

## CHURCH & COMMUNITY PROFILE

### CHURCH PROFILE

- **Mission Statement:** The mission of Grace Church is to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ across the street and around the world.
- **Doctrine:** Grace Church is Protestant, evangelical, baptistic, and premillennial in its doctrinal beliefs (see full doctrinal statement at gracehome.com).
- **Affiliation:** Grace Church is affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Iowa and the Southern Baptist Convention.
- **Leadership:** Grace Church is an elder-led church.
- **Worship & Preaching:** Sunday worship services are characterized by a blend of biblically-sound older and newer songs using a contemporary musical style. The preaching is expositional, evangelistic, dynamic, and application-focused.
- **Size:** Average Sunday worship service attendance is around 1300, while average Wednesday evening ministry attendance is around 700.



### COMMUNITY PROFILE

Grace Church is located on the northeast side of Des Moines, the capital city of Iowa.

- **Population:** Des Moines proper has just over 200,000 residents, while the Des Moines metropolitan area has over 600,000 residents.
- **Young Adults:** Des Moines was recently called a "Millennial paradise," as they "flock" to the city due to cheap housing, job availability, and things to do.<sup>1</sup> Des Moines' "population growth of Millennials from 2006-2013 was more than twice the national average."<sup>2</sup>
- **Industry and Business:** Des Moines' major industries include insurance and finance, as it is a "global hub of the insurance industry."<sup>3</sup> Facebook just broke ground on its fourth data center here,<sup>4</sup> and Microsoft is planning to build its largest data center in the U.S. in West Des Moines.<sup>5</sup> In 2017, *Forbes* magazine ranked Des Moines the "#5 Place for Business and Careers,"<sup>6</sup> and in 2014 the "#1 Best City for Young Professionals."<sup>7</sup>
- **Lifestyle:** In 2017, Des Moines was ranked the 9<sup>th</sup> best place to live, the #1 most affordable place to live,<sup>8</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> best place to raise children in the country.<sup>9</sup>
- **Leisure:** There are 600 mi. of biking/walking trails in the metro area.<sup>10</sup> Des Moines is the top minor league sports market in the country.<sup>11</sup> The Iowa State Fair is one of the best state fairs in the nation,<sup>12</sup> and Des Moines boasts one of America's 15 most incredible farmers' markets.<sup>13</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Amy X. Wang, "Why Des Moines is a Millennial Paradise Right Now," *The Atlantic*, October 3, 2015, <http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2015/10/des-moines-millennials-housing/408841/>.

<sup>2</sup> Matt Vasilogambros and Mauro Whiteman, "Do the Most Hipster Thing Possible - Move to Des Moines," *National Journal*, October 6, 2014, <http://www.nationaljournal.com/3/52009>.

<sup>3</sup> "The Insurance Capital of the U.S.? Look to Des Moines," *Free Enterprise*, January 29, 2015, <https://www.freeenterprise.com/the-insurance-capital-of-the-u-s-look-to-des-moines/>.

<sup>4</sup> Joel Aschbrenner, "Facebook breaks ground on biggest Altoona data center building yet," *Des Moines Register*, May 9, 2017, <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/development/2017/05/09/facebook-breaks-ground-biggest-altoona-data-center-yet/314322001/>.

<sup>5</sup> Matthew Patane, "West Des Moines' data center will be Microsoft's largest in U.S.," *Des Moines Register*, July 22, 2016, <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/tech/2016/07/22/new-west-des-moines-data-center-gets-475-million/87406160/>.

<sup>6</sup> "The Best Places For Business And Careers," *Forbes*, 2017, <https://www.forbes.com/best-places-for-business/list/>.

<sup>7</sup> Erin Carlyle, "America's 15 Best Cities For Young Professionals," *Forbes*, August 18, 2014, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/erin Carlyle/2014/08/18/americas-15-best-cities-for-young-professionals/>.

<sup>8</sup> Sara Diekelmann, "What's It Like to Live in Des Moines, IA?," *U.S. News & World Report*, 2017, <https://realestate.usnews.com/places/iowa/des-moines>; Devon Thornsbey, "The 25 Best Affordable Places to Live in the U.S. in 2017," *U.S. News & World Report*, May 17, 2017, <https://realestate.usnews.com/real-estate/slideshows/the-25-best-affordable-places-to-live-in-the-us-in-2017?slide=26>.

<sup>9</sup> Derek Miller, "The Best Places for Children in 2017," *SmartAsset*, August 1, 2017, <https://smartasset.com/mortgage/best-places-for-children-in-2017>.

<sup>10</sup> Sara Diekelmann, "What's It Like to Live in Des Moines, IA?," *U.S. News & World Report*, 2017, <https://realestate.usnews.com/places/iowa/des-moines>.

<sup>11</sup> David Broughton, "Iowa Crashes No. 1," *Sports Business Daily*, September 18, 2017, <http://www.sportsbusinessdaily.com/Journal/Issues/2017/09/18/Research-and-Ratings/Minors.aspx>.

<sup>12</sup> Clara Appelbaum, "The Top 22 State Fairs in the U.S. Ranked," *Business Insider*, September 14, 2017, <http://www.businessinsider.com/best-state-fairs-2017/>.

<sup>13</sup> Jeff Wells, "15 of America's Most Incredible Farmers' Markets," *Mental Floss*, May 27, 2016, <http://mentalfloss.com/article/78618/15-americas-most-incredible-farmers-markets>.