

**ELDER COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR**  
**ERIC BENSON AND NICK LOWTHER**

May 7, 2023

It is our joy to commission Eric Benson and Nick Lowther to the office of Elder of Grace Community Church. After nearly two years of training and evaluation, Eric and Nick were unanimously voted into Eldership by the GCC membership present and voting at our Spring Business Meeting, April 23, 2023.

The purpose of this commissioning service is to emphasize the spiritual importance of Eldership. Eldership is the sacred privilege and responsibility to lead the church family to love God, to love others and to make disciples of Jesus at home and abroad. By the laying on of hands, the Elders convey upon Eric and Nick the spiritual authority to lead, provide, protect and love the Grace Church family to accomplish its mission.

Because church leadership affects every aspect of church life, it is important we select the kind of men Jesus wants leading His church and it is equally important we rightly relate to those men commissioned to lead us.

**I. Who Does Jesus Want Leading His Church?**

- A. Qualified Men – 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- B. Servant Leaders – 1 Peter 5:1-5
- C. Brave Shepherds – Acts 20:28-31

**II. How Does Jesus Want Us to Relate To Our Elders?**

- A. With Respect & Esteem – 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
- B. With Submission to Their Authority and Guidance – 1 Peter 5:5

**Vows For Eric and Nick**

1. Do you reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Savior?
2. Do you believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority of faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed?
3. Do you believe the Statement of Faith of Grace Community Church contains the truth taught in the Scriptures?
4. Will you uphold the principles and practices of church government and discipline as contained in the Constitution of Grace Community Church?
5. Do you promise to submit to your fellow Elders in the Lord?

6. Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in promoting the Gospel and the purity and peace of the Church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise to you on that account?
7. Will you be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your duties as Elder, whether private or public, and will you endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before this congregation?
8. Are you now willing to take personal responsibility as an Elder to oversee the ministry and resources of Grace Church, and to devote yourself to prayer, the ministry of the Word and the shepherding of God's flock, to the end that, by God's grace, this congregation will love God, love others and make disciples?

### **Vows For Grace Church Family**

1. Do you, the body of Grace Community Church, acknowledge and publicly receive these men, Eric Benson and Nick Lowther, as Elders of this church?
2. Will you love them and pray for them in their ministries, and work together with them humbly and cheerfully, that by the grace of God we may accomplish the mission of Grace Church, giving them all due honor and support in their leadership to which the Lord has called them, to the glory and honor of God?

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## **GRACE NEWS AND NEEDS**

- Mexico Missions car wash fundraiser, May 13, Sign-Up on Patio!
- RPCC Walk for Life raised about \$70,000!
- VOM Needs for May: box of one gallon zip seal plastic bags, medical tape.