Mike Hix Bio – Grace Lutheran Church
June 2026

Greetings to the Grace faith community. It has been my privilege to worship with you for the past year and to officially join the congregation last month. In my 72 years as a lifelong Lutheran, my faith journey has blessed me with congregations large and small, each with its distinct mission and ministry. The church sprouted my faith at Kimball Memorial, Kannapolis; the church educated me at Lenoir-Rhyne (where Anne Johnson was a fellow education major); the church cemented my faith through six summers on the Lutheridge summer staff; and the church provided my first job out of graduate school at Newberry College (where I first met and worked with Pastor Jan Setzler).

Husband to Jerry, father to Rebecca, and grandfather to Diana and Mary, my professional life was primarily based at the University of South Carolina (USC) in Columbia where I worked with students in the areas of academic advising and career coaching. My 30 years at USC were spent helping students and alumni discern their vocational direction as well as helping them develop effective tools in job search.

Upon retirement in 2012, Jerry and I focused on exploring the USA in our Tundra truck and a pull behind camper. We traveled as far north as Prince Edward Island in Canada, as far south as the Florida Everglades, and as far west as Yosemite National Park in California. After selling our camping vehicles, our focused turned to Europe. One- or two-week stays in Copenhagen, Munich, and Paris have turned into month-long stays in Valencia, Spain; Brno, Czech Republic; and most recently, Brussels, Belgium.

Jerry grew up in Rock Hill and we are excited to resettle here. We enjoy living the downtown life on Main Street which allows me to walk to church and for us to explore the many restaurants and retail outlets nearby.

As my journey now continues at Grace, I look forward to meeting more of you and gaining insight regarding the priorities of the congregation's mission and ministry. I have already found two connecting points by singing with the Grace Alone Choir and by contributing in small ways to some of the Grace outreach ministries. Thank you for welcoming me to Grace as we travel together to become a source of much needed hope in our world today.