



NEWTON  
COVENANT  
CHURCH

## NEWTON COVENANT CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

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For The Annual Spring Membership Meeting | May 3, 2026

### OUR VISION

To be a vibrant community  
being **changed** by Jesus  
**empowered** by the Holy Spirit  
boldly **following** God into the world

### OUR MISSION

actively **engage** with God and his Word  
**foster** a caring community of disciples of Jesus  
**bring** God's healing to our hurting world  
**invite** our neighbors to follow Jesus with us

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# ANNUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

- Opening Prayer
- Voting Procedures
- Approve the Agenda
- Time of Remembrance
- Approve Prior Meeting Minutes
- Nominations & Elections
- Financial Update
- Pastor Report
- Leadership Team Update
- Nomination and Election of Pastoral Search Committee
- New Business
- Closing Prayer & Adjourn

## LETTER FROM THE PASTOR | MAY 2026

Welcome to our 2026 Annual Report. I hope you will be as encouraged as I am by all the activity and ministry happening at NCC. Our vision and mission statements remain at the center of who we are and what we seek to do.

Our Vision is to be a vibrant community of people who are being changed by Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and boldly following God into the world.

Our Mission is:

- To actively engage with God and his Word
- To foster a caring community of disciples of Jesus
- To bring God's healing to our hurting world
- To invite our neighbors to follow Jesus with us

Looking back on this past year, I feel so encouraged. We are growing in living out our vision and mission—growing as disciples of Jesus, growing in our engagement with God, and growing in our ability to be His people in the world.

This year's report comes with mixed emotions for Nici and me, as we will be stepping down from our staff roles and transitioning out of the church in the coming year. This church has been our home for nearly 20 years—a deeply nurturing place for both our children and for us. While we are excited about where God is leading us next, we also feel a strong sense of anticipation for what this next season will bring for NCC.

NCC is in a very strong place right now. The church is spiritually healthy, and our community is thriving, with nearly everyone connected to a community group for fellowship, support, and spiritual growth. We are also in a solid financial position, with both bank reserves and increased giving. In addition, attendance continues to grow. There is a palpable sense of vibrancy. I am confident in our leaders as they shepherd this church, because I am confident in our God, who is “able to do abundantly more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20).

Our hope with these ministry reports is to give you a clearer picture of the different teams—so that you'll be encouraged, better equipped to pray for the church's ministries, and attentive to how God may be leading you to use your gifts to serve.

To God be the glory,



Garrett Smith

# MINISTRY REPORTS

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## DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Our church is committed to faithfully following Jesus. As his disciples, we desire to see each member of our church family experience a vibrant relationship with God through engagement with Scripture, individual and corporate prayer, fellowship in the community, and participation in the ministry of the church within and beyond its doors.

We are seeing people grow as disciples of Jesus in a variety of settings, including Sunday worship, Community group Bible studies, and discipleship pairs or triads where believers are mentored and supported in their walk with God. This year, we kicked off the fall with a church-wide Community group series called “Anchored in the Spirit,” where we learned about the Holy Spirit and how to cultivate a deeper prayer life and walk with God.

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## NEXT GEN MINISTRIES

### YOUTH:

Youth ministry has continued to meet regularly this year. Volunteers took high school students on a winter retreat at the beginning of January and took middle school students on a retreat at the end of January. We have moved our Friday night meetings to Elevation Chapel and have met once a month throughout the winter and spring. The Next Gen search committee has been faithfully interviewing candidates and has hired Damaris Taylor as an interim youth director to lead youth group meetings and events through the next academic year. We regularly have 10-20 students at our Friday meetings for games, snacks, and Bible study. Thanks so much to Mark and Ellie Simonin, Lisa and Bryce McCarthy, Julia and Ryan Volpi, Anders Brownworth, Ken Hynes, Wiljeana Glover, and Jeff Carnes for pouring into our youth through this season.

### COVENANT KIDS:

In Children's Ministry, we strive to empower families to make disciples, connect children to God's church, God's word, and to God's purposes in the world.

