



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY PROFILE

Lead Pastor

GRACE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

GUELPH, ONTARIO

A KINGDOM OPPORTUNITY

Grace Community Church is a healthy and vibrant church of approximately 200 people of all generations, located on the edge of Guelph. For nearly 50 years, Grace has proclaimed the joy and blessing of life in Christ to people in its community and beyond. Immediately upon connecting with Grace, you will sense a welcoming and warm church family who love and accept people wherever they are on their spiritual journey. Whether a person is a worshipper or a wonderer, Grace will quickly feel like a place they can find help and hope in their spiritual journey.

This is a wonderful opportunity for their next lead pastor. The congregation is ready and expectant for the next man that God has to lead them in following Jesus.

As the next pastor, you will be blessed with a gifted and committed staff team, a stable and engaged congregation, and a church family ready to embrace the wonder and adventure of what the Lord has for us in our next Kingdom-building chapter.

Would God have you be that man?



THE GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH STORY

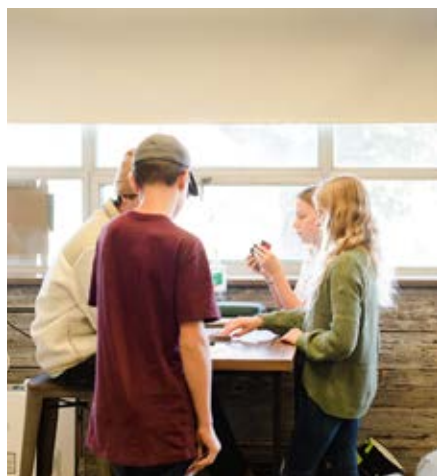
Grace Community Church began as a small, two-man effort in 1975. Two friends, Rob Irvine and John Fairchild, young men in their early twenties, sat at a kitchen table in their apartment in Guelph, Ontario with bread, wine, and a Bible. They believed Christ was present with them as they “broke bread” together. This is what we still believe. *(For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them - Matthew 18:20)*

They began a small weekly Bible study in their apartment focusing on the activities of the early church in Acts chapters 1-4: radical devotion to Christ, enthusiastic evangelism, planting and reproducing local churches, and fervently caring for one another. *(They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer - Acts 2:42)*

The small church moved to the University of Guelph campus where its outreach efforts were directed for several years toward students. But as the church grew, its composition changed. Students graduated, married, and began to raise families. Some moved away, but many remained in a tightly knit gathering of young families. It became apparent by the mid 1980s that GCC was no longer predominantly a student church. The focus of outreach shifted. Grace continued its work on cultivating our own relationships with Jesus and reaching out into our places of work, our extended families, our neighbours, and our friends with Christ’s message of love, joy, and redemption. *(These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name - John 20:31)*

From being a home-based fellowship, to a campus ministry, and then to a somewhat nomadic community church, finally, in December 2002, Grace Community Church purchased the six-acre property that was formerly Marden Public School and moved in June, 2004.

This new home has allowed Grace to continue to grow stronger as a church family and to extend its reach to the north Guelph community.



OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE SCRIPTURE

The sole basis of our belief is the Bible, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. It was uniquely, verbally, and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and was written without error in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in faith and life in every age.

GOD

There is but one God, infinite in power, justice, goodness, and love, the Creator of the Universe, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each of whom possesses all the attributes of Deity and the characteristics of personality.

MAN

God created man in His own image and man, as he was originally created, was innocent before God. But man chose to sin by disobeying God, and therefore was alienated from his Creator and came under divine condemnation. Despite our fallenness, the Bible repeatedly affirms that we are deeply loved and valued by our Creator, and He has taken amazing steps to provide a way for us to be reconciled to Him.

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ our Lord is the Son of God, who has eternally existed with God the Father, and is truly God and one with the Father. God the Father relates to all creation through Him, and through Him everything was created. The Son of God came into the world by being conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. He took our common human nature from Mary and joined it to his deity. He is truly and fully God and man in one person. He lived a genuine sinless human life on earth and carried out God's will perfectly. In Jesus Christ, God is fully revealed. Jesus Christ, out of love for sinful men and women, came into the world to reconcile sinners to Himself. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and voluntarily suffered and died as our substitute to pay for our sins, thus satisfying God's justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived and died. He bodily ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father, where He, the only mediator between God and man, makes intercession for His own. He will return to earth personally, visibly and bodily - to judge all people and establish His Kingdom.



THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has come into the world to reveal and glorify Christ, to convict men and women of their sins, and to impart new life to all who place their faith in Christ. He indwells believers from the moment of spiritual birth, seals them until the day of redemption, and empowers them to live a life pleasing to God.

SALVATION

Men and women are freed from the penalty for their sins not as a result, in whole or in part, of their own works, goodness, or religious ceremony, but by the unmerited favour of God alone. God declares righteous all who have repented of their sins and put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation.

BAPTISM AND LORD'S SUPPER

Jesus Christ has instructed those who believe in Him to be baptized in water as a symbol of their new birth in Christ. Baptism should be by immersion and is only for those who have personally accepted Christ. The Lord also instituted the Lord's Supper as a remembrance of His suffering, death, and resurrection. Neither baptism nor the Lord's Supper has any merit in helping a person obtain eternal life.

THE CHURCH

All true believers make up the church worldwide and should assemble together in local churches - for worship, prayer, fellowship, and teaching. Regular participation in these activities with one another is a vital part of becoming conformed to the image of Christ and to become equipped to carry out the "Great Commission" that Christ gave His followers in Matthew 28: 19-20.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

At physical death, the believer enters immediately into eternal, conscious fellowship with the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his or her body to everlasting glory and blessing. At physical death, the unbeliever enters immediately into eternal, conscious separation from the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his or her body to everlasting suffering.

