



The mission of the General Church is to help people live a heavenly life through the teachings of the Lord God Jesus Christ in His Second Coming.

Updates from the Bishop:

This will be a year of transition for me. While I continue as Executive Bishop, I will also be preparing the Rt. Rev. Peter Buss to assume the office as the next Executive Bishop. This presumes an affirmative vote by the church which should be concluded soon.

Because Pete has been involved in virtually all General Church episcopal uses, his main area of learning is at the Academy of the New Church. He is now connected with the key Academy people and uses--board meetings, a few committee meetings, and the administrative leaders of schools. His preparation for both the role as Chancellor of the Academy and Executive Bishop is well under way.

The General Church just concluded its fall Board of Directors meetings. Thank you to the following for serving as GC Board of Directors: Greg Baker, Dave Deibert, Dawn Wadsworth and Thayer York. We are grateful for your time and dedication to the mission of the General Church. We now welcome four new board of directors: Cheryl Cooper, Rene Johnson, Ethan King and Wayne Wadsworth. We look forward to their expertise and energy on the Board.

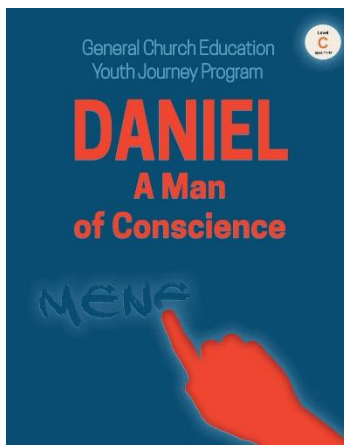
Sincerely,

Rt. Rev. Brian W. Keith
brian.keith@newchurch.org



Daniel: A Man of Conscience

The Religious Educational Programs team published a **Sunday school program for ages 3-14 on the first 6 chapters of Daniel**. These lessons, called *Daniel: A Man of Conscience*, will be used this autumn and again next spring in conjunction with the Journey Program for adults—*Love Over Ego*.



As part of the Sunday school series on Daniel, **three new videos were created**—one on the [correspondence of trees](#) (a tree features prominently in one of Nebuchadnezzar's dreams), one demonstrating the [power of music](#) to influence our emotions (people were called to worship the image that Nebuchadnezzar had made by many kinds of music), and one on the story of [the Fiery Furnace](#) as recounted in one of the songs from the Word by John and Lori Odhner.

Curriculum updates

In June, a committed and knowledgeable **science curriculum team** made up of classroom teachers began the process of updating and expanding the science units for all grade levels in the Atlas Curriculum Mapping program used by the General Church schools. This includes integrating into the curriculum both New Church concepts and the Next Generation Science Standards, as well as resources and teaching ideas that will support teachers. The team will continue this work during the 2018-2019 school year with the goal of completion and roll-out in June of 2019. As this work continues, a small team will begin to look at the

Literacy curriculum in preparation for an update scheduled for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, plans for a set of religion curriculum meetings are in motion for this school year.



Science Curriculum Team

Meet a Minister | Rev. Yong (John) J. Jin

Yong (John) was born in South Korea. After graduating from teachers college, he taught for ten years, during which he also studied international business. He then spent seven years running an art business in Korea.

At the age of 31, he discovered the New Church teachings. He felt a strong calling to pursue ordination after studying the Writings for four years. It took him many years to become a New Church minister, as he had to give up his business and move to Canada with his family. He finished theological school and was ordained in 1994. He was then called to serve at the Ivyland New Church in Pennsylvania as an assistant to the pastor. In 1996, after he was ordained in the second degree, he started the Philadelphia Korean New Church.

He and his wife, Teresa (Young Soon), and family have lived happily in Huntingdon Valley

ever since. He also serves as the pastor in America for Koreans, the Regional Pastor for Asia, and as the Dean of the Korean New Church Theological School. Currently, he is developing the Chinese New Church Theological School. He has passion for the translation of the Writings into Korean and Chinese and is committed to a fifteen-year translation project for these two languages.

Please feel free to contact John Jin if you would like to learn more about the translation projects and the New Church in Asia at pncjin@gmail.com.



OUTREACH

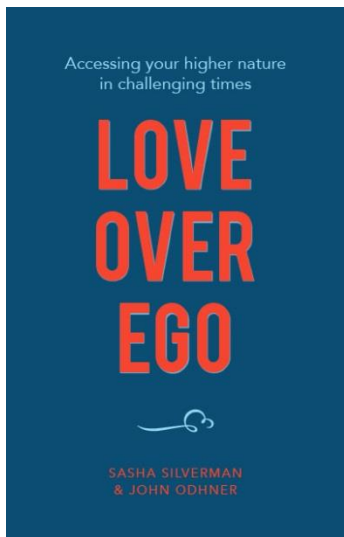
A New Direction

New Church Journey is changing. It is currently re-configuring to reach out, invite and build new, vibrant online communities from the many thousands of consumers of New Church materials who are not presently involved in our local congregations. These new communities will offer connection with the Lord, mutual support in living the life of New Church faith, pathways to deepen that faith, and opportunities to serve others.

