

FAQ

Grace City & LJCC

Campus Transfer - The Pathway Forward

Question	Answer
1	<p>What does “campus transfer” mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The congregation of La Jolla Community Church voted to approve the transfer, sale, and donation of its physical campus to Grace City Church per the LJCC Board’s recommendation on October 28, 2023.- Grace City will become responsible for the management and leadership of the campus and preschool at 4377 Eastgate Mall, San Diego, CA 92121 once the transfer is completed, anticipated to be by January 1, 2024.
2	<p>Why did La Jolla Community Church vote to do this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- LJCC has been in a long process of discerning the best solution for the future of LJCC as its founding pastor Steve Murray hopes to retire following completion of the transfer.- Identifying a successor was not proving to be fruitful and the board began considering alternative options.- Over one year ago the LJCC board began exploring ways its physical campus could be donated to an existing ministry given its strategic location, successful preschool, and legacy of ministry in the region.- After working with an outside consultant and considering multiple options over 18 months, Grace City Church became the obvious choice because of its track-record of health and stability, faithful presence and commitment to the UTC region, and financial capacity to refinance the remaining campus debt.
3	<p>When will this campus transfer take place?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The process of learning and transfer between Grace City and LJCC has already begun and the start date for Grace City Church on the campus (4377 Eastgate Mall) is anticipated to be January 1, 2024.- There will be opportunities to connect together in December on December 6th for a vision & prayer night and also on Christmas Eve as we celebrate together.
4	<p>What will happen to the congregation of La Jolla Community Church (LJCC)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- As La Jolla Community Church comes to a close, the congregation of LJCC is encouraged to join the Grace City Community led by Pastor Randall Tonini.- There is profound alignment of culture, theology, values, and ministry philosophy between Grace City and LJCC and it is our hope that all of the LJCC congregation would find a church home with Grace City.

5	Is this a church merger?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. A church merger would typically be used to describe two congregations joining together to intentionally create something new through shared leadership and combining of resources. - Once the transfer is completed, LJCC will no longer operate as a church and is transferring its campus and preschool to Grace City without expectation and in full support of their existing ministry leadership and model.
6	Will Pastor Steve Murray continue as a pastor in the church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. Pastor Steve Murray has already been in an intentional process and season of succession with his retirement anticipated once the transfer is accomplished.
7	Besides the location change, is Grace City changing in any other ways?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no current plans to alter or change any of Grace City's ministry programming or strategy. Grace City Church has a positive reputation and a successful ministry model and our goal is for this campus transfer to uphold and support their current ministry and mission.
8	What will happen to the board of each church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LJCC's board will continue forward in 2024 until all administrative duties related to the closing of LJCC are complete. - Grace City's board will continue in its role and function within Grace City Church without change.
9	What will happen to the staff of each church?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The paid staff and contract positions of LJCC (as they are known today) will come to an end on 12/31/2023. - There has been ample and transparent communication with the staff regarding this and an appropriate severance has been provided for in the financial arrangements once the financial transfer to Grace City is complete. - Grace City has been talking with a few specific LJCC staff regarding opportunities for on-going employment. The details of these arrangements are still in process.
10	What are the financial ramifications to this campus transfer?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LJCC will pay off its existing bank debt, as well as other operating expenses and staff severance. At that point, it is not anticipated LJCC will have significant funds of any sort. - Grace City Church is obtaining a new loan on extremely favorable terms, and those funds will be used to acquire the property and to help pay operating expenses for the Church.
11	Where do I direct any questions and/or concerns not addressed here?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For those in the LJCC congregation, please email Pastor Steve Murray (Steve@LJCC.org). - For those in the Grace City Church congregation, please email Pastor Randall Tonini (Randall@gracecitysd.com).