

**GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HUDSON, OHIO**  
**CHURCH PROFILE – November 2009**

**PART I-A – BASIC DATA**

1. NAME OF CHURCH: **Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA)**

ADDRESS: **781 Terex Road, Hudson, OH 44236**

TELEPHONE: **(330) 650-6548** FAX: **(330) 655-5306**

EMAIL ADDRESS: [gracechurch@gracechurchpca.org](mailto:gracechurch@gracechurchpca.org)

2. NAME OF SEARCH COMMITTEE CONTACT PERSON: **Assigned once information, including sample sermons, are received.**

MAILING ADDRESS FOR DATA FORMS: **Please use church address.**

3. TYPE OF COMMUNITY: **Suburban, Small town (near metropolitan centers).**

4. CHURCH STAFF: **Two secretaries (one FTE)**

5. SIZE CHURCH (as of 10/12/2009): **Communicant members: 193**  
**Total members: 227**

Number of Adults over age 65 ~**10**

Number of Adults under age 65 ~**140**

Number of Teens ~**30**

Number of Children ~**40**

6. POSITION VACANT: **Senior Pastor**

7. SUNDAY MORNING ATTENDANCE INFORMATION:

Total average attendance: **150** (as of 9/20/2009)

8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION (for calendar year 2009):

Total Income: **\$ 320,000.00**

Ministers Compensation Package: **Based on experience.**

9. WORSHIP, PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH:

Worship: One Sunday Morning Worship Service, One Informal Sunday Evening Service, and Seasonal Worship Services.

Programs include: Sunday School for all ages following worship service, Jr. High Youth, Sr. High Youth, Women's ministries (WIC) including women's Bible studies and prayer groups, small groups, and various men's activities, and choir.

Outreach includes: twice monthly Sunday Worship Services and twice monthly Bible readings at a nearby retirement community (The Elms); a weekly Bible study at a local jail; support of Akron Pregnancy Services; and an annual Vacation Bible School.

## **PART I-B – OUR WORSHIP**

The morning worship service is held before Sunday School. Our sanctuary seats approximately 250. For singing, we use the New Trinity Hymnal which is frequently supplemented with a chorus or a psalm. Congregational singing is accompanied by piano, and occasionally also by other instruments, e.g., flute, violin or guitar. For certain parts of the year we have a small choir.

Our worship seeks to emphasize the means of grace, i.e., the reading of the Word, the preaching of the Word with clarity and power, and the celebration of the sacraments. Elders and other communicant members participate in the worship service with the reading of Scripture, in leading prayer, and in leading music.

The Sunday evening service is less formal and typically includes singing of requested favorite hymns and choruses, and a time of praise and prayer, followed by a teaching from the Scriptures. Once a month, we have a carry-in dinner with programs focusing on the life of the church (such as youth mission trips). The sacraments are not celebrated at this time.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated once each month on the first Sunday.

## **PART II – PASTOR CRITERIA AND STRENGTHS**

- A. **Age / Marital Status:** Our preference is for a married man, over the age of 30.
- B. **Prior experience:** Our preference is for a man with prior pastoral experience.
- C. **Character:** We seek a man who both professes, and lives out, godly character as described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, and who has a passion for prayer.
- D. **Strengths:** We seek a man that is a gifted preacher and who has the heart of a shepherd.

### Preaching

- The Word of God should be preached concisely and expositionally.
- The pastor should preach the entire Gospel.
- The attentive listener should find the sermons engaging, spiritually challenging and not difficult to follow.

### Shepherding

We are convinced the Biblical model is the pastor as a shepherd. As such:

- The shepherd pastor should enter the lives of believers, teaching, instructing, and encouraging them to be more devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.
- In particular, the shepherd pastor should teach, instruct and encourage the church leadership to enter the lives of others to teach, instruct and encourage them to become more devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

**GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – CHURCH PROFILE**  
**APPENDIX - HISTORY OF GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Grace Presbyterian Church was started in 1988 as a church plant by the Presbyterian Church in America's (PCA) Mission to North America (MNA). PCA/MNA targeted Hudson, one of the more affluent communities in Summit County, in the hopes of establishing a base for additional church planting activity in Northeast Ohio.

In 1988, Rev. Gil Odendaal was called as an evangelist, and the fledgling congregation was given a seed grant from the Arden Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Arden, North Carolina. The church held its first worship service in May of 1989 in the McDowell Elementary School.

In January 1991, Grace Presbyterian was established as a particular church in the Presbytery of the Ascension. In the spring of 1992, the congregation purchased 18 acres of land on Terex Road in the southern part of Hudson. Later that year, Grace Presbyterian, at its request, was transferred from the Presbytery of the Ascension to Great Lakes Presbytery. Construction of the new building began in early 1994, and was completed in November 1994.

In late 1994, Rev. Odendaal announced that he had received a call from an Evangelical Presbyterian Church congregation in suburban Detroit, and would be leaving in January 1995. Currently, Rev. Odendaal serves as the Director of the Worldwide HIV/AIDS Ministry for Saddleback Church in Orange County, California.

In God's providence, Grace Presbyterian was without a pastor for only five months. The congregation issued a call to Rev. Zack Eswine, who preached his first sermon here in June 1995. In May 1999, Grace Presbyterian celebrated its 10th anniversary, and the congregation voted to begin a search for an Associate Pastor. In May of 2000, a call was extended to Rev. Arthur Ames, who became our Associate Pastor in August 2000.

In February 2001, Pastor Eswine announced that he would be accepting the position of Professor of Homiletics at Covenant Theological Seminary. Currently, Rev. Eswine is Senior Pastor of Riverside Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Webster Groves, Missouri.

In June 2002, Grace Presbyterian extended a call to Rev. John Van Dyke to become its Senior Pastor, and his ministry started in August of 2002. In January of 2003, Rev. Arthur Ames announced that he would be accepting a call from Harvest Presbyterian in Medina, Ohio, about 30 minutes away. Currently, Rev. Ames continues to serve the congregation at Harvest Presbyterian, though he has announced that he will retire in mid-2010. In September 2004, Rev. Van Dyke resigned as senior pastor. Currently, Rev. Van Dyke serves as a Navy Chaplain in Okinawa, Japan.

In the fall of 2005, Rev. Kreg Bryan was called by the congregation as senior pastor of Grace Presbyterian. In July 2009, Rev. Bryan tendered his resignation to accept a call as the headmaster of Whitefield Christian Academy, a classical Christian school in Kansas City, Missouri.

Three men from the congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church have been called to the ministry of the PCA. Rev. Dave Wicker currently serves as Chief of Staff at Covenant Theological Seminary. Rev. Fred Greco currently serves as Senior Pastor of Christ Church in Katy, Texas. And, Rev. Patrick Tebbano currently serves as Associate Pastor of University Presbyterian Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

On September 20, 2009, a pastoral search committee was formed consisting, according to our bylaws, of 5 members at large, 2 deacons and 2 elders. The PSC commenced its work immediately.

During the search process, the congregation has been blessed by the preaching of the Word by a number of reformed pastors, and we look forward to return visits to our pulpit by Rev. Odendaal, Rev. Eswine, and Rev. Ames.

Currently, the congregation is served by eight ruling elders, all of whom were installed in the spring of 2006, and three deacons. In January 2010, Grace Church will become part of the new Ohio Presbytery.