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Love God... Love Others... Serve the World



What We Believe

Our beliefs guide our sense of who we are and what we do; they are especially important when it comes to understanding God and the relationship He seeks with us. As a Christian church that wants to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ faithfully to our community and to the world, what we believe as Triangle Grace Church is essential to our purpose.

Our beliefs are effectively summarized in the historic Reformed confessions of the church. We are affiliated with the denomination known as ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, and we affirm a set of essential tenets of the Reformed faith. The term “evangelical” can be confusing, but at Triangle Grace Church we focus on the word “evangel,” meaning “good news.” As an evangelical witness, we are committed to sharing the good news about Jesus Christ with our community and the world, seeking to live out our faith in everything we do.

TGC In Brief

Our Church Body by the Numbers

- 512 covenant partners
- 300 average worship attendance
- Congregation ages 0-18: 110; ages 19-50: 196; ages 51 and older: 290
- 12 elders
- 9 deacons
- \$1.1 million 2020 operating budget



Current Staff

- Senior Pastor (33 years with TGC)
- Associate Pastor (17 years with TGC)
- Director of Children’s Ministries
- Director of Music Ministries
- Administrative support staff
- Director of Communications
- Director of Middle School Youth
- Director of TGC Preschool

Sunday Services

- 8:45 Worship
- 10:00 Sunday School (Children, Youth, College, and Adult classes)
- 11:15 Worship



Church Facility

- Sanctuary (capacity 300)
- 15,000-sq.-ft. Family Life Center including full-size commercial kitchen, basketball court, and performance stage
- Fellowship hall with adjacent small kitchen
- Adult and children’s classrooms
- Baby and toddler nursery rooms
- Offices for all staff
- 2 children’s playgrounds



History of Triangle Grace Church

In 1966, a small group of faithful Christians began to organize a new Presbyterian church to serve the growing population of southwest Durham County, near the new Research Triangle Park. Granville Presbytery (PCUS) and the Durham Presbyterian Council purchased seven acres of land near the intersection of highways NC 54 and NC 55 as a future building site.

Granville Presbytery officially recognized 31 charter members of Triangle Presbyterian Church (TPC) in September 1967. The congregation met at a local elementary school until a sanctuary and fellowship hall were completed in 1969. With the merger of the PCUS and the UPC in 1983, Triangle Presbyterian Church became part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).



In 1986, TPC accepted an offer from developers who wanted to construct an office building on the church's site, which was very near the route of the new Interstate 40 connecting Chapel Hill through Research Triangle Park to Raleigh. Using the proceeds from the sale, the congregation purchased six undeveloped acres on NC 54, four miles west of the original location. The first worship service in the new, larger facility took place in October 1987.

TPC's membership continued to grow along with the surrounding neighborhoods of south Durham. The congregation expanded the sanctuary and added space for Christian education in 1995. Another 15,000-square-foot expansion completed in 2002 added a Family Life Center, a

Welcome Center, a full-size commercial kitchen, and additional classrooms and offices.

After a long period of prayer and study, TPC changed both its denominational home and its name in 2018. The congregation sought and received dismissal to ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. Upon dismissal, the church's new name became Triangle Grace Church (TGC).

Since its founding, TGC has been served by five senior pastors: Rev. Herman Womeldorf (1967–1972); Rev. Joseph Greer (1973–1976); Rev. Al Dimmock (1977–1978); Rev. Lee Adkins (1979–1986); and Rev. L. Raymond Cobb (1987–present). Five associate pastors have served at TGC, including current associate Rev. Jeff Spainhour, who joined the staff in 2003.

Ministry Areas

Adult Discipleship Education

TGC intentionally emphasizes the creation and development of disciples through every stage of our walk with Christ. Each Sunday morning between worship services, 60-120 adults gather to learn. TGC also has an active midweek Bible study for adults, powerful adult sessions during Vacation Bible School, regular retreats, and other learning opportunities. An important reason for the size and success of the adult education programs at the church is that our congregation is blessed to have a host of gifted teachers and facilitators who take turns leading each of the classes. Growing with Christ in study and fellowship is a special part of life at TGC. Here is a look at our Sunday morning classes.



