

Annual reports 2025 AIPC

1. Introduction

In this document you will find the annual reports of the board and pastors for the General Assembly from AIPC in March 2026.

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3. Pastor's report Pastor Zeke Nelson

What happened in AIPC in 2025?

- We welcomed a *lot* of new people to worship with us! I think we saw new people every single Sunday of the year.
- We strengthened the way we prepare people for baptism and profession of faith, and we saw 15 people take this step during the year, most of them young adults.
- We had opportunities to learn about generosity and strengthen marriages through one day events.
- More people participated in small group Bible studies.
- Our groups focused on freedom, growth, and healing multiplied (5 groups in the year).
- Our youth ministry continued to grow in numbers, discipleship, and friendships. We also added new leaders.
- We raised funds for Teen Street and invited people to the church by taking part in the local events of Dorpsdag and Winterwakker.
- We installed new leaders in some of our ministry teams and welcomed many new people in serving on those teams.
- We sought the face of God together in all kinds of prayer meetings, including four prayer nights.

What happened with me and my family over the year?



- Our foster daughter moved in with her father and brothers after a year and a half with our family. Taking care of her for a year and a half was very hard, but very good. It is a picture of redemption – that God takes things that are bad and turns them into something good.
- My love for Gen Z grew and increased. I feel real compassion for them in their struggles. I am also really encouraged! Our young adults are wonderful people. They are enjoying deep friendships (in real life, not digital), are growing in their love for God, and many of them are serving in the church.
- All of my children and of course Rebecca continue to serve in the church with joy. Rebecca, Katherine, and Nate all have a special love for children.

I am still so grateful to serve as your pastor. I am blessed to work alongside pastor Jan, with such a capable board, to equip such loving people to do the work of ministry in the church and the world.

As you can see, the church is growing, for which we give thanks to God! I love what I do, but it can be tiring. So in 2026 I gratefully receive the gift of extra time for prayer, reading, writing, relationships, and recreation – a sabbatical. From June - August I will miss you, but I look forward to returning with renewed energy.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Zeke

4. Pastor's report Pastor Jan Witsel

2025 was a year of steady growth at AIPC. Nearly every Sunday we welcomed new people, and we recognize that it is God who builds His church.

Because of the many new people, we intensified the number of Welcome Lunches. In addition to the various ways visitors are naturally greeted at the church, these lunches allow people to gain a deeper understanding of AIPC's vision, mission, and core values. A special shout out to our Welcome Team and those hosting the Welcome Lunches for going the extra mile!

We especially saw many young adults joining the church. It feels truly special to see young people coming to the Lord and passing on the passion and fire to their friends. We are witnessing a new generation rising and encountering God.

Also in other ways, AIPC has been fruitful and multiplying. We celebrated several child dedications and baptisms this year. I enjoy the pastoral visits, meeting with the parents and thinking through all the details of presenting their children to God.

Our Sunday Teams continue to be pillars of strength and faithfulness. Teachers, welcomers, those making coffee and tea, running sound, and visuals. Thank you for making it work, time and time again.

Some key-things to celebrate are the new Language Classes and the Vacation Bible Fun. You'll read more about those further down the page. Both initiatives help us open the doors to the wider community and create new opportunities for outreach, evangelism, and fellowship.

Above all, 2025 has reminded us that this is the Lord's work. We sow, we water, but God gives the growth. As we look ahead, we do so with humility, expectancy, and faith — trusting that the One who began a good work among us will carry it to completion. To God be the glory.

5. Update Ministries by Pastor Zeke Nelson

Pastoral Team Report

Our pastoral team stayed steady in 2025. The team works alongside the pastors to provide spiritual care for the church and community. One way they did this in 2025 was by meeting with and mentoring those who were getting baptized or making profession of faith. You see the team up front praying for people during communion (along with a couple others who are not part of the pastoral team). Members of the team lead small groups, encourage those in need, and give leadership to the church through our monthly meetings. Over the past year, we created short statements summarizing AIPC's position on marriage and divorce, sexuality, and children and communion.

