

Grace Bible Church
Covenant/Constitution
(Revised as of 12/29/24)

COVENANT

Having been led by the Holy Spirit of God (Romans 10:9) to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, (Romans 6:3-5) having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and His angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully, enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore (Acts 1:8), by the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Chronicles 16:28-29) to glorify God the Father through Jesus Christ by endeavoring (Ephesians 5:2) to walk together in Christian love through wisdom, holiness, and peace, to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to uphold and sustain the worship, ordinance, discipline and doctrines of this church (2 Corinthians 9:7; James 2:25-26) and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, through the spreading of the Gospel to all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions (Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:4-9), to educate our children in the Word of God (Ezekiel 33:8-9), to seek the salvation of our relatives and acquaintances (Titus 2:7-8), to walk uprightly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and examples in our conduct (1 Thessalonians 5:22), to abstain from all appearance of evil (Matthew 28:19-20), and to be zealous in our efforts to spread the Gospel of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love (Ephesians 6:18), to remember each other in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:11-14), to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate a genuine Christian concern for each other in feelings and gentleness of speech (Ephesians 4:25-32; Matthew 5:23-24), to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation (Matthew 18:15-18), mindful of our Savior's rules to secure harmony without delay.

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

Article 1 – Name and Character

A. Name

This assembly shall be known as The Grace Bible Church of Elmer, New Jersey.

B. Character

The government of this assembly is a theocracy; we acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as our Head (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18) and recognize the Bible as the only infallible guide in all matters of church doctrine, discipline, and order (1 Timothy 3:14-15; 2 Timothy 3:16). This church is independent of any other ecclesiastical body. All ministries of this church shall be under the direction of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). The Elders shall be responsible for the doctrinal and spiritual instruction and development of the congregation (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:5) for which they are accountable before the Lord (Hebrews 13:17). The Deacons shall execute the temporal affairs of this church under the authority and direction of the Elders and the majority vote of the church members (Acts 6:1-3; Joshua 18:2-9).

Article II – Purpose and Policy

A. Purpose

Our purposes are to worship (Psalm 29:2; John 4:23-24) and to praise (Psalm 145:3; Acts 2:47) the Lord our God, to observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper (Acts 2:42), to evangelize the lost (2 Timothy 4:5), to educate the believers in the precepts of Biblical faith and practice (Matthew 28:19-20), to exhort (2 Timothy 4:1-2), to edify (Ephesians 4:11-12), to encourage and comfort the believers in the faith (Hebrews 10:23-25) and to pray and fellowship.

Various ministries include: Christian education, Sunday School, Missions, Evangelism, Music Ministry, Vacation Bible School, Prayer Meeting and Worship.

B. Policy

We are persuaded that we must have no fellowship with the “unfruitful works of darkness” (Ephesians 5:11), that is, any organization whose teachings or practices are contrary to the direct and clear instruction of the Word of God. Therefore, we refrain from participating in programs which involve a working relationship with any group whose doctrinal position and testimony are at variance with the Bible (1 Corinthians 5:7-11, 16, 17; 2 Thessalonians 3:3-6, 14, 15; 1 Timothy 6:3-20; 2 Timothy 3:13; Jude 19; 1 John 10) (e.g. National and World Council of Churches).

Article III – Doctrine

A. The Bible

We believe that all Scripture is divinely inspired (verbal, plenary inspiration) and infallible (inerrant) in its original manuscripts (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21), and is profitable as a complete treasure of divine wisdom, knowledge, and salvation (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It is the absolute standard by which all will be judged (John 12:48); this standard is eternal and far superior to the human measure of tradition, reason, and experience.

The purpose of the Scriptures is to reveal the character and will of God (Luke 24:25,32; Hebrews 1:1-2), the character and nature of man (James 1:22-25), and God’s plan of salvation (Romans 10:17; 1 Timothy 3:15; James 1:18).

