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Fall 2022

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All Aboard!

If you've ever ridden a passenger train, then you know that the conductor's call of "all aboard!" cannot fail to generate excitement, for the energy and strength of the train can be felt from all directions as you begin your journey.

As you read this issue of GPS, you may feel the energy that comes from the changes and opportunities that are before us as a parish. We have been working hard over the last 12-16 months to answer the challenges that arose during the pandemic. Our revised constitution and by-laws are only part of what we need to be effective and faithful in this somewhat familiar, somewhat strange world in which we live. It's very much as if we got on a train at dusk, traveled through the night and arrived in a new land at morning!

There is much to be discovered and experienced as we move into the future with God, but as we begin to put our new Grace Advisory Board and our new Teams (Discipleship, Servant and Resource) into motion, there are four words that I think will help us as our journey starts:

Call: It cannot be emphasized enough: you have been called to life at Grace. Jesus has invited you, even summoned you as a part of his work, just as he did Peter and Andrew (Mark 1:17), Philip (John 1:43), Lazarus (John 11:43) and even the 72 (Luke 10). We are not doing Jesus a favor, we are not volunteers, we are not members by right or privilege—no, we have been invited by the king of creation to be a part of his kingdom. If you are at Grace, Jesus has a reason for you being there, and our new structure's goal is to help you discover, prepare, and participate in the Lord's purpose for you.

Discover: The first disciples were regularly confronted with discoveries, both about themselves and about the Teacher they were following. Being called by Jesus means unearthing the gifts God has given us to his glory, being shown the depths of our need for God and our inability to stand on our own, and celebrating the joy of life with the Lord Jesus and his people. Discovery involves every part of life: what should you be doing? Where is your life going? What do you need to take up, or let go? What excites or invigorates you?

Answers to these questions and others like them help us learn the reason WHY Jesus has called us.

Prepare: Jesus regularly prepared his disciples, teaching them what they needed to know and how to do the things they would need to do. We see examples of this in Matthew 9-10, Luke 9-10, and John 16. We even see it post-Resurrection, in the ending of Luke 24 and in Acts 1. After the Ascension, the disciples pass on this knowledge and skill, teaching others who answer the call of Jesus to become a part of the Way. Discipleship is about preparation or practice! What are your spiritual practices, especially in prayer and studying the Word, or in cultivating a generous and humble sense of self? Our Core4 (Pray Daily, Study Diligently, Confess Freely, Give Generously) are essential practices that help you be prepared as a follower of Jesus. Who knows when you will have the opportunity or the need to share with someone the blessings of the Kingdom? The way we prepare is the way we perform.

Participate: The Christian life is meant to be lived in community with others. Jesus never sent a disciple alone, but they always went in pairs or small groups (part of the tragedy of the Arrest and Crucifixion is that Jesus is alone as he faces death). Read again the Bible passages cited above: every one of them happens in a relational setting. After the Resurrection, the leaders of what is now the Church continue this practice, and Paul regularly mentions the companions with whom he is traveling and ministering. To put it bluntly: we need the Church, we need one another! At the heart of our life is the Sacrament of the Altar, where we meet the Lord Jesus Christ, who gives himself to us. Participate in both in our shared worship/rejoicing and in our small groups—you will be blessed!

The call has come to you: All Aboard!

~Pr. Brooks

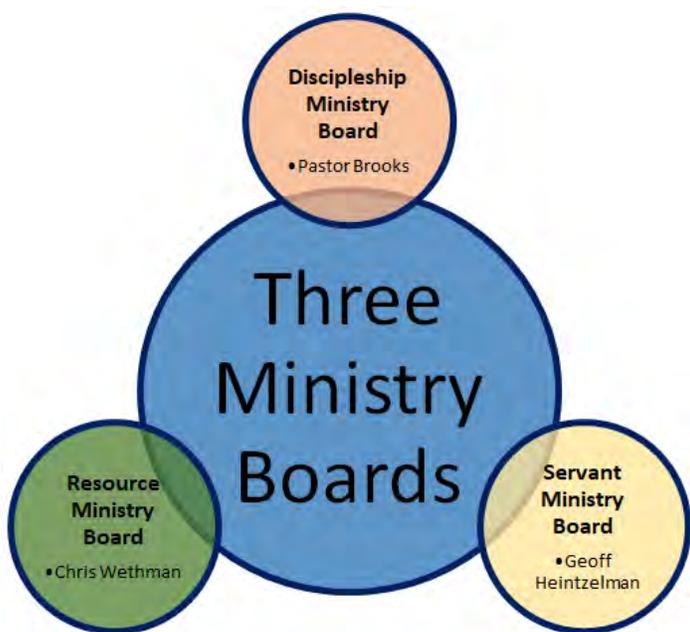
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and August/September



ALL a-BOARD

By Chris Wethman

With the imminent approval of our new governance documents, the old has gone, the new is here! The process of transitioning to the new structure is in the works. The boards set forth in our old governance documents will no longer meet. The new teams are more than just a concept on paper – they are starting to take shape. What does this mean?