Small Groups

Many people in the church connect with one another and grow in Christ through small groups. While the online Dutch-speaking Bible came to a close, Kevin & Taynara started a new one (initially in Portuguese, but open to everyone). Piet & Aline's group is in Borgerhout and convenient for those who live in the city. Serge's Dutch speaking group has built solid relationships, but is taking a break spring of 2026. Rebecca's Women's Inner Healing groups continue, one after another, the newest one started Feb 2026. Zeke led the first group for men seeking freedom, growth, and healing in the fall of 2025. Tristan leads a group for university students. The young moms group continues. Helena's Prayer course is meeting sporadically when the attendees' schedules line up. The Freedom Fight, a private group for sex addictions meets for support/accountability.

Youth Ministry - Aron Van Velzen

When I look at the goal we are pursuing with the youth ministry of AIPC, I look back on the past year with gratitude. God is at work among teenagers and youth leaders. The youth group is still growing. Growth is of course not our number 1 goal, but as I wrote in the youth ministry report last year, the visible growth is a good indication that God's Spirit is at work. What is perhaps even more beautiful than a growth in the number of teenagers is the growth in faith, love and knowledge that we see among them.

Below a short report of the developments among the youth based on the written vision for our youth work: **"To disciple our youth into mature followers of Christ, so that they can reach their friends and serve Christ in the Church and the world."**

Discipleship among teenagers is an interesting challenge. It takes time, compassion, energy, love, patience and so much more. Yet it is all worth it when you see teenagers flourish cause they feel at home in the youth group or see them grow in wisdom and serving others.

I'm grateful that several teenagers are part of the organization of our youthnights twice a month. Some help with worship, others with social media or the dishes. 1 of our 'assistant youth leaders' (An older teenager with some tasks) will soon be part of our youth leader team. Other teens are thinking about getting baptized or making their profession of faith in May 2026. On top of that, it is good to see that different teenagers help in the church in all kinds of ways.

I also see a beautiful growth in some youth leaders. Some learn to lead Bible studies efficiently, while others take steps into the practical side of working together as a team. These are all things that we hoped to see happening a year ago!

We also want to build a healthy youth community connected by biblical values and the Holy Spirit, and foster lifelong friendships through our church.

It is amazing to see many teenagers have fun during youthnights and on Sundays in church, they like to be together and hang out during the week. As youth leaders, we are consciously working on creating a loving community. This is necessary because teenagers are often insecure, uncomfortable or uninterested in other 'new' teenagers. It is therefore nice to see that such 'newcomers' feel completely at home after a while.

Yet there are always some teenagers who drop out because they are shy or insecure and therefore do not immediately connect with the group. We do our best to keep them involved. On top of that, there are always latent conflicts or relationship problems among the teenagers that we try to manage.

We also want to be a healthy community in different areas. For example, we see many teenagers struggling with themselves, questions of faith, their home situation, sins such as pornography, social media and other addictions. That hurts and we would like to help the teenagers. Unfortunately, this is not always easy due to a limited availability of time and energy among our youth leaders. It will be great to have some additional adult youth leaders in the future to be able to mentor and support all teenagers.

Our community is also well connected to the ACF Youth. We see some of our youth attending both groups or one of them cause the timing works better. In addition, **we want to see a movement of God among the young people of Antwerp.** So there are 2 sides to the coin. The positive story about God's work among the teenagers and at the same time the help and support many teenagers desperately need. Both sides of the coin fit in with the movement of God that is going on among the young people in Antwerp.

A movement of joy and redemption that requires discipleship, commitment and prayer at the same time. And fortunately it is more than worth it.

