

CONSTITUTION
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
MCPHERSON, KS

ARTICLE I. PREAMBLE, PROPERTY RIGHTS, NAME, PURPOSE, AND AFFILIATIONS

PREAMBLE

Grace Bible Church, McPherson, Kansas, is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable church corporation without capital stock and is incorporated under the laws of Kansas. We, the members of Grace Bible Church of McPherson, Kansas Inc., do hereby establish and adopt the following bylaws and articles as the constitution.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

All members of the Grace Bible Church are members of the corporation. The members of Grace Bible Church have no property rights in the assets of Grace Bible Church. In the event of termination and dissolution of the corporation, the assets and property of the Church shall be distributed to one or more organizations recognized by the IRS as religious and charitable by vote of the majority of Grace Bible Church's current membership. Any donation given to the Grace Bible Church becomes property of the corporation.

NAME

The Grace Bible Church of McPherson, Kansas, Inc. hereinafter referred to as GBC.

PURPOSE

GBC is committed to the declaration of the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27) and to worship the True Triune God in spirit and truth (John 4:24), by assembling ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25) under the bylaws of this constitution, which we believe to be according to the New Testament pattern (Matthew 16:18), in order that the lost might be evangelized (Matthew 28:18), the saved edified (Ephesians 4:12), and the Lord exalted (Ephesians 3:21).

AFFILIATIONS

GBC is a non-denominational church, not affiliated with or responsible to any other religious organization; however, GBC may, by a vote of the congregation as defined in this Constitution, establish affiliation with a denomination or an association at some future time. In addition, GBC may from time to time, form alliances with other groups of believers for specific limited purposes.

ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF DOCTRINAL BELIEFS

GBC embraces the following as essential doctrinal beliefs for its ministry of teaching biblical truth. Believing the church is “the pillar and support of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15), the leadership of GBC adheres to the following doctrinal positions for teaching and leading ministries within and through the church.

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the Bible is the plenary verbal inspired Word of God, in all 66 books that comprise the Old and New Testaments. We believe the Bible is inerrant in the original autographs and is the final authority for faith and practice. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

THE GODHEAD

We believe there is one God who eternally exists in three Persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. Each Person of this Trinity is fully deity, equal, and yet distinct in their individual roles. (Matthew 28:19)

THE SON, JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, who took on flesh to redeem man from sin and eternal separation from God. Virgin born, Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and was the only sacrifice to satisfy the holy demands of God for man’s salvation. Through His death on the cross, bodily resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of God the Father, Jesus Christ has made eternal salvation available to all who believe in Him for eternal life. (John 1:1-5, 10-14)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit provides multiple ministries including convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and He seals, regenerates, and indwells those who believe in Jesus Christ for eternal life at the moment of faith. The Holy Spirit enables believers for Christian living and spiritual understanding. (John 16:8-11, Ephesians 1:13-14)

THE FATHER

God the Father is sovereign and provides grace, mercy, and peace to His children (believers in Jesus Christ) and is available to them through prayer. (Ephesians 1:2, 2:18, 3:14-15)

SIN

Mankind sinned against God in Adam and all mankind has inherited a sin-nature and is separated from God. Man is unable to remedy separation from God and sinful living by his own self-effort resulting in eternal punishment. (Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 3:22-23, Ephesians 2:1-3)

SALVATION

Salvation from eternal punishment is available through God’s provision of His Son, Jesus Christ. Through His death and shed blood on the cross and His bodily resurrection, complete payment for man’s sin has been made. All who believe in Jesus Christ for eternal life are given eternal life at the moment of faith in Christ. Believers can experience full assurance of eternal life due to the

promise of God that all who believe in Christ will never lose that salvation. (John 3:16, 10:28, Ephesians 2:8-9)

THE CHURCH

The Church consists of all believers in Jesus Christ in the present age and is the Body of Christ. Local churches are defined and instructed in the New Testament as the proclaimers of truth, to meet regularly for edification, equipping, and encouragement. (1 Timothy 3:15)

God has gifted believers with spiritual gifts (as listed in the New Testament). These gifts are God-given abilities to serve in and through the Church. (Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Peter 4:10)

The local church is to be governed by men who serve in the office of Elder. (Acts 20:28-30, 1 Peter 5:1-4)

ANGELS AND SATAN

God created angels and they are His messengers and His ministers to aid believers; are involved in supernatural engagement in the affairs of mankind, nations; and encounter demonic forces, all under the command of Sovereign God.

