



Circle of Peace at Green Lake Conference Center

Glory to God in the heavenly heights, peace to all on earth who please Him.
Luke 2:14

Peace is one of the most beautiful words in any language—shalom; eirene; der friede; paiz; la pace; paz; pyung hwa—and one of the most elusive realities in any culture. Individuals, families, churches, nations, and the world search for peace in troubled times. Green Lake Conference Center is privileged to respond to this quest for peace by offering a sacred space where people experience the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, and are then sent out to share Christ's peace and light with the world.

In 2019 we celebrated 75 years of peace and closer walks with God at Green Lake with morning devotions in Chapel Car Grace, inspiring conference sessions in Staughton Hall, afternoon tea in the dining room and a hymn sing in Roger Williams Inn lobby. The memories created together were particularly precious when COVID "lock down" began eight months later.

In 2020-21 our focus moved to improving the operational foundation of Green Lake so that we are ready to build a second 75 years of ministry (Matthew 7: 24). We completed over 60 significant improvements including changing two software systems, installing three electrical systems, replacing five roofs, improving WiFi offerings, and saving the foundation of the seawall on Lone Tree Point. We also invested in leadership training and invited Jesus to bring peace to our staff team in troubling times. COVID delivered huge blows to Green Lake in terms of conferences, but God brought redemptive opportunity as it allowed us more time to focus on completing so much of this foundation work.

In 2022, we want to grow our capacity to bring Christ's peace to more people on these sacred grounds. There are two specific ways in which we want to grow our capacity. The first is to grow our staffing capacity through expanding our student staff and volunteer ministries. In 2021 we had over 200 volunteers come for work group or longer-term volunteer work. We

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9

also had over 100 student staff here to run the Quest, Great Escape and Northern Pines youth ministry programs. With labour shortages in hospitality around the world, and with the power we see in student and volunteer staffing experiences in nurturing and training Christian leaders for the past 77 years at Green Lake, we feel compelled to grow student and volunteer staffing. To do this we need funds to add leadership to grow and provide pastoral care to these programs, and to invest in housing for the participants. The fact that our current President and many of our staff, volunteers, Board members and donors are here because of Green Lake student staff or volunteer experiences underlines their importance for lifelong ministry engagement.

The second capacity building area is to invest in sleeping room finishes in hotel rooms so that we can attract new churches, ministries and non-profits which will grow our mission, bring more peace and help us grow our sustainability post-COVID. After investing so much on our infrastructure foundation (roofs, water towers, electrical systems and more) in the past five years, it is time to pivot to pretty things that everyone sees and enjoys like carpet, artwork and furnishings in guest rooms! \$5,000 refreshes a whole room or \$1,000 refreshes the lighting, art and soft goods. This is particularly important to encourage newcomers to make that all important first trip for a Green Lake conference experience.



After waves of challenges, we lean into 2022 encouraged by the prophetic words of Board member Rev. Trinette McCray, expressed in spring 2020: "We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. Trusting in his Holy Word, God's never failed us yet." We invite you to join us in prayer, volunteering or making a financial gift. A year-end gift helps increase our capacity to grow staffing and conference ministry so more people can experience a closer walk with God and peace at Green Lake. Thank you for your partnership in the Green Lake mission that sends out so many Christian leaders to shine Christ's light into dark spaces around the world. May God bless and keep you and your family and bring you peace this Christmas.

Rev. Michael Williams. D. Min.
Vice President of Development

Ben Mott
President/CEO



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