

The Rev. Mark Tremblay
Interim Moderator
The Rev. Jacob Van Pernis
The Rev. Maren McLean Persaud
The Rev. Christian Persaud

Ministry Update
Rev. Jake Van Pernis, Associate Minister, Engagement and Service
November 21st, 2021

November 2021 marks three years of being Grace's Minister of Engagement and Service for me. At times, it feels as if my time at Grace has been shorter than three years and at other times it feels as if my time at Grace has been much longer than three years.

Here are four highlights from seven months that have passed since our last congregational meeting:

- 1.) The relationships, joy, laughter, and honesty shared in Dwell. I am appreciative of the support and care this group has shared with one another on Zoom during the pandemic. In studying scripture together there have been incredible insights shared. Dwell has resumed this fall and in an upcoming meeting we will be discussing changing the meeting time of Dwell due to many who have attended Dwell in the past now having responsibilities at Grace on Sunday mornings.
- 2.) Grace's response to the red paint on splattered on the front doors, the Service of Lament, building relationships in the community, and working with the Ad-Hoc Committee on Truth, Healing, and Reconcili-action. It was amazing to follow Grace's response to the red paint on the doors go viral; I had friends from the US messaging me with notes of appreciation for Grace's response. The community conversations and the Service of Lament held on the front steps of Grace hosted on September 26 poignantly highlight ideas of missional theology – so these events are incredibly meaningful to me. This work has set me on a journey of learning and growth as well. I am grateful for the knowledge and grace that has been shared with me as I have gotten to know both Indigenous and Community leaders and share Grace's story. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow in relationship with these leaders as I continue to learn and grow in understanding the meaning of truth, healing, and reconciliation.
- 3.) This fall Grace celebrated one year of being a satellite site for the Calgary Food Bank. I am incredibly thankful for the many volunteers from Grace and the community who have helped Grace host a satellite site of the Calgary Food Bank on Thursdays. I am also excited that in 2022 Grace will be helping the Calgary Food Bank as it undergoes renovations by being a satellite site on Tuesdays and Thursday.

The Rev. Mark Tremblay
Interim Moderator
The Rev. Jacob Van Pernis
The Rev. Maren McLean Persaud
The Rev. Christian Persaud

4.) Beyond reaching out into the community on behalf of Grace, I have enjoyed working with Maren and Christian to share preaching and worship responsibilities. The sermon series on Discernment and Being Brave in Grace's Values have been interesting to think through and it has been interesting to see how the Spirit has helped these series unfold. I am looking forward to talking about wonder in Advent using the theme, "I wonder as I wander."

In the spring Kate and I learned that the house we were renting was going to be put on the real estate market. This meant balancing work schedules with house showing schedules in the midst of a pandemic which was stressful. In the spring and summer Kate and I searched for a house and ended up buying a house in Scenic Acres. We moved at the end of July / beginning of August and are enjoying getting to know our neighbours and our new neighbourhood. Kate and I are also grateful to Richard Kim and his family for helping us move!

As one of Grace's ministers I have a variety of responsibilities both within Grace's life, the life of the Presbytery, and the life of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. As a part of my responsibilities at Grace I sit on the following committees: The Ad Hoc Truth, Healing, and Reconcili-action Committee, the Engagement and Service Committee, the Facilities Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Governance and Planning Committee.

At the Presbytery level, I serve on the New Worshipping Communities Team, and have recently been asked to co-convene the New Worshipping Communities Team with the Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald.

I am also serving as the Moderator of the Synod of Alberta and the Northwest. My term as the Moderator of the Synod of Alberta and the Northwest began in October and will be completed in October of 2022.

Finally, starting this spring I have been growing and learning through a year -long intensive course called "Seminary of the Wild." The course has four modules – Wild Earth, Wild Self, Wild Christ, and Wild Call. The course is currently on the third module, "Wild Christ." The course has been interesting and has really invited me to open up to the story of God being shared by creation, to recognize that the wildness of the Spirit is alive in me, and that Christ points to God as Divine Mystery.

Rev. Jake Van Pernis

1009 15th Avenue SW, Calgary AB T2G 0S5
Tel: (403) 244-5861

www.gracechurchcalgary.com
office@gracecalgary.org