



GRACE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

**PASTOR INFORMATION  
PACKET**



# WHO WE ARE

## **By God's Grace,**

Grace Presbyterian Church is a gathering of Christ's Holy Saints Maturing under Doctrinally Sound teaching, Graciously Loving one another, and endeavoring to be Salt and Light to our world through Humble attitudes and Merciful actions.

## **Our History**

Grace Presbyterian Church has been in our community for over 50 years. We started within the PCUSA and were one of the PCA churches that removed ourselves from that denomination because we strongly adhered to scripture as God's inerrant word. Our church has ministered in our area of Jackson, TN even as it has changed demographically. The neighborhoods close to our church have begun to change to more minority populations even as our church has remained overwhelmingly caucasian. Over the last six years we have seen our congregation turnover significantly due to the ministry of our previous pastor that who began a work of revitalization through the ordinary means of grace. We praise God for bringing us our previous pastor, we also praise God for calling him to the US Army chaplaincy where we are sure that he will be used to further God's Kingdom.

## **Our Strengths**

Grace Presbyterian Church has been stalwart in adhering closely to the doctrines of grace, maintaining our confessional and reformed heritage, and discipling the members of our body in close conformity to God's Word. We are a very friendly body. Visitors have consistently commented that you can't visit Grace without all members saying "Hello." Our body is generally a "congregation of the people," we strive to meet those that come into contact with us right where they are.

## **Our Weaknesses**

Grace Presbyterian Church has served our close community less than we could have over the recent past. Although we now want to change that and have had several ministries aimed at our community, we need help understanding what needs to be done to engage a population that is much more diverse than we are as a congregation. We need help also understanding how to see our church grow in the broader Jackson area. Our church has remained steadfast in our commitment to Godly worship and a right understanding of Scripture but we need to understand how to help those around us to see God's amazing Grace and see it work in their lives.



# WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO DO

## **By God's Grace,**

Grace Presbyterian Church glorifies God through Corporate Worship and Disciple Making in the greater Jackson, Tennessee area.

## **Our Area**

Grace Presbyterian Church is situated close to the center of Jackson, Tennessee. We view our close ministry area to be those communities within one mile of our church location. Those communities are some of the poorest in the city of Jackson. We consider our overall ministry area to be Madison, Gibson, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Haywood and Hardeman Counties or w/in 45 min driving radius of the church property. These areas are demographically approximately 50/50 white to minority in Jackson and 70/30 white to minority in the counties surrounding us. Our close ministry area has yearly incomes of \$18-35,000 per household; in the surrounding areas that increases to \$33-44,000. Poverty rates vary from 18-23% across our broad ministry area.

## **Our Ministry Opportunities**

Grace Presbyterian Church has several ministry opportunities that we have identified:

- Union, Freed-Hardeman and Lane universities are in close proximity to our church.
- We have access to potentially begin a ministry to the incarcerated in several counties.
- With our close proximity to impoverished areas in Jackson, we can minister to the poor of our area.
- We are close to a known homeless camp.
- We are also close to several hospitals.

## **Our Capabilities**

Grace Presbyterian Church has members with diverse backgrounds including a large number that have lived in foreign locations and are comfortable with varying cultures. We have a significant number of members that are tradesmen and very capable of helping with the physical needs of our community. Many of our members are apt to teach and have the requisite background in sound doctrine to teach well. Although they do not currently play on Sundays, several of our members are musically gifted in a variety of instruments and willing to serve. We have a strong capability of leadership within our members although we have no ordained leaders at this time. Because of the faithfulness of our legacy members we have a church building, a ten acre campus, no debt and a very large endowment in excess of \$500,000.



# WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

## **By God's Grace,**

Grace Presbyterian Church will call a pastor that has a vision and passion to lead us through a transition from a small group of scripturally grounded members with an inward focus to a larger group of outward focused members without losing our scriptural soundness.

## **What we need**

Grace Presbyterian Church needs visionary leadership that can show our membership how to fully engage our community. Our pastor should be prepared to mentor our current lay leadership to develop a team of elders and deacons that can work with our congregation to transform our community through the work of the Holy Spirit. He should have a church planter's spirit, able to bring those outside of our fellowship to us so that we can minister to them through the gifts God has given us.

## **Strengths you should have**

- Dynamic preaching skill with the ability to translate the truths of the Gospel in a way that can speak into the lives of everyday people.
- An understanding of how to maintain the regulative principle of worship while also looking for opportunities to make worship engaging to a populace that is less and less understanding of the reverent worship of our God.
- Capability to coach, teach and mentor a group of men willing and ready to work for the Kingdom of God to be ordained officers in our church.
- The ability to disciple a diverse community of varying ethnicities and demographics and to show our church what we need to do to support that discipleship..
- Evangelistic fervor and the ability to foster the spirit of evangelism in others.

## **Who will be on your team**

- A relatively young congregation with a significant number of covenant children prepared to work for the gospel.
- A prepared group of leaders ready to be taught what it means to be elders and deacons in the PCA.
- A group of ladies who have been working together in WIC type of ministries for several years.
- A group of families who have demonstrated ability to disciple their families and live a quiet God-fearing life.
- A church that is grateful for the grace that God has given to us through our legacy membership but knows that God has more grace to pour into our lives and the lives of our community around us.

## **What we should all be certain of:**

Christ is building His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it!

# SEARCH COMMITTEE

## **CONTACT INFO:**

Please include all members in your email.

- **Chuck Kurz - [abuzwingli@gmail.com](mailto:abuzwingli@gmail.com)**
- **Branson Barnes - [bransonbarnes@yahoo.com](mailto:bransonbarnes@yahoo.com)**
- **Brian Hawkins - [hawkbrian@gmail.com](mailto:hawkbrian@gmail.com)**
- **Travis Cartwright - [jjtraviscartwright@outlook.com](mailto:jjtraviscartwright@outlook.com)**
- **Katherine Cartwright - [katmb1993@gmail.com](mailto:katmb1993@gmail.com)**