



## *The Presbyterian Process for Calling a Lead Minister*

Grace has been searching for a new Lead Minister for more than two years. At the January 8 Session Meeting, the Lead Minister Search Committee put forward a recommended candidate. The Session has extended an invitation to this person to Preach for the Call on Sunday, February 4, 2024.

There are quite a few steps in a Call process, and they are listed below. You are encouraged to take part in this important next step at Grace – please save the dates below and participate. These are the steps and dates of the Call process:

### **Monday, January 8: Session Meeting**

At the January Session Meeting, the Lead Minister Search Committee submitted a report that recommended a Lead Minister candidate. Session extended an invitation to Preach for the Call.

### **Tuesday, January 9: Letter and Process Document Mailed to all Members and Adherents of Grace**

The week of January 9, 2024, this mail-out has gone to all members and adherents of Grace. The mail out includes this process document and the letter from the Interim Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris.

\*A bio of the candidate will be released closer to the Call weekend. The reason for this is to respect the candidate's decision on the timing of sharing this information with his congregation. The bio will be shared in later January. Please honour the confidentiality of the Session and the Search Committee.

**Friday, February 2: Candidate Meets with Session and Service Elders; Candidate Meets with Rev. Jake Van Pernis; Candidate Meets with Members of Staff**

**Saturday, February 3: Meet and Greet Candidate and Congregation**

Families of Grace Kids and Youth meet with the candidate from 10:30am to 11:30am.

The Congregation is invited to come and meet the candidate on Saturday, February 3, between 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Grace Presbyterian Church. The candidate will speak briefly at 2:45pm. Questions can be sent ahead of time to the Interim Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, at [interimmoderator@gracecalgary.org](mailto:interimmoderator@gracecalgary.org).

**Sunday, February 4: Worship, followed by Congregational Meeting, then Signing of the Call**

**Candidate Preaches for the Call (Feb 4 Worship): Please come!**

On Sunday, February 4, the candidate will lead worship to provide a sense of his style. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend in-person. If you cannot attend in-person, please view livestream worship, or watch the recorded video at [www.GraceChurchCalgary.com/worship/](http://www.GraceChurchCalgary.com/worship/).

**Congregational Meeting (Feb 4 immediately after worship)**

Following worship, there will be a Congregational Meeting. Attend in-person or online via Zoom. The process for a Call will be shared, members of the Lead Minister Search Committee will state why they recommend this candidate, and then there is discussion and questions. The congregation is asked to discern if God is calling this candidate to be the Lead Minister of Grace. There will then be a vote.

Presbyterian polity requires that:

- Professing members who are present (in-person or online) vote on the candidate as the next Lead Minister and on the Lead Minister compensation.
- While Adherents don't vote, they do sign the Call, so they are a very important part of the call process.

**Signing the Call (Feb 4 after the Congregational Meeting)**

If the vote is in favour of the Call, all attendees including members, adherents, kids and youth will sign the Call document. The number of signatures shows how strong the Call is (ideally the Call has 90%+ signatures). It is really important to have as many Grace members and adherents as possible be present on this day to sign the Call.

**February 4-20: Collecting Additional Signatures for the Call**

If you cannot be at Grace on Sunday, February 4, you can still sign or have your name added to the Call document. There are several ways to do this, which include:

- Asking an Elder to visit you so you can sign in-person;

- Asking your Elder to add your name to the Call on your behalf;
- Emailing your Elder to ask that they add your name to the Call;
- Emailing the Clerk of Session ([clerk@gracecalgary.org](mailto:clerk@gracecalgary.org)) or the Interim Moderator at ([interimmoderator@gracecalgary.org](mailto:interimmoderator@gracecalgary.org)) to have your name added to the Call.

### **March 2024: The Call Goes to the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod**

Once signatures have been collected, the Call goes to the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod. The Presbytery is responsible for checking on the process and procedure, the strength of the Call, and then the Presbytery votes. If yes, the Call goes to the candidate's Presbytery. If that Presbytery votes yes, the Call goes to the minister. The minister then has 10 days to consider the Call and provide an answer. Once the candidate answers, the process is completed.

If the candidate accepts the Call, arrangements will be made which would include a move to Calgary, an induction service and announcements of when the candidate would start serving at Grace. Should the Call progress, it is likely he would begin at Grace in May or June 2024.

### **Questions?**

The Call to a new minister can feel like a complex process. If you have questions or need clarification, please email the Interim Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris, at [interimmoderator@gracecalgary.org](mailto:interimmoderator@gracecalgary.org). We look forward to this next step in Grace's journey.