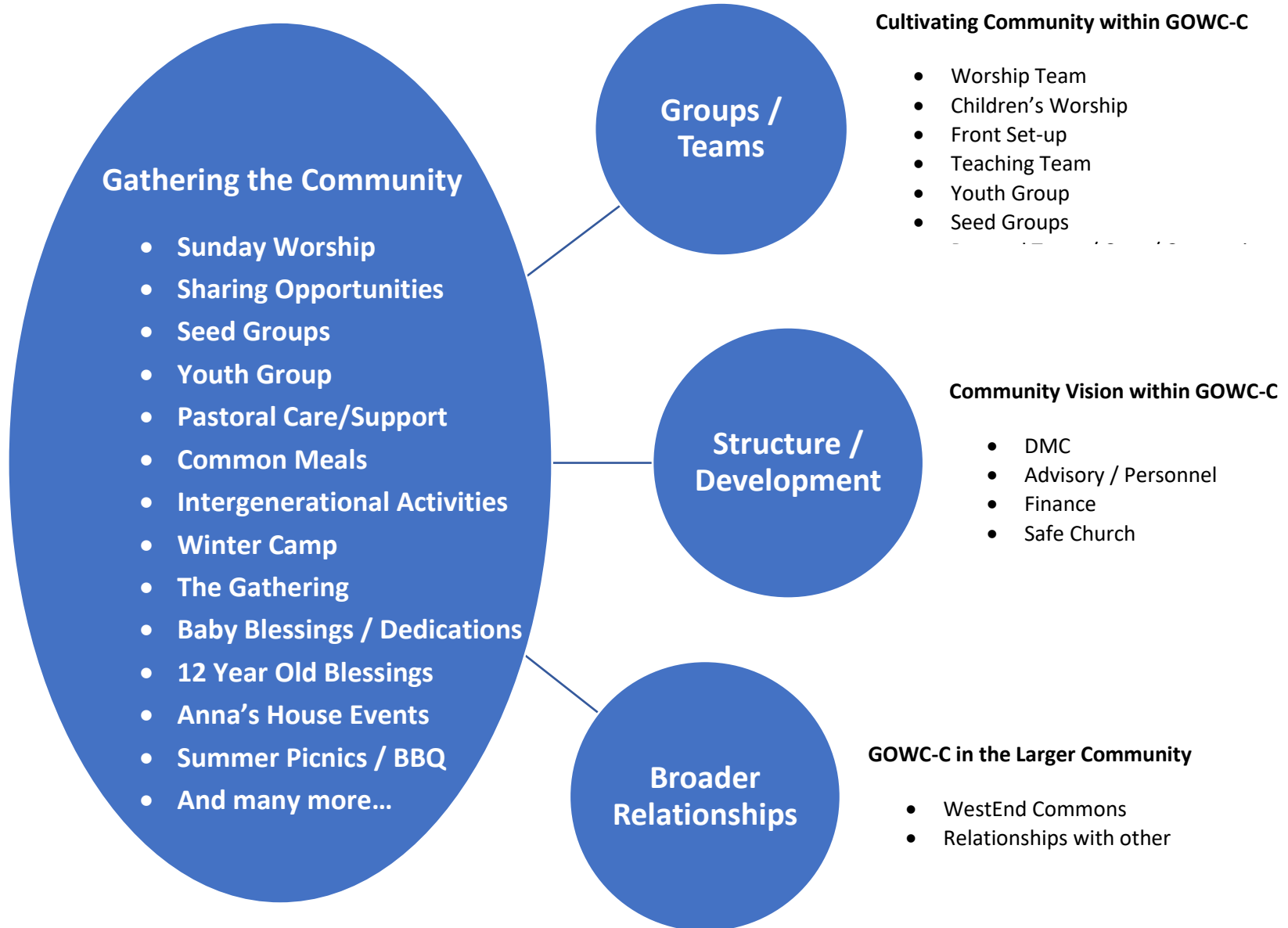


Servant Leader Report

September 2019

In recent months, Servant Leaders have taken time to reflect on our life together as a community. This has included time to talk about what it is Servant Leaders do, how time is spent in leadership responsibilities and connecting as a community, what does it really mean to do pastoral care, and meeting the needs of the community. In the next few pages you will see 2 visuals; the first attempts to reflect who we are as a community; the second is a reflection of how Servant Leaders divide their time. The remaining pages share ideas about good pastoral care, what it means to be part of GOWC-C, and dreams for the future in community. How do these thoughts and ideas resonate with you and your understanding of community?

Grain of Wheat Church – Community



Grain of Wheat Church-Community is a place of sustenance and rejuvenation where followers of Jesus are equipped to be a serving presence in the world. At Grain of Wheat, we aim to be carriers of faith from generation to generation.

GOWC-C Servant Leader Areas of Focus

The role of the Servant Leader Team is to support and equip Grain of Wheat Church-Community in areas of spiritual growth and healing. We seek to help our Church-Community to be a place of sustenance and rejuvenation, where followers of Jesus are equipped to be a serving presence in the world. We work to create structures and relationships where faith is carried from generation to generation.

Discipleship, Spiritual and Community Care (Tessa 75%, Linda 30%)

- Implementing the vision of GOWC-C
- Worship Team
- Teaching Team
- Pastoral Team/Care
- Individual Pastoral Connections
- Children's Worship
- Seed Groups
- Safe Church
- Youth Gatherings
- Gathering Community *



Structural and Leadership Development (Linda 65%, Tessa – 25%)

- Communicating vision of GOWC-C
- DMC
- Advisory/Personnel
- Finance
- WestEnd Commons
- Safe Church
- Youth Gatherings
- Gathering Community *
- Membership Documents
- Keys
- Front Set Up

Community/Neighborhood/Broader Church Connections (Linda 5%)

- WestEnd Commons
- Communicating vision of GOWC-C
- Nurturing Communities

Pastoral Care in Community

Caring deeply for one another has always been central in our lives together at GOWC-C. As Servant Leaders, we have been exploring what our role is in giving and receiving pastoral care.

