

Grace Presbyterian Church PCA

Information Packet

7900 Allisonville Road
Indianapolis, IN 46250

317-849-1565



Thank you for your interest in Grace PCA. Our Senior Pastor, David McKay, is retiring after 36 years of service here at Grace. We are looking to fill that vacancy with a Senior Pastor or an Associate Pastor. We hope that as you read through this information packet, you will get a sense of our church home, our commitment to God's Word, and our love for one another and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The Pulpit Search Committee

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Our Calling

Our vision:

To be a church family growing together as the body of Christ for the advancement of His kingdom, living lives of gratitude by remembering our past guilt, rejoicing in the grace of salvation, and bringing glory to the God who saved us.

Our Mission:

- To preach the whole counsel of God, remaining true to the Christian faith in the Reformed tradition
- To grow in the knowledge of God and in spiritual maturity
- To build up the body of Christ through the discovery and use of each member's spiritual gifts
- To equip each member to live out the faith and advance the kingdom of Jesus Christ
- To support local and worldwide missions through giving, sending, and short-term mission trips

Our values:

- Every Christian is a learner committed to growing in the knowledge of Christ and of God's Word.
- Growing Christians need fellowship with other believers.
- Each Christian should be personally involved in ministry and in the life of the church.
- Maturing Christians will share their faith with those who need Christ and seek to expand the kingdom of God as they are led by the Holy Spirit.
- The church exists for the benefit of the world and not the other way around, so we are called to serve and welcome all people regardless of age, gender, race, ability, or even belief.
- Worship is central to the life of the believer. Our worship services are traditional in style and include prayer, congregational hymn singing, historic creeds and confessions of faith, Scripture-based sermons, and monthly celebrations of the Lord's Supper.
- Our vision for growth requires a commitment to the Word of God and to prayer.

Strategic Priorities:

- Inspiring worship that invites full participation by the congregation
- Excellent biblical teaching for all ages that is applicable to our daily lives
- Vital and supportive Christian fellowship through small group Bible studies and other gatherings
- Outreach into the community through service and evangelism
- Financial support of local and worldwide missions and benevolences
- Meeting the spiritual needs of people of all backgrounds and at all stages of life

Our Story

A Timeline Overview of Grace PCA

1849 – Church organized as member of Associate Presbyterian Synod.

1853 – Became a member of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

1869 – Church dissolved due to decline in interest and financial difficulties.

1872 – Church reorganized and erected a building.

1875 – Church flourished under the Rev. J. Clark.

1892 – Two successful mission works started.

1900 – North Park Avenue building begun under Rev. C. Lawrence.

1957 – Rev. C.P. Blekking unexpectedly died; Dr. Gordon Clark appointed as stated supply for the congregation.

1958 – Congregation voted themselves out of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

Nov. 1958 – Congregation became a member of the Western Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, General Synod (RPCGS).

1960 – UPCNA filed suit to recover the property

1965 – RPCGS merged with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, becoming First Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod (RPCES)

July, 1965 – Rev. James Ransom called as pastor. Church relocated to 7900 Allisonville where it remains today. There was an existing manse on the property.

July 31, 1966 – Ground-breaking service, 47 present.

Nov. 1966 – First service in new building, 107 present.

March 1971 to Oct. 1977 – The Reverend Edward A. Steele III served as pastor.

1974 - Whitefield Christian Academy started (a school serving Pre-K – 2nd grade).

1977 – Whitefield Christian Academy dissolved.

Sept. 1978 to Oct. 1982 – William G. Phillips served as pastor.

June 1982 – RPCES merged with the PCA.

Oct. 1982 – David G. McKay called as pastor.

1984 – New sanctuary, library, and entry built.

Dec. 1984 – First service held in new sanctuary.

Jan. 18, 1985 – Addition was dedicated.

1985 – Name changed from First Reformed Presbyterian, Evangelical Synod to Grace Presbyterian Church in America.

1998 – Building additions and renovations completed.

2018 – David G. McKay announced his retirement.

