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VISION

Grace Life Fellowship exists to lead people to Jesus Christ so they may experience and express God's transforming love and grace.

MISSION

To know and experience Christ as Life and walk alongside others so that they can enjoy the same grace and freedom found in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

CORE VALUES

We believe there are two ways to live, either by law or by grace, either by achieving or receiving. This is represented by the two trees mentioned in Genesis, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil or the Tree of Life. The former represents a life of living by law (Old Covenant), and the latter, a life of living by grace (New Covenant). Man, being deceived, chose law-based living, resulting in death or spiritual separation. Romans 5 teaches that every human being, except for Jesus, has been born into this spiritual condition as a sinner, or one who is separated from God. In this lost condition, man is totally incapable of changing his predicament, no matter how well he performs under the law, because the law was not designed to change his spiritual condition but rather reveal it. In short, we can never be perfect as the law demands, so the law condemns us and reveals our need for a savior. (2 Corinthians 3:9, Galatians 3:24)

This is where Jesus comes in as He offers the only way by which a person's lost condition can be changed...not through the law but by grace through faith! (Ephesians 2:8-9)

BY GRACE, man is made righteous.

BY GRACE, man is changed from a sinner to a saint.

BY GRACE, man is completely forgiven.

BY GRACE, man is given a new heart.

BY GRACE, man is indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

BY GRACE, man is pleasing to God.

BY GRACE, man is made acceptable to God.

BY GRACE, man can bear fruit (good works).

BY GRACE, man is granted eternal life.

What the law could not do, God did BY GRACE!

Therefore, we apply the following to our ministry practices:

RESTFUL WORK – We work from a position of resting in the fact that God is pleased and delighted with us through the finished work of Jesus and that there is nothing we can do to make us more accepted or loved by God.

EVERY MEMBER MINISTRY – We believe and teach that every believer, not just hired staff, is called and gifted for the work of service and building up of the body of Christ (Eph. 4).

EQUIPPING – Our services and ministries are a time for people to be encouraged, challenged, and equipped in order to fulfill the call of glorifying God and loving one another.

SERVANTHOOD EMPHASIS – We believe and teach that although we do not earn God's acceptance through works, serving is a natural outpouring of the grace we have received by faith.

NO GUILT – We invite the participation of anyone and everyone who shares our heart for ministry.

A DEPENDENCE ON THE SPIRIT – We believe the Holy Spirit has provided our local body with all the spiritually gifted people needed to do everything He wants done. Our task is to discover, train, and support these people in ministry.



CONSTITUTION AND DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Grace Life Fellowship, a denominationally unaffiliated church, do establish the following articles to which we voluntarily submit ourselves. This document, taken as a whole, is considered the Constitution that includes the Doctrine. Article III, taken separately, is considered the Doctrinal Statement.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the church shall be GRACE LIFE FELLOWSHIP

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

To gather for worship, fellowship, teaching, and edification, so that we are equipped for the work of the ministry in spreading the gospel of Christ by declaring and demonstrating His love and truth.

ARTICLE III – DOCTRINE

THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE. We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God, without error in the original manuscripts. It is the final authority for matters of faith and practice. (2 Tim 3:16-17)

GOD. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-equal and eternal, each with distinct roles yet one in essence and purpose. God is the creator and sustainer of the universe, infinitely perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. He is sovereign over all things and worthy of all honor, praise, and adoration forever. (Deuteronomy 6:4, 1 John 4:8, Psalm 90:2)

THE DEITY OF CHRIST. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man. He was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, was crucified, resurrected, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father. We believe in His imminent return in power and glory. (John 1:1, John 1:14)

THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. We believe in the personhood and work of the Holy Spirit, who glorifies the Lord Jesus, convicts the world of sin, regenerates, indwells, seals, and empowers believers for godly living and service. We affirm the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit in illuminating Scripture, guiding believers into truth, and empowering them for effective witness and ministry. We also acknowledge the gifts of the Spirit as outlined in Scripture, given for the edification and unity of the body of Christ. (John 14:16-17)

