



# GRACE EDMONTON

[graceyeg.com](http://graceyeg.com)





### **WHO WE ARE**

WE ARE CONNECTED TO GRACE FELLOWSHIP, A GOSPEL-CENTERED FAMILY OF CHURCHES WHO DESIRE TO KNOW THE GOSPEL, LIVE THE GOSPEL, AND ADVANCE THE GOSPEL.



### **OUR VISION**

GRACE EDMONTON EXISTS TO BRING GLORY TO GOD THROUGH LIVES CHANGED BY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST



### **OUR MISSION**

OUR MISSION IS TO LOVE JESUS, LOVE PEOPLE, AND HELP PEOPLE LOVE JESUS.



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# WHY EDMONTON?

The main area we are desiring to reach is the west end of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The City of Edmonton has a metro-area population of over 1.4 million people and is growing every year. However, there are statistically few churches in the city and only a small minority of those churches even plan on planting new churches. There is need for more churches in Edmonton.

Edmonton continues to expand on the outer edges of its borders and new neighbourhoods are consistently being built and moved into.

## Cultural Information:

Edmonton has a very culturally diverse population. In terms of ethnicity, 51% come from European ancestry, while the remaining 49% consist of 16% East and Southeast Asian, 15% South Asian and Middle Eastern, 8% African, 6% Indigenous, 2% Latin American, and the remaining 2% from other ancestries.

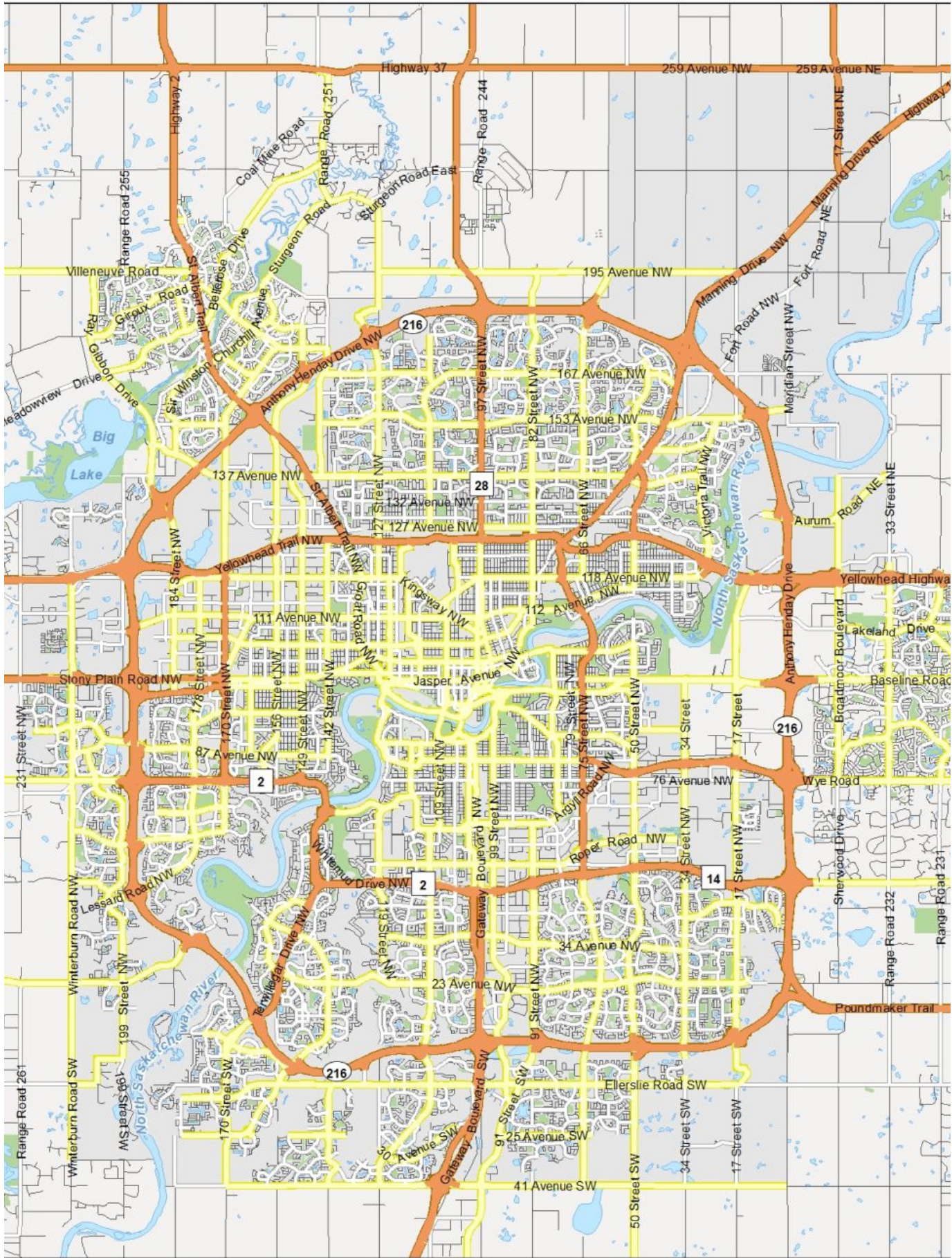
## Age Demographics:

