Pastor Candidate Information Packet
Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church
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NOTE:
This information packet was prepared in spring 2021. Please see our Church Profile Form for some current statistics.
Greetings in Christ.

Thank you for your interest in Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church in Relay, Maryland, as we seek a new pastor.

Grace began over 40 years ago as a mission church. Though small, we have a healthy mix of all ages and a warm, friendly atmosphere. Worship of our God and sound Biblical teaching and preaching are the foundation of our church life. Our simple liturgy is often straight from the Word. We sing with enthusiasm both great hymns of the faith and newer praise songs. We continue to welcome visitors to our diverse congregation of young and old, professional and non-professional.

Our church has a history of giving generously to support world missions. Our well-established English as a Second Language Ministry has continued, even through the challenges of the pandemic. Our discipleship groups for women and men both meet monthly, and a mixed community group Bible study meets twice a month. A small group meets weekly on Zoom for prayer.

Grace has great potential. We want a pastor who can develop that potential. We weathered the storm of division caused by mask mandates and made it through Covid with a balanced budget. We have two properties and no debt. One of those properties is near UMBC. The RUF pastor at UMBC holds meetings in our building. We want to grow our relationship with UMBC.

Grace has strengths, but we need renewal. We seek a pastor who is a shepherd and a man of prayer. Our strong session and active deacons need a leader who will support them spiritually, work with them to lead our congregation, and disciple other men to be elders and deacons.

The members of Grace are mature believers, but we need leadership to develop deeper fellowship and prayer together. We need leadership to use our gifts within the congregation and in our local community. We are looking for a pastor who shares the gospel in his everyday life and can help our members to grow in this area. We want a pastor who can bring creative ways to involve our covenant children as they move into their teen years.

Are you that person? -- a man of prayer who has a heart for God’s people and the skills to help us grow both inward and outward? If so, we would like to get to know you as we consider who will be our next pastor.

Pastoral Search Committee

Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church
# Table of Contents

Community 3
  Maryland 3
  Relay and Baltimore 3
Congregation 3
  History 3
  Life Together 5
What we Believe 6
  Vision Description 6
  Mission 7
  Core Values 7
Ministries and Missions 9
  Ministries 9
Our Leadership and Search Committee 11
  Leadership 11
  Staff 11
  Elders 11
  Deacons 11
  Search Committee 11
Who we need 11
  Pastor Role 11
  Pastor Attributes 12
  Experience 12
Applying 12
  Questionnaire 12
  Application requirements 13
Community

Maryland
Named after Mary Queen of Scots, Maryland became a haven for Catholics looking for a better life free of persecution, in the new world. Our state is often seen as “American in Miniature” due to the diverse experiences that it offers. To the east the beautiful Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay give Maryland a definite maritime feel. The central section of the state is dominated by urban Baltimore and the nearby counties that reflect classic American suburban life alongside horse ranches and farming. Further westward we gaze upon the beautiful mountains of the Appalachian range where camping, hiking, hunting and fishing abound. To the south, Washington DC, the nation’s capital, brings another unique set of cultural experiences.

Relay and Baltimore
The village of Relay is halfway between Baltimore and Ellicott City. It was created in 1830 as a change point, or “relay,” for horses hauling the first scheduled railroad cars in the United States. Relay is an historic community in the near southwest suburbs of Baltimore, MD. Baltimore is famous for crabs and seafood, Johns Hopkins University and Hospital, the Ravens football and Orioles baseball teams, the Preakness, the Star-Spangled Banner and of course the HBO series The Wire. Baltimore is a 21st century urban American city with many needs. Grace is located in Relay which is only 10 minutes from downtown Baltimore’s famous Inner Harbor. This quiet middle-class community is at the cross section of the interstate highway system that takes people both around the circumference of Baltimore or southward a half hour to suburban Washington DC, the nation’s capital. The nearby University of Maryland Baltimore County Campus brings an academic and multi-ethnic flavor that connects the Southwest community to other parts of our nation and world. The Baltimore-Washington International Airport, 10 minutes away, brings the world to our region as well.

Congregation

History
Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church was born of a vision, held by the leadership of Liberty Reformed Presbyterian Church, that a key method God was using to grow his church was through the planting of new local congregations. Under the guidance of Pastor Mark Pett of Liberty Church, many new congregations were established, including one in the Catonsville area which would eventually become Grace Church.

The church was formed under the auspices of the Church Extension Committee of the Delmarva Presbytery and overseen by a "borrowed" session consisting of elders Dick Dahlberg and Charles Lathe of Liberty RPC and Dick Ellingsworth, Sr. of Timonium RPC. The mission church began regular meetings in the summer of 1979, using the home of Paul Wilson. From among four candidates, Dan Broadwater was selected by the Church Extension Committee to be the organizing pastor. The mission church quickly outgrew the basement meeting room, and on September 16, 1979, began holding worship services in a rented room in the fine arts building on the UMBC campus.

