



A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

CHURCH INFORMATION FORM

The Ministerial Vocation Committee and the Office of the Stated Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church are responsible for denominational vocational services. As part of the process of “matching” ministers and congregations, the Office of the Stated Clerk provides resources and advice to both pastors and congregational search committees. To that end, we ask congregations and ministers to complete information forms as an introduction to each other, and a first step in the process of calling a minister for a congregation. For both the pastor and the congregation, this is an opportunity for self-study and evaluation of current ministry and goals. This calls for honesty, effort, and open communication.

This Church Information Form (CIF) presents the local congregation’s history, challenges, and goals. It is our hope that this will help facilitate the search process by assisting both the church in focusing on future directions and applicants in gaining some sense of the nature and uniqueness of this congregation.

We encourage churches to list their vacancies on the Ministry Staff Opportunities webpage at www.epc.org/mso. For more information or to send your posting, email info@epc.org.

Guidance for church-based human resources questions such as background checks, personnel policy manuals, and more is available at the Office of the General Assembly by contacting Marti Ratcliff at marti.ratcliff@epc.org or 407-930-4263.

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Please return completed form to:

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
ATTN: OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 510
Orlando, FL 32822

Phone: 407-930-4239
Fax: 407-930-4247
E-mail: info@epc.org





Part 1: Church Information

1. Church Name: *Amazing Grace EPC*

Address: *5632 Wilson Mills Rd, Highland Heights, OH 44143*

Telephone *(440) 442-6441*

E-mail: office@amazingepc.com

Website: www.amazingepc.com

2. Presbytery: *Presbytery of the Alleghenies*

Presbytery Ministerial Committee Liaison: *Richard Gash*

3. Search Committee Chairman: *Mark Richard*

Address: *37470 Bunker Hill Dr., Solon, OH 44139*

E-mail: mark@richardconsulting.org

Telephone: *(216) 571-7694*

4. List all paid staff positions (use additional sheet if necessary)

- *Pastor – Full Time*
- *Treasurer – Part Time*
- *Media Coordinator – Part Time*
- *Praise Team Leader – Part Time*

5. List all key volunteer positions

- *Praise Band musicians (5)*
- *Various Bible Study or Prayer Group leaders / activity leaders*
- *Nursery & Children’s teachers as needed*
- *Lay members for church maintenance & renovation*
- *Greeters*
- *Prayer Team*
- *Session Clerk*

6. List all vacant positions

Position Available	Date of Vacancy
<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Oct. 4, 2021</i>

7. Membership (state approximate numbers and percentages)



	Five years ago	Currently
A. Number of church members	146	115
B. Number of family units	?	76
C. Worship attendance	74	43

8. Community Growth Increasing Static Declining

9. Profile of church members

A. Age:

0% 0 – 11	0% 12 – 18	0% 19-24	2% 25 - 34
11% 35 – 49	30% 50 – 64	57% 65+	

B. Occupation:

10 % Business 20 % Professional 20 % Trades
 _____ % Agriculture _____ % Stay-at-Home Parent 50 % Retired
 _____ % Other (Please Specify) _____

C. Educational level of adults

___ % some high school 40 % high school 50 % college 10 % graduate school

D. Percentage of members belonging to the congregation

Less than one year 2 %
 5 years or less 8 %
 6-10 years 20 %
 10 years or more 70 %



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10. Racial/Ethnic composition of:

A. Congregation

1% African-American 2% Asian 97% Caucasian 0% Hispanic

B. Community (within 5-mile radius of church)

23% African-American 3% Asian 70% Caucasian 4% Hispanic

11. Community Setting (check as many as apply):

Location

Rural Small Town Metropolitan Suburban Inner City

Function

Industrial / Residential Agricultural Recreational
 Military College/University

Approximate population of community:

- 8,700 in city of Highland Heights
- 87,000 in surrounding suburbs
- 2.2 million in greater Cleveland