Here's how this works:

Q: Who are the leaders of these boards?

A: For the time being, the leaders of each group are listed above.

Q: What is the structure of all three boards?

A: All three boards are self-organizing which means:

- Board members are not elected. Grace members are encouraged and invited to serve on one of the boards.
- After an initial organizational meeting, board members determine when to meet and how often.
- Board goals are determined from within each board and coincide with our Mission Statement.

-Additionally, the Grace Advisory Board (equivalent in most aspects to the Parish Ministry

Council) might recommend a specific goal to one of the boards.

- The leader of the board is selected by members of the board. The leader chosen attends the Grace Advisory Board meetings.

Q: How long must I serve on a Board?

A: To minimize turnover in this formative stage, we are asking for a 1-year commitment serve on one of the boards. After a year, you will have the opportunity to remain on the board or not.

Q: How do I determine where I should serve?

A: Board functions are listed below. They are grouped in conjunction with types of spiritual gifts.

Q: Why should I serve on one of these boards?

A: Leadership. The word 'leadership' is about an act of guidance and providing direction to others. Church leadership isn't any different; but along with providing guidance, it's also about how the leader behaves, communicates, and manages. **Church leadership** is about serving others in accordance with Christ's interests so that they can see and accomplish God's purpose for them in the world.

LOOK FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT		
If this is your spiritual gift:	Then you would be a 'natural' for this Board:	
Teaching Wisdom Knowledge Evangelism	Discipleship Board <i>Initial Leader: Pastor Brooks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Teaching how to walk the Way of Grace (Discover the Call class) * Training in key habits of discipleship * Facilitating movement from visitor to committed discipleship * Caring and supporting PALS Groups
Helps Hospitality Faith Giving	Servant Board <i>Initial Leader: Geoff Heintzelman</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Supporting church small groups by providing learning resources * Assist in formation of PALS groups that fulfill mission and vision * Caring, coaching, supporting PALS leaders
Administration Leadership Encouragement/ Counseling Pastoring/ Shepherding	Resource Board <i>Initial Leader: Chris Wethman</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Stewardship of church assets: Financial, physical and related gifts * Financial responsibilities of the Congregation * Caring for the physical plant, facilities * Coordinating office staff, activities

Want to learn more? Contact one of the board leaders. They will be happy to answer any questions about God-given gifts and how you can use them to positively impact the Kingdom of God.

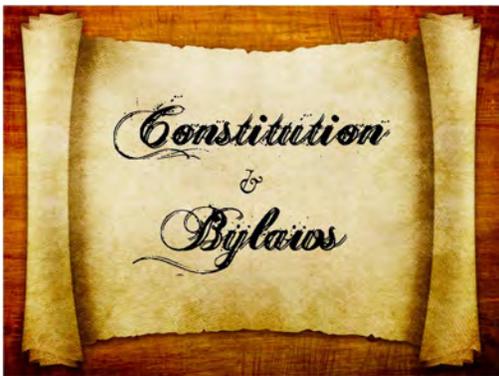


Frequently Asked Questions About the New Constitution & Bylaws

By Geoff Heintzelman

The congregation overwhelmingly approved a new organizational structure for Grace in July, which is an exciting time of change and renewal for our congregation. However, with all of these changes, there are bound to be a few questions. I've attempted to answer some of the common questions here, but if you have other questions or concerns, please let the church office know and we'll continue this series.

1. Why are proxies now required to be submitted 72 hours before a voters meeting? Voters meetings are critically important to our congregation for communication, cooperation, and collaboration. This is particularly true with our new organization which emphasizes the participation of all members of our faith community.



Thus, members should plan to attend these meetings if at all possible, but if they can't make it because of illness, travel, or some other extenuating

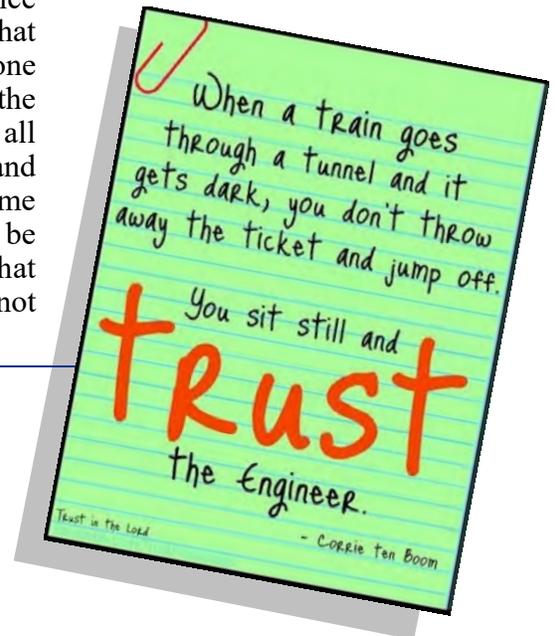
circumstance, they can submit a proxy beforehand.