On Sunday mornings, students worship with the congregation, then come forward for a Children's message. After this, they head to their classes. We currently host three classes—a nursery for children age 4 and under, an Elementary age class (K-3rd grade), and our Juniors Class for 4th and 5th graders.

We have a committed team of teachers and youth who serve.

We are currently looking for a Children's Ministry Director.

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## COMPASSION.MERCY.JUSTICE. MINISTRY

Compassion.Mercy.Justice, one ministry with three components, is NCC's primary initiative to actualize our vision to 'Bring God's healing to our hurting world.'

HEALING HOMES aims to create a culture of care for families touched by foster care, adoption, and those who have children with special needs, as well as provide wrap-around support through teams of people serving as a Lead, Encourager, Caregiver, or Helper. This approach is informed by Fostering Hope's SupportONE model, and contributes prayer and encouragement, meals, and child care as needed to the identified families in or connected to our church. Three families are receiving this support through NCC, with a base of about 30 volunteers across these teams. Videos and testimonials were shared throughout the year, especially during Foster Care month (May) & Adoption month (Nov), to highlight the special circumstances for these families. We collaborated with area churches under Fostering Hope's guidance to encourage and thank the social workers at the Greater Waltham Department of Children & Families (DCF) Appreciation Luncheon, which included about 90 social workers who advocate for these children, teens, and their families. Finally, we started working with Fostering Hope's CarePortal pilot, which provides needed items for fragile or re-connecting families, such as beds and bedding, or money for groceries.

CALLED2CARE provides seasonal ministry opportunities for NCC congregants. We had a "Socktober" sock drive to benefit men and women at the Lion of Judah Miracle Mile ministry, and children at FamilyAid in West Newton. We had a few opportunities to donate non-perishable items to [Newton's Freedage](#) to help address the widespread food insecurity issues facing so many, where anyone can come and take whatever they need 24/7, averaging serving 15 people an hour. Additional opportunities to serve included the annual Christmas support for Place of Promise, an adoption bracelet-making opportunity with names of children awaiting an adoptive home in MA during a deacon's luncheon—hoping people would wear the bracelets and pray for the child, as well as a LEGO-love tub building opportunity to benefit kiddos at DCF and through the Foster Box.

DO JUSTICE is the ministry awaiting new leadership, intended to engage the NCC community in learning about and ministering to those marginalized and often discriminated against within our society, following the lead of ECC.

CMJ Team Members include Hope Haslam Straughan, Jay Straughan, Liana Asim (rotated off last summer after leading Do Justice), Christina Barstow Long (rotated off last summer after leading Called2Care), Matt Supple & David Drubin (stepped in to lead Called2Care), Connie Devol (Deacons representative), and Barbara Reed (Missions representative).

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## OUTREACH MINISTRY

AT A GLANCE: 18 Alpha Guests | 15 Volunteers | 3+ Events | New Team Member

This year, our Outreach Team at NCC focused on creating welcoming spaces where people can connect, ask questions, and encounter Jesus. We're grateful for a strong, unified team and the addition of a new member.

Through events like Alpha, Brewin' on Belief, and the Christmas Tea, we created natural entry points for spiritual conversation and relationship-building. Alpha was a highlight, with 18 guests from diverse backgrounds and encouraging feedback.

We also engaged our community at the Newton Harvest Festival, where 15 NCC members welcomed neighbors with cider, conversation, and the question, "What brings you peace?" This led to meaningful spiritual conversations. One mother was moved to tears after receiving a Bible to read with her children, sharing, "Just like my mother used to do for me."

We believe outreach begins with prayer. In partnership with the Prayer Team, we introduced "5 for Christ," encouraging our church to pray for 1–5 people in their lives.

We are grateful for all God has done and look ahead with faith for what's to come.

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## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

AT A GLANCE: 2 Weekly Bible Studies | 110 Women at Christmas Tea | Ongoing Discipleship & Fellowship

This year, the Women's Ministry at NCC continued to be a place of growth, connection, and encouragement. Our Monday evening and Thursday morning Bible studies meet weekly and remain welcoming environments for both longtime participants and newcomers. These weekly Bible studies continue to be a core strength at NCC, fostering discipleship and helping women grow in their faith in meaningful, consistent ways.

