

LIVE WELL, LOVE WELL

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



LEXINGTON



WILMINGTON



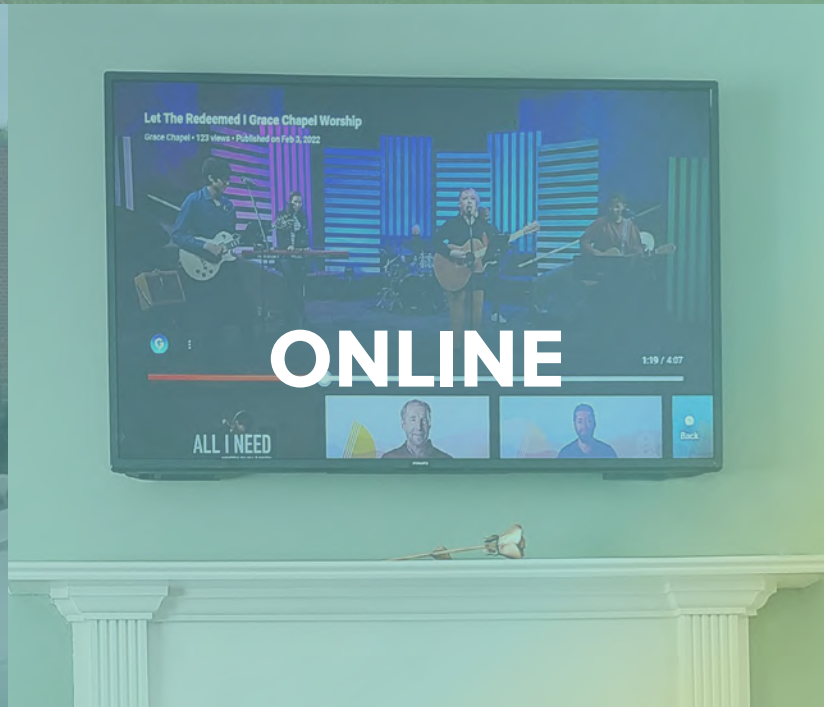
WATERTOWN



FOXBORO



EAST LEXINGTON



ONLINE

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LETTER FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

LIVING WELL, LOVING WELL

As we continue to emerge from all the upheaval of the past couple of years, our vision for the 2021-22 church year was to re-discover the way of Jesus for the “new normal.” We re-imagined the church as a community marked by love not just for each other, but for our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and communities. As we’ve joined with the work God is doing in and through our ministry, we have much to celebrate and be thankful for over the last year. We’ve learned, grown, stretched – and at times fallen short of our goals. But through it all we’ve formed a new foundation for what it means to be more than just a church *in* Greater Boston, but a church *for* Greater Boston. I encourage you to spend a few minutes with this Annual Report that highlights many of those things, but let me call attention to a few that stand out for me.

THE TEACHING JOURNEY

Week by week, and series by series, we turned to the Scriptures to discover truths and practices that would help us to live and love well. I am finding great joy in working with a collaborative team of preachers bringing diversity of age, gender, and ethnicity to our preaching ministry.

Rhythm – Looking into the example of Jesus and other biblical teaching, we discovered beauty and order in everyday practices like rest and work, gathering and scattering, thinking and acting, and many more.

LOVED – Christmas means we are Seen, Chosen, Valued, Saved and Free!

Promiseland – Turning to the prophet Isaiah, we found strength for today and hope for tomorrow.

ChangeMaker – We followed Jesus day by day through the events of Holy Week – a week that changed everything in our lives and the world.

The Good and Beautiful Life – Even though we’re technically into the new fiscal year, we are rounding out our teaching journey by learning from Jesus and the early church how to B.L.E.S.S the world around us.

LETTER FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR (CONTINUED)

THE GREAT RESHUFFLING

Perhaps more than any other sector of society, the Church has experienced a migration as people experience changes in how they approach life and faith. Pastorally, we're seeking to shepherd people through those transitions, and to connect with those we haven't seen or heard from in a while.

Some GC folks have found their way to new faith communities, for one reason or another. We certainly miss them and are grateful for all they brought to Grace during their time with us, but we know God is able to provide for them and us as He builds His churches.

At the same time, we are welcoming many people who found us during the pandemic, many of them through our online ministries. We're being strengthened every week by the new seekers, members, givers, and volunteers the Lord is bringing our way.

While the impact of the pandemic has lingered longer than any of us anticipated, and our campuses still aren't as full as they were on Sunday mornings, our total online and in-person numbers indicate we are still engaging over 3000 people every week.

GRACE – ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

Our Digital Ministry has extended the ministry of the church beyond our physical locations, enabling us to deliver content, provide connections, disciple believers, offer care and support, and engage spiritually curious people wherever they are, whenever they are interested. Whether it's a new viewer on YouTube, a visitor to our website filling out a connection card, or an Instagram DM, Grace Chapel is more present in more online spaces than we've ever been before. And every week our Digital Ministry team is producing a more thoughtful, more relatable, more beautiful and engaging experience.

Our vision is that our digital and physical platforms will work together to serve people, build the church, and advance the Kingdom everywhere, all the time. I encourage you to take a read through Pastor Leah Knight Breton's Digital Ministry update section of this report to learn more about the exciting facet of our ministry. We're thankful for all of those who gave above and beyond to help us launch this initiative!

THE GATHERING

What if church felt more like a conversation than a convocation? Many believers and seekers today, especially younger generations, are asking important questions about faith and church, and where they fit into their lives. The Gathering is a worship, teaching, and community experience created by emerging leaders here



at Grace Chapel, and it's especially attuned to those kinds of questions. Hosted at our Wilmington Campus on the first three Sunday evenings of the month, it's an intentional investment in the future of the faith community here in Greater Boston.

GOODNESS AND BEAUTY

Throughout the past couple of years, we have been trusting God to use this disruptive season to reform and renew His Church, and Grace Chapel, in particular. While we grieve the loss of some forms and connections we were so accustomed to, I believe that God is doing some good and beautiful things here at Grace.

In terms of goodness, I think of the many new ways we are engaged with and serving our local communities, our city, and the world. Every campus now has local community groups they partner with, and collectively we are investing deeply in the holistic ministry of The Boston Project. We're also involved with and have given generously to both Afghan and Ukrainian refugee resettlement efforts. (*See the Special Offerings section of this report.*)

When it comes to beauty, I think of the production excellence of our online services, the visual aesthetics of our graphic arts, the musical richness of our worship music; and, above all, the multi-cultural beauty of our gathered congregations.

