

GCC Letter to the Congregation (signed by Fred Jentgen, chair of the Elder Council)

May 4, 2016

Dear GCC Family,

Recently the Elder Council approved a motion to assist financially Grace Community Christian School, a ministry of our church, while the school administration continues to restructure and move toward the goal of rebuilding enrollment.

Over its 40-year history, the school has maintained a position of self-sustainability with reserve funds to ensure solvency if tuition payments and annual fundraising efforts were not sufficient to meet expenses. However, because of deficits that occurred recently due to declining enrollment and a changing education environment, the school has exhausted its reserve funds, and therefore, has had to ask the church for help while it seeks to rebuild its enrollment.

Great progress has been made to increase enrollment and restructure the school during this past year with a new administrator, Kelvin Inouye, some new staff members, and along with our continuing, committed teachers. We have seen God's rich blessing and tremendous provisions during this past year through the hard work of our school board, administrative team and teachers, and engaged parents, and for that we are deeply grateful.

Recently, we have seen progress that indicates we can expect the school to be fully self-supporting by the end of the 2016-2017 school year. And over the next few years we hope to once again achieve full enrollment of 400 students (preschool and K-8th grade) while continuing to enhance the educational and character-building experience for our students.

One important piece of the restructuring and restoration of the school includes renaming the school as Grace Christian Academy (GCA). The Elder Council has accepted and approved this name change that will better position us to involve like-minded churches in this ministry, and to position ourselves as a strong academic institution within the Tempe/East Valley community.

You can partner with us by committing to pray for this ministry and you can help us restore this important ministry through: 1) your involvement with ACSTO (a program that allows you to assign a portion of your state taxes to GCA); 2) in encouraging parents you know to consider GCA for the educational and spiritual development of their children; and 3) in giving support to the GCA Scholarship Program to assist parents in sending their kids to GCA.

The GCC Elders and GCA Board together look forward in this partnership to strengthen the school as a strong, Christ-centered, and vital ministry of the church, providing a quality academic education through a biblical worldview with strong Christian character development that equips students to flourish in life and stand strong for Christ in an ever-changing world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fred Jentgen,
Elder Council Chair