



GRACE EDMONTON

**A GOSPEL-CENTERED
CHURCH FOR EDMONTON**



graceyeg.com



WHO WE ARE

WE ARE CONNECTED TO GRACE FELLOWSHIP, A GOSPEL-CENTERED FAMILY OF CHURCHES WHO DESIRE TO KNOW THE GOSPEL, LIVE THE GOSPEL, AND ADVANCE THE GOSPEL.



OUR VISION

GRACE EDMONTON EXISTS TO BRING GLORY TO GOD THROUGH LIVES CHANGED BY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST



OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO LOVE JESUS, LOVE PEOPLE, AND HELP PEOPLE LOVE JESUS.



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VALUES

A church's values are shaped by its people and what they hold dear. As Christians, all churches should primarily hold Jesus dear and value him first and foremost above all. That said, we believe that God works in and through local churches in different ways to show the world who he is and what he is like.

GRACE EDMONTON VALUES:

- 1. Jesus as King**
(and we worship him alone)
- 2. The Scriptures as God's Word**
(given to us to know, love, and worship Him)
- 3. The Gospel as central to all of life**
(individually and corporately)
- 4. Gospel Community**
(living out our identity as God's people)
- 5. Hospitality**
(showing God's welcoming nature towards outsiders)
- 6. Excellence in all we do**
(striving to reflect the glory of God in our efforts)
- 7. Creativity and beauty**
(reflecting God's artistic and inventive nature)
- 8. Generosity**
(both with time and finances)
- 9. Unity with charity**
(giving grace to those who understand differently)
- 10. Embracing tension**
(rather than striving for balance or middle ground)



EDMONTON IS NORTH AMERICA'S NORTHERNMOST CITY WITH A POPULATION OVER 1 MILLION PEOPLE. IF WE WANT TO REACH THE NORTH FOR JESUS, IT STARTS WITH EDMONTON.

STRENGTH

Population & Growth:

- Edmonton metro area has over 1.4 million people
- The city continues to grow every year, especially on the western edge
- New neighbourhoods are constantly being developed

Cultural Diversity:

- Edmonton is a culturally diverse city
- Population makeup:
 - 51% European ancestry
 - 16% East & Southeast Asian
 - 15% South Asian & Middle Eastern
 - 8% African
 - 6% Indigenous
 - 2% Latin American
 - 2% Other ancestries

Young Demographic:

- Average age is just 35 years old
- Only 27% of the population is married
- High number of young families, especially aged 35-45

NEED

Spiritual Lack:

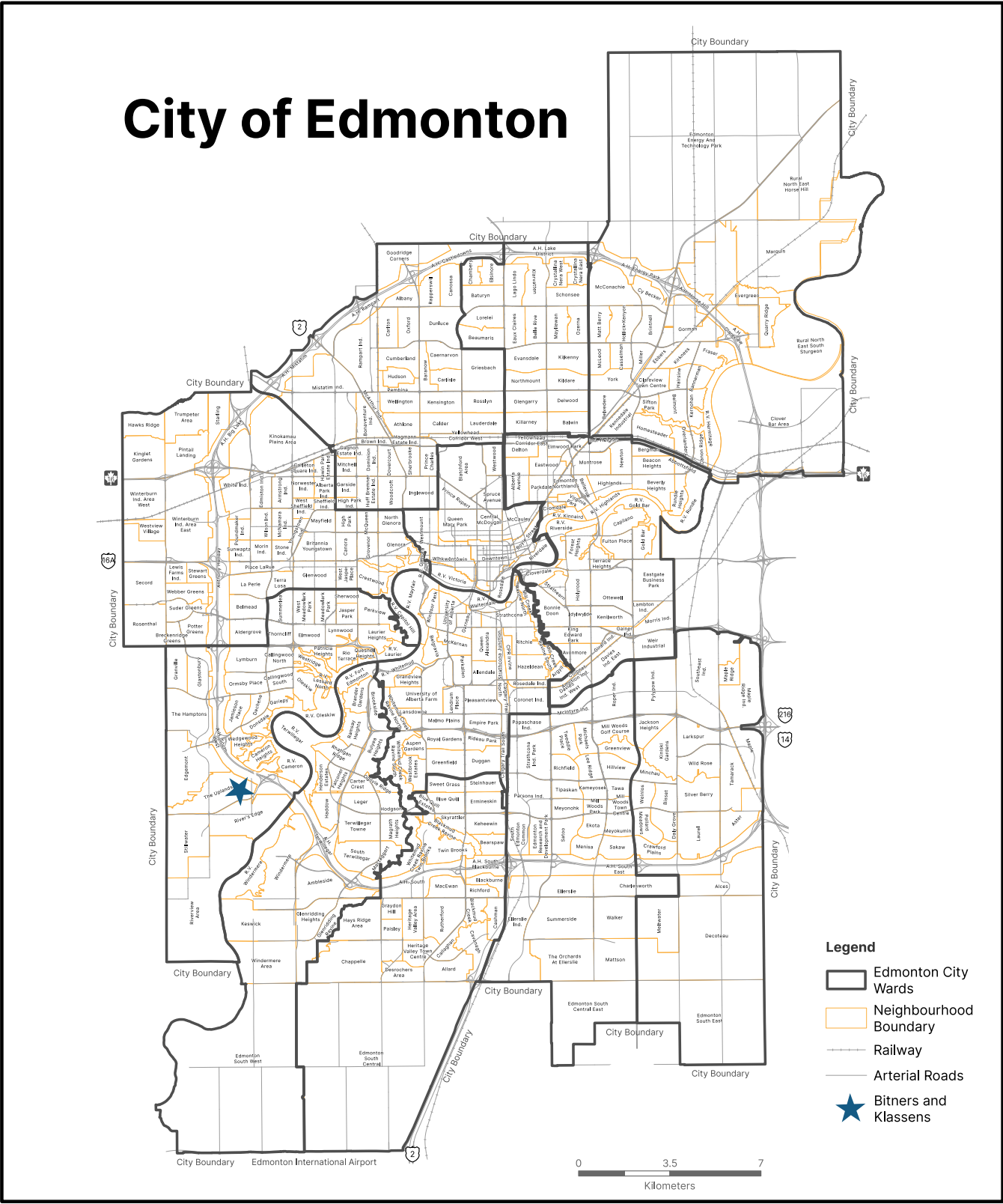
- Statistically few churches serve the city
- Very few churches are actively planting new ones
- There's a clear need for more Gospel-preaching churches