12. Worship

A. Worship Time: *10 AM – 11 AM*
Average Worship Attendance: *43 In-person*
Average on-line attendance: *20*
Worship Style: *Blended*

B. Frequency of communion celebration: *Monthly plus special services*

C. How are members involved in planning and participation in the liturgy/worship?

- *Planning: Worship committee currently composed of 4 members*
- *Participation:*
 - *Worship Leader – Currently 4 members rotate*
 - *Prayer – Currently 5 members rotate*
 - *Preaching – Currently 2 members rotate*
 - *Music – 5 members + paid Praise Team Leader*
 - *Audio/Visual – 4 members*



D. Style of liturgy used in your worship (e.g., traditional, contemporary, variety)

Largely traditional, generally with the use of modern music rather than hymns. Lord's Prayer, Doxology, and responsive readings are currently a part of the service.

E. Type of music used in worship (e.g., traditional, contemporary, variety)

Mainly Contemporary

13. Ministry Programs

A. Average attendance in Church School (under 18 years): *None, although facility and volunteers are available*

B. Average attendance in Adult Education (Sunday): *Sermon Discussion group is held after the service, with typical attendance of 10 – 20. Anticipating Adult Christian Class to start during 2024.*

C. Average involvement in Small Groups: *Approximately 75% of regular attendees participate in a weekly or monthly small group.*

14. Organizational Structure

List major boards, committees, and organizations that are part of your church and frequency of meetings (monthly, weekly, etc.)

Name	Purpose of Group	Number of members	Frequency of meetings	Leadership Role*
<i>Session</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Maintenance / Finances</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Varies</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Deacons</i>	<i>Congregational Care</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Monthly except Summer</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Men's Bible Study</i>	<i>Study</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Wednesday Bible Study</i>	<i>Study</i>	<i>12-15</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>3</i>

Name	Purpose of Group	Number of members	Frequency of meetings	Leadership Role*
<i>Women's Prayer Group</i>	<i>Prayer</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Women's Bible Study</i>	<i>Study</i>	<i>3 - 7</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Sunday Evening Small Group</i>	<i>Study, Fellowship, Prayer, Service</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Men's Breakfast</i>	<i>Study, Fellowship, Prayer</i>	<i>10 - 12</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Electa Circle</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Bi-Monthly</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Worship Committee</i>	<i>Worship Planning</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Missions Committee</i>	<i>Missions Support</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Good News Club at Richmond Heights School</i>	<i>Study, Crafts, Play</i>	<i>18-24</i>	<i>Weekly from Oct.- April</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Various Sub-committees of Session</i>	<i>Various</i>	<i>Varies</i>	<i>Varies</i>	<i>2</i>

*Indicate leadership role expected by using the number below:

1. Pastor takes primary initiative and responsibility.
2. Pastor and laity share responsibility.
3. Laity takes primary initiative and responsibility.
4. A staff person takes primary initiative and responsibility.



Part 2: Financial/Church Campus Information

1. Current annual budget: \$ 270,275.43. Last year's annual budget: \$ 262,812.54
(Attach a copy of current budget) – Budget is available upon request.

2. Percentage of income received toward budget: 71%

3. Amount contributed for year (most recent complete reporting year)

EPC Percentage of Income	\$ 2,760 (1.5%)
EPC World Outreach Global Workers	\$0
EPC Special Projects	\$0
Presbytery Per Member Asking/Percentage of Income	\$ 1,740
Other Missions/Missionaries	\$ 25,482

4. Property owned by church

A. Describe buildings and property (other than manse), including condition.

Property is a large 3.2 acres in a suburban environment. There are 2 buildings on the property, plus a storage shed. Both buildings have been recently renovated and are in excellent condition. The church building was built in 1965. The sanctuary seating is chairs and would comfortably seat around 150. Additional rooms in the building include a large Pastor's Office, Assistant/Youth Pastor's office, administrative office, library, choir room, fellowship room, prayer room, community room, board room, and education wing with 4 classrooms.

