

Grand Island Evangelical Free Church

General Information

History of Grand Island Evangelical Free Church

- Church began in 1941
- 1941 thru late 1980's – healthy steady growth
- 1986 – 1990 – burst of exceptional growth (400 to 650) under the ministry of Dr. Jim McNeill
- 1991 – church relocates to present location; worshiping in a multipurpose room for the next nine years
- 1997 - 2004 – period of growth (490-1000) under the ministry Rev. Curtis Holzworth
- 2000 – Worship Center addition completed
- 2004 – Worship Center addition mortgage burned
- September 2007 – Rev. Holzworth announces plans to move to a pre-retirement ministry
- January 2008 – nearly 30,000 square feet educational wing for youth and children's ministries completed
- September 1, 2008 – Rev. Mike Neely begins ministry as Lead Pastor

Senior Pastor Tenures

- Ten men have served as Senior/Lead Pastors from 1941- Present
- The most recent tenures include:
 - Rev. Paul Snuffer – June 1978-January 1986
 - Dr. Jim McNeill – August 1986-January 1995
 - Rev. Curtis Holzworth – August 1997-May 2008
 - Rev. Mike Neely – September 1, 2008 – Present

Key Highlights of the Past Ten Years

- Two major building projects (Worship Center addition 2000, Educational Wing addition 2008)
- Key ministry staff additions
 - Children's Ministry increased to full time
 - Part time Nursery Coordinator
 - Part time Middle School position added, then increased to full time
 - Adult Discipleship position added
 - Part time College/Young Career position added
- Short term mission teams serving in 4-6 locations each year for the past five years
- Singing Christmas Tree pagent/musical presents 34th annual production in 2007 to 10,000 people from throughout the region

Governing Structure

The church functions under a congregational form of government overseen by elected Elders. The congregation approves the annual budget, ministry staff hiring, and facility additions. The Board of Elders includes the Senior Pastor and provides vision, direction, major church policy decisions, and appoint members to serve on the ministry boards.

Facilities

- Seating in Worship Center – 1,000
- Ministry space
 - 26,400 sq. ft. completed 1991
 - 28,000 sq. ft. completed 2000
 - 29,665 sq. ft. completed 2008
- Total ministry space 84,100 square feet
- Total property 14.58 acres

Attendance

- Average Sunday morning worship attendance – approximately 950