


May you find a light
to guide you home

AWAKEN COMMUNITY

ANNUAL REPORT
2026 - 2027





His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb

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PASTORS' REPORT

Micah Witham, Lead Pastor

I suppose anytime you start something, there will inevitably be a “last time” you do many of the things connected to it. In 2010, I was desperately in need of a church that took Jesus and the Bible seriously, valued thoughtful questions and the work of deconstruction and reconstruction, and sought to live authentic lives of faith in the world. That desire led me to start what we now know as Awaken. Having announced my departure this past fall, I have been slowly and intentionally walking through a number of “last times,” trying to soak them in for all they are worth. Here are a few highlights from an emotional and meaningful last year of ministry together.

Sabbatical - The Witham family remains incredibly grateful for the care and love you express as a church by offering seasons of sabbatical to your pastoral staff. This experience is certainly about rest and renewal, but it also invites a pastor to discern the voice of God for the church and for themselves. No matter the outcome, this is holy and important work, and I am grateful for the space to do it.

Fall - As we wrap up Worship in the Park—which is always such a sweet time of being together—we turn our attention to fall, kids going back to school, and the ministry year resetting. Two of my favorite events happen during this season, and this year did not disappoint. Paper Airplane Sunday is arguably one of the best ideas I’ve ever had as a pastor, and I hope you never stop doing it. Celebrating kids and reminding them (and us) that there is joy, fun, and delight deep in the heart of God is a gift. Trunk or Treat not only serves and loves Awaken’s neighbors, but it also gives me the chance to show off the people who make up this community. You all are one of the greatest joys of my life, and getting to put you on display for everyone to see and experience is so much fun.

Winter - I’ve said it before, but Advent is one of my favorite parts of being a pastor. I love that the world slows down. I love that the story begins in darkness and quiet, with waiting and longing. This year, I invited you to see and participate in Advent as “resistance” by being people of hope, joy, peace, love, and light in the world. You were invited not to settle for what is, but to be active participants in the resistance work of the Gospel.

Spring - After dancing our hearts out at Prom, we journeyed together from Ash Wednesday and Lent all the way to Good Friday and Easter. We reflected on what it means to be unburdened from habits, patterns, and beliefs that no longer bear fruit, and then sang our hearts out celebrating the hope of resurrection together with a full house!

While my time is coming to a close, we still have the summer in front of us and much to experience and celebrate for all that God has done. No words are adequate to express how proud I am of you and of who you are becoming. Thank you for loving me so faithfully as your pastor over the past sixteen years. You should know that I believe in you and I believe that you have everything you need to be who God is calling you to be. Finally, know that I pray your best days are still ahead of you and that this was just the beginning!



Jenna Daniels, Executive Pastor

Over the last 10 years, there hasn't been a single year without a significant transition to note in these annual reports, but this one, by far, feels like the weightiest. This year began with our first year in a new space and neighborhood, ongoing conversation about the potential of owning this space, a sabbatical, staff transitions, an announcement from a founding pastor, a congregational vote on your next lead pastor, a pregnancy announcement, a pastoral search...and that's just what we've navigated internally as a faith community. This has happened amidst a backdrop of political tensions, ICE in our cities, urgent neighborhood response, and more. These are some big transitions. I want to express my gratitude to all of you: for your trust and generosity for what we've walked through so far. As I transition to Lead Pastor upon Micah's departure in September, I am so excited and hopeful for what God invites us to next.

To my friend and co-pastor, Micah: what a beautiful, challenging, expanding, and fun 14 years it's been to work with you. I'm so grateful for the opportunities I've been given and the encouragement you've offered through these years. I'm going to miss you terribly AND so respect the complex, yet clear, discernment you've come to. I hope all good things for you in this next leg of your journey.

Staff - I say this every year, but the staff at Awaken bring a level of excellence and thoughtfulness to their work in ways I am consistently taken aback by. I want to highlight that we hired 3 interim roles on staff this year: Director of Community Life (Sally Reed), Pastor of Care (Anne Vining), Director of Care (Heather Crawford). Additionally, Cathy Solomon transitioned to Director of Spiritual Formation in the fall.

