

GracePoint Community Church - Strategic Plan

Introduction

GracePoint Community Church is a family of faith committed to growing in relationship with God, serving others, and bringing hope to a world that desperately needs some good news.

We want to play a part in seeing God bring many in North Andover and the Merrimack Valley to His beautiful grace through the good news of Jesus Christ's death on the cross for undeserved sinners and his resurrection from the grave, putting a stamp on the reality that God is transforming everything and making all things new.

Our Mission

Share Jesus. Make Disciples. Serve Others

Our Vision

GracePoint will be a gospel centered church actively discipling, training, and equipping believers to live out God's purpose in their lives.

GracePoint will be a multigenerational, biblical family-building community, raising up the next generation to continue the work of Christ.

GracePoint will be a church committed to the Great Commission, supporting local missions, global missions and church planting to advance the kingdom of God.

GracePoint will be a community destination, a hub of life, bringing hope and encouragement to everyone. We will be meeting the practical, relational, and spiritual needs of our local communities, and seeing many people come to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

GracePoint ministries will be led by members who are ready and passionate about using their God-given gifts for His glory.

GracePoint's stated Core Values will be how this vision is brought to life

Our Values

AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

God's infallible Word that never changes and always provides grace and truth. Submitting to his Word provides the best way to live.

PRAYER

Align ourselves with God's will by covering everything we do in prayer.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Using our God-given gifts in service of his Kingdom.

DISCIPLESHIP/EQUIPPING

Intentionally walking alongside other believers while encouraging them to grow in their faith and to serve within the body based on their spiritual gifts, passions, and a sense of calling from God.

EVANGELISM

Sharing the gospel with others in every setting to lead them to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

LEADERSHIP

Intentionally identifying church members, developing them spiritually and practically, and releasing them to leadership positions within the church body with continued support.

FAMILY

Teaching the community Biblical family values and the importance of a Christ-led loving home while nurturing the families in our congregation.

LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

The church body is a family of God's image bearers who relate to each other with dignity, grace, honesty, and humility. We do not always agree on everything, but our relationships are never at stake as we prioritize Christ-centered unity above all else.

COMMUNITY

Showing Jesus' grace in the Merrimack Valley by actively serving its residents through visitation, support, and outreach.

WORLD MISSIONS

Living out the command to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel" by praying, giving, and going.

Statement of Faith

1) The Bible

We believe that the Bible, composed of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God.

We believe the Bible to be verbally inspired by God through human authors, inerrant in the original writings, and the infallible and final authority in faith and practice (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Peter 3:15-16).

2) The Godhead

We believe there is only one living and true God, the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe (Gen. 1:1; Neh. 9:6; Psalm 103:19; Heb. 1:2-3, 11:3; Eph 1:11), perfect, infinite, and eternal (Matt. 5:48; 1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 90:2), and that he is unchanging in his being, purposes, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, love and truth (Jer. 32:17; Ex. 34:6-7; Isa. 6:3; Psalm 19:9; Mal. 3:6; 1 Tim. 1:17; John 3:16; Heb. 6:17-18).

We believe in one true God eternally existing in three persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who are equal in their Divine perfection and harmonious in the execution of their distinct offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption (Gen. 1:1-3; Matt. 6:9, 28:19; Mk. 1:9-11; John. 1:1, 5:17, 14:16-17, 15:26; Acts 5:3-4; Eph. 2:18).

3) The Father

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. He is Father to his eternal Son, Jesus Christ, whom he raised from the dead, by and for his glory (Luke 10:21; Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 1:3; Phil. 2:9-11). He is also Father to all who are adopted as his sons and daughters through faith in Jesus Christ (Gal. 4:5-6; Eph. 1:5). He has made himself known to us through his Son, through the Spirit and through the Scriptures, and has

blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing (1 Cor. 2:10; Eph. 1:3, 3:5; Heb. 1:1-3). He has sovereignty over us, affection toward us, and glory for us (John 3:16; Acts 17:24-28; 2 Thess. 2:16; 1 John 3:1). To God belong all glory and honor (Gal. 1:5; 1 Pet. 4:11).

4) The Son

We believe that, in the fullness of time, the eternally pre-existent Son humbled himself and assumed human nature by being born of the Virgin Mary, thus uniting organically and indissolubly the divine and human natures in their completeness in the unique person of Jesus Christ (Isa. 9:6, Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:14; Phil. 2:6-8; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 2:14).

