

**Nutwood Street Baptist Church**  
**(DBA) Grace Community Church**  
*of Garden Grove*

# **Constitution**

## **PREAMBLE**

Recognizing that creation's God is a God of order, and that this order has produced all that is beautiful and good, we join together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ in order to fulfill His purposes in human history. We hereby adopt the articles of this Constitution and agree to be governed by it and a complementary set of Bylaws as described herein.

## **Article I: NAME AND AFFILIATION**

This organization will be known as the Nutwood Street Baptist Church, incorporated under the laws of the State of California, doing business as (*dba*) Grace Community Church of Garden Grove. This church freely identifies itself and associates with the Converge Southwest Conference of churches, a subsidiary of the Converge Worldwide Conference of churches (formerly the Baptist General Conference) to who's statement of faith we readily subscribe.

## **Article II: PURPOSE**

Grace Community Church of Garden Grove exists to prepare people for the kingdom of God by Loving People into Full Devotion to Jesus Christ. Organizationally this is expressed through these five foundational values:

**Grow:** *Teaching and showing people how to obey the teachings of Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18*

**Reach:** *Building bridges that make it easy for unchurched people to get connected with Christ and His church. Acts 15:19*

**Assist:** *Developing functional systems that effectively and efficiently resource all strategic areas of ministry. 1 Peter 4:10.*

**Connect:** *Helping people stay connected to Christ and His church. John 13:34, 35*

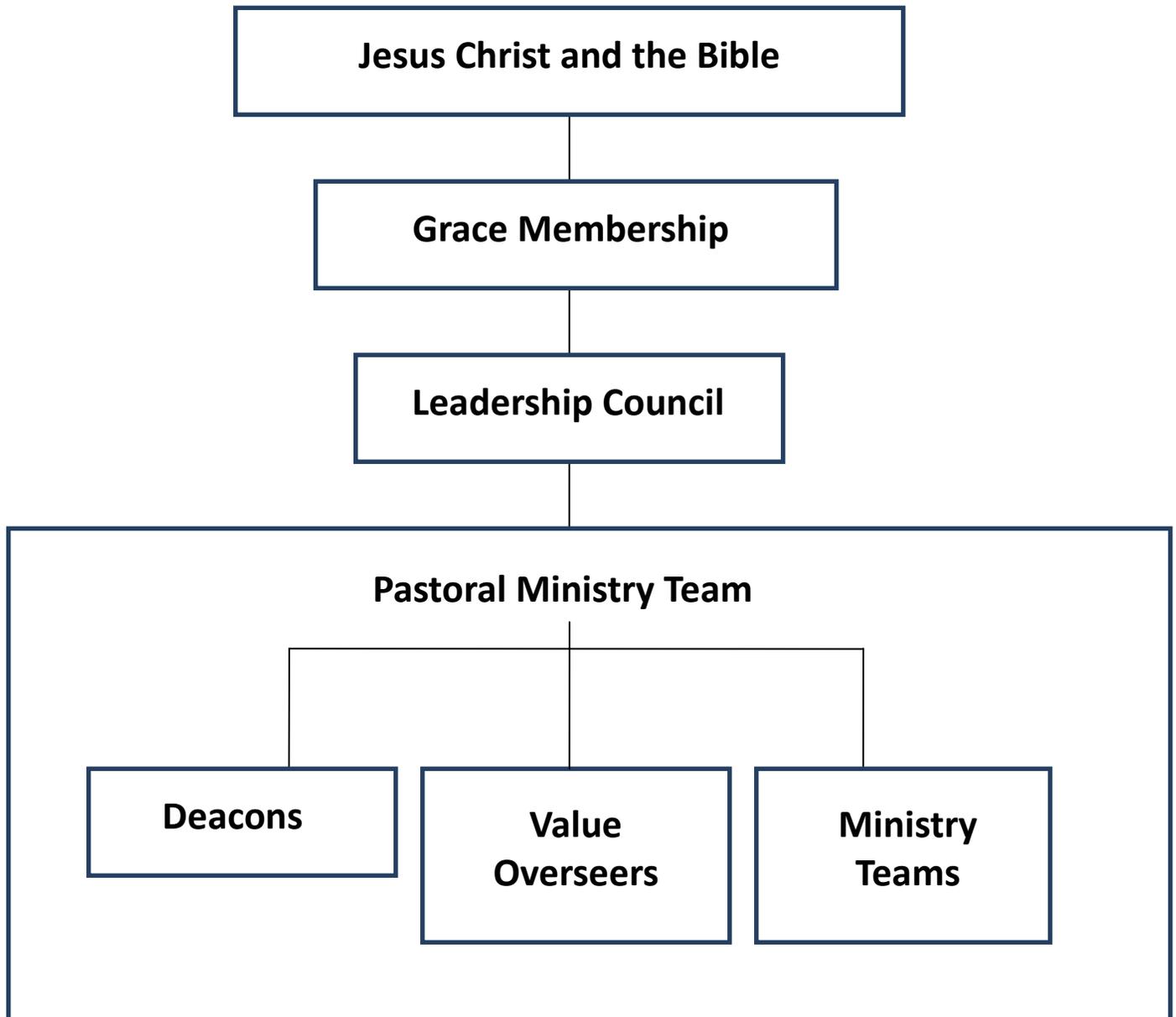
**Exalt:** *Experiencing God's presence on a daily basis and through worship at weekly services. John 4:23-24; Psalm 34:3*