This arrangement lasted until May 1984, after which meetings were held in a portion of Beechfield Elementary School on Frederick Avenue in Baltimore City. Around this time the church leadership began to explore the acquisition of a permanent facility. Their search culminated in 1986 with the congregation purchasing our present church facility, a cozy building that was built back in 1906, on Linden Lane in Relay. Worship services began in this building the following month.

In 2012 Pastor Dan Broadwater was experiencing life-threatening health problems and we began searching for an associate pastor who might be able to become the next senior pastor. This led us to call Rev. Josiah Katumu as our associate pastor in 2014. In 2015, Grace purchased a new property on the corner of Rolling Rd. and Wilkens Ave. with the intention of possibly building a new church facility on the property very close to the UMBC campus. We also hired Eric Tracy as a pastoral intern in September 2016.
Then after 38 years of faithful ministry, Dr. Daniel Broadwater announced his wish to retire as the Pastor of Grace, effective May 1, 2017. Simultaneously, after receiving 80% of the congregation’s support Rev. Katumu was named our Pastor and began serving May 1, 2017. During this time, we hired Eric Tracy to be our Assistant Pastor of Christian Education and Family Ministries. At the start of 2020, Rev. Katumu was called to pastor a New City church in Tennessee. Rev. Stan Long was hired to serve as the interim pastor during the transition. Despite the Covid 19 pandemic, the transition process has steadily continued. We unanimously moved Rev. Tracy from Assistant to Associate Pastor as we continued seeking God’s face for the future of GRPC. Currently Grace Church is working with Baltimore Antioch Leadership Movement and Flourish Coaching to assist in this transition process.

As Grace Church has linked with Flourish Coaching, one phase of our work over the last year was a project to re-envision ourselves. We asked the question: “What could the future look like for GRPC by God’s grace”. After demographic study, surveys, interviews with internal and external stakeholders, Flourish led the 5-member Envisioning Team on a retreat in May 2021 to get away, pray, plan, dream and craft a descriptive picture together of what we believed Grace might look like in the future. It is our desire that the next pastor will execute a strategic planning process, producing a revised or brand-new vision statement for the congregation.
Life Together
Historically GRPC has been a very close-knit congregation with a handful of healthy extended families. More recently the congregation of 35-40 active worshippers has become a combination of these long-term families and newer families, who are becoming united in their commitment to serving and loving one another under our common vision. Most families live within a 10-minute drive of our building. Our goal has always been to see strong healthy marriages that create environments where children can be discipled into mature followers of Christ.

Our church reflects the area of Relay and the surrounding neighborhoods. Accordingly, we are a predominately middle-and-working class church with several ethnic groups represented. We seek to become even more multi-cultural, reflecting changes in the greater county. It is our hope that all people will find our church welcoming, friendly, and Christ-centered.

GRPC has a rich music history. Our music is a blend of Hymns and Contemporary Christian songs. Our worship style is somewhat formal but friendly. We utilize historic confessions, creeds and catechisms, and seek to stay within the guidelines for worship found in our PCA Book of Church Order.
What we Believe

Vision Description
Grace’s vision is rooted in two verses that are the heart of how we believe we as a congregation are uniquely suited to advance the Lord’s kingdom.

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 22:37-39 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Because we believe that Christ called us to be doers of the Word and not hearers only: We commit ourselves to building healthy and loving relationships with each other and with those being prompted by the Holy Spirit to seek Christ, by looking out for one another, by preaching the Gospel to each other and to ourselves daily, by confessing and repenting together, and by exhorting one another to love and good deeds. We commit ourselves to building a community of prayer that truly loves and welcomes outsiders and that enthusiastically serves each other and our neighbors every day of the week. (Micah 6:8, James 1:22, 2:17-19)

Because we believe that the only sufficient reason that the sun rose today is that God is still gathering His people to Himself: We want to see the people in our community become part of a joyful, fun, genuine, and tight-knit community of loving Christians and seekers. We trust that the Word of God and the Holy Spirit are abundantly powerful and more than capable of breaking down barriers of race, class, background, and identity. We further trust that the Word of God and the Holy Spirit can free us from the fear, anxiety, and depression that besets our fallen world. We acknowledge the various needs in our diverse community, and we want to help our neighbors get the help they need, be it mental, physical, or spiritual. Affirming every human’s need
for a Savior, we want those in our community set free from the burden of trying to save themselves and instead to accept the mercy of the only One who is able to save. (Matt 24:14, Acts 2:38-47)

Because we believe that Jesus Christ intended His people to exemplify the Kingdom of Heaven: We pray that GRPC will have a visible and God-glorifying impact on the community through meaningful community partnerships, support for local businesses, and through a diligent seeking to meet the needs of people in the community. We want Arbutus and Relay to be a welcoming place for families. We want to help create a clean & attractive place where children and young adults feel that they have safe, fun spaces to gather. We also want parents to rest assured that their children have a safe means of transportation to those places. (Rom 14:17, Matt 5:13-16) Submitted May 23, 2021 by the Grace Reformed Presbyterian Envisioning Team

Mission
Our church exists to help people know God’s Son, fellowship with God’s people, worship in God’s church, grow in God’s grace and serve in God’s world.

