

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We're writing to present to you an opportunity that has come to our church, Grace Presbyterian (PCA). We pray you would consider both praying and giving towards this work, which will undoubtedly help the kingdom to advance in Shreveport. By way of introducing the opportunity and need, we've provided a little church history of Grace. Thank you for your consideration.



LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA) was founded in 1974 in Shreveport, Louisiana, by a small group of five committed families who established the city's first Presbyterian Church in America congregation – a denomination then only months old. Over the last 50 years, the church has grown, shrunk, and grown again in number and seen many worship locations: from its initial location at the Shreveport Little Theatre to a house in west Shreveport to a church building in southwest Shreveport. Surrounded by a changing neighborhood and made up of a congregation increasingly from other parts of the city, the church sold its building in 2008 and began meeting in central Shreveport, eventually settling at Brown Chapel at Centenary College, where it still meets today.

BUILDING PURCHASE AND RENOVATION

In 2020, Grace had the opportunity to purchase the former Dunlap Presbyterian Church (PCUS/PCUSA) from its then-owner, Inspired Word of God Church. A historic building, the original portions of the property were constructed by Dunlap Presbyterian Church beginning in 1928, with the final addition being the current sanctuary in 1964. This presents a special moment for the congregation at Grace. A ruling elder from Dunlap was instrumental in establishing Grace by overseeing its initial worship services. This location also provides a unique opportunity to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ along the Kings Highway Corridor and in the Highland Neighborhood. Also, as Shreveport-Bossier's only PCA congregation, Grace holds another unique position as a regional church, ministering to the saints of our denomination in Northwest Louisiana and providing a spiritual home where they can come to worship and be discipled.



Upon purchase of the building, Grace's Building Committee began overseeing renovations of the property, including a new roof, new HVAC systems, new electrical, asbestos abatement, and other structural integrity projects. With the renovations nearly halfway complete, the church has now engaged a contractor to finish the remainder of the project, which includes: painting the interior and exterior of the building; installing new floors in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and offices; refinishing hardwood floors in the historic 1928 section of the building; removing failing doors and installing new ones; removing failing sanctuary windows and installing new ones; rebuilding bathrooms; and remodeling the office area.

THE NEED FOR COMPLETION

Grace's contractor, Dustin Jones Construction, estimates \$330,120 to complete the project. The project thus far has been funded entirely by Grace's cash reserve, and Lord willing, Grace endeavors to complete the project without the assistance of financing. Grace's current Savings/Building Fund stands at \$289,695, and since the announcement of our selected contractor, the church has received a pledge of \$25,000, bringing our available non-operating funds to \$314,695.

Grace Presbyterian Church is seeking to raise \$100,000 by December 31, 2024. This capital raise would not only help the church reach the contractor's estimate, but it would help cover potential construction overages and maintain a 3-month emergency reserve for the church.

WAYS TO GIVE

As you consider your year-end giving, we hope you will prayerfully consider our project and supporting Grace Presbyterian in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Gifts may be mailed to the church office at 3825 Gilbert Dr., Suite 207 Shreveport, LA 71104. Checks should be designated to the Building Fund in the memo.

To <u>give online</u> or learn more about Grace you can visit our website at <u>graceforshreveport.org.</u> Please find the Giving tab on the website and note Building Fund in the Suggested Use box. To learn more about the PCA please visit <u>pcanet.org</u>



In Christ,

The Session & Board of Deacons of Grace Presbyterian Church

CONTACTS

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