

1. *What is actually changing, and what does *Multiplying Grace* mean for me?*

In one sense, much less is changing than you might expect. We are not trying to invent a new kind of church. We intend to keep doing the things Christians have always done: worshiping, receiving God's Word and sacraments, praying, living in community, serving, sharing the gospel, making disciples, and raising up leaders. What is changing is that we are trying to become more intentional and aligned around our mission to make and mature disciples who multiply churches. For each of us, that means considering our next faithful step along a simple pathway: ***Worship, Community, Ministry, Multiplication***. The goal is not that everyone does everything, but that none of us remains merely a passive recipient of ministry.

2. *Why are Sunday School Communities becoming so important?*

Community, friendship, and shepherding do not happen automatically in a church our size. We needed a clear answer to the question, ***"Where will I find community at Grace?"*** Our answer is Sunday School Communities. We hope these become places where people are known, friendships grow, officers shepherd and care, smaller groups form, and ministry begins. The accompanying Shepherding Communities provide an even broader intergenerational context for relationships. Sunday School itself is not sacred or biblically required. It is simply the structure we believe can best help us accomplish important biblical priorities in a congregation of our size.

3. *Does this mean more church programs and more time at the church building?*

Actually, we hope for something close to the opposite. By concentrating much of our organized church life around Sunday and Wednesday, we hope to create greater simplicity, alignment, and margin. That leaves most of the week freer for family life, hospitality, friendships, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, evangelism, and ordinary ministry. We want the church to be a strong center of Christian life without becoming the circumference of Christian life. Our programs should equip us to live as Christians everywhere God places us. The pathway does not stop at Worship and Community. It moves toward Ministry and Multiplication.

4. *What about ministries, Bible studies, friendships, and groups that happen outside Sunday School Communities?*

We hope they continue to flourish. We are not trying to control every Christian relationship or eliminate Bible studies, prayer groups, mentoring relationships, hospitality, or informal gatherings in homes and neighborhoods. What we do need organizationally is one primary answer to the question, ***"Where will members be known, shepherded, and connected to the larger church?"*** That is the role we are asking Sunday School and Shepherding Communities to play. Smaller and more organic relationships should continue to grow within and beyond those communities.

5. *Are we committed to staying in one worship service? What happens when we run out of room?*

As long as it remains responsibly possible, our desire is to continue worshiping together in one service. Being together matters. Visible unity and intergenerational worship matters, and having the whole church on a common rhythm strengthens our shared life. That is not a promise that Grace will never have two

continued on back

services. We also recognize real constraints involving sanctuary seating, parking, Sunday School rooms, children's space, and other parts of our building. A ***Space Critical Ministry Factor Team*** made up of lay members is currently studying those issues, including overflow, better use of existing space, parking solutions, and possible building modifications such as expansion through the back balcony wall. Our commitment is not "one service at all costs," but to preserve its benefits as long as we responsibly can.

6. Why is church planting such a major part of Multiplying Grace?

Because our goal is not simply to make Grace Presbyterian Church as large as possible. The New Testament shows churches and missionaries making disciples and establishing new churches. And there are still hundreds of thousands of people throughout greater Peoria and Central Illinois with little meaningful connection to Christ or a faithful gospel-preaching church. We do not believe the answer to every gospel opportunity is for everyone to drive to this building. Healthy local churches can reach neighborhoods, towns, schools, families, and relational networks that Grace cannot reach as effectively from one location. Instead of asking only, "How many people can we keep?" we also want to ask, "How many disciples and leaders can we prepare and send?"

7. When and where will we plant another church, and who will go?

We do not yet have a planter, launch team, location, or final date selected. Our present interest is especially in the Peoria metropolitan area and Central Illinois, but prayer, research, existing churches, community needs, relationships, demographics, and the gifts of the eventual planter should all help determine the location. We are praying that God might provide a planter who could be prepared to plant as early as summer 2028. A launch team would likely involve a meaningful group of committed people from Grace, but we have not established an official number. Those who go should emerge through prayer, calling, geography, gifts, relationships, and the needs of the new church. And yes, successful multiplication will cost us something. Some of the people we most want to keep may be exactly the people a new church most needs.

8. Would a church plant simply become another Grace campus?

No. Our vision is to plant churches, not build a permanent network of Grace campuses. A new church would initially receive significant support, people, funding, leadership, and oversight from Grace. But the goal would be for it to mature into its own healthy congregation with its own Session and congregational life. We would hope it shares our fundamental theological and gospel commitments, but it would not need to copy every Grace program, ministry, or method. Programs are tools, not the mission. We ordinarily expect to plant PCA churches, while also wanting every biblically faithful, gospel-preaching church in our city and region to thrive.

9. Does Multiplying Grace mean cutting existing ministries or starting a seminary?

No predetermined list of ministries is being cut, and we are not starting a seminary. We remain committed to biblical preaching and teaching, worldwide missions, children and students, mercy ministry, special needs, pastoral care, Campus Outreach, and other ministries through which God has blessed Grace. Over time, we will continue asking how each ministry can best contribute to our common mission. We do want to become much more intentional about raising future pastors, missionaries, and church planters through internships, residencies, apprenticeships, and theological education. We are therefore exploring a partnership with an existing theological institution that could make serious, affordable education available locally. The details are still being developed.

10. What should I do now?

You do not need to master the whole plan today. **Ask one question: *What is my next faithful step?*** Perhaps it is becoming regular in worship. Perhaps joining a Sunday School Community, or beginning to contribute to and attend the monthly Shepherding Community Potluck. Perhaps finding a place to serve in ministry. Perhaps becoming equipped to share the gospel or invest in someone else. God has given Grace much life. ***Multiplying Grace*** is our attempt, by his grace, to share it.