Overview of our current church

Grace PCA is located in a suburban, residential neighborhood on the northeast side of Indianapolis. We are in the Central Indiana Presbytery. We currently employ a Senior Pastor, David McKay (retiring the end of October, 2018), and an Associate Pastor, John Peoples, as well as a part-time secretary, Rebekah Tice, and an organist, Julie Covert. At the present time, we have 114 members, with an average attendance at Sunday worship of 130. The congregational makeup is as follows: 37 adults over age 65; 10 singles, five of whom are widows/widowers; 68 adults under the age of 65; eight teens; and 36 children.

Our annual income is \$443,000 which includes \$387,000 designated to the general fund and \$80,000 designated to benevolences, including Presbytery, local ministries, and foreign missions.

We do not have a manse or a school.

Our congregation is active in various church programs and outreach, including:

- Vacation Bible School
- Covenant Groups (small group Bible studies)
- Women's Fellowship
- Friendship Bible Study (an outreach to intellectually disabled adults)
- Yearly mission trip to Fairmont, West Virginia.

The following committees are led by our session to accomplish the work of ministry:

- ❖ **The Christian Education Committee** oversees the children's and adult Sunday schools, Vacation Bible School, and Children's Church.
- ❖ **The Missions Committee** plans and implements the mission trip to Fairmont WV as well as organizing our Missions Conference and visits from various missionaries.
- ❖ **The Fellowship Committee** organizes social events such as an annual Hayride and church picnics.
- ❖ **The Outreach Committee** equips church members to share their Christian testimony with unbelievers and conducts evangelistic Bible studies and other events.
- ❖ **The Worship Committee** assists the pastors in creating an environment conducive to prayer, praise, and worship on the Lord's Day through the physical setup of the sanctuary and the selection of appropriate music.

Desired Profile of Pastor

Our congregation places the highest priority for its minister on the proclamation of the Word, that the full counsel of God would be preached with urgency and conviction and brought to bear on the needs of individuals, the community, and the world. We also expect that our minister would be active in teaching and dedicated to the spiritual development of members. The minister will also work with the Session to direct the order and content of worship services in a way that facilitates meaningful participation by the congregation. He should prioritize congregational fellowship and seek to develop opportunities for members to love and support one another in small groups and larger gatherings. Finally, our senior pastor will need to accept appropriate administrative responsibilities to ensure the smooth and orderly management of the church.

The ideal candidate for this position would have experience and skill in preaching, teaching, discipleship, evangelism, worship leadership, and administration.

Committee Members

Brett Bousema

Bryan Clark (Deacon)

Laura DeMasie

Jim Glasheen (Deacon)

Catherine Michael

Don Murdock (Chairman, Elder)

Alex Pinegar (Elder)

Rebekah Tice

Alternates:

Thomas Crum

Matt Doublestein

Pulpit Committee Contact Person: Don Murdock, donmurdock@ameritech.net

Candidate Referral Form

This form is to allow individuals to suggest prospective candidates for the Senior Pastor position, along with information required to pursue such candidates. For the protection of Grace Church and the candidates being suggested, PLEASE KEEP RECOMMENDATIONS CONFIDENTIAL so that candidates are not placed in an awkward position and divisions are not caused within the church. Please provide as much of the following information as you are able and return a copy to the Pulpit Search Committee by emailing it to donmurdock@ameritech.net and office@gracepca.org.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO PRAY FOR AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS WITH US!

Your Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Prospect's Name _____

Prospect's Church and Position _____

Prospect's Phone _____ Email _____

How long have you known the prospective candidate? _____

What is/was your relationship with him? _____

Have you spoken with him about this opportunity? _____

Briefly describe his ministry experience or history _____

Add any other relevant comments that the Grace Church should take into account . _____

How to Apply

If you are interested in providing your information for the Pastor position, please send the following documents to: donmurdock@ameritech.net and office@gracepca.org.

- Cover Letter
- Resume
- Ministerial Data form (if available)