



ELEVATION
JOURNEY WITH US

February 26, 2016

Hello Elevation!

This year's Annual Meeting will take place in the Gym following our morning service on March 6, and will run from approximately 10:30 – 11:30. Our Steering Committee wanted to have this report available in advance so you could take some time during the week to read reflectively on how things are going around Elevation. We've asked leaders of many of our ministries to submit brief updates for us to read, and while not *every* ministry in the church is included, we think this sampling gives an idea of the vitality that isn't always visible when we gather on Sunday mornings. We have much to be thankful for!

There are also financial reports included, in hopes that giving time to reflect on the numbers in advance would create an opportunity for members to form good questions and comments, which we will be happy to receive at the tail end of the meeting on March 6.

As we gather together in a slightly more formal setting to talk about things we don't usually talk about, it is my hope that you will be encouraged by what is happening around Elevation and will be inspired to be part of the next stage of our community's life together.

My prayer is that God will continue to lead Elevation in the days and months ahead, shaping and forming us to be the church He longs for us to be.

Serving alongside you all,



Brandon Malo

The Steering Committee

Members of our Steering Committee serve in the capacity of a Church Board. Current members are Joe Burjoski, Melissa Malo, Andrew Mantle (President/Secretary), Kevin Martin, Trevor Shantz (Treasurer), and Sue Winter, with Brandon Malo serving as Chair.



The primary roles of the Steering Committee are as follows:

- Serving "The Big Picture" (oversight of both The Embassy and Elevation)
- Guarding the vision and values of the church
- Empowering and facilitating others in ministry
- Supporting the Senior Pastor
- Being the final decision making body
- Being ultimately accountable and responsible

Some responsibilities that are specific to the Steering Committee include: ratification and upholding of policies, financial management, and staffing decisions. To learn more about how this leadership team operates, please feel free to request a copy of the Steering Committee Structure and Governance, or look for it online at elevationwaterloo.org/nomination

Contact Andrew Mantle at mantle@gmail.com

Our Elevation Staff

We like to emphasize the fact that our Elevation community is really led by a large number of gifted people who generously give of their time and abilities to serve the church and the broader community. But we also hear questions about who is actually on "Staff" around here, so the following is a bit of an introduction to those who are privileged to be able to serve vocationally:



Helen Kroeker is affectionately referred to as our 'office guru' where she is the primary contact person in our office and a source of practical assistance and encouragement for people in our community. She also prepares the program each week, but isn't keen on having minor typos pointed out...just so you know.

Brandon Malo provides spiritual leadership and visionary direction for the church. He is the primary teacher on Sunday mornings and also connects pastorally with members of our congregation, guides the Staff, and chairs the Steering Committee. And since he wrote these staff bios, he doesn't get a witty comment.



Every Sunday, Eric Dettweiler leads our community in worship through music. He provides leadership in both planning Sunday services and coordinating the efforts of a number of ministry teams involved from week to week. He can also juggle and ride a unicycle, but that has nothing to do with his job here.

Steve Tulloch serves as the Community Care Pastor, providing coaching to ministry leaders, helping us engage with the broader KW community, and caring pastorally for members of our own congregation. Steve has a tendency to find himself in very unusual situations, so be careful around him.



Sharon Leage's passion for helping our youngest members grow in faith is expressed in her leadership of our Kids' Quest program, where she works with parents and teachers to create an inspiring environment on Sunday mornings. She is also British, so if you like accents, just ask her a question.

Graham Watson is the most recent addition to our Staff Team and we are excited to have him on board providing direction to our growing Youth group. In his interview, he told us that he had recently lit a couch on fire. What does that say about him? And since we hired him, what does that say about us?



Brandon and Emma Richardson provide leadership to our on-campus Student and Young Adult community called The Embassy. They spend their time connecting with students, investing in a vibrant team of young leaders, and preparing for Monday night services. Ever since they got married, they've had the same last name.

MISSION TEAM

2015 began with our 2 mission teams, LIFE (local) and GMC (global) functioning separately. In the fall of 2015 they amalgamated and now work as the MISSION team.

In 2015 we continued to support our many partners serving around the world. **Craig and Leilani Bauman** finished their training with New Tribes Mission and began looking at visa options for their family to be able to live in Mongolia. They continue to seek direction in making this possible. **Gord and Sharon Skopnik** joined a new organization AVANT, and continue to work with local refugees in our area and with the people of South Sudan. **Nikki Horne** completed her program in Toronto and made several trips to and from Ecuador working with the Onzole community.

