

- Mission Statement

What is your congregation's or organization's Mission Statement?

**The mission of Grace Presbyterian Church is to glorify God, proclaiming the gospel of unconditional love, acceptance and forgiveness through worship, education and outreach, while offering a warm and inviting place of worship.**

Narrative Questions

1. How would you describe the congregation's/organization's specific vision for ministry? How will this vision impact the community? Is the congregation part of a ministry vision like "Mathew 25" or other?

Congregation should show identity, theological history and understanding of their ministry. Should show how they see the accomplishment of the vision and the tools that they have to do so.

**Grace Presbyterian Church is a member of the PC(USA) and bases its theology on the Book of Confessions and the conduct of its services on the Book of Order. The focus of its ministry and mission is to strengthen the spiritual lives of its members through worship, fellowship and community outreach. Grace Presbyterian Church family is a membership of caring believers who strive to meet the needs of our members as well as the needs of the community at large. We do this by donating goods to local food pantries, providing space for local organizations to meet, providing volunteers to cook food and meals, and providing monetary support to local organizations. Outreach to the community includes service to various community agencies, including Gainesville Community Ministries (GCM), Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, St. Francis House, and Family Promise. We provide financial support to Montgomery Conference Center, Jamaica and Cuba Missions, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We have a men's group that meets weekly for lunch and fellowship. We have a women's circle that meets monthly for Bible study and fellowship as well as financially supporting a variety of needs both locally and beyond.**

**We are an aging congregation with only an occasional young family with children visiting. We are in search of an interim pastor who will not only support our current ministries but also lead us in the direction of growth. We realize that without growth we may soon not have either the physical or monetary resources to continue our ministry in the community.**

2. What is the nature and context of the community in which your congregation lives out its mission/vision? How will you address the emerging needs that are impacting your community?  
Understanding of the community and presence. Vision/Mission direction towards "outside" of ourselves. Creativity and involvement in the issues important to all in the community.

**We are part of a diverse community, consisting of a core of permanent residents expanded annually by the influx of students to University of Florida and the local community college. The permanent residents are themselves diverse, including those who live and work in various businesses and retail establishments, the faculty of the university and community college, and the medical practitioners**

and staff of Shands Hospital and clinics, HCA North Florida Medical Center, the VA Hospital and Clinics and numerous private and group practitioners. As a result, the population is constantly changing, with students, faculty, and medical personnel coming, staying for a while, and leaving. The population consists of many different nationalities and multiple ethnicities, who come to Gainesville with diverse backgrounds and belief systems. We welcome ALL. Grace has opened its doors to a Korean Congregation who utilize the church facilities on Sunday afternoon for a worship service followed by a communal meal. We offer the use of our facilities to a variety of community groups including AA, Girl Scouts, Gainesville Chapter of Sweet Adeline's, the Barber Gators, and a Square Dance group. We also provide studio space to a number of local artists who hold open studios for the entire community on a monthly basis. The Art Studios of Grace serve as a vital living pulse beat of the community. Their presence on our church grounds should continue to be explored and increased as an extension of our ministry.

3. How will this call help complement the responsibilities of other staff/volunteer positions, and the life of the congregation/organization, so that you may accomplish your short and long-term goals for ministry?

Show the understanding of leadership beyond one position, but as a conglomerate of talents, gifts and responsibilities from all in the church as one and how the position will work WITH those that are already working for the vision and mission.

**We are in search of an Interim Pastor with specific interim training. We are hoping and expecting this person to assist us in the visioning process to more clearly identify our needs as a church and direct us in our search for an Installed Pastor. The Interim Pastor will serve as the moderator of monthly Session meetings, providing leadership as the elders and committee members carry on the usual work of the church. The Session consists of 6 elders and the Treasurer. The members of the session serve as chairs of the various committees, who along with members of the congregation, carry out functions involved in the day to day life of the church. The committees consist of:**

- a. **Stewardship: handles the finances of the church, personnel, etc.**
- b. **Property and Operations: maintains the physical plant, including the sanctuary and fellowship hall, the church office and the manse.**
- c. **Worship (and music): works with the pastor to plan and conduct the various services of the church. This committee also works with the organist and cantor to coordinate the music for all services of the church. We believe in making a joyful noise!**
- d. **Congregational Life and Mission: organizes refreshments after the worship service and receptions when needed after special services. This committee also carries out the various community outreach activities, with assistance from members of the congregation.**
- e. **Christian Education: we currently do not have anyone in this role. Our former pastor took on this role, but we hope to develop an active Christian education program as we grow. Community outreach with the intent to bring more people in to our church is a goal.**

4. Provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person you hope will become a part of your ministry must have, to lead the congregation towards the vision and mission established.

Present what the congregation has visualized is needed to take them to the next level. If there are specifics that would provide a bonus factor share it, for example: Education specialist,

Musician, Organizational behaviorist. Showing you know what could be needed will attract people with these skills or gifts.

**First and foremost, we would expect that this person has received formal interim ministry training in order to lead our congregation toward a clear vision of what we are seeking in an Installed Pastor. Someone with the knowledge and ability to guide the congregation, Session and search committee in this process of discernment. This person would be approachable, a kind and compassionate leader with the ability to grasp the best direction for Grace. We are looking for someone who is energetic and enthusiastic in their faith, who can inspire and energize others to share their gifts with the church. We are looking for someone who has the ability to:**

- a. **Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of sound Christian doctrine and faith in accordance with the Reformed Tradition.**
  - b. **Conduct weekly church services in accordance with the liturgical calendar, as well as special services as needed from time to time.**
  - c. **Deliver uplifting, enlightening, encouraging, and instructional messages with “grace, seasoned with salt” and good humor.**
  - d. **Provide leadership while recognizing the roles of various members of the Session and the congregation.**
5. What areas of ministry do you expect the person called to be responsible for? Share specific tasks, assignments, and programs.

Unlike the Job Description, here the PNC talks about specific needs and wants for the ministries they already have or dream of having. These expectations should be realistic and to as specific as: Share with the Youth group a bible study once a month or Meet with the deacons in retreats twice a year

**Responsibilities will include, but are not limited to**

- a. **Conducting regular worship services and other special services as needed, such as funerals, weddings, baptisms, as well as special observances such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, etc.**
- b. **Meeting monthly with the Session to conduct the oversight and planning of church business.**
- c. **Meeting regularly with the worship committee and with other committees as needed.**
- d. **Holding regular office hours to be available to church members or others as needed.**
- e. **Leading the Session and the congregation in the visioning process in order to successfully search for and secure an Installed Pastor.**