## **Article III: ORGANIZATION**

- A.** The government of the church is vested in the body of its members, and is not subject to the control of any other organization.
- B.** The directors of the corporation will be known as "Leadership Council Members".
- C.** The Leadership Council will have the right as Corporate Directors to call meetings of the church membership as required for corporate purposes, to act on behalf of the membership

in corporate affairs, and to manage the affairs of the Church as authorized by this Constitution in accordance with the Bylaws.

D. The church organization structure is depicted in the following chart.



## **Article IV: MEMBERSHIP**

- A.** The purpose of membership at Grace Community Church is to identify and grant legal voting privileges to those who are committed to the welfare and future effectiveness of this local church.
- B.** A “Member-in-Good-Standing” is a person who makes an honest attempt to live as defined in the Grace Membership Covenant and is not under church discipline.
- C.** A person who has been under church discipline may be restored as a “Member-in-Good-Standing” by the Leadership Council.

## **Article V: LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

- A.** The Leadership Council consists of four officers elected every year, and eight members elected at-large for two year terms. The eight at-large positions are two groups of four that begin and end their two year term in alternating years.
- B.** Officer positions include the Leadership Council Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Clerk. These positions will be elected by the church membership for a term of one year.
- C.** To hold any office in the church a person must be a member in good standing. No member may hold more than one office at a time
- D.** Nominations and elections will be as prescribed in Section V of the Bylaws.
- E.** Ex-Officio members of the Leadership Council have equal voting privileges as elected members of the Council
- F.** The duties of the Officer positions and the Leadership Council will be as set forth in Section II of the Bylaws.

## **Article VI: MEETINGS**

- A.** Worship services will be held each Sunday and other days as designated.
- B.** Congregational meetings for the purpose of ministry update will be held as needed
- C.** Congregational meetings for any purpose must be announced in the church bulletin and in the worship service no less than two weeks prior to the meeting.
- D.** The annual meeting of the church will be held by the first Sunday in February of each year at which time the church will review the previous year’s accomplishments and the coming year’s goals, hopes, and dreams.
- E.** Those voting members present or submitting written proxy absentee ballots will constitute a quorum at any properly called congregational or special meeting. Voting procedures will be as prescribed in Section V of the Bylaws.

## **Article VII: FINANCES**

- A. The church fiscal year will be from January 1 through December 31. The annual budget must be approved by the church membership before the new fiscal year.
- B. The Leadership Council will appoint a Financial Secretary whose duties are prescribed in Section IV of the Bylaws.