The second building was, in the past, the sanctuary and then used for middle/high school ministry. It is approximately 1,500 square feet on a single level. It is currently used for the Young Lives para-church ministry, which is supported by the church.

B. Are your buildings adequate for your present program? Yes
If no, please explain:

C. Is a building program or capital project projected? Yes
If yes, describe what, when, and projected cost

Sanctuary renovation is planned for this year as part of on-going renovation of the property. Expected costs are not yet known, but likely will be north of \$50,000. This is expected to be covered through special congregational giving.



D. Does the church own a manse? No

Condition: N/A
 Pastor's Office/Study: *In Church*

5. Compensation:

A. The salary range we are prepared to offer:

Position: *Pastor \$73,000 to \$96,000 inclusive of Salary and housing allowance*

B. The average annual increase over the past three years is:

\$0 (Position has been vacant since October, 2021).

Staff received a 5% increase in 2024.

C. Housing:

Total compensation amount can be divided between Salary and Housing Allowance according to the candidate's needs.

D. Benefits and expenses

X	<i>Retirement Plan (minimum 10% gross effective salary)</i>
X	<i>Medical insurance (EPC medical coverage required for full-time TEs)</i>
	<i>Life insurance</i>
	<i>Social Security (Contribution is made to the EPC Retirement Plan instead)</i>
X	<i>Travel/mileage</i>
X	<i>Book allowance</i>
X	<i>Study leave allowance (minimum 2 weeks)</i>
X	<i>Annual vacation days (minimum 4 weeks)</i>
TBD	<i>Number of worship services per year for which pastor is provided relief (in addition to vacation and study leave)</i>
Negotiable	<i>Sabbatical frequency and length</i>
X	<i>Other (HSA: \$5,000)</i>

Notes:

1) Contribution is made to the EPC Retirement Plan in leu of Social Security. Amount is 10% of salary.

2) Travel/Mileage and Book allowance is on a reimbursement basis and budgeted at \$5,000.

3) Medical Insurance is budgeted at \$19,861.



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E. The church participates in the EPC's medical benefits plan *Yes*

F. The church participates in the EPC's retirement plan *Yes*

Part 3: Church Characteristics

Check the box that most closely describes the current characteristics of the congregation.

Our Congregation is . . .	Agree		Disagree	
1. Is spiritually vibrant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
2. Demonstrates love for the pastor and his/her family	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
3. Readily shares their gifts with the rest of the congregation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
4. Places a high priority on sound biblical preaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
5. Effectively integrates newcomers	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
6. Is engaged in evangelism	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
7. Is often found living their faith in their communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
8. Has a spirit of unity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
9. Cares about each other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
10. Is supportive of the Session and pastoral leadership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
11. Ministers well to members that are hurting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
12. Uses members' gifts in worship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
13. Contains people willing and able to lead the congregation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
14. Is capable of change when and where appropriate	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
15. Is connected to and prayerful about what God is doing in the global church	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

16. How are elders and deacons initially trained and equipped for ministry?

New elders are trained by the pastor during a full-day training session, which covers the scriptural basis for eldership, the Westminster Confession, and the Book of Order.

Deacons have not historically had formal training.



17. What is the Session's current practice regarding the ongoing discipleship of elders and deacons?

Elders: Session meetings are structured to allow for discipleship growth and training, including group prayer, smaller group prayer, a devotion time led by the moderator, Bible memory verse recitation, and sharing of experiences or lessons from recent attempts to share the gospel.

Deacons: Each member is responsible for leading two devotionals at the meetings during the calendar year. Meetings are structured to allow time for prayer. Each Deacon is responsible for a portion of the congregation, to pray for and to provide spiritual input.

