# Grace Central Church

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

SENIOR PASTOR PROFILE & SEARCH PACKET · 2026

Grace

*"Freeing people by God's grace to be a people of grace, bearing witness to grace."*

GRACEOMAHA.COM · 115TH & DODGE, OMAHA, NE

FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

# A Letter to Pastoral Candidates

Dear Pastor, if you have felt God stirring something in you about the next stage of your ministry, we are glad this profile has found its way to you. We are Grace Central Church — a joyful community of Christ-followers in Omaha whose mission is to free people by God's grace to be a people of grace, bearing witness to grace. Like you, we are prayerfully and expectantly trusting God's guidance as we search for the man God is calling to lead us in that mission.

We understand that reading this letter means you are seeking discernment about where God may be directing you next. We hope the information in this Church Profile gives you a clear sense of who we are, how God is at work in and through our congregation, and what the role of senior pastor at Grace Central could look like for you.

As a committee, we have worked prayerfully through surveying our congregation and preparing this packet, but we also understand that the most important work is what God is doing to prepare both us and our future pastor for the next season of Grace Central's ministry. Our aim, therefore, is to remain fully open to His leading.

As you read through our church profile, we pray you gain a sense of who we are as a body, a picture of our greater Omaha community, and clarity about whether God may be calling you to take the next steps toward becoming our senior pastor.

Although we have not met you (yet!), we are praying for you, as well as for your current congregation.

In Christ,

**The Grace Central Pastoral Search Committee**

BACK ROW

Abram Lueders · Glen Woita · Christian Stillman · Kevin Kandt · Dan Krueger

FRONT ROW

Abby Thomas · Tiffany Beaty · Taryn Huber · Claire Davis

OUR WHY & HOW

# Mission, Vision & Values

### OUR MISSION — WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

> *"Freeing people by God's grace to be a people of grace, bearing witness to grace."*

God's grace is the center of Christianity. Grace is the heart of the good news of Jesus's death and resurrection. In grace God created us, saves us, grows us, and sends us into the world. We want that gospel of grace to be what animates us and what we are known for.

### OUR VISION — HOW ARE WE GETTING THERE?

As we seek to be a people of grace, we work that outward through three gospel movements that build on each other:

**Hospitality** → Community

**Formation** → Invitation

**Mission** → Multiplication

#### HOSPITALITY THAT CREATES COMMUNITY

The world's culture is hostile to deep relationships. We want to intentionally open our hearts, lives, and schedules to meaningful connection — forming a community that loves one another with deep, Christ-honoring bonds.

#### FORMATION THAT DRIVES INVITATION

To be a Christian is to be a follower of Jesus, seeking to be formed like Him. We want that formation to not pull us from our neighbors, but to drive us toward them, inviting others to follow Jesus with us.

#### MISSION THAT LEADS TO MULTIPLICATION

As those first two movements deepen, we hope to be tangibly engaged in God's mission — working for peace and life in Omaha, and trusting God to multiply us through new disciples and new churches.

### OUR DENOMINATIONAL HOME

GCC is a congregation of the **Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)** — the first PCA church in Omaha, now joined by our sister church, Harvest Community Church. We are members of **Platte Valley Presbytery** and affiliated with **The Gospel Coalition**. Our theology is Reformed and our polity is Presbyterian, governed by a Session of ruling and teaching elders.

We hold to the **Westminster Standards** as our secondary confessional documents and are committed to the inerrancy and authority of Scripture as the ultimate rule for faith and practice. Candidates must be ordained or ordainable in the PCA.

HISTORY & DEMOGRAPHICS

# Our Story & Our People

### FOUNDED IN 1980

Grace Central was founded in 1980 by four families, three of whom remain active members of our congregation today. From its earliest days, the church has been shaped by a deep commitment to the gospel and a desire to serve the city of Omaha.

As the first PCA-affiliated church in Omaha, GCC relocated in 2015 to 115th and Dodge Streets — the geographic center of the city — and adopted the name *Grace Central Church* to reflect both the centrality of God's grace and the church's physical location in the community.