Pastoral Care - When I started on staff in 2016 care was led by a volunteer and not much was established. It's been an area at Awaken I've been so passionate about as I believe we often have a tangible experience of God when people show up for us with care. It's become increasingly clear that this team has grown beyond my capacity both in my current role and in the next role I will move into. I'm thrilled that Heather & Anne are leading this team, now called the Listening Presence team, moving forward. I look forward to the more permanent form it will take as we build our staff team this next year. I can already sense the new energy and intentionality they both bring during this significant transition. I know it's been felt already!





— STAFF REPORT —

Halle Hanson, Director of Music and Arts

As I reflect on this last year, I feel overwhelmingly grateful. Creating space for vulnerability, authenticity, and connection at Awaken is a gift.

Music – We had another fantastic Christmas Eve choir piece written, adapted, and directed by Michelle Whalen! This last Advent, we also hosted a Longest Night service; a gathering focused specifically on the weight of grief during the holiday season. The Longest Night service was a sacred space and definitely a highlight for me in my time at Awaken. The worship team continues to grow with incredibly talented musicians! I feel so grateful to create Sunday morning worship with so many gifted and delightful people.

Artist Community – The Artist community continues to be a loving and fun space for all the creative folks. We still meet for our monthly mingles and our seasonal book studies. We have continued to gather in homes for our Mingles and book clubs this last year, which has been lovely! It makes our gatherings feel more intimate and cozy. Thank you to all of you who have opened your homes to us! Periodically, we have had “Show and Tell” Mingles where people are encouraged to share a project they have been working on and I am continually amazed by the talent and creativity within our community! In our book studies this last year, we read *Anxious People* by Fredrick Bachman, *James* by Percival Everett, *Life Of The Beloved* by Henri Nouwen, *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence, and *A Rebellion of Care* by David Gates.

In 2025, we had another Summer Retreat out at my family’s flower farm! We spent a beautiful July day arranging flowers, engaging in a spiritual direction art practice, and sharing meals and in process projects with one another.

In November, we gathered at Art House North to learn from Judy Hougen about belovedness, spending the weekend exploring the generative power of love as the source of our identity and the foundation of our lives as artists and people of faith. We discussed cultural paradigms (like success and performance-based living) that diminish creativity by fostering shame and “shoulds” and spent time in practices that nurture spiritual and artistic flourishing. These retreats would not have been possible without the help of Vanessa Lucius, Brienna Rossiter, Nell Enright, Mackenzie Parranto, Naomi Krueger, Kristi Ellison, Heidi Smith, Michelle Whalen and the Denhem’s. Thank you all for helping to make these happen!

Special thank you to our Advent Artists this year Patrick Pelham, Katie Holmgren, Kristi Ellison, Alyssa Whetstone, and Nathan Cousins. Your reflections on light breaking through and Advent as resistance were deeply moving and beautiful. Thank you for offering us hope and imagination in darkness.

I’m so thankful to all of the volunteers that have helped to create meaningful and beautiful experiences; both on Sunday mornings and at Artist community gatherings! I feel incredibly grateful and proud to be a part of this place.



Sally Reed, Director of Community Life

As I continue in my first year on staff at Awaken, I am reminded of how much a year in the life of the church follows the rhythm of the seasons.

Starting in late summer, Cathy orchestrated a fabulous hand off of Community Life to me. I was grateful for her help as we walked through fall planning, leadership kickoffs, orientations for new leaders and many introductions.

Fall lived up to its bountiful reputation as I became more familiar with the many opportunities that Awaken offers. The weeks were filled with start-ups of established Life Groups, kickoffs of new ones and the honor of helping individuals get plugged in where they could grow in relationship with others. I enjoyed hearing Affinity Group leaders plan events to keep their group's momentum going and we had an amazing display of interest in a new Theological Conversations group. The vibrancy of the Awaken community was on full display with events involving all staff and areas of the church including Trunk or Treat, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, Advent Welcome, Winter Markets, and Christmas Eve Services.

Winter was dark and heavy this year, but we all witnessed growth and community taking root and spreading as networks formed and developed organically. Many from Awaken stepped in to help their neighbors and take leading roles in various outreaches. There was an uptick in people reaching out for connection meetings, as so many individuals echoed a need to connect somewhere that shared their values and sought to learn more about Awaken. A common theme was finally feeling at home again in a faith community.

Spring brought a bit of an exhale. Easter fell at the beginning of April and initiated a season of renewed activity. Discover Awaken and Partnership Classes three weeks in a row brought opportunities for hospitality and forming new connections. The ability to move outside provided fresh ideas for Affinity Groups and gatherings. Time allowed for seasonal check-ins and assessments with group leaders to see how everyone has fared throughout the past couple months.



