

Let's start with our Senior Pastor Transition.

One of the great blessings we are seeing presently at Grace can be captured with the word *new* – new people and new life through the gospel. This means you may have started attending Grace since we made our original announcement last September – so – here is a brief refresher on what was shared then.

In September, we announced our intentions to transition the role of Senior Pastor. This came as the result of prayer, discussion, and eagerness to lead and shepherd you, the people of Grace Church, now and into the future. One important result of this prayer and discussion was God's leading to consider someone already on staff to succeed Pastor Phil – that was and is Pastor Matt Agee.

And as a reminder – you can still read that announcement in its original form on our website under the "Home" tab and "2024 Transition". And this week everything being shared now will also be posted to our website.

Now, let me take us to January of this year and provide specific updates for this transition. **Let's call this section "where we are".**

Update #1: Pastor Josh Colyer officially joined the staff in January as Executive Pastor of Ministries. This role includes oversight of adult ministries, staff alignment, and development.

Update #2: Pastors Matt and Josh have been working together since January to transition the adult ministry responsibilities from Matt to Josh. This handoff was completed on April 1st.

Update #3: Pastors Phil and Matt are working together to prepare Matt for the potential role of Senior Pastor. This includes meeting together regularly and sharing responsibilities related to the role of Senior Pastor.

Now, let's call this next section "where we are going".

1. You can expect another update like this one in late summer of this year.
2. A congregation vote to elect Pastor Matt as our next Senior Pastor will be held on September 8th.
3. A celebration for Pastor Phil and Bonnie is scheduled for December. We plan to honor Pastor Phil for his many years of faithfulness and pray for Bonnie and him as they transition away from Grace to what God has for them next.

We also wanted to provide a few exciting updates about the vision and goals we presented in January. We have four to share with you.

1. Seth Plascencia has been hired as Director of Young Adults. Seth is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, a former student and intern here, and we believe will be faithful and fruitful among our young adults. Seth begins June 2nd.
2. We are asking the Lord for 40 baptisms – we have so far seen 14 children and adults baptized.
3. We are asking the Lord for 50 new members – we have so far seen 24 people join us as members.
4. We desire to build and sustain a culture of prayer. There have been a handful of occasions this year when we have intentionally added prayer for a person, ministry opportunity, or global partner in our services. We plan to continue this pattern.

We give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness!

Along with this announcement, we also plan to post the document that was shared at our Vision Night on our website for your reference. You are encouraged to remind yourself of what we hope to accomplish this year.

Please know that the elders understand that change is both difficult and exciting, and that clarity, trust, and unity are needed more than ever. If you have any questions, please let one of the elders know.

Grace Church has a clear mission, a compelling vision, and we believe, a very bright future.