## **Article VIII: MERGERS AND DISSOLUTION**

- A. In case of division of the church membership, the church property will belong to those members who abide by this constitution and the Church Bylaws.
- B. Should conditions arise when a consolidation with another church of the same faith and practice be advisable, the Leadership Council will be authorized to negotiate the terms of such a consolidation which must be approved by majority vote of the Church Membership.
- C. If for any reason, this organization will be dissolved, the property and total church assets will be given to Converge Southwest, the regional affiliate of Converge Worldwide.

## **Article IX: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- A. Notice of intent to amend this constitution may be introduced through formal motion at any Congregational Meeting, but may not be acted on until a subsequent congregational meeting.
- B. An affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the members present at a properly called congregational meeting will be required for approval.

## **Article X: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

At all congregational meetings, the church will abide by Robert's Rules of Order.

## **Article XI: LIABILITY**

No officer, team member, or member of any team appointed by this church, will be personally or individually liable for any error or mistake, act, or omission, for, or on behalf of this church, occurring within the scope of his or her duty as such officer, team or team member, excepting only for his or her own willful misconduct or violation of law.

**Update Unanimously Approved: November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Nutwood Street Baptist Church**  
**(DBA) Grace Community Church**  
*of Garden Grove*

# **Bylaws**

## **Section I: MEMBERSHIP**

- A.** Membership requirements include a personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ as demonstrated by believer's baptism, and a commitment to serve Christ through this local church as demonstrated by a signed Grace Membership Covenant.
- B.** The process for membership shall be established by the Leadership Council.
- C.** Church membership is confirmed after recommendation by the Leadership Council, presentation of the prospective member to the congregation for two consecutive weeks, and majority congregational vote of the current members in good standing.
- D.** Church members must be at least eighteen (18) years of age to vote. Voting items shall include the following:
  - 1. The annual budget
  - 2. The annual selection of Leadership Council members
  - 3. Long term indebtedness and all matters pertaining to the purchase, sale, or mortgaging of property
  - 4. Amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws
  - 5. Approval of a pastor
  - 6. Affirming, dismissal, or restoration of a church member.
  - 7. Merger or dissolution
- E. Inactive Status** – Should a member be absent for a lengthy period of time from involvement in church services and activities, they can be placed on an Inactive Status at the discretion of the Leadership Council and will forfeit voting privileges until reinstated as a Member in Good Standing.
- F. Removal of Membership:** A member may be removed from membership by personal resignation or by vote of the congregation upon recommendation by the Leadership Council.

## **Section II: LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

- A.** All Leadership Council Members must commit to the leadership principles outlined in the Grace Leadership Covenant.

## **B. Duties of the Leadership Council**

1. Call congregational meetings of the church whenever necessary.
2. Present a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year at the November business meeting. The budget will be available for the church membership to review two weeks prior to the November meeting.
3. Manage the church's budget and finances, and approve the expenditure of all budgeted accounts.
4. Charter a yearly Nominating committee allowing adequate time to compile and submit a slate of nominees for the upcoming year.
5. Oversee the educational efforts of all ministries of the church.
6. Maintain the church membership records through the office of the Church Secretary.
7. Manage and maintain an inventory of the assets of the Church, including finances, property, buildings, equipment, furnishings, kitchen facilities, and maintain adequate insurance coverage.
8. Consider for approval non-budgeted general fund expenditures under 5% of the annual church budget; general fund expenditures 5% or over of the general church budget must be approved by the church membership. Commitments with respect to the sale or real property must be approved by majority vote of the church membership.
9. Establish designated accounts for special projects and programs as required. Review and approve all designated accounts and approve all designated account expenditures.
10. Coordinate all use of the church facilities for church activities and by outside organizations.
11. Maintain and publish policies for the management of Church property, facilities, employees and church operations.
12. Oversee the employment or dismissal of non-pastoral staff. Non-ministry employees of the church are at-will employees, and length of the employment and salary will be determined and managed by the Leadership Council.

