

Bethany Covenant Church

Annual Report

2020/2021

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all (2 Corinthians 13:11-14).

This has been a tumultuous year! The Bible is filled with lessons about plagues and disease, but that does not mean that Bethany Covenant Church was adequately prepared to deal with the COVID-19 global pandemic. The Bible is filled with stories about believers staying together despite differences of opinion, but that does not mean that we were prepared for the impact of social isolation and the decline of civil public engagement. The Bible is filled with reminders that all of God's people experience dark nights of the soul, but that does not mean Bethany was prepared for the widespread impact of depression and anxiety in our community. Some lessons must be learned from personal experience.

The Good News is that the Bible helps us make sense of disease, conflict, and difficult times. The Holy Spirit meets us when we gather in Christian community and open up the Bible. The Word of God forms us into a community that keeps asking the old Covenant questions. "Where is it written (in the Bible)?" "How goes your walk with the Lord?" When we read the Bible in a Christian community that is both honest and loving, we find new ways to cope with the struggles of the day. Just as we have done for the last century, Bethany Covenant Church will continue to engage the Bible and each other to grow closer to our Savior Jesus Christ.

I want to thank my staff for going above and beyond the call of duty in these difficult times. It takes lots of time, hard work, and a learning spirit to shift from in person to online worship so quickly and well. Britta Burger, Paul Burger, Dan Booker, Sally Carlson, Andi Shannon, Oleg Radchishin, Susan Whidden, and Randall Wilkens did excellent work even when their hours were significantly cut back. It may not be clear to the entire congregation, but it has been obvious to me that the staff has worked hard and strived to bless the congregation throughout these difficult days. Please do me a favor, and send a card of thanks to a member of our excellent staff.

I have always taken great joy working with such a talented staff of pastors and servant-leaders. Of course, talented people are blessed with many opportunities to serve the Lord. We grieve that we have lost so many talented staff members this year. We are also grateful that God has found new ways for these talented people to serve the Kingdom. Britta and Paul Burger now serve as co-pastors at Newport Covenant Church in Bellevue. Sally Carlson just took a call to serve at Shoreline Covenant Church in Seattle. Susan Whidden continues as the director of Bethany's preschool, but she has left her position as our bookkeeper in order to manage the books for a Christian school in Eastern Europe. With half the staff from a year ago, the entire congregation will need to rally together to support our common mission with our time, talent, and treasure.

I am grateful for the Leadership Team. Tom Moser stepped away from his preferred role as a Bible teacher to offer the church countless hours of wisdom and good advice as our Church Chair. Marilee Erickson has brought insight and clarity as her role as Vice Chair. Phil Carlson spent five months on the team teaching and offering care. With regret and reluctant agreement, I recently accepted Phil's resignation from the Leadership Team because of family health concerns. Tricia Cisneros, Lisa Ellis, Jerry Gard, Shannon Haigh, Jackie Karsh, and Benita Rozema have invested their time and wisdom serving together to bless our church and community. Please join me in praying for these leaders as they serve God's church.

I am especially thankful for all the people at church who have submitted to each other in love. Not everyone was comfortable with online worship and Zoom meetings, and yet we learned to adapt. Not everyone was happy with wearing masks or getting their temperature taken to worship in the sanctuary, and yet we learned to prioritize each other. No one was pleased that we had to cut the budget, staff salaries, and our support for missionaries, and yet we learned the importance of working together for God's purposes in the world. It's been a tough year, but I'm eternally grateful to everyone who has taken seriously their role as members of the Body of Christ. We are better together! Thank you for your generosity of spirit, loving kindness, and commitment to Christ's Church.

In Christ,

Pastor Ryan Eikenbary-Barber

Heart to Heart ministered to at least 20 women throughout this year of pandemic shut down. Groups met together via Zoom, in person, in family groups, H2H Facebook page, or coffee visitations. Studies: "Jeremiah, Daring to Hope in an Unstable World" and "First Corinthians, Living Love When We Disagree" have challenged, comforted, stretched, blessed, and been amazingly timely. H2H women look forward to an in-person gathering soon to celebrate and thank the Lord for our fellowship. Ruth Westerbeck

Missions Team

We are pleased to report that during the past fiscal year Bethany Covenant Church was able to support 44 missions and/or missionaries in their work locally, nationally and around the world. However, the Missions Team, like most of the other Bethany teams/programs, started this fiscal year by reducing our budget by 5% compared to the previous year. In November, we were requested to reduce the budget by another 20% for the second half of the fiscal year. Each time we reduced the Bethany Missions budget meant that we had to reduce financial support that we had been providing to missions/missionaries. Of course we then had to notify these individuals or groups of the impending reductions so that they, in turn, could adjust their living/operating budgets.