A GRATEFUL HEART

While I say it every year, I never take for granted the gifted, devoted staff team I get to work with, and our capable and committed elders. Throughout the pandemic, and all the upheaval of the past couple of years, these faithful servant-leaders have been a steadying, empowering, and uplifting presence in my life and work. In particular, I'm grateful for my partnership with our Executive Pastor, Mark MacDonald, whose wisdom, humor, godly character, and passion for Grace Chapel's growth and impact has been a gift to me and our church.

And after 22 years at Grace, I'm as grateful as ever for the privilege of serving a responsive, encouraging, and generous congregation that remains centered on Christ and focused on our mission – helping as many people as possible to *discover life with God for the good of the world!*

Pastor Bryan

BOARD OF ELDERS CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Dear Friends-

It has been a honor to serve this year as Chair of the Elder Board – serving you, Grace Chapel, and His Kingdom.

What a year this has been: maneuvering in and out of Covid outbreaks, opening Grace Chapel and wondering who would come, watching and contributing in a variety of ways to many world crises, trusting God to navigate us through uncharted waters, and marveling at His incredible faithfulness.

I think we would all agree that this has been quite a journey. The dictionary defines the word journey as: the act of traveling from one place to another. And I think we all agree that we are in a different place today, we are different people today, and most of us look at life differently because of the journey we have traveled together. Shared experiences make a journey more pleasant.

Fourteen people share the experience of serving as elders at Grace Chapel. You may be wondering, 'What is an elder, anyway?' The Bible lays out the qualifications necessary to serve as an elder: committed men and women who are solidly grounded in their faith and serve with humility and grace. 2 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 give more detailed information. They guard the doctrinal and fiscal integrity of our church and guide our ministry staff and congregation in fulfilling our mission. Elders provide pastoral care to our congregation and are an important and vital part of our prayer ministry.

Our board is made up of 12 elders plus Bryan Wilkerson and Mark MacDonald who represent the Office of the Senior Pastor. We meet approximately 21 times a year, serve on a variety of committees, develop high level strategies, policies and decisions on issues that affect the entire church body. It is a joy to serve with these very committed and capable men and women.

This year we have focused on building relationships among our board members as we pray for one another and support each other in a variety of ways. We have built a liaison relationship with members of our staff and have enjoyed getting to know them better, supporting them in ministry and personal areas. A great deal of our focus this year has been in Strategic Planning as we have looked at Grace Chapel and the years ahead with a "helicopter" view. A committee of several elders and staff have worked together to consolidate and synthesize a variety of topics and are putting together a plan to move into a very exciting future. Each Sunday night at 5:00 we meet via Zoom to pray for the needs of Grace Chapel, the world, and each of you by name. It is our joy to lift you before our Lord.

A nominating committee made up of elders and lay leaders, meets throughout the year to nominate, interview, and present names to the board for leadership in a variety of positions for the upcoming year. Those names, once accepted by the board are presented to the congregation (for a vote) at the Annual Celebration. This year we have welcomed many new members into the Grace Chapel family. And just this past week, our board approved 26 men and women for membership. Welcome to the family,

A member of Grace Chapel has the opportunity to serve – and there are places to serve that will fit you just perfectly. There is no greater joy than knowing you are a part of a Kingdom movement helping others grow in their faith. I have been a member of Grace Chapel for decades, served on pastoral staff, and have served in a variety of ways ever since coming to Grace. Serving is truly a wonderful way to celebrate and experience the community Grace Chapel offers. You often make lifelong friends, see God at work in your life and the lives of others, and serving blesses you as much as it blesses others. I speak from experience and have enjoyed belonging to this great family, serving, and growing along with others on my own life journey. If you are currently serving –thank you! If you haven't yet found a place to serve, don't wait any longer – jump in and see what a difference it will make in your life.

Thank you once again for the privilege of serving you, serving Him, and growing together.

Blessings and gratitude,

Cynthia Fantasia
Chair, Grace Chapel Elder Board





This is unfailing love



MEMBERSHIP 2021-2022

BAPTISMS MAY 1, 2021 - APRIL 30, 2022		21
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AS OF APRIL 30, 2021		1817
NEW MEMBERS MAY 1, 2021 - APRIL 30, 2022		+ 28
		<hr/>
SUBTOTAL		1845
<hr/>		
TRANSFERRED/DROPPED	(LESS)	20
DECEASED	(LESS)	25
		<hr/>
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF APRIL 30, 2022		1800



Membership is a personal, practical, and public commitment to the ministry of the local church... your local church.

Becoming a member of Grace Chapel is more than just a public declaration of commitment to the mission and vision of our church. Membership is a deep meaningful commitment to each other: to caring for one another as we all strive to bring God's love into the neighborhoods and communities we share.

Membership is also practical. Grace Chapel is a church with a long history of congregational governance, where members approve key decisions that affect the future of our church. Members approve nominees for church offices and our annual operating budget, as well as strategic decisions like opening new campuses. Members at Grace Chapel are leaders.

This year we celebrate the 28 new members of our church!



MEMBERS WHO HAVE GONE HOME TO BE WITH THE LORD

Richard Marzilli

David Auld

Josie Bradley

Eva Discredio

Phyllis Johansen

Donna Johnson

Ernie Barkhouse

Debra Scott

B. Allen Corcoran

Richard Vail

Rosemary Larking

Shirley Bassett

Michael DiNapoli

David Hicks

Paul Hazard

Charles Kelley

Jonna Beauregard

Deanna Phipps

Michael Scurti

Ruth Hurd

Susan Zeppi

Karolyn Masters

Norwood 'Woody' Anderson

Harold Buehler

Linda Inman

NEW MEMBERS ADDED

Richard Anton

Kathleen Bailer

Elvira Barros

Howard Chin

Greg DeCiantis

Michelle Duggan

Emily Duhs

Christine Gaze

Bassim Ibrahim

Nancy Keswani

Jennie Krystiniak

Brian Lake

Patricia Lake

Robert Lewis

Judy Lewis

Chiman (Joan) Lock

Andre Luk

Josephine McAllister

Debbi Miller

Rebecca Myers

Victoria Okorji

Emmanuel Owusu-Boakye

Carol Puricelli

Emilia Richardson

Lynda Robichaud

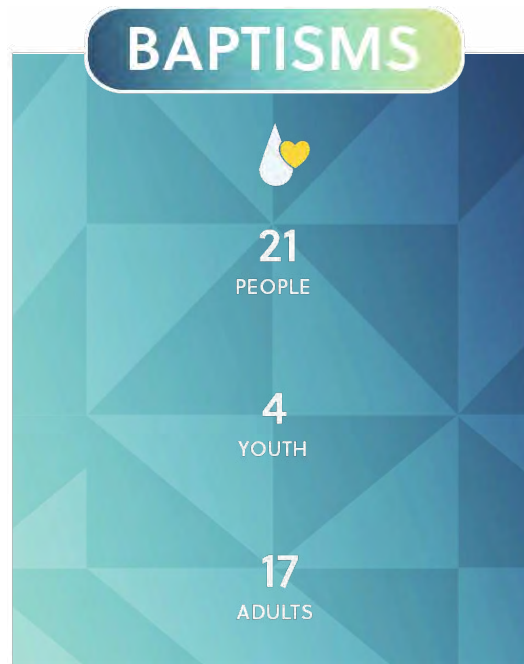
Jessica Stucker

Joseph Stucker

Stephen Wills







Baptism is an outward expression of an inward decision to follow Christ, and a powerful response to His call on our life.

