

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH of CHAMBERSBURG**

**Pastoral Search Candidate Questionnaire**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are seeking to get to know the man who is a candidate for the fully-supported pastor of Grace Baptist Church. Therefore, many of these questions are open-ended in order to give the candidate the opportunity to help us get to know him.

At the same time this questionnaire can inform the candidate about Grace Baptist Church. It is   
important that the candidate obtain a knowledge about Grace Baptist Church so he can make a   
wise decision regarding a call to this ministry.

We do not expect long, involved answers for these questions. Books have been written on some of these questions. We would like a brief response from you and, if need be,   
we can further explore your answers.

**THE CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

1. What do you think should be the goal of a local Christian church?
2. What place does the local church have in God's redemptive plans?
3. What is your vision for a local church?

**CHRISTIAN CHARACTER**

1. Describe your personal history (becoming a Christian) and your current walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Describe how you apply Biblical principles to your family life.
3. Assess your ability (emotional, spiritual, physical) to undergo the stresses of the pastoral   
   ministry. Assess the same for your wife.
4. Do you have special circumstances that may affect your ability to carry out pastoral duties.

**CONFESSION**

1. Grace Baptist Church is a confessional church. Our adopted confession is the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith. Are you committed to the 1689 Confession? Do you have any reservations or exceptions to this statement of faith?
2. Do you have questions about our church constitution? Do you have any problems-differences with our church constitution?
3. Describe your understanding and commitment to the Doctrines of Grace. What is your   
   understanding of the Reformed Faith? How does your commitment to the Doctrines of Grace affect your preaching and your personal life?
4. Describe your understanding of evangelizing lost sinners.
5. Describe your understanding of worship in the life of the church. What should be the   
   elements of worship? What should biblical worship look like?
6. Describe how you think prayer should be incorporated into the life of the local church. How would you encourage the prayer life of Grace Baptist Church?
7. Describe your understanding of Christian apologetics in advancing the kingdom.
8. Describe your view of apologetics.

**PASTOR AND PASTORAL DUTIES**

1. What is your understanding of the role of a pastor in the church? What are the duties of the pastor?
2. Describe your understanding of the relationship of the pastor (fully supported elder) to other elders (pastors) who are not supported.
3. What place do you see for systematic pastoral visiting of the members of the church?
4. Describe your understanding of the pastor/elders' role with regard to evangelism.
5. Assess your level of energy and physical health for the rigors of the pastoral office.
6. Describe how you would handle differences of opinion with members of the church or with fellow elders.
7. Assess your gifts and experience for pastoral counseling, especially marital counseling.
8. What role do you see for your wife in supporting your pastoral ministry?

**TEACHING-PREACHING AND GIFTS**

* 1. Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses with reference to preaching and teaching.
  2. Describe your experience with reference to teaching and preaching in churches or other   
     settings.
  3. What special areas of ministry do you have or what ministry gifts would you like to develop as a pastor?

**PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING**

1. Describe your views of Christian liberty. Are you in general agreement with Grace Baptist's approach to Christian liberty as described in our church constitution?
2. Franklin County offers a variety of kinds of education; Christian schools (Providence Christian Academy, Shalom Christian Academy, Cumberland Valley Christian School), home-schooling (both Christian and secular), public schools and private schools. Describe your views of the education of children from Christian homes.
3. Describe your views of ministering to various age and identity groups within the church   
   (youth, singles, married, seniors).
4. Our practice for the Lord's Table is a "Close communion." We ask that participants be   
   Christians and members in good standing of an evangelical church. What is your position on this issue and are you comfortable with our position?
5. Describe how you would seek to relate to children and teenagers in the church. How would you seek to lead them to Christ? What is an appropriate age for candidates for baptism and church membership?
6. Describe your understanding of the Lord's Day (Sabbath). How should the church order its activities on this day?
7. How would you lead and encourage this congregation in the work of evangelism and   
   missions?