

Dear Ones,

Our staff leadership team has been prayerfully discerning and strategically planning for Grace's next season of ministry, looking ahead to the next few years, while also dreaming about what God might do over the next 150 years. We had a productive staff leadership retreat in May where we laid out the next three years, and we are excited to see how God will continue to work in and through our church.

During the retreat, we spent time reflecting on what will help Grace flourish in both the short and long term as we seek greater clarity around our opportunities and challenges as a congregation.

One of the many blessings of being part of ECO is the many resources and support our denomination offers. One resource is a cohort called *Cultivating a Flourishing Church*, which helps congregations focus strategically on key areas of church ministry. In September, our staff leadership team will travel to Dallas to meet with other churches that are also seeking to grow, lead faithfully, and discern God's direction for their ministries.

As we prepare for that gathering, we invite the congregation into the process. We will be facilitating two collaborative workshops to gather data, insights, observations, and ideas from covenant partners and ministry leaders throughout the church. Your voice is important, and we hope you will prayerfully consider participating.

The workshops will be held on the following dates:

Sunday, August 2 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

All Equipping Hour classes will pause that morning. During the Equipping Hour, everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in this first collaborative workshop session.

Wednesday, August 26 | 6-8 p.m.

We will gather for the second workshop session before the monthly Session and Deacon meetings. Dinner will be provided at 5:30 p.m. In order to have an accurate headcount, please let Sharon High (shigh@gpch.org) know you will be attending no later than **Monday, August 17**. Our elders and deacons are dedicating a significant portion of their meeting time that evening to these conversations because they believe everyone's input is vital, as we discern God's continued leading at Grace.

Ahead of these two workshop sessions, here are a few questions to consider as you reflect on Grace's ministry:

1. Where have we seen great fruit in our ministry this year?
2. Where do we need greater clarity?
3. Do we have a clear picture of what a healthy disciple looks like?
4. Beyond worship attendance and budget numbers, what indicators help us understand the health of our congregation?
5. Where are we out of alignment for our mission, vision, and values?
6. What do we hope will be true of our ministry one to three years from now?

We hope you will join us for one or both of these gatherings. Thank you for your prayers, your partnership, and your commitment to the ministry of Grace. We are grateful for the ways God is at work among us and look forward to discerning together what He has in store for the future.

In His Grip,

Julia