

*Grace Bible Church*  
on the Parkway



**COVENANT,  
ARTICLES OF FAITH,  
AND BY-LAWS**



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*Grace Bible Church*

*380 Highland Colony Pkwy*

*Ridgeland, MS 39157*

*Phone (601) 991-1910*



## **COVENANT**

Having been brought, as we trust, by Divine Grace to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and having been baptized upon the confession of our faith into the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now most joyfully and solemnly enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ. We engage, as God shall enable us, to walk together in brotherly love; to exercise Christian care and watchfulness over one another; to participate in one another's joys; to endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear one another's burdens; to consider one another to provoke to love and good works; to forsake not the assembling of ourselves together; to strive for the advancement of Grace Bible Church on the Parkway ("Grace Bible Church" or "Church") in grace, knowledge, and holiness; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and liberally to the financial support of its ministry of world evangelism; to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; to avail ourselves of the great privilege of prayer for one another and all men; to walk circumspectly and watchfully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts; to abstain from every appearance of evil; and, ever remembering our relationship to Jesus Christ our Lord, to seek amidst evil report and good report to live to His glory.

## **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

Grace Bible Church has been founded and shall be perpetuated on the following doctrinal basis:

### **Article I: The Bible**

#### ***Section 1: Inerrancy***

We believe the Bible (sometimes referred to herein as "Scripture" or "the Word of God"), consisting of the sixty-six canonical books (thirty-nine books in the Old Testament and twenty-seven books in the New Testament) was, as originally given, written by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; it is verbally inspired of God; it is inerrant, infallible, sufficient,

and eternal; and therefore it is of supreme and final authority in faith and in life (Ps. 19:7-11; 119:89; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:16-21).

## ***Section 2: Interpretation***

We believe God has structured His plan for the ages of human history in the form of Biblical dispensations that are clearly seen in the progressive revelation of His Word (Gen. 1-11; Ex. 19-20; Rom. 16; Eph. 1-3).

## **Article II: God**

### ***Section 1: The Trinity***

We believe in the triune nature of God: one God in essence, three in person - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — who are coeternal, consubstantial, and coequal (Matt. 28:19-20; Jn. 10:30; 16:7-15; Acts 5:1-4; II Cor. 13:14).

### ***Section 2: The Father***

We believe God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the heavenly Father of all who have come to a saving knowledge of His only begotten Son (Jn. 1:14; 20:17; Rom. 4:11; I Pet. 1:3-5).

### ***Section 3: The Son Jesus Christ***

We believe in the absolute deity and full humanity of Jesus Christ: His incarnation by means of the Holy Spirit and virgin birth; His sinless life and miraculous ministry on earth; His death on the cross as a substitutionary atonement for the sins of all men; His bodily resurrection from among the dead; His exaltation to the right hand of the majesty on high as Lord, mediator, priest, and advocate; His personal, premillennial, and imminent return to bring into consummation His work of redemption by ultimate triumph over Satan and his hosts (Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Lk. 1:26-56; 2:1-20; Jn. 3:1-2; 14:1-3; 19:16-20; 20:30-31; Acts 1:11; I Cor. 15:1-28; II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 2:9; 4:14-15; 7:25-26; 9:24; Rev. 19:11-22:21).

## **Section 4: The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit. By His power sinners are brought under conviction of sin and are drawn to Christ for salvation. Through Him men are regenerated and sanctified, and by Him the saints are indwelt with the divine presence. By His endowment, God's people are enabled to serve the Lord acceptably. He is the divine witness, seal, earnest, anointing, guide, teacher, and administrator (Jn. 14:26; 16:6-13; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:4; 5:1-4; Rom. 8:14-27; 15:16; I Cor. 12:1-14:40; II Cor. 1:21, 22; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; I Jn. 2:20, 27).

### **Article III: Creation**

We believe the entire universe was brought into existence by the creating act of the triune God. Genesis — chapters one through eleven in the same way as chapters twelve through fifty — is a literal, historical narrative. The universe was created by God out of nothing in a literal, six-day, twenty-four hour cycle of time. (Gen. 1:1-2:3; Ex. 20: 8-11; Ps. 33:6; Jn. 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3).

