

Our Consolidated Vision

Vision Statement

To see the formation of one united body of believers ministering to the over 300,000 people of the south central New Hampshire corridor.

The Driving Values

1. **UNITY** - We are coming together for the glory of the Lord, guided by his Holy Spirit. We must focus on the things that unite us and not the things that divide us.
2. **CHRIST-CENTERED** - Everything about our congregations and this consolidation is about Jesus Christ, the head of the Church. He is our identity together.
3. **HUMILITY** - We approach this process knowing that God is at work, and we submit to his direction through His Word. We must lay aside ego and competition
4. **FOCUS ON PRINCIPLES** - We understand that details must be worked out but we keep our eyes on the larger picture. Details can be sorted out if we are united on principles.

A Message from The Joint Leadership

The consolidation process is being overseen by a joint leadership team composed of the elders of both churches.

- Ray Brown, Elder GBC
- Bob Bragdon, Elder GBC
- Donald Busch, Elder GBC
- Erik DiVietro, Pastor HBC
- Greg Jones, Elder-elect HBC

As stated previously, the decision to move forward with the merger was made after months of prayer, discussion and consideration. We believe that God has led us to this point for his glory. We prayerfully ask you to join us in this journey of consolidation.

Key Dates To Remember

November 1

Erik DiVietro introduced to Grace Baptist Church.

November 15

Congregational votes to proceed with consolidation process.

November 29

First joint worship service at Grace Baptist Church.

December 3

Joint discussion at Grace's facility.

December 11

Joint Christmas party.

December 13

Second joint worship service.

December 16

Congregational votes for both churches, consolidating for worship and service.

January 10

First official worship gathering as one congregation.



Prepared By:
Heritage Baptist Church
For Use in Both Congregations

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Grace Baptist Church & Heritage Baptist Church

CHURCH CONSOLIDATION INFORMATION

After the consideration and prayer of the leadership of both Grace Baptist Church and Heritage Baptist Church, we believe that God is leading us to merge our congregations into one congregation. It is a decision months in the making.

This may seem like an unorthodox step, but it is not unprecedented. This brochure will provide some answers to questions which might be common to people from both congregations as we go through this process.

Who Are the Congregations Involved?

Heritage Baptist Church

An unaffiliated Baptist church started in 1989 by Paul Schultz. Erik DiVietro came to the church as pastor in 2004. Recently revised their constitution to elder rule with the pastor as 'first among equals.'

Current attendance is approximately 60 with the congregants gathering from as far away as Antrim and Chester. Meeting in a rented facility at 21 Londonderry Turnpike, Hooksett.

Grace Baptist Church

A Conservative Baptist church started in 1974 by Stanley Rockafellow. Most recent pastor was John Schmidtke who resigned in 2007. Led by a board of elders with the pastor as 'first among equals.'

Current attendance is approximately 35. Meeting in a church building at 67 Bedford Rd, Merrimack, constructed 1977-1978.

Both churches share beliefs, visions, values and passions.

Being Involved with the Consolidation Process

The following opportunities will be offered for members of both churches to be informed, get answers to questions and interact with one another.

- **House meetings** will be intimate conversations at a home. Members can gather with the elders to hear more details and pray for the process.
- **A joint discussion** will be held at Grace's facility on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00pm. All the elders will be present to answer questions from members of both congregations.
- **Joint worship services** will be held on November 29 and December 13 at Grace's facility.
- **A Joint Christmas Party** will be held at Grace's facility on Friday, December 11.
- **Special business meetings** will be held on Tuesday, December 15 for each congregation to vote on a merger in principal.
- **Worship together as one body** would officially begin on Sunday January 10, 2010.

Answers to Some Common Concerns

Why merge congregations?

God brought the two churches together in a series of events that could only be considered providential. Our congregations have shared values, beliefs, and vision. The leaders of both congregations believed these things were not coincidences and were the clear guidance of God. We also feel that Heritage and Grace bring valuable elements to the table that will make this new venture something incredible.

Is this a takeover?

No. The two congregations, overseen by a joint leadership, will unite in worship and service before any *legal* consolidation will occur. The combined congregation will meet at Grace Baptist's facility in Merrimack as one church. Our identity as a new church will take time to develop organically.

What happens to the churches' assets?

We understand the concerns people might have of losing control of assets they have worked hard to maintain. During the combined congregation phase, offerings and expenses will be shared. We will have one budget and operate as one body but the assets will remain separate until the legal consolidation in the future.

What is expected of the members of each church?

We ask you to focus on three specific things:

1. **Find your identity in Christ.** It is easy to slip into a 'our church/your church' mentality but really, we are all united as Christ's church.
2. **Ask the questions on your heart.** This is the time to ask questions - both of the leadership and the people.
3. **Focus on the big picture.** Minute details will be worked out in time. In this process, we need to work on relationships and unity.

