

Grace Pres Church Call Description

Illiana Presbytery is looking to call a planter committed to a winsome and outwardly focused ordinary means of grace ministry to its mission work, Grace Presbyterian Church, Carbondale, Illinois. This is essentially a replanting with a core group.

Carbondale is a University town (SIU) with a large number of international students who are very receptive to hospitality from locals, but rarely see it. We have always had a steady stream of foreign students in attendance, mostly non-Christian, because of the willingness of members to open their hearts and homes. A recent project found that 80% of foreign students at SIU never receive an invitation to an American home! The workers are few!

Grace Pres has grown from 8 to 35 pre-covid (now back to about 30 most Sundays) with pulpit supply. It is notable that our weekly prayer meeting often has half of Sunday's attendance. Our pulpit supply, a TE overdue for retirement, is our church administrator and main shepherding elder. In addition to him, the other local session member (38 years old) is the father of the church's six covenant children and has a secondary preaching role in addition to teaching our current WCF Sunday School. His family also hosts Wednesday night prayer meeting in their home and has just completed hosting a Christianity Explored class on Saturday afternoons. Other such outreach events are happening soon.

The church is growing and in a good financial position for its size. We have a building with room for growth, which is owned outright, and enough cash in the bank to cover expenses for a few years. The package is not the most lucrative in the world but could improve quickly with future growth since other expenses are minimal and reserves already exist.

The church will provide \$50,000 per year towards a call package over at least the first two years and will also seek outside support toward raising that number. We currently have \$5,800 committed from outside donors to support the pastor beyond the \$50k package. The area has a VERY affordable cost of living with a median annual household income of about \$23,000. Between post-pandemic reopening and the added "hands on the oars" of a full-time pastor, we are very hopeful for the growth of the church in number and depth, God being more and more glorified in our work and worship.

If you are ready to take on an impossible mission which can only be accomplished by the miracle of Spirit empowered gospel proclamation, please send your resume to RE Keith Phillips.

Also check out our website at graceprescarbondale.org

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