



2019 CONSTITUTION

Grace Baptist Church | Mason, OH | gbcmason.org

*“And hath put all things under his (Christ’s) feet, and gave him to be the head over things to the church, which is his body...” **Ephesians 1:22, 23***

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Revised 2019

Article 1- Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of this church is the Grace Baptist Church of Mason, Ohio.

Section 2: The purpose of this organization is the winning of lost souls to Christ, the perfecting of the saints and the edifying of the body of Christ until we all come to a unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:12,13)

Article 2- Membership

Section 1: The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who hold to a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and have been scripturally baptized (immersion). They pledge themselves to faithfulness to the principles set forth to guide this church. The commitment is made visible and evident by signing the church covenant.

A body of believers may fail to meet all of their responsibilities and still be a true church, however when it (1) ceases to acknowledge and submit to Christ as its supreme head, (2) ceases to recognize Scripture as its final authority and (3) ceases to confess that salvation is in Christ's finished work through faith alone and grace alone, then it ceases to be a true church and should be recognized for what it is, simply a religious society.

Section 2: There are four prerequisites to become a church member: salvation, baptism, signing of the church covenant and a majority vote of the church membership. Persons that have been scripturally baptized into a church of like faith (salvation in the finished work of Christ alone), who indicate their desire to become a member of this church, shall be received upon one of the following conditions by a majority vote of the church.

(1) That they present a letter designating themselves as members in good standing of a church of like faith, having been dismissed in the regular order by the church from which they came. *Those desiring membership by letter will be brought under the watch care of the church awaiting their letter of recommendation.

(2) Persons having been baptized into a church of like faith who, for reasons beyond their control, cannot obtain a letter shall be received upon their statement of such experience. This experience must be acceptable to the membership.

(3) In the case of disciplined members, by restoration. Request for restoration can be made to the church when an attitude of repentance is expressed.

Section 3: A member in good standing shall attend church services at least weekly to the best of their ability. They shall conduct themselves in such a manner as to promote a good Christian atmosphere. They shall in accordance with the Grace Covenant be a regular financial giver.

Continuous willful absence from services shall result in steps of restoration. The said member shall have thirty days from the date of notification to provide a reasonable explanation for the failure to attend. If satisfactory explanation is not provided within the thirty-day period, the individual's name shall be brought before the congregation for dismissal. In the event a satisfactory explanation is provided, no additional actions shall be taken. This action may be carried out by the pastors and the deacons.

The express purpose of this action is to protect the name of Christ and His church. Church attendance should be of a very serious nature (Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 5:25). The church covenant signed by the members should be held in high regard.

Article 3 - Elected Officers and Appointed Positions

Section 1: No person other than a member of this church in good standing shall hold any office or position in this church.

Section 2: The elected and appointed positions of this church shall be:

A. Elected Offices

- (1) Lead Pastor
- (2) Deacons
- (3) Trustees

B. Appointed Positions

(1) Pastors and Other Staff

(2) Treasurer

(3) Church Moderator

Section 3: The Duties of the Elected Officers and Appointed Positions shall be:

1. **Pastors** - Pastors must be absolutely committed to the inspiration, authority, and sufficiency of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. The translation used must be based on the formal equivalency (word for word) method and must not sacrifice accuracy for readability.

2. **Deacons** - shall make necessary preparation for the Lord's Supper and serve with the pastor when the Lord's Supper is observed. Deacons shall see that the Pastor's needs are supplied. Deacons shall assist the pastor in addressing conflicts arising between members. It shall also be their duty to look after the needs of the poor and widows of the church. They shall provide input for the staff benefits and compensation portion of the annual budget. They will also assist the pastors with any other duties the pastors may request.

3. **Trustees** - shall be responsible for the annual budget and work with the deacons regarding significant financial decisions and for purchase of property and major items. They shall take oversight in seeing that all properties are properly maintained.

4. **Treasurer** - shall have charge of all church funds from all sources, and shall keep a record of same. He shall be responsible for church financial reports at business meetings and shall keep detailed records of monies received and paid out.

5. **Moderator** - Shall lead the business meetings.

6. **Other Staff** - Shall have responsibilities at the discretion of the Pastors.

Section 4: Elections and Appointments:

A. Elected Offices

(1) The Lead Pastor shall be called to the pastorate of the church by a three-fourths vote of the church, and shall remain as such for an indefinite period of time. A

dismissal of the Lead Pastor may occur after a three- fourths vote of the church indicating this is the desire of the church. A meeting for this purpose must be called and so stated in an announcement. An announcement of such a meeting must be made in writing to each member.

(2) Church officers are composed of deacons and trustees. Church officers shall be elected by popular vote according to the number of officers required for a term as determined by the pastors. The standard length of each term is two years. However, this term may be extended by recommendation of the pastors and congregational vote.

(3) The pastors will select from among the elected church officers who will serve as deacons or trustees.

B. Appointments

(1) Pastors and other staff shall be appointed by the Lead Pastor with counsel of the deacons. The congregation shall approve the creation of new full-time staff positions with a majority vote, but the selection of the individual to fill the full-time positions shall reside with the Lead Pastor.

(2) The Treasurer shall be appointed by the pastor and the deacons for an indefinite term.

(3) The Moderator is the Lead Pastor of the church. The Lead Pastor and deacons may appoint a moderator substitute for a meeting.

Section 5:

A. Elected Offices

Qualifications for Elected Officers and Appointed Positions

(1) The Lead Pastor shall be ordained by a Baptist Church. He shall meet the qualifications described in I Timothy 3:1-8 and Titus 1:5-9 and shall continue to uphold these qualifications throughout his pastorate.