## **C. Leadership Council Chair**

1. Work in cooperation with the Pastor and the Leadership Council in the leadership of the church.
2. Preside at all Leadership Council meetings, congregational meetings. Confer with the Pastor in preparation of the agendas and ensure minutes are recorded for such meetings.
3. Provide for the continuing operation of church services and activities in the absence of the Pastor.
4. Schedule regular and special Leadership Council meetings to conduct the regular business of the church.

#### **D. Leadership Council Vice-Chair**

1. Cooperate with and assist the Leadership Council Chair in the performance of the Leadership Council Chair's duties and assume these duties in the Chair's absence.
2. Succeed the Leadership Council Chair in office, without election, for the balance of any uncompleted term should the Leadership Council Chair resign or otherwise be unable to complete the term.

#### **E. Council Clerk**

1. Keep minutes of all properly called congregational meetings and Leadership Council meetings.
2. Maintain the official membership roll of the church in coordination with the Church Secretary.
3. Maintain the Official Seal, documents and deeds of the church.

#### **F. Treasurer**

1. Keep an accurate account of all church funds, bank deposits, savings accounts, and other financial assets, except those from the Benevolence Fund.
2. Make payment of all obligations incurred by the church.
3. Prepare and submit monthly and annual written reports of income, expenditures, and cash assets.
4. Maintain records of individual expenditure authorizations and delegations.

### **Section III: PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM**

**A. Description:** The Pastoral Ministry Team shall consist of the Pastoral Staff, Value Overseers, Deacons, and Ministry Team Leaders. All team members shall abide by the Grace Leadership Covenant.

#### **B. Pastor and Pastoral Staff**

1. Rely on Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit through maintaining a strong and intimate relationship as outlined in John 15:4-8.
2. Live with a character and testimony consistent with the qualities outlined in Titus 1:6-9
3. Preach God's word faithfully to instruct believers and evangelize unbelievers as outlined in 2 Timothy 4:1-5.
4. Equip God's people for service to build up the body of Christ as outlined in Ephesians 4:11-14.
5. Shepherd and oversee the congregation that God has placed under his care as outlined in 1 Peter 5:1-4
6. Guide the Leadership Council to follow God's leading and vision for the Church and develop specific plans to fulfill the Church's mission.

7. Communicate with the congregation regularly and at the Annual Meeting on the progress of the ministry and plans for the coming year.
8. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Leadership Council, Deacon Team, and Nominating Committee.

### C. Value Overseers

1. **Qualifications:** A Value Overseer must be “blameless” meeting the spiritual qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7
2. **Selection**
  - a. A Value Overseer shall be nominated to the congregation by approval of the Leadership Council upon recommendation by the Senior Pastor.
  - b. At a properly noticed and called business meeting, a candidate for Overseer shall be voted on by the membership present at the meeting and approved by majority vote of members present.
3. **Number and Term:** Value Overseers shall be selected for an indefinite amount of time to oversee one of the five values listed in the constitution.
4. **Responsibilities:** Value Overseer shall work in partnership with the Pastor to implement the five ministry values of the church, and assist Ministry Team Leaders in fulfilling those values in their particular area of ministry, and work in close cooperation with the Pastor and Leadership Council to:
  - a. Manage member conflict resolution in accordance with biblical principles, and administer discipline and determine qualifications for restoration.
  - b. Provide for the spiritual care of the church.
  - c. Provide for the continuing operation of the church services in the absence of the Pastor
  - d. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Leadership Council.
5. **Termination**
  - a. By personal resignation.
  - b. Upon recommendation by the Leadership Council.

### D. Deacons

1. **Qualifications:** A Deacon must be worthy of respect as described in I Timothy 3:8-13, and a member of Grace Community Church for not less than one year.
2. **Selection**
  - a. Deacons must be selected from among the current church membership.
  - b. The Leadership Council shall recommend candidates for Deacon to the congregation.

- c. At a properly noticed and called business meeting, candidates for Deacon shall be voted on by the membership present at the meeting and approved by majority vote of members present.
- 3. Number and Term:** At least two men and two women shall be selected as deacons and shall serve for one year.
- 4. Responsibilities:** Review and interview all prospective candidates for church membership and make recommendations for membership to the Leadership Council and the church membership, and administer the Benevolence Fund to care for those in need.
- 5. Termination**
  - a. By personal resignation from the deacon team.
  - b. Upon recommendation by the Leadership Council to the congregation, a deacon may be terminated by a majority vote of the voting members present at a properly noticed and called meeting of the membership.