Trevor Daniels, Director of Youth and Tech

Youth - This has been our first full year in the new building and with that plenty of memories and firsts for 6th-12th graders.

We have an amazing team of youth leaders that make Wednesday nights happen and a team of volunteers that make food for youth events. Above everything, I am really lucky and thankful to have these groups of people work to provide a loving, nourishing, fun atmosphere for our teenagers. They deserve all the praise for their creativity, adaptability, and positivity each week.

A few memories come to mind immediately.

Redeemer has provided a huge boost to our annual Halloween party with a store of decorations that transform the space, but you have to enter the dungeon beneath the undercroft to tap into the supply, which is an experience all on its own.

Power to the building was lost the evening of our annual Christmas party, so I sat in the dark to greet the families that didn't catch the communications early enough. That was a downer, but we redeemed it with a January celebration.

ICE changed the tone and tenor of ministry this winter, which was the case for many that call this church home. It was important to me that we held space for students to process everything going on, and learn about some of the harsh realities that face immigrants and people of culture in our neighborhoods.

This paved the way for our annual winter retreat. It was an escape for some and a real learning experience for others. We went to Trout Lake for the first time. I got our caravan pulled over on the way up, which was exactly the way I wanted the retreat to start... My favorite part of this retreat were the discussions and lessons curated by our youth leaders. They each got the opportunity to speak into an aspect of who Jesus was and how we might embody that here and now in the world around us. I think many of us left that retreat with a tangible awareness of how important connection and solidarity with other humans is amidst difficult circumstances.

This spring we are left with curating a space that can remind students of the value of simply being together when life gets really busy.

Lastly, one of our more seasoned youth leaders, Katie McEachern, brought her first kiddo into the world this spring with her husband Mark and that's worthy of celebration. We miss you already, Katie.





Trevor Daniels, Director of Youth and Tech

Tech - I love this aspect of my job and the people that make Sunday mornings happen. It says something for church to be as fun as it is with the people who occupy that tech booth week in and week out. To those that give their time and gifts as often as they do, you have my utmost gratitude. If I've learned and leaned into one thing at Awaken, it's that people matter above and beyond what they produce. At the same time, what we create together is beautiful and worthy of our focus and energy.

It's worth mentioning how uniquely caring and gracious our community is. If there is a mistake or a discrepancy somewhere, someone will kindly mention it and then move on or offer to participate. Believe it or not, that is not the norm in many church communities. So to those who notice the little details, thank you for how you show up, communicate, and extend grace. It's humans serving humans and that's just another reason Awaken is so wonderful.

This year we invested some money to get lyrics on the livestream, expanded our stockpile of worship backgrounds, and put a ton of time into fixing up our lighting setup at the church. I'd also be doing our sound system a disservice to not talk about how great it felt to push the volume limits on Christmas and Easter. There have been a number of moments this year where the team and systems were really dialed in. Those are proud moments for me.

We had a couple of music/tech mixers this year, which have been helpful for our two teams to connect outside of the packed Sunday morning environment. It's my hope to keep building this community of technicians up and have those opportunities to get to know one another.

I will be gone this summer for sabbatical, so to all of you that come to church on Sunday mornings or tune in to the livestream, please go out of your way to thank those that show up early to set up and curate the space for worship. And if you'd like to be part of the experience, do let me know.



Sara Spang, Kids Community Director

Each year when it comes time to write our annual reports, I sit down and look back at my calendar and review all the things that we did. But this year felt like what was happening in the world, in our state, and in our cities, weighed heavy on this reflection. The need for community and having a place like Awaken where we could walk alongside each other and stand and support our neighbors was crucial. Parenting through a pandemic required muscles we didn't know we had. Parenting in this season required something entirely new. Awaken values community, and creating opportunities where parents can connect is important to us.

For many, these relationships became places to find encouragement when we didn't know what to say to our kids or how to get involved. Parents and families started campaigns to raise resources or invited others into packing donations. And when the world felt chaotic and scary, volunteers showed up weekly to provide a place for kids to feel like they belonged and were loved, a safe place to ask the tough questions about what they were seeing in our world.

This year also brought the shift from one gathering to two. For those of us working with children, this was incredibly necessary as our new spaces at Redeemer became too small. We added new faces to our volunteer teams and saw many new families walk through our doors. The shift to two gatherings also gave our volunteers the opportunity to still attend a gathering on the Sundays they were serving.