A Bible verse that I like to use as a prayer for the teenagers:

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Do not worry about anything, but in every situation bring your requests to God by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Worship - Michaja Mande

Worship has been going good. Not much has changed since last year. We have a couple new musicians who joined the team and a few more coming up which is exciting. Planning center is working out great. Very happy we are able to continue that. It has made planning the worship a lot nicer. We are still praying and hoping for our own place.

Social media team - Christelle Yoka

It has now been almost a year since I started serving as Social Media Manager in the Social Media Ministry. In this time, we have truly seen God's faithfulness and growth through this platform as it continues to extend AIPC's message beyond our church walls.

Recently, two of our team members stepped away due to personal situations. We are incredibly grateful for the time they poured into this ministry.

This transition has reminded us of something important: social media ministry is real ministry. It is not simply a hobby or something done casually. It requires commitment, creativity, time, consistency, and spiritual intentionality. Creating meaningful content, capturing moments, writing thoughtful captions, editing videos, and staying engaged online all take energy, especially when it is not something you do every day.

Now, our team consists of three passionate members. Even though we are smaller in number, the passion is visible. They truly love serving in this ministry, and that heart shines through every post and video.

Looking ahead, we plan to try more trend-based content, like the Gen Z videos. The numbers show that this type of content performs very well and helps us reach even more people creatively.

We trust that God will continue to guide, sustain, and grow this ministry in His perfect timing. Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue building His kingdom

Fijne groeten,
Christelle

6. Update Ministries by Pastor Jan Witsel

Welcome Team – Kenny van Look

Over the past year, our Welcome Team has continued to be a team of warmth, joy, and genuine connection. What touches me most is the atmosphere within the team. I feel that everyone enjoys serving. Some even join and stand with us when they are not scheduled, which says a lot about their heart.

This year, we are especially grateful to welcome three young members into the team: Tristan, Dylan, and Claudia. We are excited to gradually integrate them, step by step, helping them grow into their role. I am also very curious to discover their ideas and contributions.

In terms of structure, we have made some practical improvements. The Connection Cards are now preferably filled in digitally, while still keeping the written option available. This allows us to follow up more efficiently. Lisa and I are also administrators of both the Men's and Women's WhatsApp groups, which makes it easier to directly connect newcomers with the right community.

Looking ahead, my focus for the coming year is clear: investing in the integration of our younger members and continuing to grow as one team that reflects our whole church family. I am full of hope and expectation for what God will continue to do through simple acts of welcome and hospitality.

Coffee Team – Leila Shonubi

In 2025, the Coffee Team has been growing in structure and organization. Over the past year, we experienced some transitions within the team. A few members stepped down, while new members joined. Leadership also shifted smoothly from Sophia and Petra to myself, Leila, which allowed for continuity and stability within the ministry.

One positive development this year was the introduction of a healthier option on the first Sunday of every month, where fruit is served instead of cookies. This small change has been well received and reflects our desire to serve thoughtfully and responsibly.

Currently, the team consists mostly of newer members who only started serving in recent months. While everything is functioning well and the atmosphere is positive, our main focus for the coming year is strengthening internal structure and ensuring everyone feels confident and secure in their role. Before introducing more creative ideas such as special drinks during Christmas or summer (for example, hot chocolate or lemonade) or adjusting the setup. We believe it is important to first optimize our organization and teamwork.

Our goal is to create a sustainable serving rhythm where each member serves approximately once a month. This will help prevent fatigue and ensure that everyone continues serving

with joy rather than obligation. To support this, it would be helpful to add one or two more team members to maintain a healthy rotation, especially during holidays, illness, or vacation periods.

During larger events such as Christmas services, we experimented with inviting additional church members to assist with serving and cleanup. This worked very well and could become a standard approach for future large gatherings such as Easter, baptisms, and Christmas services.

One practical area that may need improvement is the financial handling of groceries and supplies. As coordinator, covering upfront costs can sometimes be challenging. It would be helpful to explore a more structured system, such as a designated church payment method for coffee team expenses.