Hear a few words about the meaning of baptism from some of the people who were baptized this year at Grace Chapel:



Faith is a choice. I am choosing to believe, no more thinking things are coincidences, but rather I'm recognizing God is at work! God is funny, I can't believe he loves me this much! - Eden



I'm being baptized because I want to strengthen my faith in Jesus and share the joy of his salvation so that others may also experience the same. - Ian



Today I am still a work in progress, but now I am convicted of my shortcomings and my sins of omission, and I continue to grow in Christ. - Robert



While some people say they walk with Christ, I like to joke that we hiked. There were lots of peaks and valleys. I'm so incredibly happy and eager to take a big step forward in my faith and proclaim for all to hear: I know Jesus died for me, so He can take my imperfect, sinful life as I ask for His mercy and forgiveness, and make me new. I will gladly follow Jesus to the ends of existence. - Megan



GROUP LIFE

ONGOING & SHORT TERM GROUPS

290

GROUPS



2,909

PEOPLE
IN GROUPS

Meaningful, rewarding relationships start with authentic and honest conversation.

In addition to our Sunday worship services, we offer smaller gatherings that make it easier to get to know people and build friendships. These smaller connection opportunities happen midweek and on Sundays, at church or in homes, and are open to everyone. We refer to them simply as *Groups*.

The purpose of smaller gatherings is to practice the way of Jesus together through growing spiritually, growing in relationships, and growing in serving those around us and in our communities. We meet to listen to what God is doing in our lives, to listen to each other's needs and to the needs of those around us, and to pray together.

From short-term groups on a specific topic, to ongoing groups for men, women, and families, there's a place for anyone to belong here at Grace Chapel!





“

Thank you for your
encouragement & love!
It was beautiful! Praise God!
- Carol, online viewer



DIGITAL MINISTRY



17

CREW MEMBERS



443

VIDEOS
PRODUCED



17

FILMING
LOCATIONS



Australia
Belarus
Canada
Colombia
Germany
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Japan
Kenya
New Zealand
Philippines
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Sweden
Russia
UK
Ukraine
USA

**Bringing community and worship
into digital spaces.**

“

Something about the online space can give you an opening to go deeper than you can in person. We are all coming to the table willing and seeking a specific connection. It allows God to work and bring people together regardless of physical location expanding our networks beyond our physical community.

Online creates a safe space to discuss these concerns, fears, reasons, etc. I find it extremely easy to share about the online service as opposed to inviting people to come in person. Clicking a link to a service that spoke to you and made you think of the person can be more personal and less scary for the other person.

– Shana, online group leader

DIGITAL MINISTRY UPDATE

Grace Chapel embraced social media, YouTube, and live streaming long before the COVID-19 pandemic. But after closing our physical locations in March of 2020, we faced a new dilemma: how would a church that was forced to operate online-only continue to minister to people in meaningful ways? Was it even possible?

It quickly became apparent that continuing our ministry would require something new and innovative - and it had to happen quickly. It was this need for innovation that led us to form our Digital Ministry. Forced to creatively translate our worship, teaching, community-building, outreach and discipleship practices online, we saw the potential that existed to reach people in an increasingly digital-first world.



My short note to tell you how rich the live stream telecasts are each Sunday. Dignity, quiet, beautiful, hope-giving, God's presence: are terms that come to my mind. Each Sunday it seems as if the worship deepens more and more. Thank you.

– Gordon, *online viewer*

We've learned a lot over these past two years, and with the gained staff and skill-set, we've been able to sustain an effective and meaningful online service each week, alongside all the usual ministry that occurs in person. We've been able to scale our reach to people in our communities, and around the world. Over the past year, for every person who is present on a Sunday morning at our in-person campuses, there are 1 to 2 people worshiping with us online.



ONLINE VIEWERS SPENT

42,980 WATCHING
HOURS GRACE CHAPEL
CONTENT

THAT'S OVER

1,790 DAYS!

“

We've been watching the online contemporary service since last summer and loving every minute of it. We live about 90 minutes from the Lexington campus, so too long to commute... It's a small world we live in - all brought together by your online offerings.

– Don, online viewer

But these aren't just numbers, these are people. We've heard stories over these years of people finding their way to our church family through our online service – from newcomers in our lobbies, to testimonies spoken during baptisms, to comments on our social media pages. In the coming year we are looking to build on the foundation that has been laid for a truly thriving and connected online campus. We will be experimenting with online platforms that allow for a more interactive experience during our services. Human connections will always be essential to embodying the church, and we are learning every day how to do that better online.

Yet our vision to reach people in online spaces is much bigger than our weekly worship service. Over the past year we've been increasing the volume and quality of the content we are producing, from blog posts and social media to videos on our YouTube channel – content that speaks to felt needs, allowing us to be more discoverable, and more visible.

In the coming year we are hoping to do much more of this, amplifying the range of voices and perspectives on subjects like spiritual practices, parenting, and being agents of justice and change in our communities. We believe that there is power in the stories we tell. We plan to use our digital resources to tell more stories of the ways God is at work in and around our community and through the work of our partners around the globe. We want to provide resources and tell stories in the online world that inspire and meet real needs and facilitate meaningful growth as disciples of Jesus in an ever-changing and complex world.



