



Redeeming Grace Evangelistic Ministries International

Redeeming Grace Christian Fellowship | Theological Institute for Ministerial Education | Technical Occupational Learning Center

The RGEMI Year 2021 In Review ~ Published: December 13, 2021

Greetings, in the precious name of our reigning and coming King, Jesus Christ!

It's almost Christmas, and the Year 2021 is nearly over. This is really hard to believe! But something else, that is even more shocking, is the nearing end of the first year of Redeeming Grace as a merged congregation. Yet, we exult in God our strength and peace who has carried us through His magnificent grace, from glory to glory, in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord!

November 16, 2019 was the first time the First Baptist Church of Brockton (FBC) held a combined leadership meeting to consider the merger of FBC into Redeeming Grace Christian Fellowship (RGCF). In the end, the Boards voted unanimously for the proposal. Sadly, FBC's operations fund could no longer support its ministry in Brockton. On December 1, 2019, the congregation met and voted unanimously for the Boards' decision. The conditions set forth for the merger approved the dissolving of FBC by December 31, 2020, and for Redeeming Grace to step forward and provide maintenance for FBC's historical records—and grow into full stewardship of the worship campus. Also, remaining members of FBC would be encouraged to join Redeeming Grace, and they were to be received as members of RGCF. The merger was ratified by all parties on January 8, 2021, in the presence of Attorney Peter T. Clark, and was registered with the State of Massachusetts.

Other meetings that followed the merger decisions, plus a number of joint-congregational worship services throughout the year 2020, prepared us for that first Sunday in 2021, when Redeeming Grace was joined by three (3) former members of FBC : Georgia Allen, Linda King, and Terry DeArruda, to lift up our praises in thanksgiving to God for His mighty redeeming work among us—His church. FBC's former Pastor, Melanie Towle, observed with exactitude and succinctly wrote about the expanding and transforming work of God at Redeeming Grace. In her letter published in September 2020 by First's Edition, FBC's official Newsletter, we have her conclusive thoughts:

I already see evidence of this happening at FBC Brockton. Redeeming Grace is a growing congregation, and they are engaged in a variety of ministry endeavors. The newest of these is the Theological Institute for Ministerial Education (TIME). This will be a place for people to be equipped for ministry in their own churches and in the community. I am excited to be a part of this educational ministry alongside our brother Gide as well as many others. This will be a place of fellowship, learning, and growth in the name of Jesus. (First's Edition, Sept. 2020, page 1)

Indeed, RGEM International, through nearly eight years in collaborative ministry at FBC, since the year 2013, and more than five years working alongside the Rev. Melanie Towle, the people witnessed continual growth, progress, and innovation on a per anum basis at RGCF. This was the palpable experiential work of the Holy Spirit which led FBC's leadership and the congregation, collectively, to

entrust the mission of RGCF with continuing its kingdom ministry in Greater Brockton. As we stepped forward, the challenges were many with the unforeseen changes, brought to us by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Yet, our ever conquering LORD God, by His Holy Spirit, has empowered the remnant of His people to restore new life. Through the power of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Almighty God has sustained us for a very blessed and effective year of tremendous accomplishments. Let me give you a glimpse of what took place at Redeeming Grace throughout the Year 2021. In the physical plant, the leadership implemented the following:

- Resolved a broken furnace problem that surfaced early in the Winter of 2021.
- Build a new washroom on the first floor with accessibility to older worshippers.
- Build a new landscaping retaining wall in front of the building.
- Replaced part of our lighting system in the front entrance foyer of the church.
- Capped our chimney with a grill to prevent entry by squirrels.
- Cleared out the storage room that contained unusable cabinets and materials.
- Replaced our Water Heater, with plans to add on-demand water heater for baptism.
- Installed a new security camera system for the building and congregation.
- Relocated FBC's Framed Memorial Quilt from sanctuary to Fellowship Hall.
- Installed new worship banners.
- Voted to purchase a new computer system for operations.
- Distributed/donated/cleaned out equipment no longer needed by RGCF.
- Re-purposed area for course delivery, library, and technology.

Next to this list of concrete undertakings, in ministry, we achieved these events:

- Led a series of studies on Collaborative Ministry Leadership for RGCF Leaders.
- Conducted pastoral team sessions for continued change and collaboration.
- Conducted deacons sessions for RGCF ministry, and elder transition – Jan. 2022.
- Assigned deacons to maintain contact with former FBC members for ministry.
- Introduced diaconate services for visitations, prayer, and ministry of mercy at RGCF.
- Introduced Bible education program for serving Elders and Diaconate thru TIME – Jan. 2022.
- Overseen quarterly Board Meetings for RGEMI, RGCF, and TIME.
- Researched and replaced accounting services for RGEM International as was needed.
- Implemented a developing worship band with RGCF Youths.
- Performed Pastoral Care visits to former FBC members desiring such visitations.
- Provided Pastoral Care assistance to Brockton residents calling our congregation.
- Established a presence for pastoral communication with the "nextdoor" network.
- Participated with the Pastoral prayer team with the Brockton Mayor.
- Led the Theological Institute program for the new academic year 2021-2022.
- Executed all yearly programs for RGCF per our calendar as in previous years.
- Encouraged the development and continuum of the women's fellowship.
- Initiated an explore process for the development of the TOLC Program.


Understandably, this is not an exhaustive list of everything that happened at RGCF. Beyond our solid work through the first year, our organization is in a very good financial position, thanks to our residual endowment, and the sacrificial giving of the leadership and regular members of our congregation. Moreover, the Pastoral Salary was voluntarily and automatically donated to RGCF's account. We have done very well and in accordance to our budgeting plans.

Redeeming Grace has also seen the departures of some members as has happened in most congregations around the U.S., in the COVID-19 Pandemic era. Others have downgraded their leadership roles in order to serve more effectively. Nonetheless, we are mindful that our congregation is part of the newly discovered pattern for ministry in the U.S. – small groups. RGCF has always been a family oriented, Spirit-led intercultural church organization, intentionally working towards growth and excellence. Thus, we are positioning ourselves for God's guidance towards advancing our mission in the Year 2022.

Redeeming Grace is a worship center for God's people from diverse cultural backgrounds, with the understanding we have: "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is overall and through all and in all." We are from many countries and ethnicities, yet "one holy nation belonging to God", (Ephesians 4:5; 1 Peter 2:5). RGCF genuinely promotes that practice of God's oneness in God's holy love in fellowship with all His redeemed people (Revelation 7:9-11).

Overall, we are thankful to God for those leaders amongst us who are working diligently and faithfully in the ministry at RGCF, TIME, and in various teams. Your collaboration is an enormous gift to the work of the kingdom of God at RGEM International. You are amazing partners, and we honor your dignified reverence, genuine commitment, and ardent steadfastness in the ministry of the church! With these accomplishments in view throughout 2021, let me invite you to join the Psalmist and us, and proclaim the words of Psalm 126:3, lifting up our voices in sublime harmony, declaring: "The LORD has done great things for us, we are glad." The first year is almost gone, but God is just beginning with us! All glory be to our God!

In Christ,



Rev. Dr. Gide Demosthene, Senior Pastor

Founding President & CEO of RGEM International / RGCF

CC: Georgia Allen, Clerk
Rev. Ramona Desire, Corp. Secretary
Terry DeArruda, Moderator
Rev. Jacques Louis-Jean, Treasurer