

Church and Community Profile

A Devotion to Christ... A Difference in the World

- **Greenwich Baptist Church (GBC)** is a diverse congregation of about 70 people, located in the Cos Cob section of Greenwich, CT. Our diversity is reflected in the racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and multigenerational makeup of our congregation. Our mission is “To bring glory to God by developing a growing community of people who have a devotion to Christ that makes a difference in the world.”
- **History:** After a couple of years of meeting in homes for Bible studies and Sunday evening services in the early 1960’s, GBC was officially incorporated as an autonomous church, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association on April 27, 1963. Since its purchase of the current property in 1965, the former Blythewood Sanitarium, GBC has added and renovated buildings with a vision to reach Greenwich and the surrounding community with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In 2014 a Christian preschool was started that currently has an enrollment of about 90 students, most of whom come from the community. GBC continues that vision and is trusting God to use our church to continue to make disciples both locally and globally.
- **Geographic Area:** Greenwich, CT, a suburban community in southwestern CT, located 30 miles from NYC. It is an affluent community with lovely shopping areas, several parks and a popular beach area on Long Island Sound. The population of Greenwich is approximately 70,000.
- **Governance and Leadership:** Both the leadership and congregation has varied from decade to decade, perhaps unlike typical Baptist churches in other parts of the country. For the past 11 years our leadership has been theologically aligned with the more conservative arm of the SBC and though as a whole, GBC is a diverse group, we remain committed to solid Biblical leadership. Our governance has been congregational-led though we are in the process of changing to an elder-led structure. The pastor would be an elder along with lay elders voted on by the congregation. Currently our staff consists of the pastor, deacons, a part-time administrative assistant, a part-time worship leader and part-time director of children’s ministry. The chairs of the various committees form the coordinating committee, which also serves in leadership.
- **Weekly schedule:** Our weekly services include Sunday School (for a adults and middle-aged students), followed by our main service. Our worship service is a blended style, led by a worship team. Nursery is available during the service and children age 5-10 are dismissed for children’s church. Opportunities for corporate prayer are offered on Sunday mornings, prior to Sunday school, on Friday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Consistent in regularity, they are not widely attended, though the congregation is routinely encouraged to attend at least one of these prayer times. Our pastor has been vocal regarding the importance of being a praying church.

- **Other campus activity:** Two other churches utilize GBC's facilities. El Renacimiento Baptist Church, for approximately 12 years, and more recently, a Seventh Day Adventist Congregation. As stated above, the campus also functions as a preschool, for 8 years to date. The school receives financial support from the GBC missions budget, but is an independent organization with its own board of directors and operating budget. All three organizations pay rent for usage.
- **GBC outreach and body life:** While we have a handful of long-time members, much of our congregation have been attending for 15 years or less. Additionally, transience is part of the equation in the metro area. We have a few young families who have become involved in recent years, and along with others, have a strong desire to see GBC flourish as a church family and to reach our community. Prior to covid, we had several annual outreach events, including participation in housing development outreach, a health fare, The Holiday Stroll and serving monthly at a men's shelter. Some of these continue now. A men's breakfast has been available off and on over the past 10-plus years. Several attempts at ongoing womens' gatherings have not been as successful. We have had small group gatherings, though they have not been revisited since being waylaid by covid. This year we hosted a fall fest outreach and a spring fest outreach, which were widely attended by people in our community as well as families from the preschool.