

# OTM DATA SHEET

## COMMUNITY MINISTRY PORTFOLIO

### BASIC INFORMATION

Name of Church: Grace Church Jamaica  
Diocese: Long Island  
Address: 155-15 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432  
Phone: (718) 291-4901  
Email: vestry@Historicgrace.org

Position title: Rector  
Current Status: Interim Priest  
Receiving Names until: October 2022  
Order of Ministry:

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA): 43  
Number of Weekend Worship Services: 1  
Number of Weekday Worship Services: 1  
Number of Other Worship Services per Month: 0

### COMPENSATION, HOUSING, AND BENEFITS

*Note: Full New Rector Compensation Package Submitted Separately*

Current Annual Compensation: \$58,611  
Cash Stipend: N/A  
*plus*  
Housing/Rectory: \$29,207 Housing supplied for [number of people] *plus*  
Utilities (if separate from housing figure): \$  
*plus*  
SECA: \$ Representing reimbursement of: Full/Half/ Other

Compensation Available for New Position: \$60,000 Cash  
Stipend Negotiable? N/A

Pension Plan: Affirm compliance with CPF requirements

Healthcare Option: Yes

Dental Option: Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in Budget Yes  
Amount: \$ 42,000

Vacation Time: Yes

Continuing Education Time: Yes  
Continuing Education Budget: \$ 2000

Sabbatical Provision: Yes

Travel/Auto Account: Yes  
Travel/Auto Budget: 12% of annual salary

Other Professional Account: ?  
Professional Budget: \$

### **INCUMBENT HISTORY & CHURCH DAY SCHOOLS**

**Name:** N/A  
Position Title:  
Date Begun:  
Date Ended:

**Name:**  
Position Title:  
Date Begun:  
Date Ended:

**Name:**  
Position Title:  
Date Begun:  
Date Ended:

**Church School:**  
Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children's Church School:  
2 Number of Students for Children's Church School: 14

**Day School:**  
Number of Teachers for Day School: N/A  
Total Staff for Day School:  
Number of Students for Day School:

### **NARRATIVE**

*In our baptism we promise to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, seeking and serving Christ in all persons. You are invited here to reflect on your ministry by responding to all of the following questions (max 250 words each). You may answer in more than one language, if appropriate.*

**Describe a moment in your worshiping community's recent ministry which you recognized as one of success and fulfillment.**

Homecoming September 2021 was the first face to face fellowship service since the COVID 19 pandemic. It was refreshing to be able to sit together, share a meal and have a friendly conversation. The parish hall was beautifully decorated by volunteers who spent time the day prior cleaning and preparing for the event. After the food was blessed, everyone said a heart felt AMEN. We were joyous and hopeful for the future. On Easter Sunday 2022, Grace Church experienced the biggest in-person turnout of the congregation since the pandemic. We had a full choir with special musical accompaniment. The church was filled with harmonious voices as both the choir and the congregation made a joyful noise to God's glory.

**How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?**

We provide optional worship services on Zoom and Facebook for members unable to attend in person. By integrating the use of technology, parishioners can conveniently utilize options for tithing, and fundraising online. We can also send out newsletters and emails to those who are homebound. We have the capacity to conduct meetings and bible study virtually and can participate in the Deanery church service. At Grace, we invite our young people to be active participants in the service as lay readers, acolytes, ushers, and Eucharistic ministers.

**Please provide 4-6 words (separated by commas) describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshiping community.**

Spiritual leadership, compassionate, preacher, teacher, administrator, and pastoral leadership.

**Describe your liturgical style and practice. If your community provides more than one type of worship service please describe all.**

Liturgy at Grace Church Jamaica comes out of the "broad" church tradition of Episcopal worship. Prior to COVID, we offered two Sunday services. Since reopening, there has been one service at 10 am. We plan to resume the second 8 am service in the Fall. The service is Rite Two Eucharistic with choir. The Hymnal songs, with selections from Lift Every Voice and Sing, provide just the right mix for our congregation. The organ music, weaved with some piano selection, is pleasant and satisfying. We also have Wednesday noon-day service which, since reopening after the pandemic, is on the second Wednesday of the month and will be on hiatus for the summer. There is church Sunday school service for children at 10am. The first Sunday of the month is Youth Sunday. The Youth participate by being ushers, lecturers, and also sing. There are special holiday worship events such as Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols during which children from the Sunday school participate in the Christmas pageant; Christmas Eve Eucharist, Christmas Day, New

Year service: Holy Eucharist, All Saints Day , Ash Wednesday, Holy Week services, Easter Vigil, Easter Day, Pentecost and Harvest Sunday where the Sunday school and Aim Youth Group decorate the church for Thanksgiving.

### **How do you practice incorporating others into ministry?**

In the past, we held “Ministry Sunday” at which tables were set up for each ministry around the parish hall. Parishioners had the opportunity to visit each table and learn about the ministry. A brochure with the names and function of the ministries were available for all parishioners. Currently, announcements are made inviting members to join or volunteer and a sign up sheet is made available. We try to ameliorate situations by encouraging those with issues to join committees responsible for handling the concern.