### **Article IV: Satan**

We believe in the personality of Satan, "the old serpent, the devil, and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world." He is the archenemy of God and man, and in God's own appointed time, he will suffer ultimate defeat at the hands of the Lord Jesus and will be tormented throughout eternity in the lake of fire (Is. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:1-11; 25:41; Jn. 8:44; Rev. 12:9-10; 20:1-10).

### **Article V: Man**

We believe Adam was originally created by God in His image, but by disobedience to his Creator he incurred both spiritual and physical death, and, as a result of original sin, the entire human race was plunged into sin and death (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7- 3:24; Rom. 5:12-21; Eph. 2:1-3).

Because God is the Author of life, we believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Therefore,

we believe that abortion for mere choice, rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well-being of the mother, is murder. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we recognize that in rare circumstances a pregnancy may be terminated when its continuation would clearly result in the death of the mother and the child. For similar reasons, we believe that euthanasia is murder. (Ex. 20:13; 23:7; Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Is. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Mt. 5:21; Luke 1:44; Acts 17:28).

### **Article VI: Sin**

We believe in the universality and the exceeding sinfulness of sin. No remission of sins can occur apart from the shedding of the blood of the Son of God and man's repentance and faith in that shed blood (Ez. 18:4; Lk. 24:46-47; Rom. 3:10-26; 6:23; 7:13-14; Heb. 9:22).

### **Article VII: Salvation**

We believe salvation is wholly of divine grace, apart from any works of merit of the sinner; it is provided in the atonement of Jesus Christ wrought by God and is received by a sinner when he repents towards God and puts his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as his own personal Savior and thereafter is eternally secure (Jonah 2:9; Mk. 1:14-15; Lk. 13:3; 24:46-47; Jn. 1:12-13; 3:16, 18, 36; 5:24; 20:30-31; Acts 16:31; 17:30-31; 20:20-21; Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-10; Tit. 3:4-7).

### **Article VIII: The Ordinances**

We believe in two Christian ordinances, which are symbolical, not sacramental: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

#### ***Section 1: Baptism***

We believe Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism sets forth in picture the essential facts in redemption; the death, burial, and



resurrection of Christ; the essential facts in the experience of the believer: death to sin and resurrection to walk in newness of life; and the essential facts in the hope of the believer: that should he experience physical death, he will be raised from the dead to participate in the eternal glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 6:1-10).

### ***Section 2: The Lord's Supper***

We believe the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death, to be observed until He comes again. The elements, the bread and the fruit of the vine, are symbols of His broken body and shed blood; our observance of the Lord's Supper is a pictorial testimony of the believer's fellowship with the Crucified Lord and should be preceded by solemn heart-searching and self-judgment (Matt. 26:26-30; I Cor. 10:16-21; 11:17-34).

### **Article IX: The Church**

We believe the universal church, the Body of Christ, was constituted and empowered by the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost; it was purchased with the blood of Christ; it was founded upon Christ, the Rock; its mission is to bear to the ends of the earth a Spirit-filled testimony to the judgment of God against sin and the salvation of sinners who repent towards God and exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. A local New Testament church is a body of believers in Christ in a particular location, who have followed the Lord through the waters of baptism, a baptism not for salvation, but in obedience to our Lord's command. The local church associates together under the direction and government of the Holy Spirit for worship, instruction, fellowship, and service in the exercising of spiritual gifts and the spread of the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth. The local church is absolutely sovereign, under the administration of the Holy Spirit, in the handling of its own affairs and in determining its own relationships; its relationship with other ecclesiastical bodies is one of fellowship only (Matt. 16:17-18; 28:18-20; Acts 2; 20; I Cor. 3:9-17; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 5:25-27; Col 1:18).

## **Article X: Civil Government**

We believe the government authority is ordained of God for the good of the citizens under its jurisdiction; believers in Christ are to be ardent to obey its every ordinance for the Lord's sake unless contrary to the Word of God; and we are to pray faithfully for those who occupy positions of civil authority. We believe, however, in the absolute separation of church and state; each has been ordained of God to render service in entirely different spheres and for different purposes and therefore, neither is to dictate to the other, nor are they to form any organic union whatsoever (Dan. 3; 6; Matt. 22:21; Acts 4:19; 5:29; Rom. 13:1-7; I Tim. 2:1-6).