After a year of using our new space and then moving to two gatherings, we saw the necessity of updating our volunteer screening system, our security procedures and volunteer training—which also included sexual abuse awareness training.

We started a parent book club around the book *Woven* by Meredith Miller (which I highly recommend) and found the importance of conversations around parenting in the midst of unpacking your faith and what you believe.

On Sundays with the kids we engaged in conversations about...

- Our values at Awaken
- What it means to wonder
- What it means to belong-to God, to each other, and in this neighborhood
- How to show God's love to others
- Our Kids Blessing Song: *"May God give you eyes to see..."*
- Creation
- Jesus as our Shepherd
- The Long Road of Life and what we need in our spiritual backpack for the journey

The journey isn't over. There is so much left to be done but if I've learned anything by looking back on this year, it's that I don't want to do it alone. This community has played a vital role in surviving what we have faced and are facing as parents raising kids in this world. Thank you for walking with us.



Erik Lindstrom, Operations Manager

For the last few years Awaken has found itself navigating transition after transition. In 2019 and 2020 we navigated our way through the pandemic. In 2022 and 2023 we navigated the conclusion to our continued struggle with the ECC. In 2024 we began searching for a new place to gather after our lease was not renewed. This resulted in us navigating a building transition as we moved into Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the spring of 2025. Finally, in fall 2025, Micah announced his intention to bring his time as Lead Pastor of Awaken to a close.

While many of us may have hoped for a simpler, calmer year, Awaken has also built quite a strong muscle for navigating transitions. With years spent building systems that are flexible and adaptable, the work never feels as difficult as it might otherwise feel. We've navigated summer heat, winter blizzards, mice, power outages, road construction, ICE raids, sabbaticals, staff transitions, building a search team, and continuing through a pastoral transition alongside Jenna's parental leave and Trevor's sabbatical.

Through it all, there is still a lot to celebrate in the last year of our life as a community.

- We've settled into our new space and shared sweet moments with our new neighbors like our community picnic at Carty Park last August.
- We're about to host our first Awaken weddings since 2024.
- We've expanded the staff team to include Vanessa coordinating Sunday morning volunteers, Cathy transitioning to Director of Spiritual Formation, Sally joining to oversee community life, and Heather and Anne bringing an expanded presence and focus to care.
- We've enjoyed significantly expanded building space for events like Trunk or Treat, Awaken Prom, Youth Group, and more.
- We hosted Theology Beer Camp last fall and saw over 500 people in attendance.
- Seeing the community step up and support those in our neighborhood and beyond throughout Metro Surge.
- Pastor Jenna and Jason welcomed baby Isaac into their family.

While there is much that I never would've wished for, there is also the simple grounding that we are exactly where we're supposed to be, and I am constantly grateful to be part of a community of people who continue to show up and breathe beauty, love, and justice into the world.



Vanessa Lucius, Sunday Morning Coordinator

In response to the evolving needs of both the congregation and staff, Leadership created the Sunday Morning Coordinator, and I was grateful to step into it in August. Though I have been part of the Awaken community for years, this position exposed me in new ways with the generosity and faithfulness of our so many Awakenites. It has been a true joy and privilege to come alongside the Welcome Hosts, Hospitality, and Communion teams. Week after week, I am deeply encouraged as I witness the many parts of the body of Christ working together—often in quiet, unseen ways—to create a space where people are warmly received and invited to encounter God and one another.

One of the greatest gifts of this role has been hearing people's stories and helping connect them with others at Awaken. These connections are the heart of church life, and I can't express what a gift it is to play a small part in that work.

Over the past year, we have been grateful to welcome new volunteers across all of our teams. This growth has created greater flexibility in scheduling and helped ease the burden on individuals. While the general rhythm of serving is about once per month, larger teams allow us to care well for one another—especially in seasons when someone may need to step back for a time. We remain committed to continuing to build these teams in a way that protects serving as a place of joy and willingness, rather than one of strain or obligation.

As we have grown in numbers, we have also sought to cultivate community by creating opportunities for volunteers to connect with one another. Each team shares at least one Thank You meal lunch annually, and there is a growing desire among volunteers to gather even more often. These moments around the table have become a meaningful extension of our side-by-side serving; inviting us to turn toward one another, face-to-face, to build and strengthen relationships.