Core Values
GRPC is a member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) which is a denomination that embraces the reformed tradition of Trinitarian Christianity. Our pastors continue to be active participants in the Chesapeake Presbytery. As a PCA congregation we are faithful to the gospel of Christ, to the scriptures as His holy word and to the great commission of making disciples among the nations in His name. We believe that Jesus, the head of the church, rules through a team of godly men who are called and appointed as elders and deacons. We believe that every believer, woman as well as men, is gifted and empowered by the Spirit of Christ to serve in the world, reflecting Christ’s love through words and deeds. The Word of God and Worship of God are cornerstones of the Reformed tradition that we gladly embrace at Grace Reformed. We have made use of the following historic expressions to define foundational doctrinal beliefs:

- Westminster Confession of Faith, Larger and Shorter Catechisms
- The Five Solas of the Reformation
- The Five Points of Calvinism
- National Association of Evangelicals Statement of Faith
Ministries and Missions

At Grace we enjoy gathering on the Lord’s Day to worship, pray, fellowship and to be challenged from God’s word. Members are being equipped to live for Christ in the homes, community, workplaces of the area. During the Covid 19 lockdown we began a weekly prayer meeting over Zoom that has been a wonderful mid-week time of fellowship and seeking the Lord together. We believe what Jesus said in John 15:5 “Apart from me you can do nothing.” Alongside formal outreach activities such as English as a Second Language, Living Nativity and VBS, members are encouraged to regularly engage their friends, family, neighbors, giving the loving challenge to consider Christ and/or consider Grace as a viable option for Christian growth and nurture.

People need answers to the issues of 21st century life. Even more so, people need community and a sense of belonging. Grace Reformed wants to continue to be a place where people can feel they are cared for and can be part of what God is doing to serve a broken world. In response, we’re primarily focused on ministering to Relay proper, and parts of the surrounding communities of Halethorpe and Arbutus as well as the UMBC campus.

Ministries

For years we have used ESL to connect Grace members with individuals who are unchurched or from other congregations. This weekly ministry expanded to equipping moms from various ethnic groups that participate. As the Covid lockdown disappears we envision returning to the times when many people were helped in this ministry. Each summer we have a week of Vacation Bible School where young people learn the basics of God’s word. Each Advent season we have a Living Nativity program that brings the familiar Christmas story before the families of Relay.

Current Ministries – (Due to Covid 19 the status of these ministries continues to change.)

- Women’s Discipleship Group – Women gather on the 2nd Monday of the month for fellowship, and book/Bible study.
- Middle School Girl’s Group – A small group of girls meet twice a month to explore more deeply what it means to know and follow Christ.
- English as a Second Language - In 2020-2021 we had 5 language levels meeting entirely on Zoom with about 25 students total.
- Community Groups - We currently have one group meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays after church and we have another group that is preparing to launch.
- Men’s Discipleship Group – Men gathering on the 1st Saturday of the month to learn, serve and study God’s word together.
- Adult Sunday School - We are currently studying 1 Peter with 7-10 people, both live and on Zoom.
- Children’s Sunday School - We plan to eventually return to Sunday school for all ages as we previously offered before the Covid 19 lockdown.
• Children’s Church – over the last year we included children in worship through learning together the Apostles’ Creed and a song that teaches the books of the Bible. In the fall we will resume Bible study for ages 4-8.
• Nursery – In the fall as we continue our post lock down restarts, we will hopefully open the nursery for infants and toddlers

Missions that historically were launched partially or in full by Grace members
• New Hope Mission International – Liberian schools, orphanage, and church planting
• Center for Pregnancy Concerns – counseling and assisting women in crisis in Baltimore City
• Sandtown’s New Song Academy – Charter School in Sandtown. An urban community with many at-risk children and youth.
• Habitat for Humanity – building affordable housing in the Sandtown community