Establishing Disciples: This class is tailored to young adults, with topical sessions geared toward supporting faith development for newly established believers.

Educating Disciples: This class focuses on deep study of the Scriptures and the Reformed confessions as a way to approach God more intimately and to understand the unfailing grace offered to imperfect people.

Equipping Disciples: This class uses conversation and study to build a community of well-equipped disciples ready to show the love of Jesus in a world that needs His grace. To be ready, we foster a community of faith that encourages, challenges, and prepares believers to live out

our faith at all times and in all places: at home and at work, in our relationships and in our community.

Fellowshipping Disciples: This inter-generational class works to ensure everyone feels welcomed into a community that studies and prays together. The class begins with coffee, snacks and conversation, followed by interactive study on a Christian topic or book of the Bible.

Supporting Disciples: For many years, this class brought together single adults for Bible study and fellowship. It has now grown into an active group of senior adults who gather for in-depth Bible study and welcome believers whether single, divorced, married, or widowed.

Children's and Youth Ministries

Children's and Youth Ministries at TGC are shepherded by a full-time associate pastor for youth and families and a full-time director of children's ministries. A large and devoted group of ministry partners, many of whom have worked with youth and children for decades, support a wide range of intentionally designed programs on Sundays and throughout the week.

Children's Ministries: TGC's large, well-established, and effective children's ministry emphasizes discipleship with children and their families, from birth to adulthood. Paid staff and volunteers provide infant and toddler care on Sunday mornings during worship. Families with children age 2 through 3rd Grade typically worship together in the sanctuary through a weekly



children's sermon, and children are then invited to age-appropriate worship in our education rooms for the remainder of the service. A Sunday Clubs program provides further worship and learning opportunities in a fun setting during Discipleship hour between services.

TGC is also well known in the community for its Wednesday Clubs program for children in kindergarten through 5th Grade. Wednesday Clubs draw children within and outside our congregation, who enjoy time to learn, pray, share meals, and prepare two annual musicals.

TGC offers summer Vacation Bible School for children from preschool through 8th Grade.



Youth and College Ministries: TGC emphasizes relational youth ministry grounded in Hebrews 12:1-2 as its mission statement: "Let us run with perseverance the race set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." The lives of preteens, teens, and their families are a time of exploration, growth, change, and challenge. TGC's associate pastor for youth and families and volunteer youth ministry partners walk alongside our youth and their families, pointing to Christ while building trust and "earning the right to be heard" by investing time in authentic relationships. The ministry attracts young people from many middle and high schools in the Research Triangle region.



Three programs span eleven years of spiritual development:

- Major League Youth (MLY) for Grades 6-8
- Varsity for Grades 9-12
- College Ministry

MLY and Varsity meet weekly on Sunday afternoons/evenings; gathering time mixes unstructured and structured activities along with time for prayer and Bible-based conversation. Varsity also offers a Wednesday Bible study, service opportunities, and special recreation opportunities during the academic year. Every other year Varsity students have the opportunity to undertake a yearlong commitment that culminates in travel on an international mission trip.

Confirmation classes are offered annually for youth who are ready to profess their faith and consider church membership.

TGC provides ongoing financial support for Presbyterian Campus Ministry at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University. Our congregation also supports the ongoing spiritual development of our college-aged members with opportunities for fellowship and Bible study during semester and summer breaks.



Triangle Grace Preschool

Triangle Grace Preschool supports children and families from our congregation and the surrounding community by promoting the spiritual, physical, social, and intellectual growth of children aged two to kindergarten.