If you feel drawn to be part of what God is doing on Sunday mornings, I would love to help you find a place to serve.



Cathy Solomon, Director of Spiritual Formation

Spiritual formation is both a personal and communal journey—a process of walking toward oneself and toward God.

A palpable sense of the Spirit was felt during the reDiscovering Prayer retreat in April 2025. As those in attendance engaged in prayer practices around the Image of God, the Examen, and Centering Prayer, participants shared with tender vulnerability. As the day ended, a hopeful question was raised: *“When can we do this again?”*

That question echoed in my own heart and highlighted a clear hunger for intentional spiritual “re-formation” at Awaken. In response, I transitioned into the role of Director of Spiritual Formation this past October.

Most in our community find themselves in the midst of faith deconstruction and reconstruction. While there is plenty of fuel for the fire of deconstruction, it is much harder to sort through the rubble to build a faith that is curious, evolving, and grounded. There is a deep longing here to reorder the evangelical disorder many have experienced. Our community values sermons that offer fresh lenses on the Bible and they respond deeply to the invitation to live in alignment with the teachings of Jesus, the Christ.

Since October, intentional focus toward spiritual formation has looked like this:

- The Spiritual Formation Team: Established to guide the vision and direction of spiritual formation at Awaken.
- Retreats: Hosted an Advent half-day and a Lenten full-day retreat.
- Book Study: Held a book discussion on Steve Wiens’ Beginnings alongside our January sermon series.
- Spiritual Direction: Launched two new spiritual direction groups in February.

At the close of the Advent retreat, many shared how meaningful it was to be met by God within a communal experience. There is a sacred connection found in engaging these opportunities together. My hope is that we continue to curate these intentional spaces to slow down, listen to God, and engage such experiences together.



Heather Crawford and Anne Vining, Director and Pastor of Care

It's not lost on us that as we begin to put words to this past year of Care for our people... we feel a bit overwhelmed. Care at Awaken is provided by our people, for our people. Our care teams – Practical, Prayer, and Listening Presence – are made up of volunteers with generous hearts led to see and show up for folks in our community. And that is no small thing; overwhelming in the best way.

Together, over the arch of years of our time at Awaken, we have watched our community grow to trust that care will be provided. Meals delivered. Snow shoveled. Gentle, prayerful nearness. Celebrations marked. Grief shared. As we recount the memories, stories, and moments from the year, we're struck by three threads that seem to run deeply through all of them.

Generosity - Our community shows up over and over again in the little and big moments of each other's lives. Time is precious and resources can feel diminished, but you all show up.

- Our Practical Care Team almost doubled, and many new team members joined because the care they received in the past was a gift they want to be able to share with others. Meals, take-out, freezer meals, gift cards, snow removal, lawn care, checking gutters, raking leaves...
- Our Pastoral Care Team did a little re-brand and is now the Listening Presence Team – and they spent countless hours doing exactly that: creating safe space for folks needing a compassionate, listening ear while navigating life.
- Our Prayer Team gathered weekly to pray for our staff, community, neighborhood, transition, and specific prayer requests.
- Out of the generosity of our community, we were able to respond to Benevolence Fund requests that help our folks get back on their feet when the unexpected hits.
- In the midst of tragedy, fear, and outrage, your outpouring of care in the form of personal and family care essentials, food and packing assistance for East African Magnet School, formula and diapers, gift cards, and so much more helped fill the gap for communities deeply impacted by Metro Surge.



Heather Crawford and Anne Vining

Intentionality - Our people make time to care for others. They sit with each other in times of celebration and grief. They remember important dates. They shovel themselves out & then go shovel other families out, too. They learn to crochet to make pocket prayer shawls for care packages. While life is busy, they pause, check in, send a text, email, or card.

Steadiness - Our teams are consistent, incredibly kind, and regularly show up. They have sought out the care team they are on because they have a deep desire to bring wholeness, and it shows in their unwavering, tenacious care and provision for our community.

As we have begun to carry on in stewarding the rhythms of care that Jenna has established and to grow in the ways our community needs in the coming year, we are grateful and humbled to work alongside such dedicated, compassionate teams of caregivers. As Mister Rogers said (words his mother, Nancy, had shared with him), *“Look for the helpers. There are always people who are helping.”* – these teams are our community’s quiet helpers, holding us up and tending to our healing and wholeness.