DIGITAL + ONLINE

DIGITAL CONNECTIONS



1,716

FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM

55,790

ACCOUNTS REACHED IN LAST 6 MONTHS

42,249

ACCOUNTS REACHED IN LAST 3 MONTHS

@WEAREGRACE



887

FOLLOWERS ON TWITTER

@GRACECHAPEL

**It's not just
social media...
it's social *ministry*.**



FACEBOOK PAGE FOLLOWERS

167

LEXINGTON

1,124

WILMINGTON

791

WATERTOWN

501

EAST LEXINGTON

502

FOXBORO

4,314

ONLINE

FACEBOOK GROUP MEMBERS

876

LEXINGTON

305

WILMINGTON

183

WATERTOWN

83

EAST LEXINGTON

105

FOXBORO

66

ONLINE

Digital community is real community.



5,253
SUBSCRIBERS ON YOUTUBE

1,063
ADDED THIS YEAR



220
CLASSIC WORSHIP SERVICE
AVERAGE WEEKLY VIEWERS

880
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE
AVERAGE WEEKLY VIEWERS

WEBSITE



127,663
NEW VISITORS

59,763
GRACE.ORG/LIVE
NEW VISITORS

APP USERS



2,100
TOTAL DOWNLOADS 2021-2022

1,048
AVG MONTHLY ACTIVE USERS

3,072
APP USERS

DIGITAL + ONLINE

Sharing the kingdom through all our platforms.



KIDSTOWN

KIDSTOWN MINISTRY

496

LEXINGTON

180

WILMINGTON

61

WATERTOWN

21

EAST LEXINGTON

55

FOXBORO

Our mission is to help children develop a relationship with Jesus.

Building a strong faith foundation for your kids is a challenge every parent faces, and we're here to help! Our Kidstown children's ministry partners with parents to help grow and nurture the faith of your child through all the stages of their young life.

Sunday mornings, our Kidstown children's ministry is designed to teach your child about God in a fun way, and allow them to see God in action each week. Kids will learn that the Bible stories we read are not just accounts of the past but can be applied to our lives today!

Toddlers and Preschoolers learn valuable lessons through Bible lessons, music, crafts, and play time.



KIDSTOWN

KIDSTOWN MINISTRY



3,072

KIDSTOWN AT HOME
CONTENT VIEWS



32

BIBLES GIVEN



187

VOLUNTEERS



230

KIDS WEEK
ATTENDEES



KIDSTOWN AT HOME

Kidstown at Home is Grace Chapel's digital resource for families who want to keep growing, learning, and having fun when they can't be there for our in-person Kidstown experience. Our *Kidstown at Home* video playlist on YouTube has over 280 videos designed to help preschool, elementary, and pre-teen kids learn about God, Jesus, and the Bible! The activities and discussion topics that accompany each month's videos help make the experience interactive, fun, and engaging for families.

KIDSWEEK

Kids Week helps kids make friends and learn about Jesus through live story performances, meaningful crafts and activities, and lots of crazy silly fun! Last summer kids learned that you can have confidence because of Jesus. When kids begin to see themselves the same way that Jesus sees them, real confidence begins to take root and grow. Thank for supporting this important part of our ministry for families in our communities!





STUDENTS

MINISTRY TOTAL PER CAMPUS

277	57	14	32	28
LEXINGTON	WILMINGTON	WATERTOWN	EAST LEXINGTON	FOXBORO

Our mission is to lead students to discover, develop, and own their faith.

Student Ministry for Middle and High School Students helps young people grades 6-12 understand how much God loves them, and how to integrate faith into all aspects of their lives.

Through fun and meaningful experiences, students will build community as they encounter Jesus. They will have the opportunity to ask questions and stay curious as they experience faith and life together in community. Students will feel known and cared for as they develop relationships with Jesus, each other, and adults who are investing in their lives.

Through our in-person small groups for students, middle- and high-schoolers built relationships with each other and with Jesus as they explored and discussed relevant Bible topics. Some students participated in our discipleship program, which are small peer-led groups, where they grew their faith through intentional spiritual conversations.



STUDENT MINISTRY



54

VOLUNTEERS



84

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN
2021-2022 DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM



28

SMALL GROUPS



245

FALL & WINTER
RETREAT ATTENDEES



STUDENT MINISTRY EVENTS

Students had a blast gathering together again in-person over the summer at variety of events including Color the Night, movie night, murder mystery night, and Kimball Farms. They spent time making new friends and rebuilding relationships.

“Hard to Believe” was the theme for the fall retreat. Students had fun, and experienced God as they built community through local campus events and a large all-campus gathering in Lexington. Through the story of Jonah we learned how we can’t outrun God’s love for us.

This winter, students from all campuses gathered at our Foxboro campus. The “Walk This Way” retreat featured a day full of worship, games, and remembering that Jesus is the example of how we are to live our lives.

CROSS CULTURAL LEARNING

The middle school students participated in the Boston Project Cross Cultural Learning Experience (CCLE), serving alongside a Grace Chapel ministry partner working in a local community in a variety of ways - including painting murals with an inspiring theme from Micah 6:8:

Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.







**Carry each other's burdens, and in this way
you will fulfill the law of Christ.
GALATIANS 6:2**

Scripture encourages us to bear one another's burdens, and Grace Chapel's Care Ministry programs provide opportunities to listen, pray, encourage, and support one another during these seasons of difficulty.



**It's a blessing to minister to people who need care
and to witness how God moves in their situation.
-Bill, Stephen Minister**

LEXINGTON

LexRAP (Refugee families)

Assisting Lexington Refugee Assistance Program (LexRAP) with tutoring, finances and support of refugee families in the area to make them feel welcome.

WILMINGTON

Fostering Hope

Financially supporting and working alongside Fostering Hope and the Reading DCF to help local families through the process of fostering and adoption.

WATERTOWN

Watertown Boys & Girls Club

Building relationships and tutoring students at the Watertown Boys and Girls Club to make a positive impact in their lives.

FOXBORO

LYNN Ministries & Hockomock Area YMCA

Supporting the events of the Foxboro YMCA including the Town Christmas Tree Lighting and Town Day, to partner and serve the local community.

EAST LEXINGTON

Arlington Eats

Financially supporting and delivering food through Arlington Eats to ensure sufficient and nutritious food for the community.

CHURCH-WIDE PARTNERSHIPS

Boston Project in Dorchester
Emmanuel Gospel Center
Afghan Family Resettlement

Serving our local communities, because we're all in this together.

In 2021 Grace Chapel launched a new initiative called *Community Engagement* with the goal of mobilizing volunteers to get outside the walls of the church to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our surrounding communities and Greater Boston. We love our communities and want to see them flourish! Over this past year, we researched the needs in our communities, identified the assets that we could contribute, and formed partnerships with established organizations in our communities.