A highlight of the year was our Christmas Tea, now in its 14th year. We welcomed 110 women, with nearly half not currently connected to a church. The event created a warm and inviting space for connection. Our speaker was both relatable and gospel-centered, and table discussions were rich and meaningful.

Throughout the year, we also gathered in more informal settings, including Creative Expressions.

Looking ahead, we are excited for our upcoming overnight women's retreat on April 24–25. This weekend will be a time of connection, renewal, and spiritual growth as we explore what it means to be cultivated, from root to fruit, in every season of life.

We are grateful for all God is doing among the women of NCC.

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## COMMUNITY LIFE

AT A GLANCE: 90% Participation in Community Groups | 1 New Community Group | 3 Bible Studies | Weekly & Seasonal Gatherings

At NCC, our vision to be a vibrant, caring community of disciples is lived out through the many ways we gather and connect. This fall, our Community Groups and three Bible studies relaunched with the highest level of participation and number of groups in recent years, an encouraging sign of health and engagement.

Community Groups remain the backbone of connection at NCC, where relationships deepen, and faith is lived out in everyday life. In addition, weekly rhythms like coffee hour and all-church lunches create welcoming spaces for fellowship and belonging.

We also look forward to seasonal opportunities for connection, including NCC at the Lake, potluck gatherings, our Thanksgiving Eve pie night, and the Christmas Tea. These moments help extend community across all ages.

Our Connecting Team continues to serve faithfully, ensuring newcomers feel seen, welcomed, and integrated into church life. From hosting the welcome table to thoughtfully engaging new visitors, they play a vital role in helping no one falls through the cracks.

We are deeply grateful for the many volunteers who give generously to make NCC the community it is.

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## PRAYER MINISTRY

We want to see NCC awaken to the fullness of experiencing all that God has and desires for us (Colossians 1:10-12), and we know that prayer is one of the keys to this. Through prayer, our church has already grown in faith, and we look forward to seeing God work in even more amazing ways as we unite in prayer with grateful hearts to bring Him glory. Our prayer chain allows us to stay up to date on the prayer needs of our community. To join this group, please visit our NCC website and find Prayer under the Ministries tab. There will be a “Request to join” link at the bottom to submit your name and email address.

We have weekly prayer groups meeting regularly by phone/online and hybrid:

- Sunday Morning, 9:45-10:15 AM (hybrid-Zoom and in person at Bigelow Music Room)
- Tuesday Morning, 7:00-8:00 AM, by phone: (857) 799-9137
- Tuesday evening, 8:30-9:00 PM, by phone: (857) 799-9137
- An additional group that prays regularly for specific needs.

We have established strong confidential prayer teams for members of our staff. These teams pray steadfastly for the protection, strength, and faithfulness of our staff as they serve the Lord among us.

In the past, we have held several well-attended Praise and Prayer nights at the home of Joe and Sandy Siciliano. Also, Paul Speidel has organized joint Praise Nights with Elevation Chapel and other area churches. These times of musical praise, worship, and prayer have been a blessing to all.

We collaborated with the Outreach Team on several occasions. Nici led us in a time of prayer to intercede for our family and friends who have not yet given their hearts to Jesus. We revisited our 5 For Christ initiative and prayed together for our loved ones. We also met to ask the Lord to lay on hearts and minds those we could invite to our Alpha program.

We have had powerful intercession prayer meetings after church to pray for the needs of our church family and have witnessed wonderful miracles and answers to prayer. Part of our church mission is to “foster a caring community of disciples of Jesus,” and through concerted, unified prayer and the sharing of needs and answers to prayer, we have grown and will continue to grow closer together. Thank you for being a part of our praying community at Newton Covenant Church.

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” Colossians 4:2

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## MISSIONS TEAM

The Missions Team (Carmen Aldinger, Doris Kellom, Barbara Reed, Lee Riggs, and Mark Simonin) connects with our supported external missionaries and mission agencies and facilitates communication back to our church by sharing prayer requests from our supported missionaries and mission agencies on the NCC Email Prayer Chain, sharing Missions Updates in Inside NCC, and facilitating missionaries participating in our worship services.