The **Bolivian Children Foundation** stays committed to bringing awareness and building support here in Canada for the work of Ninos Con Valor with children in Bolivia. Once again the significant response to the stockings at Christmas time was greatly appreciated. **Terry and Brenda Martin** advocate for First Nations people through the work of Rising Above in Manitoba. **Melissa Mellick** with Intervarsity and **Trevor and Becky Gingerich** at Embassy Humber, journey with students through the significant season of University life. **Karl Gingerich** at International Teams works at providing tech support to people living mission all over the world, as well as keeping the Elevation staff on track!

Up until the end of 2015, when our local and international mission efforts united under our one MISSION team, Elevation's local mission initiatives were coordinated by the LIFE team. Our primary areas of focus were on refugees, under the growing leadership of our Journey team, community gardens, the Sunnysdale Community, and SHOW. Our involvement in the Multi-Cultural Community Gardens is led by Fanis Juma-Radstake and reflects our commitment to share food with others, connect more deeply with the land, and build community with New

Canadians in particular. Emerging from the MC Community Gardens has been the Young City Growers, a youth employment initiative which then sells CSA baskets to people in the community.

Sunnydale is an economically challenged community in North Waterloo that is home to many New Canadians, single moms, and students. Elevation's Jeremy and Mary Horne live on the edge of this community and lead our church into engagement in various children, youth and family initiatives like Running and Reading, Sunnydale Connects, Gym nights, and many others. SHOW stands for Supportive Housing of Waterloo, and has become a home for a number of people from this region for whom housing security had long been an issue. Helen and Ron Kroeker lead a team of several Elevation people who enjoy sharing meals monthly and developing meaningful friendships with the folks who call SHOW home.

Journey Re-Cap 2015

The Phylus (a Rohingya family from Myanmar) arrived in August and after 6 months are adjusting well. They're completing English school and looking towards further schooling in Canada as well as for employment opportunities.

One potential sponsorship of a family from the Democratic Republic of the Congo wasn't completed because the family was government-sponsored to the US (Ohio). The team in KW are continuing to support both the local family members and those in Ohio. Our church wrote holiday cards to local MPs, urging them to support Family Reunification, especially that of Pastor Lal and his family in Bangladesh.

We have two new sponsorship groups formed that will have refugee families arriving in Canada in 2016. Also in the plan for 2016: a one day crash course in journeying with refugees, compiling a Sponsorship Resource Guide, and a Journey page on Elevation's website: elevationwaterloo.org/journey

Thank you very much to everyone who participated in our ADVENTure. The cookies, cards, prayers and stockings were all much appreciated. We look forward to learning about and living out MISSION together in the coming 2016.

Contact Melanie Martin @ mission@elevationwaterloo.org

The Embassy

For 16 years, The Embassy has been a place for students and young adults to explore faith and build relationships together, representing Christ on the University campuses in our city. Those who are newer to our Elevation community may not be aware that our congregation actually grew out of The Embassy back in 2001, so there is a long history of partnership in ministry that we continue to champion in 2015 and beyond.



The Embassy exists as a church so that young adults may be transformed and empowered by the love of God to influence lives, campuses, and cities in His name. The Embassy is a place where students can find community, ask questions, and explore faith. The Embassy currently meets at Maxwell's Concerts and Events Venue on University Avenue, with connect groups, social events, and prayer nights happening throughout the week!

The Embassy is a church that loves to serve and one of the ways we do this is through Red Frogs – a student support network that loves and serves students in any way we can. From pancake breakfasts, to free food giveaways, to post-party clean-ups, we are serving in every area of student life. It is amazing to have the opportunity to love students unconditionally!

Brandon and Emma Richardson have been leading The Embassy for just under two years. Feel free to contact them for more information.

Contact Brandon at brandon.richardson@the-embassy.org

Young Adults

In addition to students connected with The Embassy, there is a growing number of young adults who attend Elevation on a Sunday morning. Since moving to 22 Willow, we've had the opportunity to host a lunch for students and young adults on the first Sunday of the month in the Parlor. If you are anywhere near the hallway on one of those Sundays, you're sure to be tantalized by the smell of an assortment of homemade soups and other delicious things! The Parlor is now bursting at the seams, and we're excited about what lies ahead for young adults in our community. In the past couple of years, three small groups have emerged from our young adult gatherings. This is encouraging! If you are a young adult (post high school - ?), please feel very welcome to join us on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Contact Ron & Helen Kroeker at helen.kroeker@elevationwaterloo.org

Prayer Ministry

Prayer is a time when we enter into a conversation with the Lord. It is a time both to talk and to listen. It is also an opportunity for us corporately to express heartfelt praise and thanksgiving, as well as to seek His heart for our church, our community and our world.

