

 **Issue 12 *News and Notes* Summer 2022**

**May 2022 Directors Meeting**

The Foundation Board met in late May to award traditional grants as follows:

Connections Church $8,500

 Upgrade sound system for improved online presence.

Wonder Ministries $75,000

 Purchase and install a permanent modular classroom.

Mt. Tabor Church of God $25,000

 Install outdoor digital sign.

Camp Otyokwah $120,000

 Purchase a 5.48-acre lot surrounded by camp property.

Camp Otyokwah $10,000

 Purchase audio and visual technology for chapel tent.

Ridgeway First $10,000

 Replace carpet in Fellowship Hall.

Ridgeway First $25,000

 Update outdoor digital sign.

The Board also approved four new Micro Grants:

Ney Church of God $5,000

 Outreach to benefit emotional and spiritual health of Ney.

Ridgeway First $1,400

 Provide school supplies and a block party outreach.

 Wharton First $5,000

 Host a worship conference.

Kingdom Community $2,000

 Sponsor a grief support group and provide hygiene kits.

Congratulations and best wishes as people are blessed. We look forward to Kingdom impact.

**Grants at Work**

**Connections Church** has cultivated and a deep and rewarding relationship with Echo Ranch Bible Camp in Juneau, AK and was awarded a grant to provide leadership and general labor at the camp. The pictures show construction activities for an addition to the camp’s kitchen and drywalling and finish work on the new work team housing area.

The Program Directors at Echo Ranch are Parker and Naomi Schroeder. Parker is a graduate of the University of Findlay and was active in Campus Ministries. His parents attended high school with Connections’ Pastor Jim Klausing.

The Schroeders and Connections Church continue to deepen their relationship, enhanced by the support of The Foundation. The ministry at Echo Ranch is somewhat different from more familiar church camps. Children come from an impoverished area that is extraordinarily isolated and campers attend in part because, from the parents’ view, the fee is less than a week of childcare. Alcoholism, addictions, and teen pregnancy grow out of isolation and depression. The camp provides a significant resource and profound hope in Jesus.

**Ney First Church of God** is using resources from a micro grant to provide several outreach initiatives in support of the emotional, spiritual, and physical health of the Ney Community. “Getting Ahead” is a sixteen-week course that explores and overcomes the challenges facing low to moderate income families. Ney Church has sponsored several classes and is helping families face their financial challenges.

In addition, the church has provided back to school supplies, meals and outreach at Easter and Christmas, and Human Trafficking Awareness.

**Kingdom Community Christian Ministries** is sponsoring a grief support group and providing hygiene kits for school age children. Shown above is Tracy Davidson with Tony Dia, father of a slain Toledo Police officer, sharing his story of grief and his efforts to keep his son’s memory alive.

**Investment Opportunity**

The Investment Facilitator Program makes it possible for congregations to invest long-term financial resources with The Foundation. The funds are owned by the congregation and managed by The Foundation as custodian.

The Foundation provides quarterly reporting to the congregation. Net earnings may be distributed quarterly or be reinvested. Return of principal is made available at any time throughout the year as necessary.

If your congregation is interested in investing long-term cash assets with The Foundation, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

This *News and Notes* is brought to you by The Foundation of the Great Lakes Conference, 700 East Melrose Avenue, Findlay, OH 45840 and its staff, William Reist, President and Robert Stephenson, Financial Controller. For more information contact us at [www.foundationglc@cggc.org](http://www.foundationglc@cggc.org) or call (419) 425-9602 or (419) 957-2661.

**Stewardship Meditation**

**When Generosity Blesses**

Three years ago, Judy and I travelled to Ireland with some friends in celebration of our wedding anniversary. As we were walking into a shop in Galway (I think), a couple noticed my University of Findlay jacket and asked if we were from Findlay. Yes. Ohio? Yes. So are we! We discovered that we have common friends who happen to be members at College First, from which I had recently retired.

We made small talk for several minutes—amazed that we would meet so far from home—and then went our separate ways. Later that evening after we joined our travel partners for dinner, the restaurant door opened and in walked the couple we had met several hours earlier. What coincidence, that we would meet a couple from our hometown and then several hours later dine in the same restaurant!

Eugene Peterson, in his reflections on the life of David (*Leap Over a Wall*, pp. 39f), makes the point that David lived with a God-dominated imagination. In the face of Goliath, the army of Israel was living in a Goliath-dominated world: all the roaring of Goliath caused fear and frustration among the people of God. Yet David was so saturated in the presence of God that he could tune out the noise and focus on the task at hand. If we live with a God-dominated imagination, is it really coincidental to think that the Lord would cause heretofore strangers with common friends to connect twice on the same day in a foreign city!

For the past decade I participated in the Backyard Mission in Findlay, an opportunity to serve home-owners in our community. The premise is that if we are willing to spend gobs of money and lots of time to go to faraway places (which is honorable), we should be willing to serve in the shadow of our own steeple. For the past several years the faith community in Findlay has come together with hundreds of volunteers to serve several hundred homeowners.

Covid disrupted the rhythm of this ministry leaving too many projects untouched. To complete one more project I recently arranged to work at the home of a woman whom I had never met. We had a delightful get-to-know-you conversation interspersed with my work. The following day I returned an item that had needed some additional care. She recounted a conversation with her adult daughter earlier in the morning about the person who trimmed the shrubs, washed windows, and relocated the glider. When she told her daughter my name, Jan said, “I know him! We met in front of a shop in Ireland three years ago!”

Who would have thought that an act of generosity would have led to serving the mother of a person we met serendipitously in a small Irish city several years before? Yet we live in a God-dominated world where he surprises us with his grace and his presence. To live generously with a servant’s heart and an open hand is to be blessed in ways we can neither anticipate nor imagine. This is his world, and he is a good Father who chooses surprising joy for his people if we will engage generously in his call on our lives.

Gratefully,

Pastor Bill