Grace Bible Chuch

Constitution & By-laws

# Article I

## Na.me & Purpose

The name of this church shall be GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE, an independent, non-denominational, Bible believing church. The mission of Grace Bible Church is to encourage people to know God intimately, love God passionately, and obey God intentionally.

# Article II

Basic Statement of Faith

We believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit and the inerrant authority of the Scriptures as the *Word* of God. We *believe* that *Jesus Christ* was *born* of a *virgin, died for* all sins on the cross, and was raised from the dead on the third day and ascended into heaven to be our only Lord and personal Savior. We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. We believe in the Holy Spirit who sustained jesus, regenerates, indwells and seals believers, and guides us as believers into all truth. We believe in that Blessed Hope, the personal, imminent, physical return of Christ for His people.

**Article** Ill

The Teachings of Grace Bible Church

I) The Holy Scriptures

We teach the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God­ breathed (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. I :20,21; Matt. 5:18; John 16: 12, 13).

1. The Godhead

We teach one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--co­ eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfection (Deut. **6:4;** 2 Cor. 13: 14).

1. The Person and Work of Christ
   1. His birth:

We teach that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men Qohn I: 1,2, 14; Luke I :35).

* 1. His death and resurrection:

We teach that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that the sufficiency of this atoning sacrifice to accomplish the redemption and justification of all who trust in Him is assured by His literal, physical *resurrection* from the dead. (Rom. *3:24,* 25; *4:25;* Eph. *1:7, I* Tim. *4:10;* Heb. 2:9; I Pet. 1:30,

2:24; and 2 Pet. 2: I)

* 1. His ascension and present ministry in heaven:

We teach that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts I:9, f O; Heb. 9:24, 7:25; Rom. 8:34; I John 2:1,2).

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit:

* 1. We teach that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of *judgment;* and, that He is the Supernatural Agent *in* regeneration, baptizing all *believers* into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption Oohn 16:8-1 I ; 2 Cor. 3:6; I Cor. 12:12-14; Rom. 8:I; Eph. I: 13-14)
  2. We teach that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit Oohn 16:13; I John 2:20, 27; Eph. 5:18).

1. The Total Depravity of Man:

We teach that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. I:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23, 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3).

1. Salvation:

We teach that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Eph. 2:8-10; John I: 12; Eph. I:7; I Peter I: 18-19).

1. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers:
   1. Our Security:

We teach that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever Oohn 6:37-40, I 0:27-30; Rom. 8:38-39; I Cor. I:4-8; I Peter I:5).

* 1. Our Assurance Coupled with Caution.

We teach that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty s an occasion for the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:I 1-15).

1. The Two Natures of the Believer:

We teach that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. (Rom. 6:13, 8:12-13; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:IO; I Peter I: 14-16; I John **3:5-9)**

1. Separation:

We teach that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God. (Rom. 12:1-2, 14:13; I John 2:I 5-17)

I 0. Missions:

We teach that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the gospel to all mankind. (Mark 16: I 5; Acts I :8; 2 Cor. 5:19-20). I I The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts:

1. We teach that the gifts of the Spirit are any resource given by God to a believer which when applied *by* faith *results in* the *spiritual* edification of the *body* of Christ. The Spirit will manifest himself differently in each individual at the Spirit's discretion. Every believer has the responsibility to apply these gifts to the mutual building up of the body. In light of this, we teach that speaking in tongues and the working of "sign gifts" as practiced by some believers today, may be valid experiences, but these modem practices do not qualify as Spiritual gifts as described in Scripture ( I Cor. 12:4-1 I, 14:1-39; Eph. 4:7-12).
2. We teach that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with his own will, for the sick and afflicted (John I5:7; I John 5:14-15).
3. The Church:
   1. The Universal Church:

We teach that the Church, which is the *body* and the espoused bride *of* Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Eph. I:22-23, 5:25-27; I Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2).

* 1. The Local Church:

We teach that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the *New* Testament Scriptures (Acts *14:27, 20:17,28-32; I* Tim. *3:1-13; Titus* 1:5-11).