The school was started almost 40 years ago by parents who wanted to be involved in their child's preschool experience. It began with participants meeting in homes and has since grown to offer classes for two-, three-, and four-year-olds, and a 1/2-day transitional kindergarten.

The success of the school stems from its mission to provide a reasonably priced, quality education by trained professional teachers.



The Triangle Grace Preschool Philosophy...

- To provide a Christian atmosphere where our children can grow and develop at their own level of maturity and ability.
- To provide an atmosphere where parents can continue to learn and grow by working with their own and others' children in the classroom.
- To lay a sound foundation for social and spiritual growth.

- To foster the development of motor, intellectual, emotional, and social skills, each skill being equally important.
- To foster the development of these skills with a "learning through play and experience" approach.



Missions

Triangle Grace Church has taken seriously the admonition to be Jesus' witnesses "in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). We work to fulfill this mission within established ministry teams and by shepherding the vocations of individuals and small groups. Building sustained relationships with organizations and individuals is a key part of our outreach philosophy.

Community Outreach: TGC partners with ministries and organizations across the region. Active partnerships include:

- Open Table Ministry
- Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC
- Pregnancy Support Services



- Housing for New Hope
- Habitat for Humanity
- Ronald McDonald House
- Durham Crop Walk
- Reality Ministries
- Fayetteville Street Elementary
- Durham Rescue Mission
- Iglesia Immanuel Durham

Triangle Grace Korean Presbyterian Church (TGKPC):

For nearly eight years Triangle Grace Church has served as home for a first-generation Korean congregation that remains a part of the PC(USA). This unique opportunity blends both our international and community focus on outreach. Although now in different denominations,

from different cultures, and with different languages, we have been blessed to share our love for and devotion to the one true God. This partnership has edified both churches in leading us to practice our call to be one body, through one Spirit and with the one Hope shared in Jesus Christ.

Although our congregations worship at separate times we are intentional about finding opportunities to come together. Each Thanksgiving we share a worship service and meal together. The Korean congregation has also joined in special times of celebration at TGC. Through times of worship, fellowship and service with our Korean brothers and sisters, our understanding of the Kingdom of God has been enhanced and expanded.



National and International Missions:

TGC actively supports over 20 missionary partners engaged in work on four continents (North and Central America, South America, Asia, Africa). Our associate pastor for youth and families, Jeff Spainhour, is co-founder of Staff of Hope, a mission organization focused on water access, education, and Christian leadership development in East Africa; TGC supports Staff of Hope financially and routinely sends mission teams to join in that work. TGC also has a long, sustained partnership with missions partners in Haiti, including Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM), Haiti Fund, and Family Health Ministries. TGC members routinely travel to join our Haitian ministry partners in their work.

TGC has also offered sustained support for other national and international missions organizations, including:

- Rise Against Hunger
- Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Navigators
- Youth Conference Ministries
- Gideons International
- HOPE International



Music Ministry

Led by a full-time director of music, TGC's music ministry is a vital part of our blended worship experience and is open to anyone who desires to use his or her voice and love of music to worship God. An active group of ministry partners supports worship weekly with voices, instruments, and sound management.



Choir: With approximately 40 active members, this group alternates singing at the two Sunday morning worship services and performs a cantata (special musical service) each year. Small men's and women's ensembles provide music on special occasions.

Instrumentalists: Talented musicians offer their gifts with a range of instruments as accompanists, providers of special music, and members of a chamber ensemble that performs during annual cantatas.

Praise and Worship Team: This small group leads the congregation into worship at both services each Sunday and is accompanied by a band that includes guitars, bass, keyboards, and drums.