Each Campus formed a Campus Engagement Team. We also formed two All-Campus Teams to work alongside Boston Project in Dorchester and the Emmanuel Gospel Center as they help resettle Afghan and Ukrainian families. So far almost 200 Grace Chapel volunteers have helped in a number of ways, including:

- Vaccinating immigrants
- Collecting needed items
- Setting up apartments
- Tutoring students
- Providing rides to appointments
- Opening bank accounts
- Befriending Afghan refugee families
- Painting bathrooms
- Teacher appreciation at a Dorchester school
- Teaching Bible clubs
- Going on prayer walks
- Sending a Cross Cultural Learning Team to work with Boston Project

To learn how to serve effectively, 100 volunteers went through a six week classed entitled "When Helping Hurts." One volunteer spoke for many when he said, **"I feel God's presence and pleasure when I build relationships with and serve alongside these new friends!"**



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



REGIONAL



GLOBAL



Partnering with ministries and being the hands and feet of Jesus, here in Greater Boston and around the world.

Here are some of our mission partners, listed by region:

NEW ENGLAND

Hagar's Sisters
 New Life Home for Women & Children
 Alpha New England
 Boston Rescue Mission
 Place of Promise
 Emmanuel Gospel Center, Inc.

MULTIPLE REGIONS

PEER Servants

AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

Cedar Home for Girls (Lebanon)
 World Relief Malawi
 Wycliffe Bible Translators (Chad)

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Hope for the Children of Haiti, Inc.
 Global Media Outreach
 World Outreach Ministries & Life
 Giving Water International

OCEANIA, EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Horizons International (Thailand)
 NBCBS (IFES Nepal)
 YWAM Thailand/Southeast Asia
 Bethel Church Ministries
 Youth for Christ (Sri Lanka)
 Prison Fellowship Nepal
 Nepal Ebenezer Bible College
 Good News for India

GLOBAL AWARENESS WEEK

In our busy everyday lives, we work and sacrifice for ourselves, our families and our loved ones. We want to provide them with love and a hope-filled future. In our extended community - the family of God, near and far - our sisters and brothers also yearn for safety and peace. They desire an opportunity to earn a living, to send their kids to school and live out their dreams with friends and family.

This year, Global Awareness Week (GAW) focused on the interconnectedness between local and global communities. We looked at how we can help foster the *Peace and Prosperity of Our Neighbours Near and Far*.

“Work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.” - Jeremiah 29:7



20
22

Global Awareness Week featured a full schedule of online and in-person special events, from campus prayer meetings to cooking demonstrations of authentic Asian foods to opportunities to learn more about the work of our mission partners.

Thank you for supporting this important week on the Grace Chapel ministry calendar!





COVID RELIEF FOR INDIA



AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT



UKRAINE



Local generosity, global impact.

The overwhelming financial generosity of our congregation in providing above and beyond gifts for special, global needs tangibly expressed Christ's love for some vulnerable people around the world.

In May 2021, as South Asian Indians were facing unfathomable suffering and death from COVID-19, you gave generously to help a Christian hospital in the foothill of the Himalayas convert hospital beds to increase their capacity to care for COVID patients.

Last fall and Christmas, as Afghanistan returned to Taliban control and thousands of Afghan families fled for their lives, you gave to help families resettle in Greater Boston, helped in part through the good work of our partner, Emmanuel Gospel Center. Today, 80 volunteers are involved, helping Afghan several families navigate their way into American life and culture.

This spring, the biggest special offering any one can recall resulted in an outpouring of generosity for Ukraine. Funds went for direct humanitarian relief sent into Ukraine through World Relief. We also partnered with Jesus Savior Church (led by pastor Vitalie Fedula) and Invest Credit (led by Ghena Russu) as they pivoted their ministries to show the love of Christ to Ukrainian refugees arriving in Chisinau, Moldova.

Another highlight was a successful virtual Cross-cultural learning experience (CCLE) with a team from EPIC and our partners in Guatemala, Potter's House. In February, through the miracle of Zoom technology, translation and extensive pre-planning, the EPIC team was able to visit Chiquimula, Guatemala virtually. The team visited families, saw fields being planted, kids at school and experienced the warm embrace of Guatemalan believers as they love and serve the "treasures." The EPIC team raised funds as if they were planning to visit in person. But instead of using the money for plane tickets and their own travel expenses, the team was able to send the funds to Potter's House so they could build hygiene stations and develop programs through their Community Center.

Thank you Grace Chapel for the many ways you show the love of Christ and care for the needs of God's people here in New England and around the world!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

INCREDIBLY FAITHFUL DESPITE UNCERTAINTY

A year ago, we thought we would be fully emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we set the giving goals and expense expectations for the FY22 around that direction. We were thinking that we would be making our way back to pre-pandemic levels of ministry; meaning the levels of giving that would cover a full return to our ministry. Well, as we all know, that simply isn't the way the pandemic played out and the FY22 results reflect that reality. The expectation of a 10% increase in giving over FY21, which was getting us about halfway back to pre-pandemic levels of giving, turned out to be just a little too optimistic. Frankly, that is the sobering part of the financial story. The more encouraging part of the story is that we landed at over 96% of our \$8.9 million giving goal which is a 7% increase over prior year. Praise be to God and with gratitude to you – the faithful and generous people of Grace.

The pandemic has certainly impacted the ministry of Grace and if FY22 represents anything it is the year of not "either/or" but the "and/both" of ministry. We cautiously started returning to live in-person services early in the fiscal year last spring while still producing and maintaining a vital and engaging online campus presence. All of which takes more resources, personnel and financial, not less. With the help of 284 new first-time givers, and 121 new recurring givers, contributions totaled almost \$8.7 million. This included gifts to support regular church ministries and staff at all six campuses, as well as the funding to support our global and regional mission partners. Oh, and it is important to note that we have not passed a single offering plate since March of 2020.

Beyond that, we are grateful to God, you the congregation, and the Grace Chapel Ministry Staff that we ended the fiscal year having met all our FY22 expenses. The staff carefully watched spending while the congregation continued to give faithfully and generously. Remarkably, the congregation also provided \$976,311 (\$487,930 of which was for the Digital Ministry Initiative) in special gifts and Benevolence Fund offerings, over and above General Fund giving, to help meet the critical needs of people in our congregation, our local neighbors, and those serving Christ around the world. (More detailed information on our special offerings and impact is in our Missions Report from Pastor Jeanette.) The faithful and generous giving of our congregation especially in these uncertain times is an incredible testimony to God's faithfulness and the faithfulness of God's people of Grace.



Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. - PSALMS 100:4-5

WHAT DOES THIS NEW FISCAL YEAR LOOK LIKE?