For the past two years, one of the discussion tables on Sunday mornings has been dedicated to a time of prayer. We have been so encouraged by the people who have taken this opportunity every other Sunday to engage in meaningful conversation with the Lord together.

Each time of prayer has a specific focus as we pray for the pastors and leadership of Elevation, for each of the ministries and missions, as well as for our community and world. Whether you are experienced and comfortable with prayer, or if you feel drawn to prayer but the thought of praying out loud in a group setting leaves you apprehensive and tongue-tied, please join us.

In addition, the opportunity to have a personal prayer request sent out through e-mail at prayer@elevationwaterloo.org has continued. One of our goals for 2016 is to continue to build this team of people committed to praying for each request, as well as increasing awareness within our Elevation family that this opportunity for prayer.

Contact Patricia Layng at layng.patricia@gmail.com

Worship Team

The Worship Ministry at Elevation is made up of a team of musicians, as well as on-screen, sound and communion volunteers. Each week the volunteers work hard to bring together the various elements of our Sunday morning worship.

This year we have had the opportunity to use some new and different styles of music in our worship gatherings. In July we hosted a jazz service in collaboration with St. John's as a part of the Uptown Waterloo Jazz Festival. At Christmas we brought together a choir of more than twenty people from the Elevation community that sang some beautiful arrangements of Christmas carols as well as performing original music by Mark Himmelman (St. John's music director). We are very blessed to have so many talented musicians here at Elevation.

It has been wonderful to have opportunities for musical performances outside of congregational singing. The special musical performances that we have had (marimba, cello, choir, etc.) have helped to provide a space for reflection and worship in a different capacity. This is something that we would like to do more of in the coming year.

The youth worship team continues to play together on Tuesday evenings. This year they had the opportunity to lead worship at the Sr. Youth retreat. A new initiative that they will be taking on is leading the children in worship once a month on Sunday mornings. We are also very glad to have members of the youth worship team in the regular worship team schedule.

We believe that worship through music and singing together is an important part of our faith journey here. We look forward to all that God has in store for the worship ministry this coming year.

Contact Eric Dettweiler at eric.dettweiler@elevationwaterloo.org

Hospitality

The Hospitality Team works to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere each morning during our discussion groups. We arrive earlier to make the coffee, juice, set tables and snacks, and stay a bit later for clean up.

We've been working on a few things such as committing to purchasing only fair trade and organic coffee, tea and sugar. It is my desire to see our church participate in ethical and sustainable choices with our morning coffee hour. With the help of our church members and St. John's we are also in the works of creating centrepieces for each table. This will help develop a greater sense of warmth, attract visitors to the tables and act as a reflection of the creativity in our church. We want the values and characteristics of the church members to be a part of what we do as we are not separate from other areas of service, but an extension.

We welcome any feedback you may have concerning the morning coffee (eg. Coffee quality, cold tea water, lack of snacks, etc.) As a hospitality team it is our goal to make everyone feel comfortable, cared for and to enjoy their morning treats.

The Hospitality team is seeking new members to commit to one Sunday a month or to sign up as a back-up. Any feedback or inquiries can be sent to Melissa Stieber.

Contact Melissa Stieber at hospitality@elevationwaterloo.org

Baking Team

The Baking team currently consists of a good base of volunteers from our church community that love to bake. Volunteers commit to bringing homemade baked goods and fruit trays to share during our discussion time. Food is a simple way of bringing people together. A plate of goodies can make it more comfortable to sit down with people whom we may not know to discuss how we live out our faith. Making 4 dozen homemade treats takes time and planning and we are so appreciative of all the talented people who are willing to share these goodies with our church. It certainly helps to make people feel welcome!

If you, your family or room-mates enjoy baking, we would be glad to have you join our team. Presently, this is approximately a once a month commitment to bring 4 dozen baked goods or a fruit tray to share on a Sunday morning.