Time and time again the responses that we received from these missions/missionaries upon the news of their support reductions demonstrated the grace and love that comes through God. The following are a few examples:

- “I want to ask you to send our deepest thanks to the congregation for their on-going support, and I know it takes a lot of faith to invest in a global outreach, especially as local (Bethany) staff has to suffer the impact of reduced giving.”
- “(We) just pray that God will continue to lead your church, help you weather these hard times and to continue the fantastic kingdom work you have always done, even if the circumstances necessitate new means and methods.”
- “ We have seen the Lord's faithfulness in caring for us and we know He will care for you also.”

Eric Watilo

Bethany Care Team had remained active even through the restraints of the pandemic. We have been sending cards, having telephone visits, delivering cookies at Christmas and Easter and plan to deliver flowers over the summer. Melissa Boe

Preschool

We started the fall with an online program for 29 students – 19 4-year-olds and 10 3-year-olds. (We had 67 students registered in the spring)

Our staff was amazing – they learned new skills required to teach via zoom and created weekly videos and art projects for students to complete at home. We appreciate all our preschool families in their openness to participating in an online program – a new experience for them also. We were encouraged by their trust that we would give their children the best preschool experience given the limitations of Covid.

In January, we started with our 4-year-olds meeting one day a week in person along with continued online learning. The 3-year-olds remained all online. We had 33 students participating in our winter session from January to mid-March. The in-person classes created another challenge for staff to learn how to orchestrate teaching preschoolers keeping in mind the protocols for social distancing and cleaning while also providing the social experience that preschoolers need at this age. Again, our teachers were exemplary in their attention to detail for the safety measures and creating fun spaces for students to learn and interact with each other. We are blessed by the space we have available at Bethany to do this – the gym and playground were instrumental to making our plans work.

Beginning in mid-March, we opened in-person learning for two days a week for our 4's classes and one day a week for our 3's classes. We continued to have weekly zoom classes with some of our 3-year-olds. We had 38 children participating in the spring session. It was wonderful to be in class with students again. They bring the staff such joy as we watch them learn and grow. And they say the funniest things....

Our enrollment for next fall is down. We look at this next year as a rebuilding year.

We currently have 55 students enrolled. We continue to promote the preschool through word of mouth and social media.

We are thankful to our preschool board who prayed for us during this year. We are thankful for the PPP money that helped pay our salaries this spring. We are thankful for the encouraging words we received from people. We are thankful that God continues to bless us in unexpected ways in the midst of difficult times.

Children of the Valley

When schools were closed in March of 202 we surveyed our families to determine the level of need for services and support. Majority of the families we serve are essential workers who expressed that educational support for their children during remote learning was going to be the biggest challenge for them along with child care. Based on feedback from families, we quickly pivoted our services and partnered with the Boys and Girls Club and Mount Vernon School District in order to provide a full day remote learning center.

We went from serving 60 students to over 110 students. We went from one site at Bethany to two sites with one starting at Mount Vernon High School then moving to Centennial Elementary School. We provided support to our community with child care, academic and enrichment support, food security, utilities and rent and many house porch drop offs of cleaning supplies and PPE for families sick with COVID and in quarantine. We provided 31 community members the opportunity to give back during this past year volunteering in many roles which we could not have operated without. Dwight and Kathy Nelson prepared snacks daily for over 100 students and put in over 300 hours this past year. We are honored to be a ministry in the community that is able to provide resources of time, love and care to those most in need. Though 2020 was a challenging year, it was also full of many blessings and opportunities for COV.

Confirmation Class of 2021

Lily Brown	Lila Gohan
Peter Eikenbary-Barber	Owen McIntosh
Alexa Cooley	Jonah Rozema
Bronte Ellis	Jayna Wadell

We remember the saints who have gone before us this last year.

