

CONSTITUTION

Of the Grace Brethren Church of Wooster, Ohio

PREAMBLE

To better set forth our position before the world, define our relationship one to another, facilitate the orderly transaction of business, conduct our various activities, and promote harmony and cooperation between the members of our congregation, Official Board and organizations, we, the members of the GRACE BROTHERS CHURCH OF WOOSTER, OHIO, do adopt and accept the following articles to be the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this congregation shall be, **GRACE BROTHERS CHURCH OF WOOSTER, OHIO.**

ARTICLE II - COVENANT AND MOTTO

Section 1 - Covenant

The covenant by which this church exists as a distinct body and which every member accepts, is as follows:

Acknowledging Jesus Christ to be our Savior and Lord, and accepting the Holy Scriptures as our rule of faith and practice, and recognizing the privilege and duty of uniting ourselves for Christian fellowship, the enjoyment of Christian ordinances, the public worship of God, and the advancement of His Church on earth, we so now, in the sight of God and invoking His blessing, solemnly covenant and agree with each other to

associate ourselves as a church of the

Lord Jesus Christ, as warranted by the Word of God.

We agree to maintain the institutions of the Gospel, to submit ourselves to the orderly administration of the affairs of the Church and to walk together in brotherly love.

And this we do depending upon the aid of our Heavenly Father, who "so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" for our salvation, and of Jesus Christ who hath redeemed us with His blood, and of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Guide.

Section 2 - Motto

Our motto is thus stated, "The Bible, the Whole Bible, and Nothing But the Bible."

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Any person who shall have confessed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and has accepted Him as Savior and Lord, and who shall have publicly accepted the Bible as the complete, final, and inspired revelation of the triune God to man, and who shall have been baptized in water by triune immersion, and who thus shall have consented to the covenants and provisions of this constitution and by-laws, may formally become a member of this Church.

Any individual who has received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord may be received into full membership of the Church, even if physical disabilities prevent baptism by triune immersion. The individual must agree: (a) to confess publicly Christ as Savior and Lord; (b) to consent to belief in triune immersion; (c) to be baptized by triune immersion if physically capable of such action in the future.

ARTICLE IV - AUTHORITY

Section 1 - Authority

(a) The primary authority by which this Church exists as an ecclesiastical body is received from the Holy Scriptures and in all matters of faith and practice, acknowledges no other. But it recognizes and sustains the privileges of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Grace Brethren Churches.

(b) The secondary authority is by the laws of the State of Ohio, under which it is incorporated.

Section 2 - Government

Its government is congregational in form, vested in its members and is not subject to any other ecclesiastical body.

ARTICLE V - AMENDMENTS

Section 1 - Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all members eligible to vote and present at any regular meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose, provided: That in either case at least ten days notice of the proposed amendment shall be given, and that the said period of ten days shall include two Sundays. An announcement from the pulpit on two successive Sundays or two insertions of the proposed amendment in the Church bulletin shall be deemed a sufficient notice.

Section 2 - Procedure

All such proposed amendments must be presented in writing at the time of the announcement of said meeting to consider the same.

Section 3 - Amendments

Articles II, III, IV of this Constitution are **NOT** subject to amendment or change.

ARTICLE VI - STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. THE BIBLE: the Word of God, the sixty-six Books of the Old and New Testaments, verbally inspired in all parts, and therefore wholly without error as originally given of God (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21).

2. THE ONE TRUE GOD: existing eternally as three persons -- The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22; Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14).

3. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: His pre-existence and deity (John 1:1-3), incarnation by virgin birth (John 1:14; Matthew 1:18-23), sinless life (Hebrews 4:15), substitutionary death (II Corinthians 5:21), bodily resurrection (Luke 24:36-43), ascension into heaven and present ministry (Hebrews 4:14-16), and coming again (Acts 1:11).

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT: His personality (John 16:7-15); and deity (Acts 5:3-4); and His work in each believer; baptism and indwelling at the moment of regeneration (I Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:9); and filling (Ephesians 5:18) to empower for Christian life and service (Ephesians 3:16; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:22-23).

5. MAN: his direct creation in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28), his subsequent fall into sin resulting in spiritual death (Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 5:12), and the necessity of the new birth for his salvation (John 3:3-5).

6. SALVATION: a complete and eternal salvation by God's grace alone, received as the gift of God through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; I Peter 1:18-19).

7. THE CHURCH: one true Church, the body and Bride of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-32) composed of all true

believers of the present age (I Corinthians 12:12-13); and the organization of its members in local churches for worship, for edification of believers, and for world-wide gospel witness, each local church being autonomous but cooperating in fellowship and work (Ephesians 4:11-16).

8. CHRISTIAN LIFE; a life of righteousness, good works, and separation unto God from the evil ways of the world (Romans 12:1-2), manifested by speaking the truth (James 5:1), maintaining the sanctity of the home (Ephesians 5:22-6:4), settling differences between Christians in accordance with the Word of God (I Corinthians 6:1-8), not engaging in carnal strife but showing a Christ-like attitude toward all men (Romans 12:17-21), exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and maintaining a life of prayer (Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6), including the privilege, when sick, of calling for the elders of the church to pray and to anoint with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:13-18).

9. ORDINANCES; the Christian should observe the ordinances of our Lord Jesus Christ, which are (1) baptism of believers by triune immersion (Matthew 28:19) and (2) the threefold communion service, consisting of the washing of the saints' feet (John 13:1-17), the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:20-22, 33-34, Jude 12), and the communion of the bread and the cup (I Corinthians 11:23-26).

10. SATAN; his existence and personality as the great adversary of God and His people (Revelation 12:1-10), his judgment (John 12:31), and final doom (Revelation 20:10).

11. SECOND COMING; the personal, visible, and imminent return of Christ to remove His Church from the earth (I Thessalonians 4:16-17) before the tribulation (I Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 3:10), and afterward to descend with the Church to establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth (Revelation 19:11-20:6).

12. FUTURE LIFE; the conscious existence of the dead (Philippians 1:21-23; Luke 16:19-31), the resurrection of the body (John 5:28-29), the judgment and reward of believers (Romans 14:10-12, II Corinthians 5:10), the judgment and condemnation of unbelievers (Revelation 20:11-15), the eternal life of the saved (John 3:16), and the eternal punishment of the lost (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:15).