### **As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing?**

Prayers are said for the sick and the shut-in, political leaders, and church leaders, for people celebrating special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries, traveling, and other special needs every Sunday during the mass. Upon request, the clergy makes home visits and offers communion. Bible & Book study is provided for spiritual growth. Cursillo (An Episcopal renewal movement) hosts monthly Ultreya fellowship at Grace and other parishes. The meetings have been held virtually since the start of the pandemic. Prior to COVID, the soup kitchen provided a place where individuals in the community could receive a hot meal and clean clothes from a rack. They are treated with dignity and grace. We plan to reopen the Soup Kitchen this Fall. The Wellness Committee provides health care information and exercise classes to promote good health for our parishioners and other locals.

### **How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?**

Grace, in collaboration with other area churches, provides food to the needy in the community on a rotating basis. Prior to COVID the soup kitchen was opened to the public every Tuesday. Our Wellness Committee, led by retired people in the health field, promotes disease prevention with local health fairs at which they conduct blood pressure screening and provide information about healthy lifestyle to the community. Their motto is “health care is not a privilege but a right”. During the pandemic, they teamed up with the NYC Department of Health to provide COVID vaccination and testing. The youth group participates in an annual coat drive and goes caroling during the Christmas season to Grace Houses, a home for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The church prior to COVID, held an annual Christmas toy give away event. Local children in need and their families participated in the event. Prior to the COVID pandemic, Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) used our parish hall to conduct weekly meetings.

**Describe your worshiping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.**

Grace Church participates in the services with the Jamaica Deanery and our members attend Deanery meetings and events. During Lent, members attend church weekly in various Deanery parishes. Grace Church participates with the Diocesan Book of Remembrance. Our youth group participates in an annual diocese Bowling with the Bishop event. The Acolyte Guild hosts a bus ride and participates in the annual Acolyte Festival in Washington, DC. They have participated in this event for the past 30 years prior to the pandemic and have been recognized by the National Cathedral for their consistent participation. The youth attend the national and regional conferences which are hosted by the Union of Black Episcopalians. Grace Church has a vibrant group of congregants who are active members of the Union of Black Episcopalians and attend annual conferences. The diversity in Grace Church is reflected by members set in their Anglican ways mixed with Cursillo members who attend monthly Ultreya meetings across the Diocese of Long Island.

**Tell about a ministry that your worshiping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?**

There has been a resurgence of the Health and Wellness ministry within the past five years. Members of the committee are health professionals, active and retired, who are concerned about the health disparities in the black and brown communities. They recognize that many major health issues can be avoided if individuals are proactive about their health. This group of professionals think that there's a link between high blood pressure and many of the ailments that affect people of color. They participate in local health fairs and advocate for people to undergo blood pressure screening. This health ministry encourages individuals to be active and they have teamed up with NYC's Health Department in the Walk NYC program. Prior to the pandemic, they offered nutrition classes to promote healthy eating. During the pandemic they arranged for a virtual exercise program. The committee worked with NYC Health and Hospitals, to set up a pop-in COVID testing and vaccination site in Grace Church parish hall.

Dr. Beverly Lyons email: [bvrlins349@gmail.com](mailto:bvrlins349@gmail.com)

**What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshiping community?**

Parishioners are encouraged to make annual pledges and to consider the needs of the church in their budgets. Grace Church receives a low number of pledges at collection time. Parishioners seem reluctant to commit to giving a fixed amount that they may not be able to follow through with. It may have to do with uncertainty of our finances and health. However, the actual giving of members of this congregation often significantly reaches beyond pledged amounts. We probably could better explain the importance of pledges for budget purposes. We could also alleviate fear

by explaining that the actual giving usually outweighs pledged amounts, by God's grace.

**What is your worshiping community's experience of conflict and how have you addressed it?**

Members of Grace really love their church and want what's best for the church. In a diverse congregation, conflict will sometimes arise about what is best for the whole church. During disagreement, some parishioners can be quite vocal. Often issues are resolved by having a one-on-one conversation or they are resolved at a meeting of the Rector and the Vestry. There was a conflict in painting the fence, a couple of parishioners wanted it done professionally, however there was another group that wanted it done by church volunteers. When it was explained to the group that wanted it done professionally the cost the group decided to support the volunteers.

**What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?**

A significant change in Grace Church was the decision to provide virtual church services. Most of the congregation has adapted to this change well. The change afforded many the opportunity to rethink what it means to be a church. Our members no longer look at spirituality as going to a service at a certain time in a certain place for an event, but as a relationship with people. Digitizing services made it possible for former members to participate from their new cities of residence. For some, spotty attendees turned into regular participants. We are exploring continued use of technology in the long term so that members of the congregation who may have difficulty getting out in inclement weather are not left out of the services. Participation will be possible via Facebook and or Zoom. Some Seniors have been unable to adjust to technology. We learned that there was some confusion delivering communion during COVID 19. We are working on acquiring better communication outlets to support changes.

**CONNECTIONS**

Worshiping Community's Website:

<https://www.historicgrace.org>

Media Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/graceepiscopalchurchjamaica>

Language Significantly Represented: English

## **REFERENCES**

### **Bishop**

The Right Reverend Lawrence C.  
Provenzano [lprovenzano@dioceseli.org](mailto:lprovenzano@dioceseli.org)  
516-248-4800 x131

### **Diocesan Transition Minister**

The Reverend Canon Claire Woodley  
[cwoodley@dioceseli.org](mailto:cwoodley@dioceseli.org)  
516-248-4800 x135

### **Wardens and other contacts:**

Glenn Greenidge  
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