Grace Central's original building

### GCC TODAY

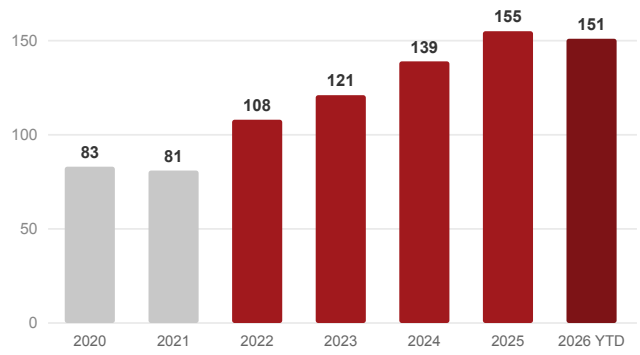
| | |
|---|---|
| Founded | **1980** |
| Relocated to 115th & Dodge | **2015** |
| Denomination | **PCA** |
| Presbytery | **Platte Valley** |

### OUR PEOPLE BY THE NUMBERS

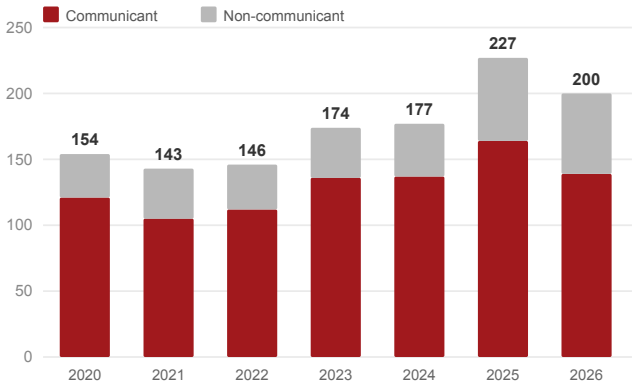
**139**
ACTIVE COMMUNICANT MEMBERS

**151**
AVG. SUNDAY ATTENDANCE (2026)

**8**
ACTIVE LIFE GROUPS




Average weekly worship attendance, 2020–2026




Membership by year (communicant / non-communicant)

WEEKLY RHYTHMS & COMMUNITY

# Ministry Life at GCC

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Gathered worship on Sunday is central to the life of our congregation. Every Sunday, the people of GCC gather to praise God, confess our sins, sit under the preaching of the Word, and partake of the Lord's Supper.

### LIFE GROUPS

GCC has **eight active Life Groups** meeting throughout Omaha for fellowship, discipleship, prayer, and mutual encouragement — and nearly all members of GCC are part of one. We believe this is a rare quality in a church, and a reflection of our deep community DNA. These groups are the primary engine for the formation of deeper community in our congregation.

### NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES

**Youth Central** — Weekly ministry for middle & high school students. Wednesdays, 6:30–8:00 PM.

**Kids Central** — Ministry for children ages 2½ through elementary. Wednesdays, 6:30–8:00 PM.

**Children's Choir** — Opportunities for children to participate in worship through music.

### MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

**Men's Ministry** — Regular gatherings for discipleship and fellowship, plus an annual Men's Retreat.

**Women's Ministry** — Bible studies, fellowship gatherings, and an annual Women's Retreat.

ELDERS, DEACONS & STAFF

# Our Leadership

## TEACHING ELDERS

**Tim Janiszewski**
ASSOCIATE PASTOR (TEACHING ELDER)

**Bruce Otto**
ASSISTANT PASTOR (TEACHING ELDER)

## RULING ELDERS

**Don Arrington**
RULING ELDER

**Phil Belin**
RULING ELDER

**Brad Dexter**
RULING ELDER

**Cary Farrington**
RULING ELDER

**Chris Tipton**
RULING ELDER

**Scott Etnoyer**
RULING ELDER

## DEACONS

**Nate Halm**
DEACON

**Dave Holt**
DEACON

**Tim Jacobsen**
DEACON

**David Nelson**
DEACON

**Todd Roth**
DEACON

**Tobias Davis**
DEACON

## STAFF

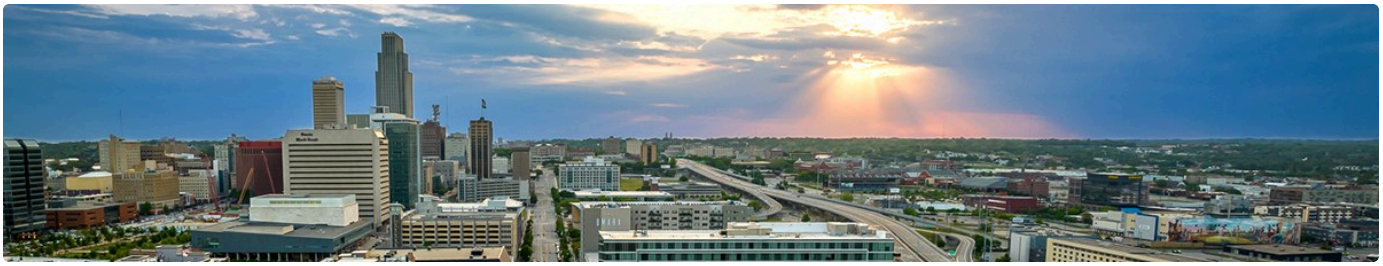
**Sarah Tripp**
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

**Janae Halm**
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Full staff and leadership directory at **graceomaha.com/staff**

WHERE WE LIVE & SERVE

# Omaha, Nebraska



Omaha is a growing midwestern city at the heart of a metropolitan area of over 1 million residents. Omaha got its start as a key gateway to the west, a position it cemented when it became the eastern end of the Union Pacific railroad in 1863. Today, Union Pacific is just one of four Fortune 500 companies headquartered in the Omaha area, which has a stable economy powered by industries that include insurance, healthcare, and the U.S. Air Force.

For most residents, Omaha is a comfortable place to live. Compared to larger cities, the cost of living is reasonable. You can get just about anywhere in 30 minutes or less. It has a reputation for being a good place to raise a family, and young adults who move away often "boomerang" back when it's time to settle down.

But Omaha, like every other city, needs the transformation that only the Gospel can bring. "Midwest nice" can cover up the depths of our sin and our need of a savior. At Grace Central Church, we want to be a part of God's outward mission of redemption in the beautiful and broken place He has called us to.

## AROUND OMAHA

If you're going to visit one attraction in Omaha, it's hard to beat the Henry Doorly Zoo, which often tops national best-of lists. Other nearby favorites include the Lauritzen Gardens, a revitalized riverfront park system, and the recently expanded Joslyn Art Museum.

Every June, the country descends on Omaha for the College World Series. For the rest of the year, local fans flock to Creighton Bluejay basketball, UNO Maverick hockey, and professional sports that include volleyball, soccer, and minor league baseball.

Omaha is home to a significant and growing college student population — a meaningful opportunity to reach the next generation. The University of Nebraska – Omaha and Creighton are the largest universities, alongside other institutions such as UNMC and smaller private colleges.

Compared to other large cities, Omaha has a relatively low cost of living. The current median home price on the Omaha market is $283,000 — 29% lower than the national average.

# Grace is **Central to Omaha.**

Grace Central Church is strategically located at one of the most accessible locations in the city: most of the region's million residents live less than 20 minutes away.

HONEST SELF-ASSESSMENT

# Where We Thrive & Where We Can Grow

We want to be honest and clear with candidates about who we are — both the gifts God has given us and the areas where we are trusting Him for growth and renewal. What follows reflects the voice of our congregation through our pastoral search survey.

### OUR STRENGTHS

- Commitment to biblical, expository preaching and sound theology
- A genuine culture of warmth — visitors consistently feel at home
- Multigenerational congregation with deep, cross-generational relationships
- Faithful volunteer engagement and a servant culture
- Financially healthy with debt-free facilities

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

- Desire to grow in outward-facing evangelism and community engagement
- Leadership development — equipping more members to lead and disciple
- Deepening discipleship pathways within Life Groups
- Expanding ministry reach to young adults and families
- Greater mobilization for local and global missions

NEXT STEPS

# How to Apply

We are grateful for your prayerful consideration of Grace Central Church. Please submit all materials to the address below. We will begin reviewing applications in August 2026; applications will continue to be reviewed until the position is filled.

## REQUESTED MATERIALS

1. Cover letter expressing your interest
2. Current résumé or curriculum vitae
3. 4 references (email and phone number), and note whether we may contact your elder board
4. Links to 2–3 recent sermons
5. PCA Ministerial Data Form (if applicable)
6. Responses to the candidate questionnaire

## SUBMISSION

Please collect all requested materials and submit them via email to **psc@graceomaha.com**.

## CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please respond to each question in a paragraph or two.

1. What do you believe is the most important aspect of your work as a pastor?
2. If you were to write a statement of faith for your personal ministry, what would it include?
3. Why are you interested in this position?
4. What are your personal spiritual disciplines? How do you hold yourself accountable?
5. Describe your philosophy of public (or corporate) worship and share your thoughts on the elements and ordering of such worship.

## HELPFUL LINKS

| | |
|---|---|
| Website | **graceomaha.com** |
| Sermons | **graceomaha.com/podcast** |
| Beliefs | **graceomaha.com/about** |
| Staff & Leadership | **graceomaha.com/staff** |

*We are praying for you as you seek the Lord in this process.*

— The Grace Central Pastoral Search Committee