In the current fiscal year, several of our supported mission agencies and missionaries spoke at NCC. David Eubank (Free Burma Rangers) preached on Zoom in July, Frank Tully (Navigators) preached in August, Gregg Detwiler (Emmanuel Gospel Center) preached in December, and Kevin Ford (InterVarsity) preached in January. In October, some of us had brunch with David & Sandel Livingstone (The Jesus Film Project). We had a special ministry celebration in March to celebrate Kevin Ford and Frank Tully as they conclude their ministries, retire after the current semester, and move away from the Boston area. Last summer, we supported Johnny Rosa’s short-term mission trip to the Dominican Republic with students from Antioch Delta Youth, and this winter, we supported Judy Feldman-Dinger’s short-term mission trip to Guatemala with Potter’s House. For Christmas, we organized Christmas presents for Place of Promise, in collaboration with CMJ, and we sent Christmas cards to our missionaries.

Our currently supported external missions:

### LOCAL:

- [\*\*\*Boston Pregnancy Center\*\*\*](#)– a faith-based organization to help individuals make informed decisions about unplanned or unwanted pregnancies and provide support after those decisions are made

- [Emmanuel Gospel Center](#)– an organization strengthening Christian leaders to serve in greater Boston
- [Fostering Hope](#)– an organization that guides churches and individuals into sustainable ministry to the foster care community
- [InterVarsity Christian Fellowship](#) (*Kevin Ford, Marie Adams, Andrew Givens*) – an organization focused on bringing the Gospel to college campuses; Marie is director of the Greater Boston Area, Andrew is Associate Regional Director of New England, and Kevin is in his last year serving at MIT, establishing new relationships with faculty and post-doc students
- [The Navigators](#) (*Frank Tully*) - a ministry that shares the gospel of Jesus and helps people grow in their relationship with Him through discipleship, creating spiritual generations of believers
- [Place of Promise](#) - a Christian non-profit organization that provides Christ-centered programming for men, women, and children to rebuild their broken lives: physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually

#### GLOBAL:

- [Free Burma Rangers](#) (*David and Karen Eubank*) - serves people caught in conflicts in Burma, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, and Tajikistan by providing front-line medical relief, human rights documentation, basic needs, and the love of Jesus, where and when the need is greatest
- [Global Outreach International](#) (*O and B C*) – working in the Middle East to exalt Christ and engage people in mission by proclaiming the Gospel, doing good, and equipping the Church
- [Global Teams](#) (*Max and Deby*) – providing education and healthcare services in Southeast Asia alongside [EIShaddeji](#), which is a Christian faith-based non-profit organization serving refugees and asylum seekers
- [Jesus Film Project](#) (*David and Sandel Livingstone*) – a Christian ministry with a vision to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelistic videos
- [Little Children of the Philippines/Little Children of the World](#)– a non-denominational, community-based Christian organization, helping children to become contributing members of society in the context of Christian values

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## DEACONS

The Deacons' ministry continues to support the congregation at NCC in various ways. The Benevolent Fund supports members of the congregation as well as people in our local community who have sudden needs. This year has seen a noticeable increase in requests from the community as they struggle with oil and gas bills.

Other Deacon activities include the card ministry that sends greetings to homebound congregants, congregants who are hospitalized or ill, and those who have reached significant milestones; the meal ministry that supports new parents and others in need with meals; outreach, including visitations to members of the congregation to show they are seen and cared for. The Deacons also prepare communion monthly and provide coffee hour and congregational lunches throughout the year to foster community. The Deacons continue to work with the

Compassion.Mercy.Justice ministry team to see where synergies exist and how the two ministries might work together.

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## WELCOME TEAM

AT A GLANCE: 10 Team Members | Weekly Sunday Hospitality | First Impressions Ministry

Our Welcome Team plays a vital role in living out NCC's mission, especially our call to foster a caring community and invite our neighbors to follow Jesus with us. As the first point of contact on a Sunday morning, they help create a space where all feel seen, valued, and warmly welcomed.

