



January 9, 2024

Dear Grace Church Family,

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ and pray God's blessing on you at the beginning of this new year.

I am reaching out to all members and adherents of Grace Presbyterian Church with exciting news. The Lead Minister Search Committee has been working for over two years to fill the position of Lead Minister at Grace. At the January 8 Session meeting the committee recommended a candidate and Session has invited this candidate to come to Grace from Friday, February 2 to Sunday, February 4 to meet the congregation and to Preach for the Call on Sunday, February 4. This is an important time for the congregation, and the candidate, to discern whether or not God is calling this person to be the next Lead Minister. Please plan to participate in the events that are planned.

We can't announce the candidate's name yet, and we need to be discreet, for the sake of the congregation that he currently serves. He would like to tell his congregation, when the time is right, rather than them hearing information via social media or the Internet. The candidate's bio will be shared in advance of the Call weekend.

During the February 2-4 Call Weekend, the candidate, and his wife, will be at Grace to experience the congregation. This is all part of the discernment process. There will be opportunities to meet the candidate. A schedule of meetings with Elders, the Rev. Jake Van Pernis and members of staff is also being arranged.

Here are the meetings for the congregation:

- Families of Grace Kids and Grace Youth: Families are invited to meet the candidate at Grace on Saturday, February 3 from 10:30am to 11:30am.
- Open Meet and Greet: Everyone is invited to come to a Meet and Greet at the church on Saturday February 3, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. This is a chance to meet the candidate. He will speak briefly at 2:45pm. If you have a question for him, please email me, Jean Morris, at interimmoderator@gracecalgary.org by noon on Thursday, February 1. This way I can facilitate the communication between the candidate and the congregation.

On Sunday, February 4, the candidate will lead worship. This is called Preaching for the Call and is one of the ways we use to discern whether or not a candidate is 'a good fit' for the position of Lead Minister at Grace, as leading worship and preaching are important competencies for this role. **Please be present at worship on Sunday, February 4 at 10:30am. If you cannot be at church in-person, you can view the service on livestream.**



Immediately following the service, the congregation will meet to vote on extending a Call. If the Call is approved, members and adherents (including children and youth) are asked to sign the Call. We encourage in-person attendance, but if you cannot attend in-person, you can attend on Zoom. A sign-up process and link will be shared ahead of time.

If you cannot be present in-person or online for the Congregational Meeting, you can still sign the Call. Elders will be contacting those who are not present at the Congregational Meeting to determine a time when people can sign. You can watch the video recording of the service, which will be posted on YouTube and the website worship page by the morning of Monday, February 5 at www.GraceChurchCalgary.com/worship/.

There is also an option to give the Elder permission to sign for you. It is vital that a large majority of members and adherents support the Call. The number of signatures indicates the strength of the Call (ideally 90% of the congregation will sign). At Grace, we would like as many people as possible to sign on Sunday, February 4. Additional signatures will be collected between February 4 and February 20. Please watch the bulletin, your mailbox and your email in the coming weeks for details about signing the Call.

We are deeply grateful to the Search Committee for their work and are excited about this development. We look forward to your participation in this important part of the spiritual journey of Grace that we travel together.

Peace,

Jean Morris

The Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, Interim Moderator

Interimmoderator@gracecalgary.org