

# Church Information Packet

For potential pastor candidates.



“To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire hope;  
to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and yearn for fellowship;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to whoever will come;  
this Church opens wide her doors and offers welcome  
in the name of the risen Lord Jesus Christ.”





## Dear Potential Candidate,

We are pleased to introduce you to Grace Presbyterian Church. Our desire is that the information in this packet will provide you with an accurate representation of our church.

We are an ordinary means of grace church. We endeavor to give God glory in all things, to be faithful to the Scriptures, and to be true to the Reformed faith.

Included in this packet you will find: Our vision and mission, history, an outline of our distinctives, our current ministry opportunities, solo pastor job description, and information and demographics about the Fresno, California area.

Grace Presbyterian Church has a short but impactful history. You will find a description of our current church life. We hope that this will give you an accurate understanding of our covenant community.

If you are not familiar with Fresno, California, the demographics section will give you an overview of the thriving Fresno area. Our city offers a community of neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and great Mexican food. Fresno is a wonderful place to live. And our community has many opportunities for sharing the gospel of our Lord, participating in community outreach, and shepherding the people of God.

We are excited for the opportunity to consider your application. We are confident that our Lord has chosen our next pastor – and that He will bring him to our congregation in His time. We are grateful to be able to work out this process with you.

Should you wish to be considered as an applicant, please send in your MDF, resume, and references by email. If you have any questions, you may reach us at: [psc@gracefresno.com](mailto:psc@gracefresno.com)

Sincerely in Christ,

Grace Presbyterian Church Pulpit Search Committee



# Our Vision and Mission

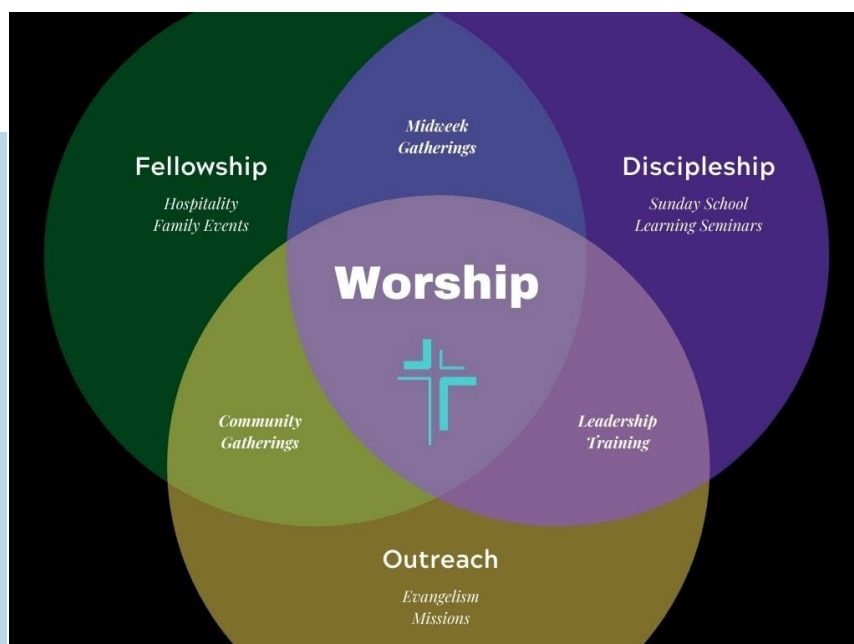
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## Vision

We exist to transform the people of Fresno by finding, equipping, and multiplying followers of Jesus Christ for the glory of God.

## Mission

Our mission is to establish a church in which every member has a mentor, every mentor oversees a ministry, and every 10 ministries plants a new mission.



## History of Grace Presbyterian Church

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The history of Grace Presbyterian Church is short, but exciting. The congregation has seen the faithful response of the Gospel call, and God's faithfulness in blessing this call to spread the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ in Fresno, California. Although our history is simple and brief, God's people have seen firsthand in this area how He works to spread His glory through His Spirit using His people in the endeavour to plant and establish a PCA church in the Fresno area.

Our previous pastor, Brad Mills, was pursuing a degree in philosophy, when in 2007, he heard the inward call to serve in the ministry of the Gospel. This call was verified and supported by the people and leadership of Sierra View Presbyterian Church. It was apparent to all that there was great need for another PCA church in the surrounding area. Brad Mills was accepted to Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, and began his Master of Divinity there, where he would establish connections with the broader Reformed and PCA world.

