

**Q: ARE PASTOR JEFF AND TRACY EXCITED ABOUT THESE CHANGES?**

100% YES! Both Jeff and Tracy, along with the elders of Grace consider these changes to be from the loving hand of God! As Keith Yoder, one of the Overseers of the Grace elder team, said in a recent elder meeting "This is 90% revelation, and 10% loss! ...these changes are cause for joyous celebration!"

If you'd like more information about these changes at Grace, there will be Q&A sessions scheduled. The days and times will be communicated at Sunday Services and by email.

If you'd like to speak or write to the elders concerning these changes, you can always call or contact us at the phone number and email listed below. Please read this document thoroughly before sending your question, and please keep all comments grace-filled and respectful!

**Grace Fellowship Church Shrewsbury**

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## **The Next Season of Grace!**

*Pastor Jeff and Tracy's  
Return from Sabbatical*

Fall 2021

**Q: ARE PASTOR JEFF AND TRACY COMING BACK TO GFCS?**

Yes! As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, Pastor Jeff and Tracy have already returned to full engagement at Grace Fellowship Church. Their time of sabbatical was very fruitful, not just for them personally, but for the ministry of Grace Fellowship Church and the Kingdom of God!

**Q: WERE JEFF AND TRACY RESTORED DURING THEIR SABBATICAL?**

Yes, their time away was filled with revelation and rest! They are returning to our church and staff families with a renewed sense of vitality, vision, and passion for God and His people.

**Q: WHEN WILL JEFF RETURN TO TEACHING ON SUNDAYS?**

Due to Pastor Jeff's ocular disability, he will not be returning to Sunday morning teaching (in person) for the foreseeable future. He will be participating, at times, in Sunday morning teaching and vision-casting through video.

**Q: WHAT'S WRONG WITH PASTOR JEFF'S VISION?**

In 2016, Pastor Jeff suffered a massive occipital lobe stroke. The stroke left him with a disability that no one can see, except Jeff himself. In addition to an active visual field loss (similar to a *permanent* migraine aura), Jeff's visual memory and internal visual navigation have been affected.

During his sabbatical, Pastor Jeff worked with a team of doctors and counselors who helped him to understand that his ocular disability is greatly amplified in certain environments, leading to increased stress and exhaustion. Before sabbatical, Pastor Jeff was giving 200% of his energy to maintaining a teaching presence on Sunday mornings. Obviously, this is not long term sustainable. While initially grieved, Pastor Jeff and Tracy both have gratefully accepted, with divine peace and contentment, that this is God's sovereign will for their lives and ministry. When God closes one door, He most often opens another one. This is definitely the case in this situation!

**Q: WHO WILL TEACH ON SUNDAYS?**

The current team of pastors will continue to serve in this way as they did during Pastor Jeff's sabbatical. Pastors Ben, Mark, Phil, Alex, and Matthew have all proven themselves to be men of God who correctly handle the Word of God. Pastor Jeff has developed this team of teachers and pastors over the life of Grace and has every confidence in their ability to edify the body by preaching the Word.

**Q: WILL PASTOR JEFF STILL SERVE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH? WHAT WILL HIS NEW ROLE BE?**

Yes, Pastor Jeff will still serve as lead elder and primary apostolic leader. While Pastor Jeff loves to teach, it is not his primary spiritual gift. Jeff is apostolically gifted. Those with the apostolic gift serve the body of Christ by casting vision, breaking ground, and laying foundations for new ministries. They also serve to protect and challenge the body in doctrine and direction.

In addition to the above, Pastor Jeff will be serving as President and Director of the York Regional Dream Center, building upon the foundations already laid. He will also be casting vision and building teams for a new ministry "form," one that provides opportunities for every-day discipleship. More information and opportunities for engagement in this new ministry to come. Pastor Jeff is beyond excited about the potential of this new ministry to be used by God in "Bringing them in, Building them up, and Sending them out, by HIS grace and for HIS glory!"

**Q: WITH JEFF'S ROLE CHANGING WHO WILL LEAD THE CHURCH?**

Grace Fellowship Church has always been an elder-led church. We believe that God speaks best through teams of His people. The group of seven elders, including Pastor Jeff, Pastor Mark, and Pastor Ben will continue to seek God's will by posturing themselves as "humble men who hear God together."

**Q: WILL TRACY CONTINUE IN HER ROLE AS DIRECTOR OF THE HARVEST CAFÉ & PANTRY?**

Yes. Tracy has already re-engaged in service at the Harvest Café, Bakery and Pantry. In addition, she is continuing her studies at Moody Bible Institute. During her time of sabbatical, Tracy's love for God's Word and her desire to lead others in a deeper understanding of the Word continued to grow. Tracy will be seeking new opportunities at Grace to build upon this Godly calling and passion.

**Q: I WILL MISS PASTOR JEFF'S TEACHING ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. WILL THERE BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ME TO CONTINUE "SITTING UNDER" HIS TEACHING?**

Yes! While teaching is not Jeff's primary gift (remember apostolic is), he LOVES to teach! In addition to teaching by video on some Sunday mornings, Pastor Jeff envisions a new mid-week offering as a vital part of the new ministry plan. More information will be coming soon!