



2016/17

# Annual Report



— EMPOWERED BY GOD —  
**TO REACH OTHERS**  
— FOR CHRIST —



## Note From Bob

For the past four weeks, I've been working on my next book. It's based on Paul's statement, "The old life is gone, the new has come." Only the old life isn't gone. I still sin. I still get angry, say things I shouldn't, and make a mess of things. So, what's gone? And what's the new life really like?

I love the subject of this book, because it's really the heartbeat of our church—helping as many people as we can leave the old life of sin and death and start living a new life of joy and peace in Christ.

And I'm so proud of all of you who continue to pray for, support, and get involved with what God is doing through our church. It's been a year of records—more than 51,000 people came to our Easter services, which still makes me shake my head. We launched both Online Church and the Anoka campus, debt free—another head-shaker. And 3,330 people made the decision to follow Jesus, an all-time high.

There is no other place on the planet I'd rather be than right here, leading this church, at no other time in history, and with no other people than all of you. I look forward to our best year yet as we continue to follow hard after the One who leads and loves us all, Jesus Christ.

**More blessed than I deserve,**

*Bob*

**Bob Merritt, Senior Pastor**



# 3,330

DECISIONS TO FOLLOW JESUS

We are blown away by how God is working in this church.

We saw a record number of people make a first-time decision to follow Jesus this year. 3,330 individual lives were changed, and we are continually humbled that God would use us to make such an impact on His Kingdom.

# 1,899

PEOPLE BAPTIZED

Baptism is a public declaration of a person's faith and an act of obedience in their walk with Jesus. It's symbolic of Christ's burial, His resurrection, and the new life found in Christ—and it's a step that we hope everyone who decides to follow Jesus will take.



# 8,391

INDIVIDUALS SERVING

There's a change that happens in a person's life when they're using the gifts and passions God has given them to serve others. Because we believe that when a person is serving, whether at church or in the community, they'll grow in their faith, help point other people to God, and connect in community.

## Online Church

This June, we launched Online Church, with a live broadcast of our full services at 9 and 11 am every Sunday.

Over just a few months, our attenders committed \$5 million to complete this project debt free. This allowed us to build a new broadcast center at the Lino Lakes campus and develop an updated website and app to host live services and streamline the user experience.

We've already had people watch in all 50 states and in 55 countries, and we can't wait to see how God is going to continue growing this audience throughout the upcoming year.

# 7,184

PEOPLE IN GROUPS

We weren't intended to go through life alone. God created us to connect in community with other believers to encourage and challenge us in our faith and in our everyday lives. And we believe that when authentic Christian community happens, lives are transformed.

## Church Partnerships

The Eagle Brook Association (EBA) is a ministry of Eagle Brook Church that is focused on helping other churches reach more people for Christ. We are proud to partner with 100 churches worldwide through the EBA. This year, more than 13,000 people made the decision to follow Jesus through our partner churches.

Eagle Brook also partners with non-profit organizations and ministries around the Twin Cities and across the globe to reach the lost and broken in our communities and help to strengthen the Church worldwide.



# Financial Update

This was a historic year for our church. Not only did more people come to know Jesus than ever before, but our financial results were staggering. We've continued to see contributions rise as people embrace the mission of this church and what God wants to do in their lives. Thousands of families at Eagle Brook are beginning to understand the biblical call to give 10 percent of their income back to God through the church. This has been a game-changer for our ministries.

Through the generosity of our attenders, we were able to build our \$18 million Anoka campus, debt free! We were also able to expand our reach through launching Online Church, where thousands of people each week are exposed to Jesus and our church in a different way. We invested \$5 million in a Broadcast Operations Center and technology infrastructure that allowed us to launch our live broadcast and prepare for continued expansion. This too, was done debt-free. Simply incredible!

Tyler Gregory, Executive Pastor

## Giving Comparison

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS **\$40,306,939** ↑ 13%

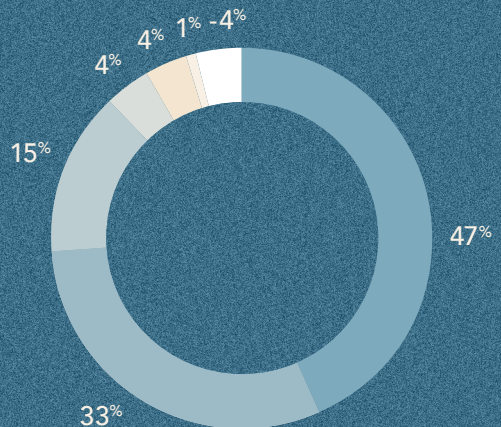
GENERAL FUND **\$33,455,525** ↑ 16%

CAMPAIGN FUND\* **\$6,851,414** — 0%

\*Includes contributions to the Online Church Fund.

## Expense Comparison

- 47% Campus Expansion & Capital
- 33% Personnel
- 15% Ministry & Administration
- 4% Debt Reduction
- 4% Facilities
- 1% Interest Expense
- 4% Net to Cash



## AVERAGE WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

# 22,033

↑ 6%

## CAMPUS ATTENDANCE

Anoka

**1,940** ↑ 69%

Blaine

**4,164** ↑ 4%

Lino Lakes

**5,991** ↓ 1%

Spring Lake Park

**1,996** ↑ 1%

White Bear Lake

**2,898** — 0%

Woodbury

**5,045** ↑ 8%

## Anoka Campus

40 months in a mobile site. \$18 million. 11 months of construction. 1 completely renovated building. 6,545 people on opening weekend.

On March 25, we launched the Anoka campus at the new permanent site, and we were amazed by the number of people who came and checked it out that weekend. And week after week, lives are being changed. Only God could take an old Kmart building and transform it into a place where so many people could experience His love for the first time.