## **Article XI: World Evangelization**

We believe Almighty God has purposed to save sinners; He has committed the Gospel message unto the faithful witness of His redeemed children to reach the world with the Gospel; and He has commissioned His people to diligently and zealously publish the saving message of Jesus Christ throughout all the world in order that sinners may repent of their sins, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and be saved (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8; I Tim. 2:3-6; II Pet. 3:9).

## **Article XII: The Separated Life**

We believe Christians should be separated unto Christ and from the world in order to display good works and to live a life in conformity to the plain teachings of Scripture. We, therefore, urge each member of Grace Bible Church to abstain from every questionable practice, keeping himself or herself holy in mind, body, and spirit, thereby reflecting an exemplary Christian life in dress, conversation, amusement, and business habit, according to the teachings of God's Holy Word (Rom. 12:1-2; II Cor. 6:14-7:1; Gal. 5:6, 17-23; Eph. 2:8-10; 4:1-32; 5:11-12; Phil. 2:12-16; II Thes. 3:11-12; Titus 3:1-11; James 4:4; I Pet. 4:1-19; I John 2:15-17).

### **Article XIII: Apostasy**

We believe men and worldly conditions will move from bad to worse until this age ends in a widespread apostasy from “the faith once delivered to the saints.” When man’s rebellion against God reaches its awful climax in the worship of Satan, the Lord Jesus Christ will come to earth, bring an end to every wicked device of man, incarcerate Satan in the Abyss, and take His Messianic throne to reign in righteousness over the earth for one thousand years (Matt. 24:37-38; II Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-4; Rev. 19:11-20:3).

### **Article XIV: The Resurrection**

We believe in two resurrections of all the dead. The righteous dead will have part in the first resurrection, which will issue in eternal life; and the wicked dead will have part in the second resurrection, which will issue in eternal damnation (Matt. 25:31-46; Luke 14:14; John 5:28-29; I Cor. 15:20-26; Rev. 20:4-6, 11-15).

### **Article XV: Eternity**

We believe eternity will be composed of Heaven and the Lake of Fire. Heaven is a place of blessedness, and the Lake of Fire is a place of eternal suffering. All true believers in Jesus Christ will be fully redeemed from sin’s penalty, power, and presence; will be glorified with the Lord when He returns; and will enjoy the blessing of unbroken fellowship with God in Heaven forever. All unrepentant sinners and rebels against God will be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ according to their deeds without respect of persons. By the glorious Gospel of God, they will be cast out from God’s presence to suffer the torments of the Lake of Fire forever (Matt. 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; Rom. 2:1-16; II Cor. 5:1-10; Phil. 3:20; Rev. 20:1-15; 21:22).

### **Article XVI: Human Sexuality**

We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, pornography, or any other abnormal aberration are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex.

We believe that a person's sex is either male or female and is determined before birth. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids: (I) any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery; and (II) knowingly presenting one's physical features or dress to be that of the opposite sex (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

### **Article XVII: Marriage and The Family**

We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:4-6; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for the roles of Elder, Deacon, and subordinate leadership roles established by the Elders. We affirm the complementarian view of the role of men and women as over against the egalitarian view of those roles (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; I Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12).

We believe that God has ordained the traditional family (established by one man and one woman in marriage) as the essential institution of human society and is designed to reflect in the New Testament the relationship between Christ and the church. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Fathers, with the assistance of their wives, are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them through a consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction undergirded by love (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; I Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; I Pet. 3:1-7).

## **Article XVIII: Authority of Articles of Faith**

These Articles of Faith do not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do, however, believe that the foregoing Articles accurately represent the teaching of the Bible and are, therefore, binding upon all members. All curriculum used in the Church shall be in complete agreement with the Articles.

### **BY-LAWS**

#### **Article I: Organization**

##### ***Section 1: Name***

This organization is a Mississippi non-profit corporation known as: Grace Bible Church on the Parkway (“Grace Bible Church” or “Church”).