The average age of the population is quite young at 35 years old, and only 27% of the population is married. Edmonton is home to a lot of young families, but the majority of the population sits between 35 and 45.

## Religious Affiliations:

Most people who classify themselves as religious on the census consider themselves to be Christian (44%), however the bulk of those respondents would identify as belonging to Roman Catholic, United, or other non-Gospel-believing mainline denominations. Less than 10% claim to be part of an evangelical denomination, and of those, even fewer regularly attend or participate in any meaningful way. There is great opportunity for Gospel-impact and evangelism.







# ABOUT OUR PLANTERS



## Clay Bitner PASTOR/PLANTER

Clay was raised in Edmonton and spent the majority of his childhood years engaged in sports and other activities in and around Edmonton. After moving to Saskatchewan, where he married the love of his life, Kim, he continued a career in web development and video production.

Even though life is busy with raising their six children, they have been deeply invested in discipleship and church planting since 2008. Clay has been serving as a pastor and Executive Director of Grace Fellowship where his skills and influence have led to three church plants in and around Saskatoon.

He has been instrumental in developing marketing, strategy, creative direction, and executive order for our family of churches since he joined. Not only was he on the launch and leadership team for Grace Saskatoon, but was sent out to plant Grace Warman and helped coordinate and organize the launch of Grace Evergreen as well.

Clay serves on the lead team for Acts 29 Canada as director of English assessments and contributes to the global assessment and creative teams for Acts 29.



*The Bitners: Clay, Kim, Markus, Wyatt, Bailey, Deacon, Felix, and Jayne*



## **Jared Klassen**

### **PASTOR/PLANTER**

Jared has lived in the Prairies his whole life, along with his wife, Chantel, and their two children. Not only has Jared devoted himself to serving the local church, he has also been involved with adoption and fostering as a way of living out the good news story of Jesus. As a web developer for the past 17 years, Jared excels at using his creativity and thoughtfulness to solve complex problems.

Jared is the newest pastor of Grace Fellowship, and has been a prominent and essential part of Grace Warman since its launch. He is a shining example of one who has been discipled and trained through the local church to be an effective communicator, disciple maker, and servant leader.



*The Klassens: Jared, Chantel, Raeca, and Ephraim*

# GRACE EDMONTON

## WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD CHURCH?

Is it a crusty old building? A social justice do-gooders club? A bunch of fake, plastic people with permanent smiles?

What if the church was actually supposed to be a people devoted to pushing back the kingdom of darkness, rescuing the lost, and proclaiming Jesus' decisive victory, all for the glory and by the power of Almighty God?

We believe that God's church consists of broken and messed up people who are amazed by the Gospel, changed by the Gospel, and now empowered by the Gospel to make a real difference in the world that we live in.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus loves his church, died for his church, and rose again so that his people could be transformed into worshipers who show the world who he is and what he is like.

