



Report of the Pastor

The report of the pastor shall include the names of all persons involved in the changes in membership and other items as outlined in the 2016 *Book of Discipline* (§§ 234, 340). This report should cover as fully as possible the work of the pastor. Care should be taken not to duplicate the reports of the Church Council, committees, organizations, and officers of the charge.

Copies of this report should be filed with the recording secretary, pastor, district superintendent and chairperson of witness or evangelism ministries.

Grace United Methodist Church Church Grace United Methodist Church Charge
Colorado Front Range District Mountain Sky Annual Conference
 For the period beginning November 16, 2023 and ending November 18, 2024
DATE OF PRIOR CHARGE CONFERENCE DATE OF CURRENT CHARGE CONFERENCE

- List those who have been received into baptized membership since the last report.
- List those who have been received into professing membership since the last report.
David and Jennifer Moore
- List those who have been removed from the professing membership since the last report.
Michael, Matthew, and Luke Arnhols, Leon Constance, Aaron Baca, Terry Nielson, Jim & Donna Glassock, Marie Cox, Ronald Cox, Mark & Heather Han, Frank & Lee, and Frank IV McClure, Crystal Schwartzkopf David Delgado & Arlene Morehouse, LaDonna Hunt-Hiatt, Brian, Sara, and Katlin Sharp
- Have the membership records and rolls been audited (§231)? Yes No
If not, why not?
- The Pastor shall give a report on the state of the church and an account of pastoral ministry as it relates to (§ 340): providing support, guidance, and training to the lay membership in the church; ministering within the congregation and to the world; and administering the temporal affairs of the congregation. Include as a part of the report a statement outlining the pastor's program of continuing education and spiritual growth for the past year and plans for the year to come (§ 349). (*Attach as a supplement.*)

Signed _____

Printed Name _____

Date _____

Report of Pastor / Church Conference 2022

Prepared and edited by the General Council on Finance and Administration and authorized as the official form for this purpose.

Grace has once again had a challenging year. We began 2024 with the excitement of moving back into our freshly renovated and refreshed Nave and Sanctuary by Easter. However, we quickly realized that insurance dragging their feet and winter weather would make that goal challenging. So, instead of sulking, we embraced it! This liturgical year was almost completely experienced in the Fellowship Hall, and it was so interesting to be able to explore different set ups and worship elements. I know I learned a lot, but I think the congregation did as well. How we sit and the liturgy we share in shapes what we feel, how excited we are about the future, and can draw us closer to one another in worship. This past Easter cycle was one of my favorite Lents, Holy Weeks, Paschal Triduum, and Easter celebrations ever. The congregation jumped into everything that was offered, and I think we experienced an incredible journey from Ash Wednesday to resurrection together.

The congregation has also been engaging in visioning work. Part of the response of the congregation to the fire was recognizing that while we are doing great work as a church, we aren't partnering directly with our neighbors who we can really serve and help. I've been amazed to watch the three teams work as we move through this visioning process. The neighborhood engagement team, the "who we are" team, and the communication team have worked to really find out what ways we can be in the neighborhood, serving with the most efficiency and maximum impact that we can. I'm looking forward to continuing this work and beginning to live into this new vision at the front of 2025.

I know there is a decent amount of anxiety in our system around growth and new members. We haven't seen the kind of growth that we hope for during a project like this. However, I'm not disappointed or disheartened. I think we are currently doing the hard work of creating systems (policies, protocols, plans of action, etc.) that will set us up for growth. However, I think a learning edge for this congregation is the idea of "growth." Old-church thinking teaches us that people in pews on Sunday morning is growth, but new-church thinking invites us to consider everyone who we interact with and engage throughout a week. So, in that metric, I think we are growing our impact. I pray that we remain steadfast and hopeful, trusting that the work we are doing is changing lives for the good and that our impact is transforming the world.

On the administrative side, we are working diligently to sure up some of the "systems" I talked about above. We are crafting and refining a set of bylaws that will help us optimize the way our organization operates. We are navigating finance challenges, as many churches are, including working to re-prioritize connectional giving as well as exploring alternative sources of income for the organization.

I say it all the time, but I want to echo that I feel so fortunate to serve here. Yes, there have been challenges, but I love the spirit of this church and am so excited about the ways our building, our financial assets, and our incredible people are changing this community for the better.

With much gratitude,
The Rev. Seth O'Kegley, MM, MDiv (he/him/his)