Satan is an angelic being who rebelled against the throne of God and presently seeks to disrupt God's plan for the salvation of mankind and the establishment of God's everlasting kingdom. Other angelic forces that followed Satan's rebellion are known as demons and engage in the affairs of humanity to disrupt the will of God.

The Bible informs believers of spiritual truths to be implemented to ward off the evil attempts of Satan and his demonic forces. (Ephesians 6:10-18)

THE FUTURE

Jesus Christ entered into the world in human form in His first Advent, so too He will return bodily to the earth in His second advent. The Bible is detailed regarding events pertaining and surrounding the return of Jesus Christ. In the end, Satan will be defeated and thrown into the lake of fire for eternity, along with those angelic beings who followed him and human beings who did not believe in Jesus Christ for eternal life.

(Revelation 19:1-22:5). After Christ's return, all believers throughout human history will live with God Himself on the new earth as their eternal home

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

The Holy Spirit has been sent to seal, indwell, teach, convict, baptize (place) into the Body of Christ, and provide spiritual empowerment for all believers. The believer is instructed to continue to learn how to walk in and be filled by the Holy Spirit and implement the spiritual resources provided by the Spirit towards Christlikeness and spiritual growth. (Galatians 5:15-26, Ephesians 5:18-26)

The Bible provides believers God's truth for developing the mind of Christ through instruction, cleansing, and encouragement (John 17:17)

The local church is to provide encouragement, biblical teaching, corporate worship, and mutual fellowship, all towards spiritual growth (Hebrews 10:24-25)

MARRIAGE

We believe that marriage is a divinely created institution, uniting one man with one woman to become one flesh as long as both live. Attempts at redefining marriage in any other form than one man with one woman are outside of Biblical teaching and the will of God. (Genesis 1: 26-27, 2: 18-24)

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

QUALIFICATIONS

Any person, who believes in Jesus Christ for eternal life, agrees with the doctrinal statement of GBC, desires to spiritually grow in their relationship with Christ, who seeks to attend church services and the Lord's Table regularly, and desires to maintain unity within the church is eligible for membership.

PROCEDURE OF MEMBERSHIP

Anyone desiring membership at GBC will include meeting with at least two Elders of the church and give testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ. Membership is reviewed by the Board of Elders and if accepted they are presented to GBC as members.

Membership may be removed by request or because of no attendance for more than 12 months.

RESTORATION OF MEMBER RELATIONSHIPS

If any in the church are involved in unrepentant sin (as specified in the Bible), those in the church who are aware should follow the three-step process of addressing the person(s) as outlined in Matthew 18:15-20. If the first two steps prove to be unsuccessful, the matter should be communicated to the Elders.

At that time, Elders will determine next steps regarding the restoration of the person(s) of concern.

The Elders will pray for repentance of the sinning Christian and their restoration to fellowship.

If the Elders determine that a member of GBC is being divisive to the church by words and/or behavior, the Elders will proceed by following the directives of Titus 3:10-11.

ARTICLE IV. CHURCH GOVERNMENT

THE ELDER BOARD

The Elder Board shall serve as the governing board and the spiritual leaders of the church and oversee the church in all matters of doctrine and practice. They are to serve in humility and lead by example as they attend to the matters of church vision and planning as they administer the faithful teaching of God's Word and the ordinances of the Lord's Table and baptism. They shall be called to serve according to the biblical qualifications as defined in Article VII.