The Bible cleanses (Psalm 119:9; John 15:3), preserves (Psalm 119:11), matures (1 Peter 2:2-3), directs (Psalm 119), strengthens and empowers (Mark 2:2, Acts 8:25) the believer. This Book we

“do well that we take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place” (2 Peter 1:19).

We believe the accurate interpretation of the Bible stresses the importance of every word (Luke 16:17) in a literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages, indicate clearly otherwise.

B. God

1. The Trinity

We believe there is only one God (Exodus 20:3-5; Deuteronomy 4:35, 6:4), manifested in three distinct Persons (Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 2:18; 1 John 5:7): the Father (Romans 1:7), the Son (Hebrews 1:8; John 20:30), and the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4).

2. The Father

We believe that God the Father is eternal (Hebrews 1:12; Psalm 90:2), self-existent, independent in Himself, with all things dependent upon Him (Exodus 3:14; John 5:26), all-powerful (Hebrews 6:18; Jeremiah 32:17), unchangeable (Psalm 102:26-28; Isaiah 48:12; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 1:11-12), infinite (Matthew 5:48; Psalm 102:26-28) in relation to time (Psalm 102, 90:2), in relation to space (Jeremiah 23:23-24; Psalm 139:7-12; Acts 17:24-28), and in relation to knowledge (Job 11:7-8, 37:16; Psalm 147:5; 1 John 3:20). The Father communicates Himself to man through nature (Romans 1:19, 20), through His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2), in His attributes of wisdom (Colossians 2:2-3; James 1:5), goodness (Romans 2:4), holiness (Leviticus 19:2; 1 Samuel 2:2), justice (Romans 3:26), mercy (2 Corinthians 1:3) and truth (Romans 3:4). The basic essence of God's character is Spirit (John 4:24), Love (1 John 4:8), and Light, which is Holiness and Truth (1 John 1:7)

In perfect love, the Father redeems all those who receive by faith His son Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (1 John 4:10). He is the Creator and the sustainer of all things by His immediate Presence

(1 Peter 5:10-11; Ecclesiastes 3:11-15). He is Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Mark 1:1; Eph 3:14)

3. The Son

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, Messiah, the Son of God (John 1:34; 10:30, 20:31), that in order to redeem fallen, sinful man, He took on Himself the form of man through the Virgin Birth (Luke 1:34-35; 1 Timothy 1:15) and thereby became God incarnate (John 1:14,18), that He lived in perfect harmony with God, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15), that He lived in perfect harmony with God and His word (Luke 23:41; John 15:10), and that He voluntarily suffered death and in so was the substitutionary sacrifice for the sin of all mankind (1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:2), that He physically rose from the dead (Acts 4:10), ascended into heaven, and is now enthroned at the right hand of God the Father as Mediator, Intercessor, Advocate, and High Priest for the repentant and redeemed sinner (Romans 8:34,; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 4:14), that He will come again in the same manner in which He ascended (Acts 1:11) and will receive into His eternal Presence all those who have accepted Him as Savior and Lord and, therefore, have been born again (Mark 13:27).

4. The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is God, equal with the Father and Son and of the same nature (1 Corinthians 12:4-6), that He was active in the creation (Romans 5:19), that His presence in the unbelieving world restrains Satan until God's purpose is fulfilled (Isaiah 40:7; 2 Thessalonians 2:7), that He reproves the world of sin, righteousness and judgement (John 16:7-11), that He bears witness to the Gospel in preaching and ministering the Word (John 15:26-27), that He is the Agent of the new birth (Romans 8:11), that He seals (Ephesians 4:30), guides (Acts 16:26), teaches (1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 John 2:27), witnesses (Romans 8:16), helps (Romans 8:26), sanctifies (Romans 15:16), and empowers the believer (Romans 8:4, 13-14). We believe that the fruit of the Spirit, that is: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness,

faith, meekness, temperance (Galatians 5:22-23), characterizes every genuine, Spirit-filled Christian. We believe that the Scriptures command the believer to be continually filled by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). We believe the gifts of the Spirit (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30) are truly of God when Biblically interpreted and practiced. We believe the “sign gifts” listed in Mark 16:17-18 were given to convince the unbelieving Jew (1 Corinthians 14:21-22) of the Divine authenticity of the early Apostles. We believe the “sign gifts,” such as speaking in foreign languages by Divine wisdom, and healing by Divine power, are not necessary for our day and have been Scripturally replaced (2 Peter 1:19-21; James 5:14-16).