2. Why do members need to renew their spiritual commitment each year? We are all members of Grace so that we can grow in our faith. In order for us to fulfill God's mission for us in Durham, all members need to be growing in their faith individually and working toward our common mission. We envision having all members sign a pledge card each year in which they will commit to growing in their faith and participating in our community.

3. How can I start a neighborhood? Perhaps there is not a neighborhood (small group) that fits your call from the Lord, or perhaps you see a need for a neighborhood that is not currently part of the Grace community. All you need to do is mention your idea to the Servant Board. They will work with you to figure out the details and find others who are interested in starting it with you. We hope to have the Servant Board and the rest of the structure operating within a few months.

4. Why would someone want to serve on the Resource, Discipleship, or Servant Boards? The Resource Board is responsible for the stewardship of our building and finances, the Discipleship Board will help individuals grow in their faith, and the Servant Board will care for and assist our neighborhoods. If you feel called or have talents in any of these areas, they you can serve Grace by being on one of these boards. Each board will self-determine how they are organized, how they will communicate, and when to meet. One member of each board will serve on the Grace Advisory Council.

5. Why is there a vice president instead of a president elect? Under our current system, we only have a president elect half of the time. In addition, we feel that making a 3-year commitment to serve as president elect and then president is a big commitment. Thus, we now have a vice president so that there is someone to assist the president at all times and because some people may be called to that position, but not to be president.



Upcoming Dates for Grace4Kids:
September 17
October 15
November 19
December 17



A HISTORY OF GOVERNANCE

By Chris Wethman

ORGANIZATION 2001 COMMITTEE

Behind the scenes, for the past several years, Judy Barnes has been quietly working in the Archives Room. When Tuesday rolls around, you will most likely find Judy tucked away in the Archives Room reviewing old church records and scanning them so to digitally preserve the history of Grace. Copies of voters' meeting minutes, council minutes, budgets and the like have already been scanned.

A few weeks ago, Judy found a report entitled: Preliminary Report of the Organization 2001 Committee. The report, addressed to the Council, is dated December 13, 1983. Committee members listed are: Ron Mitchell, Sharon Kay, Jack Keefer, Paul Norby, Marlys Mitchell, and Debbie Schwengel.

The Organization 2001 Committee's Task was to "Examine and recommend modifications to the Administrative structure that ties together tasks, functions, decision processes, and roles to be performed in support of the Parish Mission." There were concerns about fragmentation, unclear tasks and title definitions, lack of Congregation involvement in voters' meetings, council meetings routine report reading, lack of distinction between administrative structure and programmatic structure. Inconsistent delegation of responsibilities. And committees spending too much time getting organized.

The author of the Book of Ecclesiastes in Chapter 1, verse 9, wrote that there is nothing new under the sun. That reason alone led me to search through these newly-discovered documents to see if there were any similarities between 1983 and the structure currently being worked on.

In the preliminary report the Organization 2001 Committee made the following assumptions:

1. Durham area will experience approximately 3% compound growth through 2001, with in-migration

from the West Coast, Northeast and Midwestern parts of the country.

2. Grace will grow at 3% also from current 225 members to 383 by 2001
3. Area and church will experience reduction in average age
4. Congregation can support 2nd Pastor or Professional Administrator within 5+ years
5. Grace will increase community involvement in social ministry areas of elderly, low income, health
6. Grace will continue to increase emphasis on educational functions (Christian Education, Day School)
7. Continued ministry to college students
8. Grace will experience more member involvement and participation as stewardship emphasis increases
9. New sanctuary will be very necessary within 5 years
10. Financial resources will be available to meet building and program needs

The Organization 2001 Committee recommended a council composed of:

- President
- Vice President-President Elect
- Secretary
- Director of Board of Administration included:
 - ◇ Finance Committee (Treasurer and Financial Secretary)
 - ◇ Secretary (Paid Position)
 - ◇ Church Properties Committee (includes Trustees)

Governance - Continued next page

Governance - Continued from Page 5

- ◇ Building Planning Committee
- ◇ Communication Committee (includes bulletin boards, News Releases, Public Relations, etc.)
- ◇ Circuit Lay Representatives(s)
 - Director of Board of Lay Ministry and Worship
 - Director of Christian Education
 - Director of Board of Parish Fellowship
 - Director of Board of Evangelism

In March of 1984 the final report of the Organization 2001 Committee was presented to the Church Council. There was only one change that set apart the structure of this report vs. the structure previously reported. The **Secretary** position had changed to **Congregational Secretary**.

