**Pastor’s Annual Report for 2018**

I am grateful to the Lord for the eventful year at Midway. By His grace we are continuing in vibrant worship, in care for one another, in discipleship for all ages, and in ministry and outreach to our surrounding community. The following outlines some of my primary roles in service to the congregation and in equipping the saints of Midway for ministry.

PREACHING

Given that I was on sabbatical from January through Easter, my 2018 preaching duties began in mid-April. Through the spring I preached a series entitled “Lord, Teach Us to Pray,” which focused on the themes of the Lord’s Prayer. The summer series was called “The Spirit of Leadership,” exploring godly leadership principles found in the stories of Samuel, David, and Solomon. The fall series, “A New Way of Life,” applied the Ten Missional Markers of our vitality process to personal discipleship, seeking what it means to be a well-rounded follower of Christ. For Advent and Christmas, I shared preaching duties with Shaun Higgins, using the seasonal texts from the Revised Common Lectionary.

I am grateful to Pastor Merrie Carson for her preaching ministry for the first three months of the year while I was on Sabbatical. We were also blessed by the preaching of Shaun Higgins and Gary Peterson.

CHURCH STAFF

We were very blessed that Pastor Merrie graciously took on the role of Interim Senior Pastor in my absence during my sabbatical. Pastor Merrie continued her Associate Pastor role through the rest of the year, but then completed her ministry with us in the fall. I cannot say enough about the blessing she has been to all of us over her years of ministry at Midway. Her love for Jesus, her care for our people, and all of her wonderful gifts for ministry where evident in all she did!

God also blessed us this year with the addition of Shaun Higgins to our ministry staff, taking the role of Children’s Ministry Director. In this role and in his service to us in preaching, middle school ministry, Bible study leadership, and prayer in worship, he has been a marvelous asset to our church!

CONTINUING EDUCATION

I am extremely grateful to the congregation and the Leadership Team for making it possible for me to take a sabbatical this winter. Most of my time away was spent at Adella Olson’s cabin on the Oregon Coast, which gave me significant time to work on my doctoral dissertation and to have precious time with the Lord in prayer, silence, and solitude. The opportunity to spend Holy Week and Easter at a monastery in Oregon was a spiritual highlight of my time away. Returning to my ministry at Midway in April, was also had Covenant continuing education opportunities at the ECC Annual Meeting in Minneapolis in June and at the PNW Conference Pastors’ Retreat in October. On completing my dissertation, I was awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree in Christian Spirituality from Fuller Theological Seminary in the early fall.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

In May, I began volunteering weekly with Operation Nightwatch, a ministry to the homeless in Seattle. I am working with other pastors who care for people in a Shoreline tent camp, in a downtown homeless shelter, and to lonely folks in the Queen Anne neighborhood. Also, I have been blessed to spend time in fellowship with a few Midway men on Wednesday nights in local restaurants, where the Lord has given us many opportunities to minister to folks in the community.

DES MOINES MINISTERIUM

In an effort to renew collegial support of pastors in the community, I have been taking part in monthly meetings with 4-5 Des Moines pastors. We are looking to plan a joint Good Friday service in 2019.

MEMORIALS

We said good-bye to Ted Day, Celia Whidden, Bunny McKnight, and Roger Hayden, who went home to be with the Lord this year. We are so grateful to God for their many years of faithful service to Midway. Peace to the memory of these precious saints!

CONCLUSION

While my sabbatical at the beginning of 2018 was a marvelous blessing and time of refreshment, I was excited to return to ministry at Midway. God is at work in some very significant ways in drawing us closer to Himself and in expanding the kingdom impact of our ministry. I look forward to the Holy Spirit’s guidance in bringing glory to God through Midway in the year ahead!

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor David Johnson