The Elder board consists of appointed men and the Pastor(s). The Elder Board shall appoint a Chairman and Secretary from the Board who are responsible for the scheduling and recording of meeting notes. A Pastor cannot serve as Chairman of the Elder Board.

The Elder board shall, when a vacancy occurs in the office of Pastor, act as the pulpit committee and shall continue to function as such until a new pastor is obtained. The Elder Board shall appoint the Chairman of the Pulpit Committee.

THE CHURCH OFFICERS

The Church Officers consist of:

President: The Elder Board Chairman

Secretary: The Elder Board Secretary

Treasurer: The Church Treasurer

The Church Officers are responsible to file government reports at the appropriate time.

ARTICLE V. CHURCH LEADERSHIP

ELDERS

The Elder Board will be no less than three, each individual meeting the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Their example to the church must be Christlike character in life, family, and ministry and give no unnecessary cause for offense.

Elders must be in full agreement with the church statement of faith and be able to defend the doctrines contained in the statement of faith with biblical support.

Elders will serve for six years, followed by a mandatory sabbatical year. Terms will be arranged for alternate sabbaticals.

Elders are to perform the following roles:

- Be involved in the spiritual and shepherding roles of the church as available.

- Address spiritual needs of the church through teaching/preaching, personal discipleship, and address restoration issues according to the biblical procedure as discussed in Article III.
- Be in regular communication with pastoral staff and ministry leaders concerning needs and issues pertaining to the people and ministry of GBC.
- Be alert to and involved in doctrinal matters pertaining to the church to ensure doctrinal/biblical purity and truth.
- Elders will operate under the rule of unanimity regarding all decisions.
- One Elder will be selected by the others on each occasion to lead congregational meetings, including the annual business meeting.

SELECTION AND DISMISSAL OF ELDERS

Elder nominations can be given to the Elder Board at any time by church members. Evaluation and consideration will be made by the Elder Board concerning any nominee. If the Elders affirm the nominee, the nominee's name will be presented to the church attendees and members at the conclusion of a Sunday morning worship service. During the course of two weeks, attendees or members can communicate with the Elders any matters of affirmation or concern. If any concern is warranted, disqualifying the nominee from the Elder position, the congregational nominee will be removed from consideration. A vote will proceed two weeks after the announcement of the nominee(s).

If, during the duration of an Elder's term of service, it is determined by the remaining Elders a biblical disqualification has occurred in the life of an Elder, the Elder is dismissed from the board. If dismissal occurs, the process of Article III should be exercised.

PASTOR(S)

Pastor(s) are to meet the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 for Elders. They are to serve under the authority of the Elder Board and serve as Elders of the church so long as there are not more Pastors than appointed Elders from the Membership.

Pastor(s) and pastoral Staff will work within the framework of a customized job description as outlined and approved by the Elders. Job descriptions can be revised as needed in order to best shepherd the people of GBC.

Pastor(s) and pastoral Staff will be financially compensated according to what has been budgeted and decided by the church members approving the annual budget. Pastoral and pastoral staff compensation will be reviewed annually by the Elders and suggested revisions will be presented with the annual budget.

Pastor(s) will serve an indeterminate period of time and can resign at any time, but preferably with a 30-day advance notice to the Elder Board.

SELECTION AND DISMISSAL OF PASTORAL STAFF

The Elder Board will determine the search committee. Candidate names can be submitted to the search team by congregants of GBC. The search team can use any venue agreed upon to become aware of potential candidates.

Once a candidate has been singled out for the position, the candidate will be interviewed by the search team. If the search team wishes to proceed with the nomination, the Elder Board will interview the candidate a second time. If the candidate is unanimously approved by the Elder Board, the candidate will be asked to speak at a Sunday morning worship service and must be available for a question and answer time at a congregational meeting the same day.

Within two weeks following the congregational meeting, a vote will be taken of the members of the congregation. If a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote favors inviting the candidate to the position of a pastor, the invitation will be issued to the candidate, allowing up to two additional weeks for a reply.