God did not call you to live life on your own, to seek your own comfort, or to be your own king. He is inviting you to be part of something bigger. To give more than just your Sunday mornings, but to devote your entire life to following Jesus.

As a part of Jesus' church, you are invited into true Gospel Community to experience hope, belonging, and a mission to shine his light in the darkness.





## **LOCATION**

As a church, our hope is to focus on the west-side of Edmonton, but be available as a church to the whole city of Edmonton.

## **HOW WE GATHER**

Christians don't just go to church, we are the church. But one aspect of being the church is gathering together, since we are not meant to live individual lives disassociated from one another. As Grace Edmonton, the hope is to gather in two ways: first as a larger body on Sundays, and second, as smaller groups throughout the week, known as Gospel Communities.

## **SUNDAY GATHERING**

Sundays with us are a mix of discipleship and evangelistic outreach. We see ourselves as both followers and messengers of Jesus, so we make sure to focus on what God has to say. That's why we spend a lot of time diving into the Scriptures, preaching through whole books, chapter-by-chapter, and verse-by-verse. It's not just about knowing how to live right, but about really getting to know and love Jesus, because the whole Bible points to Him. Along with that, we come together to pray, sing, and celebrate the amazing story of Jesus' death and resurrection through communion. So, Sundays are all about growing in faith and joyfully responding to the life-changing message of the Gospel.

## **GOSPEL COMMUNITY**

The church is more than just a non-profit organization; it's the family of God. So we embrace this identity by gathering in smaller groups called Gospel Communities. These tight-knit groups consist of 8-12 adults and their families, allowing us to truly live out the one-anothers of the New Testament. Within these Gospel Communities, we strive to be disciples of Jesus, supporting and pointing one another towards Him. We also encourage each other as missionaries, seeking to share the good news with those around us. Additionally, we serve one another and the communities where we live, work, and play. In essence, we aim to embody the love and care of a close-knit family while fulfilling our mission as followers of Christ.

# OUR DNA

The chief aim and purpose of humanity and of all creation is to give glory to God. The scriptures share the wonderful news that God is glorified through the Gospel of Jesus and the resulting changed lives. Life change is both an event (salvation) and a process (sanctification). Both salvation and sanctification are evidences of God's grace in our lives and are appropriated by faith.

When we use the word Gospel, we mean the historic Gospel of Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected. This Gospel is more than a collection of facts to be believed. It is also the good and true story that Jesus died and rose to defeat sin, death, and evil in order to make all things new. As the only person capable of such an act, Jesus is the rightful Lord over every square inch of the universe. This "Jesus is Lord" Gospel compels us to be a community that lives redemptively in all aspects of life.



## **WORSHIP – LOVE JESUS**

Worshiping God is first about valuing, loving, and treasuring God above all others. We love him because he first loved us. And it's through our deep desire for God that worship spills over into our lives and becomes living in joyful, sacrificial obedience to God (Romans 12:1). God can only be known, loved, and worshipped in and through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus alone can save us from worshipping ourselves to the worship of God.

## **COMMUNITY – LOVE PEOPLE**

We are formed and guided by the Spirit and the Scriptures to be a counter-cultural community that participates fully in one another's lives through giving and receiving, serving and being served, loving and being loved. As God's people, we show the world what life under Jesus' gracious reign looks like and serve as a foretaste of the coming Kingdom.

## **MISSION – HELP PEOPLE LOVE JESUS**

We are the missional community of God, called to reflect the heart of God. As his people, we are empowered by his Spirit and sent into the world to join with God in his mission to renew this world with the Gospel. Because Jesus is worthy, we work to reorient our lives around him. Although God is sovereign and does not need our help, it is our blessing and a lifeline of spiritual health to be on mission with him and to love others as he does.





# WHAT OTHERS HAVE EXPERIENCED

## Helen M

Clay and Kim Bitner are an integral part of Grace Warman. Clay has given so much of himself in the planning and the workings of Grace Warman. The success of this church plant is because of God calling people like Clay and Kim. Ministry is not easy. The willingness to serve that Clay and Kim have shown to us, time and time again is a beautiful thing. This willingness then inspires others to do likewise. They are honest, hospitable, faithful, they lead by example and this is evident by how they run their own household. 1 Timothy 3:1-13. I love this family! Clay and Kim have blessed me beyond measure. I have been blessed by Clay's preaching, teaching, their gift of music and Clay's gift of technology. I believe God has placed a calling on them to plant another church and I am now called to aid in this opportunity, through my obedience to God.

