

In reading the red letters denoting Jesus' words in the book of John, almost his first words are "Come, follow me" (1:43b) and almost his last words are "As for you, follow me" (21: 22b). For 80 years Green Lake has been a sanctuary where people receive and walk with Jesus, becoming refreshed, renewed, and restored. As we followed Jesus in 2024, with the help of over 100 adult volunteers and student staff, we served over 40,000 conferees. Last summer we delighted in vibrant Quest youth conferences and SALT student ministry. These young adults preached 60 sermons as part of our new Creativity in Preaching Program, co-led with Greg and Rev. Dr. Heather Henson.

Comments from fall group leaders expressed how well the grounds are stewarded and how their groups joyfully followed Jesus together while at Green Lake. City Church said, "We loved the serenity and beauty. The conference [center] was a great place to invite the Holy Spirit." Word of Grace Ministries told us, "The hospitality was wonderful. The staff was very kind and Christ-like which made my group feel welcome. On Saturday there were some different groups in the dining room and a group was singing with voices that were beautiful to our ears and hearts." Church of the Incarnation's retreat leader wrote, "We loved the beautiful and sacred surroundings that foster connections with God and each other. All the staff were stellar. As a young church plant, it's important to us to set up traditions that will carry on through future decades as memories are made. We've chosen GLCC because of the beautiful location, outstanding staff, and reasonable rates. See you again next year!" Iglesia Biblica Esperanza Viva encapsulated what God has been doing, "Our group really enjoyed the grounds and became like one person in mind and spirit."

As we look to 2025, we ask for your support in providing scholarships for people who want to encounter God at GLCC who otherwise may not be able to so that they can come and experience God in fresh ways, and flourish in their walk with Him. We also ask for your support in renovating accommodations for guests, volunteers, and summer staff. In the last several years, we focused on renovating vital 'unseen' infrastructure. The time has come to update some of our lodging spaces so that they support rather than distract conferees from their *Closer Walk with God* while here.

Thank you for your prayers and support. May God refresh, renew, and restore you and your family as we celebrate the birth of his Son whom we follow.

Ben Mott, President/CEO

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