Contact Robin Grace at robin.anne.baker@gmail.com

Staff Partnership Committee

If you're not familiar with this team, it's because the SPC is responsible for a lot of behind-the-scenes work in our church – think of it as our mini 'Human Resources' department. The mandate of the SPC includes providing support for the Senior Pastor and Staff team, engaging in hiring processes, making recommendations for Staff remuneration, and other occasional responsibilities. Members of the SPC are Carolyn Burjoski, Katie Mak-Fan, and Chad Bouma. Andrew Mantle is our liaison to the Steering Committee. This past year the Staff Partnership Committee participated in the hiring of our newest staff member, Graham Watson, our Youth Pastor. We also conducted a performance review of our Senior Pastor, Brandon Malo. In 2016 we will be focused on connecting with the staff and also providing support through Brandon's Sabbatical Leave this spring.

Contact Carolyn Burjoski at cburjoski@golden.net

Facilities at 22 Willow

The Joint Property Committee is a group that features three members each from Elevation and St. John's. This team is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the building and property and making recommendations to each congregation's senior leadership team. Steve Errey, Dale Horst & Sam Bauman are the Elevation delegates on this team.



Over the course of the past year the renovation of the Adult Education Room has been completed. Renamed the "Upper Room", this space has a small kitchenette and is ideal for smaller group meetings. Other improvements to our facilities was the installation of some new AC units and improved storage for chairs under the gym stage. The youth have completely renovated their space in the basement and it is looking great!

We are continually looking for ways to reduce the costs of maintenance. Volunteers for maintenance and construction projects are much appreciated and help to reduce costs. Thank-you!

We are renting out 24 of our parking spaces during business hours to people that work up-town for an income of \$65/month per space. Some of the projects we hope to advance this year are a new 22 Willow sign out front, repairs to the limestone around the entrances, and improved accessibility to our facility. Other responsibilities of the Joint Property Committee include overseeing security, coordinating regular maintenance for this beautiful old building, and making arrangements for care of the outdoor property as a whole.

Contact Steve Errey at steve.errey@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The 22 Willow prayer shawl ministry (www.shawlministry.com) began in September 2014 as a joint ministry of St. John's and Elevation. Each shawl is prayerfully knit or crocheted, and then blessed by a pastor before being presented to a recipient in need of comfort or who is celebrating a joyous occasion. These handmade shawls show people they are not alone but are embraced by our community and God's love.

During 2015, the St. John's/Elevation prayer shawl group consisted of 12 members who prepared 24 shawls for distribution in 2015.

Prayer shawls are often given to people in the two church communities needing comfort, negotiating difficult life transitions, experiencing positive life transitions or celebrating life transitions or celebrating joyous occasions. Church members may notify church staff or the ministry representative of a person who should receive a shawl.

All knitters, loom knitters and crocheters of any level of ability are welcome to join the prayer shawl group. Crafts may use their own yarn or donated yarn. We also gladly accept donations of wool.

We meet in the parlor on the second Monday of the month from 1-2:30 pm. At our meetings we pray for those who have received shawls.

Contact Susan Fish at susanfish@rogers.com

Welcome and Resource Team

Every Sunday morning for many years, a team of people (members of our Resource Team) has handed you a program, collected the offering, staffed the Welcome Table and passed on information and resources from our church office. As our congregation has grown, so has the need for us to be more intentional in our welcoming of people. In coming months, you can expect to be greeted more warmly and frequently by members of this expanded team, now called the Welcome and Resource Team. We are recruiting outgoing, friendly people to join our team!

Contact Steve Tulloch at steve.tulloch@elevationwaterloo.org

Kids' Quest

Children's Ministry (Kids' Quest) serves about 100 of Elevation's youngest members. This past year serving as the Children's Ministry Director has been such a privilege for me as I have seen the kids grow and change over the year.

This past March break, for the first time we hosted some March Break activities. Two mornings filled with games, crafts, shows, face painting and a photobooth were enjoyed by over 80 kids, many of whom were from the surrounding neighbourhood. It was such a great time that we are also doing a March break event this year.

This past July, together with St. John's, Elevation hosted a week of Day Camp (VBS): "G-Force". It was an amazing week where children connected with each other, learned new songs, Bible stories, played games and made some awesome crafts.



Approximately 90 Elevation and neighbourhood children took part, making for a fabulous week!

