



# The Gathering Network

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// The Gathering Network is a Registered Scottish Charity:

// OSCR: SC047556

## Trustees Annual Report

1st September 2024 - 31st August 2025

*The trustees of The Gathering Network have the pleasure of presenting the annual report along with the financial statement and the independent examiner's report for the year 1/9/24 - 31/8/25.*

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### **Reference and Administrative Information**

Charity Name: The Gathering Network

Charity Number: SC047556

Registered Address: Suite 2/3, 2nd Floor, 48 West George Street, Glasgow, G2 1BP

### **Current Trustees:**

Adam Penketh - Chair

Kevin MacLennan - Secretary

Matt Weston - Trustee

Bethany Shelton - Trustee

### **Structure and Governance:**

The Gathering Church is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It is governed by its constitution which was adopted on the 5th June 2017.

### **Appointment of Trustees:**

The trustees meet on a 2 monthly basis. Application to become a trustee is open to anyone with an interest in furthering the cause of The Gathering Network. New trustees are elected by the current trustees at the annual general meeting which is normally held in November, or at any other trustees meeting if an application to become a trustee has been received, Under the constitution there must be a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of six. There are currently 4 active trustees of The Gathering Network.

## **Management**

The trustees are responsible for the financial oversight and the strategic direction of The Gathering Network, along with the collaboration and support of the Core Leaders from within the network. The Trustee Chair, Adam Penketh, co-leads the operational day-to-day activities of the organisation along with Charlotte Penketh. Adam and Charlotte lead a team of volunteers and vocational part-time staff that form the operational core leadership team of The Gathering. Adam attends all trustee meetings and reports on the operational activity of the organisation.

## **Objects and Activities**

Objects: Advancement of religion.

In furtherance thereof the organisation shall seek to: 4.1 Start a new networked Christian church initially based in the Glasgow area 4.2 Start multiple mid-sized communities of Christian believers around Glasgow with the intention of enriching the local communities through practical service and demonstrating the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ in love, action, deed and word.

## **Activities:**

Our long-standing vision is to empower and equip God's people to be his church and together to embrace the mission of God; to show and the love of Jesus to the people and communities around them, telling them about the Good News of Jesus Christ and giving all people opportunities to find out more about Jesus, in a discovery-based and empowering culture.

We prioritised and trained our people to do this through a number of strategic initiatives, developed from previous years: Activating Prayer, Engaging Culture, Making Disciples, and growing & developing leaders. (See Schedule 1 to read more about these principles).

Below is a summary of the activities performed by the charity, both the staff and volunteers through the year:

### **Movement Pathway contextualisation, prep & filming (Sep 24)**

After receiving a grant in the previous financial year, the core team worked hard contextualising and writing film-scripts for a series of videos to be filmed and as part of our efforts to help equip and develop our volunteer leaders here in the UK and potentially further afield in Europe too.

### **Prison ministry**

Our core team was afforded the privilege to get to serve alongside the prison chaplaincy in HMP Lowmoss in East Dunbartonshire, by providing worship, teaching, and equipping on the principles of Discovery Bible Study to the inmates, in order to

empower them to take Jesus into the prison themselves, to their fellow friends and inmates. We also got to hand out over 50 new testament Bibles and DBS bookmarks to the inmates throughout the year.

### **Spiritual Authority Cohort for European Context**

Using the excellently provided principles, teachings and training provided by Novo Missions org we ran a 3-month long equipping series online for any Christians based in Europe who were interested in learning the core elements to stepping out on mission with Jesus. The session included Identity, Hearing God's voice, Priestly prayer (prayer walking, repentance, blessing prayer), Declarative Prayer, Physical Healing, Spiritual Conversations and finding their 5 people to pray for and share Jesus with. There was an estimate of 70 people that were a part of this Cohort, from across Europe.

### **Grassroots initiatives**

Continuing on the back of the momentum gained from previous years cultural engagement, outreach and cultural engagement, our organisation saw positive development across a number of volunteer-lead grassroots initiatives across Glasgow. These included:

- Pizzachurch (a DBS group for children in the local school and neighbourhood aged 9-10 to come to a volunteer's home for pizza, and to learn about stories of Jesus together on a weekly basis. Over 25 children engaged in this throughout the year regularly, all but 2 of whom had never been to a church or heard about Jesus before).
- Wafflechurch (a group much the same as above, but aimed at children aged 6-8. We saw around 8 children regularly engage with this on a fortnightly basis throughout the year).
- Walkie-talkies (a DBS group especially for women in their 60-70's, organised around walking local trails in NW Glasgow, and watching The Chosen Bible TV series as a way of discovering more about Jesus together).
- Tatties Church (a group that meet regularly on a Tuesday evening to open the Bible together, worship Jesus, and eat around the table together whilst inviting locals and homeless in to share the time with them).
- Business as Mission (Two local leaders deciding to move their jewellery and product design business into premises in Possilpark in order to intentionally be more visible and connected to the local community and open doors to discipleship & internship opportunities in a low-income neighbourhood).
- Jesus Club (a group of 3 DBS groups meeting weekly on a Friday lunchtime in Douglas Academy High School, allowing the pupils there access to discovering about Jesus through playing Uno together and reading Bible stories together

during their lunch break. We estimate 15 children regularly attended this group).