Finally, we would love to implement quarterly prayer moments or short meetings with Pastor Jan. The coffee ministry is more than serving drinks it is an act of hospitality and part of serving the body of Christ. Creating intentional moments for prayer and reflection would strengthen the spiritual foundation of our service.

Overall, the team is moving in the right direction. We are serving happily and with gratitude, and we look forward to further strengthening the structure, sustainability, and spiritual depth of the Coffee Team in the coming year.

Sound Team – Felix Ehigie

2025 has brought some positive change in the team, not a lot, but at least a bit. We've grown a bit of knowledge in sound. A lot of cable problems have been solved. The sound quality is still fluctuating, but we are working to make it better.

What we need to improve:

- We need more people in the team. We used to be four, but now we are three.
- We need to improve our skills. It's difficult when we can't have access, anytime we want in the week, to play with the mixing board and learn some new skill. Saturday and Sunday are not the best times to do that.
- The sound on the livestream. Because it's a separate task, I will try to look into it to solve the bad sound quality when I am not on duty.
- The livestream is very dry when Pastor is preaching; it doesn't sound like church, but rather a podcast. So I came up with an idea to get two specific ROOM MICs so we can have a bit of the congregation in the livestream to make it sound like an actual church.

If we can get some budget for the room mics, moveable rack for the equipment, it would be nice.

Best regard
Felix Ehigie

Livestream/Visuals Team – Erik Harding

The Visuals team has had an eventful year. At the beginning of April we got permission from AIS to use the lighting system in the theatre, which was a boost to the quality of our video recording and streaming. We were also granted permission to start using the school's wired internet connection on Sundays, which solved persistent connection problems we were facing.

Then at the end of April the portion of our video equipment that handled the actual internet connection broke. Rather than replacing the part, we pivoted to using the livestreaming capabilities of our slide presentation software. While this allows us to make some livestream quality improvements such as displaying song lyrics directly on the video instead of placing the lyric slide in the corner, we had many weeks of issues as we learned the complexities of handling audio and video in and out of the same system during services on Sunday mornings!

The time needed to prepare the slides every week for Sunday continues to improve with our new software and some weeks it can be less than 10 minutes, compared to the hour or more it could take with PowerPoint.

We were also glad to add Ineke to our team in 2025.

Refugee Ministry – Jan Witsel

The absolute highlight of 2025 was the start of our Language Classes in 't Kruispunt. Every other week we welcome about 10-15 students. Some find us online, others through the Gastvrij Geschenk network, others again via our connections at Fedasil. There is a group of faithful participants from Ekeren, and an amazing team of dedicated volunteers who help teach, drive, prepare coffee and snacks, plan games, and so on. Together we also just have a lot of fun! Having people at 't Kruispunt helps us practice hospitality, welcoming people in a christian environment and having the freedom to share about Christ. Each series of lessons ends with a Jesus Night in which we share the gospel, although many other times naturally we have faith-conversations too. For 2026, we continue to strengthen, improve, and promote these classes.

We also keep our connections with Fedasil Kapellen through visits, occasional events, and things like clothing collections.

Children's Ministry (General) – Jan Witsel

Children are an important part of God's church. In 2025 saw a growth in the number of children attending church and our Sunday School programs. Our team of faithful teachers and helpers do an amazing job at instructing them. There have been some changes in the

team, but this year it has been easier than other years to find new teachers who are eager and feel called to get involved.

Raising children in the Lord is the primary responsibility of parents. For that reason, various parenting meetings and seminars were organized. Some resources for family worship have been shared, such as Advent & Lent devotionals. The Parents WhatsApp group is used to share information.

In August a Vacation Bible Fun was organized, in cooperation with ACF. About 50 kids participated as well as many volunteers. All had much fun meeting Paul and the underground Christians in Rome and learning about God's love. This first time also helped explore what we can improve on this summer.