C. Man and Sin

We believe that man was created innocent by the special act of God as recorded in Genesis 1:27 and 2:7. We believe man was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) for the purpose of glorifying God (Romans 3:23; 1 Corinthians 10:31). Through the temptation and deception of Satan, Adam voluntarily transgressed and fell from his privileged position of spiritual fellowship and of holiness (Genesis 3). As a result of Adam’s sin, the ground is cursed (Genesis 3:17; Romans 8:20), sorrow and pain accompany the woman in child-bearing (Genesis 3:16), the woman lives in submission to her husband (Genesis 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:11-14), work is arduous labor (Genesis 3:19), and all mankind is subjected to physical and spiritual death (Genesis 3:19; Romans 5:12). We believe that, due to Adam’s sin, man is, by his nature, sinful (Genesis 6:5; 8:21; Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:19) and that, therefore, all men are sinners before God (Romans 3:9,10,22-23; Psalm 14; Isaiah 53:6), that all men are in the helpless captivity of Satan and the flesh (Romans 7; John 8:3-16; Ephesians 2:3), and that the entire world lies in condemnation and death (Romans 3:19; Galatians 3:10).

We believe that the entire nature of man is affected by sin: his understanding is darkened (Ephesians 4:18; 1 Corinthians 2:14),

his heart is deceitful and wicked (Jeremiah 17:9-10), his mind and conscience are defiled (Genesis 6:5; Titus 1:15), his flesh is decadent (2 Corinthians 7:5; Ephesians 2:13), his spirit is dead (Romans 7:8-15), and thereby man is totally depraved and destitute of any goodness or righteousness (Romans 7:11; Isaiah 64:6).

D. Salvation

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a substitutionary sacrifice (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Peter 1:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21) and that He was resurrected from the grave according to the Scriptures, thereby completely satisfying the penalty of our sin and sealing salvation for the redeemed (1 Corinthians 15:20-22; Acts 2:24-36), that all who believe on Him are justified on the basis of His shed blood (Romans 3:24-25; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

We believe that salvation is by God's sovereign grace alone and is received through faith and not of any human merit or works (Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 3:3-21). Since salvation is a work of God and not of man (John 1:12-13) the Scriptures also teach that once a sinner is genuinely redeemed to God and saved from his sin, his salvation in Christ is eternal and never removed (Romans 8:29-39; Hebrews 6:4-6; 1 John 3:6)

E. The Church

We believe that the true Church is made up of all those, since Pentecost (Acts 2:1ff), who have by faith received Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, who have been redeemed out of every race and nation (Acts 2:47, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and unsaved (John 5:22-29), the everlasting blessedness of the saved (John 8:51; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14), and the everlasting punishment of the unsaved (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-50)

We believe that the local church is an organized body of baptized believers (Acts 2:41; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3) who are associated by

covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel (Acts 2:41-42), who observe the New Testament ordinances of water Baptism and the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 19-20), who exercise the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word and Spirit (Ephesians 4:7) and work for the spreading of the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth (Matthew 28:20; Acts 1:8). We believe the Church of Jesus Christ is distinct from Israel (1 Corinthians 10:32), that the covenants made with Israel will be fulfilled in relation to Israel and not to the Church.