Faithfully serving each week, the team offers a genuine smile, a warm greeting, and a spirit of hospitality that reflects the heart of our church. Whether welcoming longtime members or first-time visitors, they help create an environment where meaningful connection can begin right away.

Our team serves with consistency and care, ensuring that no one walks through our doors unnoticed. They also play an important role in helping newcomers take next steps into the life of NCC.

We are always looking to grow this team and invite others to serve. If you are interested, please reach out to Cheryl Ward.

We are deeply grateful for this team and the warmth they bring each week.

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## PROPERTY

As we have been searching for opportunities for our long-term space, we continue to look for the right fit in terms of location, function, and price.

In terms of price and budget, our lead pastor has worked with a representative from the covenant lending branch to form a framework of the cost structures when acquiring a building. This is a good first step, and can be a foundation for creating a budget.

We are also open to pursuing possible rental opportunities while we continue to seek out a more permanent home.

One thing that has become clear is that NCC desires to have a property space that can be collaborative with other groups in the community, such as a school or charity that can utilize the space while NCC is not in service.

We desire to pursue a vision for our mission in the community, and that a building would serve that vision as a useful resource. We pray for God's leadership and direction as we continue to serve Him.

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## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Newton Covenant Church is blessed to have a competent and caring pastoral staff team. During this past year, the Personnel Committee has focused on supporting our staff as we navigate the challenges associated with the search for a new Next Gen Pastor, as well as Garrett and Nici's plans to transition out of NCC.

The Personnel Committee is responsible for the care of the pastors, ministry staff, and their families. The Committee also serves as a liaison between the congregation and the staff, maintains the Church's personnel policies, and performs staff annual reviews. Ken Hynes serves as Chair alongside Garrett Smith's role as Head of Staff. Other committed members of the Personnel Committee include Frank Tully, Clare Medendorp, Hope Straughan, and Jonathan Watson.

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## CONNECTING TEAM

The Connecting Team consists of Carmen Aldinger, Huzie Liu, Molly McLaughlin-Drubin, Fran Questad, Nici Smith, Jennifer Wu, and James Yeh.

Our mission is to help people connect, grow, and deepen their relationship with God and with the church. Each Sunday, one of our team members sets up the welcome table, and our team looks for newcomers and aims to connect them. We also count and record attendance on Sunday mornings. We meet bimonthly to review our list of members and regular attenders and determine if we want to reach out to anybody whom we haven't seen in a while. We also review our list of newcomers and determine if they have been invited to a community group.

We organized a membership class in October 2025 (in-person and on Zoom). Six individuals attended, and we welcomed two new members in January 2026. We scheduled another membership class for April 2026, as we have been blessed with many newcomers.

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is one of the committees defined by the NCC Bylaws. The actual report on the committee's work is the presentation of the Nomination slate at the Annual Membership meeting. The committee does most of its work in preparation for the Annual Meeting, and as a result, much of our work happens between January and March. We rely completely on nominees hearing God's call and their willingness to respond. We are blessed to have very willing and able congregants at NCC and remain in awe of how God calls, and

nominees respond year after year. The current committee includes Rose Mayers, Darrell Hartwick, Daniel Adams, Fran Questad (Leadership Team representative), Pastor Garrett Smith (ex-officio), and Christina Riggs Romaine (chair).

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## STEWARDSHIP

To God be the glory, great things He has done! We are totally dependent on Him to provide the resources required as we seek to fulfill the Vision and Mission that He has entrusted to Newton Covenant Church (NCC). The congregation has continued to be generous in their giving as God has blessed and provided for our church in various ways. During FY 2025/26, our regular giving has fluctuated with some very strong months, as well as months that were not as strong. In order to keep pace with the modest 1.2% increase over the previous year's expenses, we would need our financial giving in May and June to be strong. In response to God's work at and through NCC, please join us in prayer and in continued generous giving as we close out the current Fiscal Year.

