



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.

Announcing the theme of the GC Assembly 2020

“Behold I make all things new.”

— *A way forward focused on the Lord and a life of useful service.*



The Greek words around the seal reflect this year’s theme,
“Behold I make all things new.”

The New Church, on a grand scale, is about a new era of Christianity—a new faith that at once inspires and makes sense. On a personal level it is about newness of life for each of us—a bright future for ourselves and those we love (Revelation 21:5).

On June 19, 1770 we hear that the Lord called together the twelve disciples who followed Him in the world and sent them out “to preach the gospel that the Lord God Jesus Christ reigns, and that His kingdom shall be for ages of ages” (*True Christian Religion* 791). Two hundred and fifty years later we have the opportunity to consider the way forward for our church that focuses on the Lord and His kingdom—a kingdom of useful services (see *Conjugal Love* 7). You are invited to consider your part—your way of connecting anew with your Lord, and of experiencing His call by means of His church to serve.

A planning team is already hard at work envisioning an event that brings this theme to life. A vision for the weekend will be coming your way next, followed by a call for presentations and workshops. Please feel free to share your thoughts with us, about the theme or the Assembly in general, via gcassembly2020@newchurch.org.



From the Bishop | Ordinations in the Ivory Coast

The New Church is developing rather quickly in the Ivory Coast. In April, I officiated at five ordinations (four into the 1st degree and one into the 2nd degree of the priesthood). There are 15 congregations holding weekly worship, with two more expected to start by the end of the year.

A number of the students in the school are anticipating forming their own congregations, independent of the General Church. Thus, of the four men inaugurated into the first degree, only one will be a General Church priest. This is not unusual in the Ivory Coast. I once met with the retired bishop of the Methodist Church for the entire Ivory Coast. He told me that approximately 35% of their growth came from independent pastors bringing their congregations into the Methodist Church. And we have recently had three congregations join us! These non-General Church priests will be teaching the Heavenly Doctrines and might eventually join with us once they have developed congregations.

A local religion reporter was present. From that we had two full pages in a weekly newspaper that is widely distributed throughout the country. I saw it prominently displayed on the newspaper racks in the airport!

It is wonderful to see the reception of the New Church in West Africa. Their dedication to teaching the doctrines of the New Church is palpable, an outgrowth of their theological training. The joy and excitement around their worship services touches the heart. Let us pray the Lord can continue to build His church there.



GENERAL CHURCH EDUCATION

General Church Schools and ANC In-service

More than 110 faculty members from the Bryn Athyn Church School, the Academy of the New Church, Washington New Church School, and Kempton New Church School gathered for an inspiring In-service on the evening of March 28 and all-day March 29 in Bryn Athyn, PA. The In-service started with a talk by Bishop Peter Buss, “That Your Joy May be Full”, based on the critical spiritual dimension of the teaching role, leading with the belief that more joy will come our way in the use to the extent that we align ourselves with the Lord’s intentions.

The following day, the teachers attended a workshop led by Dr. Jeanne DiVincenzo which focused on creativity and the critical role it plays in teacher and student well-being. Drawing from the professions of psychology, brain science and teaching, the keynote speech provided insights, tips and tools for developing creativity and resilience, which is an important aspect of creativity enhancement. The workshop included collaborative time for teachers to work together.



OUTREACH

Reaching Out Through the Internet

We have been sharing the New Church through the internet, inviting people to visit our website (www.newchurch.org), where they can find New Church teachings, locate congregations, ask questions, or sign up for emailed Journey programs. Here's what they say:

Thank you so much. I just received your email and wanted to thank you for the many words of encouragement. It's good to know that there are people out there who still care. I am so happy that I stumbled across the website. It was truly an act of God.

I discovered the Writings in 2014 and since then my whole Christian life has changed. I have read all the books I have found through the internet. I am so grateful to the translators and all those who are doing their best for the New Church to grow....

