## Assistant Pastor Position for Grace Chapel Lincoln, NE

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Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your consideration of the position of Assistant Pastor at Grace Chapel, PCA, in Lincoln, NE. Grace Chapel strives to be a church that proclaims Christ to about 350 congregants and a growing city.

The current pastoral staff values repentance, collaboration, compassion, joy and mercy. The congregation has benefited from these values since 2000 when Grace Chapel was planted. As a church family we love worship, community and outreach. We are deeply committed to the neighborhood in which we are planted and pray for a church that will one day embody all of its wonderful diversity.

To help communicate the needs and opportunities for our church, we will provide a few words of introduction about the city of Lincoln, the neighborhood called the "Near South" where we are located, and our church culture.

Lincoln is concurrently growing and committed to tradition. As the capital of Nebraska, Lincoln sees itself as the center of the state's political energy and the heart of Cornhusker nation. Lincoln talks a lot about history, tradition, and integrity. Nebraskans are loyal, ethical, and are determined to see themselves as moral and good. Lincoln balances that determination with a growing urgency to embrace change and difference. Lincoln is the home of the University of Nebraska and draws young people from all over the world. Lincoln ranks 5th in the nation for refugee placement per capita and welcomes large numbers of immigrants and asylum seekers. Lincoln was given the 2nd highest quality of life ranking by The Huffington Post, and 4th in Children's Health Magazine's listing of best places to raise a family.

Grace Chapel recently moved to the Near South - it is our new home. The move towards the center of the city in 2018 gave us the opportunity to become stewards of a historic building and a diverse geography - both racially and economically. The Near South is the most densely populated neighborhood in Lincoln, boasting stately homes next to multi-family dwellings. Many of the city's refugees have settled in the Near South and we are located close to the city's outreach programs to the under-resourced. We love our new location and the ways it is already shaping us.

Our deepest desire is to grow in our love for Christ and our city. Our current questions are about how to compassionately and wisely do so in the Near South, how to develop and maintain ecumenical ministry partnerships, and how to be a welcoming and faithful family. We value authenticity over performance, and grace over presentation. A large percentage of our congregation is young families and young professionals. We work hard to acknowledge and honor our single people and our elderly. We experienced a growth in ethnic and economic diversity associated with our move, and this deepens our commitment to be a place where anyone can come and experience the radical welcome of Christ. The role we're hiring for is an important one. Coming out of the pandemic, the need to connect in meaningful ways with other believers is felt by so many. Our church, like many others, lost people during COVID and also saw many new people darken our doors. We are all, in some ways, getting to know one another again. We truly have a heart to be formed into a family of grace, with hearts knit together in love. We are praying even now that God would bring us the right individual to come alongside us as we work toward that end.

If you have an interest in this position, please email a cover letter, resume with references, and a link to a sermon to <u>ben@gracepca.com</u>

Sincerely, The Grace Chapel Session