All expenses for the search process will be covered by the church. Only one candidate will be pursued at a time to completion, until the vacancy has been filled. Once the Pastor has been hired, the Search Committee is disbanded.

Any person serving as a pastor at GBC that has been determined to be living in sin by the Elder Board shall be temporarily or permanently dismissed from the pastoral position. Remaining Elders will unanimously determine details concerning dismissal, compensation, restoration procedures, and follow-up regarding the pastor.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

The annual budget meeting shall be held in the month of December prior to the coming year. The annual budget should be available for review by the congregants two weeks prior to the annual ratification meeting. The annual budget meeting shall be announced to the congregation from the pulpit for two (2) Sundays prior to the said meeting. In the event a budget is unable to be ratified prior to the start of the new fiscal year, the old budget should be followed and remains in effect.

The annual business meeting shall be held in the month of January, the date to be determined by the Elder Board and announced to the congregation from the pulpit for two (2) Sundays prior to the said meeting.

The annual business meeting shall consist of the minutes of the preceding annual business meeting and other business meetings, annual reports as requested, approval of the prepared list of nominees and other business as may be necessary.

Special business meetings may be called by the Elder Board when they deem it necessary, providing announcement is made to the congregation from the pulpit two (2) Sundays prior to said meeting. In the case of an emergency need, the two (2) Sunday notice may be vacated.

A majority vote of the voting members present at any regular or constitutionally called business meeting shall be required to render final decision, except as stated elsewhere in this constitution. A quorum exists when Fifty percent (50%) of the members of the church who are able to attend on a regular basis shall be present to conduct any business.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCES

The fiscal year begins January 1 and ends December 31.

The Scriptural method of financing the church is the proportionate giving of God's people. This shall be the method whereby this church is supported (1 Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 9:7).

Expenditures of GBC should fit within the budget approved by the membership at the annual meeting. Expenditures, which exceed the budget, should receive approval of the Elder Board. Major expenditures (\$5,000 or more) shall be referred to the church for their approval prior to the expenditure being made if it has not been approved in the annual budget.

An audit may be conducted at the request of a member, providing there is sufficient cause for an audit. The audit must be conducted by an outside agency.

ARTICLE VIII. ORGANIZATIONAL MINISTRIES AND OTHER POSITIONS

The Elder Board has the authority to create and appoint individuals to ministry teams to fulfill the needs of the work of the ministry. Ministry leaders should be vetted by the Elder Board. Organizational ministries and positions that are created must be directed and approved by the Elder Board. Leadership terms and conditions for team members may vary from team to team as needed for the effective and efficient work of that ministry.

All ministry initiatives desiring promotional and / or financial support of GBC must receive Elder Board approval.

DEACONS

The Deacon Board shall be no less than 3 members appointed by the Elder Board (Acts 6:1-6) according to the qualifications as listed in 1 Tim 3:8-13.

The Deacon Board shall organize a structure, consisting of a Chairman and a Secretary, who are responsible for the scheduling and recording of meeting notes. Regular meetings should be scheduled.

Deacons are to perform the following roles:

- Oversee ways that physical needs of the church are met, especially during times of hardship (i.e., meals, physical assistance, and transportation).
- Oversee matters pertaining to the opening and closing the physical facility.
- Ensure the facility is prepared for the service(s) including equipment and supplies, technical needs, etc.
- Be discerning when church assistance and/or assistance from family/relatives is needed or encouraged in particular cases that arise.
- Oversee the supplies and distribution of elements for the Lord's Table, normally practiced the first Sunday of each month.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any business meeting called for this purpose. The notice of the proposed amendment must have been given from the pulpit two (2) Sundays prior to the meeting at which action is taken on the amendment.

ARTICLE X. PARLIAMENTARY RULES

We will not be bound by ironclad parliamentary law; however, all business meetings, whether routine or special, committees, boards or congregation, shall be conducted decently and in order, with Christian love and courtesy (I Corinthians 14:40).