## Julie K

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you my experience with both Clay & Kim Bitner and Jared & Chantel Klassen. Without getting into too much detail, I found God in April 2023 but I was apprehensive about attending a church. On May 21, 2023 I attended my first church service at Grace Warman. In fact, this was the first church service I attended as an adult. I didn't know what to expect. Chantel Klassen was the first non-pastor that came up and introduced herself to me and made conversation with me. She was very warm and inviting. I am quite new to the church overall, but I can say that both Chantel and Jared are always personable when I encounter them, and Jared always delivers great messages as a Pastor.

Since October of 2023 I've been a part of Clay & Kim Bitner's Gospel Community. Kim is such a wonderful warm woman; she so graciously opens up her home to host the community group every week. Clay is so full of knowledge, and he has such a non-judgmental approach which is much appreciated to a new Christian trying to go from knowing nothing about God to obtaining knowledge and relationship with God. The Bitners are people that I look at and hope to grow like. They are role models. Their love of God and their love for people in the church is one of the things I admire about them, it has been such a blessing to be part of their community group. This is one of the reasons it will be so important to me that I am baptized before they leave Warman to plant in Edmonton.

Their departure to Edmonton will be so bittersweet. Both the Klassens & Bitners are such pivotal parts of our church, and their leaving will leave a huge hole. However, God has called them to reach others and plant a church. I know that they will make an impact for many over there. Their spirit and guidance will help other new Christians like they helped me, and that's the main purpose is to spread God's word and help save lost souls.

# OUR CHURCH PLANTING GOALS

**Goals Before Launch: 20+ on launch team, 2-5 baptisms before launch, \$75,000 minimum raised for equipment and launch costs, and 40+ people for launch Sunday.**

## Move to Edmonton

As our families currently live in Saskatchewan, our hope is to move to Edmonton in 2024 to establish a base of operations from which to make connections, build a core team, find means of financially supporting our families, get to know neighbours, and establish a Gospel-presence in the community.



## Informal Neighbouring

Meals with neighbours, shared activities, block parties, community association enrolment, and prayer.

## Vision Casting

Prayer walks, casting the vision of the church plant to local Christians, start prayer Facebook page for Christians in neighbourhood, gather core team, start a Gospel community to learn to live as family and serve the community, and look for a meeting space.



## Core Team Leadership

Weekly prayer/planning meetings, theological/mission-focused training for core team members, and continued serving the neighbourhood with the core team, and media (website, cards, pamphlets, etc.).

## Launch Team Training

Summer block parties for the community, fundraising for our church plant, weekly prayer and planning sessions, continued serving in the community, equipment purchased, baptisms, training coordinator roles of different ministry areas (music, kids, etc.), and ongoing neighbouring and evangelism.



## Soft Launch

Preview services and evaluation of roles.

## Launch Sunday

Invite the whole community and surrounding areas to our launch service by mail out invitations



## Send Out Next Church Plant

Cast vision, raise up leaders, pray, repeat previous steps and send out the next church plant.

## LOVE JESUS

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.*

Matthew 22:37-38 (ESV)



Commune with God through prayerful meditation in the Scriptures



A daily Spirit-dependent, prayer-saturated life



Gathering on Sunday with the Church

## LOVE PEOPLE

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

John 13:34 (ESV)



Praying often for everyone in your group



Take responsibility to reach out to another in your group regularly



Gathering with your Gospel Community for appointed gatherings

## HELP PEOPLE LOVE JESUS

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. **As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.**"*

John 20:21 (ESV)



Praying weekly for those you know who don't yet know Jesus



Initiate and grow your relationships with those who don't yet know Jesus



Sharing the Gospel or inviting someone to a Sunday gathering

## KNOW THE GOSPEL

"We love him because he first loved us"  
1 John 4:19 (ESV)

