



# 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  
Mile High Metro District Mountain Sky Annual Conference  
 For the period beginning November 28, 2021 and ending November 27, 2022  
DATE OF PRIOR CHARGE CONFERENCE DATE OF CURRENT CHARGE CONFERENCE

1. List those who have been received into baptized membership since the last report.  
*(Attach as a supplement.)*
2. List those who have been received into professing membership since the last report.  
*(Attach as a supplement.)*
  - a. On profession of faith or restored.
  - b. From other United Methodist churches.
  - c. From other non-United Methodist churches.
3. List those who have been removed from the professing membership since the last report.  
*(Attach as a supplement.)*
  - a. By action of the Charge Conference, or trial court, or by withdrawal.
  - b. By transfer to other United Methodist churches.
  - c. By transfer to other non-United Methodist churches.
  - d. By death.
4. Have the membership records and rolls been audited (§231)?  Yes  No  
If not, why not?
5. 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

The Rev. Seth O'Kegley-Gibson, OSL

Date

November 14, 2022

## 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.

1. List those who have been received into baptized membership since the last report.

Alison Spiegel  
Jesse VanOort

2. List those who have been received into professing membership since the last report.

Joe Coleman  
Ian Hopper  
Joanna Hopper  
Peter Krug  
Brigit Lewis  
Alexandra Massey  
Glenn Massey  
Frank Kai McClure  
Joy Romero Meyers  
Elyice McCutchen  
Alicia Robinson  
Ellie Robinson

3. List those who have been removed from the professing membership since the last report.

Kathy Babb	Amber Nash
Tara Constance	Andrew Nash
Tori Constance	Breana Nash
Traci Constance	Brett Nash
Kathy Easterday	Hannah Nash
Clancy Ellbrecht	Jayden Nash
Leah Gibson	Cameron Snyder
Chris Hedlund	Garrison Snyder
Robin Hedlund	Ed Southwick
David Moore	Patricia Stevens
Jeffrey Moore	David Weinburg
Katherine Moore	Steve White
Joshua Morgan	Jeannette White
Sue Mutchler	Ken Whiting

5. 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).

In the 6 months since my appointment to Grace United Methodist Church, I have been so welcomed. Not only are the people of Grace welcoming and friendly, but they also have a real heart for ministry in the community. Situated in the University Hills neighborhood, Grace is in a really great location. The access to multiple housing developments and the RTD light rail station makes outreach something we can do right in our back yard. Our facility, including the large outdoor courtyard (the Mall), is an asset for ministry and I'm grateful that we have such a resource.

Many weeks in worship, our associate pastor, the Rev. Mary MacDonald, says, “Grace is a missional church,” and I now understand why. For a smaller medium church, Grace is involved in quite a few community partnerships that are doing great things in our community. Some of the “smallest” things we do as a church have a huge impact on peoples’ lives. Our own “ladies of spice” facilitate collecting herbs and spices to make home cooked meals more appetizing. When they explained this ministry to me, the women noted that home cooked meals are so much more affordable, fresh, and healthy. But without having the often-expensive herbs and spices, families don’t enjoy eating home cooked food, so they resort to fast food and processed food.

Grace comes together for our common interests. Since arrive in July, we’ve hosted Family Promise families twice. It’s clear that Grace has a servant heart for this ministry. From showing up at 7 am to set up, loading or unloading the truck, cooking and serving meals, or praying for the families we host, Grace shows up to help these beloved members of the unhoused community. These missions are well-supported throughout the church, but especially by our vibrant chapter of the United Women in Faith. Our Circles are active, meeting monthly to learn, pray, grow, and serve.

I am excited for the things to come at Grace. With a renewed excitement and energy for ministry at Grace, I think we will soon be able to identify goals, articulate a plan, and achieve our goals. In these few months I’ve been at Grace, I have identified a few areas that are primed for growth. First, our organization is rugged and durable, having survived multiple pastoral changes and a worldwide pandemic. However, I’m excited to move into the next chapter of Grace UMC with our transition to a simplified governance structure. While trying to be the best Methodists we could, we often get bogged down in the bureaucracy of our system. The simplified governance structure hopefully will “free us for joyful obedience,” bringing our call to servant ministry back to the front of our work as a church. I am excited to see Grace work toward a tighter budget and maximizing the efficiency of our ministries.

Second, as welcoming as Grace has been for me and Jared, I see a growing edge on the hospitality front. As with many organizations with a slower turnover of membership, we get complacent to be with our friends in our pew at our service. Grace has undergone so many needed changes in the last few years and it is attracting a diverse crowd of guests. As these guests come to Grace for the first time, I am excited to see how we can best welcome them. Creating systems of greeting, ushering, and hosting will make Grace an even more welcoming place, especially in Sunday worship. The third area of growth is likely a challenge for many churches like us. While our building is a great resource for mission and ministry, it faces the same challenges that any other aging building does. Our focus over the last few years has been survival, fixing things when they break or start to give out. I would love for Grace to make some intentional investments in the building, working to create a space that is as functional, welcoming, and attractive as possible. We know that reaching into the community is a lot of work and keeping our building updated is a part of that ministry work.

I feel nothing but excitement for the next year at Grace. Our shift to the simplified governance structure will allow us so much more freedom to do mission and ministry in the University Hills community. I’m excited for our outreach events, like Trick-or-Treat Street, Back to School Bash, and Easter Egg Hunt. I’m energized for our administrative progress in our revitalized committee structure and laity empowerment. I’m excited to continue getting to know the people of Grace and grow together for the betterment of our community.

Respectfully submitted,

**The Rev. Seth O’Kegley-Gibson, MM, OSL+**  
Lead Pastor, Grace United Methodist Church