- Primary SU Group (under the covering of SU Scotland, there was a similar DBS group in the local primary school in NW Glasgow, which opened doors to pupils in P5-P7 to discover Jesus during their lunchtimes on a Tuesday. Around 10 children regularly came to this).
- Art & Spirit (a group specifically for artists and creative people who read the Bible together and responded to it through art, painting and drawing. Around 7 artists came to this on a monthly basis).
- Open Arms Mental Health Group (This was a weekly drop-in space on Thursday mornings providing a safe and open space to share our challenges and stories about mental health, as well as looking at the hope and peace we find in Jesus together too).
- Renew Wellbeing Cafe (a place to come on Wednesday mornings to chat, meet new friends, play board games, chess, sew or complete jigsaws).
- Some of our volunteers also intentionally engaged in the local Parent Council and PTA groups of their schools, in order to be a blessing, be a resource and do their part in enriching and caring for one of the hubs of the local community.

### **Worship Initiatives & strategic collaboration:**

Through intentional kingdom networking, our team were able to create key partnerships with others working towards similar aims in Glasgow, and each of these partnerships began with worship nights together:

- The Blessing Worship Night (Monthly, in collaboration with Healing for the Heart counselling service in central Glasgow, in order to worship God and pray for the city together with other Christians).
- The Grove Worship Night (Monthly, in collaboration with Bethany Christian Trust, Innerchange Glasgow and Clay Community Church in Possilpark).
- The Way Worship Night (Monthly, in partnership with St. Pauls Church of Scotland, Milngavie).

### **Trans-local partnerships across Scotland & England and Europe**

We have continued to develop intentional peer-to-peer connections, over zoom, to equip, coach and encourage teams translocally, and form a fledgling network of leaders to that end. So far we have established intentional partnership and coaching relationships with teams in Anstruther, St. Andrews, Edinburgh, Bicester, Oxford, London, Helsingborg Sweden, Belgium, Hungary, Germany, Spain, France. We are excited to play a part in seeing the gospel spread across the wider regions of Scotland, the UK and even Europe.

- Part of our offering in this space was to host a monthly 'Movement Collective Leaders' call for these leaders to be mutually encouraged and share learnings together.
- We also hosted a Pioneers Prayer Weekend in November 2024, providing an opportunity for these leaders to come together in person, in Scotland, to encourage one another and share their stories and learnings together, as well as praying and worshipping together.
- Our leaders also took part in 2 collaborative spaces for European Gospel Movement leaders, helping to grow, develop and collaborate in learning spaces with other teams who share a similar western and European context (Movement Leaders Collective, European Pioneers Space), as our team travelled to Budapest, and Helsingborg, Sweden, to do just this.
- Our core leaders also got to collaborate with LHOP (Local Houses of Prayer) to provide a days equipping and training for a local church in Wigan, England.

### **Scotland / UK Prayer Adventure**

In May 2025, our team curated and hosted a Prayer Adventure across Scotland and the UK for 35 people from the USA who have been through Novo's missionary equipping series for everyday disciples.

Our team lead and facilitated the whole 10-day trip - welcoming them in Edinburgh, Travelling to Holy Island (Lindesfarne), then over to Glasgow to do some on-the-ground missional learning, then down to London and across the Ffald y Brenin House of Prayer in the Hills of western Pembrokeshire Wales to learn about DBS, Prayer, and the importance of spiritual rhythms to sustain followers of Jesus in their lives as missionaries.

### **Developmental Training,**

Through our strategic connection with Novo Missions Org, our leaders got to partake in some coaching and missional consulting through their work. This included meeting with other ministry leaders in Shasta Lake, California, sitting on their Decentralisation Taskforce (tackling how to prepare to multiply the kingdom work across Europe), partake in Catalyst Camp and help to facilitate worship and some learning at their Novo Family Camp.

### **Fundraising for the work**

Our staff team actively continued their fundraising efforts, local for other ministries, churches and individuals to donate to our work and future sustainability as an organisation.

### **Open Space Shop**

After 15 months of local on-the-ground kingdom experiments and local community

engagement in Milngavie, we closed the doors to our time in the Open Space shopfront on Sunday 24th April 2025.

The shopfront enabled most of the grass-roots charitable activities noted above, and was a positive experiment into the value of having a physical location when it comes to engaging local communities and opening doors to sharing the good News of Jesus with all the local people.

In-line with a season of discerning and reflection, the Trustees board agreed that it was wise to close the time our organisation has had renting and utilising this space, in order to allow a greater focus and capacity to reflect and discuss future options for our charity.