1. Ordinance of Baptism

We believe that water baptism is a Christ-ordained testimony signifying the believer's previous union and baptism in Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13), by His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12) by the Holy Spirit. We believe the Scriptures teach immersion as the proper mode of water baptism (John 3:23; Acts 8:38-39; Romans 6:4; Hebrews 10:22). We believe the proper candidates of Baptism are only those who give credible evidence of repentance and belief in Christ as their Savior (Matthew 3:2-6; Acts 2:37-38, 10:47)

2. Ordinance of the Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's supper is a Christ-ordained testimony and memorial showing the Lord's death til He comes again (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Like Baptism, this ordinance must be observed only by genuine Christians (1 Corinthians 11:27). Even believers must be careful not to "eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord unworthily" by failing to examine and judge ourselves and to confess our sins (1 Corinthians 11:27-34).

F. Last Things

We believe in the "blessed hope" of the personal, pre-millennial, pretribulational and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We believe in:

The Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4; Revelation 4:1)
The Great Tribulation (Daniel 9; Matthew 24; Revelation 4-19) The
Anti-Christ (2 Thessalonians 2; Revelation 13) The Restoration of
Israel (Jeremiah 30:1-11; Romans 9-11) The Battle of Armageddon
(Revelation 16:16; Ezekiel 38-39) The Return of the Lord
(Revelation 19:11-21) The Millennial (1000 year) Reign of Christ
(Revelation 20:1-6) The Final Resurrection and Judgement
(Revelation 20:7-15) The New Heavens and Earth (Revelation
21-22)

We also believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and
unsaved (John 5:22-29), the everlasting blessedness of the saved
(John 8:51; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14), and the everlasting
punishment of the unsaved (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-50).

Article IV – Membership

A. Qualifications

The membership of this assembly shall consist only of those who
confess Jesus Christ to be their Savior and Lord (Colossians 1:18;
Hebrews 12:23) and have evidenced such confession by water
(immersion) baptism.

Members from other churches of like doctrine and testimony may
be received into membership with recommendation from their
respective churches and testimony of their conversion experience
(John 3:3). Baptized members of other churches and baptized
believers having no church affiliation, may be received into
membership upon satisfactory evidence of their conversion.

Persons from whom fellowship has been withdrawn may be
restored upon satisfactory evidence of their purpose to live in
accordance with the principles of the New Testament and the
Church Covenant (Luke 17:3-4; Matthew 18:15-20; 2 Corinthians
2:6-11) and confession has been made to the offended party.

All the above shall receive membership after a vote of approval by
the Church following recommendation by the Elders.

B. Duties

Members are expected to be faithful stewards (1 Corinthians 4:2) in all spiritual duties essential to the Christian life (1 Samuel 2:22-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:11-22), to attend regularly the Services of this church (Hebrews 10:25), to give regularly for its support and ministries (Philippians 4:15-18), and to serve the Lord Jesus Christ by sharing in the ministry of this church (Hebrews 5:12; Philippians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31).

C. Termination

Termination of membership shall be subject to the following:

1. Any member in good and regular standing who desires a letter of recommendation to another church of like faith and practice shall have a letter forwarded upon written request.
2. If a member requests to be released from his membership responsibilities to this church, after the Elders have patiently and kindly endeavored to assure his continuance in fellowship, such request may be granted and his membership terminated.
3. Should a member become an offense to Christ and this Church by reason of a persistent behavior unbecoming a Christian, or by doctrine contrary to the clear teaching of the Word of God, the Church may terminate his membership, but only after due notice and scriptural efforts have been made to bring such a member to repentance and restoration (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2).

D. Discipline

The objectives of discipline are to vindicate the character of the church as a moral and spiritual body (1 Corinthians 5:1-13) and to secure the reformation of the offender (Matthew 18:15; James 5:19-20). Should discipline be required, it shall be administered in the spirit of love and prayer as enjoined in the Word (Galatians 5:1). Restoration to full fellowship follows when the objectives of discipline have been accomplished (2 Corinthians 2).