18. In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

The church has not traditionally had significant involvement in ecumenical activities. Recently there has been a joint Evangelism Training with a local, small PCA church, as well as a Men's Rib Cook-off where that same church was invited.

This year the church participated in the City's summer festival, Highland Hts. Community Days and provided a Vacation Bible School called the 5 Day Club.

The church participates in Operation Christmas Child and serves as a collection hub for that ministry. The church also provides Thanksgiving Boxes for the community as an outreach effort.

19. Describe the strengths of your congregation.

- *The congregation is welcoming and demonstrates the love of Christ to each other and to visitors.*
- *There is strong lay leadership, and a willingness of members to serve.*
- *There are several strong teachers, two who have been willing to preach over the past 2+ years since the departure of the pastor.*
- *Small groups have done well within the congregation, giving opportunities for learning, connectedness, and spiritual formation.*
- *The church is mission-minded and open to community involvement*
- *The church is willing to change as the Spirit leads.*
- *The church is debt free and has buildings which are in excellent condition and more than adequate. Both buildings have been recently remodeled and redecorated. The renovation is on-going. The property is very large and provides the opportunity for future growth.*



20. List specific problems with which your congregation struggles.

- *Declining membership and the average age of the congregation.*
- *A lack of children and youth.*
- *The quality of on-line worship broadcast could be improved.*

21. List major goals that the congregation has set for itself.

Not specific goals, but a Church Vision Statement that reflects the desire of the church to grow, both in faith and in numbers (See Appendix A)

22. Has there ever been disciplinary action taken against a pastor of your congregation?

Yes No

23. Has there ever been any disciplinary action against an elder or deacon of your congregation?

Yes No

If you answered "Yes" to either 22 or 23, please explain. *N/A*

24. Have you completed a mission statement, vision statement, and/or a strategic plan for your congregation?

Yes No

If yes, Date completed: *November, 2023*

If yes, enter each statement or strategic plan (or attach copies if space below is limited).

See Attachment B: Vision Team Report.

Part 4: Leadership Expectations

1. What are some key character strengths a person should bring to this position?
2. What are five key gifts/skills/abilities a person should bring to this position?

Questions 1 and 2 are answered together below.

Critical Characteristics:	Important Characteristics:	Desired Characteristics:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Born again, spirit filled, follows leading of the Holy Spirit</i> • <i>Preaching ability</i> • <i>Student of the scripture with solid Biblical knowledge</i> • <i>Person of prayer and personal spiritual practices</i> • <i>Supportive of the Church Vision</i> • <i>Even tempered and patient, mature</i> • <i>Humility with a shepherd / servant heart</i> • <i>Life of integrity and consistency</i> • <i>Courageous with ability and willingness to lead people</i> • <i>A passion for seeing lost souls come to salvation</i> • <i>Administrative leader with ability to wisely delegate</i> • <i>Relational / Personable, with the passion to reach a younger generation</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Detail Oriented</i> • <i>Prioritizes family</i> • <i>Practices continuous learning</i> • <i>Wisdom to assess situations to determine when professional help/intervention is necessary</i> • <i>Willingness to become involved in the local Presbytery</i> • <i>Willing to live locally and engage locally</i> • <i>Participates in church events</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Counseling abilities</i> • <i>A desire to continuously improve the quality of our worship services</i> • <i>Skilled in financial management</i> • <i>Musical ability</i>

3. What are the primary pastoral duties for the position? (Attach a position description)

See attached Attachment A: Job Description



Part 5: Church History

1. What do you consider to be the three most important events in the history of your church?

In reverse chronological order:

- 1) Completion of the Vision Statement and Report in 2023*
- 2) Leaving the PC-USA denomination in 2015 and joining the EPC.*
- 3) Merger of Highland Presbyterian Church and 6th Presbyterian Church in the early 1960's and subsequent construction of the sanctuary, offices, and classroom building.*

2. What do you consider to be the most interesting and challenging event in the life of your church in the last three years?

