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Dear Grace Church Family:

In Genesis 12:1-3, we find the “Call of Abram” challenging each Christ-follower to respond to God’s calling in life. The verses are from the NIV:

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”.

Pastor Jay and his wife, Nancy, have received a new calling in life; and that is to become the Lead Pastor at The Metropolitan Bible Church in Ottawa, Canada. As Elders, we understand the importance of God’s calling in one’s life; and through much time in prayer; we support Pastor Jay and Nancy with their new calling of ministry.

Grace Church has always been a church that is Christ-Centered and we will continue to be focused on Him. We have been blessed with excellent teaching and preaching from Pastor Jay. Churches go through phases of life just like humans. We will enter this new phase of ministry with much excitement and joy. Pastor Jay has set the standard high for our church with biblical teaching and direction. We will not compromise the standards he has helped establish at Grace.

The Elders and Pastor Jay have agreed to work together these next few months to provide a transition that is best for Grace Church. Pastor Jay will preach until the end of the year (December 29<sup>th</sup>). The Elders will be seeking guest speakers to fill the pulpit starting in January. A Pastoral Search Committee is being formed which will help guide the selection process. Your prayers for the Klopfenstein family and for the Grace Church family are greatly appreciated.

To God Be the Glory!

Jody Martinez, Chairman of the Elders

LETTER FROM PASTOR JAY KLOPFENSTEIN:

Dear Grace Church Family,

It is with great emotion that I announce my acceptance of the position of Lead Pastor at The Metropolitan Bible Church in Ottawa, ON Canada. Nancy, the kids, and I moved across the country more than 4 years ago to Michiana and it has been an unbelievable experience for us. We have made lifelong friends, seen lives changed through Jesus Christ, been a part of a growing and thriving ministry, and the list goes on. Our decision to move to Canada has nothing

to do with any discontent at Grace. I love my job here and I love the staff I am privileged to work with all week. We have both loved and felt loved by you all. Our decision to move to Canada is a response to what we believe is a clear call from the Lord to participate in a mission's opportunity in a capital city that has little Gospel presence. I firmly believe that as the Lord calls our family away, He has something great in store for Grace Church. I believe He is already preparing the next Sr. Pastor who will be able to take Grace to the next level. The leadership and pastors at Grace are committed to finding a passionate teacher of God's Word who will pursue our vision and mission. We have a solid and godly leadership team and staff and we have a very healthy ministry here at Grace.

I want to encourage you in 2 specific ways. First, let this transition be something that stirs you to prayer like never before. Be praying for Grace, its leadership, and the next Senior Pastor. Pray for unity. Pray for continued growth and health. Pray, pray, pray! Second, I want to encourage you to stay the course. Sometimes transitions leave people feeling a little panicky. Don't panic! God is still on the throne and Grace Church is centered on the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a great church and your continued participation on Sundays, participation in giving, and participation throughout the week are more important than ever. This can be a very exciting time as you all bond together expectantly waiting on the Lord.

This is bittersweet for us. We are excited and to be honest, a little scared, of the opportunity in Canada. Our hearts also ache as we anticipate leaving a church family we love. We covet your prayers and support as we plan our move in January.

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:14-21)

In Him,

Pastor Jay