More importantly, the function of the council was determined to review parish performance is

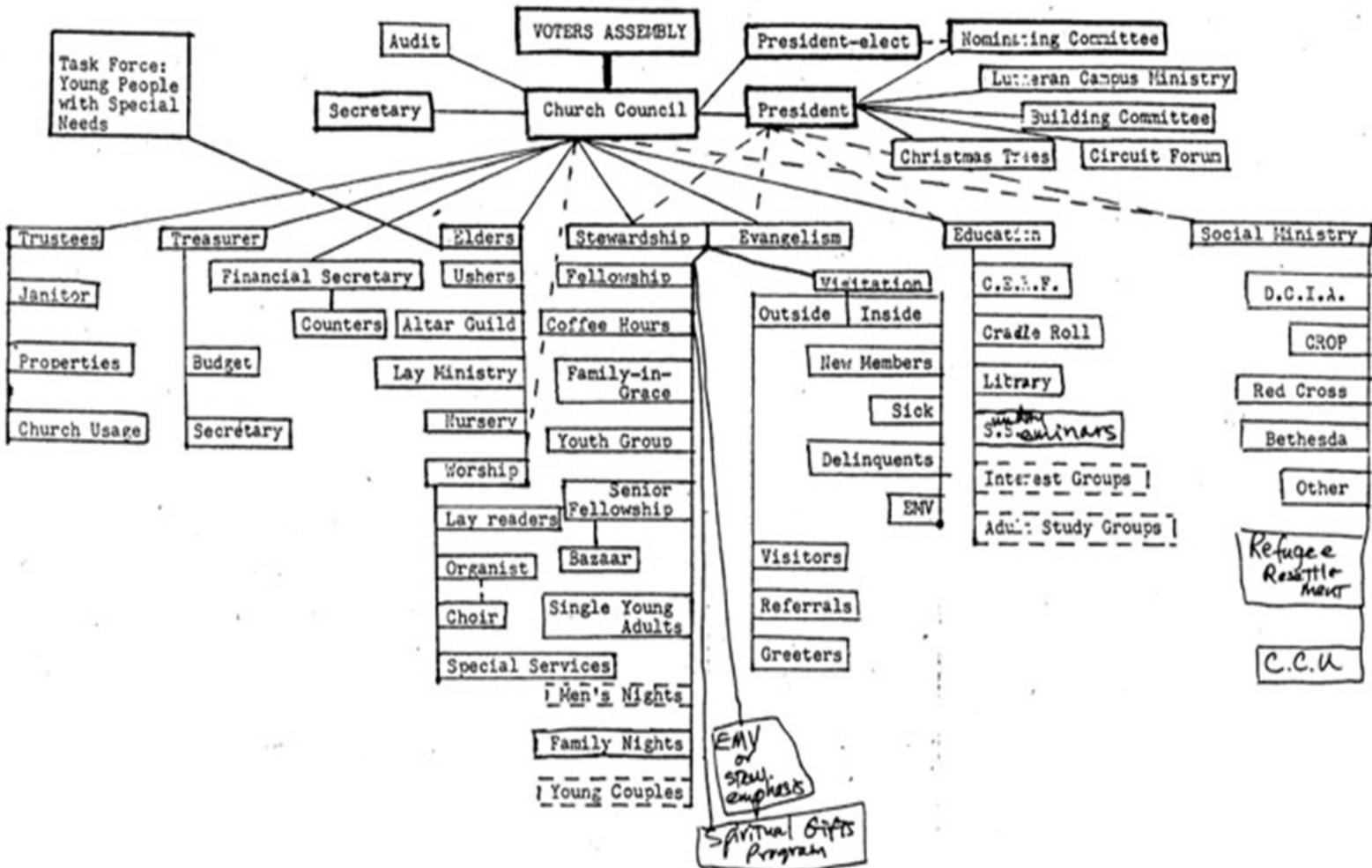
accomplished by dedicated planning and review at each meeting and holding special meetings for this purpose as appropriate.

There was an organizational chart attached to this report that looked like the one below. Note how simplified our new structure will be compared to the one the Organization 2001 Committee proposed!

But hold that thought...

