

Program Ministry Report for GLC Council  
July 26, 2016  
Pastor James Aalgaard

James' Goal One: **Alignment** (our use of language about our ministry, nurturing leadership relationships...). The ministry vision for the next programmatic year (through next summer) is set: "Called by Christ to Bless"

James' Goal Two: **BeFriender** Ministry. Internships for BeFrienders have begun. They will be commissioned August 21<sup>st</sup>.

James' Goal Three: **Deeper Life** catechumenate. More plans are coming together for the training event happening here at Grace Apr 28-30, 2017.

James' Goal Four: Work toward an overall **faith formation** plan for all ages at Grace. We've been focused on getting the schedule together for this fall, so picking up the larger conversation has been difficult, especially in the summer months. I think we should map out a meeting schedule for leaders we think are key players, and look for ways to keep the conversation going so that we will be ready to incorporate new ideas more confidently.

Goals for 2017: "Alignment" – As pastor I know that one of my key areas is helping people be on the same page with language and vision, so leaders can see ways God is at work and how they can better collaborate with one another. This goal is how I also understand the use of this year's theme around blessing. I will also be folding into this goal the BeFriender Ministry administration. "Lifelong Learning" – I plan to help lead a process with key people in our formation ministry so that a different big picture can emerge about what we are doing through Grace for all ages of people. Deeper Life 2017 is part of this goal, along with special focus on other areas like confirmation ministry and perhaps also touching base with the high school group more often. "Help GLC and myself bridge cultural gaps" This is a new-ish idea that I would like to think and discern more about, and be in conversation with others about too.

Reflection question: How do you see your ministry being shaped by this next year's theme: "Called by Christ to Bless": I would like to see children joyfully blessing adults (especially those not in their family group) in worship and in other places. I would like to see small groups (such as women's circles?) engage in adding blessing to how they see themselves as a group. This would be a slam dunk for certain groups like the quilting ministry and prayer shawl, but I would like to see other groups challenge themselves to adopt this language and see how God is doing good things already, and how they can participate in more loving acts of blessing. I would like to see congregational leaders do random acts of blessing to others around them and also be willing to speak about why they are doing this, why it's important to them.

Beth Smallbeck, Director of Youth and Family ministries

2016-17 Goal #1 Redefine the confirmation program/curriculum

Current action step: The decision has been made to make confirmation a two-year program (7&8 grade). I am in the midst of contacting parents of incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders to advise them of the change.

Throughout the year I will be working with Ian (intern) and Pastor James to refine the "Biblical" year to fit into a 9-month curriculum.

2016-17 Goal #2 Continue to discover what lifelong learning is about for our members.

Upcoming action step(s): I would like to research the possibility of working towards a more collaborative learning, birth to death, than individual classes. I am excited to fill our master education calendar with learning opportunities for all ages.

2016-17 Goal #3 I plan to be more intentional about time off and general health.

Current action step: Scheduling vacation time and continuing my goal of 10,000 steps a day.

### **Called by Christ to Bless**

I believe through the youth and education ministries of Grace we have the opportunity to bless and be a blessing on many different levels.

- Prayer partner ministry
- VBS/Day Camp outreach to those with additional needs
- Small group ministry in Confirmation through Alumni groups
- Service opportunities
- The list of possibilities is endless

Jameson Varpness, Director of Music Ministries

**Goals:**

**Incorporate hymnals into the life of the church as a tool for worship and faith formation.**

**Plans:** - Continued use of the hymnals in worship, prayer, and formation classes, reinforcing their use as a resource for the life of the congregation

**Develop consistent music ministry outreach projects.**

**Plans:** - This goal takes a new shape in my 2016/17 goal about music events that reach beyond our walls at Grace. The emphasis that I plan to bring to the music ministry is one of looking outward and acting with an intention rooted in service of our larger community.

**Renew and build the youth's vital role in Grace's music ministry.**

**Plans:** - I am revising the rehearsal schedule for this upcoming program year to best address the needs of the youth ensembles (specifically Catecheo [Elementary music]). - My 2016/17 goal about intergenerational experiences carries an emphasis on connecting the youth and adults in the music ministry and the congregation, uniting our efforts as one community.

**Create a Compline worship opportunity.**

**Plans:** - Compline will begin in August, taking place on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month. - I am contacting congregations in the area to make this one of our offerings that extends beyond our own congregation's walls

**New Goals:**

**1: Develop higher worship literacy and ownership within the congregation.**

**2: Establish music events that reach beyond our walls.**

**3: Encourage intergenerational experiences inside of the music ministry.**

My 2016/17 goals have two common, bonding threads: broadening perspectives and connecting in mission. I would like to foster a broad vision of what the music ministry has to offer, extending to the wider community beyond specific age groups and ensembles, acting as a connecting resource for our congregation and community. This includes developing a deeper sense of purpose within the congregation as a whole, exploring what we do in worship and how that affects our engagement with the world. Goal 1 is truly centered in formation and is meant to function in close collaboration with Grace's entire ministry staff. Goal 2 assumes that we look outward as servants of our community and world rather than inward to our own needs. Goal 3 acknowledges that we work together as a community in Christ and for Christ.

**Called by Christ to Bless:**

I see clear connections between my goals for 2016/17 and a theme of blessing. Goal 1 features a deeper understanding of worship, God's blessings that we receive in worship, and the call to be a blessing as we are sent out of worship. Goal 2 is centered in that sense of being sent to bless and to be a resource to our community. Goal 3 recognizes that when we work inside of an inclusive, community-based structure, we enrich our potential to bless one another and those that we serve.