



HAYWARD
wesleyan
CHURCH

Connecting every life to Jesus

KINGDOM IMPACT REPORT

JUNE 2024 - JANUARY 2025

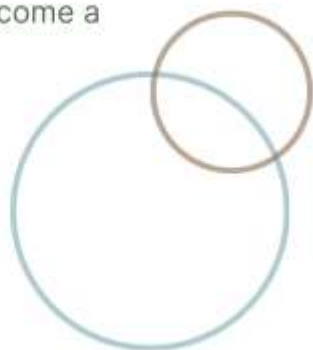


ABOUT THIS NEW PUBLICATION

This is the first issue of our new Kingdom Impact Reports. We will publish these reports on a regular basis to inform you, our congregation, about what God is doing in and through Hayward Wesleyan Church. You may hear bits and pieces about the growth of our church, but this publication documents the specifics of key ministry areas, so we can praise God together for His movement among us!

These reports will also *challenge* you with a vision of the future that God is inviting us into. The “Vision Projects” described here will show you how to help Hayward Wesleyan take specific steps—even *leaps*—in spreading God’s Kingdom to our community, nation, and world.

Read on about how you can become a “Kingdom Builder”.





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You Are Invited...

to our Kingdom Builders Team

God has uniquely gifted every Christian. A new team is forming at Hayward Wesleyan Church for those with the often over-looked gift of *giving*.

While God has called everyone to generosity, Romans 12:8 says He has given some the critical gift of giving. *You* might be one of the few He has uniquely gifted in this way. If so, Kingdom Builders is a new ministry lane for you!



What do Kingdom Builders do?

While the leadership team at HWC works hard to discern the *vision* of Hayward Wesleyan Church, those with the gift of giving determine the *pace*!

Kingdom Builders give influence, resources, and time to advance the cause of Christ in and through Hayward Wesleyan Church.

The best visions in the world are only effective if God's people resource them. Every Christian needs to give to the mission, but you may be one of the few whom God has uniquely gifted to move the vision forward.

"There are a handful of God-sized dreams that can become reality when the people of God provide the resources."

Why now?

As you'll see in this initial report, Hayward Wesleyan is growing and has great potential to reach more of our world with the Good News of Jesus. There are a handful of significant God-sized dreams that can become reality when God's people provide the resources.

If you're interested...

Do you have the gift of giving? Are you motivated to see the Church of Jesus prosper? We're not asking you to join a committee or come to meetings. *You become a Kingdom Builder with a simple, confidential commitment.*

Every quarter, in addition to receiving a ministry report like this one, you'll be invited to occasional inspirational gatherings about our Vision Projects. To learn more, please return the card insert, and we will be in touch.

Let's build the Kingdom together!

Ben Kidder

Lead Pastor



P.S. For inspiration on becoming a Kingdom Builder, see the personal stewardship story of our Lead Trustee Dennis Smith on p. 12.

OVERVIEW: GROWTH

Hayward Wesleyan Church is in a period of growth. Attendance during Sunday services is up more than 10% over the last 12 months. Along with increased numbers in Kids Church, Preschool, Nursery, and Junior and Senior High ministries, this growth is creating a need for redesigned environments.

We also need to increase our volunteer staffing. The Board is working on a plan to upgrade our leadership training and development, with the goal of engaging more congregants to use their spiritual gifts in ministry.

While our growth is encouraging, Pastor Ben brings a vision that HWC would grow *primarily* by leading new people to faith in Christ. In the section below, he describes this vision, and proposes that we partner with the Church Evangelism Institute.

New Vision Project

Building a "Culture of Conversion"

"Lost people need to be found! Effective disciple-making means we are purposeful in evangelism. Our goal is to become a conversion community. While HWC will grow when people transfer here from other churches and with the birth of every newborn, we want the primary engine of growth to be new believers. In fact, the goal is that conversions equal 10% of our worship attendance. Thus, if we average 350 people per Sunday, then we would see 35 people come to Christ for the first time..



The Church Evangelism Institute, located at the Billy Graham Center on the Campus of Wheaton College, provides churches with effective training to become conversion communities.

By participating in their two-year cohort model, dynamic conference, and onsite training, we can increase the absorbent edge of HWC." -Pastor Ben

Training Cost: \$7,000

CAMPUS / BUILDING



Our facility serves up to 1,000 people every week, on average. We're here not only for those who attend our ministries, but for many from the greater Hayward community who simply need space for meetings, meals, charity events, sports—even emergency response exercises. Recent updates to the sanctuary, bathrooms, and lobby have improved functionality and present a more welcoming place.

