



## 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Business Meeting Agenda

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April 23, 2023

Moderator: Charles Brown

Church Clerk: Jonnie Ghetti

1. Call to Order & Prayer ----- Charles Brown
2. Membership Report ----- Jonnie Ghetti
3. Financial Report ----- Larry Choate
4. Benevolence Team Report ----- Charles Brown
5. Elder Report (Verbal Only) ----- Luke Miller
6. Senior Pastor Report ----- Jimmy Long
7. Search Team Discipleship Pastor ----- Melvin Rhodes
8. Search Team Worship and Community Ministry ----- Tom Lynn
9. Youth Ministry Report ----- Randy Scott
10. Prayer Ministry ----- Susan Paradise
11. Other Business
  - Written reports submitted:
    - Children’s Ministry Report ----- Penny Callaway
    - Evangelism/Outreach ----- Libby Chapman
    - Front Line Team ----- Melvin Rhodes
    - Missions Team ----- Deborah Miller
12. Closing Prayer

# 2023 1st Quarter Membership Report

## Membership Changes in 1st Quarter 2023

Total Membership as of 12/31/2022		412
Salvation (Profession of Faith)		
Statement of Faith	1	
Letter Received	3	
Members Moved	-3	
Total Change		1
Total Membership as of 03/31/2023		413

## Total Membership Breakdown as of 03/31/2023

Active Members	253
Inactive Members	160
Total	413

\*\*\*\*\* 23 Candidates for membership as of March 31, 2023

**GRACE FELLOWSHIP FINANCIAL UPDATE**  
**1st Quarter Results through March 31, 2023**

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Tithes & Offerings	236,394	199,150	(37,274)
Net Other Income	0.00	6,500	6,500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>236,394</b>	<b>205,700</b>	<b>(30,694)</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>216,740</b>	<b>184,308</b>	<b>(32,432)</b>

March 31 General Fund Balance is \$495,322 which is 5.2 months reserve. The objective is to maintain a 2 - month reserve as a minimum.

MRRO (Major repair fund) balance as of 3/31/2023 is \$58,598.

**Explanation of Q1 Variances to Budget**

	Budget	Actual	Variance	
Missions	41,736	35,783	(5,953)	CP - 8% of below budget T & O; CR - no expenditures YTD
Personnel	67,382	61,069	(5,953)	Childcare Staff Wages; Staff Restructuring; Admin Coord Benefits
Church Growth	45,892	31,221	(14,671)	Discipleship & Worship Pastor Salaries benefits and expenses; Student Leader; VBS
Operations	61,730	56,235	(5,495)	Electricity; New Technology, Office Equipment
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>216,740</b>	<b>184,308</b>	<b>(32,432)</b>	

Note: Budget was built assuming both new pastoral positions were filled in April. We will see larger budget variance starting April until these roles are filled. Please be in prayer for these teams as they seek the individuals God has called to serve Him at Grace Fellowship

## Grace Fellowship

### Benevolence Team Report 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Contributions to Benevolence Fund	\$ 2,371.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Disbursements:	
Greene County Christian Outreach	\$ 949.00
Assistance with:	
Lodging/Rent	\$ 1,396.00
Utilities	\$ 1,512.00
Transportation	\$ 46.00
Other	\$ 626.00
Benevolence Fund Balance as of 3/31/23	\$ 21,844.00

## Senior Pastor Report for the Quarterly Business Meeting - Sunday, April 23, 2023

I want to begin by expressing gratitude for all of you who serve the ministry of Grace Fellowship and especially for those who have stepped up to fill areas of ministry as our search teams work to fill pastoral staff positions. Your commitment enables us to continue to do all we do with excellence to the glory of God! We are indeed better together.

The first quarter has flown by. In addition to my pastoral and preaching and counseling responsibilities, I am blessed to have been able to be part of our search teams' efforts in evaluating and interviewing candidates, praying for God's direction, and moving the process forward. I am excited about the future God has in store for Grace Fellowship.

I was asked to be part of a group to consider ways that we might help Greene County Christian Outreach (GCCO) in downtown Greensboro stay operational. After a number of meetings and with a lot of thought and prayer, a plan was devised to reorganize and replace the governing board with a new board, to expand the hours of operation, and to find sources of revenue beyond the income of the thrift store. Other Grace Fellowship members came on board to help shepherd the process, and today the new board is serving and GCCO is continuing its work of assisting the needy in our community.