This year we changed things up in the fall with the mom's group and started meeting bi-weekly at Kristyn Young's house which worked so great that we have moved it back to the church for more space! Come on out and join us every other Monday morning.

Last year I shared that we were struggling to find a curriculum that would work for us and that my main aim was to resolve this. I am happy to say that we have found a great curriculum called "Orange". We use it for Grades 1-5 and it has been enjoyed by both teachers and kids.

As the Children's Ministry continues to grow, I am always looking for new ways to engage kids and parents in how we can partner together in this Journey of faith and appreciate all your support and help.

If you are interested in becoming more involved at Elevation, consider serving in Kids' Quest. Teachers and helpers are always in demand, and even volunteering once every 6 weeks or whenever you are able would be much appreciated.

Contact Sharon Leage at sharon@elevationwaterloo.org

The Library

We have continued to remove out-dated materials from the Library's collection this past year and are making progress with this ongoing task. New books and children's DVDs were added during this past year. We have also been discussing ways to make the Library more inviting and welcoming.

We are always open to suggestions of materials to purchase so if there is something you would like to see added, please contact the Library or come in on a Sunday morning and talk to the librarian on duty.

The Library is a great place to meet people and mix with both Elevation and St. John's members. We are always looking for more volunteers who enjoy talking with people and would ask for your prayers as we continue to rethink and redesign the library, while respecting the hard work and dedication that has been put into this wonderful space. Feel free to come in and browse the shelves! You never know what you might find...

Contact the 22 Willow Library directly at library@elevationwaterloo.org

Junior & Senior Youth

The Elevation Youth meet every Tuesday evening from 7:00-9:00, with an average of between 25-35 Youth each week. The schedule includes a split Jr. and Sr. High Bible Study every other week or so and a combined gym night, games night, or devotional on the other nights of the month. For our Bible studies, we have been focused on different big questions of faith, as well as a series on relationships where we explored relationship with God, Ourselves, Friends, and the World. Activities have ranged from movie nights to skating to giant sized angry birds! This year we have also incorporated using some of our Tuesday night times for service within the community, like serving a meal at Ray of Hope in Downtown Kitchener.

We have increased monthly extra events to twice a month, generally focusing on either a service night, or a special fun night. We have been Rock climbing, Christmas caroling, carving pumpkins with Seniors, and just hanging out over some board games and a movie! Another exciting new development has been the integration of Youth leading children's time. Starting February 14th, our Youth Band, and Youth Drama team lead the start of kids Quest as a chance to explore their gifts, as well as lead our kids in Biblical teaching and song! We had a blast at Jr. Pitch & Praise, and are looking forward to Sr. Youth Pitch & Praise in the spring!



This year we saw our first Sr. Youth Retreat- which was totally awesome! We had a blast exploring what it means to come away and encounter God through reflection and worship. We mixed in a lot of eating delicious food, big games, and campfires for a well-rounded weekend of growing closer to God and one another.

We have a solid team of Youth leaders that dedicate an insane amount of time and energy towards the Youth group. From hosting events, leading discussions, providing rides, last minute birthday baking, to extensive work on the Youth room, this is one dedicated team! It's been fun growing our relationships with the Youth and walking through these important years with them, and with one another!

Our vision continues to be to build the Youth group in a way where Youth can feel comfortable to be their own unique selves and can begin to find places for their talents and gifts to fit into the Elevation community as a whole! We look to tackle big questions, and learn more about what it means to live a life following the voice and example of Jesus Christ.

Contact Graham Watson at graham.watson@elevationwaterloo.org

Benevolence Committee

In a spirit of shared responsibility, the Benevolence Committee is about providing an opportunity for our community of faith to demonstrate Jesus' love by meeting unique financial challenges being faced by others. This economic sharing is a reflection of the faith of the early believers, as found in Acts 4:32-35: "All the believers were one in heart and mind....there were no needy persons among them." Money for the Benevolence Fund comes from donations made by individuals in our community on the monthly Sunday when this opportunity is available.

The Benevolence Committee appreciates your ongoing financial support. We would also ask for your help in identifying situations of need in our community. We exist to help, so if you or someone you know has a need, please ask! We can only be effective through the financial support and honest expressions of need from members of the Elevation community.

Contact Christa and Caleb Horst at benevolence@elevationwaterloo.org

Facility Sharing Partnership with St. John's

As 2016 got under way, members of our Steering Committee got together with members of St. John's to evaluate our third year together. It was a very encouraging time as we shared about the many positive experiences both of our congregations have had along the way. Our communication with one another has been increasingly open and honest, and we are talking about how we can grow in our support of, and interaction with, one another as we move forward together.