We believe that God has provided redemption for humanity through the mediatorial work of Christ, who voluntarily offered himself on Calvary as a perfect sacrifice for sin, the just suffering for the unjust, bearing sin's curse, and tasting death for everyone (Matt. 20:28; Gal. 3:13; Heb. 2:9, 9:11-12; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:5-6).

We believe that on the third day he rose from the dead in the body, which had been laid in the tomb (1 Cor. 15:3-6). He ascended into heaven where he reigns at the right hand of the Father and from where he performs the ministry of intercession. he shall come again, personally and visibly, to complete his saving work and to consummate the eternal plan of God (Acts 1:9-11; Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:23-28; Heb. 1:3).

5) The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third eternal Person of the Trinity (Acts 5:3-4; Heb. 9:14). The Spirit was active in the creation (Gen. 1:2), empowered true prophets to deliver God's message (2 Pet. 1:21) and empowered the virgin conception of Jesus (Lk. 1:35).

Since his advent at Pentecost his principal ministry is to reprove and convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8-11);

to bear witness to the truth preached (Acts 5:30-32); to regenerate, baptizing those who repent of their sins and exercise faith in Christ into the body of Christ and seal them for God (John 3:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13-14; Titus 3:5); to instruct, comfort and guide them (John 14:16-18, 26, 16:13); to sanctify them (2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Peter 1:1-2); and to empower them for life and service (Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:2, 9-14; 1 Cor. 12:7; Eph. 3:16).

6) Humanity

Our Creation

We believe that human beings were created by a special act of God; that we were created in the image and likeness of God, possessing personality and innocence; that we were endowed with power of rational and responsible choice in view of moral ends; and that the purpose of his creation was to glorify God (Gen. 1:26-27; Isa. 43:7; Acts 17:24-28; Col. 3:10).

Our Fall

We believe Adam and Eve were subject to trial in the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:15-17). Under trial, they lost their holy estate, were alienated from God and became depraved physically, mentally, emotionally, morally, volitionally, relationally and spiritually, by voluntarily transgressing his positive command and yielding to the enticement of Satan. In consequence of the literal act of disobedience, the entire human race was implicated as sinners suffering from holistic depravity and so has incurred spiritual death and is prone to everlasting punishment (Gen. 3:1-6; Isa. 64:6 Rom. 1:19-32, 3:9-20, 23, 5:12, 18, 6:23; Eph. 4:18; 1 John 1:8-10).

7) Salvation

We believe that salvation is wholly of grace (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5); being planned by the Father, provided for by the blood of the Son, and applied by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:3-14; John 3:3-5).

In justification the believer is absolved of his guilt and declared righteous in the sight of God (Acts 13:39; Rom. 4:4-5; 5:1, 9).

In adoption the believer is constituted a member of the household of God (John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:14-17). In regeneration new spiritual life is imparted by the Holy Spirit (John 3:3-6; 1 Cor. 6:11; Titus 3:4, 5).

In sanctification this spiritual life is strengthened and developed increasingly (2 Cor. 3:18; Heb. 10:14).

In glorification this work will come to its perfect culmination in an ultimate and complete renewal of human nature (Rom. 8:29-30; 1 Cor. 13).

Repentance and faith are essential attitudes to be found in any one person who rightly claims the blessing of salvation (Heb. 6:1-2), for they emphasize the fact that it is not through human merit of any kind but the grace of God that redemption is achieved (Rom. 5:1-2; Eph. 2:8, 9).

8) The Church

We believe that the church invisible and universal is an organism composed of the redeemed of all ages (1 Cor. 1:2; Heb. 12:22, 23).

We believe that the church is manifest locally and visibly through companies of believers in Christ (1 Cor. 1:2), voluntarily joined together and organized for worship, instruction, equipping, observing the ordinances and fellowship (Acts 2:42-47; 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Eph. 4:11-13; Heb. 10:19-25); that it is the duty of the church to give the Gospel as a witness to all people (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8), to build itself up in the most holy faith (Acts 20:32; Eph. 4:11-13, 16; Jude 20-21), and to glorify God (Eph. 1:11-12; 1 Peter 4:11).

9) Ordinances

We believe that Christian ordinances are outward rites appointed by Christ, not as a means of salvation, but as visible signs and seals of the facts and realities of salvation.