Judy Calvert	Dave Quall
Gladys Chapman	Clarence Rozema
Duane Eastman	Arnold Torseth
Ann Ekblad	Chuck Wilkie
Wes Nelson	Jo Wyatt

FY20 – Quick Review

	FY 2020 Initial Budget	FY 2020 Amended Budget	FY2020 Actuals (11 months)
Budget - Giving	\$1,194,292	\$1,077,568	\$826,020
-Missions % of Giving	18.4%	18.4%	\$183,401
Budget - Expenses	\$1,193,031	\$1,059,110	\$883,447

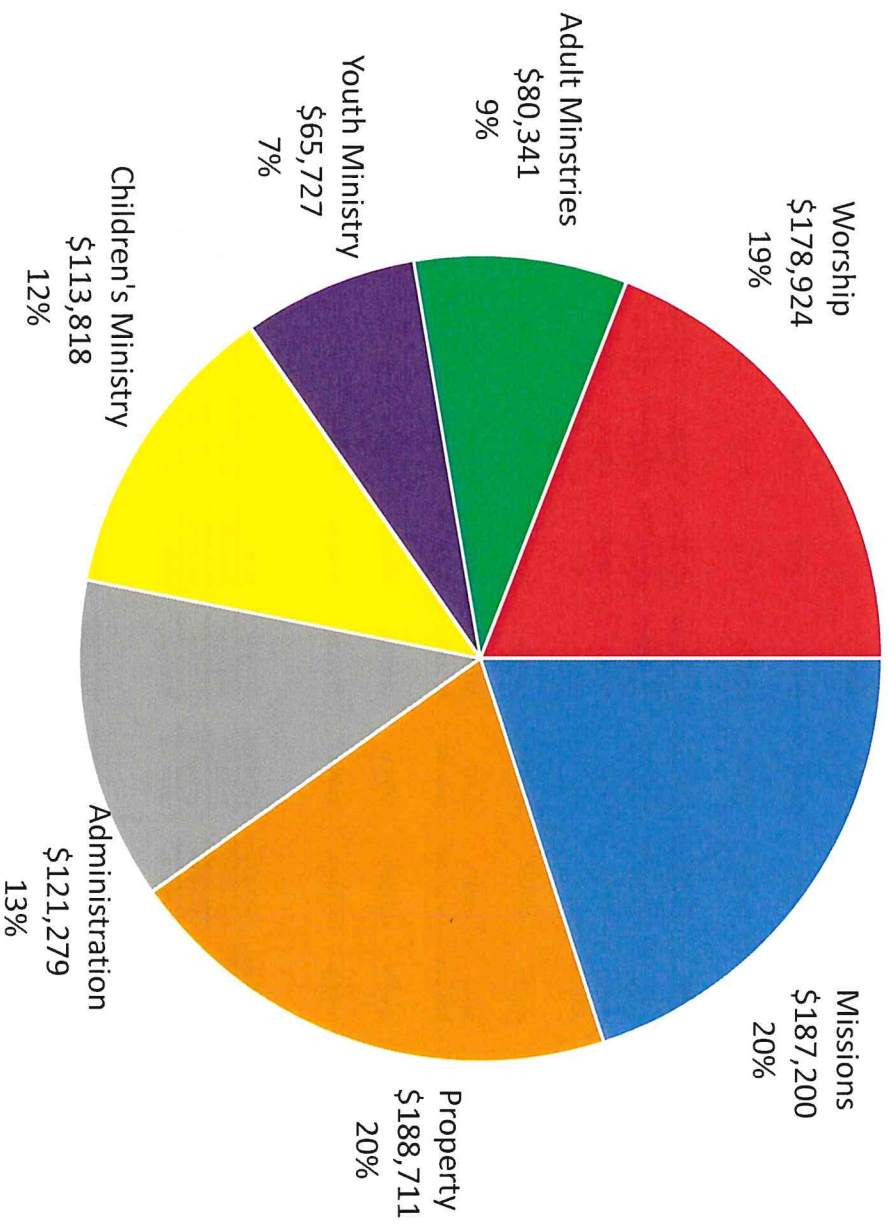
- FY19 total giving = \$1,146,689, FY20 anticipated giving (estimating June) = \$901,020
- Giving/month in FY19 averaged \$95K, giving/month in FY20 has averaged \$75K (*reduction of 21%*)
- Expenses were tightly managed throughout the downturn
- 2 PPP Loans received (April 2020 and Jan 2021), totaling \$265,410 has been utilized to help cover the church giving deficit, and support payroll for Bethany Preschool during closure
 - First PPP loan has been formally forgiven (\$146,500)
 - Second PPP loan forgiveness application process has not yet begun (\$118,910)
- Current working cash position (May 2021): \$165,043
- Total cash position (includes working cash, designated funds, PPP funds, as of May 2021): \$424,184

FY21 – Overview

	FY 2020		FY21 Budget
	Initial Budget	Amended Budget	
Budget - Giving	\$1,194,292	\$1,077,568	\$936,000
-Missions % of Giving	18.4%	18.4%	\$187,200 (20%)
Budget - Expenses	\$1,193,031	\$1,059,110	\$936,000