Our friends from St. John's continue to express their appreciation for the investment we have made in the building; both in sharing the regular operating costs (at 50%) and helping them accomplish renovation projects they likely would not have been able to do on their own. This is the kind of sharing partnership that we were after – bringing our resources together to create a place that we can all call 'home' for many years to come.

We will continue to work together from time to time by sharing services, such as Good Friday and Christmas Eve, and by finding other opportunities to connect, such as the Pancake Supper and Spring Picnic. We are grateful to God for the opportunity to be here at 22 Willow.

Contact Brandon Malo at brandon.malo@elevationwaterloo.org

Events Team

The Events Team consists of Laura Mainland-Bouma, Natasha Young, Melissa Medina, Eileen Werner, Lindsay Brubacher, Sophie Zivku, and Katrina Oakey. The members meet every few months to plan and coordinate events for the Elevation community with the goal of providing a space outside of regular Sunday worship to connect and grow alongside one another.

Last June, we kicked off summer with a "Church Picnic", coordinating with St. John's Lutheran to provide a tasty BBQ lunch and fun activities for the children. In September, we welcomed our community back after an enjoyable summer with a "Welcome Back Brunch" paired with a ministry fair. At the Christmas Coffee House, we were blessed by the talents of our community members-- singing, poetry, spoken word, and juggling-- while enjoying ice-cream sundaes and warm drinks. Married and engaged couples gathered for a 'Mediterranean Romance' themed Hot Date Night, reflecting insightfully on partnership in marriage, while enjoying incredible Mediterranean foods. We are enthusiastic about creating events that allow for community building, spiritual growth, and opportunities to journey alongside one another.

Contact Laura Mainland-Bouma at laura.mainland@gmail.com

Care Team

The Care Team is all about caring well for people within our community. It is about helping people to feel valued.

We do this by celebrating with people through good seasons. For example, the Care Team is responsible for throwing baby showers for first time parents...and we have a lot of those! We also provide five meals for families who have just had a new baby and celebrate engaged couples at the church picnic every summer.

We also care for people who are going through difficult times. We do this by sending flowers or fruit baskets to express our love and concern. We also provide meals for people who need a helping hand. The care team has been involved with helping people in need throughout the year by providing practical help such as gift cards, and canned goods.

It is our desire that everyone in our Elevation church family would feel loved and valued. If you are celebrating something, or struggling, we would love to help. Please let one of us know! And if you'd like to be a part of this team, we'd love to have you join us. It is not a huge time commitment, but makes a big difference in the life of our church.

Contact Melissa Malo at themalos@hotmail.com

Marriage Mentoring

"Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us" Ephesians 5:2

This verse is not only applicable in life and social development but also in marriage. Everybody likes M & M's and so we say, Congratulations Elevation Church! You are a full-fledged M & M church, meaning you are a full-fledged Marriage Mentoring Church. Which means not only do we have eleven Marriage Mentoring trained couples with an abundance of life and marriage experience committing time to walk alongside of couples we also have ten Mentoree couples who have asked to have a more mature married couple to walk alongside of them for a time. However, in addition there are three Mentoree Couples who have enriched their marriage through this ministry by the fellowship and friendship building they had with their Mentor Couple. That makes a total of 13 couples who have gleaned from more experienced married couples. This is very special and can only blossom relationships within and beyond Elevation Church. Judy and I are so very delighted to witness the willingness of each couple to share their lives and faith with each other.

This ministry does not require timetables, or specific meetings. Each M & M couple set their own timetables regarding the duration of their gathering, the frequency of their gathering, the length of time for each gathering, the locations for getting together. The locations could be anywhere from the beach, the park, the coffee shop or home. Each M & M couple decide on the topics they want to discuss, do not want to discuss, books they might want to use or not use and let each time they get together allow the conversation to guide their discussions. This may sound rather "loose" but all the feedback we receive proves that God guides the conversations. How does one get involved?

Connect with the Marriage Mentoring program through the Elevation website, contact one of the pastors, or contact the church office. A special thank you to Helen who has helped us arrange meeting rooms at 22 Willow and her willingness to always help. To our pastors, who through their support and readiness to help, enable Judy and I to feel strong in this program. To all of you at Elevation Church, for your prayers and encouragements. Together in Christ we building strong relationships and strong marriages.