We are continuing to work through the impact of the pandemic, for which we are grateful, and we are encouraged by the strong giving support, especially in April – the last month of our fiscal year. However, a few very strong weeks does not make for a definitive trend. With that in mind, we remain cautiously optimistic and faithfully dependent on God continuing to provide through – you – His people of Grace. And as we continue to return to and grow our engagement – we know this will have a direct impact on growing the giving and its impact. With that in mind – we have set our giving goal at 4% above actuals from FY22. We hope and pray that we will be able to achieve more than that – but we would prefer to set a realistic goal through the ongoing challenges of this coming year. That 4% increase corresponds to a giving goal just over \$8.9 million for FY23. As we pray to achieve more than this proposed 4% increase in giving – we certainly have many potential projects and programs that we could address like some of our deferred maintenance needs and new focus on Discipleship and Serving through Grace.

We remain committed to our stewardship goals that address these budget challenges by:

- Continuing to encourage people to take steps of faith on their giving journey
- Continuing to embed faithful stewardship more meaningfully in the life of the church
- Carefully watching our expenses to keep them in line with actual giving

FINANCIAL UPDATE (CONTINUED)

We are absolutely positioned for growth across the board at every one of our campuses. The Board of Elders is proposing an operations budget for FY23 based on \$8,960,071 in general fund contributions. It is our deep desire and earnest prayer that more and more people in greater Boston will *discover life with God for the good of world*. God was not surprised by the pandemic and in many ways, He has used this past year to help us think and use resources creatively and to take the next steps to be a more mobilized church. We have the opportunity before us to serve in ways we never thought we could and to reach more people than we ever could have hoped or even imagined. It is our most sincere prayer that God continues to show favor to us as a church committed and called to serve greater Boston and beyond for His Kingdom purposes and for His glory alone!

DIGITAL MINISTRY INITIATIVE

When we first started talking about an online campus in the summer of 2019, I am not sure we had any idea of magnitude of what God had in mind for us as a church. We have said many times, Digital Ministry was on our hearts and minds long before the pandemic began. The only thing we didn't have a handle on was the timeline of when this would all come together. What we thought would take years to develop ended up taking a few months, beginning in March of 2020. In true form – the congregation stepped up and committed almost \$1.2 million in gifts and gift intentions over and above regular giving to support the Digital Ministry Initiative. This is yet another example of the faithfulness and generosity of God and His people. The Digital Ministry Team has been committed from the start to improve the quality and content of the services and they have truly delivered on that goal week after week. But beyond that, we are so grateful to be able to deliver in-person services, online services, and a new level of outreach week after week. This exciting capability of hybrid ministry - effectively engaging people online AND in-person - is the new reality, and we are committed to doing it well.



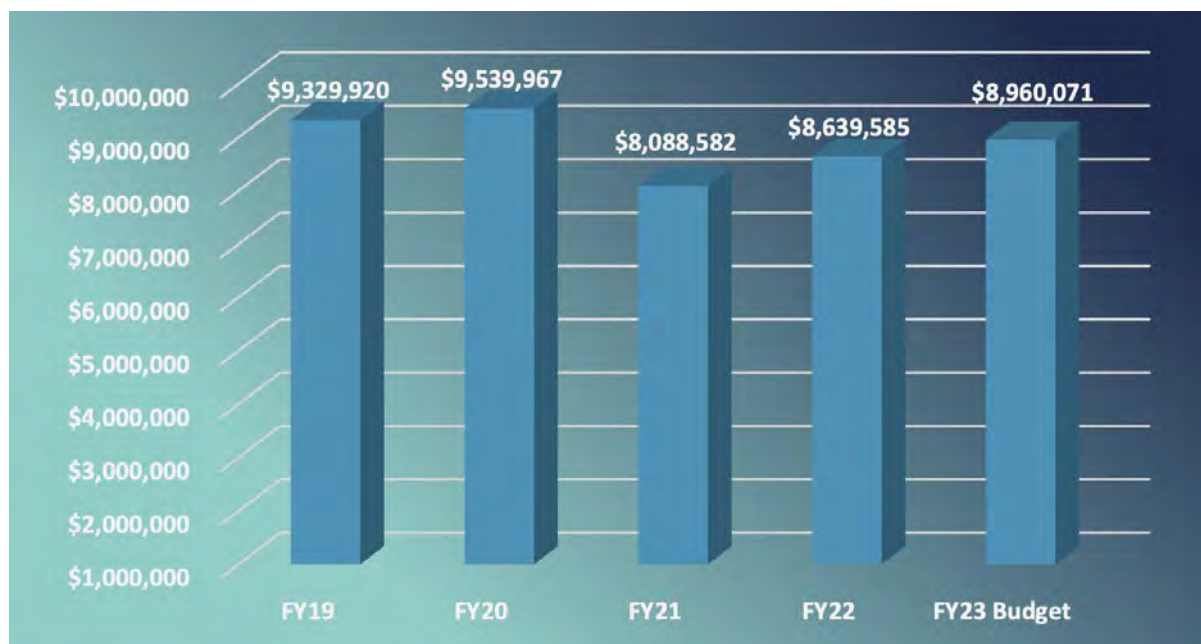
I frankly feel like this is where the big "C" Church finds itself these days – we are in good company. Please know that we are delighted to be able to share our church broadly so that more and more people can find their way to Grace and ultimately into relationship with Jesus. We are seeing that through our Digital Ministry that our online campus is proving to be the new front door for people who are interested in Discovering Life with God for the Good of the World!

May that be so Lord!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark MacDonald, Executive Pastor