Members holding and teaching doctrines contrary to the Scriptures, violating covenant obligations, bringing disrepute upon the name

and cause of Christ, or refusing to abide by the ruling of the Elders of the Church, after an appeal has been made, become subject to discipline (2 Thessalonians 3:6-7, 14-15; Titus 3:10-11; John 4:1-6; Jude 3-4).

If a grievance exists between members and the steps of reconciliation (Matthew 18:15-22) have been followed to no avail, the matter shall be brought to the notice of the Elders to be prayerfully and carefully presented to the congregation.

It has historically been and continues to be the position of Grace Bible Church, based upon the unchanging teaching of the Bible, the Word of God, that marriage is limited exclusively to the physical union of one biological man and one biological woman in accordance with God's commandment. Therefore, no church officer of Grace Bible Church shall perform any marriage ceremony or rite, recognize any other such union, or permit any preaching or teaching on the same, other than the one prescribed in the Bible, God's holy Word. (Genesis 2:21-25; Proverbs 18:22; 19:14; Malachi 2:14-15; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Ephesians 5:23-24; Colossians 3:18-19; Hebrews 13:4)

It has historically been and continues to be the position of Grace Bible Church that divorce is not an option for the believer, that marriage does constitute a life-long relationship between one biological man and one biological woman, and that without exception this covenant is binding until death. Therefore this church will refrain from either sanctioning or performing the marriage of those who seek divorce following their conversion. Furthermore, sinful acts are prohibited by God and include but are not limited to denial of birth sex by self-identification with a different gender or sinful acts with the same gender. Romans 1:18-32

E. Teacher Qualifications

It has historically been and continues to be the position of Grace Bible Church that in order to be a Teacher in the ministries of the Grace Bible Church (Sunday School, Worship Services, Wednesday Evening

Prayer Meeting, Youth Group, Kids Club, Junior Church, VBS, and Men's, Ladies' or Youth Bible studies occurring outside the church edifice), one MUST be an adult member in good standing at Grace Bible Church. Therefore It is the responsibility of the Elders to ensure that all ministries of the church are done in accordance with the Word of God (Article 1, Section B) and are further required to make sure that spiritual preparation has been demonstrated before assigning a ministry (1 Timothy 3:6, 5:22; Hebrews 13:16-17).

ARTICLE V – Church Offices

A. Description

According to Scripture, the two offices in the local church are those of the Elders (also known as bishops, overseers, pastors and shepherds - 1 Peter 5:1-2; Acts 20:17,28; 1 Timothy 3:1; Ephesians 4:11; Philippians 1:1-2) and the office of Deacons (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 3:8-10 and Philippians 1:1).

B. Installation

Discerning the will of the Lord, the Elders shall appoint (Acts 6:3; Titus 1:5) qualified men who have received the approval of at least three fourths of the membership (Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:7,10 – “of good report and blameless”) for the Office of Deacon. It shall be the privilege of any member of the church to present the name of any member not later than one month before the election, to the Elders for consideration of one of the offices. No more than one (1) immediate member of any family may occupy an Office of either Deacon or Elder together.

C. Qualifications

The teaching Elder

1. Must be “called” (Romans 1:1; 1 Corinthians 9:15-16; 1 Timothy 2:7) by God for the purpose of perfecting the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of

Christ...edifying itself in love (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; 1 Timothy 1:12, 2:7)

2. Should be ordained and recommended by an official council of biblically fundamental Ministers (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Peter 3:15).
3. Must meet all the qualifications of an Elder (1 Peter 5:1-3; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
4. Must be recommended by the Elders for approval of at least three fourths of the congregation. This recommendation shall be made on the basis of an interview and prayer with the candidate and his delivery of at least two Sunday messages and one Bible study. This recommendation shall be made only after considerable prayer has been made by both the Elders and congregation, in seeking the wise counsel and leadership of the Holy Spirit in this matter.