- o Formulating a team to prepare a vision and report for the Church, an almost 2-year project.*

Part 6: Other Information

1. List the last three individuals who held this position

Name	Dates of Service
<i>Roger Korsten</i>	<i>2004 to Oct 2021</i>
<i>John Wahl (Interim)</i>	<i>2003 - 2004</i>
<i>Brian Nutt</i>	<i>1997 - 2002</i>
<i>Ron Green (Interim)</i>	<i>1995 - 1997</i>
<i>Christopher Taylor</i>	<i>1984 - 1995</i>

2. Describe any significant factors about the church not covered in previous questions.

- Music is an area that remains challenging. Additional vocalist participation would be welcome, as would additional instruments. Similarly, the online streaming of the service does not have the best audio quality. Music, in particular, sounds much worse on-line than it does in person. Given how common it is for prospective visitors to listen before trying a service in-person, this is an area that needs improvement.*
- COVID was a major change to church life. Like most churches, it required a different way to do church. As well, some dropped out of church life entirely.*
- Pastor Korsten's departure caused an immediate change as he was the primary preacher, teacher, and leader. While pulpit supply was initially done via guest preachers, it soon transitioned to three regular preachers: two internal and one external, a retired TE, Tom Sawyer, who was willing to serve as a transitional coach while an interim pastor was sought. The church has functioned amazingly well during this time.*



Statement of Acknowledgment

The EPC believes that honesty and a commitment to open communication are critical to building the body of Christ. In that spirit, please confirm your agreement to the following statements by your signatures below.

1. We attest that the information contained in this Church Information Form is true and complete to the best of our knowledge.
2. We authorize applicants for the position(s) listed herein to make inquiries regarding all statements contained in this Church Information Form.
3. We authorize the Office of the Stated Clerk to circulate, distribute, and otherwise share this Church Information Form with potential candidates for the position(s) listed herein.
4. We acknowledge the Medical Plan and Retirement Plan services offered by the EPC's Benefit Resources, Inc., exist to serve EPC churches and their staff members. We also acknowledge the EPC's Book of Order requirement that EPC churches provide medical insurance to ordained staff members through BRI as mandated by the following Acts of the General Assembly:
 - 81-04 Terms of call for any minister of member churches shall provide for participation in the denominational hospitalization and disabilities programs. (*Minutes of the 1st General Assembly, 1-32*)
 - 81-06 The denominational group insurance plan providing health, disability, and life coverage shall be mandatory for all ministers within member churches. (*Minutes of the 1st General Assembly, 1-36*)
 - 88-08 Assembly amends participatory requirements for group health insurance plan by requiring participation of all ministers on the rolls of presbyteries with the exception of:
 1. Missionaries laboring in cooperative agreements with mission agencies;
 2. Ministers laboring in institutional agencies providing their own group insurance plan;
 3. Ministers afforded group insurance coverage as part of retirement benefits from a previous employer;
 4. Ministers without call, and ministers laboring less than 20 hours in a place of ministry. (*Minutes of the 8th General Assembly, 8-24*)

For information about EPC benefits through BRI, see www.epc.org/benefits, email benefits@epc.org, or call 407-930-4267.

Clerk of Session Alice Kalonick Date Feb 15, 2024

Search Committee Chair Mark Richard Date Feb 15, 2024

Attachment A: Job Description

PASTORAL POSITION DESCRIPTION

TITLE: PASTOR AND HEAD OF STAFF

PURPOSE:

1. Proclaim the Word of God, interpret and preach the Bible, and proclaim salvation through Jesus Christ alone.
2. Help individuals discover their spiritual gifts and then inspire and motivate them to dedicate and use those gifts for God's glory.
3. Pray frequently and fervently for our congregation to seek to do the will of God.
4. Guide and lead church officers in establishing church policies in accordance with the Word of God and The Book of Order.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Proclaim the Word through preaching and teaching to enhance the congregation's understanding of the Bible and its application to their lives.
2. Administer the sacraments of Baptism and Communion.
3. Encourage people to engage in genuine worship and service to God, equipping and enabling them to serve in the local church and in their mission to the world.
4. Help the congregation grow spiritually and in numbers.
5. Develop and encourage lay leadership through mentoring.
6. Take an active role in interpreting and teaching the scripture and theological concepts to officers, leaders, confirmands, new members, and all who are interested in learning.
7. Actively support the Christian Education and Youth ministries and help them to grow.
8. Motivate the congregation by example to reach out to the spiritually lost in the community.
9. Be willing to try new methods of serving and attracting people.
10. Counsel engaged couples and conduct wedding ceremonies.
11. Conduct funerals of members and their families.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE/FELLOWSHIP:

1. Shepard the congregation, caring for those who are present and contacting those who are absent,
2. Provide care, along with the Deacons, Stephen Ministers and others. To visit those hospitalized, shut-in, or in need of Pastoral Care, offering counseling or referrals as necessary.
3. Participate in various fellowship opportunities in the church.
4. Promote harmony and effective communication with the staff, Session, and the congregation.

LEADERSHIP:

1. Help the Session and congregation to develop a vision and then work toward implementing it.
2. Work with the different ministries to develop programs and studies that spread God's Word.
3. Participate in and direct the training of leaders in the church.

ADMINISTRATION:

1. Moderate Session, meet with ministry teams, and provide officer training.
2. Supervise staff and have regularly scheduled meetings that foster communication among the entire staff.
3. Make a special effort to oversee, train, and mentor a Youth Director (s), as needed.
4. Maintain some regular office hours.
5. Serve on Presbytery committees that match the Pastor's talents and gifts.
6. Arrange for alternate Pastoral care coverage when not available.
7. Plan, coordinate, and implement regular and special services.

PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS:

1. Be a visionary.
2. Be open and caring, displaying Christian love to all.
3. Strive to initiate and build lasting relationships with all members.
4. Listen to and consult with the leaders of the church as well as other members.
5. Be open to constructive criticism if a problem arises and deal with conflict in a way that results in a mutually satisfactory solution.
6. Be aware of, and pursue educational opportunities for personal and professional growth.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

The pastor acts under the authority of the Book of Order and Scriptures and, along with the Session, exercises spiritual supervision and leadership of the local church.

Attachment B: Vision Statement & Report

Amazing Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church

October 3, 2023

Vision Team Report

Vision Statement

Amazing Grace Church is where all are welcome to encounter Jesus.

We are known for the way we **Love**:

- We love Jesus.
- We love each other as a family of believers united in harmony by the agape love of God.
- We are passionate about inviting others to encounter the love of Jesus and welcome all who seek to experience Him.

We are known for the way we **Live**:

- We live in the transforming truth of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.
- We live to share the healing hope of Jesus Christ to a hurting world.
- We live to create intentional relationships for discipleship and evangelism.
- We live to grow more deeply connected to God through an active prayer life.
- We share our lives by gathering together as a corporate body and in small groups for worship, prayer, Bible study and service.

We are known for the way we **Learn**:

- We preach, teach and study the scriptures to learn who God is in all His fullness and who He says we are.
- We learn to live the fullness of love, grace and mercy given to us by God.
- We learn about our unique giftings and passions and how we can be used in God's kingdom.
- We learn from each other.

Vision Team Report - Background and Details

The purpose of the **Vision Team** was to discern through the power of the Holy Spirit, God's will and true vision for Amazing Grace EP Church.

Vision Team Moderator: Tom Sawyer,

Vision Team Members: Jeanne Kamiab, Connie Meyer, Jim Nelson, James Re, and Stephanie Richard.