Children's Ministry (Creche) - Kevin Briels

The past year can be described as stable, growing, and qualitatively strong for the crèche. The team atmosphere has remained positive, and children have shown clear developmental progress. Attendance increased steadily throughout the year, rising from an average of six children early in the year to twelve by the end. The team structure consists of five adult helpers and five teen helpers on their scheduled Sundays, creating a balanced and consistent presence. A key improvement was the fixed pairing of adults and teens, which strengthened coaching, confidence, and continuity. Additional informal coffee moments were introduced to guide teen helpers in their responsibilities and create space for feedback. A major highlight was the successful transition of three children to the next class, with two more expected soon. This transition reflects emotional growth in the children and trust from parents. Planning and organization are fully up to date, with careful scheduling to prevent overload and ensure flexibility. Financially, the crèche has managed its budget responsibly, keeping costs low while maintaining a warm and supportive environment for all children.

7. Annual report Chair - Auke Minnema

Looking back on 2025, we see God at work in AIPC. As a church we are doing well, growing in different aspects. As a board, we have done quite some work. Some highlights:

- Being accepted as a partner church of the United Protestant Church of Belgium (VPKB), there was an official signing moment at their synod. Around the same time, we discussed with ACF, as they were in a similar situation, to see if they could join us as a partner church. We have set up an MoU and under the name 'Fellowship of International Churches in Belgium (FICB) we requested the VPKB to change our partnership. Spoiler alert: they accepted (but they did so in 2026).
- We've worked on, and got the ANBI-status, meaning that people who pay their taxes in The Netherlands can deduct their giving to AIPC from their taxes (since January 2025). In order to get this status, we had to change a small issue in our statutes. We used this opportunity to correct some spelling and grammatical mistakes as well.
- We have set up a building committee, with the task to look for concrete options for a building for AIPC.

- We have worked on several policies, for example on sexuality. All our policies have been shared with the congregation and are available on request.
- During our board retreat in April, we worked on our vision for the next 10+ years. Where do we see AIPC in 10+ years and what do we do as a church? Thinking about this helps us to plan for the coming years.
- We did start working on exploring registration with the Flemish government, as every now and then the question arises in the General Assembly. This contained a lot of research work. Early January 2026 we shared this research with the congregation and asked for input. This work will continue in 2026.
- At our board meetings, we set time apart to discuss topics which are not necessarily urgent, but are building up the church. As an example: we took quite some time to discuss 'Gen-Z', to see how we can involve them, how we can help them and how we should work for them. It is a blessing that we have the time and possibility to discuss these things!

All in all, a stable, and fruitful year, thanks to God!

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17)

8. Annual report Secretary – Hanna Staessens

I love our church, our pastors, our board members, and the work we do together. This makes my role as secretary a truly joyful task, and I am deeply grateful to God for it. I have now completed my fourth year as a board member, and I would like to sincerely thank you all for the trust you have placed in me.