Community Profile

Triangle Grace Church is situated in the middle of one of the most vibrant and dynamic areas of the Southeast. Durham, North Carolina, lies almost directly between the beautiful Appalachian foothills and the beaches of the Atlantic Coast—about 135 miles each way. Our congregation's location in southwest Durham County (increasingly known as Southpoint) places TGC in a fast-growing, liveable suburban area at the heart of the Research Triangle region. Spread over a five-county area, the Research Triangle is anchored by the state capital, Raleigh, and the cities of Durham and Chapel Hill. The major universities associated with each city—North Carolina State in Raleigh, Duke and North Carolina Central in Durham, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—provide employment, first-class education, and the opportunity to watch a variety of collegiate sports



at the highest level of competition. Both Duke and UNC have nationally ranked hospitals. Employment opportunities have been plentiful, generally above national averages, including particularly strong technology, biotechnology, and health care sectors.

The Research Triangle is diverse from demographic and socioeconomic perspectives. As of July 2019, census figures estimate the total population in Durham County to be 321,488, with 37.3% African American, 13.7% Hispanic, 5.5% Asian and 42.6% Caucasian. The population with a bachelor's degree or higher is 47.5%; those 65+ comprise 13.1% of residents. The median income is \$58,190, but 13.5% of the population lives in poverty. The opportunities for ministry are numerous and exciting. Neighborhoods in our area range from established to brand new, with anything from apartments to townhomes to single family homes available.

Durham, particularly downtown, has undergone a renaissance in the past two decades. What once were abandoned tobacco warehouses have been transformed into offices, restaurants, music venues and coworking spaces. Downtown is anchored by the Durham Performing Arts Center, which offers the best of Broadway's traveling shows and nationally recognized performers, and the Durham Bulls Athletic Park, the 10,000-seat home of the Triple-A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays. A year-round farmers' market, parks, and shops round out the offerings there. Closer to Triangle Grace there is a regional shopping mall and even more parks and places to dine. The Triangle area is served by Raleigh-Durham International Airport, one of the top five large airports in the country and about a fifteen-minute drive along Interstate 40.



Senior Co-Pastor

For more than thirty years, Triangle Grace Church has been blessed with stable pastoral leadership. But as we anticipate a season of leadership transition, we have faith God is calling us to discover and walk faithfully into a new beginning. After much prayer and planning, we are excited to seek a biblically rooted, dynamic senior co-pastor. Under the Session's guidance, the new senior co-pastor will work in close collaboration with our current senior pastor and the rest of the ministry staff on a phased transition over a period of 18-36 months, after which the called individual will become sole senior pastor and head of staff.

During the transition period, the senior co-pastors will share jointly in providing for the spiritual growth and care of the congregation and oversight of its staff and ministries. We seek a pastoral leader who has clearly demonstrated spiritual gifts in the areas of preaching and teaching, pastoral care across the full spectrum of life and spiritual development, and equipping and empowering thriving ministry partners. We especially seek candidates whose passion is for shepherding the spiritual growth of disciples so they can be mature and ready

to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who desperately need it. Ideal candidates will have experience working collaboratively in congregational leadership and ministry.

Responsibilities include:

- regular preaching of the Word and administering celebration of the Sacraments;
- general oversight of the work of the church in ministry and mission;
- supervision and oversight of staff;
- training and spiritual leadership for elected church officers, including role as Moderator of Session;
- regular hospital, nursing home, and home visitation;
- individual pastoral counseling;
- performing weddings, baptisms, and funerals in consultation with the Session;
- providing teaching when available for Bible studies, Sunday school, small groups, and new member classes.

Work Expectations:

- maintain regular office hours
- other hours as required for meetings, counseling, emergencies, etc.
- occasional travel associated with position

Requirements:

- Master of Divinity (M. Div.) from an accredited seminary
- at least five years experience in pastoral ministry
- demonstrated preaching, teaching, counseling, and administration skills

Terms of Call:

- four weeks paid vacation; two weeks study leave; and six paid holidays each year
- annual performance and salary review conducted by the Personnel Committee
- three-month sabbatical leave for every seven years of completed service

To Apply:

Send your resume with a brief statement of faith and your sense of call to:

PNC@trianglegrace.org