

GDLC Board Meeting 1.20.2026 – **APPROVED 2/17/26**

Opening

Supper: Opening prayer by Pastor Ben.

Devotion by Pastor Ben: Psalm 100 - A Psalm for Giving Thanks

Call to Order

President Steve Junge called the meeting to order at 6:47pm. Board members present were Jacque Thole, Wendy Kropf, Nick Bass, Beth Casady, Steve Brush, and Melissa Woodruff. Stefani Tanner and Jon Muller were absent. Also present were Lead Pastor Ben Johnson and Executive Director Chris Thomson.

Consent Agenda and Minutes

November 18, 2025 Minutes: Jacque motioned to approve. Nick seconded. Motion passed.

Reports

Sr. Pastor (Pastor Ben)

- Wednesday night Bible Study “Battling Anxiety Jesus’ Way” will be made into video.
- Looking at doing audiobook format on some studies, such as “The Power of Our Yes’s and No’s.”
- Danielle Bunge is one of the new employees and her focus is videography/photography. Technology will be led by another new employee, Jerod Faux. Olivia’s new role will be Ministry Coordinator.
- Ben’s wife is the new Isaiah 117 House coordinator, leaving her full-time job at DMU.
- Christmas Eve was on par with previous year’s numbers, but not as chaotic. Looking at improving signage for the two services. The 3 pm service was the most heavily attended at 610 people.

Executive Director (Chris Thomson)

- Steve mentioned 30% remote attendance in December, due to weather mostly. Statistically 35% of a church’s membership worships in person on any given weekend, GDLC numbers are approximately 40%.
- Social media multiplier of 1.7 used for online viewing for multiple people watching from home.
- December:
 - Giving receipts decreased by 4.8% from 2024 but was under budget by only 3.8%.
 - Total income decreased 0.6% compared to 2024 but was over budget by 0.7%.
 - Total operating expenses decreased 3% from 2024 but were over the monthly budgeted amount by 19.6%.
 - 2025 operating expenses were (0.05%) under budget for the year. That is incredible stewardship and planning to come that close to budget.
- Available cash remains over 3 months.

Financials (Nick Bass)

- Nick asked Chris about the playground match: First \$50,000 in 2026 will be matched. Playground plans have been submitted to the City of Urbandale. A lot of the cost is prepping the ground for building. Target completion is the beginning of the 2026/2027 school year.

Current Discussion and/or Action Items

- Overspend request in the Production budget #5350: Chris, on behalf of Pastor Ben, is requesting an average request of \$26,500 to cover additional costs to the Tech upgrade plan from 2024.
 - \$1,040 - labor
 - \$270 - adapters and cables
 - \$9,055 x 2 = \$18,110 for projectors
 - \$2,703 x 2 = \$5,406 for lenses
 - Steve B motioned to approve and Melissa seconded. Motion passed.
- Called Worker Housing Allowance - Board was notified via email in Dec. 2025 of each allowance.
- Pastor Ben's 2026 Goals
 - Empower and equip Directors
 - Team building on first Tuesday of each month
 - Cultivate had 35 attendees at the new quarterly Young Adult event
 - Short-term mission trips: Starting with a local mission trip at Wildwood Ranch.
 - Together For Good: Going well with Penny and Jenny leading.
 - Looking at how to get people engaged. Ministries are growing.
 - Figuring out how to best use facility space and what is needed in the future.
 - Jenny will facilitate care/counseling times after Pastor Tim's retirement.
 - Partnership with World Vision (Ben speaking for them) has gone well.
 - Planning relaunch of World Vision early 2027.
- Pastor Tim's Retirement
 - February 15th: Planning 0830-1030, cinnamon rolls and coffee in center wing
 - Slide show – discussion revolving around how to solicit digital and hard copy photos
 - Tablecloths – Melissa – 20-25 rectangular
 - Gift idea discussed
 - One Call will be sent out
- Congregational Listening Post
 - Discussions about concerns with playground update and costs.
 - Cantata donation

Housekeeping

Staff Birthdays: TK (Feb 27 - Wendy)

Next Board meeting will be February 17, 2026

Adjournment/Lord's Prayer

Steve Junge adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by Wendy Kropf, Secretary.