

Senior Pastor-Teacher Grace Church Aurora

OPPORTUNITY PROFILE



Email: pastorcandidates@gracechurcaurora.org

<http://www.gracechurcaurora.org>



Introduction to Grace Church Aurora

Grace Church Aurora (GCA) is a non-denominational, independent, conservative, evangelical, Bible teaching church governed by a group of elders serving under Christ's authority. Our purpose is "to glorify God by lovingly making disciples, who worship and obediently serve Him."

GCA Highlights:

- Our Sunday morning congregation has averaged 65 people in attendance for the past 3 years.
- We host a thriving Awana program, drawing participation from other local churches, and averaging over 120 children, 25 youth and 40 leaders on a weekly basis.
- We built our 9000 sq ft facility in 2004, consisting of a main auditorium, an office area, a kitchen and a classroom/meeting wing.
- We employ a full-time pastor-teacher and an onsite office administrator to coordinate the church schedule, church ministries, church accounting, and facility support tasks.



Awana Opening Ceremony

About the Position

Our previous pastor served for 31 years from June 1991 until he retired in June 2022. He held an undergraduate degree (B.A. in Christian Education) from Wheaton College and a Th.M. in Bible Exposition from Dallas Theological Seminary.

We are seeking the next full-time pastor-teacher to grow and shepherd the body of GCA, preserving and building upon our existing teaching standards.

PHILOSOPHY OF PASTORAL MINISTRY

We believe a pastor-teacher...

- Achieves unity and matures the congregation by teaching Biblical truths
- Possesses complete humility towards Scripture
- Acts with the elders as shepherds of the congregation to fulfill our purpose statement and to equip people for works of ministry
- Promotes a heart of eager servitude – not out of compulsion

PASTOR QUALIFICATIONS

- Required:
 - Has identified that he is appointed by God with the gift of pastor-teacher
 - Agrees with the GCA Statement of Faith
 - Follows a systematic, dispensational interpretation of Scripture
 - Studies exegetically; is skilled in the correct application of hermeneutics, and expositional teaching
 - Possesses a working knowledge of the original Biblical languages
 - Demonstrates the character of an overseer as described in Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7
 - Is motivated in all things by love
- Desired:
 - Has (or is progressing towards) a Master of Theology or Master of Divinity from a seminary aligned with the GCA Statement of Faith
 - Has prior pastoral experience
 - Is able to develop a collaborative vision to grow the Body of Christ

RESPONSIBILITIES

The pastor-teacher...

- Is the primary teaching pastor, characterized by verse-by-verse or categorical exposition of the “whole counsel of God”
- Matures and unifies the congregation through solid teaching, to train in distinguishing good from evil
- Exhorts in sound doctrine and rebukes those who contradict, being aware of cultural trends and equipping against false doctrines
- Protects the flock by ensuring the teaching from the pulpit and within the church ministries is consistent with the GCA Statement of Faith
- Establishes a teaching schedule in accordance with his own talents and abilities, as he is led by the Spirit
- Participates in church leadership activities including elder meetings, budget stewardship, and strategic vision development
- Exemplifies and encourages evangelism to grow the local and universal Body of Christ
- Lovingly shepherds in Christ’s manner by feeding the flock and reaching out to the lost
- Leads by example in personal spiritual discipline and growth

Just as the body has many members that do not all have the same function, so also the members of GCA have different spiritual gifts. The pastor is not expected to serve out of compulsion in other church ministries beyond teaching but he is welcome to serve as he is led by the Spirit in the exercise of his spiritual gift(s).

COMPENSATION

The pastor's annual compensation and benefits package will be negotiated with the candidate based on experience and other factors. He will be a full-time employee.

Requested Response

Please provide the following information to the email address:

pastorcandidates@gracechurchaurora.org

1. Resume
2. For each of the eight Statements of Faith and Distinctives of Grace Church Aurora from the GCA Statement of Faith, provide your agreement or disagreement and a personal theological position summary for each.
3. A personal theological approach to the interpretation of scripture
4. A personal summary of a philosophy of ministry of a model church; include church polity/government (e.g. roles of elder, pastor, deacon, congregation)
5. Autobiographical sketch of applicant and family
6. Statement of how a person passes from spiritual death to spiritual life

Profile of Grace Church Aurora

Grace Church Aurora (GCA) is a non-denominational, independent, conservative, evangelical, Bible teaching church governed by a group of elders serving under Christ's authority. We believe in the qualifications for elders as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Our purpose is "To glorify God by lovingly making disciples, who worship and obediently serve Him." We believe in two ordinances; a believer's baptism (preferably by immersion) and the Lord's table (Communion).

