

**Grace Community Church  
Constitution as Approved by Congregational Vote on Dec 4, 2016**

**ARTICLE 1: Church name**

The name of this church shall be:  
Grace Community Church of Seal Beach.

**ARTICLE 2: Purpose and Objectives**

*Section 1: Purpose*

Our church exists to worship God, to build Christian faith and fellowship and to impact our world for Christ.

*Section 2: Objectives:*

1/Worship: To honor God through our prayer, thanksgiving, music and godly living.

2/Edification: To lead our church family to maturity and service through quality biblical teaching and caring relationships.

3/Witness: To serve humanity by practicing local evangelism and worldwide missions and by promoting social justice and humanitarian ministries.

4/Supporting Ministries: To facilitate effective and efficient church ministries.

**ARTICLE 3: Statements of Belief**

1/GOD: We believe that there is one true God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe that the Triune God is the Creator of all things visible and invisible and that a knowledge of this truth is necessary to understand the meaning and goal of all reality.

2/THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: We believe in the pre-existence and deity of our Lord Jesus Christ and in His incarnation through the Virgin Mary and His full humanity. We believe in His sinless,

obedient life, the reality of His recorded miracles and in forgiveness of sin through His shed blood on the Cross. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension and His present ministry at the right hand of the Father. We believe in His personal second coming.

3/THE HOLY SPIRIT: We believe in the present personal ministry of the Holy Spirit in every believer. We believe every believer is indwelt by the Spirit, baptized by the Spirit into the Body of Christ and equipped by the Spirit with various spiritual gifts. We believe it is the will of God that every believer be empowered, or filled, with the Holy Spirit for effective service.

4/THE SCRIPTURES: We believe the Bible, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God, altogether sufficient for all matters of faith and practice.

5/HUMANITY: We believe that God created man as male and female in His own image. We believe each person has infinite worth and is answerable to his Creator. We believe man has fallen into sin resulting in spiritual death, and that the New Birth, or Regeneration, is necessary for his salvation.

6/SALVATION: We believe in a complete and eternal salvation by God's grace alone, received as a gift of God through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

7/THE ONE TRUE CHURCH: We believe in the spiritual unity of all who have faith in Jesus Christ. We also believe in the organization of believers into local churches for worship, edification and witness.

8/ORDINANCES: We believe that Christ has ordained that His Church observe the Sacraments of (1) Baptism and (2) Communion.

9/CHRISTIAN LIFE: We believe God calls every Christian to a life of good works and spiritual freedom, service to the church and

community, separation unto God's will and away from evil. We believe in the sanctity of the home, purity in sexual relationships, the sacredness of human life, the necessity of manifesting the fruit of the Spirit and a Christ-like character, and the importance of a life of prayer and Bible study.

10/SATAN: We believe in the existence of a personal Devil, who is the great adversary of God and His people. We believe in his final defeat and judgment.

11/SECOND COMING: We believe in the personal and visible return of our Lord Jesus Christ to join His church with Himself, to defeat evil and to establish His rule as King of Kings. We believe that this truth is to lead Christians to live godly, productive lives in the present world and to await eagerly His appearing.

12/FUTURE LIFE: We believe that death is "gain" for the Christian, for he enters the presence of the Lord. We believe there will be a resurrection and a judgment of both the righteous and the unrighteous; the righteous will enter eternal blessings and the unrighteous eternal condemnation.

#### **ARTICLE 4: Authority and Leadership**

##### *Section 1: Jesus Christ*

Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Scriptural record, is the supreme authority of this church.

##### *Section 2: Scripture*

The Bible is the one perfect and infallible guide to Christian living and church order. The Bible in its entirety is authenticated by Christ and reveals his will and design for mankind.

### *Section 3: Constitution and Bylaws*

1/This Constitution reflects the Scriptural statement that ministry for God is to be done “decently and in order.” It strives to apply practically the teachings of Scripture on church life to the needs of our modern church. It makes no claim to infallibility and can be amended by due process.

2/The Bylaws spell out the details of church operations under the guidelines of the Constitution. Bylaws are intentionally flexible through amendment by the Board of Elders.

### *Section 4: Elders*

Those who manifest the Scriptural qualifications of elder and who are approved by the members of the church to govern and shepherd the church. The Board of Elders, as under-shepherds, are the highest authority over the church under Jesus Christ, the Chief Shepherd.

### *Section 5: Members*

Those who have confessed Jesus as Lord, whose present Christian life is witness to this confession, who have indicated their desire to affiliate officially with this local church and who have been properly received into the membership. Membership in this local church is open to every person who shall have confessed Jesus Christ as Lord, who has consented to those standards of membership as outlined in the Bylaws, and who subscribes to the Statement of Belief in the church Constitution. Responsibilities, discipline and removal and transfer of membership are governed by appropriate sections of the Bylaws.

### *Section 6: Association*

This church is part of the worldwide body of Christ and therefore seeks to fellowship with all Christians to further the Great Commission. This church also is affiliated with the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches and therefore recognizes the privileges and responsibilities of this association. This church is a sovereign local church and is not subordinate to any other church body.

*Section 7: Government*

This church is incorporated and chartered under the laws of the State of California. This church is governed by the Scriptures, this Constitution and by its Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE 5: MEETINGS**

*Section 1: Worship Services*

The Board of Elders shall determine/approve the time and place of worship services.

*Section 2: Meetings of the Membership*

- (1) The Board of Elders shall call an Annual Meeting of the membership for such purposes as are required by the Bylaws.
- (2) Other business meetings of the congregation may be called by the Board of Elders or by written petition of ten percent of the membership.

- (3) The date, time, place and purpose of all business meetings shall be announced for two Sundays prior to the day of the meeting.
- (4) Official church decisions shall require a quorum of 10 percent of the members 18 years of age or older. A two-thirds passage by those who vote is necessary for the approval of a business item.

## **ARTICLE 6: PROPERTY**

### *Section 1: Use*

All meetings, gatherings, events and activities conducted in the facilities of the church shall be consistent with the objectives of this church as stated in Article 2.

### *Section 2: Purchase and Sale*

The church property and facilities shall be purchased or sold by the Directors of the Corporation as stated in the Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE 7: AMENDMENT PROCEDURE**

### *Section 1:*

This Constitution may be amended at any business meeting called for that purpose according to Article 7, Section 2. A copy of the proposed amendment shall be made available along with announcement of the meeting according to Article 7, Section 2.

### *Section 2:*

Amendments to the Statements of Belief must be approved by the Board of Elders by a three-fourths vote after a first and

second reading, before being presented to the congregation in accordance with Section 1.