Religious Affiliation:

- Less than 5% are part of an evangelical church
- Even fewer participate regularly
- Edmonton is a very progressive city with very negative views about conservative Christianity

Opportunity:

- There is a massive opportunity for Gospel outreach and evangelism
- Edmonton's influence is the key to training leaders to send north



GRACE EDMONTON

WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD CHURCH?

Is it a crusty old building? A social justice do-gooders club? A bunch of fake, plastic people with permanent smiles?

What if the church was actually supposed to be a people devoted to pushing back the kingdom of darkness, rescuing the lost, and proclaiming Jesus’ decisive victory, all for the glory and by the power of Almighty God?

We believe that God’s church consists of broken and messed up people who are amazed by the Gospel, changed by the Gospel, and now empowered by the Gospel to make a real difference in the world that we live in.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus loves his church, died for his church, and rose again so that his people could be transformed into worshipers who show the world who he is and what he is like.

God did not call you to live life on your own, to seek your own comfort, or to be your own king. He is inviting you to be part of something bigger. To give more than just your Sunday mornings, but to devote your entire life to following Jesus.

As a part of Jesus’ church, you are invited into true Gospel Community to experience hope, belonging, and a mission to shine his light in the darkness.



LOCATION

As a church, our hope is to focus on the west-side of Edmonton, but be available as a church to the whole city of Edmonton.

HOW WE GATHER

Christians don’t just go to church, we are the church. But one aspect of being the church is gathering together, since we are not meant to live individual lives disassociated from one another. As Grace Edmonton, the hope is to gather in two ways: first as a larger body on Sundays, and second, as smaller groups throughout the week, known as Gospel Communities.

SUNDAY GATHERING

Sundays with us are a mix of discipleship and evangelistic outreach. We see ourselves as both followers and messengers of Jesus, so we make sure to focus on what God has to say. That’s why we spend a lot of time diving into the Scriptures, preaching through whole books, chapter-by-chapter, and verse-by-verse. It’s not just about knowing how to live right, but about really getting to know and love Jesus, because the whole Bible points to Him. Along with that, we come together to pray, sing, and celebrate the amazing story of Jesus’ death and resurrection through communion. So, Sundays are all about growing in faith and joyfully responding to the life-changing message of the Gospel.

GOSPEL COMMUNITY

The church is more than just a non-profit organization; it’s the family of God. So we embrace this identity by gathering in smaller groups called Gospel Communities. These tight-knit groups consist of 8-12 adults and their families, allowing us to truly live out the one-anothers of the New Testament. Within these Gospel Communities, we strive to be disciples of Jesus, supporting and pointing one another towards Him. We also encourage each other as missionaries, seeking to share the good news with those around us. Additionally, we serve one another and the communities where we live, work, and play. In essence, we aim to embody the love and care of a close-knit family while fulfilling our mission as followers of Christ.

OUR DNA

OUR IDENTITY COMES FROM WHO WE WERE DESIGNED TO BE. WHEN WE ARE ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD, WE BECOME A NEW CREATION!