* 1. Government of the Local Church:

We teach the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4, I5:19-31, 20:28; Rom. 16:1,4; I Cor. 3:9, 16, 5:4-7, 13; I Pet. 5:1-4).

* 1. Ordinances of the Local Church;

We teach the ordinances of believer's water baptism and the Lord's Supper as scriptural means of testimony for the church age (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42, 18:8; I Cor. 11:23-26)

1. Dispensations:

We teach that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal determined dispensations *or rules* of *life,* which *define* man's *responsibilities in successive* ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these--the age of law, the age of the Church, and the age of the millennial kingdom--are the subjects of detailed revelation in scripture Qohn I:17; I Cor. 9:17, 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. I:I 0, 3:2-10; Col. I:24-25; Heb. 7:19; Rev. 20:2-6)

1. The Personality of Satan:

We teach that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire 0ob I:6- 7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11, 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

1. The Second Advent of Christ

We teach that "Blessed Hope," the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ of His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom ( I Thes. I: I0, 4:13-18, **5:9;** Zech. 14:4-1 I; **Rev. 3:** I 0, 19: I 1-16,

20:1-6).

16 The Eternal State:

1. We teach the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt. *25:46;* John *5:28-29, I I :25-26; Rev. 20:5-6,* 12-13).
2. We teach that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. **5:8;** Phil. 2:23, 3:21; I Thes. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6)
3. We teach that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Matt. 24:41-46; Luke 16: 19-26; 2 Thes. I :7-9; Jude 6-7; **Rev.** 20:11-15

17. Marriage and Family Marriage as God's Gift

Marriage was instituted by God in the Garden of Eden, before sin. The first human relationship was a marriage and history will end with a marriage between Jesus Christ and His glorious bride, the church. Marriage may be defined as follows:

God has created marriage to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman, for the purpose of companionship, sexual unity, procreation, and to display the love Christ has for his church

A Marriage is a lifelong union between a man and a woman. Marriage as intended by God is between one man and one woman as long as they both shall live. We must reject any

variations on this pattern including cohabitation homosexual marriage, polygamy, and serial monogamy. Key texts: I Cor. 7:2; Lev 20:13; Rom I:26-27, Cor. 6:9-11

B. Marriage is for the purpose of companionship, sexual unity, procreation, and displaying the love between Christ and His church. The *loving* relationship *between* husband and wife is at the heart of what God intends marriage to be. The friendship and fellowship, which are a part of this companionship, are to be augmented and enhanced by sexual companionship as well. Though child bearing is not the primary purpose of marriage, it is God"s normal design. Key Texts: Gen 2:18; Prov. 5: I 5; Song of Song; Heb 13:4; Gen I:28; Jer. 29:6; Eph 5:22-23.

C. We affirm that the *Scriptures* reveal a pattern *of complementary order* between men and women, and that this order is itself a testimony to the Gospel, even as it is the gift of our Creator and Redeemer. We also affirm that all Christians are called to serve within the body of Christ, and that God has given to both men and women important and strategic roles with in the home, the church, and the society. We further affirm the teaching office of the church is assigned only to those men who are called of God in fulfillment of the biblical teachings and that men are to lead their homes as husbands and fathers who fear and love God. We deny that the distinction of roles between men and women revealed in the Bible is evidence of mere cultural conditioning or a manifestation of male oppression or prejudice against women. We also deny that his biblical distinction of roles excludes women from meaningful ministry in Christ's Church. We further deny that any church can confuse these issues without damaging its witness to the Gospel

# Article IV

Membership

Membership in this church shall be open to all who believe in our Basic Statement of Faith as stated in this Constitution (Article II), whose lives reflect a desire to live in obedience to the written word of God, who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, who have been baptized by immersion since accepting Christ, and who have completed the pre-membership class, signed the Church Covenant, and been accepted by the Congregation.

I. Types of Membership:

A Voting Members:

All individuals above the age of 18 who regularly attend this church are members in good standing.

B. Inactive *Member*

Those individual members who have not attended the church for a period of six months or more, or those individuals who make a request to the Pastor and the Board of Elders to be placed in this status.