**E. Ministry Team Leaders**

- 1. A Ministry Team Leader shall be a member in good standing of Grace Community Church.
- 2. Approved by the Leadership Council upon recommendation by the Senior Pastor.
- 3. Work in close cooperation with the Pastor and Leadership Council.
- 4. Each strategic area of ministry shall be led by a Ministry Team Leader.
- 5. Strategic areas of ministry include but are not restricted to Nursery, Children, Youth, Young Adults, Men, Women, Senior Adults.

**Section IV: FINANCES**

- A.** Necessary finances for conducting the church program and missionary outreach will be obtained through voluntary tithes and offerings.
- B.** All tithes and offerings will be received and recorded by the Financial Secretary.
- C.** The duties of the Financial Secretary include:
  - 1. Record all general and designated receipts on a weekly report to be given to the Treasurer
  - 2. Record the amount of each contribution made by each contributor
  - 3. Deposit all receipts into a secure banking institution
  - 4. Provide an annual giving statement to each contributor
- D.** All finances and expenditures will be managed by the Leadership Council in cooperation with the Treasurer whose duties are listed in Section II of these Bylaws.

## **Section V: ELECTIONS**

### **A. Nominations and Temporary Appointments**

1. The annual Nominating Committee shall consist of the pastor and two church members not currently serving on the Leadership Council, to research and nominate candidates for all Leadership Council elected positions.
2. The Nominating Committee will be selected by congregational vote at a properly called congregational meeting.
3. Any member of the congregation may nominate another church member for any office to a member of the nominating committee. The member suggested must be in good standing and agree to allow their name to be nominated.
4. The list of nominees shall be distributed to the members of the congregation no later than two weeks prior to the November congregational meeting.
5. All elections will be by written ballot and shall be approved by a majority vote of the ballots cast.
6. Any vacancy in any office may be immediately filled for the unexpired term by temporary appointment made by Leadership Council. This appointment must be approved by a vote of the church membership within three months of that appointment.

### **B. Voting and Quorums**

1. Those voting members present or submitting written proxies will constitute a quorum at any properly called congregational meeting.
2. Voting may be done in person or by completion of a written proxy absentee ballot; such proxy ballots will be made available no less than two weeks prior to the election.

## **Section VI: HIRING AND REMOVAL OF MINISTRY PERSONNEL**

### **A. Calling a Pastor and Pastor's Compensation**

1. To call a Pastor, the church will elect a Pastoral Search Team of five members.
2. The Pastoral Search Team will be recommended by the Church Leadership Council and approved by the church membership. Any recommendations made by this team must be approved by the Church Leadership Council and the church membership.
3. The call of a Pastor will come before the church at a congregational meeting that has been announced publicly for three successive Sundays. A three-fourths majority vote of the members present will be necessary to extend a call to anyone under consideration. Only one candidate at a time will be presented to the church. The vote will be by written ballot.
4. The Pastor will be called for an indefinite time.
5. The salary package will be approved by the church membership and established at the time of the call and may be changed only by a vote of the membership at any congregational meeting.

6. The Pastor will be entitled to four weeks yearly vacation and additional time for attendance at the Converge Worldwide and Converge Southwest conferences. The time of his vacation will be coordinated with Leadership Council.

#### **B. Removal of a Pastor**

1. All action to dismiss the Pastor will be referred to the Church Leadership Council for its consideration before action is taken by the church membership.
2. The Church Leadership Team will be required to present to the church any written request for the dismissal of the Pastor when signed by one-tenth of the membership of the church.
3. Such action will be taken at a congregational meeting and will be recorded by written ballot and approved by three-fourths vote.
4. Prior to removal from office, the Pastor will be provided 30 days notice.