The chief aim and purpose of humanity and of all creation is to give glory to God. The scriptures share the amazing news that God is glorified through the Gospel of Jesus and the resulting changed lives. Life change is both an event (salvation) and a process (sanctification). Both salvation and sanctification are evidences of God's grace in our lives and are appropriated by faith.

When we use the word Gospel, we mean the historic Gospel of Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected. This Gospel is more than a collection of facts to be believed. It is also the good and true story that Jesus died and rose to defeat sin, death, and evil in order to make all things new. As the only person capable of such an act, Jesus is the rightful Lord over every square inch of the universe. This "Jesus is Lord" Gospel compels us to be a community that lives redemptively in all aspects of life.

WORSHIP - LOVE JESUS

Worshiping God is first about valuing, loving, and treasuring God above all others. We love him because he first loved us. And it's through our deep desire for God that worship spills over into our lives and becomes living in joyful, sacrificial obedience to God (Romans 12:1). God can only be known, loved, and worshipped in and through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus alone can save us from worshipping ourselves to the worship of God.

COMMUNITY - LOVE PEOPLE

We are formed and guided by the Spirit and the Scriptures to be a counter-cultural community that participates fully in one another's lives through giving and receiving, serving and being served, loving and being loved. As God's people, we show the world what life under Jesus' gracious reign looks like and serve as a foretaste of the coming Kingdom.

MISSION - HELP PEOPLE LOVE JESUS

We are the missional community of God, called to reflect the heart of God. As his people, we are empowered by his Spirit and sent into the world to join with God in his mission to renew this world with the Gospel. Because Jesus is worthy, we work to reorient our lives around him. Although God is sovereign and does not need our help, it is our blessing and a lifeline of spiritual health to be on mission with him and to love others as he does.



WHY

The Bitners and Klassens moved from Saskatchewan to Edmonton in 2024 in order to see a new church planted where people can experience the amazing freedom and beauty of the Gospel. Our passion and vision is to see people come to saving faith in their creator, The Lord Jesus Christ, through gospel saturation in the everyday stuff of life. We believe this redemption, His love, and the power of the Gospel is lived out through a robust local church: a body of believers who do life together and multiply gospel communities. After speaking with pastors and denominational leaders in Edmonton, the consensus is that we need more churches in Edmonton like this.

WE FELT CALLED TO EDMONTON IN 2021 WHEN WE REALIZED THAT THE 5TH LARGEST CITY IN CANADA WAS GROWING AT A STAGGERING RATE, AND YET WAS SEVERELY UNDERSERVED BY THE GOSPEL.



CLAY BITNER

PASTOR/PLANTER

Clay was raised in Edmonton and spent the majority of his childhood years engaged in sports and other activities in and around Edmonton. After moving to Saskatchewan, where he married the love of his life, Kim, he continued a career in web development and video production.

Even though life is busy with raising their six children, they have been deeply invested in discipleship and church planting since 2008. Clay has been serving as a pastor and Executive Director of Grace Fellowship where his skills and influence have led to three church plants in and around Saskatoon.

He has been instrumental in developing marketing, strategy, creative direction, and executive order for our family of churches since he joined. Not only was he on the launch and leadership team for Grace Saskatoon, but was sent out to plant Grace Warman and helped coordinate and organize the launch of Grace Evergreen as well.

Clay serves on the lead team for Acts 29 Canada as director of English assessments and contributes to the global assessment and creative teams for Acts 29.

Clay, Kim, Markus, Wyatt, Bailey, Deacon, Felix, and Jayne



THE BITNERS

THE KLASSENS



Jared Klassen

PASTOR/PLANTER

Jared has lived in the Prairies his whole life, along with his wife, Chantel, and their two children. Not only has Jared devoted himself to serving the local church, he has also been involved with adoption and fostering as a way of living out the good news story of Jesus. As a web developer for the past 19 years, Jared excels at using his creativity and thoughtfulness to solve complex problems.

Jared was a prominent and essential part of Grace Warman since its launch, and is excited to use his gifts to love and serve Grace Edmonton. He is a shining example of one who has been discipled and trained through the local church to be an effective communicator, disciple maker, and servant leader.

Jared, Chantel, Raeca, and Ephraim

WHAT OTHERS HAVE EXPERIENCED

Helen M

Clay and Kim Bitner have been an integral part of Grace Warman. Clay has given so much of himself in the planning and the workings of this church. The success of this church plant is because of God calling people like Clay and Kim. Ministry is not easy. The willingness to serve that Clay and Kim have shown to us, time and time again is a beautiful thing. This willingness then inspires others to do likewise. They are honest, hospitable, faithful, they lead by example and this is evident by how they run their own household. 1 Timothy 3:1-13. I love this family! Clay and Kim have blessed me beyond measure. I have been blessed by Clay’s preaching, teaching, their gift of music and Clay’s gift of technology. I believe God has placed a calling on them to plant another church and I am now called to aid in this opportunity, through my obedience to God.