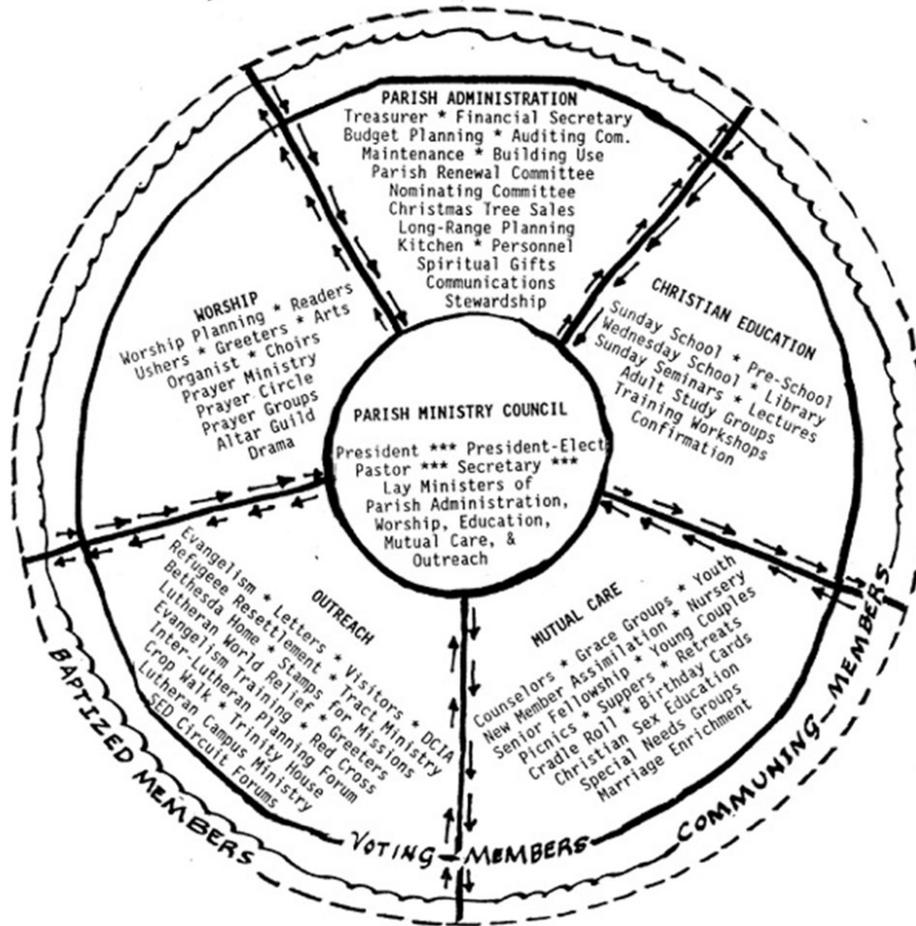
We then found another proposed structure that was circular (see next page). Unfortunately, this did not have a date on it either. Take note of the fact that this diagram is very similar to our new structure.

There is a Planning Council and five boards. Our new structure is a Planning Council and three boards. The Parish Planning Council model of governance, also known as the Abdon model, is the best fit for congregations between 100 and 500 in weekly worship attendance.





GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



a Mission Statement and that means organizing in such a way as to fulfill that statement.

Finally, over 40 years ago an unsigned document found in the archives talked about The Nature of Structures. As you read through them, keep in mind the new proposed structure. Does it pass the test?

1. The structure will be flexible rather than static to be relevant and dynamic for the effective mission and ministry of this Congregation.
2. The structure and form of this Congregation will grow out of its mission and ministry.
3. The effective structure will serve to equip this Congregation for its servant role.
4. The structure will grow out of the Spirit's guidance and the concern of the members of this Congregation that their mission and ministry will be fulfilled in this place.
5. The structure must constantly be reviewed to assure that they are fulfilling their purpose in regards to the nature and function of this Congregation.

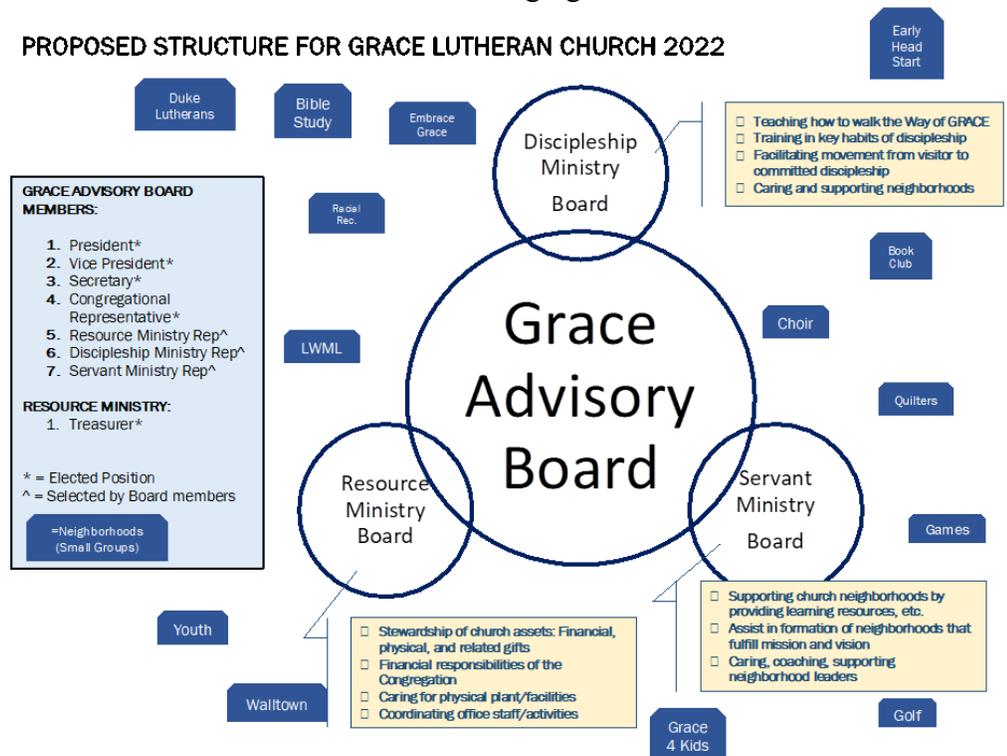
Why the difference?