#### **C. Calling Ministry Personnel and Ministry Personnel Compensation**

1. When necessary to call ministry personnel, the Leadership Council will take necessary steps to recruit and interview qualified candidates. Teams may be chartered for this task. Every person under consideration will be investigated in regard to the individual's spiritual experience, character, education, and past experience in working in the areas of the job description.
2. When a suitable person has been found and approved by the Leadership Council, the Leadership Council will seek the approval of the church membership. A three-fourths majority vote of the members present will be necessary to extend a call to anyone under consideration. Only one candidate at a time will be presented to the church. The vote will be by written ballot of the eligible voters.
3. Ministry personnel will be called for an indefinite time. The salary package will be approved by the church membership, established at the time of the call and may be changed only by vote of the Church at any properly called congregational meeting.

#### **D. Removal of Ministry Personnel**

1. All action to dismiss ministry personnel will be referred to the Leadership Council and the Pastor for their consideration prior to presentation to the church membership.
2. The Leadership Council will be required to present to the church any written request for the dismissal of ministry personnel when signed by one-tenth of the membership of the church.
3. Such action will be taken at a Congregational Meeting and will be by written ballot with a majority vote of members present qualified to vote.

### **Section VII: AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

These Church Bylaws may be amended upon the recommendation of the Leadership Council and a two-thirds vote of the church membership.

## **Section VIII: ADDENDUMS**

- Grace Membership Covenant
- Grace Leadership Covenant
- Baptist General Conference (dba) Converge Worldwide Statement of Faith
- Grace Marriage Policy - Unanimously Approved July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

***Update Unanimously Approved: November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012***

# Membership Covenant

## Grace Community Church of Garden Grove

*Becoming a member of any organization, as well as this church, is a commitment that implies accepting responsibility for the necessary tasks that contribute to its effectiveness. Following is a standard of membership commitments that are necessary for the most effective operation of Grace Community Church.*

*As a Member of Grace Community Church...*

### 1. I accept responsibility for the *Integrity* of my Church

- **By publicly confessing Jesus Christ through believers baptism**  
*Acts 2:38 "Repent and be baptized, every one of you..."*
- **By personally growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ**  
*2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*
- **By consistently pursuing a lifestyle of God's grace and truth**  
*Philippians 1:27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.*
- **By biblically addressing sin issues** (*1 John 1:9; Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1*)

### 2. I accept responsibility for the *Unity* of my Church

- **By speaking only that which builds others up**  
*Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*
- **By submitting to one another out of reverence for Jesus Christ**  
*Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*
- **By supporting the leadership, constitution, and by-laws of my church**  
*Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority.*
- **By worshipping and fellowshiping with my church family**  
*Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

### 3. I accept responsibility for the *Stability* of my Church

- **By regularly participating in its services and events**  
*Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,*
- **By faithfully contributing to its financial needs**  
*Malachi 3:10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty,*
- **By praying for its effectiveness in the world for the Kingdom of God**  
*Ephesians 6:18, 19 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests... that so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,*
- **By blessing and mentoring others**  
*2 Timothy 2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*

### 4. I accept responsibility for the *Productivity* of my Church

- **By actively supporting its vision and mission**  
*Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained*
- **By developing and using my abilities to serve**  
*1 Peter 4:10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.*
- **By cultivating "redemptive friendships" with unchurched people**  
*Luke 15:1, 2 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."*

# Leadership Covenant

## Grace Community Church of Garden Grove

*The leaders of Grace Community Church are responsible to provide a clear and compelling direction for the church, and to protect the church from influences that would cause it to stray from the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. This requires a high level of faithfulness. The following are the leadership standards that contribute to the effective operation of Grace Community Church.*

*As a Leader of Grace Community Church...*

### **5. I accept responsibility for the *Integrity* of our Church**

- **By submitting to the Leadership of our Lord Jesus Christ** *John 14:15*
- **By keeping the commitments in the Grace Membership Covenant** *1 Peter 5:3*
- **By encouraging church members and attendees in their faith and practice** *Hebrews 10:24*
- **By guarding against heresy, maintaining the biblical purity of our doctrines** *Jude 3*
- **By guarding against hypocrisy, maintaining the integrity of our practices** *1 Cor 5:1-5*
- **By addressing sin issues among church members.** (*Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1, 2*)