## 2026 NOMINATION SLATE

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Jeff Carnes (2029)  
Lee Riggs (2029)  
Katrina Boyer (2029)

### **DEACONS**

Connie DeVol (2029)  
Cos Pischettola (2029)  
Beatrice Yankey (2029)  
Geneinde Jones (2029)  
Nancy Brisebois (2029)

### **OFFICERS**

Clerk, Carmen Aldinger (2028)  
Treasurer, Jeanne Downs (2028)  
Financial Secretary, Doris Kellom (2028)  
Assistant Treasurer, Harold Jones (2028)  
Assistant Financial Secretary, Donna MacQuarrie (2028)  
Auditor: Bob Schulein (2028)  
Auditor: Judy Feldman-Dinger (2028)

### **FINANCIAL TEAM**

Sue Denison (2028)  
Connie DeVol (2028)  
Don MacKay (2028)  
Donna MacQuarrie (2028)  
Barbara Reed (2028)

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Ali Khurano (2028)  
Cindy Wellman (2028)

## NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER BIOS

### **Jeff Carnes**

Growing up in church, I came to faith as a child and have been involved in various church activities my entire life. I walked into the doors of NPC, now NCC, in 2005 and have been involved with all ages of youth, worship band, and various committees. Bethany and I married in 2009 and now have four children. My desire for NCC is to see a community that is continuously growing in faith, lifting each other up, and, by reflecting Jesus, calling others to a walk with Jesus. This will be my second time on the Leadership Team, and I am excited to participate.

### **Katrina Boyer**

I was fortunate to be raised by Christian parents and grew up in a Baptist church that instilled in me a deep desire to know God and be in community with other believers. One of the highlights of my adolescence was attending Christian summer camp at Hume Lake in California—those experiences had a lasting impact on my faith. I was also deeply shaped by my youth pastor, who played an important role in helping me grow into my own identity in Christ during my transition into young adulthood. Because of that, I've come to really value the importance of raising a family within a church community.

I married my high school sweetheart, Erik Boyer, in my early 20s. He faithfully followed me through my education and eventually to my job here in Boston. We now have two children, ages 18 and 15. We joined Newton Presbyterian Church in 2008, just before our first child was born, and it has truly become home for us. I have served on the Children's Ministry Team and have taught Sunday school at our church for many years. We've built meaningful friendships here and feel so grateful to be part of this church family.

I'm honored and humbled to step into a leadership role in a church that I love, especially during this time of transition. I'm excited for the opportunity to serve and look forward to what's ahead.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### NCC: Statement of Assets Spring 2026

	March 2026	March 2025	March 2024
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,408,155**</b>	<b>\$1,264,085</b>	<b>\$1,262,936</b>
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	\$175,307	\$51,495	\$175,924
<b>Investment Account</b>	\$555,439	\$561,749	\$487,798
<b>Building Fund/Reserve*</b>	\$675,412	\$650,841	\$599,214

\*Combination of funds designated specifically toward the purchase of a church building and general funds reserved per budget

\*\*Includes office security deposit of \$1997

### Profit & Loss Spring 2026

	July 2025 to March 2026	July 2024 to March 2025
<b>Regular Revenue</b>		
- General Offering	\$ 509,054	\$ 409,365
- Interest/Dividends	\$ 34,849	\$ 27,416
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 543,903</b>	<b>\$ 436,781</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
- Personnel	\$ 304,823	\$ 327,781
- Ministry Gift Offset		\$ (33,750)
- Rent	\$ 53,438	\$ 40,220
- Missions & Ministries	\$ 69,536	\$ 62,977
- Other	\$ 37,551	\$ 38,431
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 465,348</b>	<b>\$ 435,659</b>
<b>Net Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 61,576</b>	
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 140,131</b>	<b>\$1,122</b>

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

## **Report on Membership – as of March 22, 2026**

Last year's Annual Report listed 145 members as of May 1, 2025.

The following changes have occurred in the meantime:

### **Added to membership:**

- Ryan & Julia Volpi

Thus, the current number of members is 147 as of March 22, 2026.

## 2025 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

**NEWTON COVENANT CHURCH**  
**MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**May 4, 2025, at Bigelow Middle School**

**Opening**

Moderator Jay Straughan called the meeting to order at 11:23 AM and opened in prayer.

**Voting Procedures**

Clerk Carmen Aldinger confirmed that we had a quorum.

