

Grace Church of Lockeford
13301 E. Dawson Rd
Lockeford, CA 95237

Lead Pastor

Our Church and Community

Grace Church of Lockeford has been in existence for 160 years. It was formed in 1862 as a Congregational church. In the 1970s it became affiliated with IFCA. We livestream the Sunday morning service on Facebook, and on Wednesday night we have a Bible study and prayer time after a potluck dinner. On the last Sunday of the month, we enjoy a potluck fellowship immediately after the morning service. The community of Lockeford has a population of around 3200 people. Demographically, 60% of its residents identify themselves as white and 35% Hispanic. 27% of the population claim to be Catholic and 60% claim no religious affiliation whatsoever. Our town is located about 30 minutes east of the city of Stockton, which has a population in excess of 300,000, and about 45 minutes from Sacramento, the capitol city of California. The church is debt-free, and has a newly remodeled four bedroom, two bath parsonage with attached two-car garage, which can be used by the selected pastor and his family if so desired.

The Candidate

Qualifying candidates should possess a pastor/teacher mindset which is humble, gentle and gracious. We are seeking a pastor with a true shepherd's heart, committed to our church, devoted to developing true disciples of Jesus Christ, has a passion to evangelize the lost, and encourages spiritual maturity among the believers, all of which bring glory to God.

The Qualifications

We require a man who meets the spiritual qualifications found in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. He must also affirm and adhere to the constitution of the church and its by-laws. Our preferred minimum education is a seminary graduate, but we may also consider a candidate who is still actively working on his seminary degree. We desire a strong expository preacher who is ordained or willing to be ordained. Working in conjunction with the elders and deacons, our next pastor should express a vision for the church, provide leadership and care for the congregation, and effectively lead the staff toward that end.

The Expectations

The acceptable candidate must be a man who is born again. He must be a man who knows Jesus Christ personally as Lord and Savior and has been called by God to the ministry of pastor/teacher. The candidate must hold the view of inerrancy of scripture and follow a literal, historic, and grammatic interpretation. He must possess a servant's spirit, yet at the same time remain firm in the deployment of church discipline. The candidate should be spiritually mature himself and have an advanced knowledge of the Holy Scriptures by means of his education and his own personal study. He should possess a love for teaching and a willingness to disciple anyone in need.

Duties and Responsibilities

The acceptable candidate must cooperate with the executive board with regards to his duties and confirm with them general office hours. He should be available throughout the week either in his church office or by cell phone to anyone within the church body seeking Godly, Bible-based counsel. As sole pastor of a small congregation, he will be expected to be available for emergencies of his people, and on a regular basis to visit the sick or infirm within the congregation, whether they are shut-in at home or in a local hospital. The pastor would normally be expected to lead the Sunday morning service through prayer and the preaching of the Word of God, as well as facilitate our Wednesday night fellowship services. In the event of his absence, such as sickness or vacation, he would need to secure a replacement to fill the pulpit. The elders of the church would be able to fill that capacity from time to time should the need arise.

The Job Description

The lead pastor shall have general oversight of the spiritual life, regular services, and ministration of the ordinances of the church. He will be the primary preacher for the Sunday morning worship service and will be required to perform other normal pastoral duties. The lead pastor will provide direction to any pastoral staff and to the congregation to achieve and maintain a high level of spiritual leadership. He must allow free access to himself on a continuing basis for counsel and advice. The lead pastor will define and assign duties and responsibilities for any church staff employees and will also provide supervision for them. He will perform employment evaluations for the staff, as well as review the ministry of all church elders and deacons on a yearly basis. These reviews may include an overview of any spiritual goals, objectives and/or the development of all in-house projects in coordination with the church board. As lead pastor, he will periodically monitor all teachers serving in ministry to evaluate and provide instructional feedback as necessary. The lead pastor shall moderate and preside over the various meetings of the church, such as our quarterly business meetings, or those of any other committee or any of its organizations. He shall be a non-voting member of the board in an ex-officio capacity. The lead pastor will conscientiously perform any such duties as may be arranged between himself and the official board. If at any time his personal belief, preaching, teaching, testimony or conduct is not in full accord with the doctrinal standard of this church, his service as pastor shall be subject to immediate termination.

The Process

Candidates should submit a resume highlighting their educational history, together with any pastoral experience they may have performed over the years. If not contained within the resume, each candidate should also submit a personal doctrinal statement, philosophy of ministry declaration, personal history profile of himself and his family, and anything else he might deem appropriate for us to consider. Submissions should also include audio or video files of at least one previous sermon from the candidate or valid links to such files on the internet. Completed submissions may be sent to our church email address at gracechurchlockeford@gmail.com or any questions may be directed to our church office at (209) 727-5668.