Upon completion of his training, the Mills family moved back to Fresno, California, where in 2012 he became the Assistant Pastor for Church Planting at Sierra View Presbyterian. He would remain in that position for 2 years. In May of 2013, Brad and his wife, Carrie, began a weekly prayer meeting in their home. That summer they started a Bible study, and this grew into a worship service beginning in November. For three months Brad led worship and a Bible study in their home, and the Lord's providence led them to rent a small space shared with another church in the neighbouring city of Clovis in 2014.

In September of 2014, Grace Clovis began weekly services. Around the same time, Grace Clovis moved to share a larger facility with another small church. The congregation grew to around 90 regular attendees, growing too large for that space. Soon Grace Clovis moved to a larger building, shared with another small church. Giving increased every year by God's grace through the congregation's steady sacrifice of monetary means and service. We are a people who have grown in love and sacrificial labor for each other's needs individually, and as a whole body. It is encouraging how often so many have stepped up to fill a need in someone's life and in the needs of the Church.



During the difficult period of Covid, the numbers of the congregation fluctuated, but as some left or stayed home, others came and joined, most of them becoming communing members. At that time, Pastor Brad engaged the civic leaders of Clovis publicly, and respectfully protested unreasonable measures to shut down churches or obstruct their services. As worship resumed indoors, following a brief time outdoors, the Lord was preparing another place for Grace Clovis, this faithful plant that had seen itself grow from an acorn into a wonderful tree where many took refuge during this very difficult time. This turn of events would transplant them from the city Clovis to Fresno.

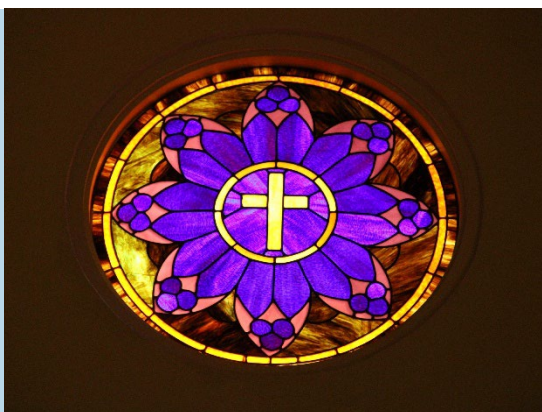
In keeping with PCA procedure, Grace Clovis was particularized as a fully functioning, independent church in February of 2018 with Ruling Elders Ray Sanchez, Matt Balocca, and deacon Michael Jameson. During the year of 2020, the old Methodist church in the Tower District (just north of downtown Fresno) announced the listing of their building. The Session with the approval of the congregation, and the blessing of financial aid, purchased the property. This building is located on a residential street corner immersed within a neighborhood. We moved in during August of 2020 with many families.

Since that time, Grace Clovis has become Grace Presbyterian Church of Fresno. The members, with help from other churches, went to work on many renovations that continue to this day to improve the older building, including a game room for the children.

The Lord has been very attentive and kind toward his people at Grace and kept them financially sound and focused on the ministering of God's Word, discipleship, and enjoying a wide scope of ways to serve the Lord and each other.

God's sure sovereignty then turned another tide at Grace when, in April of 2023, Pastor Brad Mills accepted an official call to pastor a church in Brandon, Mississippi. This created the need for faithful and careful transition, including electing and organizing a pastoral search committee, which as of May 2023, has been at work to honor the Lord and His people in the quest for their new solo pastor. We wait upon the Lord, as in all things!

We hope you, the reader, will find this brief history informative and encouraging for any potential candidates who are seeking to know more about us in their search for a position as our pastor.



# Our distinctives at Grace Presbyterian Church

## 1

### Christ Centered Worship

- Expository preaching and clear presentation of the gospel every time the saints gather on the Lord's Day.
- Sees the importance of, and is willing to, administer the Lord's Supper every time the saints gather on the Lord's Day.
- Clearly provide the congregation with an application/charge to apply the teaching of Scripture to everyday life.
- Recognizes the primacy of God's word over the writings and opinions of men.

## 2

### Ordinary Means of Grace

- Family integrated worship.
- Adheres to the Regulative Principle of Worship.
- Encouraging and modeling fellowship and hospitality.
- Primarily uses Trinity Psalter Hymnal for singing.
- Prayer for all kinds of people.
- Emphasizes corporate prayer both on the Lord's Day and during the week.