Find identity in the **Story of God**  
A child of God the Father - who was pursued by the love of the servant King Jesus and granted the Spirit to lead and empower and reveal Jesus

## LIVE THE GOSPEL

"Love one another as I have loved you"  
John 13:34 (ESV)

Love, serve, pray for, and encourage the family we are a part of; and as servants we serve our community (**service project**)

## ADVANCE THE GOSPEL

"Go and make disciples..."  
Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

Keep track of your "5+" on the **Help People Love Jesus** sheet. Having been pursued and loved, we now pursue others in love. Go and Tell. Come and See.  
\*Don't forget the **three minute rule**

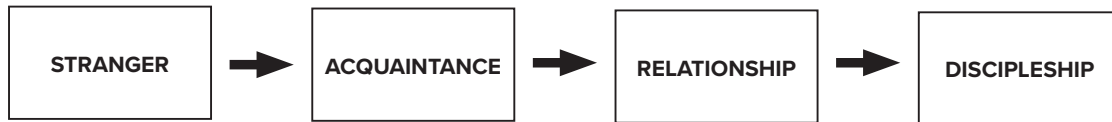
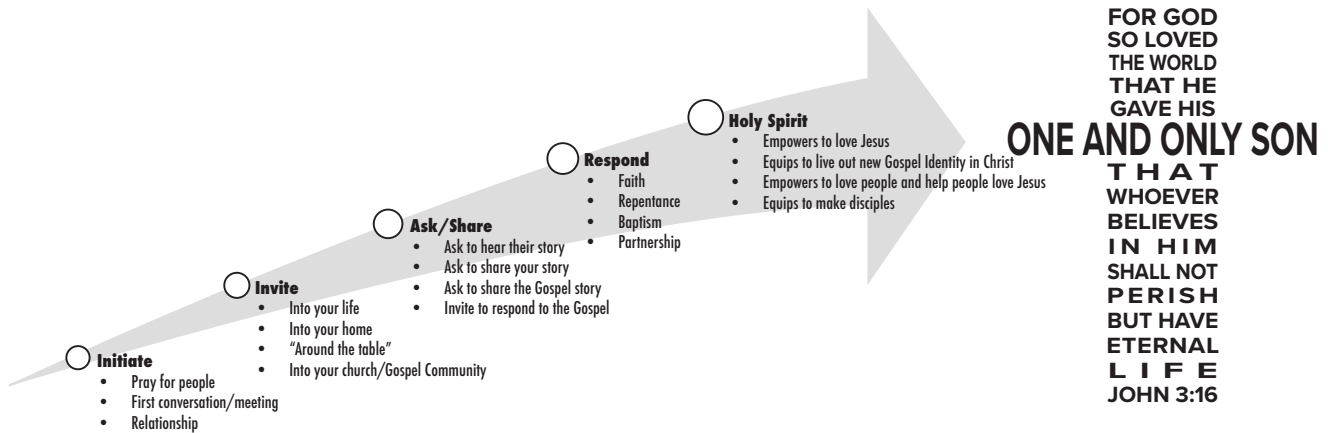


# Help People Love Jesus - Advance the Gospel

**Go therefore and make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe** all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20 ESV)

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have **become all things to all people**, that by all means **I might save some**. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. (1 Corinthians 9:22-23 ESV)

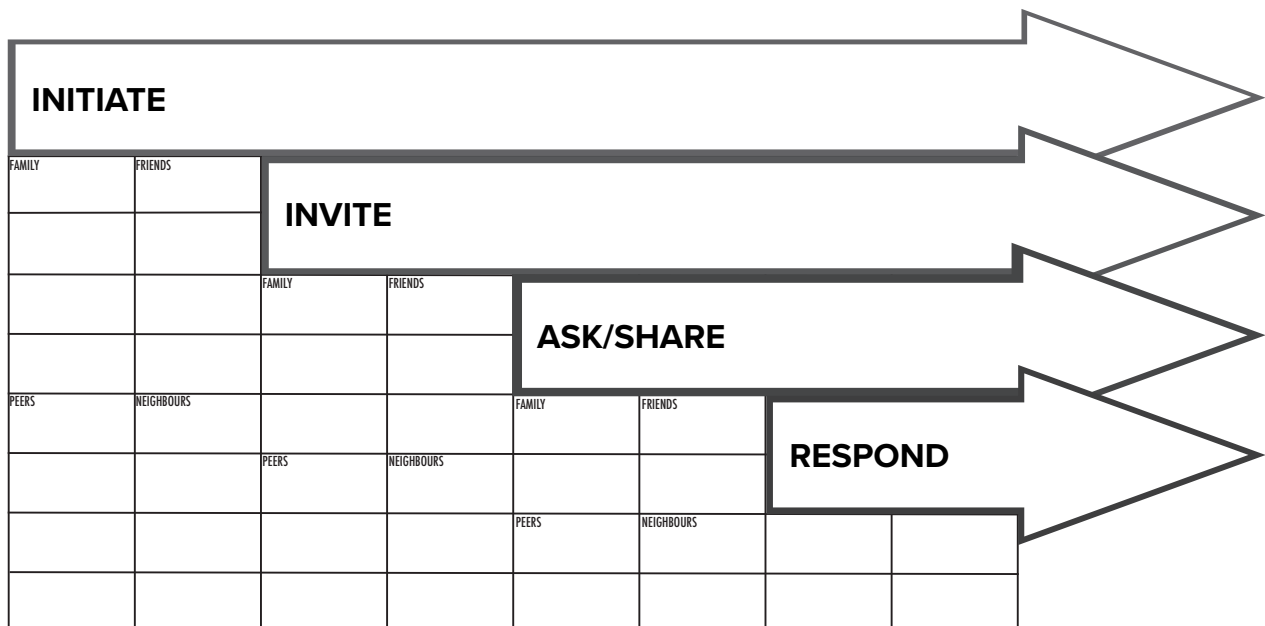
Brothers, my heart's desire and **prayer to God** for them is **that they may be saved**. (Romans 10:1 ESV)



Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As **the Father has sent me**, even so **I am sending you**." (John 20:21 ESV)

And he said to them, "**The harvest is plentiful**, but the laborers are few. Therefore **pray earnestly** to the Lord of the harvest **to send out laborers into his harvest**." (Luke 10:2 ESV)

All this is from God, who through **Christ reconciled us to himself** and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**; that is, **in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself**, not counting their trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation**. Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us. **We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God**. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20 ESV)





# PARTNERSHIP COVENANT

At Grace, we only expect our community to do what the Bible expects every passionately committed follower of Jesus Christ to do. This covenant reflects the things that we believe are normal expectations for Jesus-followers and the things that we ask those who identify themselves with us to agree to be and do.

As a partner of Grace Fellowship, I am committed to love Jesus, love others by living and growing in community, and helping people love Jesus by making disciples with this body under its leadership, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and through the grace found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is my desire to partner with Grace Fellowship that I might live out my Gospel identity in community committed to pursue the following:

## LOVE JESUS

Habitually spend time with God through the reading of scripture and ongoing dependent prayer. Follow the example of Jesus in my personal holiness. Supporting the mission of this church with my finances, my time, and my resources. Be or have been baptized as a believer. Participate in communion with Grace Fellowship.

## LOVE PEOPLE

Actively pursue biblical community within Grace Fellowship by regularly gathering, including being a committed member of a Gospel Community. \*  
Serve the body of Grace Fellowship.  
Pray for the people and mission of Grace Fellowship.  
Be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit.  
Not gossip, but instead use my words to give grace to those who hear them.

## HELP PEOPLE LOVE JESUS

Build discipleship relationships with other Christians.  
Pursue intentional, transparent relationships with non-Christians in my sphere of influence.  
Be involved with the living out and sharing of the gospel both locally and globally with Grace Fellowship.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature(s) of Partner(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Gospel Community Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address:

\* As a church we seek to serve you in your God-given ministry, not constrain you. Our desire is that everyone is connected to a Gospel Community for the sake of prayer support, encouragement, communication etc. This level of connection may greatly vary depending on God's calling in a person's life.







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