



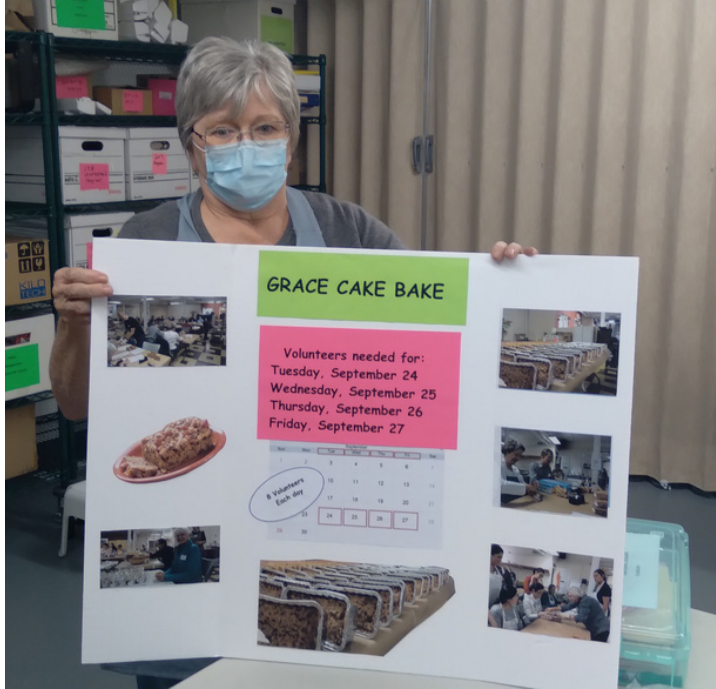
Spirit Led: Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Report to Congregation and Community April 2022

In a spirit of respect and truth we honour and acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Stoney Nakoda Nations (Bears paw, Chiniki, and Wesley), the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.



Grace Presbyterian Church
Transforming lives through God's grace



Our Values

Engagement, Belonging, Community, Compassion, Service

Our Vision

Transforming Lives Through God's Grace

Our Mission

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we grow disciples of Jesus Christ to love our neighbours and effect social change

The Spirit at Work

*“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.
Let your good Spirit lead me on a level path.”
Psalm 143: 10*

The psalmist’s words invite us to remember that as we seek to follow God, the Holy Spirit is with us. The Holy Spirit has led and continues to lead us at Grace, as we continue to seek to follow God as a community of faith in an ever-changing world.

In 2021, the Spirit led Grace to reflect with, learn from, and work with the Rev. Dr. Graham Standish to reinforce the foundation of our church life together by practicing two-way communication and incorporating the practice of discernment – listening for the will of God and finding the courage to act on it, guided by the Holy Spirit – into our communal life.

This Spirit-filled work helped Grace move forward with the creation of the Lead Minister Search Committee and the creation of a three-year strategic plan focused on the congregation, community, and Grace’s changing culture to guide our ministries.

In 2021, the Spirit invited Grace to talk about difficult and important topics, including pandemic loss, leadership, truth, healing, and reconciliation, pregnancy loss, racism, mental illness, and more – as well as The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s decisions about Human Sexuality. The Spirit is continuing to lead and invite us into these important and relevant conversations.

This report both looks back – to celebrate highlights from 2021 – and looks ahead – towards what’s to come at Grace. It highlights some of the work, plans, and ministries of Grace’s congregation, volunteers, committee members, Ministers, and staff.

Grace is resilient and is seeking to follow the call of the Spirit. The work ahead of us is navigating the future with a diverse congregation, community and society. In this work we will continue to follow God and follow the lead of the Spirit.

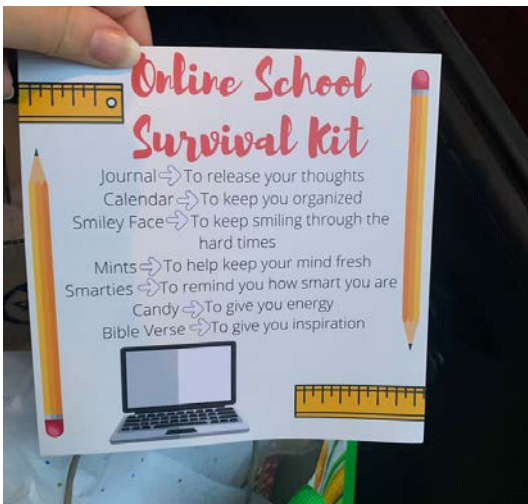
Ministers

The Rev. Mark Tremblay
Interim Moderator

The Rev. Maren McLean Persaud
Associate Minister Children & Youth

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis
*Associate Minister Engagement
and Service*

The Rev. Christian Persaud
Interim Pastoral Care Leader



In 2021, Grace discerned three areas of focus:

- Provide congregational care and support, and encourage engagement
- Grow community collaboration and connection
- Nurture the evolving culture at Grace



Providing congregational care and support, and encouraging engagement

Building relationships, growing together spiritually, and dealing with obstacles and issues of trust are central to maintaining a strong church family. Here are samples of highlights to celebrate from 2021, and sneak peeks for 2022. Thank you to Grace Committees, Ad Hoc Committees, and Ministers for sharing highlights and plans.