All Elders

Must meet the qualifications of 1 Timothy 1:1-7 This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil. Moreover, he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Deacons

Must meet the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:8-13 Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a

pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless. Likewise, *their* wives *must be* reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well.

D. Responsibilities

1. Elders

- a. 1. to first guard their own spiritual lives, making sure they are walking close to Christ (Acts 20:28; Deuteronomy 4:9; Joshua 23:11; 1 Timothy 4:16)
 - b. care for the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers-bishops, ruling by example (Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-3; James 5:14)
 - c. feed the church of God which He purchased with His blood (John 21:15-17; Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 3:2, 5:17; 1 Peter 5:2)
 - d. guard and protect the flock from those who teach false doctrine (Acts 20:29-30; Titus 1:9-11)
 - e. with meekness, correct, instruct and warn believers who have been snared by Satan, asking God to give them repentance (2 Timothy 2:24-25)
 - f. as a disciple of the Lord he must actively seek to fulfill the great commission and disciple faithful believers so that they may teach others (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2)
 - g. as a servant of the Lord he must be humble, teachable, forgiving, diligent in studying the Word, faithful in prayer and controlled by God's Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-21; 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17; 1 Peter 5:5)
2. Additional responsibilities of the man who is called to be the primary teaching-elder
 - a. normally he will preach/teach at all Sunday services and conduct a weekly prayer meeting

- b. moderate or with elder approval appoint another to moderate all church business meetings
- c. serve as chairman of the elders, each having one vote, and insure that all decisions of church meetings including committee meetings are recorded with a copy filed in the church office
- d. lead the other elders in commitment to holiness, service to Christ's church and fulfillment of the great commission

3. Deacons

- a. To manage and maintain the temporal affairs of the church under the supervision of the Elders. (Acts 6:1-2)
- b. To assist the Elders and those in the congregation who serve the Lord in their ministries (1 Corinthians 16:15-16; Acts 6:4).
- c. The Deacon Board of the church will be responsible for appointing a certified public accountant (CPA) to audit the financial documents of the church on an annual basis and present a list of recommendations for the coming year as needed.

4. Elders/Deacons

- a. To serve as trustees and legal representatives with regard to financial and corporate matters.

E. Resignation, Dismissal and Terms of office

1. If unfaithfulness to the Word or unfitness upon the part of an Officer should occur, the Elders shall prayerfully and thoroughly investigate the matter and decide what action should be taken (Revelation 2:2; Titus 3:10-11).
2. If an Officer of the church tenders his resignation, the same shall be in writing. The resignation shall be presented at least 30 days prior, to the Board of which he is a member.
3. The Elders, except for the one hired as the teaching elder, and Deacons shall be elected by secret ballot by the membership

during the Annual Congregational Meeting in February for a term of three years. Elders and Deacons who have served a full three-year term are eligible for re-election to the Office of either Elder or Deacon. Those who have served two consecutive three year terms can opt to take a one year sabbatical or continue serving as God leads and they desire. When voting for Officers at a properly called Business Meeting, a quorum consisting of three fourths of the eligible voters is required. Officers may be elected with the approval of three fourths of those eligible voters present.

Article VI – Boards and Committees

A. Board of Missions

It shall be the duty of the Board of Missions to stimulate and to encourage a missionary spirit in the church. The Board shall also investigate such missionaries or projects worthy of support and make recommendation to the Elders pertaining thereto. If the Elders concur, the matters shall be jointly presented to the church for action. The Chairman of the Board of Missions shall be appointed by the Elders. The Board shall prepare a missionary budget for the annual business meeting, to be reviewed with the Board of Elders and adopted by the church.

B. Board of Education

It shall be the duty of the Board of Education to determine and implement the general educational objectives and policies of the church and to direct and supervise all areas of Christian education such as Sunday School, Jr church, Sunday Evening Youth Group, and like organized groups which may be formed to train and to educate. The Chairman of the Board of Education shall be appointed by the Elders.