Through data analysis on the internet we can see that there are hundreds of thousands of people currently going to New Church sources to view videos or read messages that use the

Heavenly Doctrines to help with spiritual issues in life. We also know that when a person starts turning to the Lord for guidance in life, the Lord uses that desire to also begin to lead that person toward engaging in a spiritual community. Improvements in internet-based communications have made it possible to form new communities and engage people online to help them connect with the Lord and others who seek the New Church for support for their spiritual paths.

***Love Over Ego* / Now Available**



The *Love Over Ego* program has launched. For times when we find ourselves getting lost in a self-focused mindset, *Love Over Ego* challenges us to remember what matters most. Like Daniel who stands amid lions, and his friends stand in the middle of fire, we also have the option to stand true to our values even in hard times. We invite you to join us in this program, as we practice letting genuine love take priority in our lives.

Learn more about the book, weekly topics, starting a small group and more by [clicking here](#).

Love Over Ego is available to order at www.newchristianresources.org.



Just published: New Church Audio site – for mobile devices

Visit www.newchurcaudio.org and see our new mobile friendly site. No more pinching and zooming!

Be sure to try out the advanced search feature.

Welcome New Board of Directors

Please welcome the newest members of the General Church Board of Directors.

Cheryl Cooper lives in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Robin Cooper, and their three young sons. As a certified reading specialist with a M.Ed., Cheryl has taught special education in San Diego City Schools, writing at Bryn Athyn College, and is preparing to resume the role of Director of Educational Services at the Academy of the New Church. Cheryl grew up in Bryn Athyn but enjoyed visiting many international congregations thanks to her parents' business travels for the General Church.

Rene Heilman Johnson attended the Pittsburgh New Church school, the Academy of the New Church Girls School and earned a BA from Carleton College and a J.D. from the Washington College of Law, American University. She has served as Assistant District Attorney and currently is in solo private practice focusing on family law and civil matters. Community engagement has included serving on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity, as well as a domestic violence advocacy agency and Big Brothers/ Big Sisters of Warren County. She and her husband Bob have three sons and they reside in Warren County, PA.

Ethan Synnestvedt King attended New Church schools in Kempton and Bryn Athyn and completed a BA in History at Bryn Athyn College, followed by an MBA in Finance at Temple University. He currently heads the business program at Bryn Athyn College, teaching a range of courses including Accounting, Economics, Research Seminar and Business Ethics. He and Anna-Katrina Glover have six children and reside in Huntingdon Valley, PA.

Wayne Wadsworth received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Building Construction with Honors from the University of Florida. He is an Executive Vice President of Holder Construction Company, focusing on Client Services for major projects. He is Joint Venture's Principal-In-Charge for the Mercedes-Benz Stadium project. He is an Executive Committee Member and past Chair of the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Construction Management Executive Advisory Board at University of Florida and is the founder of the Atlanta Gator University of Florida BCN Alumni Club. Wayne has served on the board of the Morning Star

Church as both trustee and Vice-Chairman for more than ten years. Wayne and his wife Dawn Reuter Wadsworth are parents of three children and reside in Marietta, Georgia.



Left to right: Cheryl Cooper and Ethan King



Left to right: Rene Johnson and Wayne Wadsworth

New Church Spotlight | New Church Westville

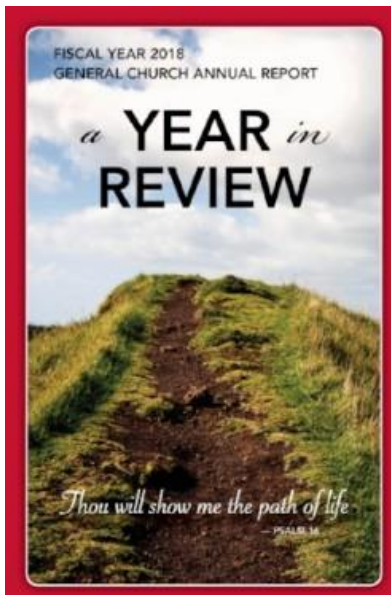
This year the enrollment at Kainon School in Westville, South Africa, reached 235 students (ranging from two-year-olds to Grade 7). Ten years ago the enrollment was around 135. The growth in the school was made possible by a significant upgrade of the facilities, completed in 2011. The Healthy Church Match program (which New Church Westville finished receiving matching funds from this year) played a large role in making possible this project

and the growth in the number of people in South Africa receiving New Church education. Congratulations to Westville for successful fundraising efforts!

Program Recap: The Healthy Church Match provided a dollar-for-dollar match to assist any General Church congregations with local fund-raising initiatives. Congregations and circles were encouraged to put together their own strategic plans to identify what they are doing locally to address the larger General Church vision of sharing the Lord's Second Coming. The General Church, through this match program, helped congregations meet their targets at an accelerated rate, resulting in greater autonomy and reduced long-term dependency.



General Church Annual Report FY18



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Thank you!