



**MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS: (circle one) S M D SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDREN**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to:** (circle & fill in the blank as requested)

1. Join Grace Covenant as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who wishes to be baptized.
2. Join this church body by transfer of letter from another church. I am a member of:  
*Name of Church:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Where?* \_\_\_\_\_
3. Join this church body as a believer who has been baptized by immersion in another church.

**TESTIMONY (please use the back of this paper if this is not enough room)**

**Provide a short description of how and when you received Christ as Lord and Savior.**

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**How is Christ changing your life since you became a Christian?**

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**Are there any areas in which you would like to serve at Grace Covenant Church?**

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***MEMBERSHIP COVENANT***

We commit, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in love, to remember one another in prayer, to help one another in times of need, to exercise gentleness and humility in our dealings with one another as we speak the truth in love, to be faithful in our responsibilities and commitments, to be just and honest in our dealings, and to honor ourselves and others for Christ's sake through sexual purity, personal integrity, and abstaining from things or practices which bring harm to our faith or the faith of another.

We commit to faithful participation in times of worship, prayer, study, and fellowship with other believers, to the building up of the church by using our spiritual gifts in ministry, to contributing cheerfully and regularly for the ministry and expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel to the world.

We commit to practice personal and family worship, to train our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, and to seek the salvation of our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, and all peoples of the world.

We commit to submit to the teaching and leadership of the Elders inasmuch as it accords in good conscience with the truth of scripture, to the governing of the church according to its Constitution and Bylaws, to the settlement of disputes by and/or among the members of the church without appeal to any outside civil court, according to Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, to the Word of God as our final authority, to the church's discipline upon ourselves and lovingly assume our responsibility to participate in the discipline of other members, as taught in scripture.

We have read the Constitution, Bylaws and Policies of the church, including the dealing with church discipline, conflict resolution and members' rights and responsibilities and membership covenant and agree to be bound by the Policies and Procedures set forth in them.

We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## *ESSENTIAL BELIEFS*

**The Scriptures** -The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.

**God** -There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of himself, all perfections, and being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience.

**The Trinity** - God is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.

**Providence**- God from eternity, decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures.

**Election**- Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life -- not because of foreseen merit in them, but of his mere mercy in Christ -- in consequence of which choice they are called, justified and glorified.

**The Fall of Man**- God originally created man in His own image, and free from sin; but, through the temptation of Satan, he transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors.

**The Mediator**- Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the Law, suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose hand He ever liveth to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the Universe.

**Regeneration**- Regeneration is a change of heart, wrought by the Holy Spirit, who quickeneth the dead in trespasses and sins enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the Word of God, and renewing their whole nature, so that they love and practice holiness. It is a work of God's free and special grace alone.

**Repentance**- Repentance is an evangelical grace, wherein a person being, by the Holy Spirit, made sensible of the manifold evil of his sin, humbleth himself for it, with godly sorrow, detestation of it, and self-abhorrence, with a purpose and endeavor to walk before God so as to please Him in all things.

**Faith**- Saving faith is the belief, on God's authority, of whatsoever is revealed in His Word concerning Christ; accepting and resting upon Him alone for justification and eternal life. It is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, and is accompanied by all other saving graces, and leads to a life of holiness.

**Justification**- Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made; not for anything wrought in them or done by them; but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith.

**Sanctification**- Those who have been regenerated are also sanctified, by God's word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of Divine strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in cordial obedience to all Christ's commands.

**Perseverance of the Saints**- Those whom God hath accepted in the Beloved, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

**The Church-** The Lord Jesus is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all his true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. According to his commandment, Christians are to associate themselves into particular societies or churches; and to each of these churches he hath given needful authority for administering that order, discipline and worship which he hath appointed. The regular officers of a Church are Bishops, or Elders, and Deacons.

**Baptism-** Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of his giving himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite to church fellowship, and to participation in the Lord's Supper.

**The Lord's Supper-** The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and wine, and to be observed by his churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate his death, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge and renewal of their communion with him, and of their church fellowship.

**The Lord's Day-** The Lord's Day is a Christian institution for regular observance, and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, resting from worldly employments and amusements, works of necessity and mercy only excepted.

**Liberty of Conscience-** God alone is Lord of the conscience; and He hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are in anything contrary to His word, or not contained in it. Civil magistrates being ordained of God, subjection in all lawful thing commanded by them ought to be yielded by us in the Lord, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

**The Resurrection-** The bodies of men after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God -- the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked to be reserved under darkness to the judgment. At the last day, the bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised.

**The Judgment-** God hath appointed a day, wherein he will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when every one shall receive according to his deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life.

I am in agreement with these Essential Beliefs. \_\_\_\_\_ Please initial.

## Church Distinctives

- 1) We believe in God-centered worship. Worship is the priority of God and is to be the passion of His people. Biblical worship comes from the heart and is grounded in truth. The word of God determines how God is to be worshipped. The church should be committed to worship that is defined by and consistent with the Bible.
- 2) We believe in consecutive, expository preaching. Expository preaching involves the public reading, explanation and application of Scripture. We desire to “expose the text” rather than impose our personal opinions on the text. Our norm is consecutive, expository preaching in which the elder’s preach through a book of the Bible from beginning to end. This gives the preaching ministry a biblical balance. This method also gives the people the opportunity to see “the whole “ of a book over a period of time in order to gain a better understanding.
- 3) We affirm God’s sovereignty in Salvation. Salvation is wholly a work of God. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, to the glory of God alone. God planned salvation “before time began” and elected certain undeserving sinners to life eternal. God sent His Son Christ Jesus into the world to save those sinners by His righteous life, substitutionary death, and bodily resurrection. The sovereignty of God in salvation does not negate the responsibility of men to repent and believe or to share the gospel in fact God’s sovereignty is the motive for such.
- 4) We believe the church should be ruled by a plurality of elders under the Headship of Christ. We believe that there are two offices in the church, elder and deacon. The elders focus is on the ministry of the Word, shepherding, ruling and prayer. While each elder has specific gifts and abilities, no one elder has more authority than the others. The deacons are helpers and to focus primarily on benevolence, stewardship of the church property, and church finances.
- 5) We believe in the practice of church discipline. Christ wants His church to be pure from sin, error and division. We believe in the regular oversight in the life of the church members by the elders in the church.
- 6) We believe the church should be evangelistic. The church should encourage people to get to know their friends, neighbors and co-workers and find opportunities to invite them to church and share the gospel with them. We also desire to reach out to the community around us and share the gospel with them and invite them to church. We desire to support missions and to be actively involved in the lives of our missionaries.
- 7) We believe there should be a strong emphasis on the family in the local church. We believe strong families are foundational to strong churches and a strong nation. Families (which include singles, widows, divorcées, and grandparents) are God’s building block of the church. We believe that the church is not to take the place of the family but to equip them for the task God intended. We desire to train husbands to be godly, spiritual leaders in their homes and to equip parents to raise godly sons and daughters to the glory of God.

Please initial that you understand the distinctives of our church\_\_\_\_\_