C. Board of Evangelism

It shall be the duty of the Board of Evangelism to stimulate spiritual health and growth in the church, to coordinate a program of

visitation, to seek avenues in which to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20), to endeavor to maintain and to develop, in every area of the church's ministry, the maximum spiritual emphasis for the salvation of the lost to the glory of God. The Chairman of the Evangelism Board shall be appointed by the Elders.

D. Creating New Committees

The Board of Elders, and the Board of Deacons are empowered to appoint such committees as are required to conduct the business of the church in a proper manner (e.g. music, social).

Article VII – Meetings of the Church

A. Worship

This church shall assemble for worship in the morning and evening of each Sunday, and for prayer at least one evening each week.

B. Communion

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed on the first Sunday of each month or as directed by the Elders.

C. Board of Elders

The Board of Elders shall meet at least once a month for prayer and consultation on spiritual matters of ministry in the Church.

D. Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons shall meet at least once a month.

E. Official Board of Elders and Deacons

The joint Boards shall meet once a quarter. An additional Board Meeting may be called by the Chairman of the Board of Elders, or the Chairman of the Board of Deacons.

F. Annual Congregational Business Meeting

The Annual Congregational Business Meeting shall be held in February and notification of said meeting must be given from the pulpit at least two Sundays before the meeting.

G. Special Congregational Meetings

Special Meetings of the Congregation may be called at any time by the Elders. Two Sundays notice must be given from the pulpit for such meetings.

H. Quorum

The transaction of business in the Congregational and Special Congregational Business Meeting shall have at least one half of the membership (eligible voters) present at the Meeting. A majority vote of those eligible voters present and voting is thereby considered sufficient to transact all business of this Church except where the Constitution stipulates otherwise. Those members who have not been present at the regular Services of the Church for a period of at least three months prior to an Annual or Special Business Meeting of the Church shall not be considered as active voting members and shall be subtracted from the number of members required for a quorum for both regular business and for the election and re-election of Church Officers and for proposed changes to the Church Constitution.

I. Order of Meeting

Church business shall follow this order:

1. Opening prayer
2. Reading of the minutes
3. Reports of Officers and Committees
4. Unfinished business
5. New business

6. Closing prayer

J. Procedure of Meetings

When a question arises concerning a point of order or procedure during any meeting, Roberts' Rules of Order shall be followed.

K. Voting

Members 18 years and older are eligible to vote on all church matters.

L. Meetings of the Church

Members in Christian service, college, or military service who reside at distant locations are exempt from meeting the quorum in all congregational meetings.

Article VIII – Property Ownership Rights and Authorizations

A. Right to Own, Buy, Sell Property

This Church shall have the right to own, buy and or sell tangible properties in its own name, through properly elected and authorized Officers.

B. Expenditure Limitations

The expenditure limitation of the Deacons for any item other than a regular budget item shall not exceed \$5,000.00.

Expenditures that are beyond this amount shall require a properly called Congregational Business Meeting.

C. Use of the Facilities

The sanctuary of Grace Bible Church is to be used only by those Christian organizations, groups, etc. that align themselves with this Church in regard to its statement of

belief. The other facilities shall be available for use at the discretion of the Elders.

D. Dissolution of Corporation

In the event of the dissolution of this corporation, all of its debts shall be fully paid. None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among members, but shall be irrevocably assigned by the Official Board, as Trustees, to other such non-profit religious corporations as are in agreement with the letter and the spirit of this Constitutional statement of belief, and in conformity with the requirements of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code of 1954 (Section C-3), or by any subsequent amendments thereto.

Article IX – Amendments to the Constitution

A. The Constitution of the church may be amended by a three fourths vote of eligible voters present and voting a properly called congregational business meeting

B. All proposed amendments are to be presented to the Elders in writing. After their approval they will present them to the congregation in a properly called congregational business meeting.

C. All approved amendments are to be typed, reproduced and distributed to the members for insertion into their copies of the Constitution.