Although it took place at the beginning of the 2nd quarter, I want to take the opportunity to applaud the efforts of our Evangelism/Outreach Team and the host of volunteers who made our Easter weekend celebration so wonderful. In spite of the rain, over 100 children and their parents showed up for an indoor egg hunt, along with crafts, bounce houses, cookie decorations, and a lot of fun. I was privileged to share the gospel story with those families to show how Easter is much more than bunny rabbits and candy eggs. This was followed by cold but glorious sunrise service and a meaningful worship service on Sunday with nearly 300 in attendance.

We had no baptisms in the first quarter, but we have celebrated seven thus far in April. God is good!

As we look forward to the rest of the year that is before us (Lord willing), we are excited to add additional pastors, continue to find ways to enhance our facilities, grow our children and youth ministries, bless families, serve our neighbors, and share the good news of Jesus. We are better together, that is for sure.

*Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (Romans 12:9-13)*

The Best Is Yet to Come!  
Pastor Jimmy

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023 Quarterly Business Meeting

Dear Grace Fellowship,

The Disciple Pastor Search Team continues it's work as we have met weekly to prayerfully consider an abundance of candidates. We have shortened the list by deciding which candidates the Lord may be guiding us to seek more information. We've conducted video interviews and recently concluded in-person meetings with the leading candidates. We will continue to seek additional information in the form of reference and standard background checks. As we narrow in we have continuously sought the Lord's direction and guidance. Please continue to lift our candidates and certainly this team in prayer as we work through the process.

Your Team members are: Lisa Brondyke, Libby Chapman, Penny Callaway, Pam Scott, Melvin Rhodes, Dave Christenson, Pastor Jimmy long (ex-officio) and Bobby Thomas

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Fellowship Discipleship Search Team

The Worship and Community Outreach Search Team Report

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023

The search team covets your prayers as we narrow the search for God's man for Grace Fellowship.

We are presently talking with several men that could well be God's man. Pray with us for discernment and God's will for them and for our team.

Tom Lynn, Chairman

## **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023 Business Meeting**

### **Youth Ministry (5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

A lot of exciting things are going on with the Youth! We want to thank the volunteers who have provided meals for the youth every Wednesday night. We sent a sign-up sheet around and it filled up in one day for 2 months of meals. We want to also thank the team working with the youth. Jared & Linsey Norton, Curtis & Emily Crumbly, Stuart & Heather Harris, Mac & Kaycee Manley, and Randy Scott. Attendance for Wednesday Night Youth Service has been fantastic, and we have averaged 24 students in the month of March. We had 2 of the students baptized on Easter. On April 12th we had game night and volleyball was a popular event. Everyone had a lot of fun. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, we began our study through John. Jared Norton led off teaching on John 1: 1-3. Randy Scott delivers the message on April 19<sup>th</sup> on John 1:4-13. Curtis Crumbly and Stuart Harris are leading the Sunday morning Youth Small Group at 9:00 am. They have between 4 and 9 students at that small group. Rocky and RoseAn Davidson have invited the students to their house for a summer fun day this summer. Should you wish to volunteer with the youth, please contact the church office.



**Prayer Ministry Report**  
**April 23, 2023**

Our Praying Over Chairs (the people who will occupy them) before Sunday services continue to go very well.

For two months, we have been having our Prayer Partners up front at the end of services offering to pray for anyone who would like to come forward. This is also going well. We hope even more people will begin coming forward as they become accustomed to this new part of our ministry.

On March 18 at the Big Event, we set up our “Need Prayer?” tent for the first time. We were amazed at the number of people who asked for prayer. There were 19! Others would stop and comment on how wonderful, important, refreshing, etc., what we were doing was. Blessings all around!

Susan Paradise

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023 Business Meeting

### Children's Ministry Report

(Birth -4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Kids Cove transitioned to a new curriculum in December 2022. The new curriculum follows the Christian calendar highlighting lessons that celebrate Christmas and Easter. The curriculum focuses on the application of God's word and covers both Old and New Testament stories. Bible verses have hand motions to help the little ones to memorize scripture.

