

**CONSTITUTION**  
**of**  
**GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH. INC.**

**2247 Camino Carlos Rey**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507**

## **PREAMBLE**

In order to affirm and preserve the principles of our faith, to guarantee that this body may be governed in an orderly and efficient manner consistent with the Scriptures, and for the purpose of preserving the unity of this church, the liberties inherent in each individual member and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the Christian faith we do declare and establish this constitution.

## **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this Christian body is: Grace Community Church, Incorporated, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, hereafter referred to as Grace Community Church.

## **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

### **Growing:**

The spiritual growth of Christians through the faithful teaching of the Word of God.

### **Reaching:**

The salvation of souls through the world -wide proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Adoring:**

The worship of God and the administration of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

### **Caring:**

Loving and caring for all people, beginning with the household of God.

### **Equipping:**

Preparing all of God's people to do the work of ministry as the Lord has gifted each one.

## **ARTICLE III - ARTICLES OF FAITH**

We, the members of Grace Community Church, believe in:

### **THE BIBLE**

1. God's verbally inspired Word and absolute authority of both the Old and New Testaments without error in the original writings. (Proverbs 30:5, Isaiah 40:8, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21)

### **GOD**

2. One sovereign God, Creator of all things, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; each being fully God, sharing the same nature and attributes. (Genesis 1:1; I Chronicles 29:11-13; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 1:14)

### **JESUS CHRIST**

3. The Lordship of Jesus Christ, His deity and humanity, virgin birth, perfect life, and redeeming death. (Matthew 1:20-25 & 13:55-56; Luke 1:26-35; Acts 2:36 & 10:36; Philippians 2: 9; Colossians 1:13-14)

4. The bodily resurrection, present high priestly ministry and imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 20:26-29; Acts 1:9-11 & 2:31-36; Hebrews 4:14-16 & 7:23-8:2)

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

5. The ministry of the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He indwells, empowers, regenerates, seals and bestows gifts upon believers for the common good of the body, guiding them into God's will and truth. By the Holy Spirit the believer is baptized into the Body of Christ, and receives a new nature. By the power of the Holy Spirit the believer can live a fruitful and victorious life. (Exodus 35:30-35; John 3:3-7 & 16:7-15; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 3:16 & 12:4-13; Ephesians 1:13-14 & 4:11-12)

## **THE DEVIL AND DEMONS**

6. The existence, evil influence and condemnation of Satan and of all other fallen angels who must be resisted by God's people through the spiritual armor given by God. (Job 1:7-10; Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:11-16; Revelation 20:7-10)

## **MAN**

7. The creation of man in the image of God, his subsequent fall through sin resulting in the universal guilt and depravity of all mankind, and the necessity of redemption and restoration only possible through Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1:26 & 3:1-8; Romans 3:9-23 & 5:12-21; Titus 3:3-7)

## **SALVATION, JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION**

8. Salvation as a free eternal gift of God given by grace and received by faith apart from human efforts, which He bestows upon the repentant sinner. The believer is justified by the substitutionary death and shed blood of Christ on the cross. The believer then has the responsibility to produce works in keeping with faith in Christ. (John 10:27-30; Acts 2:38; Romans 3:24-28, Ephesians 2:8-10; Galatians 2:16)

## **THE CHURCH**

9. One Church, the Body of Christ both in heaven and on earth with Christ Himself as the foundation stone built upon the Apostles and the Word of God. It is composed of all God's people who have been born again: men, women and children of every nation, tribe, language and family. (John 10:16; Romans 9:25 & 12:4-5; I Corinthians 3:10-11; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:20; Revelation 7:9)

10. Believer's baptism, an ordinance given by Jesus Christ as a command to all who receive the gospel message. The form of baptism in the New Testament was by immersion. We encourage and practice the same. (Matthew 3:16 & 28:19; Acts 8:35-38 & 16:13-15)

11. Observing the Lord's Supper in obedience to His request that we remember Him and that He gave His life as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. (Luke 22:19-20)

## **THE FUTURE**

12. The personal imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His Church in glory and power to claim His Church as His bride He will destroy the kingdom of Satan and his Anti-Christ and set up His millennial kingdom upon the earth followed by an eternal Kingdom on a new heaven and new earth. (Acts 1:9-11; Matthew 24:30-31; I Thessalonians 4:14-17; Titus 2:13; Revelation 20:4-5 & 21:1-4 )

13. The saved in resurrected bodies will forever be in His presence and fellowship glorifying Him throughout eternity. (John 5:28-29 & 14: 1-3; Matthew 25:34,46; I Corinthians 15:4,42-53; Philippians 1: 23 & 3:20; Revelation 19:1,4-6)

14. The lost being forever separated from the presence of God in an eternal place of torment called Hell. (Matthew 25:41&46; Mark 9:47-48; Revelation 20:14-15 & 21:8)

## **ARTICLE IV - CHURCH COVENANT**

I believe that God has directed me to join in the ministry at Grace Community Church. I will uphold it by faithful participation in worship, training, teaching & evangelism both corporately and personally. I will strive towards the observation of its ordinances. As God prospers me, I will give regularly and cheerfully for its sustenance and ministries. I will preserve the unity of this church by endeavoring to understand and appreciate my fellow members of the body, who may have different personalities, backgrounds or ways of approaching ministry. I will seek to engage the spiritual gifts the Lord has given to me for the benefit of building up the body of Christ. I subscribe to the articles of faith of my church and do willingly place myself under the caring oversight of Grace Community Church and its leadership.

## **ARTICLE V - FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

The government of this church is vested in its members, and it is not subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body.

## **ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP**

Any person who has been born again by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose character, conduct and reputation are in accord with his or her confession, who accepts the Constitution and Bylaws of Grace Community Church and who is willing to support its ministry and mission by participation through: (i) the employment of their spiritual gifts, which the Lord has given each Christian for the building up of the body (ii) personal diligent prayer and Bible study (iii) personal evangelical outreach and (iv) the sharing of their material means; may apply for membership. Procedures, responsibilities and categories of members are found in the Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS**

The officers of this church are pastor(s), elders, deacons and deaconesses. The Bylaws shall determine their election, term and succession. Other officers may be appointed or elected for various forms of service described by their titles as defined in the Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS**

The meetings for worship, prayer, praise, discipleship, fellowship, business and special purposes shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **CHURCH STATUS AS EXEMPT ORGANIZATION, INDEMNITY, AND ARBITRATION**

**Section 1. Legal Status:** Grace Community Church is a corporation, which is organized exclusively for religious and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

**Section 2. Inurement of Income:** No part of the net income of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, officers or private persons: except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

**Section 3. Legislative or Political Activities:** No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be used to attempt to influence legislation. The corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidates for public office. The pastor and individual members, however, reserve the right to speak out upon issues, which are in conflict with or opposed to Scriptural principles.

## **ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of the Church, all assets of the Corporation shall be distributed to another corporation with purposes similar to that identified in Articles II and III of this constitution and of the Articles of Incorporation. Procedures and responsibilities for dissolution are covered in the Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS**

These Articles may be amended or altered by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at a regular meeting or special meeting of the Church providing notification of such meeting has been made to the Church membership at least four weeks prior to such meeting. A written form of proposed alteration or amendment will be mailed to the membership and posted in a public and prominent location two weeks prior to such meeting.