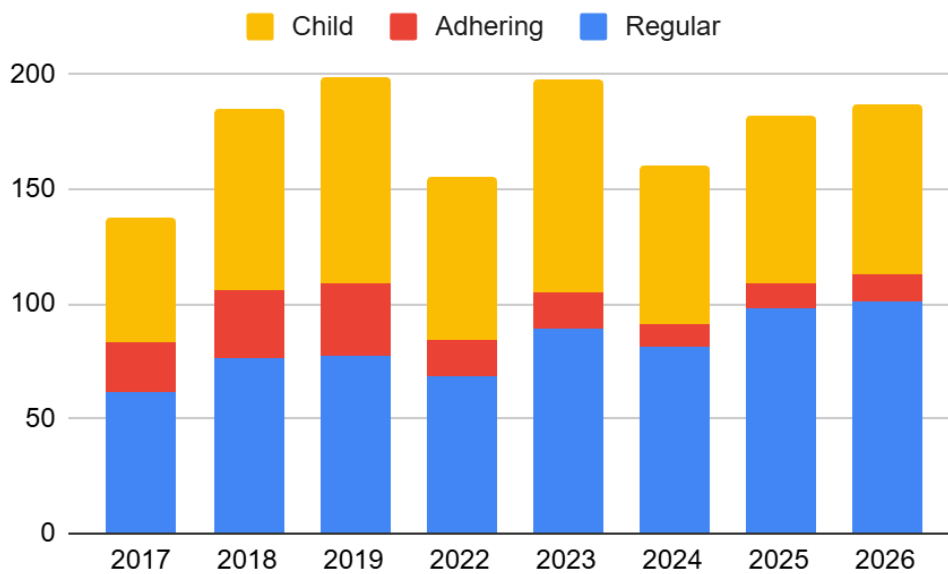
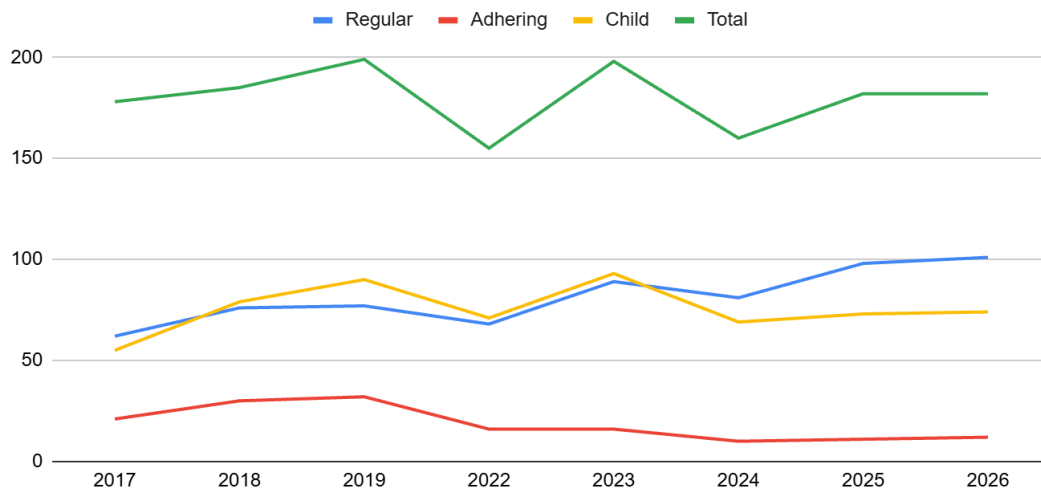
What have I been working on over the past year?

- **Administration:** This remains my primary responsibility. It involves preparing minutes, completing official forms, and maintaining our data. Specifically, updating the statutes following our last General Assembly required a significant amount of time and attention this year.
- **Strategic Research:** Auke consistently brings inspiring ideas and plans to our board meetings. Consequently, I spent time this past year researching the possibility and implications of becoming a formally recognized church.
- **Digital Organization:** I have worked on restructuring the way we organize documents on our Drive. By creating a more logical filing system, we can now locate documents and information much faster.

