

A Word From Our Interim Pastor The Rev. Dr. Steven M. Marsh

Friends, thank you for making the Step 4 Town Hall Meeting a successful experience. The Potato Bar was amazing, the fellowship sweet, and the result of the process significant.

The Step 4 question is: **In what ways would you suggest strengthening Grace's relationships with the local community and the Presbytery of Southern Kansas?**

Do pick up a copy of the Step 4 Results at the Kiosk on Sunday mornings. Or check it out on our website, www.mygpc.org.

Here's a brief update on our *Journey to the New Pastor*.

- Step 5 in *Our Interim Pastor Journey* is Sunday, October 6.
- *The Strategic Plan* (Mission Study) is presented to the Session for approval at the Stated Session Meeting, Monday, November 18.
- November 2024-January 2025 the Nominating Committee identifies Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) members.
- The PNC slate is elected at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 23, 2025. *The Strategic Plan* is also presented.
- The PNC begins its work in March.

Friends, nothing in your life is an accident. God has purpose for each of you. Read the benediction below (benediction, in Latin literally means, "good word") written by the late Richard Halverson, Minister of Word and Sacrament (PCUSA), and Chaplain to the United States Senate (1981- 1994). You'll be encouraged.

You go nowhere by accident.

Wherever you go, God is sending you.

He has a purpose in your being there.

Christ who indwells you has something he wants to do through you wherever you are.

Believe this.

And go in his grace and love and power.

Amen.

Remember, nothing in your life is an accident. Nothing in Grace's life is an accident. Everything is purposed by God!

On the journey of Christian discipleship and spiritual formation with you, I remain faithfully yours,

Steve

The Rev. Dr. Steven M. Marsh
Interim Pastor

Step Four in Our Interim Pastor Journey
Town Hall Meeting and Luncheon
Sunday, September 15, 2024

The question for reflection, discussion, and discernment is: **In what ways would you suggest strengthening Grace’s relationships with the local community and the Presbytery of Southern Kansas?**

***Moving Forward Together: “Not Equal Giving and Serving,
But Equal Sacrifice.”***

Think about Grace’s Church profile for the Ministry Discernment Form for the Pastor Nominating Committee.
 Rank the importance of the ministries below from most to least significant for the church profile. 1 is the highest
 and 5 is the lowest. (N= 56)

Caring	Connecting	Learning	Serving	Worshipping
4	1	5	2	3
4	3	5	2	1
3	2	5	1	4
2	5	4	2	1
4	5	2	4	1
4	5	3	1	2
4	1	5	3	2
1	5	4	2	3
1	3	4	5	2
3	1	5	2	4
3	2	4	5	1
2	1	4	3	5
5	5	5	2	1
4	1	5	2	3
3	5	2	4	1
3	2	5	4	1
4	2	5	3	1
1	3	5	4	2
2	4	5	3	1
1	4	5	2	3
2	5	4	3	1
2	4	3	5	1
1	2	3	4	3
5	1	3	4	2
1	3	4	2	5
3	4	5	2	1
3	2	4	5	1
4	1	3	2	5
2	3	5	4	1

2	3	5	4	1
4	1	3	2	5
3	4	5	1	2
2	5	4	3	1
4	5	3	2	1
4	2	5	1	3
3	2	5	4	1
2	4	3	5	1
3	5	2	4	1
3	4	5	2	1
4	3	5	2	1
4	2	5	3	1
4	1	3	5	2
3	2	4	3	1
2	4	5	3	1
3	5	4	2	1
4	2	5	3	1
2	4	3	5	1
4	1	5	3	2
3	4	5	1	2
3	1	4	5	2
4	2	5	3	1
2	4	3	5	1
4	1	5	3	2
3	4	5	1	2
3	1	4	5	2
4	2	5	3	1
2	4	3	5	1
4	1	5	3	2
3	4	5	1	2
3	1	4	5	2
4	2	5	3	1
4	1	5	2	3
2.91	2.96	4.25	3.00	1.85
Caring	Connecting	Learning	Serving	Worshipping

Select one or more areas which you believe are important to reach our community and presbytery with the good news of Jesus in word and deed.

