***Grace Bible Church in Portage, WI***

**Grace Bible Church Seeks Senior Pastor**

Grace Bible Church in Portage, WI, is seeking to fill the position of senior pastor. The previous pastor of 39 years retired in June, and now holds the position of pastor emeritus.

This significant position demands a candidate with a sufficient combination of education, experience and ability. A generous compensation package (including health benefits and retirement plan) will be provided, beginning at a level appropriate to the candidate in light of the church’s recent practices.

**More About the Church**

Grace Bible Church is a member of IFCA International.

Grace is a vibrant congregation that includes up to 250 people of all ages. The church is strategically located within a central Wisconsin community which serves as a commercial destination for a much wider area. Attendees come from throughout that area—mostly within a range of roughly a 30-minute drive.

The church is committed to expository Bible teaching. It adheres to traditional dispensationalism and an understanding of God’s grace which rejects the specific emphases of Lordship salvation.

The church accepts young-earth creation.

Its worship is basically traditional—with the use of some contemporary music and media.

The Sunday morning worship service is the high point of the church’s week, followed by Sunday School for all ages. An array of groups, classes and programs meet throughout the week both on and off the church campus.

Grace Bible Church has cash reserves on hand and owns properties sufficient for future expansion. The comfortable, modern facilities were constructed in 2000 with the intention that a final worship center could be added in the future.

Grace Bible Church is led by a team of elders. The church came through a period of turbulence in 2015, from which the elders have learned much—especially in the area of church-employee relations. They are attempting to be proactive in providing clear and consistent communication to the congregation. The church is in need of steady but forward-thinking leadership.

During this time of pastoral search, the elders are working through the process of revising portions of the constitution, with input from an interim pastor. Much of this work is already finished. The elders are also working on a number of other ambitious projects that they believe must be completed in order to prepare the church for its new season of ministry.

The church employs a part-time secretary, and many administrative duties are cared for throughout the week by the elders and other part-time staff.

**More About the Position**

The pastor of Grace Bible Church must be a strong and capable Bible teacher and preacher. Sufficient audio or video samples of his preaching must be provided to the Pastoral Search Committee.

While all qualified applicants will be considered, the basic educational requirement for this position should be a master of divinity degree. Additional education will be viewed favorably, and the church would be supportive of the senior pastor continuing his education, such as in a doctor of ministry program.

The elders and congregation provide sufficient staffing and assistance such that the senior pastor will be able to focus deeply on his preaching and teaching and other vital ministries.

While this church demands strong leadership, the senior pastor must also be wise and temperate. This church includes many long-term members and many long-established patterns of conducting its ministry. While positive change will be welcome, it must be implemented slowly through consensus and with the greatest of pastoral care. Taking a “my-way-or-the-highway” approach would yield disaster.

This is not a starter position. Previous pastoral experience will be looked upon very favorably—although the Committee will also consider other types of experience, such as involvement in educational or evangelistic ministry or missions.

The best-case scenario would be to attract a superior candidate who would intend to stay at this ministry for a significant period of time—with the result that the work of God would be built up to a new level within Grace Bible Church.

Please submit your resume by mail or email to:

**Grace Bible Church
P.O. Box 534
Portage, WI  53901**

pastoralsearch@escapetograce.org

The Pastoral Search Committee will evaluate all submissions and respond as soon as possible.