Numbers. The Congregation was much larger then. There were individuals available to serve in these areas. Even if only 1 person served on each of the committees in the chart, that would amount to more than 50 individuals at the onset.

Decision-making. Fewer layers of leadership create an agile organization. It cuts down on the time it takes to decide since there is no need to navigate through several meetings, discussions, votes, etc. Delaying a decision could result in losing impetus for a new ministry that would bless the community around us.

Mission Statement. World events, the current culture and attitudes and norms have changed significantly over the past 39 years. We've adopted

PROPOSED STRUCTURE FOR GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 2022





WALLTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES

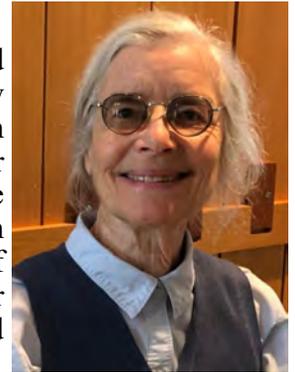
By Marie Hammond

It has been said that people pick new activities based on their interests and abilities, but they stay involved because of the other people they meet. This has been true of my volunteer work with Walltown Ministries. Ever since my first phone contact with the director Sylvia, I have been impressed by her commitment, energy, and cordiality. Along with Sylvia and the diverse group of volunteers (my old and new friends from Blacknall Presbyterian, St. John's Baptist, and Beth El Synagogue) I have helped pack and distribute food bags for the monthly Food Pantry. We work hard in service to our neighbors while enjoying each other's company.

Sylvia also put me in touch with the youth coordinators at Walltown Ministries. As a former math teacher and tutor, I was hoping to assist one (or more) students who have fallen behind as a result of Covid interruptions. So

far I have been working with a friendly young man twice a week during the school year and occasionally over the summer. Through this project I have made the acquaintance of Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, author of several books and assistant pastor at St. John's, who I hope will be speaking at a couple of our Racial Reconciliation meetings at Grace.

These activities have provided opportunities for me to Grow with Jesus, Rejoice in God, Answer with hope, Care for the neighbor, and Embrace community (as our Mission Statement says), in hopes of contributing a little to keeping our neighborhood and city strong and healthy.



THE SYMBOLICAL BOOKS *An Explanation by Pastor Brooks*

Several persons during the updating and revising our constitution and by-laws, asked for explanation of what were called the "Symbolical Books," which included the Apostle's, Nicene and Athanasian Creed; the Unaltered Augsburg Confession of 1530; the Apology of the Augsburg Confession; the Smalcald Articles; Luther's Large and Small Catechism; and the Formula of Concord.

The reason for referencing these documents has a long and interesting history, but the core purpose is to remind us as Lutherans about the truth of Jesus Christ and our life with him. A "symbol" serves as a shorthand way of summarizing a larger or longer idea, piece of writing or reality. The Lutheran Symbols are meant to summarize and point back to the larger truth about God and Jesus contained in and witnessed to by the Holy Scriptures. Luther and the Reformers regularly defended the three Creeds as "trustworthy" summaries of the story of Jesus as told in the Bible. The Reformation itself, with its back and forth fighting over the faith handed down from the apostles, created the need for summaries of the Lutheran position, and so the Augsburg Confession and its Apology (Defense), Luther's Catechisms, the Smalcald Articles and the

Formula of Concord were developed over two or three decades as a way of summarizing the Lutheran way of presenting the faith.

In the United States, with its often-bewildering variety of theological and spiritual notions and systems, Lutherans struggled again with the question "what is a faithful way to speak about Jesus Christ?" As our Synod came into existence, the Lutheran Symbols remained an important way to give both structure to ourselves, and witness to others about the core of the faith: we are justified by grace apart from works of the Law.

So, as a part of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we include the Symbolical Books in our Constitution as a reminder to us all that we do not gather for our own purposes but are gathered as witnesses to the truth of Jesus Christ. The Symbolical Books keep us accountable and provide us a way to speak to our neighbors about the Good News.

If you want to learn more, there are wonderful study materials on the LCMS (lcms.org) and CPH (cph.org) websites. Search "Book of Concord" to find more.

Duke Lutherans are Back this Fall!



This is an exciting time for everyone as we begin a new academic year and welcome students old and new to campus. We are grateful to you, our brothers and sisters, for your support as we help both our graduate students and undergraduates grow as disciples of

Jesus as they grow as scholars.

