

Grace Bible Church Constitution

Preamble

Grace Bible Church is founded, established, and dedicated as a non-denominational independent Bible Church. Reference is here made to the church's published Statement of Faith for a full recitation of the Biblical truths endorsed by the members of the church and that statement is hereby adopted and made a part of this constitution.

Grace Bible Church adopts the admonitions, directions, and instructions given to the New Testament Church by our Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles, and adheres to the principle that an over abundance of church law, rules, and regulations is neither desirable or beneficial in a congregation of believers.

However, Grace Bible Church recognizes the need to set forth certain written basic guidelines for an orderly procedure to perpetuate the functioning of the church organization as a fellowship of believers.

Wherefore, the following articles are hereby established:

Article 1: Church Membership

We believe that every person who has trusted in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone for their eternal salvation is a member of the universal body of Christ, the Church, of which Grace Bible Church is a local expression. An individual shall be received as a member of Grace Bible Church by (1) making a statement of their personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to a current member of the Elder Council, (2) agreeing with our Constitution and Statement of Faith, and (3) agreeing to submit themselves to any necessary disciplinary actions by Elder Council when deemed essential for church purity.

Article 2: Government of Grace Bible Church

All necessary governing powers are granted to the church Elder Council with the advice and consent of the members of the church.

Article 3: Elder Council

The Elder Council shall consist of no more than twelve male members of the church, which meet the Biblical requirements found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

New members to the Elder Council shall be elected by the current Elder Council with the advice and counsel of the members of the church, and shall serve three-year terms with at least one-year intervals between subsequent terms.

The Elder Council shall have broad and general powers for the practical and spiritual leadership of the church and may appoint any and all committees necessary to this end, and shall further adopt from time to time its own rules of procedure and times of meetings, and shall strive at all times to conduct its business openly and keep the church membership informed of its significant actions, except in matters requiring confidentiality.

Article 4: Trustees of Church

The Elder Council shall name and certify three members of Grace Bible Church to serve as trustees of the church.

The trustees shall hold and preserve the physical and real property of the church in trust for the membership of the church, and shall not encumber, purchase, bargain, sell, trade or in anyway dispose of any of the real property of the church unless approved by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members voting in a duly called vote of the church membership. The one exception granted gives the authority to the trustees, acting on approval of the Elder Council to

sell or otherwise dispose of property not directly associated with the church campus in the event that such properties are donated to the church.

Article 5: Congregational Meetings

Members of the church may meet in congregational meetings from time to time as the need may arise. Such meetings of the members may be called by the Elder Council or upon the petition of two-thirds of the adult members of the church. The Chairman of the Elder Council shall act as chairman of such meetings.

Any vote taken by the members of the church may be by a showing of hands, or by secret ballot if requested by five members present at any meeting. A simple majority affirmative vote of those voting will be required for approval of any church business unless stated otherwise in this constitution.

A quorum of the membership necessary to conduct the business of the church shall be fifty percent of the adult members listed on the church membership roll. Only members 18 years old and older shall be qualified to cast ballots or vote on any question.

Article 6: Amendments to Constitution

Final authority and power in the church is hereby reserved to the members of the church in all things, and they may amend these articles by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the current adult church membership.