GENERAL FUND GIVING



2022 GRACE CHAPEL FINANCIAL REPORT

Grace Chapel Financial Report for the Fiscal Years ending April 30th						
	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022		FY2023	
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual ¹	Proposed Budget	\$ Change over FY22 Actual % Change over FY22 Actual
Revenues and Reserve						
General contributions	\$ 9,539,367	\$ 8,088,582	\$ 8,960,000	8,639,585	\$ 8,960,071	\$ 320,486 4%
Program Registration and Fees	115,714	24,515	100,389	44,137	144,836	100,699 228%
Other Income (Rentals, Interest)	228,133	51,377	103,454	204,877	387,270	182,393 89%
Additional Funding including anticipated reserve withdrawal ^(a)	-	988,100	680,000	600,000	309,969	(290,031) -48%
Total Revenue and Reserves:	9,883,214	9,152,574	9,843,843	9,488,600	9,802,146	313,546 3%
Expenses						
Operating Activities						
Ministry & Ministry Support ^(b)	6,223,062	5,976,226	7,116,288	6,285,069	6,973,709	688,640 11%
Buildings ^(c)	1,360,543	1,214,513	1,310,376	1,514,372	1,616,536	102,164 7%
Missions ^(d)	1,241,486	829,462	838,500	807,639	793,500	(14,139) -2%
Total Operating Expenses:	8,825,091	8,020,201	9,265,164	8,607,080	9,383,745	776,665 9%
Cash Flow						
Non-Operating Activities						
Interest Expense	158,530	113,872	134,400	100,495	107,081	6,586 7%
Mortgage P Principal Repayment	304,343	304,363	443,732	375,470	309,969	(65,501) -17%
Total Non-Operating Expenses:	462,873	418,235	578,132	475,965	417,050	(58,915) -12%
Total Spending:	9,287,964	8,438,436	9,843,296	9,083,045	9,800,795	717,750 8%
Net Results:	\$ 595,250	\$ 714,138	\$ 547	\$ 405,555	\$ 1,351	\$ (404,204) -100%

¹ FY22 not officially closed nor audited. Actuals must be considered estimated until the fiscal year is formally closed and audited.

^(a) Withdrawal from reserves determined by seasonality of cash flow. Net gains in a fiscal year, driven by withdrawals from reserves, offset cash flow seasonality and return to the reserves.

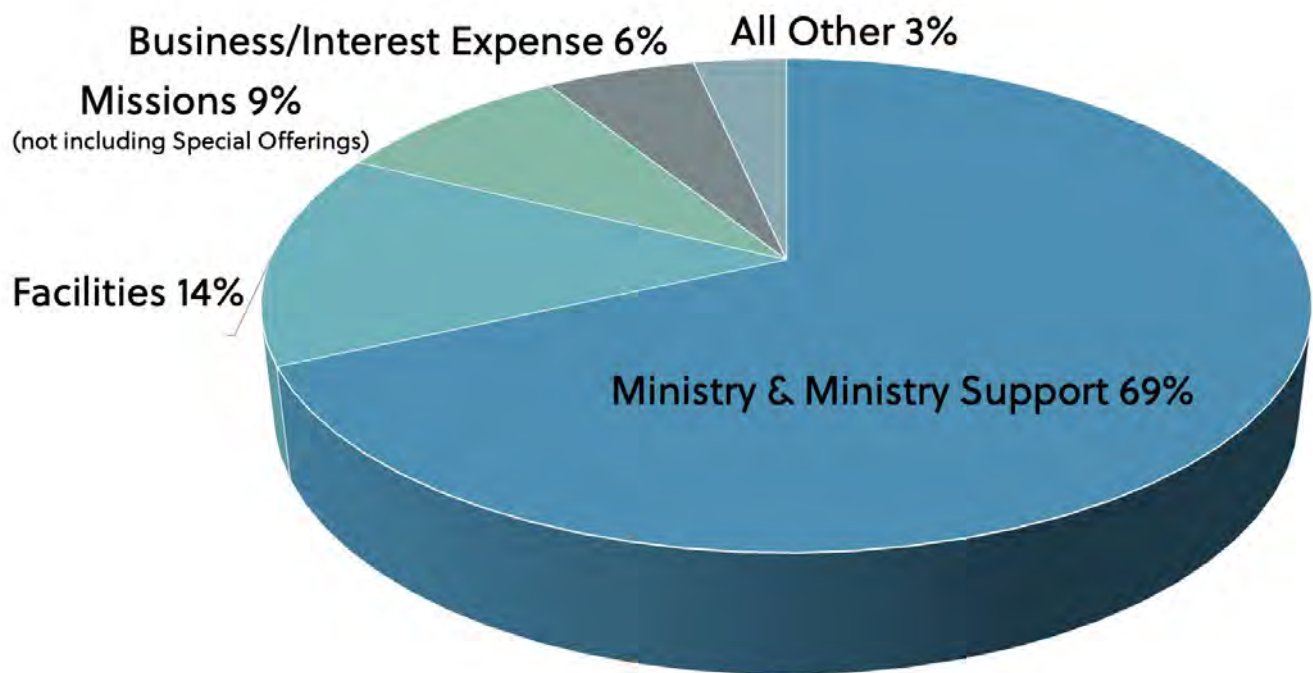
^(b) Ministry Expenses include all staff wages, taxes and benefits, business expense, all ministry related expenses, and other.

^(c) Building Expenses include all maintenance, utilities, tech, admin and security expenses.

^(d) Missions Expenses include Partner Support and administrative missions expenses



FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET





2022 NOMINEES

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

One- and two-year terms

Andrea Dacayanan, Elder Co-Chair,
Lexington Campus

Dan Mitchell, Elder Co-Chair, Wilm-
ington Campus

Elise Rowley, Lexington Campus
(second year of two)

Barb Herrmann, Foxboro Campus
(first year of one)

Ginny Clapp, Wilmington Campus
(first year of two)

Joan Christel, Watertown Campus
(first year of two)

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Three-year term

Jim Citro, Chair Lexington Campus
(third year of three)

Tofunni Ochi, Lexington Campus
(second year of three)

Tim Nelson, Foxboro Campus, (first
year of three)

CLERK

Three-year term

Susan Maina, Wilmington Campus
(first year of three)

MODERATOR

Three-year term

Bob Williams, Lexington Campus
(first year of three)



ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

JUNE 6, 2021

CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER – Amy Warfield opened the meeting with procedural instructions and prayer at 12:32 PM. The meeting was held in person at the Lexington campus and was also livestreamed. A recording will be available on www.grace.org by June 7. Participants can ask questions and submit questions via email or a form on the church website. Elders will assess the meeting input, finalize the motions, and post them on the website by June 11.

VOTING PROCESS – Members will receive an email with a link to an online voting ballot by June 11. If not received, please contact the church. Paper ballots will also be available at all campuses or by request by calling or emailing the church. Voting must be completed by end of day, June 20, 2021. Voting results will be posted on the website by June 23, 2021.

2020 MEETING MINUTES – Minutes from the June 7, 2020 annual meeting are included in the annual report and are available at grace.org/2021annualmeeting.

SENIOR PASTOR REPORT – Pastor Bryan Wilkerson presented the Senior Pastor Report. Pastor Bryan reflected on how we have been able to continue ministry successfully and grow the church community without meeting in person since March 2020.

The Grace Chapel Vision: To be a growing community of seekers and believers discovering life with God for the good of greater Boston and the world. Discovering Life with God for the Good of the World.

