

CONSTITUTION OF GRACE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASHLAND, WISCONSIN

PREAMBLE

Whereas, we, a body of Evangelical believers in Jesus Christ, organized for the purpose of fellowship and propagation of the Gospel of our Lord as recorded in the Holy Scripture, deem it wise to have certain laws to serve as criterion to work by; and help preserve the purpose and function of the local church, do ordain and establish the following Constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves:

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Organization, a Non-Profit Religious Corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, is Grace Bible Fellowship of Ashland, Wisconsin.

ARTICLE II – MISSION

To glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE III – VISION

A Bible Based Church Fostering Leadership, Discipleship, And Healing Through Organized Intentional Ministries That Impact Our Community.
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ARTICLE IV – STATEMENT OF FAITH

God – We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

The Bible – We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

The Human Condition – We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

Jesus Christ – We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

The Work of Christ – We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the Cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit – We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

The Church – We believe that the true Church comprises all who have been justified by God’s grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The True Church is manifest in local Churches, whose Membership should be composed only of Believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the Gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the Church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living – We believe that God’s justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God’s Word, the Spirit’s power, and fervent prayer in Christ’s name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ’s commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed.

Christ’s Return – We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to Godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny – We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the Gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

This Church shall receive as Members those who, having accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, are born again; who in their lives are manifesting the fruits of a true faith in God; and who are in agreement with the Constitution, By-Laws and Policies of this Church. The procedure for Membership shall be as outlined in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI – GOVERNANCE

The Church shall follow a congregational form of governance. The Active Membership is the highest legislative and governing authority within the Church.

ARTICLE VII – AFFILIATION

The Church shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America through its Forest Lakes District Conference and shall send delegates to their conferences, support their home and foreign missions, and unite in all mutual efforts for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ in the measure that the Church itself may officially decide.

ARTICLE VIII – RELATIONSHIPS

This church is independent and free so far as its internal organization and the regulation of its own affairs. It is in subjection to no ecclesiastical body, except by its own consent. It controls the admission, discipline and removal of its members according to its own understanding of the Word of God.

ARTICLE IX – PROVISION OF BY-LAWS

A supplement to this Constitution known as By-Laws shall embody such items as: the form and function of the operational Leadership of the Church; qualifications and duties of the Pastor, Elders, and Officers of the Church; conditions for Membership; Disposition of Church property; establishment of Meetings and Parliamentary Procedures; and all other requirements as set forth by the Active Membership.

ARTICLE X – AMENDING CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Amendments or alterations to the Constitution and By-Laws may be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the Active Members present at any Regular or Special Business Meeting of the Church, providing notification of the proposed alteration or amendment has been made to the Active Membership at least 60 days prior to such Meeting.