Rankings	speaker series	PTSD seminars	Justice Together	Bkpk drive	Watermark events	Bless animals	Host outside groups	Good Neighbor projects	yellow bags	Hygiene kits	bus tickets	canned food drives	alt gift market	Cuba outreach
Number of respondents who ranked the topic #1	5	2	16	3	0	0	2	15	0	3	7	1	1	0
#2	2	1	6	3	4	1	3	9	13	0	7	2	3	0
#3	0	3	6	6	1	2	4	8	4	6	9	8	0	1
#4	1	0	3	1	5	1	5	4	1	2	10	5	2	2
#5+	8	6	9	10	12	7	12	6	10	10	7	8	7	7
No ranking given, only a check mark	3	1	6	3	4	2	8	10	6	3	5	5	2	2
Total responses for each category	19	13	46	26	26	13	34	52	34	24	45	29	15	12

Additional Outreach categories / activities not listed above:

- Robinson/Hyde/tutoring. IIIII.
- JLL
- Young Life/Wyldlife. IIIII.IIIII.III
- Youth outreach. II
- Youth ministry. III
- Youth Council(s)
- Young adult mentorship
- Adult mission trips. II
- Mission trip
- IRC. IIIII.
- Shut-in assistance
- Adult camp outings
- Meals on Wheels
- Support Seniors / senior center
- Exercise classes / Pickleball
- Urban Streets/City Events
- Families in Need / Circles
- Host Family Promise. III
- Food Bank / Lord's Diner – Group volunteering. II
- Mountain of food. II
- Food packing events. II
- Economy Corner > support another outlet
- Operation Outreach
- Mental health outreach
- Grief Support
- Trash pick-up
- Neighborhood food trucks. II
- Messy Church
- Bible Study. II
- Blood drive
- IRS volunteering
- Children Choir
- Craft Fair
- Angel tree. I
- Send b-day and anniversary cards to members
- Intergenerational activities
- Election / voting
- Volunteering at aid station for races
- More outreach about being Presbyterian

List one way we could strengthen/improve our endeavors in service/outreach:

- Work with other churches. IIIII. II
- VBS collaboration is great. III
- “Walk across the room” or similar ministry training for outreach
- Communicate upcoming activities with public; PR team. II
- Improved communication. Use bulletin boards. Multi-modal. IIIII
- Give more info about opportunities that are available, not every knows the background of each ministry. II
- Make it easy for people to volunteer
- Multi-generational events
- Create relationships with middle school youth
- Ask for people to help. Call don’t wait for volunteers to raise their hands. II.
- Target asking for assistance based on needs and skills
- Help people find their “place”. Help people find a ministry opportunity that fits.
- Explain needs when asking for help
- Minute for mission every Sunday highlighting opportunities
- Focus on project that Grace is known for in the community
- Volunteer as a Group (ex. Love Wichita)
- Those currently involved invite others to join them
- Be identifiable as Grace members in the community (shirts). II
- Have non-profits give talks about their services.
- Outreach to inner city; Wichita-based ministry
- Bible study at Robinson/Hyde/ East.
- Leverage new relationship with Sudanese church
- Be welcoming
- Job fair
- Invite people from the neighborhood. II
 - Watermelon feed
- Avoid spreading ourselves too thin

How important is it to you and for Grace to be involved in service/outreach to the community and in the Presbytery?

Community	Presbytery	Comm/ Presby
7	5	
		10
10	6	
8	5	
		10
6	8	
8	6	
		10
10	7	
10	8	
		8
		6
8		
		10
10		
7	5	
10	5	
		10
		8

8	3	10
10	8	
10	5	
8	3	
		10
		8
		10
		8
		8
10	7	
		10
		10
10	1	
10	8	
10	7	
		10
		10
8	4	
		10
		10
		10
		10

		10
		10
		10
10	6	
10	7	
		8
7		
8	6	
8	5	
6		
9		
9		
		10
8	3	
		10
		10
		5
		3
8.7 In the community	5.6 with Presbytery	9.1 No distinction made