##### ***Section 2: Affiliations***

Grace Bible Church will not hold organized affiliation with any association, convention, conference, or council of churches, but will be an independent and local assembly of believers in Christ. The Church retains the right and assumes the responsibility to act for itself according to the teaching of the Word of God under the counsel of the Holy Spirit. The Church will, however, seek and welcome the fellowship of the saints everywhere who give evidence of true conversion by the orthodoxy of their doctrine and conduct, provided that such fellowship does not jeopardize the Church’s autonomy.

Determinations of the internal affairs of this Church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by this Covenant, Articles of Faith and By-Laws.

### ***Section 3: Authority***

In all matters of fellowship, discipline, order, and polity, the New Testament will be the sole authority. Realizing that we will differ among ourselves and with other saints in our present understanding of parts of God's Word, in methods and procedures we will endeavor "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, till we all come in the unity of faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Eph. 4:13).

## **II: Purpose**

Grace Bible Church is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future revenue laws of the United States).

Grace Bible Church strives to make each individual believer spiritually healthy and mature with a commitment to worship Christ and a concern for one another as well as the world — equipping, encouraging, exhorting, and evangelizing (Eph. 4:11-16).

## **Article III: Membership**

### ***Section 1: Qualifications***

Persons who are actively and unrepentantly engaged in any sinful practice (that is, one that is contrary to the teachings of the Bible) or any practice that contradicts or undermines the doctrine of Grace Bible Church are not eligible for membership.

Any person desiring membership at Grace Bible Church must first review this Covenant, Articles of Faith and By-Laws. Upon completion of that review, the person shall be interviewed by the Elders. Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior who gives satisfactory evidence of having

been born again, who is not otherwise disqualified under these By-Laws, and who is willing to submit to the terms and conditions of this Covenant, Articles of Faith, and By-Laws may, after being interviewed by the Elders, be received into the membership of Grace Bible Church.

Persons who are actively and unrepentantly engaged in sinful practice, while not eligible for membership or any leadership or teaching role in the Church, are invited and welcomed to attend Grace Bible Church provided their actions on Church property and at Church functions are not inconsistent with this Covenant, Articles of Faith, and By-Laws and other policies of the Church.

### ***Section 2: Admission***

Each candidate accepted for membership by the Elders will be presented to the congregation. The candidates will not be required to give a public testimony but may do so if they wish. Following presentation to the congregation, the candidate will then be received into the fellowship.

By agreeing to become a member of Grace Bible Church, each candidate shall be deemed to have consented to submit to all of the terms and conditions of this Covenant, Articles of Faith and By-Laws. Individuals who regularly attend Grace Bible Church, even if they are not members, shall be deemed to have submitted to this Covenant, Articles of Faith, and By-Laws for so long as they are in regular attendance as determined by the Elders.

Children of members shall become members after they are admitted into membership under Section 2 of these By-Laws.

Admission to membership in this Church does not grant the members any property, contractual or civil rights based on principles of democratic government.

### ***Section 3: Termination of Membership***

The membership of any individual member shall terminate if the member has not attended a regular worship service of the Church during the preceding 12 months without reasons satisfactory to the Elders. The Elders may, however, waive this requirement in their discretion. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the individual joins another church (with the exception of associate membership provided for in Section 4 herein). The membership of any individual shall terminate in the event the individual fails to correct un-Scriptural and hurtful conduct after discipline as provided in Article IV, Section 4 of these By-Laws.

### ***Section 4: Associate Membership***

Out-of-town students, Christian workers, and others as determined by the Elders may be accepted as associate members after having met the criteria listed in Article III, Section 1. Associate membership carries all of the responsibilities and privileges of regular membership with the exception of voting privileges in business sessions of the whole assembly. Each associate member will continue to hold membership in his or her home church. The home church will not be notified of this associate membership with Grace Bible Church.

## **Article IV: Government**

### ***Section 1: Form***

Grace Bible Church will be governed by a plurality of men described in Scripture as “pastors,” “overseers” and elders (all three terms referenced herein as “Elders”) who may from time to time develop policies and procedures for the congregation.