- FY21 budget reflects a reduction from the FY20 budget of 21.6%
- Budget is consistent with church size, average giving/month of \$78K
- Salaries flat year-over-year for all pastoral and office staff
- Plan to maintain conservative spending in all areas
- *Spending notes:*
 - Potential hire of youth ministry director
 - Funding of livestreaming of Sunday morning church services (on-line)

Bethany Covenant - FY21 Budget



Total Budget: \$936K

	B Jul 21	B Aug 21	B Sep 21	B Oct 21	B Nov 21	B Dec 21	B Jan 22	B Feb 22	B Mar 22	B Apr 22	B May 22	B Jun 22	TOTAL Jul 21 - Jun 22
Ordinary Income/Expense													
Income													
1003 - General Fund Offering - Other	62,400.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	85,800.00	101,400.00	62,400.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	85,800.00	78,000.00	70,200.00	936,000.00
Total 1003 - General Fund Offering	62,400.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	85,800.00	101,400.00	62,400.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	85,800.00	78,000.00	70,200.00	936,000.00
Total 1000 - General Fund	62,400.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	85,800.00	101,400.00	62,400.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	85,800.00	78,000.00	70,200.00	936,000.00
Total Income	62,400.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	85,800.00	101,400.00	62,400.00	78,000.00	78,000.00	85,800.00	78,000.00	70,200.00	936,000.00
Expense													
100 - Missions													
Total 100 - Missions	15,600.00	15,600.00	15,600.00	15,600.00	15,600.00	15,600.00	15,600.00	15,600.00	15,600.00	15,600.00	15,600.00	15,600.00	187,200.00
200 - Property Fund													
Total 200 - Property Fund	7,950.00	7,360.00	8,709.00	8,060.00	10,009.00	9,310.00	10,859.00	9,860.00	9,910.00	8,360.00	8,710.00	7,306.00	106,412.00
300 - Personnel Expenses													
Total 300 - Personnel Expenses	41,288.27	41,296.19	44,371.19	41,671.19	41,671.19	44,471.19	48,128.36	47,878.36	47,879.36	47,879.36	47,879.36	47,779.36	542,193.38
Total 4000 - Payroll Taxes	3,182.00	855.00	855.00	3,182.00	855.00	855.00	3,182.00	855.00	855.00	3,182.00	855.00	855.00	19,568.00
400 - Administration													
Total 400 - Administration	7,537.00	7,037.00	7,037.00	2,537.00	2,087.00	2,237.00	2,737.00	2,487.00	5,387.00	2,037.00	2,047.00	2,453.00	45,620.00
500 - Christian Education													
Total 504 - Misc. Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 520 - Childrens Ministries	410.00	1,010.00	910.00	1,028.62	782.00	382.00	882.00	1,232.00	1,249.00	1,095.00	326.00	160.00	9,466.62
Total 540 - Adult Ministries	120.00	30.00	320.00	320.00	180.00	180.00	330.00	330.00	170.00	270.00	160.00	90.00	2,500.00
Total 597 - Student Ministries	80.00	500.00	540.00	460.00	110.00	110.00	940.00	110.00	210.00	560.00	960.00	850.00	5,430.00
Total 500 - Christian Education	610.00	1,540.00	1,770.00	1,808.62	1,072.00	672.00	2,152.00	1,672.00	1,629.00	1,925.00	1,446.00	1,100.00	17,396.62
600 - Worship/Music/Arts													
Total 600 - Worship/Music/Arts	940.00	1,425.00	1,010.00	660.00	1,210.00	2,510.00	1,255.00	1,060.00	1,305.00	655.00	160.00	210.00	12,400.00
700 - Fellowship/Service													
Total 700 - Fellowship/Service	0.00	0.00	50.00	100.00	350.00	900.00	450.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	650.00	3,700.00
800 - The Diaconate													
Total 800 - The Diaconate	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	600.00
900 - Covenant Women Nat.													
Total 900 - Covenant Women Nat.	0.00	0.00	50.00	70.00	70.00	170.00	170.00	120.00	20.00	220.00	20.00	0.00	910.00
Total Expense	77,166.27	75,163.19	79,502.19	73,738.81	72,974.19	76,775.19	84,583.36	79,882.36	82,935.36	80,208.36	77,067.36	76,003.36	936,000.00
Net Ordinary Income	-14,766.27	2,836.81	-1,502.19	4,261.19	12,825.81	24,624.81	-22,183.36	-1,882.36	-4,935.36	5,591.64	932.64	-5,803.36	0.00
Other Income/Expense													
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Income	-14,766.27	2,836.81	-1,502.19	4,261.19	12,825.81	24,624.81	-22,183.36	-1,882.36	-4,935.36	5,591.64	932.64	-5,803.36	0.00