Julie K

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you my experience with both Clay & Kim Bitner and Jared & Chantel Klassen. Without getting into too much detail, I found God in April 2023 but I was apprehensive about attending a church. On May 21, 2023 I attended my first church service at Grace Warman. In fact, this was the first church service I attended as an adult. I didn’t know what to expect. Chantel Klassen was the first non-pastor that came up and introduced herself to me and made conversation with me. She was very warm and inviting. I am quite new to the church overall, but I can say that both Chantel and Jared are always personable when I encounter them, and Jared always delivers great messages as a Pastor.

Since October of 2023 I’ve been a part of Clay & Kim Bitner’s Gospel Community. Kim is such a wonderful warm woman; she so graciously opens up her home to host the community group every week. Clay is so full of knowledge, and he has such a non-judgmental approach which is much appreciated to a new Christian trying to go from knowing nothing about God to obtaining knowledge and relationship with God. The Bitners are people that I look at and hope to grow like. They are role models. Their love of God and their love for people in the church is one of the things I admire about them, it has been such a blessing to be part of their community group. This is one of the reasons it will be so important to me that I am baptized before they leave Warman to plant in Edmonton.

Their departure to Edmonton will be so bittersweet. Both the Klassens & Bitners are such pivotal parts of our church, and their leaving will leave a huge hole. However, God has called them to reach others and plant a church. I know that they will make an impact for many over there. Their spirit and guidance will help other new Christians like they helped me, and that’s the main purpose is to spread God’s word and help save lost souls.

THE PLAN

VISION MEETINGS

Vision meetings are designed to help our team meet as many people as possible in our community. We will share the vision for Grace Edmonton, answer questions, and invite people to join our core team.

TEAM MEETINGS

These meetings are designed to prepare our core team both practically and spiritually for the launch of our Sunday gatherings. We will focus on building the unity and culture of our team.

CHURCH LAUNCH

The launch of our weekly corporate gatherings in Edmonton.

FINANCES

CREATIVE & TECHNICAL

We want to see an atmosphere of worship that honours God and inspires people to worship through singing, serving, giving, listening, and thanking God for who He is and what He’s done.

- Audio / Visual / Lighting
- Musical Instruments
- Storage / Trailers
- Kid’s Space / Curriculum

ADVERTISING & OUTREACH

We want to do whatever it takes to make sure that every person in our city has a chance to hear the good news about Jesus, and to submit their lives to Him as Savior and Lord.

- Print Materials
- Advertising
- Launch Gatherings

SALARIES & TRAINING

Jesus says that a worker is worthy of his Wages (Luke 10:7). We are willing to do whatever it takes to see Jesus build his Church here in Edmonton while raising our families to love and appreciate the local church.

- Part time income
- Benefits
- Training events and conferences

LAUNCH BUDGET

DEPARTMENT	COSTS
CREATIVE & TECHNICAL	\$37,350
ADVERTISING & OUTREACH	\$30,000
FACILITY RENTAL & FEES	\$26,500
SALARIES & TRAINING	\$24,650



JOIN

**YOU ARE NEEDED!
GOD'S PLAN DOES NOT EXIST
JUST FOR INDIVIDUALS TO
WORK AT IT ALONE. CHURCHES
ARE MADE UP OF PEOPLE
WORKING TOGETHER TO SHOW
THE WORLD WHO GOD IS AND
WHAT HE IS LIKE.**

PRAY

This is a significant God-sized dream, and every God-sized dream begins with prayer. Join us and our team by praying for the city of Edmonton, and Grace Edmonton.

PROVIDE

God's dream for Edmonton is only possible through the generosity and sacrifice of people like you. Pray and ask God if He would have you give financially towards helping establish Grace Edmonton. You can partner with a one-time contribution, or even an ongoing monthly gift. Please visit graceyeg.com to give.

PARTNER

If you're in the Edmonton area, we would love to have you join our team. For us to reach Edmonton with the hope of Jesus, it will take other people stepping out in bold faith and saying "YES" to this dream.

If you live outside of Edmonton, pray and ask God if He would have you move to the city of Edmonton to help start Grace Edmonton. Contact us, and we'll help you take the next steps. Send an email to edmonton@graceedmonton.com today.

STAY UP TO DATE

See what's going on by following us on social media or subscribing to our newsletter.

Feel free to invite others to share in the journey with us.



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LOVE JESUS
LOVE PEOPLE
HELP PEOPLE LOVE
JESUS



Fellowship Prairies



ACTS 29
CANADA

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