



# **The Constitution of Grace Chapel On High Holly Mountain**

## **The Church**

The Church is of God and will be preserved to the end of time for: the conduct of worship; the due administration of His Word and Sacraments; the maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipline; the edification of believers and the conversion of the world. All, of every age and station, stand in need of the means of grace which it alone supplies.

Membership of the Grace Chapel is provided for anyone who adheres to the principles contained in this document, in which you will find the following:

Name of the Church  
Vision and Mission Statement  
Statement of Faith  
Covenant  
Values  
Membership  
Pastoral Search Committee  
Overseer/Officers  
Governance  
Appendix

## **Name**

The name of the church is “Grace Chapel” on High Holly Mountain.

## **Vision**

The vision of the church is taken from the gospel of Matthew 28:18-20  
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father , Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

## **Mission**

We are a Bible-based community who seeks to glorify Jesus Christ through our worship, discipleship and missions/outreach.

## **Statement of Faith**

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the final authority on all issues to which it speaks. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

We believe there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:18-20

We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles He performed, His vicarious and atoning death on the cross, His bodily resurrection, ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His second coming in all power and glory.  
Isaiah 7:14, Revelation 20:6

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten son of God who died for our sins and rose from the dead. He is the only mediator through whose work we can be redeemed. John 14:6, Acts 4:10-12

We believe in the process of spiritual development (sanctification) through the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit. This growth finds expression in righteous living, worship and evangelism. Ephesians 4:17-24

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is able to live out a productive, meaningful, and godly life. Acts 1:7-8, Romans 12:4-8

We believe in the resurrection of both the redeemed and the unbeliever; those who are in Christ unto the resurrection of life with God and those who are not unto damnation and eternal hell. Revelation 20: 11:15, 1Thessalonians 4:13-18

## **Covenant**

Since God created us and redeemed us in the Lord Jesus Christ, we joyfully give ourselves to God and each other in this covenant relationship.

With the blessings and assistance of the Holy Spirit and with his divine grace, wisdom, strength, and knowledge, we will:

- \* Love and worship the one living and true God, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together;
- \* Live a holy and righteous life in the fear of God, submitting to one another out of reverence for God;
- \* Do good works of love, obeying all that Jesus commanded;
- \* Maintain the unity of the body; working together for the peace and purity of the church;
- \* Contribute cheerfully, and generously to the support of the ministry, the maintenance of the facility, the work of missions and outreach, and the relief of the less fortunate;
- \* Confess sin promptly and make restitution when required, as we willingly forgive others;
- \* Preserve the righteousness of the gospel through personal integrity and godly character;
- \* Persevere in the faith of the gospel so that when we have done well we will receive from the Lord all that he has promised.

## **\* Values**

As a church body we value:

\* Engaging in a personal relationship with the Holy Trinity of God: Father , Son and Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20

\* Scripture and growing in spiritual maturity through Biblical instruction.

2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Corinthians 2:13

\* Worship and prayer: Participating in authentic and vibrant worship and prayer, both individually and corporately. Hebrews 10:25, Ephesians 5:19

\* Discipleship for all ages: Pursuing holiness through Spirit-led transformation.

Ephesians 4:11-17, Matthew 28:18-20

\* Unity of the church: Cultivating harmony through mutual accountability.

Ephesians 4:3-6, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13.

\* Evangelism/Outreach: Sharing the gospel in word and deed, both locally and globally.

Romans 10:10-17, 1 Peter 2:15

\* Encouragement: Every member should encourage others and strive to build them up. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

\* Sanctity of Life: Treasuring life from conception to death.

Psalms 139:13-16, Isaiah 46:3-4

\* Sanctity of Marriage: Honoring God's ordained union between one man and one woman. (Biological male and female).

Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6

## **Membership**

Membership in Grace Chapel is taken seriously. We strive to be diligent in confirming the eligibility of those wanting to become a part of our body. All candidates for church membership, upon acceptance of the Statement of Faith, Covenant, and Values, must be approved by the Elders. If approved, the applicant will become a member and the church will receive them on a designated Sunday during the worship service. It is expected that all members will be good witnesses for Jesus Christ by word and deed, at home, work and elsewhere; maturing in Christ through the application of the Word of God and the enabling presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Membership of Grace Chapel shall consist of persons:

- \* Professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- \* Having followed Him in believer's Baptism.
- \* Having attended all the sessions of the new members class.
- \* Having demonstrated believing faith by sharing their testimony with two or more of the Elders.
- \* Having demonstrated a desire to become involved in some facet of the ministry of Grace Chapel.
- \* Having an understanding of the responsibility of representing the Lord Jesus and Grace Chapel in the world, in such a manner that it brings honor and glory to God.

A member in good standing may, upon written request of that member, be removed from membership by the Elders. A member in good standing who desires to be united with another Christian fellowship will be entitled to a letter of introduction.

Any member of this church who teaches or insists on holding a non-Biblical doctrine, or who persistently conducts himself or herself in a manner inconsistent with Scripture, or this Constitution, or who persists in disturbing the unity or peace of the church will be dealt within a manner similar to Matthew 18:15-18, by the Elders representing the church congregation. Membership can be revoked by the Elders following a process of church discipline.

Any member who has been exposed to teaching contrary to sound doctrine is to report this to the Elders for consideration. Members who repent may be restored to fellowship upon approval of the Elders.

Inactive members may be removed from membership by the Elders after an inquiry is made.