Looking Back: 2021

- Providing mental health care training to Elders, Deacons, and Homebound visitors through the online Living Works Start Program – Pastoral Care
- Continuing the long-term Grace Quilters ministry: who make masks and healing quilts to mark special occasions - Pastoral Care
- Maintaining a safe, welcoming church: New Sanctuary balcony railings, repaired chapel roof, and more – Facilities
- Forming the search committee for the new Lead Minister, developing a job description and congregational profile, and a video – Lead Minister Search Committee
- Developing a strategic plan focused on congregational and community connection – Governance and Planning
- Resuming in-person worship, including funeral and memorial services at Grace – Ministerial Team
- Sharing the relationships, laughter, and honesty in DWELL – Rev. Jake Van Pernis

Looking Ahead: 2022

- Try out a walking group to build new relationships and strengthen connections – Pastoral Care
- Continue to develop and implement programs and events for faith formation of children, youth and families – Spiritual Growth
- Posting the Lead Minister position in spring, approving the candidate in summer, and having the Lead Minister in place in the fall – Lead Minister Search Committee
- Offer opportunities to engage in spiritual growth studies. Experiment with exciting music and worship where children and youth fully participate – Spiritual Growth
- Complete work to support a strong foundation for future pastoral care (updating Grace’s membership, realigning Elders districts, recruiting volunteers, etc.!) – Rev. Christian Persaud



Growing community collaboration and connection

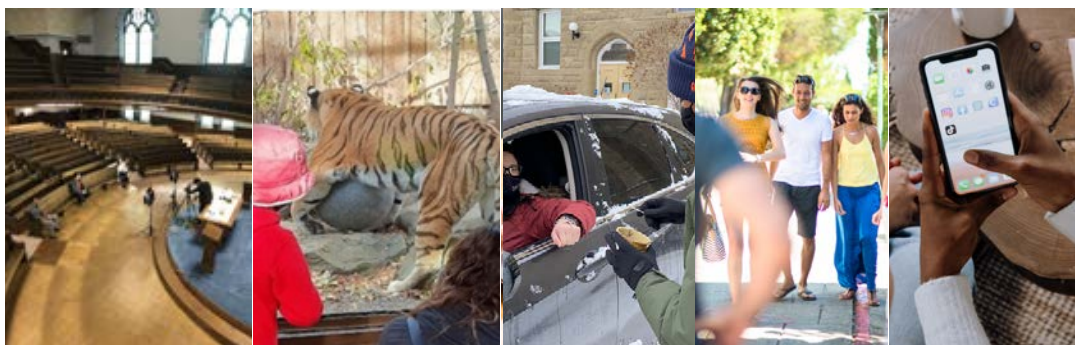
Grace has a strong tradition of connecting with the community. Fostering meaningful relationships with diverse groups, meeting the needs of the community, and welcoming the community into celebrations and activities with Grace took on new significance in 2021 during the pandemic. Here is how Grace welcomed the community in 2021 – and will connect in 2022.

Looking Back: 2021

- Welcoming the community to outdoor parking lot events including the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk 'N' Treat, and a Christmas Party – Spiritual Growth
- Providing food to people in need via Grace's Satellite Food Bank with a dedicated group of volunteers: 20 hampers per week (as of April 2022) – Engagement and Service
- Inviting the congregation and community to join us as we start a journey of truth, healing and reconciliation alongside Indigenous brothers and sisters – Truth, Healing and Reconcili-Action Ad Hoc Committee
- Offering prayer with nutritious snacks to the visitors at the Community Care booth – Pastoral Care

Looking Ahead: 2022

- Expand the Satellite Food Bank to support renovations at the Calgary Food Bank's main location – Engagement and Service
- Increase in-person volunteer opportunities – Engagement and Service
- Re-imagine the Community Care Booth and move forward with a renewed vision and focus of Community Care, discerning God's call – Pastoral Care
- Support and re-establish programs where Grace engaged with the broader community before the pandemic – Rev. Jake Van Pernis



Nurturing the evolving culture at Grace

Grace is a church family that is growing and changing, as is the surrounding neighbourhood. Managing this change requires support for the Ministerial Team, for people across generations and backgrounds, and for those who are trying new things. Here are ways that Grace has nurtured the developing culture in 2021, and how this will continue.