The church is located in Aurora, Colorado, an eastern suburb of Denver. GCA was planted in 1981 as a daughter church of South Fellowship. Originally the church met in a local middle school. In 1983 the church moved into a dedicated space in a local shopping center. Now GCA resides in a 9000 sq ft facility, built in 2004. The facility includes a multipurpose worship center with capacity for 175 people, a nursery, preschool room, four classrooms, a main office, two private offices, and a kitchen. God has blessed the church with healthy finances the past 5-10 years with a current operating budget of \$250,000-\$260,000 per annum. We employ a full-time pastor and a part-time office administrator. All other ministries are led by volunteers. The church sits on 3-acres that overlook the Denver Metro area with a magnificent view of the Rocky Mountains. The property has generous space for future



View of Rocky Mountain range from front entry

growth.

GCA has several active ministries: Music/Worship Ministry, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Adult Bible Fellowship, Awana, Small Groups, Men's Fellowship, and Women's Fellowship. The Awana program is the largest ministry with outreach to over 130 children and youth each week on Sunday and Monday. GCA actively supports several missionaries serving with various mission agencies in the US and overseas.

Over the past 10 years, the average attendance on Sunday mornings has been around 80 people. Our demographic includes 50-75 regular attendees with an even mix of younger families, middle aged families, and senior adults. The socio-economic level of the church and immediate community is primarily middle to upper-middle class. We would love to see growth in our church body as God leads us.

Community Profile of Aurora, Colorado

Aurora, Colorado is the 3rd largest city in Colorado and the 54th largest city in the United States. It is an eastern suburb of the Denver Metro area. The 2020 census recorded 386,251 residents, spread across 290 square miles and three counties (Arapahoe, Adams, and Douglas). Over the past 10 years, the Aurora population has grown by over 20%. Aurora is ethnically and culturally diverse. It is the center of the Colorado refugee population with a sizable number of Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Nepalese refugees. 65% of the Aurora population is under the age of 45 and 8% are veterans.

This area of Colorado has 300 sunny days per year with moderate temperatures and low humidity. The Denver Metro area is east of the Rocky Mountains. In the winter, most snowfall occurs in the mountains with limited, brief storm activity and periodic snow accumulations in the Denver Metro area.

Colorado has 7000 acres of parks, 8000 recreational programs, world-renowned ski resorts, hiking trails, mountain climbing, bike paths, beautiful vistas, and historic sites. Denver is the home of several professional sports teams, including the Denver Broncos (NFL), the Denver Nuggets (NBA), the Colorado Rockies (MLB), the Colorado Avalanche (NHL), the Colorado Rapids (MLS), and the Colorado Mammoth (NLL). Denver is also home to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the Denver Art Museum, the Botanical Gardens, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, the Denver Zoo, and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

K-12 education in Aurora includes traditional public schools ([Cherry Creek Schools](#) and [Aurora Public Schools](#)), public charter schools, private schools, and a thriving homeschool community. Aurora has its own public library system but there is access to five library systems in the area. The Denver Metro area offers numerous higher education opportunities with 21 four-year colleges and universities, 6 two-year colleges, and numerous technical/trade schools. Additionally, the metro area is home to an academic medical center that is one of the nation's top health care facilities and teaching hospitals.

There are a variety of shopping areas, restaurants, theaters, golf courses, bowling alleys, and other fun activities in Aurora and beyond. The Regional Transportation District includes light rail and bus service with access to Denver International Airport and downtown Denver.

Veteran and military amenities are available at Buckley Space Force Base and at the VA Hospital. For additional information about Aurora visit the city website at www.auroragov.org.



New Central Recreation Center 2 miles away

GCA Statement of Faith

I. A STATEMENT OF FAITH AND DISTINCTIVES OF GRACE CHURCH AURORA

Bibliology - The Doctrine of the Bible

We believe the original documents of scripture are without error in all matters upon which they touch. This includes the fields of history and science as well as spiritual, religious, and redemptive themes. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; Matthew 5:18; John 10:35)

Theology - The Doctrine of God

We believe that there is but one living and true God, Who is infinite in being and perfection, a pure spirit, invisible, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, wise, holy, free, absolute, working all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and righteous will, for His own glory. (John 4:24; Malachi 3:6; Psalm 90:2; Jeremiah 32:17; Ephesians 1:11)

We believe that God is loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin. We believe that God is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him, just and terrible in His judgments, hating all sin, and Who will, by no means, clear the guilty. (Psalm 145:9, 16-17; Deuteronomy 4:31; 7:7-10; John 13:16; Ephesians 1:6-7; Exodus 34:6-7; 1 Samuel 2:2)

We believe in one God eternally existing in three equal persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (John 6:27; Hebrews 1:8; Acts 5:3-4; Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19; Isaiah 48:16)

Christology - The Doctrine of Christ

We believe that God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and Who is true God and true man. (John 1:14; 11:33; 8:40; Matthew 1:18-25; 26:38; Hebrews 1:8; 2:14)

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, in His Ascension into heaven, and in His present life there for us. Jesus now serves as high priest, intercessor, and advocate with the Father on our behalf. (Romans 1:4; John 20:25-27; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25; Acts 1:9-11).