A voting member who is at least eighteen years old, a consistent attender of the church, and in good standing shall be eligible to vote.

Members must be in attendance to vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

## **Pastoral Search Committee**

For the selection of a Pastor, the church will establish a Pastoral Search Committee consisting of at least eight members as follows: two Elders, two Deacons and four members of the congregation. The committee will make inquiry concerning potential candidates for the position of Pastor. When the committee, with the approval of the entire board of Elders, is satisfied it has identified a preferred candidate, it may invite the individual to visit and preach at any regular service of the church. A vote of the congregation will take place, and upon the approval of the congregation, a call will be offered to the candidate.

## **Overseers/Elders**

The overseers of the church shall be: Pastors, Elders and Deacons. Overseers must be members of the church in good standing. A two thirds vote of the congregation is necessary for the election of the Elder and Pastor. The Deacon is to be appointed by the Elders. Any officer may be removed from serving upon the recommendation of the Elders and by a two thirds vote of the congregation.

Elders: There will be a board of Elders: The church has adopted the complimentary position of only men serving as Elders based upon the Biblical teaching found in 1 Timothy 2:12-14. The number of Elders serving will not exceed ten unless voted upon by the congregation. Qualifications for the position of Elder are based on the instruction found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, and Titus 1:5-9. Elder candidates will be examined by the Elders and voted upon by a two thirds majority of members present at a congregation meeting. Elders shall be elected to one four year term and have the option, if approved by the Elders and the congregation to serve a second consecutive term. After two consecutive terms the Elder must retire for one year after which their eligibility starts a new.

The Elder board will nominate and elect a moderator, clerk, and treasurer:

The moderator is the legal head of the church who is granted permission to speak for the body. He is also able to conduct all legal matters. He calls for and conduct the meeting of the Elder Board and the annual meeting of the church. Meetings may not be conducted without the advanced knowledge of the Elder Board.

The clerk is to keep the records of the meetings and oversee the membership list of the body. The clerk is responsible to give reports and make them available when required. He is to give a report of decisions made by the Elders to the congregation at its annual meeting.

The treasurer will be the custodian of the church funds. The treasurer will oversee the payments of all bills in a timely manner and give the treasurer's report at the annual meeting of the church.

The responsibility of the Elders is as follows:

The Board of Elders will be the governing body whose function consists of the spiritual and fiscal oversight of the church. (1 Peter 5:1-2) The Elders will oversee the following committees: Worship, Discipleship, and Outreach/ Missions. The responsibility for oversight includes all committees assigned to a specific responsibility of the church. The Elders will oversee the work of the Deacons.

Pastor: The responsibility of the Pastor is explained in Ephesians 4: 11-14 and Acts 6:1-6. The pastor is to preach and teach the Word of God. He is to oversee the ministry of the church serving alongside of the Elders. 1Peter 5:1-2. He is to safeguard the church by teaching sound doctrine. The Pastor along with the Elders and Deacons are to visit and pray for the sick. And be sensitive to the needs of the church and community. Based upon the teaching found in 1 Timothy 2:12-14, the pastor shall be a male.

Deacons: There will be a board of Deacons: The church has adopted the complimentary position of only men serving as Deacons based upon the Biblical teaching found in 1 Timothy 2:12-14. The Deacons shall be appointed annually by the board of Elders. Deacon's are men whose character and conduct is above reproach as described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Deacons are called by God to serve in a variety of ways: building and grounds, overseeing and organizing committees for a variety of needs and functions. The Deacon are accountable to the Elders.



## **Governance**

The governing of the church shall be by the Elders who are charged with the responsibility of oversight. 1 Peter 5:1-2. Oversight of the church requires much and includes conducting the worship services of the church, discipleship and outreach/missions. The Elders are to keep the congregation informed and look to the Bible for instruction. The work of the Lord necessitates the reliance upon the person and work of the Holy Spirit with adherence to the scripture. Everything done must be performed with decency and in order. The goal of the church body is to strive for unity and live in such away that all that it seeks to accomplish will bring honor and glory to the head of the church, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Elders are to meet regularly and notify the congregation of the dates. All business meeting of the Board of Elders are open to members to attend. Items of a sensitive nature shall be conducted in closed session.

The Clerk of the Elder Board is to receive agenda items for discussion prior to meeting. The clerk has the discretion to organize the agenda.

The congregation will be asked to convene to approve the following: election of church officers, the calling of a Pastor, the purchase and sale of property, new construction and the annual budget.

The Pastor serves at the behest of the church and is to be approved for service annually by the Elders and with the approval by the congregation.

The existence of a quorum is determined at the moderators discretion of those attending an advertised church meeting of the congregation. Only member in good standing will be eligible to vote.

The Elder Board will conduct its business according to the Robert's Rules of Order.

## **Appendix**

The Constitution of Grace Chapel may be amended at any business meeting of the church by a vote of two thirds of the members present and qualified to vote. Any proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to the Elder Board and copies made available to the congregation at two regular Sundays prior to the advertised meeting of the congregation.

We believe that marriage is the exclusive, covenantal union between one man and one women. Grace Chapel does not authorize any Pastor, member, or visiting official, to solemnize, perform, or use church property for a marriage ceremony other than for the union of one man and one women. No member may enter a same-sex, polygamous, transgendered or marriage-like union without being subject to church discipline.

In the case of divorce, remarriage will be considered on case-by-case basis according to the conscience of the pastor and the persons entering such a union.