

Grace United Methodist Church

Conference Related Institutions

Connectional Ministries

Relation to Otterbein Franklin Senior Life Community

Franklin Grace UMC has a wonderful relationship with the Otterbein Franklin Senior Life Community. Over the years, fruitful engagement has taken place on different levels. Indeed, it was a collaboration between Grace Church and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce in 1954 that brought into existence the “Franklin Home.” That partnership stills remains as Grace Church seeks to build bridges into the community.

Areas of Collaboration

Franklin Grace sees the OFSLC as a “second campus” for ministry and outreach (see attached article). Close to a third of the persons who attend and worship at Grace Church live at the “Community.”

Close connections occur on different levels throughout the year. Here are examples of the ways in which ministry is happening.

1. **Vespers Worship** – Both Pastor Jenothy Rather and Pastor Andy Kinsey lead and preach at the Vespers Worship services on Sundays: typically, once a month, but often more.
2. **Bible Studies** – Ongoing and short-term Bible Studies take place at the campus of the OFSLC.
3. **Home Groups** – Several members of Grace Church lead small group studies throughout the year, offering various topics.
4. **Prayer Walks and Prayer Groups** – Every week a Men’s Prayer Group from Grace Church meets at OFSLC. Prayer Walks take place once a month. Several other prayer ministries take place on Sunday evenings.
5. **Seminars** – Grace Church has offered Mission Seminars and Educational Seminars at the Community.
6. **Board of Directors at OFSLC** – Several members of Grace Church provide pivotal leadership on the Board of Directors.
7. **Missional Support** – Grace Church has offered all kinds of support to the Benevolence Fund at the Community to support residents.
8. **Visitation and Care Ministry** – The Caring Ministry of Grace Church does a great deal throughout the week to connect to homebound members at the Community.

9. **Programs at Grace Church – Many of the residents of the Community participate in the ministries of Grace Church.**
10. **Intergeneration Sharing and Vocational Community – Grace Church has been intentional about developing space for intergenerational sharing to take place, especially with respect to our Confirmation Classes. Folks from the Community also participate in Intergenerational Sharing with the Youth Group as well.**
11. **Retired Ministers at Grace Church – Currently, approximately twenty-five retired ministers attend Grace Church. Several of these pastors offer support and encouragement, along with ongoing leadership (often behind the scenes).**
12. **Funeral Services – Many times the pastors and staff of Grace Church are called upon to lead the services of remembrance at the Wright Chapel.**
13. **Hosting and working with Joseph Molungo of The United Methodist Church in North Katanga in the Congo.**

Indeed, there is a kind of pipeline between Franklin Grace UMC and the Otterbein Franklin-Community.

We are sure we may be leaving out an aspect or an element of our ministry between these two entities. Hopefully, this provides some framework for understanding.

Andy Kinsey

Jenothy Irvine