Lynne Baab in her book 'Nurturing Hope, Christian Pastoral Care in the Twenty First Century', says "Pastoral care is rooted in the understanding of God as our shepherd, of Jesus as the good shepherd and the call of Christian leaders to act like shepherds to the people under their care. Christian pastoral care must include a conscious awareness of God's presence, empowerment, and healing. Christian carers nurture others because God cares. ...Pastoral care must be grounded in an understanding of God as the true caregiver and healer. ... Pastoral care empowers – helping people find their own strength. " Baab speaks of pastoral care happening in small groups, music teams, committee meetings, and any place where people gather and can talk about the overlap of their faith and their daily life.

With this description in mind, we believe that Servant Leaders are always working under the umbrella of providing pastoral care for the community. Everything we do (visioning, schedules, organizing a meeting, keeping records or minutes, maintaining relationships within the building, planning a worship, etc.); is with the purpose of creating connections and opportunities for God's people to support and care for one another. When Servant Leaders do their job well, it creates space and opportunity for everyone in community to do their job well (lead music, host an event, play with a child, keep records, lead a Seed Group, etc.). We all have a responsibility/ opportunity to bring pastoral care to what we do and offer - a welcoming smile, a hug, a meal, how we lead, a larger commitment of providing leadership to a Seed Group, or meeting someone regularly for support and a listening ear.

Servant Leaders in Grain of Wheat work from within the circle of community. We are part of the circle and part of the community. Time is spent walking with all of the community –

- those inside the circle busy living with the safety net of community, sometimes pushing/encouraging us to explore life more deeply
- those on the edges reluctant/hesitant to move toward deeper involvement in community
- those holding onto the known because it is safe and familiar
- those on the edges of the circle facing outwards because the worlds draw is powerful
- those on the edges of the circle looking for ways back in
- those moving in different circles who still consider GOW home

Recognizing each other and our places in the circle takes time and requires acknowledgement of God as Shepherd. God continues to move among us, providing guidance to us individually and collectively. Part of our responsibility as Servant Leaders is to create those spaces where we can see God at work, hear the voice of God as it speaks; to walk in the circle listening, hearing, sharing, and caring.

Report on the Joint Teaching, Worship, Pastoral and Servant Leadership Team Meeting

On **June 1st** the teaching, worship, pastoral and Servant Leadership teams met together for a time of visioning and planning. Our objective was to identify the needs of our community and then identify strategies for the teams to respond to these needs individually and collectively. The following are the team's responses to the question, "Based on the morning's discussion and the membership commitments, please compile 3 concrete ideas that your team will focus on that will build up and equip the community,"

Worship Committee (Jacquie, James Kor., Paul L, Tessa)
1) Choose a general theme for the year based on the 13 commitments and work with people to weave it into Worship times
2) Identify and support people who could move into a mentorship role
3) Focus on the mentorship (both grassroots and deliberate/intentional) of people into the various aspects of worship

Servant Leadership Team (Linda, Tessa)
Focus on enacting 2 big ideas:
1) the vision of GoWC-C as a place of care, rejuvenation
2) supporting the community in being carriers of the faith from generation to generation

Pastoral Team (Jake, Elfrieda, Kerry, David, Tessa)
1) Organize Immanuel Prayer Teams to be available for special ministry
2) Keep communication with people on the margins
3) continue the review of pastoral care structures

Teaching Team (Lloyd, Larry, Tabitha, Nettie, Craig, Tessa)
1) Continue Friday Night Conversations
2) Organize a book study that would meet three times a year
3) work/liaise with Craig to organize Youth and Young Adult Conversations.

Intentional about what?

Grain of Wheat Church-Community has historically understood itself as an intentional Christian Community. Particularly over the last five years, the way we have understood and expressed our intentionality has shifted.

Our community has spent multiple years working on a new membership document and it is a vibrant reflection of our shared values and our desire to encourage people to express their commitments to the best of their abilities. This membership document is less prescriptive and explicit about how members' are asked to live out their commitments. It leaves more space for individual expression and for the ebbs and flows of lives to be blessed and respected. Members however, are invited, and expected, to live into a high degree of intentionality and commitment.

During our worship service on Sept. 29 we will be having a ritual to remind us of our Grain of Wheat membership commitments and to welcome new members. If you have attended Emmaus or the old Intro series and have not been a member in the past, please prayerfully consider whether you are interested in committing to these intentions.

As Grain of Wheat changes and we bless each other in being the church in all areas of our lives, our membership document provides a clear directive of what we need to be intentional about.

At GoWC-C we are intentional about:

Acknowledging God as the central inspiration for our life together and participating in: GoWC-C prayer and worship, personal prayer and practices that promote spiritual growth, reflection and learning.

Being disciples of Jesus and striving to live Christ-like lives by: caring for the marginalized, resisting consumerism, seeking reconciliation, sharing the Good News of the Gospel.

Creating time and space to develop and nurture depth in relationships so that we can:

- Care for those in GoWC-C
- Offer and receive support and challenge
- Receive discernment for life decisions
- Grow in our relationship with the Creator
- Grow in our understanding of Christian faith and what it means to follow Jesus

Building relationships by participating in community gatherings and discerning God's will for our individual lives, for GoWC-C and for the world.

Expressing our calling and using our gifts to serve and bless those within GoWC-C and those we meet in our daily interactions.

Having GoWC-C as one of our primary communities.