THE CONDITION OF MAN. We believe that all humanity is created in the image of God, possessing inherent dignity, value, and worth. However, as a result of the fall of Adam, all human beings are born spiritually dead, alienated from God, and unable to save themselves. We affirm the universal need for faith in Jesus Christ as the only way for sinful humanity to be reconciled to God and restored to fellowship with Him. (Genesis 1:27, Romans 5:12)

SALVATION. We believe that salvation is a gift from God, received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from works. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

ETERNAL SECURITY. We believe in the eternal security of the believer, that those who are born again by the Spirit of God are kept secure in Christ forever and cannot lose their salvation. (John 10:28, Hebrews 7:25, 1 Peter 1:3-5)

THE RETURN OF CHRIST. We believe in the imminent return of Jesus Christ, both personally and visibly, at a time known only to God. We eagerly await His return and strive according to His power to live holy and godly lives, watching and readying ourselves for His coming. (Mark 13:32-33, Acts 1:11, Titus 2:13)

THE CHURCH. We believe in the universal Church, the body of Christ, consisting of all believers from every nation, tribe, and tongue, who are united by their faith in Jesus Christ. The local

church is a gathering of believers for worship, fellowship, teaching, and edification. Our mission is to spread the good news of Jesus, make disciples, and demonstrate God's love to the world. (Acts 2:42, Acts 2:47, Matthew 28:19-20)

SATAN. We believe in the existence of Satan, a fallen angel who rebelled against God and became the adversary of God and humanity. Satan, also known as the devil, seeks to deceive, tempt, and accuse believers, but he was defeated by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Believers are called to resist Satan's schemes through the power of the Holy Spirit and the authority of Scripture. (Revelation 12:9, James 4:7)

GRACE LIFE FELLOWSHIP DISTINCTIVES

IDENTITY IN CHRIST. Believers are identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. They are new creations in Christ, called saints, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, made righteous, and empowered to live a holy and transformed life. (2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20, Romans 5:19, Romans 1:7)

TOTAL FORGIVENESS. We believe in total forgiveness, which is rooted in the grace of God and the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Total forgiveness means that God, through Christ, has completely forgiven all our sins—past, present, and future. As recipients of God's grace, we are called to extend the same forgiveness to others, releasing them from the debt of their offenses against us. (Ephesians 1:7)

FREEDOM FROM THE LAW TO LIVE BY GRACE. We believe in the liberation from the law as a means of righteousness and the embrace of the grace of God as the basis for our relationship with Him and our Christian living. Believers are no longer under the condemnation of the law but are set free to live by the empowering grace of God, walking in the Spirit rather than in the flesh. (Romans 6:14, Romans 7:6, Romans 10:4)

ORDINANCES

BAPTISM. Believer baptism will be by immersion, with exceptions made for special circumstances. We do not require re-baptizing people baptized in any other manner or who were baptized as infants. Though baptism is not a requirement for church membership, we encourage believers to be obedient to Christ in this matter, as it is His command for every believer to be baptized. (Matthew 28:19)

THE LORD’S SUPPER. We believe the Lord’s Supper is a celebration of the finished work of Jesus on the believer’s behalf. The Lord’s Supper shall be administered at such times designated by the Elders. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER ORDINANCES. Any Elder or person designated by the Elders has the authority to administer the ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

All are welcome to attend our services and enjoy fellowship with the congregation and with each other if their behavior is respectful. Official church membership shall be those designated on the most current roster maintained in the church database.

REQUIREMENTS. Formal membership is offered to those who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, evidenced by a personal profession of faith, and who accept the GLF Constitution. Those desiring membership should make their desire known by completing and submitting a New Member Application. A brief meeting with one or more individuals from the elders or staff to ensure an understanding of these requirements completes the membership process.

RECEIVING MEMBERS. New members will be established in the church database and announced to the body through church communication.

TERMINATION. When an individual’s membership is terminated, their name will be removed from the church roster.

Withdrawal. Any person who ceases active membership in the church, such as by joining another church, shall have terminated their membership at GLF.

Transfer. Members shall be granted, upon written request, a letter of transfer.

Removal. A person may be removed from the membership of GLF who holds heretical beliefs contrary to biblical doctrine or who would disturb the unity and peace of the church. This action shall be after due consideration by the Elders.

ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT

Grace Life Fellowship acknowledges Jesus Christ as its head and the Bible as the guide in all matters of faith. GLF is not under the jurisdiction of any denominational body.

Authority in all church matters is vested in the Elders. A simple majority vote is required for final decisions.

Authority is delegated to staff and/or deacons by the Elders in other matters of spiritual ministry and material stewardship who will report to the Elders as required regarding actions in these areas.

ARTICLE VI – ADMINISTRATION

OFFICERS. The officers of the church shall normally consist of Elders, pastor(s), and appointed members as directed by the Elders.

DUTY OF THE OFFICERS

Elders. It shall be the duty of the Elders to oversee all church matters. It is their responsibility, as put forth in Acts, to protect and shepherd the church into the truth of the Bible under the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Lead Pastor, in addition to his specific duties, shall also be an Elder. The Elders shall work with the Lead Pastor in performing church functions.

Lead Pastor. It shall be the duty of the Lead Pastor to preach and teach the Holy Bible and to have general oversight of the spiritual life of the church.

SELECTION OF THE OFFICERS

Elders. The Elders are male members of the church called by the Holy Spirit. A man who is so led should make their desire known to any Elder. In addition, the Elders may encourage any man they deem to be qualified to prayerfully consider becoming an Elder. The Elders shall discuss with them the qualifications according to I Timothy 3, Titus 1, and I Peter 5. If accepted by all the Elders, he will be presented as a candidate to the congregation at two consecutive Sunday church services. The congregation may respond

to the individual or to the Elders concerning the candidate's moral character and worthiness. After consideration of any objections that have been raised, the Elders may ordain the candidate at a subsequent church service by the laying on of hands. The term of Elder shall be for life or until removed from office unless an individual asks to step down or their membership is terminated. The number of Elders shall not be limited.

No man shall be considered by Grace Life Fellowship to become an elder or pastor unless he has embraced and can articulate the essence of the New Covenant teaching of the believers' identity, the co-crucifixion of the believer, the death of the old man, and the death of the believer to the power of sin and the law. [This should also include the ability to offer an adequate defense to the common, though misguided, accusations often brought against the New Covenant teaching, including passivity, license, and sinless perfectionism.]

Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor shall be recommended to the church by the Elders. He shall be accepted by a proposal at a business meeting.

Deacons. The Deacons are members of the church called by the Holy Spirit. A person who is so led should make their desire known to any Elder or Deacon. In addition, Elders and Deacons may encourage a person they deem to be qualified to prayerfully consider becoming a Deacon. The Elders and Deacons shall discuss with them the qualifications according to I Timothy 3, Titus 1, and I Peter 5. Deacons are appointed members as directed by the Elders.

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE. Any officer may be removed from office for cause at any business meeting called for that purpose. In addition, the Elders may remove any officer, teacher, or employee at any time.

ARTICLE VII – CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETINGS. The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held within the first quarter of the calendar year or at such date determined by the Elders and announced to the congregation at the two consecutive regular Sunday services before the meeting. Grace Life's fiscal year ends on the 31st day of July each year.

BUSINESS MEETINGS. Meetings of the congregation may be called for the transaction of business. The meeting must be announced at the two consecutive regular Sunday services before the business meeting.

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS. Special business meetings may be called by the Elders or by written request to the Elders by 30 or more voting members. If the Elders fail or refuse to call the requested meeting, then a meeting may be called by written notice to all members by certified mail with the notice reflecting the names of those requesting the meeting and giving the time and place of the meeting. The meeting will be held ten days from the day the notices are mailed. Those members present at the special meeting shall elect a Chairman who shall preside.

MEETING PROCEDURES. If questions arise about procedures, Robert's Rules of Order will be used in all cases not covered in this Constitution.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY. Anyone on the church roster 18 years of age or older shall be eligible to vote in any matters concerning church business.

VOTES NEEDED TO PASS PROPOSALS. A three-fourths majority of those voting are required to approve all proposals.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

The constitution may be changed at a business meeting, providing the proposed alteration has been clearly posted prior to the meeting.