Contact Don and Judy Prince at mentoring@elevationwaterloo.org

8 Cities

8 Cities is a unique adventure for married couples that explores key relationship-building skills through the exotic tastes, sounds and stories of 8 fabulous global cities. We delve into emotional intelligence (New York), creating chemistry (New Delhi), funding fun (Cancun), breaking bad habits (Nairobi), communication skills (Tokyo), solving conflicts (Jerusalem), sex (Paris) and boundaries (Rhodes). Each event includes yummy ethnic food, great music and friendly conversation with other couples. Our goal is to build healthy relationships in our own community and to bring this initiative to other communities as well.

In 2014, Elevation hosted 8 Cities here at 22 Willow and we produced a set of professional quality video of the 8 sessions. In 2015, another local church (KWCF) piloted the presentation of 8 Cities using these videos. The events were very successful and we received a lot of excellent feedback that helped us to make 8 Cities reproducible in other venues.

We are considering presenting 8 Cities again at 22 Willow beginning in 2016. Producing 8 Cities requires a big team of committed volunteers so, if you are passionate about helping to build strong marriages while having a lot of fun, please consider joining the 8 Cities team in 2016.

Contact Joe & Carolyn Burjoski at info@8cities.org



Elevation Artisans (NEW)

This winter, Brandon gathered together a small band of artisans from Elevation with the hopes that we could help integrate more art into worship. We met for the first time in January and have since started working on producing two creative pieces for the Lenten season. I've opened a Google Community as a space for our group to stay connected and continue brainstorming from week to week.

Currently, the group is still finding its legs, but I envision that Elevation Artisans will be a group of creative who use their talents as away of opening up another avenue of worship in the Elevation community.

The larger goals for Elevation Artisans include:

- Establishing an infrastructure that can help sustain the creative process and collaboration of the group.
- Create a presence in the worship service that signals to other creative that Elevation is a community open to their talents and skills
- Foster a theology of art and worship among the artisans that informs our creative process and our implementation of art in our faith community (Elevation).

“Creativity is the natural result of spirituality”. –Erwin McManus



Contact Christin Taylor at taylor.christin@gmail.com

Elevation Eats

Elevation Eats is a new ministry that just began at Elevation this past September 2015. Each month, on the last Sunday of the month, four host families open their homes up to their church family in order to share a meal and some good conversation. In the four months that it has taken place, there has been much interest generated in members wanting to participate. There have been 16 families that have hosted a meal thus far, and there are many others looking forward to hosting a future meal in 2016. Each host elects how many guest they would like to host, and groups have ranged from 6 guests to 15 guests in a home. There have been well over 100 meals served in these last four months that our ministry has taken off!

Some wonderful feedback has been received from both hosts and guests. Families and individuals that have taken part in these Sunday meals have spoken about the great opportunity that it was to meet new people, or get to know casual acquaintances on a deeper level. This ministry has also allowed church members from every generation to come together in a unique way. The premise is that hosts won't feel pressure to cook your typical "Sunday dinner"; soup, casseroles and slow cooker meals are meant to take the pressure off. The main reason to get together is to deepen the bonds of friendship in our congregation and to be more intentional in how we grow socially and spiritually as a congregation.

Contact Heidi Wei at hmpauls@yahoo.com

Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry was formally launched in September 2015, to provide opportunities for women in our church community to connect with each other in fun and meaningful ways.

This past fall we had an excellent turnout at the Women's Breakfast and Craft Marketplace where a portion of the funds were donated to local Syrian Refugee initiatives. We also hosted a classy pumpkin decorating evening and enjoyed a night of Yoga and refreshments.

As a new ministry we are committed to using 2016 as a year to explore how we can best meet the needs of women in our church community. We are particularly interested in finding way to connect ourselves as a group to events in our city in addition to hosting events in our existing space. We are always appreciate of suggestions for events and volunteers to organize and implement ideas.

Contact Sue Campbell at women@elevationwaterloo.org

Midweek Groups

Sarah and Skylar Van Kruistum head up the Midweek Groups ministry at Elevation. The goal is to help members of our church community connect with one another in meaningful ways. Elevation is about journeying together, and midweek groups can provide greater opportunities for forming meaningful, supportive relationships and authentic community.