Baptism

We believe that baptism by water is the public confession of Christ as Savior and Lord. It is a symbol of one's union, by faith, with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection, and, therefore, is to be administered to those who have given evidence of faith in Christ as their Savior (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38-41, 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12).

The Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's Supper should be observed by all believers in obedience to the command: "This do in remembrance of Me."; and symbolizes the death of Christ for the remission of our sins and our continual dependence upon him for our sustenance. It witnesses that mystical union of the believer with Christ (John 15). The union of believers around the Lord's table should be open to all who are in right relationship one with another, and with the Lord, (Matt. 26:26-30; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

10) Last Things

We believe that when the gospel is preached to the whole world, the end of the age will come (Matt. 24:14). Christ will then descend from Heaven in the same manner he ascended (Acts 1:9-11), the dead shall be raised bodily, that they shall be judged by God, and that those redeemed will enter into full possession of eternal bliss in the presence of God, and the wicked shall be condemned to everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:31-46; Acts 1:11, 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:20-23; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:11-21:4).

SWOT ANALYSIS

A SWOT Analysis is a strategic planning technique used by organizations to help identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to the organization.

It is intended to specify the objectives of the organization and identify the internal and external factors that are favorable and unfavorable to achieving those objectives.

GracePoint used this tool to help give us a better idea of the condition of the church and the internal and external environment in going forward.

Following is a summary of the results of the analysis, which Pastor Dave conducted, in conjunction with the Transition Team.

Strengths

- Welcoming, warm and friendly atmosphere
- Preaching and obedience to the Word of God
- Kids Town
- Local and Global Outreach
- Supportive to people in need

Weaknesses

- Lack of discipleship/leadership training
- Too few volunteers
- Lack of equipping and training
- Absence of gift-based ministry
- No formal need-oriented personal evangelism strategy

Opportunities

- Addition of more small groups
- Increased community involvement
- Better utilization of building
- Restructuring to focus on proper priorities
- Accountability partners
- Need-based evangelism focused on changing demographics

Threats

- Secularism, worldliness and worldly philosophies
- Incorrect and weak doctrine
- Poor communication
- Impact of COVID
- inadequate membership recruitment and retention

Strategic Plan

Our Goals for the next 3 years:

1. Develop new Mission, Value and Vision Statements
2. Select a Senior Pastor with:
 1. strong relational skills,
 2. gift of leadership,
 3. dynamic Biblical preaching/teaching
 4. passion and plan for evangelism and discipleship
3. Address doctrinal issues
4. Ascertain future staffing needs
5. Develop Children's and Teens ministries
6. Develop corporate prayer ministry
7. Develop gift-based approach to ministry
8. Implement intentional discipleship ministry
9. Fix purpose and organization of small groups
10. Develop leadership development ministry

Our Strategy [Process to Make Disciples]

- Share Christ
 - Outreach Team: Evangelizing [take the message of hope and life in Christ to the greater Merrimack Valley]
 - Emphasize Local/Personal Evangelism
 - Plan Local Outreach Events
 - Assimilation Team: Assimilating [include everyone that God sends our way in meaningful and personal relationship]

- Develop Assimilation process
- Update Membership process
- Plan Church-wide fellowships [loving relationships]

- Make Disciples
 - Worship Team: Worshipping [focus our affections on God, declaring His worthiness to receive all blessing, honor and glory]
 - Greeters
 - Servers
 - Music
 - Technology
 - Preaching
 - Ordinances

 - Discipleship Team: Maturing [reproduce the image of Christ in ourselves and then in those who will repeat the process with others]
 - Address Doctrinal issues
 - Establish Discipleship ministry
 - Determine purpose and organization of small groups
 - Develop Leadership development program
 - Develop Bible studies

- Serve Others
 - Ministry Team: Serving [serve others through the various ministries of the church as God has gifted each individual]

- Ministries: determined on the basis of spiritual gifts
 - Placement: develop gift-based process
 - Establish comprehensive corporate prayer ministry
 - Develop and enhance Children / Teens ministries
 - Develop teaching and ministries to build-up the family
- Missions Team: Sending [take the message of hope and life in Christ to the “ends of the earth”]
- Support Community Organizations
 - Global Missions
 - Emphasize Giving
 - Plan Trips