



Dear friends of Green Lake,

Brad Syverson, our Food Service Manager, wrote and sent a wonderful reflection to us on Palm Sunday: "Life is full of ups and downs. Glorify God during the ups and fully trust Him during the downs." This has been a time of extreme highs and lows in terms of stress, worry, hope and practical challenge for you, your families and for Green Lake Conference Center. We pray you and your families are healthy and holding up in these new times.

Green Lake Conference Center is experiencing highs and lows, and I am writing to update you about both. The conference center experienced a great blessing on March 20, 2020 when we received the largest single gift in our history directed to pay off our debt. Using the American date system, this day is 3/20 and a theme verse for many years has been Ephesians 3:20-21:

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen."

What a blessing with God's perfect timing.

Fifteen months ago, we had over \$5,000,000 in debt. Selling three lakefront lots by Delmar-Miller house for a great price while keeping the walking path along the lake a year ago (a miracle), and through this gift (a second miracle), we are now debt-free. We are not sure that GLCC has ever been in this position before. This helps us survive this tidal wave since we are no longer paying interest on loans. Years of work to manage our property tax burden and ending a corporate Aramark housekeeping subcontract on January 1, 2020 making housekeeping team GLCC employees also tremendously reduced our fixed costs. So from a fixed expense side, we are probably in the best position we have ever been in to handle a tidal wave.

Please take a moment to stop and pray, and tell God thank you for His glorious ways He has blessed Green Lake.

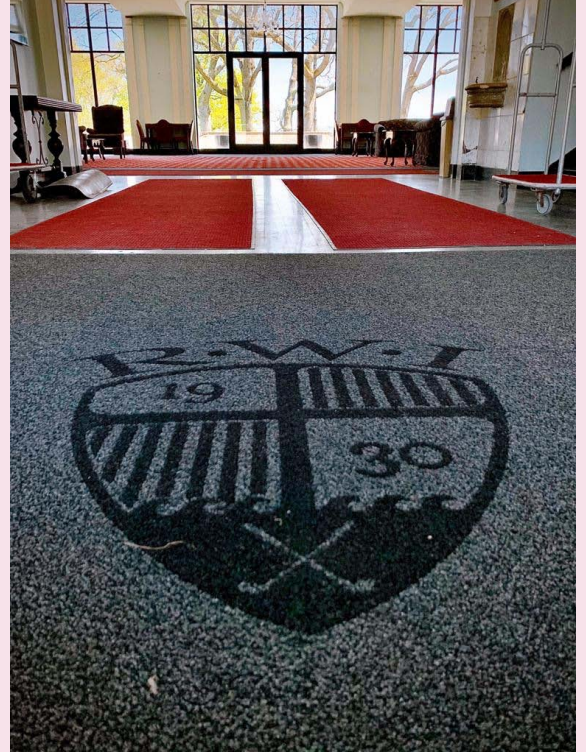
However, most of our conference groups for spring and summer, and some for fall, have cancelled. We are facing what may be an 80% drop in accommodations and meal income from these groups in 2020 versus 2019. The tidal wave of the loss of conference income is a massive challenge. There is opportunity to serve families coming for a closer walk with God and each other, and for smaller groups to come and spread out across accommodations and the grounds to enjoy a safe retreat. We are communicating about these opportunities to friends and group attendees of GLCC so please share the word.

We applied for a forgivable Payroll Protection Plan loan under the CARES Act provision that will fund eight weeks of payroll and benefits. When that runs out in mid June, hours and wages for full-time staff will be reduced by 10% and our retirement contributions to them will be suspended for the rest of 2020. We are helping part-time staff use the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Some part-time staff need to use unemployment because we cannot provide work for them at this moment. Please keep our staff in your prayers.

We are busy across departments in a variety of exciting projects to take advantage of the downtime to become better and simpler in terms of facility and operations, allowing us to grow mission and relieve burdens on guests and staff when we are busy again. Some projects have

already been funded and for others we are planning ahead of God bringing the resources to complete them. Some highlights include:

- A team that is doing an amazing job selecting new property management software
- New accounting software for Lawsonia and GLCC
- New photographs and website upgrades to promote GLCC to families and groups
- HVAC upgrades in Oncken-Crum, Dawson and Brick House
- Electrical and plumbing service upgrades and a new roof and paint for the bathhouse at the Anderson camping circle
- Finishing touches on the new Roger Williams Inn entry and the final roof replacement component
- New operational processes that will save more than 20,000 photocopies per year
- New ways to deliver our wonderful food service offerings in the COVID-19 world
- Housekeeping building and systems upgrades, as well as new practices
- Restriped parking stalls
- Various paint and stain projects to spruce up our look in hotels and Bauer Dining Room, and new furniture donated for the fireplace area in the dining room
- LED lighting upgrades to save energy and expense
- And much more . . .



I am excited to announce that Rev. Michael Williams, D. Min., is joining our team as Vice President of Development. Mike recently retired after serving more than two decades as the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Michigan. Prior to this role, Mike was the Director of Mission Support for ABC of West Virginia and a local church pastor. He served as Chair of the GLCC Board, and was a seasonal camper with his wife Tammie and son Michael. Throughout his ministry, God has brought forth resources to build up churches, plant new churches, support world missions and grow ministries one Christian leader at a time. Under Mike's leadership, scholarship funds were provided to enable kids without a father to go to Camp Lake Louise in Boyne Falls, MI for free. Mike is serving the role at Green Lake for a modest stipend, allowing us to bring pastoral care and leadership to the Green Lake family and see what God sparks to grow program, scholarships and facility stewardship through his role.

We can relate to the experience at Hampton Court Palace in West London in the UK, once a favourite residence of Henry VIII. As their manager Lucy Hutchings put it, "While the downtime has given staff the opportunity to do jobs that would have been hard to schedule with visitors present, we are all so looking forward to when the building can open again. It's so odd how quiet it is here. While it's wonderful to have this space to myself, it's meant to be bustling and busy. Spaces like this are meant to be enjoyed." We feel the same way as, given no choice for a time, we have been busy improving, but we also yearn for when we can fully reengage how Green Lake is supposed to be, full with people being nurtured and trained for Christian leadership one closer walk with God at a time. We are grateful for your prayers and support as we follow the Holy Spirit's leading to pivot, grow and improve GLCC.

May God bless you and keep you and your families; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:22-26

Ben Mott, President & CEO







Bauer Lodge



Christian Writing Center



“Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.”

Ephesians 3:20-21