## ***Section 2: Leadership***

1. Classification: The leadership of Grace Bible Church shall consist of Elders (who shall have ultimate oversight as provided in Section 1) and Deacons (who shall give counsel and assistance to the Elders).
2. Method of Selection: The Elders will recommend Biblically- qualified candidates for Elder and Deacon to the congregation as the need arises and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Following a reasonable period of comment by the congregation of no less than two weeks, the Elders shall proceed with appointing the candidates to their offices unless comments by the congregation cause the Elders, in their discretion, to delay or deny the appointment.
3. Qualifications: The Elders and Deacons of Grace Bible Church will be chosen from among the members and must give evidence of the qualifications established in the Word of God.
  - a. Personal Endowments (Rom. 12:1-8; I Cor. 12:1-14:40; Eph. 4:1-16).
  - b. Moral and Spiritual Standards (I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
4. Responsibilities: The Elders and Deacons of Grace Bible Church will have responsibilities commensurate with their titles and/ or according to the teaching of the Word of God. For legal purposes, the signatures of the Elder Chairman, the Deacon Chairman, and the Secretary/ Treasurer shall be deemed binding on the Church. The following are authorized to accept legal process on behalf of the Church: the registered agent for service of process, the Chairman of the Elder Board, or any full-time staff Elder.
5. As a condition to their appointment, the Elders and Deacons of the Church will affirm their agreement with these Covenants, Articles of Faith, and By-Laws. Any Elder or Deacon who determines that he is no longer in agreement with these Covenants, Articles of Faith, and By-Laws shall promptly notify the Elders, who will decide whether the individual may remain in that office.

### ***Section 3: Committees, Ministry Leaders, and Employees***

The Elders may appoint committees for any purpose and for the required period of time. The Elders may also appoint members to assist or lead various ministries of the Church, such as Bible teachers and musicians.

The Elders may select one or more men to serve as Pastors in a full-time capacity to be compensated (through salary and other benefits) as may be determined by the Elders and Deacons. The Elders may also hire on a full-time or part-time basis secretaries and other individuals to further the ministry of the Church. Except for vendors and independent contractors, in order to be eligible for employment by Grace Bible Church the applicant or employee must be a member of the Church in good standing. Individuals who are outside the Church and are not members may be interviewed and accepted for employment as long as they are members at the time their employment begins.

In order to be eligible for employment by the Church (and remain employed by the Church, if hired), the applicant shall not be actively engaged in unrepentant sin and shall not be perceived to undermine or contradict, through his or her actions, behaviors, or speech, the tenets of the Bible or the doctrines of this Church.

### ***Section 4: Discipline***

Should any member of Grace Bible Church become an offense to the Church, its name, and our Lord, by immoral or unchristian conduct; persistent breach of covenant vows; gross impropriety; misdemeanor in office; or willful promotion of schism or discord in the Church, the Elders may censure, reprimand, and/or exclude him or her from membership. Such action will be taken only after every reasonable Christian means of reconciliation has been exhausted, due notice has been given of the charges made, and full opportunity provided for the person charged to speak in his or her own defense. Any person thus excluded may afterwards be restored to membership upon confession of his or her fault and after providing evidence of true repentance satisfactory to the Elders. A person will also be restored upon the discovery that the person thus excluded was not guilty of the charges presented (Mt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 5; II Cor. 2:5-11; II Thess. 3:6-12).

## ***Section 5: Departments***

The organized departments of Grace Bible Church will be kept as simple as possible and at a minimum, developing only such as the need arises. These departments will be in keeping with the New Testament provision for teaching and training the saved and the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world.

## ***Section 6: Church Year***

Grace Bible Church will observe the calendar year January 1 through December 31 as its church year.

## **Article V: Meetings**

### ***Section 1: Worship***

Meetings for spiritual worship will be maintained on the Lord's Day and at such other times as the Elders, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, deem best. Grace Bible Church affirms the importance of meetings dedicated to prayer.

### ***Section 2: Business***

Meetings for the review of Church business will be held annually. Special business meetings may be called by the Elders of the Church. Announcement of a special meeting, stating the time and purpose, will be made at any regular weekly worship service at least once each week for two weeks immediately preceding such special meeting. Elder action and reports from all departments will be made at the annual business meeting.