PACIFIC NORTHWEST C O N F E R E N C E

January 1, 2021

Dear Conference Churches,

I am certain we share a collective sigh that 2020 is now in the rear-view mirror! It was a year full of challenges and pivots. It was a year of soul-searching and new commitments. It was a year full of so many losses among many new opportunities. As we confess God's new mercies every morning, we most certainly confess these same mercies as we begin 2021. We continue to share the vision **to be a mosaic of churches working interdependently together to transform lives and communities.**

New Years grace, peace, and blessings to you as you gather for your semi-annual/annual meeting. On behalf of the conference staff and your executive board, we pray that a spirit of pervading hope would fill you as we lean into these days. We pray for ongoing conviction and enlightening. We pray for a spirit of watchfulness and agility. We pray for a steady and unified spirit. May God continue to lead your church into great faith and mission. We are eager to come alongside you this year.

This year's conference Annual Meeting Celebration was originally announced to be at Yakima and Selah Covenant Churches April 23-24. With ongoing health concerns and restrictions on large gatherings, we anticipate that we will either have another Saturday-only online meeting or a hybrid with some in-person in Yakima and others online. We will announce our final approach by the end of January. Also remember that this will be a superintendent re-election year.

Our denominational leadership is also discerning what will happen with Gather 21 (Anaheim, CA, June 24-26). This normally is a key time to send delegates that don't know the denomination well or others that would benefit from networking and attending workshops. If we are able to meet in person, please remember that we have budgeted scholarships to help churches send delegates. Applications can be found at pacnwc.org/eccam. We will prioritize distribution of funds to churches with the greatest needs and those who have not been able to attend in the past.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten, lead, and set your hearts on fire. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in our shared work. **He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection** (Psalm 91:4 NLT).

With faith and gratitude,

Rev. Greg Yee, Superintendent

P.S. Stay connected through our monthly email newsletter **The Catch** (<http://pacnwc.org/connect/newsletter>) AND on Facebook group **Pacific Northwest Conference**



The Evangelical Covenant Church

December 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you, and greetings from the Evangelical Covenant Church denominational offices. I pray for God's greatest blessings as you gather for your church's Annual Meeting and celebrations this year. Even amidst the difficult year we have had together, there is much to celebrate in God's goodness and faithfulness.

This winter we welcomed Grace Shim, Asia Regional Coordinator of Serve Globally, to speak at our staff chapel. Grace is a trained and licensed counselor and was able to share some insights with our Covenant staff as we walk through this challenging season. Her three takeaways were: **Embrace the sorrow. Savor the good. Leverage your strengths.**

As Covenanters across the United States, Canada, and serving in our global contexts, we have all faced feelings of grief and loss in this past year. It may have been a job loss, loss of financial stability, loss of the ability to travel and visit our loved ones, or loss of good health. We are reminded, daily, that we are in this together. We choose to walk alongside one another through times of grief and cast all our cares on our God who cares for each one of us.

While it's easy to see the challenges in this year, God invites us to turn and notice what the Holy Spirit is doing to further God's kingdom. **This past year we have much to be thankful for when we look at what God has done through the Covenant.** Local churches have participated in ministry-building and life-changing Covenant opportunities, such as the 30-day pivot, online gatherings for youth, pastoral cohorts to work toward racial righteousness, and webinars on peacemaking led by Covenant global partners from South Sudan and Israel/Palestine. I give thanks to God for our partnership together in the whole Gospel.

Heading into 2021, we look to build our resiliency and leverage our strengths - as individual churches and together as a denomination. Each of our 890 Covenant churches is uniquely positioned in its community to share the hope and love of Jesus in meaningful ways. I encourage you to lean into your strengths in the coming year and go boldly into the places where the Holy Spirit is leading you. We do this together as the Covenant denomination by continuing to Start and Strengthen Churches, Develop Leaders, Make and Deepen Disciples, Love Mercy Do Justice, and Serve Globally.

Most importantly, we know that our greatest strength comes when we take the time to sit with our Savior and remember who we are and whose we are.

Be encouraged that after a year of challenges, God's love still pursues us faithfully and the Holy Spirit continues to find new ways to inspire us to go deeper in Christ and further in mission, together.

*"Love the Lord, all his faithful people! Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."
(Psalm 31:23a-24)*

In Christ's love,

John S. Wenrich
President – Evangelical Covenant Church