We believe in His personal, imminent return for His church, and His visible, premillennial second advent to this earth according to His promise. (Acts 1:11; Matthew 24-25; Revelations 19-20; Isaiah 9:6-7)

Pneumatology - The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, possessing all the distinctively divine attributes and therefore He is God. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He regenerates, seals, permanently indwells, and baptizes the believer into the body of Christ. He also fills those yielded to God. (1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Isaiah 40:13-14; Psalm 139:7; Titus 3:5; John 3:5-7; 7:37-39; 14:16-17; 16:8; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 1:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:9; 26-27)

We believe the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a work of the Holy Spirit unique for the church age, by which He places each believer into the body of Christ at the moment of salvation. While the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a unique, one-time occurrence, the filling of the Holy Spirit is a repeated experience involving a believer's yieldedness to God. (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13; 4:4; 5:18-21; Colossians 2:9-10)

Anthropology - The Doctrine of Man's Creation and Fall

We believe that man was created in the image of God, and that he sinned and consequently experienced not only physical death but also spiritual death (which is separation from God). The consequences of this sin affect the entire human race. All human beings are born with a sinful nature, and apart from Jesus Christ are eternally lost. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:17; Romans 5:12-19; Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:18; Mark 7:20-23; John 2:24-25)

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning -- marriage sanctioned by God that joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive, permanent union (with divorce and remarriage permitted, not commanded, in rare exceptions), as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:21-33; Matt. 19:1-9; 1 Cor.

7:10-16). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only in the context of a biblical marriage as defined above (Gen. 2:24-25; Heb. 13:4).

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as lust, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, rape, pornography, or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God, even if legalized by a government (Acts 5:29; Exo. 20:14; Lev. 18:22; 20:10-21; Deut. 5:18; 22:5, 13-30; Prov. 6:32; Matt. 5:27-28; 15:19-20; 19:16-18; Rom. 1:26-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Heb. 13:4). Temptation in these areas, as with any temptation, is not sin, but neither is temptation a legitimate basis for accepting sinful behavior as normative or for yielding one's heart, mind, and behavior to sin (Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 2:18; 4:15-16; 1 Cor. 10:13; Jam. 1:12-16; 4:7; 2 Pet. 2:4-10; Gal. 5:16-25).

Soteriology - The Doctrine of Salvation

We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are declared righteous on the basis of His death and resurrection. (2 Corinthians 5:14; Mark 10:45; Romans 3:21-26; 5:8-9; 4:25; 1 Peter 3:18; Galatians 3)

We believe that whoever by faith receives Jesus Christ as his Saviour, by believing in Christ's death for his sins and His bodily resurrection, with the purpose of being saved by his belief, immediately becomes a child of God and is saved from the penalty of his sins. (John 3:16; 5:24; 6:47)

We believe that when a person is saved, all three persons of the Godhead do works in that person which are irreversible. Therefore, the believer can never be lost. This is not dependent on the believer's conduct, just as initial salvation was not dependent on the person's works. (Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 5:11-13; John 10:27-30)

We believe that all believers still possess a sin nature in this life, but that God has made full provision for believers to overcome this sinful nature and to live in obedience to God through identification with Christ (Romans 6:1-14), a knowledge of the Scriptures, the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and the supportive relationships of the Body of Christ. We recognize that this is a process which will not be completed until we meet Jesus face to face. (Romans 5:12; 6:1-14; 8:11-17; Ephesians 2:1-10)

We believe that Christ should have control of every area of a believer's life. Every activity, thought and decision is of concern to God and His will, as revealed in Scripture, should be sought accordingly. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 10:31; Romans 14:23; Philippians 1:21)

We believe that having personal fellowship with God on a regular and consistent basis is essential for Christian growth. Confession of personal sins and obedience to God's Word produces fellowship with God. (Psalm 1; 5:3; 119; 145:2; Colossians 3:16; 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 John 1:5-2:2)

Ecclesiology - The Doctrine of the Church

We believe that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual body, the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13), the bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelation 19:7-8), of which Christ is the head (Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; Colossians 1:18).