Exceptions to this **(e.g.** Military deployments, extended illnesses.) can be granted by the Elders.

2. Discipline:

In harmony with the Scriptural teaching of the Christian faith, discipline must be a functional part of the local church. As interpreted by the elders, any member who know\ngly holds false or heretical doctrine, who knowingly lives inconsistently with his or her Christian profession or who knowingly would disturb the unity and peace of the Church shall be biblically disciplined according to Matthew 18: I S-20. The goal of Church discipline shall be reconciliation and restoration. The means by which this will be carried out shall be:

A The sinning member shall be approached privately and encouraged to repent. If he or she will not hear and repent then

B. Two brothers shall approach the sinning member, if he or she refuses to hear them, then his or her unrepentant heart and his every word shall be established by three witnesses.

C. Then the member shall be invited to appear before the Elder Board for final action, and If he or she refuses to hear and repent, then the matter shaH be brought before the Church membership for a vote to disfellowship the member and suspend his or her membership rights and privileges ( I Corinthians 5)

The Elders will oversee any disciplinary action. Each member entering into this covenant with the Grace Bible Church body agrees to submit himself or herself to the authority of Scripture in this matter as stated above. The member also agrees, in accordance with I Corinthians 6:I to **waive** any right of legal action or recourse against either the Church body or any of the elders, individually and collectively, for any claim arising out of their exercise of their Scriptural authority.

**Article V**

**Offices**

I. Pastor

The Pastor must be a godly man called of God to preach, who feels led by God to pastor this local church, and who is ordained and meets the following qualifications:

A Qualifications:

I ). Agrees totaJJy with the Basic Statement of Faith for Grace Bible Church

1. Agrees with the Articles of this Constitution as written
2. Meets the qualifications of elder as stipulated in I Tim. 3:1-7.
3. Abides by the same standards that are required for the Elders
4. The Pastor *should* be a *spiritually* mature man, adequately prepared *by* education and experience, with excellent study habits and communication skills and able to serve in all of the ways listed under the Functions of Office. He should posses a minimum Bachelors degree in Bible Theology or the equiva
5. Selection:

The Board of Elders will direct the selection process with the advice and input of the Deacons and Deaconesses. The Board of Elders should examine the candidates thoroughly, seeking the advice of other pastors in areas where questions may arise. The Board of Elders should then recommend its choice to the congregation for vote by secret ballot, at least two weeks prior to the vote being taken. He shall be called for an indefinite period of time if approved by three­ fourths of the *members present* and *voting.*

1. Installation:

After the candidate comes to terms with the Soard of Elders for assuming office, an installation service should be held with the Elders passing authority over the local flock to the Pastor with the laying on of hands. The pastor shall stand for reaffirmation no later than the third annual meeting following his installation or the previous reaffirmation.

1. Functions:

The basic duties and functions of the Pastor shall be:

I). Preach the Word.

2).Shepherd theongregation.

3).Serve on the Board of lders.

4). Train elders.

5). Administer church ordinances.

1. Termination:

The Office of Pastor shall be vacated under any of the following circumstances:

* 1. Resignation by written notice 60 days in advance from the Pastor to the Board of Elders

1. Grievance:

Where a grievance exists against a Pastor or Minister, either due to his preaching or teaching contrary to the beliefs of the Church as set forth in Article II of its Constitution or to alleged conduct on his part unfitting an Elder or Deacon, such grievance may be brought before the Elders by any two members in good standing, If the Council, after thorough investigation and consideration, believes the grievance to be true and substantial, then the vocational call of the Pastor may be terminated at any business meeting upon the recommendation of the Council of Elders when supported by closed ballot by a two-thirds majority of those members of the Church present and voting. Oral notice of any such meeting, stating *its* object, shall be *given* from the pulpit on *two* successive Sundays next preceding the meeting. Notice shall also be given by mail to the resident membership at least one week before the meeting.

