading a team to investigate all options for the Foxboro church –It may become campus #5 OR we could partner with another area church OR use it as a Christian facility.
- **Helping that Helps** – Grace Chapel strives to help worldwide while continuing to aid Boston area ministries. Our summer mission trips have been renamed Cross Cultural Learning Experiences to reflect the emphasis on a more positive impact.
- **Communication & Media** – We revamped our Website to make it visitor friendly and offer live streaming services on Sunday mornings. We also launched our new Grace Chapel app this year.
- **"Encore" Pilot** – A team led by Doug Whallon has been formed to focus on how to utilize baby boomers in the next phase of life with further information coming this fall.
- **Our Elder Board** – We have a new generation of elders including three women on the board whose perspective and heart brings another dimension to the board meetings.

# MINUTES 2016 Annual Meeting, 6/5/2016



Bryan stated he is approaching 16 years at Grace Chapel and expressed that he feels his work is not yet done.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Troy Stanfield reported that giving has been both generous and amazing. The General Funding budget proposal shows an increase of 5% for the next year while we continue to reduce our debt. Ministry, building, and mission spending are the largest areas of expense. Our FY16 special offerings totaled \$393,883 which provided aid for the Nepal earthquake and Syrian refugee crisis.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** – Kevin Johnson identified the nominating committee and briefly discussed the procedure for submitting names and how people are chosen. For the Elder Board Victor Gerdes (second term) and Joan Christel (first term and from the Watertown campus) are nominated. The slate of nominees for the nominating committee, audit committee, moderator and clerk were announced.

**PROPOSAL TO MODIFY BYLAWS** – Bill Burke related the history of the voting process at Grace Chapel which originated with the expectation that church members would turn out in majorities to handle business matters and voting. Times and people have changed and many churches have altered their means of voting opportunities. Grace Chapel wants to continue having members vote but many members have been unable to attend church on Voting Sunday. After evaluating several options, the elder board has proposed a change to the bylaws to extend voting to the two Sundays following the Annual Meeting Sunday. The only change would be replacing "on a single Sunday" to "on two consecutive Sundays" as written in Article 9.2:6 of the bylaws.

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS** – Audrey Wang moderated a time of Q & A reminding campus pastors at the satellite campuses to text questions to Bill.

1. An Easton, MA resident spoke in support of the Foxboro campus becoming another Grace Chapel satellite campus.
2. A member asked how maintenance is budgeted and performed – answered by the Director of Facilities, Brad Gardner, who asked that people contact him via email with any maintenance/building issues.
3. A member asked if the Foxboro church has a mortgage or lien due to two line items in the budget. Bill Burke stated the property is mortgage and lien free as it was donated. The line items are required for audit purposes and follow standard reporting practices.
4. If the bylaw change passes when will the vote be announced? Bill Burke stated the votes will be counted and announced following the second Sunday of voting.
5. A member spoke in support of closed captioning of the sermon on the screens for those with hearing or language issues.
6. A question was asked regarding how to continue the dialogue and teaching on giving – Pastor Bryan answered that more teaching on giving will happen in the fall and that every two years the congregation will be asked to reevaluate how we give to God's Kingdom.

**CLOSING** – Bryan Wilkerson closed the meeting with prayer at 1:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Dorr