### ***Section 3: Elders***

The Elders will meet as often as is necessary to discharge their responsibilities as overseers of the flock.

#### ***Section 4: Moderator***

The chairman of the Board of Elders will serve as moderator of all elder meetings and congregational business meetings. In his absence or at his request, a moderator *pro tem* will be appointed by him.

#### ***Section 5: Secretary***

The Elders and Deacons will elect secretaries for their respective Boards who will faithfully keep the official minutes of the actions of the congregation and the Boards of Elders Deacons.

#### ***Section 6: Quorum***

At the congregational business meetings, regular and special, those of the membership who are present will constitute a quorum for transaction of business.

At all Elders meetings and Deacons meetings to transact business, fifty percent of the Elders (for Elder meetings) and Deacons (for Deacon meetings) will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Should a quorum not be present at any such meetings, the meeting may be recessed until a quorum is present to transact business.

### **Article VI: Finances**

#### ***Section 1: Offerings***

Regular offerings will be received at the worship services each Lord's Day. Special offerings may be taken at any meeting for any cause the Elders, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, deem worthy. No one will be solicited by Grace Bible Church for funds. However, we will preach, teach, and practice grace giving. We will stress the motive for giving as an act of worship and love, the aim as the glory of God, and the purpose as the care and growth of the saints and world evangelization. Our giving will be always with the attitude of cheerfulness.

## ***Section 2: Allocations***

All regular offerings will be used to support the Pastor and other employed workers, to defray operating expenses, and to provide certain reserve funding for maintenance, benevolence, and other funds as established by the Elders. That which remains will be used in the spread of the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth, as the Lord will direct. All designated gifts and special offerings will be used as designated and/or for the purpose given to the extent permitted by applicable law and with the approval of the Elders.

## ***Section 3: Remuneration***

The remuneration of employees of the Church will be according to need and as the Lord provides. The Church will abide by the New Testament teaching that the laborer is worthy of his hire, and that they that preach the Gospel will live of the Gospel.

## **Article VII: Licensing and Ordination**

Any man accepting the Covenant, Articles of Faith, and By-Laws of the Church may be licensed or ordained to preach, marry and perform other ministry duties by the unanimous vote of the Elders.

## **Article VIII: Corporate Seal**

The corporation will have an official seal to be adopted by the Elders and will be used on such occasions as the law may require or the Elders so desire.

## **Article IX: The Charter**

The charter of the Church set forth herein permits additional authority to operate other ministries as directed by the Elders.

## **Article X: Use of Facilities and Weddings**

Properties and facilities owned or controlled by Grace Bible Church (or used with permission obtained by Grace Bible Church) shall not be used or permitted to be used for any activity or speech that is contrary to any stated or implied doctrine or religious belief or practice of the Church.

Although the general public is invited to attend services on the Church's premises, the Church property remains private property. The Elders have the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain upon Church property. If after being notified of such suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains upon Church property the person may, in the discretion of the Elders, be treated as a trespasser.

Access to facilities that are designed for use by only one sex is exclusively limited to individuals who are persons of that sex. The foregoing exclusion does not prohibit a parent or guardian from taking a small child of the opposite sex into restrooms when necessary.

The Elders may enact policies for use of facilities in furtherance of and consistent with the terms hereof.

Elders, Deacons, Church members, Church employees, and individuals licensed or ordained by the Church shall not use their title, position, ordination or licensure in a way that contradicts or undermines the teachings of the Church and the Bible by, including but not limited to, officiating over or solemnizing weddings or ceremonies joining more than two people or two people of the same sex, whether on the Church premises or in any other location.

## **Article XI: Amendments**

This document may be amended so long as the proposed amendments are consistent with the teaching of the Word of God, meet the needs of Grace Bible Church, and are unanimously recommended to the Church by the Elders.

Elders. Any proposed amendment to this document shall be made available to the members at least one month before the regular or special congregational business meeting at which it is to be presented. A two-thirds majority vote by the Church in business session will be necessary for its adoption. Votes shall be taken by written ballot, the form of which shall be determined by the Elders. The Chairman of the Elder Board and the Chairman of the Deacon Board shall be responsible for counting the ballots and certifying the results to the congregation.