Objective: (The foundation for seeking God's vision for Amazing Grace EPC)

Amazing Grace Church does not exist in isolation, rather, we are a part of the broader church body found around the world. Every Christian church has distinct characteristics that reflect the believers found in that church and the culture surrounding them. Regardless of where a church is located, a true church of Christ has distinct characteristics and or purposes commanded by scriptures.

1. What is our calling as Christ following Church?

- a. **The Great Promise:** Matt 16: 13-18 ...You are the Messiah ... and on this rock I will build my church...
- b. **The Great Commandment:** Matt 22: 34-40 ...Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind... love your neighbor as yourself...
- c. **The Great Commission:** Matt 28: 16-20 ...Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them ... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...
- d. **The great witness:** Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses ...
- e. **The Great Mission:** Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.
- f. **The Great Multiplication:** Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come.
- g. **The Great Model:** Acts 2: 37-47 ...repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of you sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ... They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...
- h. **Unity of the Church:** Eph 4: 1-16 ... Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. It was He who gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service so the body of Christ may be built up...

By utilizing these foundational concepts, the Vision Team then started to develop the

vision unique for Amazing Grace Church. Where there is no vision, the people perish.
(Proverbs 29:18 KJV)

Vision Approach: (To encompass how we got to the vision statement)

A threefold approach was taken to help us to seek God's vision for our church. First, to review the depth of our faith as individual members, then, our love and grace for other members of the church body, and finally how we help to spread the gospel to our community and the world. These three visions are addressed separately as follows: Personal Vision, Internal Vision, and External Vision.

Personal Vision:

The believers of Amazing Grace Church strive to completely experience and grow in the knowledge and love of God.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

God's desire is that we:

Believe and trust in Him. Accept His son Jesus who bought us with a price (His life), and thereby receive and live by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is our faith.

Love Him and have a relationship with Him, through prayer, confessing and repenting our sins, and submit ourselves to Him and be transformed by the renewing of our minds, changing our focus away from ourselves and putting it fully on Jesus as we react to those around us with agape love.

Live healthy lives as good stewards in this world created for us to enjoy, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with our family, friends and neighbors, and reap the reward of eternal life in Heaven with God.

Small Groups for individual growth and relationships: Everyone is encouraged to be in a small group to help them and others grow in Christian loving and caring relationships. Larger groups (12 or more?) are encouraged to divide or start additional groups so more individuals can participate in those relationships.

Internal Vision:

How Amazing Grace EPC uses our love for God to create a loving inclusive atmosphere to help others grow in their faith.

Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

1. Our church culture is to be evangelistic in all aspects and endeavors. For this reason, evangelism training, encouragement and support must be ongoing to be obedient to scripture and receive God's blessing to survive as a church.
2. We teach and preach the Word of God as presented by the Holy Bible, the inspired Word of God, with emphasis on how to encourage all to grow in their faith and make their faith part of their everyday lives.
 1. Amazing Grace EPC is known as a church which actively prays. It will be encouraged and modeled often.
 2. Amazing Grace supports the EPC and their essentials.
 3. We demonstrate agape love for one another in **all** relationships.

External Vision:

How Amazing Grace EPC engages in the essential work of spreading the Gospel. 1 Peter 4:7-11.

The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen

1. We must continually seek to connect to the outside world. Having a good up-to-date Website is critical. This will be largely the responsibility of the new pastor going forward.
2. We must evangelize unceasingly, with the goal of bringing unsaved souls to Christ:
 - a. Practice personalizing the 3-circle tool and create opportunities to use it.
 - b. Conduct prayer walks through the neighborhood.
3. Support local and world missions that are called by God and are acting in accordance to the great Commission.

Closing Statement:

We thank God our Father for finding us worthy to serve our congregation as the Vision Team and pray that our work here is worthy of our calling. All praise and Glory to Him.

It is always our desire to be obedient to God through His Word and the Holy Spirit and to trust Him with the results. Our God is an awesome God and worthy to be praised.

Respectfully Submitted, The Vision Team