New Vision Projects

Accessibility and Security

To better serve our church family and visitors, especially those with accessibility limitations, we would like to install new handicap-accessible secure front doors. These doors will include an electronic remote door opener, key code entry system and a buzzer opener system for the office to provide a layer of security for staff conducting their duties.

Estimated Cost: \$30,000

Kids/Youth Wing Updates

Our children's and youth ministries are thriving in ways that only God can provide. The Kids/Youth wing is in constant heavy use from our Sunday morning ministries, after-school Followers ministry, youth nights and activities, small groups, and many community events. It needs updates, such as painting, new carpeting, furniture, and security system enhancements.

Estimated Cost: \$45,500

NEXT GENERATION

Kids Ministry

We serve at least 125 children weekly, with help from 48 volunteers.

In Followers (Mondays after school)

- 60 (72 registered), including 35 from unchurched families

On Sunday mornings

- 35 K-5th graders in Kids Church
- 18 3-to-5-yr-olds in Preschool
- 10 infants to 3-yr-olds in Nursery



Junior and Senior High Ministry

Our Wednesday evening youth ministry averages 50+ students in attendance, and 15+ leaders. In addition to gathering on Wednesdays, students have an opportunity to go deeper by connecting with small groups: High School Collective and Middle School Bible Study. The heartbeat of our youth ministry is small group leaders pastoring students.



New Vision Project

See Campus/Building section for needed improvements.

COMMUNITY



Groups

HWC has 24 active small groups, comprised of 146 unduplicated individuals. They include 7 women's groups, 9 men's groups, and 8 mixed groups. While each is unique, they're all based on the core values of Bible study, prayer, relationships, and multiplying disciples through sharing our faith and investing in the spiritual growth of others. Other groups and studies include the new Alpha course (an introduction to the Christian faith), MomCo, Celebrate Recovery, and Encore.

Care and Support

In addition to visits to 23 shut-ins that Linda Waystedt leads, a new Stephen Ministry has launched to minister to people going through other kinds of difficulties and crises. Five leaders are currently training the first class of 6 volunteer Stephen Ministers.



Connecting

Licensed pastor Charlene Pearson volunteers her time at HWC. Uniquely gifted with the ability to see and connect with people, Charlene seeks out new attenders, hosts welcome lunches, and connects people into the ministries of our church that can best meet their needs.

MISSIONS

Hayward Wesleyan Church has a dedicated Mission program to reach people with the Gospel here, near, and far. Through our special budget (separate from the church operating fund), we support 21 missions or missionaries.



Local

About **25%** of our budget goes to partner with Christian organizations in Hayward and the Lac Courte Oreilles community that help people:

- Meet Jesus as Savior and Healer
- Recover from addiction and incarceration
- Find shelter during homelessness
- Gain employment skills
- Develop parenting and financial management skills

Greater Hayward House of Hope

National

About **10%** goes to missions in the U.S., where we support:

- Missionaries to Arab immigrants
- Ministries serving Native people
- Rural churches in unreached areas
- Bible distribution and lay witness training



Overcomers Family Camp



Short-term mission teams that we send from Hayward Wesleyan are not supported by our mission budget. Team members raise their own support through Mission Cafes and other fundraising.

Global

Nearly **60%** of our Mission budget is devoted to taking the Gospel around the world. Our missionaries, Wesleyan and non-denominational, work in an array of settings: Muslim-majority communities in Africa and Central Asia; former communist countries in Eastern Europe; pastor training initiatives in the Far East and Africa; indigenous Mayan villages in Guatemala; and hospitals operated by Mercy Ships, to name a few.



Pastor training in Uganda



Staff of Mercy Ships

New Vision Project

Our mission budget for 2025 is a 9% increase over 2023 and 2024.

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 2025 Mission Budget: | \$100,000 |
| Faith Promise Pledges: | <u>\$ 52,040</u> |
| Funding Need: | \$ 47,960 |

2025 Mission Budget
\$100,000



"Giving to HWC Missions is like investing in a 'mutual fund' selected from the best ministries around the world."

Missions Chair Holly Donato

My Stewardship Story



I'm Dennis Smith, a lifelong resident of Hayward and an entrepreneur at heart. I believe God wired me that way right from the start. As a child, I organized social events for my neighborhood peers and started multiple enterprises, such as roadside stands and a lawn care business. I was often striking up deals with my parents to exchange dollars for extra services around the farm. The business gene was undeniable.