## 3

### Zealous for the Peace and Purity of the Church

- Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit, based on the truth of Scripture.
- Gracious toward one another despite differences on non-essential matters.
- Knowledgeable about current events and strongly denies worldly ideologies such as: Critical Race Theory, Side B "Christianity" (e.g. affirming Same Sex Attracted as an identity), feminism/egalitarianism (e.g. a denial of the roles God has created for men and women in the home, church, etc.), Theistic evolution, Pro-Choice, etc.



# Current ministry opportunities



The many ways our members can serve our Lord and each other at Grace Presbyterian Church.



## Sunday School

Teaching through the Bible, confessions, or catechism.



## Tuesday night fellowship

Cooking and cleaning for fellowship meals.



## Men's ministry

Bible study, men's fellowship night.



## Women's ministry

Bible study, tea events, biblical counseling training for women.



## Children's ministry

Bible study, catechism, apologetics, and nursery.



## Special Summertime teaching series

Past series have been *Islam: What Every Christian Needs to Know* and *How and Why Christianity Is True: An Apologetics Introduction*.



## Music

Singing, backup vocals, piano/organ accompaniment, cajon.



## Morning setup, closing, and cleaning

Open building, prepare Lord's Supper elements, bulletins, and clean-up after the service.





### Evangelism

Public outdoor evangelism.



### Security

Ensure the safety of everyone during worship and assist the greeting team before the service.



### Church work-day

Annual deep cleaning of church building and landscaping.



### Ushers

Collect weekly offering, usher congregants to partake in the Lord's Supper.



### Maintenance

Landscape, building interior, and appliance maintenance.



### Refreshments

Prepare coffee and provide after service snacks.



# Demographics

Fresno, located in the Central Valley of California was founded in 1872 by the Central Pacific Railroad Company. Over the last century, Fresno County has transformed into the top-producing county of agriculture in the nation. Major crops in the area include grapes, almonds, cotton, peaches, and nectarines. The city of Fresno's population has grown to reach 545,564<sup>1</sup> and the population of Fresno County has reached 1,015,190<sup>2</sup> including the neighbouring city of Clovis.



## Fresno is ethnically diverse<sup>1</sup>

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| 53% Hispanic | 13% Asian |
| 23% White    | 6% Black  |



## Income and housing

The median household income is \$64,196<sup>1</sup>

Median listing home price is \$399,900<sup>3</sup>

The city of Fresno has a poverty rate of 20.6% and 40% of the population earns less than \$50,000 a year.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0627000-fresno-ca/> (website as of 11/20/2023)

<sup>2</sup> <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US06019-fresno-county-ca/> (website as of 11/20/2023)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-search/Fresno\\_CA](https://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-search/Fresno_CA) (website as of 11/20/2023)





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## **Job Description for Solo Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church**

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Grace Presbyterian Church is a Presbyterian and Reformed church with 67 members including covenant children. Our congregation emphasizes Christ-centered worship, the ordinary means of grace, and a zeal for the peace and purity of the Church.

Grace Presbyterian Church is located at 630 N Ferger Ave, Fresno, CA 93728 in the historic Fresno Tower District.

Our congregation and pastor search committee, with the Lord's help, are seeking a solo pastor who meets our desired teaching elder distinctives, agrees with our church distinctives, and demonstrates the following traits and qualifications:

### **Qualifications**

1. Is confident in the work of Christ in his own life and demonstrates piety in his pastoral responsibilities, as well as his personal and family life.
2. Is ready in season and out of season to preach the Word of God with clarity, compassion, conviction, and urgency through a Christ-centered, exegetical, thoroughly Reformed lens.
3. Able to teach the Word of God through preaching, teaching, and conversations.
4. Views his preaching ministry as the central component of his overall pastoral ministry, within which he continually seeks to build and strengthen healthy relationships with all members of the congregation.
5. Has an understanding and desire to teach the full counsel of God as it applies to God's purposes in creation, redemption, and consummation in Christ.
6. Recognizes the commission given to the church by her Lord and is eager to lead the congregation to participate in making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that Christ has commanded.





7. Is eager to know, love, and shepherd the congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church with patience, compassion, and sympathy, with the aim of encouraging and mobilizing the member's growth as disciples.
8. Able to work well with the Session to shepherd the congregation, support ministry needs, and develop discipleship goals for the congregation.
9. Is gifted in developing relationships with the congregation through shared meals, visitation in the home and hospital, and more.
10. Understands the importance of delegating and sharing responsibilities with the session, staff, and congregation.