(2) The Deacons shall meet the qualifications described in I Timothy 3:1-8 and Acts 6:3. Deacons shall be a member in good standing of the church for a period of at

least one year.

(3) The Trustees must be members in good standing of the church for a period of at least one year. Members are to be at least 21 years of age to be qualified for any position as a church officer.

B. Appointed Positions

(1) The Treasurer shall be a member in good standing of the church for a period of at least one year.

Article 4- Government

Section 1: The government of the church shall be vested in the body, all necessary voting being decided by a majority, except in changing the constitution or calling or dismissing the pastor, which shall be decided by a three-fourths vote of the members.

Section 2: All voting will be by secret ballot. It may be agreed upon by the body with a show of hands for those items of business not of a serious or major order of business. Any dissenting vote will require a secret ballot.

Section 3: The body shall be guided in its deliberations by standard parliamentary procedure. All discussions shall be conducted with a Christ-like spirit.

Section 4: All matters being acted upon by the body shall be presented in a form of a motion and seconded by one or more members of the body in regular order of procedure.

Section 5: Any person within the body shall have the right to bring before the church for consideration any matter they deem worthy of action at any regular stated business meeting. The matter at hand is to be presented in writing to the pastors in advance.

Section 6: Only persons belonging to the body shall have the right to vote on any matter acted upon. To be eligible to vote, a person must be a member in good standing. The member must also be at least eighteen years of age. Persons not eligible to vote must be identified by a challenge from the floor where required by the substance of the matter voted upon.

Article 5- Organization and Meetings

Section 1: The church shall maintain a regular organization including a Sunday School with a regular staff of officers and teachers, together with any organizations necessary for the proper functioning of the church.

Article 6- Discipline

Section 1: The church shall maintain discipline over its members in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17. In the event a member is reported as indulging in conduct unbecoming a Christian, the deacons and the pastors shall investigate the truth of the report. In the event the report is declared correct and repentance is not demonstrated, the person shall be called before the church and asked for an apology and repentance toward such conduct with a promise that same shall not be repeated. In the event of failure to thus comply, the accused shall be dealt with accordingly as deemed proper by the church.

A member who is in the process of church discipline cannot avoid this by stating they no longer choose to attend services or desire membership. Though it is true they are free to stop attending services and may choose to exercise that right, their membership is bound by a congregational vote for official removal. Members waive their right to withdrawal from membership when discipline is pending and must wait for the congregation's fulfillment of their Biblical mandate to encourage repentance and restoration.

Section 2: An unrepentant member under church discipline shall be removed by a majority vote.

Section 3: All diligence shall be exercised to bring offending parties to a state of reconciliation, and all discipline administered in the spirit of our Savior.

Section 4: All personal grievances between individuals shall be dealt with in a manner set forth in Matthew 18:15-19.

Article 7- Ordinances

Section 1: The church shall maintain the two scriptural ordinances, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Article 8- Finances

Section 1: The work of the church shall primarily be supported by tithes and free will offerings.

Section 2: Authorized members to conduct financial business on behalf of the church are stated in the Authorization Resolution on file in the church office.

Article 9- Change of Constitution

Section 1: The foregoing constitution may be changed or amended at such times and in such manner as may be deemed wise for the proper administration of the affairs of the church by three-fourths vote of the membership present at the time of such action, provided notice of the meeting for that purpose shall have been made from the pulpit thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting.

Article 10 – Grace Statement of Faith

- 1) We believe in one God, eternally existent as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- 2) We believe that the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments, is God's inspired and infallible Word, and is the supreme standard and final authority for all conduct, faith, and doctrine. We believe in the total sufficiency of Scripture.
- 3) We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, in his miracles, in his *vicarious and *atoning death, in his bodily resurrection, in his ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in his *premillennial, personal return in power and glory.
- 4) We believe that man was created in the image of God, but by willful disobedience became sinful and is justly under the condemnation and wrath of Almighty God.
- 5) We believe the only salvation from this guilt and condemnation is through faith in the righteousness and atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that this salvation is the free gift of God's love and grace.
- 6) We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit and that his ministry is to reveal Christ to men, to convict of sin, to regenerate repentant sinners and, by his presence and

power, to sanctify the lives of the redeemed. Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinances of baptism and communion; that baptism is only to be administered upon profession of faith in Christ, by immersion, thereby declaring our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior; that communion is only for believers, is to be preceded by faithful self-examination, and is in remembrance of the Lord's death until he comes.

7) We believe that a New Testament church is a body of believers, baptized by immersion, associated for worship, service, and the spread of the gospel of the grace of God to all the world.

8) We believe that there will be a resurrection of the just and the unjust; the just, having been redeemed by the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, to be with him throughout all eternity in glory; the unjust, having died un-reconciled to God, to eternal condemnation in hell.

*Vicarious: When one person suffers in place of another. A vicar is a substitute.

*Atonement: A payment in order to make right. Christ's death puts us 'at one' with God.

*Premillennial: Christ returns before (pre) the 1,000 year Kingdom Age.

Article 11 – Traditional Family Defined (Adopted 1994)

Grace Baptist Church believes in and supports the traditional family as outlined in the Bible. Traditional family refers to the make-up of the family consisting of a man and a woman joined together by marriage as explained in the Bible.

We believe that any and all forms of adultery and/or fornication hinder the cause of Christ and weaken the testimony of the Church.

With neither malice nor prejudice towards any one individual, we believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, and/or live-in partners of either sex outside of the traditional family as outlined is in direct contradiction to the Biblical principles taught through the Scriptures.

Genesis 1:27,28; 2:21-25, Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 20:10-21, Romans 1:18-32, I Corinthians 7:1-5, Ephesians 5:1-5,21 -33, Colossians 3:5, I Thessalonians 4:3