

GRACE SEAL BEACH

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 ALL-CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

NOVEMBER 14, 2021





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P A S T O R ' S N O T E

Thank you for your interest in Grace Community Church of Seal Beach!

If you're a fellow member, we want you to feel empowered, informed, and invested in the mission of Christ here at Grace. While we should not claim ownership over the church (that belongs to Jesus), we do have responsibility together for what he has entrusted to us as stewards.

In this report, you'll see how we attempted to live out our five core values in the past year. These each include a mark of discipleship for how we hope to see them play out in each of our lives as well. (For example, for the core value, "Known by Name," there's the mark of discipleship, "Who am I developing authentic relationships with?")

Our ministries attempt to flesh out these values in the way they operate. Many events and initiatives involve more than one core value, so if you don't see it listed on one page, just keep turning!

Our elders spent a significant amount of time reflecting on how we are doing as a church at living out our core values this year, and then tried to represent that in a score of 1-10.

While that's a tough task, we want to show where we see progress (and in one case this year, recession) in our church.

Also in this report you'll find the church's financial budget for the year to come, as well as the text of our newest teaching position.

The teaching position about the image of God has been a year-long project for our elders of study, reflection, preaching, and listening. We see it as an important statement to make now due to the swirling cultural winds of naturalism, racism, and secularism. Please prayerfully review it and feel free to reach out to any of us on the elder board with questions.

Grateful to serve Christ with you here in Seal Beach!

–Pastor Bob

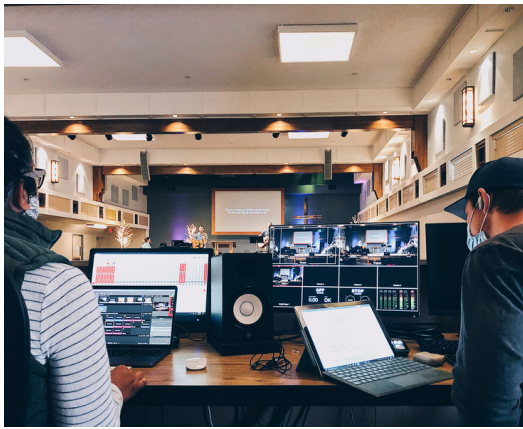
2021 REPORT CARD

An assessment of the church's health in the five core values by the elders of Grace Community Church of Seal Beach.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Participatory Worship	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	8.5	9	8.5
Biblical Worldview	7.5	8	7.5	8	8.5	9	9	9
Faithful Compassion	9	9	9	8.5	9	9	9	9
Known By Name	7	8	8	8	8.5	9	8.5	8.5
Missional Life	8	7	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	8	8.5

GRACE VALUES

2021 YEAR-IN-REVIEW



PARTICIPATORY WORSHIP

HAVE YOU SPENT TIME WITH GOD TODAY?

- Calling of Chris Howard as our new Pastor of Worship
- Continual improvements in the preparation and presentation of online worship services
- Re-opening task force provided wise leadership
- Student Sunday in the worship services
- Grace Boxes helped women and men in our church connect with God at home
- Lent Devotionals
- Family Ministry lunches to help families learn to do devotions together
- Threefold Communion on the lawn
- Home Worship Guides and Sermon Study Questions
- High School/College: Stations of the cross worship night
- Middle School: Joins with the worship band for part of their Tuesday youth group night.

2020 GRADE: 9

2021 GRADE: 8.5

***Elders note: Our primary reason for reducing this from last year is the significant percentage of members who are not returning to public worship services as COVID abates.**

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

ARE YOU GROWING IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD?



- Sermon series in 2021
 - 1 Peter
 - Blessed Are: Lessons in the Beatitudes
 - I Know How You Feel: Psalms of Disorientation
 - Image of God
 - Together: A Study in Ephesians 4
 - Solomon: Longing for a King
- We had four young adults from our church complete a summer internship in various church departments this year
- Grace Kids – Sundays + VBS
- “Camp Wannabe” – Middle + High School
- Colossian Forum – Politics discussion group
- Image of God teaching position

- “Eat this Book Challenge” – Grace Kids
- 4th/5th Grade Bible Lunch Bunch
- “Reading the Bible for Life” group



2020 GRADE: 9

2021 GRADE: 9

FAITHFUL COMPASSION

WHO AM I SHOWING GOD'S LOVE TO?