There are several thriving Midweek groups with a variety of focuses. We are seeking to be more intentional with our groups so that there are more opportunities for people to enjoy the benefits of belonging. We would love to hear from any people interested in leading a group or joining a group according to their interest.

Contact Sarah and Skylar at midweekgroups@elevationwaterloo.org



Elevation - General Fund
Statement of Operations
For the 12 Months Ended December 31

	2015	2014
Revenue		
Tithes & Offering	\$350,023	\$329,069
Global Ministry Support	425	975
Ride for Refuge	29,512	14,174
Miscellaneous	400	5,119
	\$380,360	\$349,337
Expenses		
Staffing	\$198,095	\$191,389
Global/Local Mission	45,162	49,530
Facility Rental	68,902	77,233
Administration	10,906	14,563
Ministry Program Spending	17,346	13,801
Other	198	93
	\$340,610	\$346,611
Surplus (Deficit)	\$39,750	\$2,726
Balance, Beginning of Year	29,106	26,380
Transfer to Refugee Fund	(\$9,000)	\$0
Balance, End of Year	\$59,857	\$29,106



THE EMBASSY

The Embassy - General Fund Statement of Operations For the 12 Months Ended December 31

	2015	2014
Revenue		
Tithes & Offering	\$39,549	\$43,720
Outside Sponsorship	34,321	33,858
Miscellaneous	966	2,541
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$74,836	\$80,119
Expenses		
Staffing	\$31,404	\$16,227
Global/Local Mission	7,188	5,509
Facility Rental	13,586	14,688
Administration	4,986	3,746
Ministry Program Spending	21,289	3,849
Other	1,018	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$79,470	\$44,019
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$4,634)	\$36,100
Balance, Beginning of Year	34,182	(1,917)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance, End of Year	\$29,548	\$34,182

Building Fund
Statement of Operations
For the 12 Months Ended December 31

	2015	2014
Revenue		
Donations	\$245	\$795
Interest	9,533	13,339
	<u>\$9,778</u>	<u>\$14,134</u>
Disbursements	<u>\$6,319</u>	<u>\$56,460</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	\$3,459	(\$42,326)
Balance, Beginning of Year	<u>594,051</u>	<u>636,378</u>
Balance, End of Year	<u><u>\$597,510</u></u>	<u><u>\$594,052</u></u>

Benevolence Fund
Statement of Operations
For the 12 Months Ended December 31

	2015	2014
Revenue		
Donations	\$2,556	\$905
	<u>\$2,556</u>	<u>\$905</u>
Expenses	<u>\$2,900</u>	<u>\$900</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$344)	\$5
Balance, Beginning of Year	<u>\$1,745</u>	<u>\$1,739</u>
Balance, End of Year	<u><u>\$1,400</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,744</u></u>

Refugee Sponsorship Fund
Statement of Operations
For the 12 Months Ended December 31

	2015	2014
Revenue		
Donations	\$30,112	\$708
	<u>\$30,112</u>	<u>\$708</u>
Expenses	\$9,375	\$0
	<u>\$9,375</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	\$20,737	\$708
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$708	\$0
Transfer from General Fund	\$9,000	\$0
	<u>\$9,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Balance, End of Year	\$30,445	\$708
	<u><u>\$30,445</u></u>	<u><u>\$708</u></u>



Elevation

Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31

	2015	2014
Assets		
Cash	\$439,009	\$401,882
Other Investments	315,221	291,263
Accounts Receivable	0	149
Prepaid Expenses	577	619
Loans Receivable	2,776	1,707
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$757,583	\$695,620
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$3,642	\$11,151
Government Remittances Payable	2,527	1,933
Deferred Contributions	32,655	22,744
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	38,824	35,828
Fund Balances		
General	\$89,404	\$63,288
Building	597,510	594,052
Refugee Sponsorship Fund	30,445	708
Benevolence	1,400	1,744
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	718,759	659,792
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$757,583	\$695,620



Elevation
Projected Operating Budget
For the 12 Months Ended December 31, 2016

Revenue

Tithes & Offering	\$360,000
Ride for Refuge	32,655
	<hr/>
	\$392,655

Expenses

Staffing	\$220,276
Facility Rental	79,200
Global/Local Mission	55,730
Administration	13,820
Ministry Program Spending	24,650
Other	600
	<hr/>
	\$394,276

Transfer to Refugee Sponsorship Fund (\$14,000)

Surplus (Deficit) **(\$15,621)**