Fast forward to the early 1990s. I had recently married and was well into my entrepreneurial pursuits when God led our family to Hayward Wesleyan Church. I was first invited and then drawn in through a community of God-seeking men.

It soon became evident that this band of brothers and sisters called Hayward Wesleyan Church not only loved God; they loved our community and found creative and engaging ways to serve it through the local church. I found this so appealing that I was immediately led to get involved.

God soon started to show me that, through my influence with people in the marketplace and the returns of my businesses, I had an opportunity to play a part in building God's kingdom here in Hayward, and ultimately to the ends of the earth.



Dennis owned and operated Apple Awards and Sports Plaques in Hayward for more than 25 years and sold it in 2023 to Emily and Matt Caves.

What I know now that I didn't then is this: God didn't need *me* to build His kingdom. *He* promised to build His kingdom. "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) What He was doing was inviting me to build His kingdom *with* Him through vocational ministry—and to experience what real love looks like.

The highest calling in Scripture is to love well. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:36-40)

The question I soon faced—and we all seem to face eventually—was about *purpose*. If I've been called to the marketplace in some capacity and am succeeding, why? Was it simply to live a comfortable life? That didn't feel right to me. The answer became clearer as I was challenged by Scripture and a personal friend to live life generously, and to trust God with my talents and money.



Dennis with Mary Pat and their children Evan and Claire. Mary Pat passed away from cancer in 2020.

As a family, we began to tithe; not a full 10% at first, but giving regularly and intentionally. This led to a peace and fulfillment that I'm at a loss to explain. Soon I had new eyes. I could see how our body, Hayward Wesleyan Church, was not only providing for the spiritual needs of the community, but also in many ways for their physical needs.

(continued)

I began to see our church as a hub for the Hayward community, and I couldn't imagine the community without this church. I came to realize that our community would miss us greatly if we suddenly disappeared.

It became a joy to support our pastoral team financially as an essential part of our body, providing education and leadership. It also became obvious that our building and property are tools facilitating so many ministry, outreach, and service opportunities for those not yet connected to the love of Jesus.

“ I was challenged by Scripture and a personal friend to live life generously and to trust God with my talents and money. ”

And yet, I wholeheartedly believe the heart of the church is *not* the building or the pastoral team. It is the people, you and me. We're the body of Christ with our large web of spiritual gifts working together with the Spirit to build His kingdom here in northern Wisconsin and to the ends of the earth.

In conclusion, I believe living life generously as a follower of Jesus begins with supporting the local church and its ministries, then expands to other worthwhile nonprofit organizations. The church is the only organization that not only helps people with their physical needs, but also provides for their spiritual hunger.

If you would like to learn more about what supporting Hayward Wesleyan Church with tithes and offerings might look like for you, please feel free to contact one of our pastoral staff or me. We would be happy to start a conversation with you.



In December 2024, Dennis married fellow HWC member Barb Krzak.

Q&A about KINGDOM BUILDERS

What is Kingdom Builders?

Kingdom Builders is a new ministry team intent on advancing the Kingdom of God by generously supporting the growth and ministries of Hayward Wesleyan Church. For the first time, we are creating a “ministry lane” here for those with the special gift of giving, as identified in Romans 12:8.

Who is invited to the team?

Anyone who is blessed with the spiritual gift of giving! This team has nothing to do with wealth or age. We welcome 25-year-olds and 90-year-olds; widows with two mites and those with much more; members as well as non-members who want to see the “God-sized dreams” for our church become reality.

Does Kingdom Builders involve meetings?

No, this is not a new committee! Being a Kingdom Builder simply means you make a confidential commitment to support the Vision Projects that God lays on your heart, starting with those outlined in this report. You will receive ongoing detailed progress reports like this one, and have an opportunity to attend occasional gatherings for updates.

Will Kingdom Builders replace capital campaigns?

No, we will still communicate special projects to the entire congregation and count on support from everyone. But Kingdom Builders will be a core network of people who are specially gifted to help God’s purposes unfold on an ongoing basis at HWC. It is not a one-off campaign.

What if I have questions?



Just turn in the enclosed response card to the church office and Dennis Smith will be in touch to set up a private conversation with you.



TAX-SAVING TIP

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to a qualifying charity, fulfilling your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) obligation, and potentially reducing your taxable income.

The maximum QCD for 2024 is \$105,000.



"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; **if it is giving, then give generously;** if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

Romans 12:6-8



For a conversation about Kingdom Builders, contact the church office or
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