4 volunteers have been identified to rotate through the month to teach the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grades. The Nortons are continuing to teach the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grades and have implemented a new curriculum based on Pilgrim's Progress.

We are planning a family SummerFest@Grace on June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30 – 7:30. There will be Bible centered activities, puppet show, T-shirts, Bounce Houses, face painting, cook out, ice cream, and a movie. This will be open to the community.

Wednesday evening provides childcare coverage for those volunteering with the Youth Program on Wednesday night or for those attending either a men's or women's CR Bible study. Volunteers are needed.

Kids Cove needs volunteers, for Sundays, Wednesdays, and for SummerFest. Please let me know if you are available to help.

Evangelism OutReach Team (EOT)

Members: Jimmy Long, Stacy Dissmeyer, Robin Gallops,  
Libby Chapman

1st Quarter 2023

Beginning in February the EOT started pre-planning for an Easter Family Fun Event. This event will reach out to our community with a fun time of activities and the message that Christ loves them.

Stats and information on the actual event will be forthcoming in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter business meeting since the event was on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Team continues to encourage each other and our church membership to seek ways to build relationships that can lead to a conversation about Christ.

Libby Chapman

Team Leader

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023 Church Business Meeting

### Grace Fellowship Frontline Ministry (Greeters and Welcome Center)

The Frontline Team currently consists of 14 volunteer members. Each member serves once a month on the same Sunday each month, either during the 8:30am to 9:00am period or the 10:00am to 10:30am period. Each person receives an email via Planning Center when they are scheduled to serve. On the Friday before their scheduled service, they receive a reminder email via planning center. We would welcome new members to our team. This ministry is a good way for new church members to learn the names and recognize the faces of other Grace Fellowship church members. If you have a desire to join us, you may contact Melvin Rhodes via text: 706-495-9303 or email: [gumpaw@outlook.com](mailto:gumpaw@outlook.com).

## **Quarterly Business Meeting - April 23, 2023**

### **MISSIONS TEAM**

Team Leader – Deborah Miller

Current Team Members –

Anne Meadows

Caroline Carter

Nancy Long

Bobby Thomas

The Missions Team is pleased to support the outreach efforts of Grace Fellowship by setting the budget for each year, setting goals and publicizing Southern Baptist missions offerings, educating the congregation about missions, and actively supporting missions causes locally, nationally, and worldwide.

This past quarter, the mission team encouraged and educated the church members of the North American Mission Board Annie Armstrong offering. To date, Grace Fellowship has collected over \$17,000!!!! Thank you to all who has supported the spreading of the Gospel!

This past quarter, the mission team identified and agreed to a diaper and wipes drive for the Family Heritage Foundation, which serves, supports, educates, mentors, witnesses and encourages refugees from many different countries in the world. They are located in Clarkston, Georgia. The team agreed to have the collection drive in June, which is refugee recognition month. The mission team, along with any volunteers will distribute in July.

The team also discussed and are in the process of planning a Skype type call with Bennet and Idong Ekandum, the founders of Family Heritage Foundation. This will enable the church members to meet the Ekandums and to learn more about their Foundation and the people that are served.

The team has also instigated the resumption of the Mission Minutes to resume once a month. The team will contact various missions that Grace supports and get updated videos and prayer needs in order to keep the members of Grace updated on the missions that they support.

And finally, the team supported the Dominican Republic mission team and their upcoming pre-trip needs.

In the coming months, we plan to continue our efforts to support local ministries, educate Grace Fellowship members of the ministries and missions our church supports by continuing the MissionnMinutes on the 2nd Sunday of each month, sharing any prayer requests made from each mission with the church congregation, encourage support of missions giving and make contact with each of the missions that our church supports as well as begin the education and planning for the Dominican Republic mission team and more opportunities with Family Heritage Foundation as well an any local, potential mission opportunities.

If anyone is feeling a desire to be the hands and feet of Christ but doesn't have the opportunity to "go into all the world", please consider joining the mission team as we work look towards the year 2023 with great excitement for what the Lord will do with Grace and through Grace. Also, if anyone in the church knows of any local mission opportunities, please let one of the mission team members know. We're always looking for more opportunities for the members of Grace Fellowship to participate in!!

We appreciate the trust you place in our team and thank you for the privilege of serving you in this role.

Deborah Miller