I want to highlight for you two ways that you can directly support Duke Lutherans:

† The first way is through your presence. On Sundays, we host Evening Prayer & Dinner at 5:30 p.m. You can find us in the York Room of the Divinity School. Please consider volunteering to serve a Sunday night meal and joining us for prayer; it is always a treat for the students to be with you! Sign-up here for available dates this fall semester: <https://bit.ly/dukedinner>. If you're unable to make dinner, but would still like to help, we also welcome funding for a meal. Just reach out to Pastor Amanda!

† A second way to support our shared ministry is by giving a dedicated offering. Duke Lutherans is largely supported by grass-roots gifts, rather than national or institutional budgets. If you'd like to support our ministry financially, you can give online at <https://www.gifts.duke.edu/> to make a secure donation through Duke (FYI: If you're an alum, your gift to Duke Lutherans also counts toward your Duke giving). You can also make a gift via mail; make your check payable to Duke Lutherans (with Duke Lutherans Fall Campaign in the memo line) and mail it to: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 W. Cornwallis Rd, Durham, NC, 27705.

You can keep up with what's happening on campus by subscribing to our Enews (email Pastor Amanda: amanda.highben@duke.edu) or by following us on Instagram and/or Facebook.

Thank you so much for all you do to make Lutheran Campus Ministry at Duke possible. We look forward to

seeing you soon!

In fact, we have three video reflections to share with you now! The first is from a pastor and Duke alum that Grace knows well (hint, hint) and the second is from a new alum who will be a pastor in the near future.

You can find the videos here:

<https://vimeo.com/dukelutherans/pastorbrooks>

<https://vimeo.com/dukelutherans/katieelkin>

<https://vimeo.com/747028740>

Grace and Peace, Pastor Amanda



Why Small Groups?

You might wonder why we've been promoting small group ministry lately. First of all, call them life groups, growth groups, home groups, cell groups or PALS (Prayer, Activity, Learning, Service) Groups, they still amount to small groups. Small groups exist as a way for people to engage in biblical community that helps them become more like Jesus in every area of their lives.

SCRIPTURAL BASIS FOR SMALL GROUPS

- God Himself is a community of three persons in one - the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- When Jesus' ministry began, He called 12 disciples to be his primary relational and ministry community.

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

- The Book of Acts gives us a great picture of the early church and the components of biblical community.
- God never intended for us to live the Christian life alone.

CHARACTER CHANGE HAPPENS BEST IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY

- We need to help each other to help us know the truth about who we are, who God is., and how we can live in the light of those truths.
- Like iron sharpening iron the relationships we form within our small communities can become a tool for God to use in a character transformation.

SMALL GROUPS ARE A MISSION BEYOND THEMSELVES

- Jesus did not say people will know we are Christians by how many churches we build, how many Bible studies we complete, how many prayers we say, or how many people come to our church.

Small groups are a way of living out our purpose, both as individuals and as a collective group of believers -- to be the church. We share a common foundation of faith and God has called us to live out the implications of that faith in a relational community, in the context that we call a small group.

The Truth, the Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth About.. SMALL GROUPS

Pastor frequently talks about "neighborhoods" as the primary place where growth as a disciple happens. A neighborhood is just a small group--a gathering of people who have something in common, whether it's a physical address, a shared hobby, a passion for a cause or some other similar interest.

Jesus made use of small groups as a key part of his ministry. He invited men (and women) into relationships all the time. The original twelve disciples were a prototype small group, and they shared life as they followed the Lord

As we move forward with our new structure, small groups will be a key part of our life as a congregation. Starting this fall, we will be referring to our small groups as PALS groups, where PALS stands for *Prayer, Activity, Learning and Service*. These four items catch every type of group:

- † A Bible Study brings people together for *learning*, so the members of the Bible Study should look for ways in which they can pray together, share an activity or fun event together, and serve others together.
- † A Ministry group (such as Altar Guild) brings people together for shared *service*, so the members of the Ministry group should look for ways in which they can pray together, share an activity, and learn something about discipleship.
- † An Affinity group (examples are grief groups, golfers, new mothers, or similar) share an *activity or affinity*, and so the members of the group should look for ways in which they can pray together, learn together and serve others together.

If you are interested in starting a PALS group, let Pastor Brooks or Geoff Heinzlemann know; one of them will help you with the process as you organize your PALS!

~ Geoff Heintzelman



The Servant Board: An Integral Part of Our New Structure

In Grace’s new structure, small groups, which we are calling PALS groups, will be the lifeblood of our congregation. Small groups are where outreach, fellowship, and community will be found, and they are essential for us to carry out the mission and vision that God has given us. As a reminder, PALS stands for Prayer, Activity, Learning, and Service. In our PALS groups, we will grow as disciples, engage in ministry, enjoy Christian friendships, and serve our neighbors.