Jay Straughan explained the voting procedures: only members present in the room could vote by raising of hands.

**Approval of Agenda**

Jay Straughan made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed with all in favor.

**Time of Remembrance**

Jay Straughan led us into a time of remembering those who have gone to glory this past year: Barbara Smith, Francis Daly, Kevin MacDonald. Jay closed this time in prayer.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Jay Straughan made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2024 and November 3, 2024 congregational meetings. The motion passed with all in favor.

**Nominations and Elections**

Harold Jones presented the slates of nominees on behalf of the Nominating Committee.

Caroline Brownworth made a motion that the following nominees be elected to serve as members of the **Leadership Team** (Class of 2028):

- Jay Straughan
- Harold Jones

The motion passed with all in favor.

Harold Jones made a motion that the following nominees be elected to serve as members of the **Deacons**:

- Ann MacKay (Class of 2026)
- Jeanne Downs (Class of 2028)

The motion passed with all in favor.

Harold Jones made a motion that the following nominees be elected to serve as members of the **Nominating Committee** (Class of 2027):

- Daniel Adams
- Darrell Hartwick
- Rose Mayers
- Christina Riggs Romaine

The motion passed with all in favor.

Harold Jones made a motion that the following nominees be elected to serve on the **Financial Team** (Counters, Class of 2026):

- Sue Denison
- Connie DeVol
- Don MacKay
- Donna MacQuarrie
- Barbara Reed

The motion passed with all in favor.

### **Leadership Team Update**

Caroline Brownworth gave an update and encouraged members to read the annual report prepared for this meeting. She mentioned that giving was down slightly while there was a small increase in expenses. Caroline acknowledged the Leadership Team members who are rotating off: Frank Tully, and Caroline Brownworth.

### **Financial Update**

Harold Jones, representing the finance team, gave a financial update including slides with Statements of Assets & Liabilities and Profit & Loss. He responded to questions from members.

### **Pastor Report**

Pastor Garrett Smith gave an example of how he was blessed by a variety of ways how people were active in their faith, which showed how the mission and vision statements that guide our church were put into practice.

### **Call for New Business**

Jay Straughan asked if there was any new business, of which there was none.

### **Adjourn and Closing Prayer**

Jay Straughan made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and Jay closed the meeting in prayer at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Aldinger, Clark

**NEWTON COVENANT CHURCH**  
**MINUTES OF THE FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**November 2, 2025, at Bigelow Middle School**

**Opening**

Moderator Jay Straughan called the meeting to order at 11:23 AM and opened with prayer.

Jay asked the Clerk, Carmen Aldinger, if we had a quorum, which the Clerk answered affirmatively.

Jay explained the voting procedures.

Jay made the **Motion** to approve the agenda. The motion passed with all in favor.

**Election of Moderator**

Christina Romaine, Chair of the Nominating Committee, thanked Jay for his 6-year service as moderator, and, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, made the following motion:

**Motion:** Approve the nomination for Moderator: Jennifer Hynes (Class of 2027). The motion passed with all in favor.

From this point forward, Jennifer Hynes moderated the meeting.

**Ministry Update**

Rev. Garrett Smith, Rev. Kelly Ladd Bishop, Nici Smith and Daniel Adams gave updates from their areas of responsibility.

**Financial Report**

Harold Jones, Finance Director on the Leadership Team, presented a 2025 financial update and assets, a NCC 2025-2026 budget summary, and names of members of the finance team. Slides are available upon request. Seth responded to a question about looking for a building.

Jen Hynes mentioned that Harold Jones or Jeanne Downs (Treasurer) are available after the service to respond to further questions.

**Leadership Team Updates**

Jay Straughan gave an update on recent activities of the Leadership Team and presented a slide with names and responsibilities of each Leadership Team member. He encouraged members to talk to any Leadership Team member with any questions or concerns.

**Call for New Business**

Jen Hynes called for new business, and there was none.

Jen Hynes asked if there were any unanswered questions. One question was raised about our relationship with Bigelow to which Nici Smith responded.

**Closing and Adjourn**

Jen Hynes closed in prayer and adjourned the meeting at 12:01 PM.