- Stephen Ministry
- Grace Kids - Sent letters to kids who immigrated and were at the Long Beach Convention Center. Raised funds through VBS for backpacks through LB Rescue Mission for LBUSD students.
- World Relief and Afghanistan
- High School and College Ministries have been involved with "Heart of the City Food Bank."
- Pentecost Threefold Communion – Serving our compassion partners
- Baby shower for a family in connection with Horizon Pregnancy Clinic and women's ministry
- Continue to partner with great organizations including:
 - Precious Lamb Preschool
 - Long Beach Rescue Mission
 - Precious Life Shelter
 - Prison Fellowship
 - Heart of the City Food Bank
 - World Relief
 - Horizon Pregnancy Clinic
 - NEW for 2021 - Habitat for Humanity

- Caring Fund – Helping people inside Grace and in the broader community; we partnered with churches in poorer areas throughout the year.
- Our church continues to be a leader nationally and regionally in the Charis Fellowship.

2020 GRADE: 9

2021 GRADE: 9



KNOWN BY NAME

WHO ARE YOU DEVELOPING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH?



- Five new life groups this fall
- Bearing with one another in love during a time of deep divisiveness in the church
- Church picnic
- Welcome lunches and Grace 101
- Women's Ministry hosted Garden Party; Breakfast on the Lawn



- Moms of Grace relaunched this fall
- 12 new members of Grace in 2021
- Men's Ministry breakfasts

2020 GRADE: 8.5

2021 GRADE: 8.5



MISSIONAL LIFE

WHO AM I HELPING TO KNOW GOD?



- Sent Justin and Heidi Fox out to plant Branches Church, the first time we've planted a church in our history!
- We continue to support 15 missionaries (individuals/families) around the world, including a new addition this year (Evan Beard - Vietnam).
- 13 people were baptized this year
- Outdoor services
- Christmas Eve and Easter at the bluff
- Memorial Day and Veteran's Day services at the bluff in partnership with the Lion's Club

- Involved missionaries through Zoom in worship services and prayer gatherings
- College ministry - partnering with Cru to start an outreach program at Cypress College.
- Middle School hosted "Operation Christmas Child" event.
- Supported Don Shoemaker in his role as a chaplain with the Seal Beach Police Department.
- Eagle Commission (Military Chaplains)
- Women's Ministry prayer walk

2020 GRADE: 8

2021 GRADE: 8.5



NEW TEACHING POSITION ON THE IMAGE OF GOD

FINAL ELDER APPROVED - OCTOBER 16, 2021

Of all creation, humans alone are made in the image of God. Every person is an image bearer (regardless of skin color, ethnicity, gender, age, physical or mental ability, or any other difference) and worthy of immeasurable respect, honor, and love by their very nature as a reflection of God.

As persons created by God in his image, we are made to rely on God while also possessing free will. In using our free will to choose sin we have marred the image of God in us but have not completely destroyed it. The image of God is an essential part of being human. All people still bear God's image, even if our sinful choices make that image dim.

We have the opportunity to reflect the image of God in how we relate to God, our neighbor, and God's created world. As Christians, we are in the process individually and collectively, through the Holy Spirit, of being transformed into the image of Christ, who is himself the perfect image of God.

Because of the doctrine of the image of God:

We treat all people with compassion and respect, understanding them to be image-bearers of God.

We seek to evangelize people in all places since all people are made in God's image.

We expect to learn about God from people who are different from us. The image of God is shown in diverse ways by men and women, in different cultures, and throughout the ages.

We see our sanctification journey as including the process of learning to better put into action the image of God in our lives by following Christ himself, until we see God face to face.

PROJECTED BUDGET

	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Personnel	\$ 846,043.00	\$ 858,753.00
Missions	\$ 108,600.00	\$ 105,000.00
Christian Education		
<i>Grace Kids</i>	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,600.00
<i>Middle School Ministry</i>	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
<i>High School Ministry</i>	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
<i>College/Young Adult Ministry</i>	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
<i>Adult/Life Groups</i>	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,500.00
<i>Men's Ministry</i>	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
<i>Women's Ministry</i>	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
<i>Library/Classrooms</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
<i>Camps and Retreats</i>	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
<i>Grandparents/Seniors Ministry</i>	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total Christian Education	\$ 55,200.00	\$ 56,000.00
Compassion		
<i>Precious Life Shelter</i>	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
<i>Heart of the City Food Bank</i>	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
<i>Prison Fellowship/Angel Tree</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
<i>Precious Lamb Preschool</i>	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
<i>World Relief</i>	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
<i>Long Beach Rescue Mission</i>	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
<i>Horizon Pregnancy Clinic</i>	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
<i>Habitat for Humanity</i>	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
<i>Compassion - Other</i>	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Total Compassion	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Outreach	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 11,500.00
Worship	\$ 11,900.00	\$ 13,550.00
Pastoral Care/Stephen Ministry	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
Leadership Development	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 36,500.00
Charis Fellowship Partnerships	\$ 7,100.00	\$ 7,100.00
Facilities	\$ 61,100.00	\$ 60,300.00
Hospitality	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 8,100.00
Office	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 49,000.00
<i>Staff expenses</i>	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 3,800.00
Stewardship	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 11,000.00
Communications and Advertising	\$ 15,250.00	\$ 17,450.00
Safety and Security Team	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,100.00
132 8th St. LLC	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 17,000.00
Misc	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,274,293.00	\$ 1,293,653.00

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HERE ARE SOME FAQs ABOUT OUR BUDGET PROCESS

HOW WAS THIS BUDGET CREATED?

Last summer, ministry leaders reviewed their previous years expenses and projected costs for the coming year with their supervisor. The senior pastor reviewed all department requests and submitted a first draft budget to the Finance Ministry Team. They reviewed, revised, and submitted a second draft to the Elder Board in September. The elders reviewed and recommended this to the members of the church for final approval.

WHY IS “PERSONNEL” GROUPED TOGETHER?

Out of respect for individual staff members, we don't publish individual salaries. Each staff member's salary is reviewed annually by the Finance Ministry Team and the Elder Board and compared against other comparable positions in churches and the broader culture. We want to provide a competitive salary for our gifted leaders.

WHY DID “MISSIONS” GO DOWN THIS YEAR?

A couple of our missionaries are retiring in 2022. We are in the process of adding new missionaries and increasing the funding of some of our current missionaries.

WE ADDED A NEW COMPASSION PARTNER FOR THE 2022 BUDGET (HABITAT FOR HUMANITY). WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR THAT?

Our Compassion Ministry Team exists to connect Grace members with ways to show God's love in our community. They recognized an opportunity to expand that with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles and recommended a formal partnership to the elder board. There is an application process that they completed and was approved by the elders. We're excited to partner with Habitat going forward!

WHY DID “LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT” INCREASE SO MUCH?

We are grateful that our members, pastors and directors are interested in expanding their knowledge and skill base to serve as compassionate Christian leaders. This year, two of our staff are beginning their D.Min. programs, for which we’re excited to help cover some of the costs.

ARE WE INVESTING ENOUGH IN “FACILITIES”?

We are so grateful for the investments of previous generations in our facilities, whether from those who sacrificed to build the first buildings in 1944 or those who funded the Wave 3 renovations in the past decade. Our current facilities budget is enough to fund the day to day needs of the facilities, but does not include long-term improvements. Those are being paid for through on-going giving to “Renewing Grace” and year-end surplus funds.

WHY IS “STEWARDSHIP” INCREASING? WHAT DOES THAT PAY FOR?

The vast majority of the Stewardship budget is to pay the credit card processing fees for those who give online with their credit card. If you would like the church to receive 100% of your donation, you can give via check, online bill pay, Zelle, or by checking the box to pay the credit card processing costs.

WHY DID THE “SAFETY AND SECURITY” BUDGET GO DOWN?

Many of the Safety and Security budget costs in recent years have been one-time improvements (such as installing safer door latches, exterior cameras in the alley, or keypads on the doors).

ELDER BOARD CANDIDATES



BOB WISSMANN

Bob has been a member of Grace since 2000. Bob serves as a leader in our Stephen Ministry and Men's Ministry. This will be Bob's second consecutive three-year term on the Board, and he has previously served in this role. He and his wife Karen have two adult children—including Matt, also a member of our church.

"I count it a privilege to serve as a lay elder at Grace Community Church. What a blessing this church has been to my family. Please pray for our leaders as we shepherd and care for our church family." - Bob Wissmann



TED GRIFFIN

Ted has been a member of Grace since 1988 and serves on the Finance Ministry Team. He is married to Lori, and they have a daughter, Amy who recently graduated from college. This will be Ted's second consecutive three-year term of service on the elder board.

"This church family has been an extremely important part of my family for over 30 years. Serving on the elder board allows me a way to give back to our wonderful church." - Ted Griffin



TOM STOUT

Tom has been a member of Grace since 1997 and serves with the worship team on the soundboard. He is married to Kristin, and they have two children, Evan and Sydnie. This will be Tom's second consecutive three-year term of service on the elder board.