



January 24, 2024

Dear Friends at Grace,

I am excited to share with you the name of the candidate who has been invited to preach for the Call on February 4. The Rev. Dr. Christopher Joiner will lead worship at 10:30am on that Sunday. You will find a brief message from him along with his bio in this communication. Please review it as we prepare for the Call weekend February 2 to 4. **Please help the process by being discreet. The identity of the candidate is sensitive and will not be posted online. This allows the candidate to share news sensitively with his congregation.*

You should know that the Lead Minister Search Committee and Session were unanimous in the decision to invite Dr. Joiner to Preach for the Call. Through the process, the committee identified the following highlights of his compatibility with Grace needs:

- An experienced **worship leader and preacher** who plans, prepares and leads worship that is Christ-centered and inspirational;
- A **collaborative team leader** who will work with the ministry team, staff, Session, and lay leaders in support of Grace's vision and mission;
- A very **experienced minister** who has a heart for people and is ready to work with the pastoral care team. A person whose life is rooted in Christ, with warmth and compassion he shows concern and care of people in the practical reality of their lives;
- A **leader for spiritual growth**; a skilled **teacher** who will nurture, inspire, and challenge us as we are sent into the world to participate in Christ's continuing ministry;
- A leader who has well-developed skills and practical knowledge in **stewarding resources**: inspiring the Grace community to build on our history of embracing stewardship as a part of our Christian faith.

I encourage you to attend the Call Weekend in February, at church or online. Save the dates!

- Friday, February 2: Meeting Elders, Rev. Jake Van Pernis, and staff
- Saturday, February 3: Grace Presbyterian Church
 - Families of Grace Children and Youth Meet and Greet: 10:30-11:30am
 - Open Meet and Greet: 2:00pm to 4:00pm; 2:45pm Chris Joiner speaks.
- Sunday, February 4: 10:30 am: Chris Joiner preaches for the Call by leading worship.
 - After worship: Congregational meeting in the sanctuary (also via Zoom). Members vote to extend a call.

- If the Call is extended, members and adherents (including children and youth) are asked to sign the Call.
- Signatures collected until Tuesday, February 20 (see methods for signing on the website page)
- Call submitted to Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
- If the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod agrees to the Call, it goes to the presbytery of the candidate. If this presbytery agrees, the Call goes to the candidate, who has 10 days to accept.

I look forward to seeing you at the Call weekend and to answering any questions you may have in leading up to it. Please also find all of the documents released as well as information updates on the Call website page (find it on the Home page: www.GraceChurchCalgary.com) or by scanning the QR code below. This is the same page where you can register for the Congregational Meeting Zoom link.)

Access Congregational Meeting Zoom Link: I hope to see as many people as possible in-person on Sunday, February 4. If you cannot attend in-person, you can register through the website and the Zoom link will be emailed to you. Please do this as soon as possible. *If you are struggling to access the Zoom link, please email communications@gracecalgary.org by Friday, February 2 at Noon or earlier.*



Peace,

Jean

The Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, Interim Moderator

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