



Leadership News & Vision
Congregational Meetings - 5/21/2107

Lead Pastor Search Update

In December of last year, the Pastor Search Team selected a candidate and offered him an opportunity to come to Grace to meet the church body. He accepted the opportunity to visit. However, at the last moment, the candidate decided instead to plant a new church in his home state. Since then, the team has been exhaustively searching for a new Lead Pastor from amongst the pool of applicants.

At this time, the team has narrowed the search down to a top candidate. The team is in the process of thoroughly vetting the candidate including a site visit to his church to see him in his current environment. Over the last month, the team conducted video interviews and had the opportunity to meet with him and his family face to face when he visited us in Mills River. The Pastor Search Team will vote on this candidate in the coming weeks, if the vote is in his favor an announcement regarding his visit to preach at Grace, meet the staff, Session and Grace body will be made. During this time there will be opportunities to meet him and his family. After that visit we will hold a Congregational Meeting for members to vote whether to select this candidate as our new Lead Pastor.

Grace will notify the church body of the selected Sunday that this candidate will be here through e-mail, website, bulletin announcements and posters within the church.

We thank you, the Grace body, for your patience, the Pastor Search Team for their diligent efforts and most of all, we thank our Lord for his guiding and purposeful hand in this process.

Brian Land Sabbatical

Our vision for church planting is moving forward! **Brian Land** has done an incredible job preaching over the last year. During the month of July Brian will be taking a much needed sabbatical before moving forward with church planting in Brevard. Brian's last Sunday preaching at Grace Mills River will be Sunday, July 2. We will commission Brian and his team in that service and hold a reception afterwards to thank him for his time at Grace Mills River. This is an exciting step towards our vision of planting more local churches to reach Western North Carolina. Praise God for the realization of this vision moving forward!

Ben Seneker - Church Planting Pastor

You may be wondering who will preach once Brian moves on to Brevard. We are excited to announce that **Ben Seneker** has accepted the position of Church Planting Pastor / Assistant Pastor in the new "Network" that was identified and discussed at our Town Hall Meetings a few month ago, starting June 1. Ben interned with Grace about a year ago

while he was in seminary. Once that internship ended he focused primarily on completing his degree. He graduated from seminary this month and will take his ordination exams. Ben will be preaching at Grace Mills River while Brian is on sabbatical. In the future, Ben will spend time supporting the new Brevard Church Plant and will be groomed to lead our next church plant.

Equipping Administrator

Amanda Cantu-Pace, who had been serving as our Equipping Administrator, has stepped down from that position and has elected to serve the church in other volunteer capacities. **John Shelley**, who attended Grace when younger and participated in the Grace's Youth Group, has replaced Amanda. John will provide collaboration and support to Colin Thornley, Director of Equipping, in the ministry area of Discipleship which includes Grace's Shepherding initiative and Grace classes. We thank Amanda for her many contributions and welcome John back to the folds of Grace Mills River.

Shepherding

The Shepherding initiative designed to improve Grace's contact with and care of our members is in the final stages of set-up. The Shepherding Committee will be making announcements on the launch initiative within the next few weeks.

Leadership News & Vision Updates

To more effectively communicate to our church body, we will be introducing a Leadership News & Vision update that will be highlighted on our website. It will periodically show important messages and major communication updates from Grace's Leadership and Staff. These communication updates will be in the form of short video summaries and will contain links to full videos of such events as Congregational Meetings and Town Hall meetings. In addition, we will upload a written summary of the topics covered in PDF form.

Hopefully, our members and guests can tap into these summaries through their mobile phones and the internet to stay connected with our vision and future direction.