*As a Leader of Grace Community Church...*

### **6. I accept responsibility for the *Unity* of our Church**

- **By guarding against personal and collective disunity** *1 Corinthians 11:17-19*
- **By maintaining appropriate confidentialities** *Proverbs 16:28*
- **By continually clarifying and supporting the vision and mission of the church** *Proverbs 29:18*

*As a Leader of Grace Community Church...*

### **7. I accept responsibility for the *Stability* of our Church**

- **By praying for its effectiveness in the world for the Kingdom of God** *Ephesians 6:18-20*
- **By regularly participating in its services and events** *Hebrews 10:25*
- **By faithfully contributing to its financial needs** *Malachi 3:10*
- **By offering my gifts and talents in service to this church** *1 Peter 4:10, 11*

*As a Leader of Grace Community Church...*

### **8. I accept responsibility for the *Future* of our Church**

- **By overseeing and planning activities for my specific area of responsibility.** *Proverbs 12:5*
- **By attending and participating when leadership teams meet** *Proverbs 28:20; 2 Timothy 2:2*
- **By working with other leaders to provide clear direction for the congregation** *Prov. 11:14; 22:3*
- **By mentoring other potential church leaders** *2 Timothy 2:2*
- **By pursuing redemptive friendships with unchurched people** *Luke 15:1, 2*

## **A Statement of Our Faith** Adopted by the Baptist General Conference in 1951, reaffirmed in 1990, and amended in 1998

### **1. The Word of God**

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

### **2. The Trinity**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

### **3. God the Father**

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

### **3. Jesus Christ**

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

### **5. The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

### **6. Regeneration**

We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

### **7. The Church**

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

### **8. Christian Conduct**

We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

### **9. The Ordinances**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **10. Religious Liberty**

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

### **11. Church Cooperation**

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether it is the Conference or a district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

### **12. The Last Things**

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

**Grace Community Church**  
*of Garden Grove*  
**MARRIAGE POLICY**

**DOCTRINE**

Marriage is a union ordained by God of a man and woman. It was instituted by God in the early chapters of Genesis, codified in the Levitical law, used to illustrate a relationship between God and his people in the Prophets, exemplified in the historical narratives, and described as a unique unity in the wisdom (poetic) books.

Jesus explained the original intention and core elements of marriage, and several New Testament Epistles give explicit instructions on this union.

Marriage is typology of Christ and the Church. As such, the Church views marriage as a profound spiritual institution established by God.

As a member of Converge Worldwide, Grace Community Church abides by the “Gender” resolution adopted by Converge Worldwide in 2012:

<http://www.convergeworldwide.org/files/ww/resource/document/2012-07-19-resolutions.pdf>

Because of the importance of marriage in the biblical witness, Grace Community Church of Garden Grove (“Church”) adopts the following policy.

**CLERGY**

1. Only properly ordained or licensed Clergy shall officiate at marriage ceremonies conducted on Church property.
2. Clergy shall only officiate marriage ceremonies that comply with the Grace doctrine of marriage.

**APPLICANTS**

1. Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a member of the clergy employed by the Church or to use the Church facilities shall comply with the Grace doctrine of marriage and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
2. Applicants shall receive premarital counseling by clergy or counselors who, in the opinion of the pastoral staff of the Church, have appropriate training, experience, and spiritual understanding to provide such counseling.

**PREMISES**

1. Any marriage performed on Church premises shall be officiated by an ordained or licensed member of the Clergy.
2. Any marriage in conflict with the Church doctrine of marriage shall be prohibited from being performed on the Church campus.
3. Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on Church premises, whether or not employed by the Church, shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
4. The Clergy assigned by the Church to implement the procedures contained in this Marriage Policy may, in his or her sole discretion, decline to make Church facilities available for, and/or decline to officiate at, a ceremony when, in his or her judgment, there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons.