

Lead Minister, Vision and Worship

We are seeking a Lead Minister who brings experience and demonstrated ability in preaching, teaching and team ministry. However, far more important, we are seeking a visionary leader with the imagination, wisdom, and courage to lead a large congregation into the future that God holds for us.

Background – The Vision and Ministry Model

During a period of interim ministry in 2016, Grace journeyed through a collaborative process to create a vision for its future and a new ministry model to align with that vision. The congregation overwhelmingly supported a vision for Grace as a church that is meaningfully engaged with its surrounding community, known as a thought leader, and that truly lives its values of service and compassion. We have heard a call to be in the world, not set apart from it. We are searching for a Lead Minister who is excited to embrace the challenge of that calling with us.

The new ministry model approved by the congregation contemplates a lead minister and three associates, two of whom are anticipated to be part-time. In addition to the Lead Minister, Vision and Worship, the ministry model contemplates a full-time Associate Minister, Engagement and Service; a part-time (0.6) Associate Minister, Pastoral Care; and a part-time (0.5) Associate Minister, Children and Youth.

As we begin to search for the person being called to serve as Lead Minister, Vision and Worship, there is tremendous energy and excitement in the congregation. Once we have found the person being called to that role, we will begin searches for the remaining ministerial positions. The Rev. Dr. M. Jean Morris is currently called to a full-time role as Associate Minister, Pastoral Care.

The following narratives outline the primary areas of responsibility for the Lead Minister, Vision and Worship and the demonstrated abilities we view as necessary in each area:

1. Vision: Preparing for Things Beyond our Imagining

Grace believes that God has been, and is, preparing us for things beyond our imagining. We believe in embracing the uncertainty of not knowing what is to come with wonder, not fear. We understand that we are called to continually reach out for the discomfort of growth and to resist the comfortable trappings of routine-ism. We also know it is easy to forget all of those things when faced with adversity and to drift back into being comfortable and static.

We are praying the person called to serve as Lead Minister, Vision and Worship will be inspired by our current vision and able to embrace the challenge of:

- inspiring the congregation to make its vision of becoming a congregation that is meaningfully engaged with its community a reality over the coming years;
- maintaining energy for the vision through difficult times;

- welcoming the risk and occasional failure that comes with a bold vision and leading the congregation in doing the same;
- being a mirror of accountability to prevent vision drift and/or a return to “this is how we have always done it” thinking;
- encouraging the congregation to search for, listen to, and respond to God’s calling in their lives and in the life of the church and its surrounding community; and
- calling the congregation to continually re-imagine its future.

2. Worship: Bringing the Word to the People

The experience of worship is central to life at Grace. Sunday morning services filled with “thinking theology” and rich musical offerings are part of Grace’s identity and are highly valued by the congregation. Evening Grace, an intimate Sunday evening service held twice per month, provides another option for spiritual reflection through worship and healing prayer. As we work to reach out in new and different ways to our surrounding community, we may explore new worship experiences and opportunities.

We are praying the person called to serve as Lead Minister, Vision and Worship will bring a depth of experience and demonstrated ability in cultivating meaningful worship experiences characterized by:

- warmth and welcome to both believers and seekers;
- skilled preaching that is accessible to newcomers and that challenges even the most well-versed congregants to see with new eyes and hear with new ears;
- real-life relevance and relatability of the Gospel message to a diverse, multi-generational community that includes people at all stages of faith development; and
- integration of music that enhances the sermon and elevates the worship experience.

3. Education and Training: Equipping the Saints

Part of the newly adopted vision at Grace involves providing education opportunities and structured training to increase the number and capacity of our ordained and lay leaders. We want to be a congregation that deepens people’s knowledge and develops their gifts so they can confidently respond, “here I am, Lord” when they hear a call to serve. Our long term vision is to develop programming that can be offered to people outside the congregation to help equip other faith communities as well as our own.

We are praying the person called to serve as Lead Minister, Vision and Worship will have a teacher’s heart and the skills and experience necessary to fully embrace the role of teaching elder through the design and implementation of:

- opportunities for adults at different stages of faith development to deepen their theological and denominational knowledge;
- a Faith Leadership Training Centre with a geographic reach beyond Calgary that will include programs for lay leadership development; and
- orientation and continuing development that equips ruling elders to fully embrace the leadership role to which they’ve been called.

4. Leader of the Ministerial Team: Teammate, Team Captain, Spokesperson

For decades, Grace has been blessed with ministerial teams able to mentor, support and encourage each other's gifts to shine as they provided leadership in the congregation and community. With four ordained ministers, the new ministry model contemplates our largest ministerial team yet.

We are praying the person called to serve as Lead Minister, Vision and Worship will be a servant leader, experienced in team ministry, who is eager to continue the rich tradition of extraordinary team ministry at Grace by willingly embracing responsibility as:

- leader, mentor, and collaborative colleague of the ministerial team;
- primary Moderator of Session;
- guiding hand in the overall life, development, and direction of the congregation;
- direct report for the three associate ministers to ensure the ministry model is operating in alignment with the vision of a congregation that is meaningfully engaged with its community;
- direct report for the church's Operations Director;
- a communicator and consensus builder; and
- the primary spokesperson for Grace in interactions with civic leaders and media.

Team Ministry Model