FAITH AND PRACTICE

Scripture is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. This church recognizes that it cannot bind the conscience of individual members in areas where scripture is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in those areas by the Lord, to whom he or she alone is ultimately responsible.

THE RETURN OF CHRIST

We believe in the personal and imminent return of Jesus Christ in the air, whose coming is the fulfillment of the real hope set before the believer. He will receive His believing people to Himself and later will come to earth visibly to establish His kingdom.

OUR DISTINCTIVES

- We hold a high view of Scripture.
- We celebrate multi-generational ministry.
- We want to reach our community and our world and the next generation for Christ.
- We value team ministry and leadership.
- We value authentic community.



DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

YOU WILL BUILD ON OUR FOUNDATIONAL AND ROBUST COMMITMENT TO AUTHENTIC CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY.

We truly are a church that believes it is better together. As our pastor, you will model and encourage the building of ever-deepening relationships, complementing the Sunday-morning gathering.

YOU ARE A HUMBLE AND YET CONFIDENT LEADER.

You are comfortable delegating authority and appreciate the ideas of others. Your ministry has demonstrated ongoing kingdom fruit.

YOU ARE AN INSPIRING AND APPLICATIONAL BIBLE TEACHER.

You desire for the Word of God to be proclaimed with power and strong application. You are willing to speak the truth in love to your congregation in ways that are authentic, accessible, and helpful.

YOU UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR AN EVER-INCREASING CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP.

You will build in us the desire to invest in others and help us to collectively sharpen one another as followers of Jesus.

YOU ARE COMMITTED TO LEADING US IN STRATEGIC OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM.

You believe that ministry takes place both within the church and within the community.

YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A CHURCH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN CALL HOME.

You want to invest your life in a community with a lengthy tenure and journey with us through the seasons of our lives. You and your family desire to plant roots and stay a minimum of 10 years in our church family.



CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Lead Pastor of Grace serves with the Church leadership in leading the church forward in vision and implementation. You will oversee our community life and help discern the vision of our church. You will develop, encourage, and give leadership to our ministry team. You are the primary preaching and teaching voice for the church.

VISION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

You will...

With the Elders, craft a compelling vision for our church to embrace.

Encourage their commitment to a vibrant and fruitful future.

Encourage individuals to use their gifts and passions to see the future vision realized.

STAFF AND MINISTRY TEAM LEADERSHIP

You will...

Resource, encourage, and guide our excellent staff so they may be fruitful and joyful in their ministry calling.

Encourage others to engage their gifts in kingdom-building endeavours within and outside our walls.

PREACHING AND TEACHING MINISTRY

You are the primary preaching voice with the expectation of preaching approximately 40 Sundays a year.

You hold a high view of scripture and exhort the congregation of its efficacy in all areas of life and faith.

You will work with the staff team in developing alignment in all teaching ministries to our statement of faith, and you discern the spiritual needs and areas that need to be addressed through the teaching ministries of Grace.

PRAYER

You demonstrate a life of prayer for the congregation and oversee the provision of opportunities and tools to develop the prayer ministry of Grace.

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

You ensure that people far from God have opportunity to understand the good news of Jesus' gospel. You develop, equip, resource, and empower our ministry teams.

You lead and encourage us to make Christ known in creative ways to our surrounding communities.

You will continue to make the next generation part of our mission DNA.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

You feel a deep calling to be a shepherd who joyfully serves amongst his sheep.

You are available for congregational care at significant life moments such as marriages, baptisms, baby dedications, funerals, or hospitalizations.

You build on Grace's deep sense of community and encourage connectedness amongst our church family.

You ensure that there is a system of adequate pastoral counseling for those needing ongoing and more intentional care.

You encourage all generations in ways that are meaningful and helpful to their life stage.

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES

- You will move us forward in greater Kingdom impact through engaging the next generation and the communities around us.
- You celebrate with us as people come to Christ and get baptized.
- You will lead us forward in more deliberate disciple-making.
- You will shepherd our staff and volunteers joyfully and deliberately.
- You will be a capable preacher and teacher that exhorts and encourages our people and attracts others.
- You will feel like both Grace and our community are home.

QUALIFICATIONS

- An ever-deepening love for the Lord Jesus and His church
- You meet the biblical qualifications of an Elder
- Formal theological education or equivalent
- The legal ability to work in Canada
- Strong leadership and people skills
- Full agreement with our Statement of Faith and bylaws
- A humble and prayer-centred ministry posture
- A willingness to complete a Predictive Index and APEST Profile

SEARCH DETAILS

Steve has over 30 years of local church leadership experience. Most recently he spent 12 years as lead pastor of one of the largest multi-site churches in the denomination with a staff of 25. Further, he has led parachurch organizations both in the US and Canada and has also launched 2 non-profit organizations. Steve is an active Leadership Consultant working with churches across Canada. He specializes in pastoral placements based on comprehensive church assessments and leadership coaching for pastors and church boards.

He has been engaged to serve alongside the Search Team at Grace Community Church.

INTERESTED?

If you sense interest in this role and would like to have a CONFIDENTIAL conversation with Steve regarding it, he welcomes your call at 519-635-6777.

You may also CONFIDENTIALLY submit your cover letter and CV to steve@adamsandco.org

Further, Steve may be reached by email at steve@adamsandco.org

Please note, qualified candidates for this search must be Canadian citizens at the time of application.

We welcome applications from people with disabilities.

Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in the selection process.

SEARCH TIMELINE

We will be receiving inquiries and applications until **June 1, 2023**.

ADAMS
&CO CONNECTING
COACHING
CONSULTING



Steve Adams