

Rev. Dr. Kristopher S. Reese



Pastor Reese has been the senior pastor of the Grace Baptist Church since September 2015. He has instituted various ministries over the past nine years that have impacted the congregation and the Greater Waterbury area.

Pastor Reese has a heart for the Waterbury community. He has partnered with local businesses such as Starbucks, Panera Bread, Wal-Mart, Brooklyn Bakery, Shop-Rite, Dunkin Donuts, Via Al Paraiso, Target, Stop & Shop, to help aid and assist families and individuals who struggle with trying to live daily. Grace sponsors Adopt-A-Family Christmas drive every year, providing Christmas joy to families who are unable to provide for their children. For the past several years Grace has blessed families over 250 families in CT including families in the Waterbury school district and Brass City Charter school. Grace provides hot meals for about 100-150 seniors every weekend free of charge. Every Thanksgiving Grace recognizes our first responders by providing a thanksgiving breakfast to the Waterbury Police Department and Waterbury Fire Department. With Pastor Reese HR background twice a year he offers free resume and interview workshops for the residents in Waterbury. In 2022 Grace held its first career fair where local companies attended to recruit candidates for their open positions.

In 2021, Grace Baptist Church was a subrecipient to the Waterbury Health Department and received \$990,000 to provide COVID-19 education, trusted messengers sessions events, and community events to bring awareness to the black and brown communities regarding the impact of COVID-19. In 2022, Grace Baptist Church received \$279,000 as a subrecipient for the Advance Health Literacy grant to open a community health hub to provide information and health resources for people of color in the Waterbury community. Grace Baptist Church received \$75,000 from Connecticut Community Health Foundation for trusted messengers to provide Health Messages to people of color to bring awareness various topics. Grace Baptist Church received \$55,000 from Connecticut Community Foundation for community outreach to seniors. Grace Baptist church also received \$28,000 from Wheeler Clinic to develop mental health workshops/events for youth in the Waterbury community. In 2024 Pastor Reese secured over 1 million dollars to start construction on Grace Baptist Church childcare center.

Pastor Reese serves on the following organizations: Interfaith Action Fellowship of Greater Waterbury, Vice- President for the Western Connecticut Area Agency for Aging, board member for Monitor My Health, Connecticut Community Foundation Pathways Committee, Social Justice Advisory Committee, Co-Chair Waterbury's Diversity Committee, Chief State Attorney's Community Engagement Board, and Bridge to Success council. Pastor Reese served as the former Education Chair for the Greater Waterbury NAACP, Moderator for the Zebulun Association – Connecticut State Missionary Baptist Convention, State Regional Vice President for the New England Missionary Baptist Convention, member of the Interfaith Action Fellowship of Greater Waterbury, and Saint Mary's Hospital Community Board.

He holds an Associate Degree, Bachelor of Science Degree, Master's Degree in Education and Master's Degree in Religion and a honorary Doctorate degree in Strategic Leadership from Wayland Baptist Theological

On February 15, 2023, Pastor Reese was named Waterbury African American Mayor of the day for his outstanding community outreach to the residents of Waterbury. Pastor Reese was named as one of Connecticut's 100 Men of Color, class of 2024

Pastor Reese is happily married to the former Nicole V. Sparkman, and the proud parent of five children: Donte, Trynity, Eli, Zion, and Roman.