Looking Back: 2021

- Beginning the live-streaming of Sunday worship services in the fall of 2021; this is now expanding to include memorial services and weddings – Spiritual Growth
- Engaging new volunteers in programs and committees – Human Resources
- Reorganizing the church office to make Grace more accessible for all, with the West Doors becoming the Main Entrance – Facilities
- Hiring staff into the Communications and the Interim Music Coordinator positions – Human Resources

Looking Ahead: 2022

- Review the current church space with recommendations for renovations – Facilities
- Build an effective and efficient non-clergy staff organization with clear role descriptions, regular performance reviews, and fair compensation – Human Resources
- Collaborating with the Session, colleagues, committees, community partners, and the people of Grace to define and implement a plan for community care and engagement that includes new and faith-filled ideas – Rev. Jake Van Pernis



Stewardship at Grace

A steward is someone who cares for the gifts they have been given and entrusted with. At Grace, we are working together to steward our vision, mission, and values using the gifts of time, talent and treasure that we have been given and are entrusted with.

Thank you for all of your gifts to Grace – shared in the past, the present, and for gifts that will be shared in the future.

Stewardship Stats from 2021



Gifts of Time: 17,400 hours

This is the equivalent of 2,300 working days.



Gifts of Talent: 164 individuals serving in 230 roles

Those who serve share tremendous gifts including professional and personal expertise in leading committees, projects and events. Many volunteers serve in more than one way.



Gifts of Treasure: 267 people shared \$543,199.72 in financial gifts (average giving is \$2,034.16)

Financial contributions support ministries that meet needs in the congregation and community, maintain the church, and provide stipends for Ministers and salaries for staff. Contributions (past and present) have and are providing: the bell tower, commercial kitchen, Preaching Grace, live-streaming equipment, safe new balcony railings - and much more.

Committee Spotlight

“Thank you to everyone who reached out and called a friend or family member to share God’s love.” - The Pastoral Care Committee

Ministries at Grace are carried out through one of the eight committees of Session, and through Ad Hoc Committees that carry out emergent or project work. Committee members commit to serve as conveners or as members who meet, plan and run projects, studies, events and programs.

Committees were asked to share highlights and sneak peeks and this report showcases some of their contributions. These are the eight committees of Session, committee mandates, and how they serve Grace.

Do you feel called to serve on a committee? Email volunteers@gracecalgary.org.

Spiritual Growth

Explores options for music ministry and liturgy for corporate worship that appeal to a broad range of age groups. Continues to develop and implement strong programs for faith formation of children, youth and families.

Facilities

Oversees the upkeep, maintenance and future planning of Grace's indoor and outdoor space.

Pastoral Care

Seeks to be responsive to the healing, sustaining, guiding, and reconciling needs of all God’s people. We are responsible for the spiritual and physical needs of those within, and just outside our doors, who seek pastoral care. We love one another because we are loved first by God.

Finance

Manages and stewards Grace's financial resources and reports regularly on the financial position.

Human Resources

Develops and oversees the implementation of a plan to staff Grace’s ministries, programs, and projects. Includes non-clergy staff and volunteers in the congregation and in the community.

Engagement and Service

Identifies service opportunities in Grace's community, encourages congregational involvement, and develops strategic partnerships with other organizations. Also raises awareness of major social issues and works to facilitate Grace's involvement in addressing those issues.

Governance and Planning

Oversees the implementation of effective governance practices and organizational structure, monitors Session’s key outcomes, impact, and alignment to Grace's vision and mission. Also responsible for the development of policies.

Minister Resource

Supports Grace's ministers.

2021 By the Numbers

Congregational care, support, and engagement



348

Individuals attended
Worship in-person



11,103

Online Worship
views (2021)



8

Committees of
Session



8+

Small group opportunities
(DWEELL, Grace Youth;
Grace Kids; Bible and Book
studies; Grace Bethany;
Grace Quilters)

Grow community collaboration and connection



20

Food hampers
weekly: Satellite
Food Bank



5

Annual
community
events



25,000

Social media engagements in
2021 Facebook, Instagram,
Twitter, YouTube (engagements
are likes, clicks, comments or
shares); Reach/impressions
304,665 (reach is the # of
views/times posts were seen)



7,729

Facebook
engagements on 2
posts about the
response to the red
paint (the reach of the
posts was 70,388)