### **Achievements and Performance:**

As ever, we value many 'infinite' and intangible factors to mark our performance and achievement, such as the amount of activating prayer completed, and engaging culture initiatives started or trialled. A marker of the kingdom and infinite success and alignment is the hours spent both in prayer and on mission to intentionally share life and build relationships with those that don't yet know Jesus.

We have continued to develop invitational community spaces that are sharing the good news of Jesus, of his truth and power, to those around us. We have further developed our capacity to reach out to our communities, neighbours, friends, co-workers and families and show them hospitality in the form of service and also inviting them into our times as a community, both online and in-person, which is integral to how we display the love Jesus has for them.

Currently the employed staff for The Gathering Network consist of Adam Penketh as Co-Leader responsible for the big-picture oversight and pioneering of the network, Charlotte Penketh as Co-Leader responsible for organisational rhythms, and Susan Penketh who is employed for 8 hours per-week as financial administrator.

### **Financial Review:**

Regular and one-off donations, from individuals and other organisations, and charitable grants were our only source of income for the year.

Receipts on the unrestricted funds were £71,375 and total payments were £78,142 leaving a deficit of £6,767 (Discrepancy due to rounding).

The closing balance in our bank account is £17,426.

### **Plans for Future Periods:**

The trustees are investing responsibility for the continued development and running of The Gathering Network to the core leadership team which is co-led by Adam Penketh and Charlotte Penketh.

As noted in our previous annual report, The leadership and Trustees have entered into a process of prayerful reflection and review of the efforts, work, focus and future plans of the charity in order to see if there are any new avenues of work and service that are opening up to us as an organisation, thereby making any shifts or changes depending on the outcome of this season. As the board of trustees are in the middle of this discernment season, we will report on it in the following annual report.

**Signed on behalf of the Trustees**

**by Adam Penketh (Chair Trustee):**

**Date: 21/04/2026**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Penketh', written in a cursive style.

## **SCHEDULE 1**

### **Definitions of the 5 Components of Gospel Movements.**

#### **Activating Prayer:**

Activating prayer is a specific type of prayer that is movemental in nature. It operates comfortably in the supernatural, expecting signs and wonders, dealing with the demonic, and knowing how to appropriate the manifest presence of the Holy Spirit. It includes spiritual mapping, prayer walking and strategic prayer, and harnesses the spiritual authority God has delegated to us and exercises the power of blessing. Such prayer changes the spiritual atmosphere within people, groups, cultures and lands. It creates the necessary conditions for the expansion of God's kingdom in our ministry contexts.

We believe that this type of prayer is powerful and brings tangible results of transformation, change and healing to the people and places that our people exist in and are called to.

#### **Engaging Culture:**

Engaging culture means wisely undertaking an array of cultivating activities and actions—all of intrinsic Kingdom value in and of themselves—which serve as powerful “bridges of God” into the cultural context for the good news of Jesus, to take root and spread. Such engagement means meeting the *felt* needs of people in the name and power of Jesus. It may include redemptive initiatives to bring transformational impact to areas of brokenness and need, discerning where the Spirit of God is uniquely active, and partnering with Him in response. For movements to occur, cultural engagement (the gospel in deed) must be fully integrated with the gospel in power through activating prayer, and must lead to and connect with the gospel in word as people become fully committed and obedient disciples of Jesus. In cultural engagement the gospel of the Kingdom is both embodied and proclaimed.

#### **Making Disciples:**

As dedicated followers of Jesus, it is incumbent upon us to create spaces for those that don't yet know about God to come and discover more about him, in loving, safe spaces free from condemnation where people are allowed to voice their own thoughts and opinions. To that end we are building effective tools and processes to help people far from God become committed followers of Jesus and then make disciples of others. Such multiplication is at the heart of our understanding of discipleship and spiritual growth. While the history of the Church contains many evangelism and discipleship models, we favour a highly effective “discovery process” which does not rely on experts, is organic, and is easily reproduced regardless of setting or culture.

**Growing & Training Leaders:**

We believe in the importance of identifying, equipping and releasing every-day believers to lead the Microchurches in our growing network; people who have normal jobs, but carry the anointing of the kingdom of heaven as followers of Jesus, Such movement leaders will exhibit a wide array of gifting, all of which are necessary to guide and build ministry momentum that will go far beyond themselves. It is imperative that these leaders know how to identify new leaders and how to appropriately coach, mentor and launch them into ministry.

We put lots of our time into connecting, resourcing and developing the leaders in our network, and identifying new potential leaders.

**Forming New Churches:**

We believe that the church, in its truest form, exists as a spiritual family centred around a commonality of belonging to Jesus, living our lives in worship of Him, and engaging in mission together. The Church is the people of God, and not a building. And to be most effective in spreading the good news of Jesus and impacting Glasgow (and Scotland) positively means multiplying new expressions of churches, therefore extending our reach and impact in a diverse and densely populated city.