We believe that the formation of the church, the body of Christ, began on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21; 38-47) and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the rapture (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

We believe that the church is thus a unique spiritual organism designed by Christ, made up of all born-again believers in this present age (Ephesians 2:11-3:6). The church is distinct from Israel (1 Corinthians 10:32), a mystery not revealed until this age (Ephesians 3:1-6; 5:32).

We believe that the establishment and continuity of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:23, 27; 20:17, 28; Galatians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1) and that the members of one scriptural body are directed to associate themselves together in local assemblies (1 Corinthians 11:18-20; Hebrews 10:25).

We believe that the one supreme authority for the church is Christ (1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18) and that church leadership, gifts, order, discipline, and worship are all appointed through His sovereignty as found in the Scriptures. The biblically designated officers serving under Christ and over the assembly are elders and deacons, both of whom must meet biblical qualifications (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5).

We believe that Christians are to celebrate the Lord's Supper until He returns. This celebration reminds Christians of His body, the new covenant in His blood, and proclaims the Lord's death until He comes. (2 Corinthians 11:17-30; Luke 22:14-23)

We believe that corporate and individual worship are essential parts of every believer's relationship to God. Individual obedience to God in our everyday lives is worship, as well as our verbally describing God's worth in a public worship service. (Psalm 29:1-2; Exodus 34:14; John 4:23-24; Romans 12:1)

We believe that every believer is a priest to God (1 Peter 2:4-10; Rev. 1:6) and is responsible to offer up spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5). These include the sacrifice of the body (Romans 12:1), the sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15), the sacrifice of good works (Hebrews 13:16; Ephesians 2:10; Galatians 6:10), and the sacrifice of sharing of material goods (Hebrews 13:16).

We believe that God fixes no specific amount on a believer's giving in the present age, but that giving should be sacrificial (2 Corinthians 8:2-3), generous (2 Corinthians 9:5-6), cheerful (2 Corinthians 9:7), proportional (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), and systematic (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Believers should give to those who teach them (Galatians 6:6), and to those who have need (Ephesians 4:28), including those who cannot work (1 Timothy 5:13-16), and those who are asked not to work for the sake of the gospel (Acts 13:1-3; 1 Timothy 5:17-18). They are not to give to those who refuse to work (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

We believe that at conversion, the Holy Spirit gives each new believer a spiritual gift which he did not possess prior to salvation. Each Christian should endeavor to discover, develop, and use his spiritual gift to serve and build up the Body. The Body functions most effectively when each member is properly exercising his gift. However, the fruit of the Spirit, not spiritual gifts, is the evidence of being filled by the Holy Spirit.

Eschatology - The Doctrine of Last Things

We believe in Christ's personal, imminent return for His church, and in His personal, bodily, visible, premillennial return in the glory of His Father to set up on earth a kingdom over which He shall reign in righteousness and peace. (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Acts 1:11; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 20:4-6; Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:2-5).

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men. Believers are resurrected to enjoy eternal life with God. Unbelievers are resurrected to experience judgement and then eternal suffering apart from God. (1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 20:4-6, 12-15; 21:1-8; John 5:28-29; Daniel 12:2)

II. OUR POSITION ON OTHER DOCTRINES

While all the members of Grace Church Aurora agree with this Statement of Faith, many passages exist in God's Word about which believers have differing interpretations. Often men and women, who are in Christ, sincerely, conscientiously, and sometimes passionately believe differently on various doctrinal subjects. Christians may hold different views and still be members of the same church and even members of the same leadership group. We, as individual believers at Grace, may state the case for our understanding of certain doctrines or Scriptural positions. We simply agree to disagree while granting grace and Christ-like love in the dialogue as to its meaning.

However, we also believe and teach that whereas there may be several applications of any given passage of Scripture, only one true interpretation exists. This meaning is to be found as one diligently applies the normative, literal, grammatical, historical method of interpretation under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. It is for this reason that every Christian is responsible and is encouraged to study the Bible as objectively and as thoroughly as possible, seeking to ascertain carefully its true authorially-intended meaning, recognizing that proper applications are to be obeyed by believers in every Age. Yet the truth of Scripture stands in judgment of men; never do men stand in judgment of it.

This position and practice will assist in protecting the community of Grace Church Aurora from doctrinal error, from division, and from the error of relativism that is attacking and eroding the confidence of the unchurched and sometimes even of believers in the objective and absolute truth, God's revelation to man, and of one's ability to accurately understand it. (John 7:17; 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-15; 1 John 2:20)

This revision of our Statement of Faith was adopted by the Elders of Grace Church Aurora, effective retroactively to June 18, 2014, in the August 25, 2014 Elder meeting, and revised in the October 21, 2014 Elder meeting.