The ministry focus this year was The Way of Jesus (Luke-Act). Sermon series included:

Summer 2020: *God With Us?*

Fall/Winter 2020: *Disrupted: Following Jesus Out of the Box*

Advent 2020: *Comfort and Joy*

Winter 2021: *Finite Disappointment/Infinite Hope*

Lent/Easter 2021: *FastForward*

Spring 2021: *Finding Our Way Forward*

In addition, these messages spoke into current events in the world:

Fall 2020: *Serpents and Doves: Building Bridges in Polarized Times*

Global Awareness Week 2020: *Building Gospel Bridges*

Re-launch: Initiatives and priorities as we relaunch after the pandemic

- Our new normal will be a hybrid church model
 - Two platforms for ministry: physical and digital/online
 - A Pastor of Digital Ministry has been added, with Leah Knight Breton in the position
 - We now have an online campus, with Scott Miller as the campus pastor
- Care and Connection: Reaching out to insure that people feel cared for and connected
- Community Engagement: Meeting the needs of people in the community
- Growth: We want to continue to grow, reach new people, discover new ministries

Pastoral Resident Program: This two-year program provides formative experiences for emerging pastoral leaders. Scott Miller was the first in the program. Two new pastoral residents are starting in the next month, one in Lexington and one in Wilmington.

Pastor Bryan expressed gratitude to the elders for their leadership, and to the staff and congregation during this time of living through a pandemic. He gave appreciation for Elder Chair Jimmy Su, who will be stepping down from the board this year.

ELDERS' REPORT - Jimmy Su presented the Elders' Report. He reflected on the past year when we had to adapt our ministry model very quickly. He thanked the digital ministry team that was able to ramp up with little notice in order to provide online services. He thanked the facilities management team, which has had to develop and implement new usage policies to comply with new legal and health guidelines. He also thanked all staff and volunteers who have helped keep the church community connected and cared for.

Recent and ongoing efforts of the board have included:

- Establishing a digital ministry committee, a combination of staff, domain experts and elders whose charge it is to develop and strengthen our digital and online ministry efforts
- Proposing bylaw updates to allow for digital annual meeting participation and voting
- Pivoting our vision and growth strategy towards a new model of integrated digital and physical, in-person efforts

The board is grateful to Pastor Bryan, executive pastor Mark McDonald, and all the staff for their strong efforts to implement church programs online since the church building closed in March 2020.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Eric Bergstrom presented the Treasurer's Report. FY21 giving was at 99.6% of budget, adjusted for the pandemic. This was 85% of FY20 actual giving. Staff watched expenses carefully and came in \$680K below budget.

In addition to general giving, the congregation gave over \$332,000 in special offerings during Global Awareness Week and Christmas Eve services, for Cedar Home Beirut, to a special COVID Fund, and to the Benevolence Fund.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTES (CONTINUED)

The FY22 proposed budget is \$8.9 million, a 10% increase in giving; this is still 7% below the FY20 giving level. To operate at pre-pandemic levels, we need to work our way back to FY20 levels of giving. Breakdown of the proposed budget: 70% to ministry and ministry support, 13% to missions, 11% to buildings, 6% to mortgage principal and interest.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Priscilla Seuss presented the Nominating Committee Report, identifying the nominating committee and presenting the slate of nominees for the Board of Elders, Nominating Committee, Audit Committee, Moderator and Clerk. The lists below include the campus that nominees identify as their primary campus.

New Elder Nominees:

- Rebecca Li, Lexington
- Tim Min, Lexington
- Dan Mitchell, Wilmington

The Full Proposed Board of Elders for 2020-2021

- Eric Bergstrom, *Treasurer*
- Keith Cerci
- Andrea Dacayanan
- Matt Doremus
- Cynthia Fantasia
- Rebecca Li, *elder nominee*
- Tim Min, *elder nominee*
- Dan Mitchell, *elder nominee*
- Priscilla Seuss
- Sandy Shen
- Rob Stutzman, *Secretary*
- Carrie Tibbles

Other Nominations

Audit Committee (one-year term)

- Jim Citro, Lexington, new chair, 2nd year
- Lucy Marchese, Lexington, 3rd year
- Tofunmi Ochi, Lexington, 1st year

Moderator (one-year term)

Amy Warfield, Lexington, 2nd year

Clerk (one-year term)

Sandy Smith, Lexington, 2nd year

PROPOSED BALLOT MOTIONS AND VOTING – Mark MacDonald reviewed the process for voting. The specific wording of the proposed bylaw change motion around virtual meetings and electronic voting will be finalized after elders review any relevant questions from this meeting. Updated information will be available on www.grace.or/2021annualmeeting.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – Amy Warfield moderated a time of Q & A.

1. **How do I confirm that I am a church member:** Reach out to the church office or your local campus if you are unsure.
2. **How much of our total budget goes to staff salaries?** Seventy percent of the budget goes to ministry & ministry support. Staff salaries are included in this figure. Salaries, benefits, and taxes make up 60% of the total budget.
3. **Will there be support for missions programs or mission trips?** Thirteen percent of the budget is for missions. This summer, except for a component of a Boston Project missions project, all trips will be virtual. We hope to return to in-person trips soon.
4. **What does the “principal repayment” budget line represent?** It is any outstanding loan principal payments, including mortgages and our available Line of Credit if utilized.
5. **What staff changes have occurred in the past 12 months?** While we are always sad to see a staff member leave, we are equally moved by the many ways former staff members leverage what they have learned to serve the Kingdom in new and exciting ways. As departures occurred this past year, we have been thoughtful and strategic about how and when we replaced those staff roles. The new people now serving on staff include:
 - a. Watertown & ELEX both hired new part-time admin’s: Matt Fong & Thaiz De La Cruz, respectively
 - b. Lexington has several new faces – Adam Rowe was moved into the campus pastor role. Nia Green has been hired as the director for contemporary worship, Jason Cross is the director of traditional worship. We have also recently hired a new director of children’s ministry, Patti Lake (Technically a FY21 hire).
 - c. In Central Ministries, we have moved Richard Rhodes to become the Pastor of Community Engagement. In addition, we have hired a graphic designer, Katie Delany-Graves; admin support for our NextGen ministries, Paige Finlayson; and worship teams, Genevieve Lefevre. We have also added a new HR director, Sharon Whitehead.
 - d. We have also established our new Digital Ministries Team, led by Leah Knight Breton, and are working to fill a few open roles on that team.

CLOSING –Senior pastor Bryan Wilkerson closed the meeting with prayer at 1:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Smith, Clerk