1. Lack of reaffirmation: If the Pastor fails to be reaffirmed to the office of Elder by a two-thirds **(67%)** vote at the annual meeting, the *elders* shall be charged *with* the *responsibility* of ascertaining the reason or reasons for the lack of confidence. In this situation, there must be a minimum of 3 elders excluding the pastor. If there are less than three elders, the senior deacon will

participate in the inquiry. The pastor will not be allowed to participate in the inquiry. Once the inquiry is complete, a business meeting shall be called to consider the question of terminating the vocational call with that Pastor or Minister. The elders will report their findings and make their recommendation(s) to the church. The vocational call shall be terminated only if supported by closed ballot of a two-thirds majority of those members of the Church present and voting. Public notice of any such meeting, stating its object, shall be given on two successive Sundays next preceding the meeting. Removal from office and termination of the vocational call by this means shall not be considered disciplinary action.

1. If it is determined by the Board of Elders that the Pastor has violated the conditions of installation or functions of the office, he shall:
   1. First, be given the option of resigning.
   2. Be allowed to defend his actions before the Board of Elders.
   3. Upon termination, the pastor *will* be *provided* his *monthly* salary for three months.
   4. Be put under censure if, in the opinion of the Board of Elders the offense should be handled in a less severe manner.

All matters dealing with salary, vacation, absences, benefits, and other items will be defined in the employee handbook.

1. Elders:

A Positions:

The posidons of Elders and number of Elders shaH be determined according to the needs of the church as determined by the elders. Each of the following positions will be filled by one or more Elders as needed:

* 1. Finances, business, facilities, & property

1. Education, Sunday schools, services, and ordinances
2. Visitation, Deacons and Deaconesses
3. Qualifications:

A godly man, who is a voting member of the church and meets the following requirements,

* 1. Agrees totally with the Basic Statement of Faith for Grace Bible Church

1. Agrees with the Articles of this Constitution as written
2. Meets the qualifications of elder as stipulated in I Tim. 3:1-7.
3. Is prepared by experience and shows through his actions his ability to fulfill the duties of the position as stated *in* the Scriptures.
4. Selection:

A nominating committee consisting of the Soard of Elders and the Deacons and Deaconesses, with input from the congregation, shall determine those men qualified for the position of Elder and those men and women qualified for the position of Deacon and Deaconess. Individuals nominated shall be examined by the elders and asked to serve in the position. Those men approved by the elders will be presented to the congregation for vote. A candidate shall be called for an indefinite period of time if approved by two- thirds of the members present and voting.

1. Installation:

Within 30 days of the election, those persons elected shall be installed into their respective offices by the laying on of hands under the supervision of the Pastor.

1. Terms of Office:

An Elder will remain in office as long as he meets the qualifications and is willing to serve in this capacity. Each Elder will be given a vote of confidence by the congregation each year at the annual meeting.

1. Functions:

The Board of Elders shall be accountable to one another for the function of their areas and shall be vested with authority to perform the following duties:

* 1. Shepherd the flock.

1. Feed, nurture, protect, and restore members of the church family.
2. Administer church discipline to all members of the church family.
3. Oversee the administration of the church in general.
4. Termination:
   1. Individual Elders

An Elder shall be terminated from his position under any of the following conditions:

* + 1. Resignation by written notice 60 days in advance to the Board of Elders
    2. If it is determined by the Officers of the Church that he has violated the conditions of installation or functions of the office:
       1. He must be allo todefend his actions before the Board of Elders.
       2. If, in the opinion of the Board of Elders, the offense should be handled in a less severe manner, he may be put under censure.
       3. Lack of reaffirmation an Elder fails to receive a two-thirds (67%) vote, he shall step down.

1. Full Board of *Elders*

If in the opinion of 25 percent of the voting members of the church, the Board of Elders has acted in an irresponsible or reckless manner, a hearing shall be called within I *4* days to answer to the charges presented by the members. All voting members of the church must be notified one week prior to the meeting. The Senior Deacon shall chair the meeting for the purpose of *maintaining order* and *direction. At* the end of the *meeting,* a vote of confidence shall be taken regarding the action of the Board of elders. A secret vote of 67 percent against, by the voting members present, shall dissolve the Board of Elders and new Elders must be selected.