— BOARD REPORT —

Cory Ehlebracht, Pastoral Advisory Team Chair

Hello from the Pastoral Advisory Team! We want to begin by saying thank you to Micah, Laura, and their kids for 16 years of faithful service to Awaken. After a sabbatical last summer, Micah shared in October that he felt called to step away from his pastoral role and agreed to stay through September 27th, 2026. We fully support his decision, and we are so grateful for everything he has poured into this community.

As you can imagine, the pastoral transition has been the PAT's main focus this year. On October 12th, Micah delivered a heartfelt sermon announcing his decision, joined on stage by staff and others to show their full support. In November, the community voted unanimously to move Pastor Jenna into the Lead Pastor role, with a new Teaching and Formation Pastor reporting to her. From there, the PAT worked quickly to establish a Search Team led by Scip, Pastor Jenna, and Art. The new pastoral position was posted in January and applications and interviews are underway. We'll let the Search Team share more, but we are grateful for, and confident in, the people leading that process.

While this transition took much of our focus, it wasn't the only thing moving at Awaken. Redeemer graciously shifted their services to Saturdays, opening the door for Awaken to offer two Sunday gatherings beginning in the fall. This was a meaningful development as we continue to grow into our new home at 285 Dale Street North. Christmas Eve brought 1,035 people across our three gatherings, and Easter saw 902 of us together, including 768 adults and 134 kids. Thanks be to God for our community who continues to serve and welcome others.

Our relationship with Redeemer continues to deepen. The Awaken PAT and the Redeemer Vestry have been building real, meaningful connections, and we've been doing a lot of behind-the-scenes work including obtaining professional reviews and cost estimates so we have a clear picture of what it would take to make 285 Dale Street our long-term home. There is still much to figure out, and we are being deliberate about it.

Financially, Awaken carries a healthy cash balance 10 months into our Fiscal Year, which runs July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. As of the time of this report, our giving has run a bit under budget, although the last several months have seen a beautiful surge of generosity from our people across our general, benevolence, and building funds. Thank you for giving generously to Awaken!

This year we welcomed three new PAT members: Julie Olson (Vice Chair), Kevin Frazel, and Dave Heim (Secretary). We also want to recognize Claire Kaehr, who is completing her term after years of faithful service to this team. Thank you, Claire.

We close with joy: Pastor Jenna is on parental leave through mid-August, home with Jason, Caden, and baby Isaac. We pray for a sweet and restful summer for their whole family. What a gift to celebrate new life in the middle of a year of so much change.



Katherine Scipioni, Search Team Co-Chair

The Upcoming Pastoral Transition

With Pastor Micah's upcoming transition at the end of September 2026, Awaken is searching for a Teaching & Formation Pastor. By congregational vote last November, Pastor Jenna will become Awaken's next Lead Pastor when Pastor Micah transitions. Jenna is the hiring pastor for our new Teaching & Formation Pastor, who will play a key role on the team and for Awaken. The most up to date information regarding this transition is available on our [website](#).

Search Team

The team began meeting monthly in November. In between meetings there has been a lot of work reviewing applicants, preparing materials, interviewing candidates, and of course deep conversations about all the above. We are incredibly grateful to everyone serving on the Search Team for their efforts.

Timeline

- Pastor Jenna will return from her parental leave by early September 2026.
- Awaken will celebrate Pastor Micah and Laura in late September.
- From October through December Awaken will have a Visiting Pastor who will provide interim teaching and pastoral support as we navigate this significant change.

We hope that by sometime in October or November Awaken will have a Candidate Sunday for a prospective Teaching & Formation Pastor. That Candidate Sunday will be followed by a special Partnership meeting to vote on the candidate the following Sunday.

If this schedule stays on track, we hope that our new Teaching & Formation Pastor could begin January or February of 2027. Please continue with us in prayer! We appreciate your support and trust.



Pastoral Advisory Team Nomination

The nominating committee of Julie Olson, Allie Zavala, Jeff Zupfer, Pastor Jenna and Pastor Micah enthusiastically recommends Taylor Anne Barriuso to serve a three year term on the Pastoral Advisory Team, filling the seat of Claire Kaehr. Collectively we express our deepest gratitude and thanks to Claire for serving on the board and bless her as she rests from the hard work of the past several years.