The online resources created and shared by Outreach connect with many. Last year, there were more than 417,000 visits to newchurch.org, more than 1,000 subscriptions to online [Journey Programs](#), and more than 3,000 subscribers receiving [Daily Inspiration](#) emails.

New Church Spotlight | New Church Summer Camps

Maple Leaf Academy, Canada, June 27 – July 3

Maple Leaf is a teen church camp held at the Ecology Retreat Centre in Mono, Ontario, Canada. Visit their website at www.maplecamp.com, or write to gcic.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com to learn more.

Living Waters Family Camp, Canada, July 11 – July 14

The camp is located near Paisley, Ontario, on the Saugeen River and is called Hidden Valley Christian Camp. For more information, or if you would like to attend, please email Rev. Brad Heinrichs at pastor@carmelnewchurch.org or call 519-748-5802.

British Academy Summer School, England, July 14-July 27

BASS is a church camp for teens and young adults. Please contact Rev. Ethan McCardell ethan.mccardell@gmail.com for more information.

Jacob's Creek Family Camp, Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, July 21-24

This year's theme is: Sacraments and Rites. For more information visit <https://www.jacobs creekfamilyretreat.org> or contact jacobs creekfamilyretreat@gmail.com.

Laurel Family Camp, Somerset, Pennsylvania, July 14-20

Visit www.laurelcamp.org for more information or contact registration@laurelcamp.org.

Rocky Mountain Retreat, Allenspark, CO August 2 – 4,

For more information please contact Rev. David Roth david@ncbv.org.

Pastoral Moves

Effective July 1, 2019:

- **Rev. Mark Allais**--Caryndale, Ontario, Canada
 - **Rev. Brett Buick**--Kempton, Pennsylvania. Rev. Lawson Smith will continue on the pastoral team
 - **Rev. Mac Frazier**--Mitchellville, Maryland. Rev. Brian Smith becomes full assistant pastor
 - **Rev. Elmo Acton**--Glenview, Illinois
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Meet a Minister | Rev. Pearse Frazier

I graduated from Bryn Athyn College in 2000, and tried my hand at a number of careers, including politics and financial services. While working as a financial advisor, I met my now wife, Taryn, who helped encourage me to pursue my long-time interest in ministry. I was ordained in 2011, and have served in Kempton, Pittsburgh, and now am pastor in Atlanta, GA. I am blessed to have three wonderful children, with one more on the way.

The Heavenly Doctrine teaches us that angels delight in nothing more than welcoming new spirits into the Lord's Kingdom. So I strive to also delight in welcoming new people to His church. The world around us is tempestuous, and our church can be a port in the storm. Standing for 10 Commandments values, practicing mercy and forgiveness, and loving one another as He surely loves us, these are the gifts the Lord has given us, and they are what we can offer all around us. I believe this is part of what it means in the great commission, to go and baptize all nations.



Pearse, Taryn and family.

General Church Board of Directors Updates

Thank you to the following board members for their years of service:

- **Andrew Bruell**, United Kingdom
- **Robert Dike**, Georgia
- **P. Blake Hill**, Canada
- **Lee Horigan**, Canada
- **Daniel Martz**, Pennsylvania
- **David Norman**, Texas

We would like to welcome the following new nominees:

- **Allen Bedford**, Pennsylvania
- **Darren Bau-Madsen**, Colorado
- **Jesse Cole II**, Illinois
- **Charlotte Gyllenhaal**, Illinois
- **James Uber**, Pennsylvania
- **John Walko**, Pennsylvania



The General Church Office of Advancement is delighted to share that we are well on our way to reaching the target goal of \$606,500 for the Annual Fund. Thank you to our supporters!

Help us cross the finish line today. Your gift to the Annual Fund supports a variety of New Church programs and resources such as Sunday school lessons, visiting ministers program, publications, congregational support and so much more! We are grateful for the dedicated donors and their partnership that enables the General Church to continue to share the teachings of the New Church.

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