Behind the small groups is the Servant Board, which will provide critical support to the PALS groups. As stated in the new bylaws, the servant board shall do the following:

1. Support the PALS groups of the church by providing any needed resources for learning, service, or mutual care;
2. Assist in the formation of new PALS groups that fulfill the mission and vision of the congregation, especially by identifying, teaching, and mentoring persons who are interested in leading a small group;
3. Care for PALS leaders by coaching and supporting leaders in their group tasks, including encouraging

growth in the areas of prayer, ministry tasks/goals, mutual care, and study of the Word; and

4. providing ongoing training in key leadership topics and competencies.

Not surprisingly, other tasks are involved as we get started with this new structure. We will first need to identify all existing small groups and check-in with their coordinators to see how the groups are doing, assess their goals, and ensure that they are sustainable and help them to understand their role in the mission of the church. In addition, we will need to help start new small groups to assume the critical roles provided by ministry teams in our old structure, such as mutual care and outreach.

I have volunteered to be a part of this team and I’m already thinking about how best to move forward in these exciting times. If you feel called to help with the Servant Board or wish to learn more, I want to hear from you! Chris Wethman and Pastor Brooks are also ready to help if you sense you are being called by God to be a part of this exciting ministry.

~Geoff Heintzlemann

INTRODUCING THE Discipleship Board

Grace is getting ready to start our new boards! The purpose of our three boards—Discipleship, Servant, and Resource—is to *make disciples, deploy servants, and resource ministry*.

The Discipleship Board is meant to help each of us grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. But what is a disciple? What does being a disciple mean? How can the board help?

A great definition for discipleship is “an intentional relationship with Jesus Christ, during which we walk alongside other disciples as we grow in maturity in Christ.” Being a disciple begins with Jesus—he has saved us! He has made it possible for us to be persons other than what we might have been. Because of Jesus Christ, we are brought together with other Christians to learn how to live as citizens of the Kingdom of God. It

is a day-by-day process: getting up, learning how to recognize Jesus in the many people we encounter day by day, doing those things Jesus commands us to do and trusting Jesus for the results, then laying down to rest in God’s care—to do it again tomorrow!

The Discipleship Board is committed to helping men and women grow as followers of Jesus by learning, practicing and sharing the habits of the Kingdom. Our responsibilities are to coordinate and schedule the core classes of Grace (Discover the Call, Discover your Gifts, Discover your Mission), provide opportunities to learn and practice the skills of our Core4 (prayer, Scripture, giving and confession/forgiveness), connect disciples to other disciples for mutual encouragement and growth, and work with the other teams to ensure that individual disciples have a chance to reflect upon the ministry they do and the experiences of Christ they have as we all move toward maturity.

If you want to know more about the work of the Discipleship Board, contact Pastor Brooks.

Grace Notes is a publication of
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www.gracedurham.org

Pastor:
The Rev. Dr. David H. Brooks

Assistant to the Pastor:
Rev. Richard Kuehn



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Grace Lutheran Church -
Durham, NC



Scan QR code
for Grace website



Grace
Lutheran
Church



Grace Lutheran Church

Our new logo tells a story. It reflects our purpose and our goal: we are walking the way of **GRACE** that we might share God's blessing in our **HOMES**, our **NEIGHBORHOODS**, our **CITY**, and our **WORLD**.

The four points of the cross remind us of the first four parts of **GRACE**:

- We **GROW** with Jesus
- We **REJOICE** in God
- We **ANSWER** with hope
- We **CARE** for our neighbors

Each of these points moves us to the circle where we **EMBRACE** community. When Jesus calls us to life with him, it is not alone or solitary, but rather a life with and among others.

Our paths may be varied, winding, wandering and twisting, but as we walk the excellent way (1 Corinthians 12:31) we find Jesus who is the heart of life. The circle and the heart work together to mark out the four areas where we practice the way and find the Lord: in our homes, among our neighbors, around the city, and out in the world.

The cross in Duke blue and the heart in Carolina blue reminds us of our commitment to be God's People in the Durham/Chapel Hill area, "between the Blues."

*³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.
And I will show you a still more excellent way.
~ 1 Corinthians 12:31 ESV*

Mission Statement: We are called to *Welcome Everyone to Walk the Way of **GRACE***, and walk in that way in our individual lives, in our shared life in our various communities, in our common life with our neighbors, and even to the world at large as God sends us. The *Way of Grace* is to: **GROW** with Jesus, **REJOICE** in God, **ANSWER** with hope, **CARE** for the neighbor, and **EMBRACE** community.

Vision Statement: God has a plan **FOR OUR LIVES**, and so we teach how to walk in the path of Jesus Christ; **FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOODS**, and so we work to build healthy and strong communities; **FOR OUR CITY**, and so we share life with our neighbors in Walltown, Trinity Park, Duke, and the Triangle; and **FOR OUR WORLD**, and so we go with Good News.

Core Values: Because God loves us first, we value worship rooted in Scripture and Sacrament, service to all people, and being a welcoming community that loves and forgives one another.