**Position requirements**

1. Responsible for planning Sunday morning corporate worship service and sermon.
2. Consistently preach compelling sermons from the biblical text.
3. Frequent, earnest prayer for the congregation. Encourage and cultivate individual and corporate prayer.
4. Administration of the Sacraments, including the Lord's Supper weekly.
5. Preaching that is accessible to all ages and levels of maturity, applying the Word to our lives.
6. Preaching that calls the hearer to deeper faith in Christ, sanctification, and evangelism.
7. Holds ordination in the Presbyterian Church in America or is eligible to transfer into the PCA.
8. Teach Sunday School or lead a Bible study occasionally.
9. Has obtained a Master of divinity degree, or equivalent, with at least 10 years of ministry experience.
10. Moderator of session.

**Theological requirements**

1. Affirms the inerrancy, infallibility, authority, and sufficiency of Scripture with a commitment to reformed and covenant theology.
2. Committed to the Reformed faith and the Westminster standards; yet gracious toward fellow believers who hold differing views.
3. Understands church history and its relevance to current theological issues of the day.

**Personal traits**

1. Is a man of humility, integrity, and self-discipline.
2. Easy to entreat and approachable.
3. Exemplifies the traits of an elder in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
4. Is a man who enjoys the support of his wife and any children at home and in ministry.
5. Promotes the peace and purity of the church locally, denominationally, and globally.
6. Is a man who enjoys being around and spending time with people in his congregation.

**Additional ministry responsibilities**

1. Is available for pastoral counseling and care, and visitation as needed for the congregation.
2. Assists with the recommendation and evaluation of curriculum, books, materials used in Sunday school programs, church sponsored Bible studies, library collections/references.
3. Will be active in the discipleship and training up of new leadership for men's ministry, women's ministry, the diaconate, and the session.
4. Will be available to comfort the sick and the dying at short notice, and to visit the sick in homes and hospitals. Reach out to inactive members and to prospective members to invite them into the church community.
5. Is open to receive and welcomes feedback from church officers, staff, and congregation.
6. Meet with prospective members to lead new membership classes.
7. Will schedule, plan, and organize agenda, attend, and act as moderator in accordance with the Book of Church Order at all Session meetings as well as joint officer meetings.
8. Participates in forming the annual budget to ensure responsible stewardship.
9. To officiate funerals and weddings and meet with engaged couples for pre-marital counseling.
10. Is available to attend all church-wide congregational events and programs during the week and evenings.
11. Will support the diaconate by overseeing diaconate goals, mercy ministry efforts, as well as advise the diaconate in the upkeep of church grounds and facilities maintenance.
12. Will work with session in participating and engaging with the PCA, including local PCA churches, PCA agencies, Northern California Presbytery, and General Assembly, and will report regularly to the congregation regarding important matters before our presbytery and denomination.
13. Encourages and leads Session and congregants to be more aware of and involved in Missions both local, regional, and abroad.

Should you wish to be considered as an applicant, please email your MDF, resume, and references by email to: [psc@gracefresno.com](mailto:psc@gracefresno.com). Please email or call (949) 887-0398 with any questions.



## Desired Distinctives of Teaching Elder

### 1 Recognize the Primary Role of Shepherding the Local Congregation

- Sees the congregation as the focus of his ministry/mission field.

### 2 Able to Teach the Holy Scriptures and Westminster Standards to All Ages and Maturity Levels

- Encourages the congregation to grow in discipleship and knowledge of Scripture and doctrine.
- Able to clearly explain any exceptions to the Westminster Standards.

### 3 Prophetic Witness

- Lead and equip the church to be light in the world, always being ready to defend the reason for our faith; and to warn unbelievers of the coming judgment, communicating God's command for all people everywhere to repent and believe in Christ for salvation.

### 4 Zealous for the Reformed Faith

- Rich understanding of the Protestant Reformation.
- On guard against the threat of Roman Catholic heresies.

### 5 Contend for the Faith

- Lead and equip the church to fight against heresy and wolves who would corrupt the purity of Christ's church.

### 6 Recognizes the Importance of Outreach

- Has a love for the lost and is able to prepare and lead the congregation in participating in the Great Commission.

### 7 Exemplary Leader and Team Player

- Sees the value and talents of our congregation and works to unify and lead.
- Is an example to the church in how to care for his immediate family.



# Life outside Lord's Day Worship at Grace Pres







## Thank you for reviewing our Church Information Packet

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### Contact Us

(949) 887-0398  
psc@gracefresno.com  
gracefresno.com

### Our Location

630 N Ferger  
Fresno, California  
93710

### Ruling Elders

Matt Balocca  
Ray Sanchez  
Thom Halls