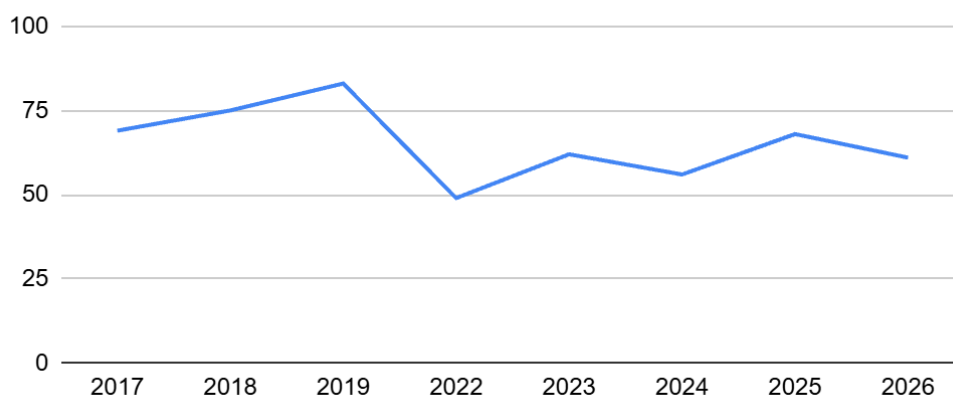
Membership Statistics

Finally, I would like to share some statistics regarding our membership administration. It may be noticeable that our official membership numbers are quite low compared to the actual attendance in our services. This might be an encouragement for you to promote official church membership to your fellow churchgoers and friends.

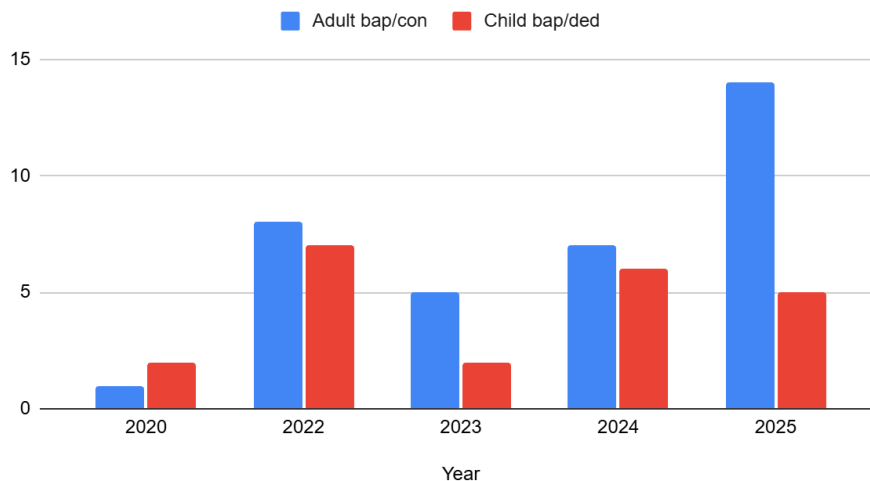
With much love and gratitude,
Hanna



Number of families



Adult Baptism/Confirmation - Child Baptism/Dedication



9. Annual report boardmember / Human Resource Manager - Arlette van der Staaij

Psalm 27:4 “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.” has been a key verse for a big part of my life. I thank God for another year of serving on the board of AIPC, seeing His beauty in everything He is doing for and within AIPC. I thank God for all the other board members, for their hard work and the good cooperation.

Some of the things I have been working on within Human Resource Management:

- Updating the HR policy of AIPC. Human resource management is about enabling staff to use their qualities in order to fulfil their role and contribute to the organization’s mission and purpose. Staff are human beings made in God’s image and therefore organizations should treat them fairly and with respect. Christian organizations should be good stewards of their resources, enabling their staff to use the gifts God has given them and investing in developing their potential. By having our own policy we want to ensure AIPC is treating their staff with respect, so they feel blessed and appreciated.
- Making sure all the job-descriptions are up-to-date
- Health & Safety: in October Securex visited ‘t Kruispunt to check if everything is in agreement with the rules and regulations (fire safety, first aid, healthy workplaces, etc.); we will follow up the report we received, and I thank Peter van Dingenen for his support in this area.
- Supporting Serge in his work as treasurer in the area of payroll. Maintaining employee data, calculating taxes, prorating working hours and holidays, and paying salaries are some of the administrative duties that usually fall under HR. At this moment I am in the process of getting familiar with all these aspects.

I thank God for all the work that is done by the pastors, the benevolence commission, the building commission, and all the people in the different ministry areas. It’s a blessing to be part of it and to be able to support them in their work.