Nurturing the evolving culture



6

Brave Church book
study sessions



5

Church choirs attended the
Advent into Christmas Concert



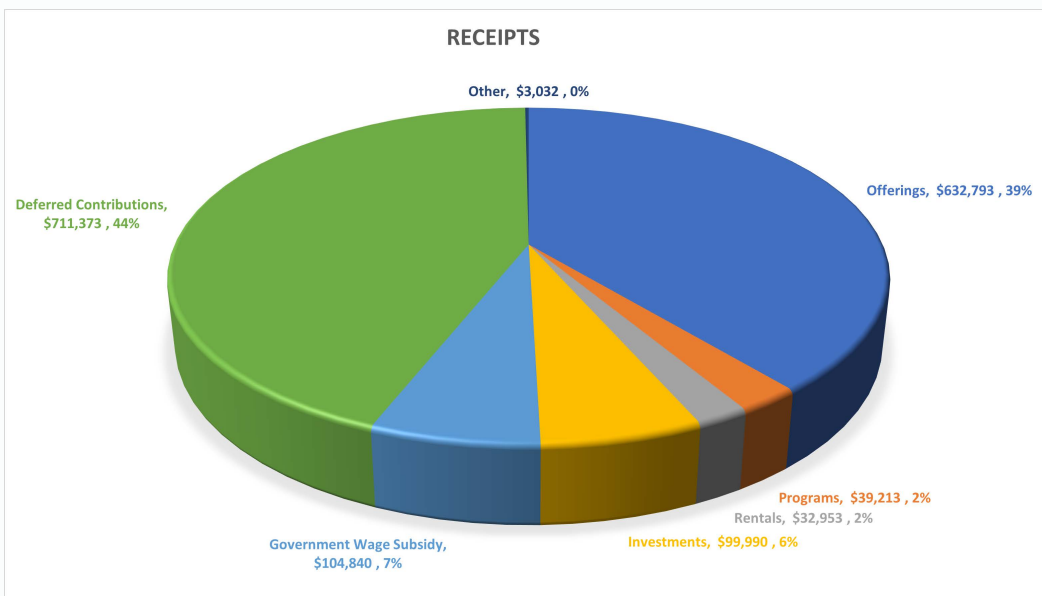
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Truth, Healing and
Reconciliation Events

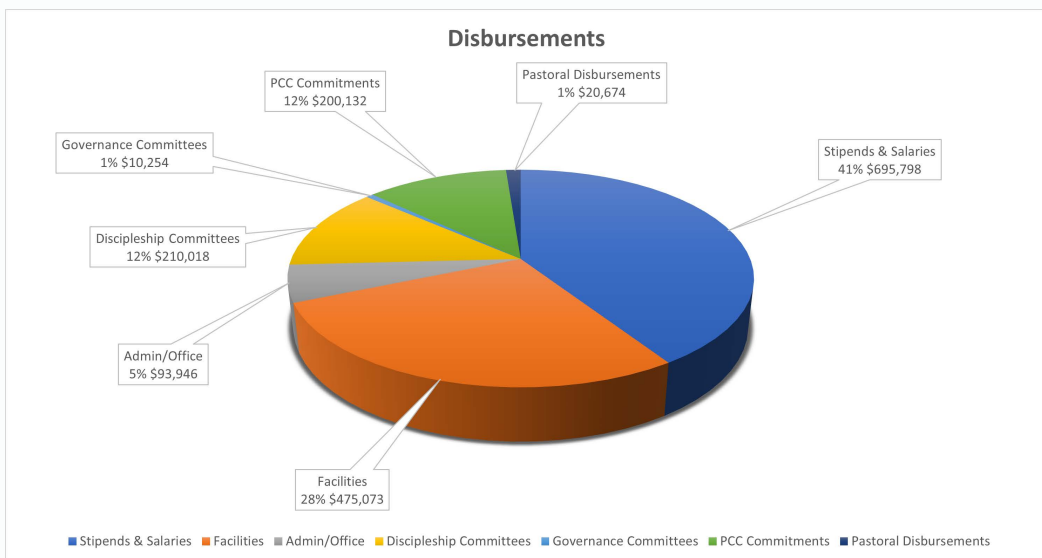
Financials for 2021

These pie charts are a snapshot of Grace financials for 2021. The full financial report for 2021 is available on the website at www.gracechurchcalgary.com.

Funds in: \$1,624,194



Funds out: \$1,705,895





Our Grace, Our Journey

Grace has more than 100 years of history as a thriving, vibrant church family and neighbour in the Beltline. Currently, Grace is seeking to follow God as it navigates the future, building on our values of Belonging, Community, Compassion, Engagement and Service.

Grace is blessed by the many people who are discerning, listening, learning, and helping to lead this journey internally, in the community, and as we continue to be reformed and reforming.

As a church we are seeking to follow God and the path of where the Spirit is leading.

Let's Connect!

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