1. Filling Vacancies:

Permanent or temporary vacancies of elected offices shaH be filled as soon as possible by recommendation of the Board of Elders to the congregation for approval by two-thirds (67%) vote.

* 1. A vacancy is defined as an inability to fulfill the responsibilities of the office for three months.

2) Vacancies shall *be filled in* accordance *with* the procedures established in the constitution for that office.

1. Deacons and Deaconesses:

The purpose of this office shall be to assist the Elders in the performance of their duties and functions. In addition, they shall maintain close contact with the members of the church body as assigned by the Board of Elders

* 1. Qualifications:

The candidate must be a godly man or woman, who is a voting member of the church and meets the following requirements:

* + 1. Agrees totally with the Basic Statement of Faith for Grace Bible Church

1. Agrees with the Articles of this Constitution as written
2. Meets the qualifications of deacon as stipulated in I Tim. 8-13
3. Is prepared by experience and shows through his actions his ability to fulfill the duties of the position as stated in the Scriptures.
4. *Selection:*

A nominating committee consisting of the Board of Elders and the Deacons and Deaconesses, with input from the congregation, shall determine those men and women qualified for the position of Deacon and Deaconess. Individuals nominated shall be examined by the elders and asked to serve in the position. Those men and women approved by the elders will be presented *to* the *congregation* for vote. *Candidates will be* called *if* approved *by* two-thirds of the members present and voting. They will serve as long as they are willing, and able. They will subject to a reaffirmation vote at the annual meeting.

Installation:

Within 30 days of the election of those persons elected shall be installed into their respective offices *by* the laying on *of* hands under the supervision *of* the Pastor. At the first meeting, the Deacons and Deaconesses shall select one Deacon to be the Senior Deacon as required by this Constitution.

1. Termination:

A Deacon or Deaconess shall be terminated from his or her position under any of the following

*conditions:*

* 1. Resignation by written notice 60 days in advance to the Board of Elders

1. If it is determined by the Officers of the Church that he has vio\ated the conditions of installation or functions of the office:

## He *must* be aJJowed *to* defend *his* actions before the Board of Elders.

* 1. If, in the opinion of the Board of Elders, the offense should be handled in a less severe manner, he may be put under censure.

1. Lack of reaffirmation, If a deacon or deaconess fails to get a two-thirds reaffirmation vote at the annual meeting they are immediately terminated
2. Filling Vacancies:

Permanent or temporary vacancies of elected offices shall be filled as soon as possible by recommendation of the Board of Elders to the congregation for approval by maiority vote.

* 1. A vacancy is defined as an inability to fulfill the responsibilities of the office for three months.

2) Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the procedures established in the constitution for that office.

# Article VI

Government

The Board of Elders shall have the authority to conduct the day-to-day activities of the church. They (He) shall perform the following duties.

1. The Board of Elders or their designated party will shall chair all meetings conducted for the church unless provision has been made for another to do so.
2. In the event of an emergency or in the absence of the pastor the Board of Elders will be

*responsible to* make sure the duties of the Pastor are *fulfilled.*

1. For legal purposes, the Board of Elders will designate a Chairman of the Board of Trustees.
2. The Pastor shall be in charge of a\l staff positions not directed to another officer.
3. The Pastor shall be an ex officio of all committees and boards.

I . Staff Positions.

As determined by the Board of Elders, staff positions shall be filled from inside or outside the church and may be paid or unpaid.

A Treasurer:

This position shall be filled by a voting member of the church and shall oversee the following duties and *responsibilities.*

1. Receive all church monies, unless otherwise provided for and verified by two voting members of the church.
2. Deposit all funds in correct bank accounts.
3. Pay all authorized bills by check.
4. Submit quarterly printed reports of the financial status of the church to the members of the church.

S) Present oral quarterly and yearly reports at business meetings.

1. Secretary *I* Administrative Assistant

This position may or may not be filled by a voting member of the church and will be responsible to see the following duties are accomplished.

* 1. Keep all church records and rolls.