Taylor Anne Barriuso

I made my way to Awaken in 2022 when I moved back to MN after being away for over a decade to return to graduate school and start a new career. I am now happily settled in Richfield and working as a hospital Speech Language Pathologist. I grew up in a local Covenant church and I had been following Awaken's contention with the denomination while living out of state.

When I started attending here, I felt great respect for the transparency and integrity of our leadership as they stood firm in our affirmation of the inclusion of all people in the life in the church while also advocating for unity despite disagreement within the denomination. I love being part of a church that embodies my values of justice, intellectual engagement with the spiritual life, and gathering around the well of Jesus.

I am honored to be nominated to be part of the PAT as our community begins a new chapter of pastoral leadership. It is deeply important to me that we maintain our integrity, commitment to our values, and the flourishing of our community through what will certainly be a big change. It has been such a blessing to me to be part of this church and I am grateful for the opportunity to sow into our future as part of this team.





FINANCIAL REPORT

Art Morrow, Executive Director

Once again, Awaken people have been so generous this year! At our Annual Meeting, we will celebrate how your generous giving to our General, Building and Benevolence Funds has made a difference. Thank You!

A more in-depth overview of our financials will be shared at our Annual Meeting on May 17th, but here is a preview of our budget for the 2027 fiscal year.

2027 Fiscal Year Budget: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Our current Budget ('2026 Fiscal Year') is \$1.2M for all funds, programs and partnerships.

Our proposed 2027 Fiscal Year Budget is \$1.33M. That increase includes:

- Raises for our hardworking staff
- Covering for Pastor Jenna's parental leave and Trevor's sabbatical
- Supporting Pastor Micah and Laura in transition and fall Interim Pastor
- Search and relocation costs for new Teaching & Formation Pastor
- Professional assessment of building

Meanwhile, our budget continues to support robust programming for kids, youth and adults, our missional partners, and ongoing benevolence care needs.



2026 - 2027 Fiscal Year Budget

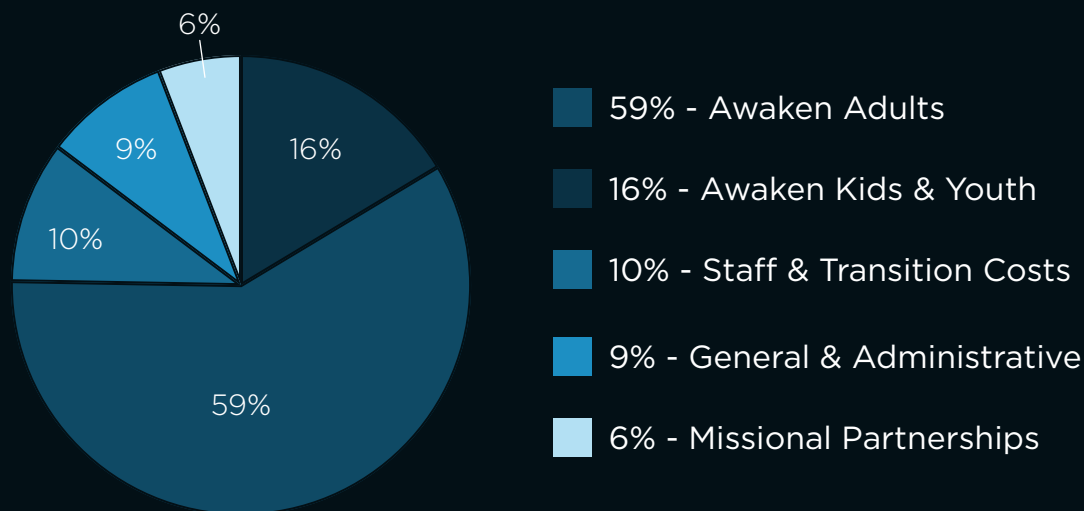
Our Fiscal Year runs July 1 through June 30. Here is the 2026 - 2027 Fiscal Year Budget.

Anticipated Program and Admin Expenses

Awaken Kids & Youth Ministries	\$209,000
Awaken Adult Ministries	\$788,000
Missional Partnerships	\$80,000
General, Administrative, and Building	\$123,000
One Time Staff & Transition Costs	\$130,000
Total Budget Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027	\$1,330,000

Anticipated Giving by Fund

General	\$1,100,000
Staff Appreciation & Transition	\$80,000
Benevolence	\$24,000
Building	\$126,000
Total From All Funds	\$1,330,000





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