Missions We Presently Support

Beans, Trip and Joy
*RUF Campus Ministry at UMBC*

Brown, Roberta
*MTW – Missionary to Japan*

Coulbourne, Craig and Ree
*MTW – Missionaries to Japan*

Craft, Rachel (and Jonathan)
Pioneer Bible Translators - Translator

Garofalo, Santo and Mary Ellen
*MNA – Church Planter*

Homans, Tom (and Cindy)
*Christian Community Center, Baltimore*

Jasin, Jacob and Pei
*RUF-1 ministry at Johns Hopkins University*

Jin, Hansoo and Wana
*MNA – Church Planter, Baltimore*

Long, Stan (and Terri)
*Baltimore Antioch Leadership Movement*

Longeiret, Francois (and Lisa)
*Equipping Leaders International, Inc.*

Ramsay, Rich and Angélica
*MTW – Training Church Planters to Work in Latin and South America*

Sindler, Frank and Cindy
*MTW – Missionaries to West Africa*

Southwest Emergency Services
*The Arbutus-Relay zip codes (Diaconal)*
Our Leadership and Search Committee

Leadership
The current staff have a combined 75+ years of total church staff experience! We anticipate that the new pastor will start with a team of an administrative assistant and a music director.

Staff
- Rev. Stan Long – Interim Pastor
- Rev. Eric Tracy – Associate Pastor
- Bethany Haywood – Music Director (Part time)
- Joan Nelson – Administrative Assistant to the Pastor (Part time)

Elders
- Steve Bradbury (clerk)
- Warren Drell
- Mark Woodland
- John Danielle
- Jim Darchicourt (inactive)

Deacons
- Art Warshaw

Search Committee
- Mark Woodland (Elder)
- Bob Appleton
- Michael Cook
- Diane Darchicourt
- Liz Drell
- Angie Megna
- Bonnie Warshaw

Who we need
Pastor Role
The Pastor of Grace serves as the moderator of the Session, leads in the shepherding of the hearts of the congregation, leads us forward in evangelizing the Relay community, and supports Grace’s core values and beliefs. The role of Pastor includes:

- Preaching and teaching of the Scriptures regularly in an accessible, straightforward and Gospel-centered manner.
- Leading the session, staff and future leaders in their relationships, their character and their skill development such that the church is being shepherded by effective teams of leaders.
- Leading the flock in evangelism by sharing the gospel personally and by caring for lost, hurting people.
- Overseeing worship services that each week honor God, disciple and equip the believers and are attractive to outsiders who might be investigating the Christian faith.
**Pastor Attributes**
The Pastor at Grace will exhibit the following attributes:

We seek a man who exhibits the following 1 Timothy 3-type attributes:
- A man who is strong in grace and joyfully preaches Christ with a prayerful humility, a passion for God, a compassion for lost people mingled with biblical clarity.
- A man who has strong personal integrity and relational skills.
- A man who deeply loves Christ and Christ’s imperfect bride, the church.
- A man who is repentant and humbly leads his family. If married his wife should know the Lord and be experiencing the joy and peace of Christ in her life and marriage.
- A man who, if blessed with children, is alongside his wife loving, nurturing and discipling them in age-appropriate ways.
- A man who is not easily intimidated by the complexities of life in our mid-Atlantic suburban/urban cultural context.
- A man who is able to pass the examinations of the Chesapeake Presbytery of the PCA.

**Experience**
The Pastor should be previously ordained and has served on a church staff.

**Applying**

**Questionnaire**
We want to get to know you, your heart, and your life with Christ. In addition to your resume, PCA Ministerial Data Form, and cover letter please respond in no more than seven sentences each to the following questions:

- What do you see in this Grace Church packet that has caught your attention as a possible fit for you?
- Do you have life experience living near or in an urban context and if so, how has it shaped your ministry?
- Do you think you (and your family, if married with children) would be a good cultural fit in Southwest Baltimore County? What concerns, if any, do you have about living in this area?
- Who has mentored you, and what is different about your life as a result of this influence?
- Tell us something about your life and ministry that would help us understand you and your application.
- What are your interests, hobbies outside of ministry?
Application requirements
If you are interested in learning more about the Pastor role or would like to provide your information for consideration, please send copies of the following documents in PDF format to grpcpastor1search@gmail.com.

- Cover Letter
- Resume
- PCA Ministerial Data Form
- Completed, typed out responses to the questionnaire

Please use the following format to label all attachments: FirstnameLastname_Resume. Examples:

- JohnSmith_CoverLetter
- JohnSmith_Resume
- JohnSmith_MDF
- JohnSmith_Questionnaire

We are looking to begin receiving documents from applicants as soon as October. We will indicate by email whether you will be interviewed within 2 to 3 weeks from receipt of your 4 application documents.

Thank you for your interest in Grace Reformed. We look forward to getting to know you better and hearing your heart for the Gospel and advancing God’s kingdom.