1. Preparation of church correspondence
2. Preparation of necessary *documents* of the Pastor and the Board of Elders
3. Other Positions:

Positions may be created by the Board of Elders as deemed necessary.

2. Church Positions:

These are positions that MUST be *filled* from within the voting members of the church.

A Trustee:

According to the Articles of Incorporation, the Board of Elders shall serve as Trustees.

1. Children and Youth

All those individuals who desire to serve in ministry with children and youth may volunteer with the designated ministry leader with final approval by the Board of Elders

1. Pastora.I Staff:

Selection for positions in this category shall be determined by the board of Elders. Individuals must meet the same qualifications as the Pastor and will be selected and oversee by the Board of Elders or their designated party.

3 Conduct of Government.

A The week-to-week affairs and business of the church will be conducted by the Board of Elders.

1. All church business will be conducted during the Annual Meeting, unless some item deemed as an *emergency requires the* calling of a special or *emergency* church *meeting by* the Board of Elders.
2. Regular Monthly Board Meetings:

The Board of Elders and Deacon Board shall each be required to conduct regularly scheduled monthly meetings at a time and place mutually agreed upon *by* the *respective* board members. A written report of the activities of the Deacon Board shall be submitted to the Board of Elders by the Senior Deacon.

1. Elections:

Meeting for the purpose of the election of officers shall be held at the annual meeting as provided for *in* the respective on requirements, *selection,* and *election* of officers. Vacancies created by resignation, terminations, or growth requirements, may be filled at other times than the annual meeting as provided for in the by-laws.

1. Financial Meetings:

During the annual meeting, the voting members of the church shall vote on the annual budget of the church, which must pass *by* a majority *vote* of those present and *voting.* At any time during the year, the voting members must meet and approve special expenditures for any item or items in excess of $1500.00 that was not provided for in the annual budget.

**Article VII**

Finances

The principle of operation of this church *with* regard *to* financial matters shall be the annual budget. It shall be the responsibility of Board of Elders to collect the appropriate information and present a budget for the following year in writing to the voting members two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

1. Collections:

Gifts, offerings, and tithes to the church shall be handled in the following categories:

* 1. Weekly offering to be collected in a scriptural fashion and manner agreed upon by the Board of Elders.

1. Benevolent offerings collected following Communion.
2. Designated funds given to the church for a specific purpose or need.
3. Special offering or gifts such as for visiting pastors, evangelists, or missionaries
4. Disbursements:

All bills and debts shall be paid as soon as possible and as the church is able to pay. Monies collected for special or designated funds shall not be used for any other purposes without the approval of the individuals who began the funds or their representatives.

1. Salary Determinations:

Salaries for all paid positions will be determined by the Board of Elders or their designated party

and must be approved by a majority vote of the voting memben.

1. Audits:

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# Article VIII

Services and Church Meetings

*I* . *Services:*

This church shall have regularly scheduled meetings (at times and places to be agreed upon by the Board of Elders) which shall serve the purpose of training in the word, fellowship, worship, and prayer (Acts 2:42)

1. Church Meetings:

This church shall conduct an annual business meeting. The following activities shall take place during the annual meeting:

* 1. Election and reaffirmation of officers
  2. Presentation of annual budget, approval requiring a majority vote of those present and voting
  3. Presentation *by* Board of *Elders* of financial state of the church and the yearly audit
  4. Presentation by the Pastor of the past years activities, the State of the Church address and future vision

# Article IX

Amendments and By-Laws

All amendments or by-laws to this constitution shall require the same approval of the congregation as the adoption of the constitution. The amendment will be accepted if favorable by 67% of the votes cast or greater. The proposed amendment will be reiected if the vote is less than 67%. All members will be given notice 30 days prior to this vote being taken.

# Article X

Corporate Responsibifity

The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes, and no part of the net income or assets of this orga.nint.ion shall ever inure t.o t.he benefit of a Direct.or, officer, or member of the corporation, or to the benefit of any private individual.

Upon the conclusion and dissolution of this corporation after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets shall be divided between like-minded churches and/or the missions and missionaries supported by Grace Bible Church at the time of the dissolution.