

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS
of
GRACE FELLOWSHIP

Updated July 21, 1996

PREAMBLE

We the undersigned natural persons, each being more than eighteen (18) years of age, a body of evangelical believers in Jesus Christ, hereby organize for the purpose of fellowship and propagation of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the Holy Scriptures. We deem it wise that we have certain laws to serve as criteria to work by and to help preserve the purpose and function of the local church, and do therefore adopt the following:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of Grace Fellowship of Mountain Home, Inc. is to worship God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; to glorify God, looking to Jesus Christ as our Savior and Example; to live out His ministry in the areas of prayer, evangelism, discipleship, nurturing and worship, using the Bible for direction; to persuade men and women to repent and confess Jesus Christ as Lord; to build up the church of Jesus Christ through the teaching of the Word and the ministry of the Spirit; and to engage in biblical, charitable, and educational activities. (John 4:23; II Corinthians 5:10,11; Mark 16:15; Acts 2:42; Romans 12; Colossians 3:12-15; Ephesians 4:11-16)

II. NAME

The name of this corporation is the Grace Fellowship of Mountain Home. The corporation is referred to herein as the "church" or the "corporation."

III. POWERS

- A. This church shall have and may exercise all powers permitted or provided by the laws of Idaho for non-profit corporations.
- B. The elder(s) will fill, or appoint a person to fill, each position as required by the non-profit corporation laws of the state of Idaho. The senior pastor will always be the president of the corporation. For the purposes of this document, the president of the corporation shall be referred to as the senior pastor. The minimum requirements of the elder board are fulfilled provided there is one active elder in this church.

- C. The corporation shall have perpetual existence, until God gathers the universal Church to Himself. (II Peter 3:10-13; I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

IV. STATEMENT OF FAITH

A. We believe:

1. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the verbally inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life. This word consists of the sixty six (66) books as enumerated in a modern Protestant translation of the Bible. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 3:16; II Peter 1:21)
2. In one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:26; John 10:30; John 14:26; Matthew 28:19)
3. God is infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love; that God concerns Himself in the affairs of men; that He hears and answers the prayer of His people; and that He saves His elect from sin and death.
4. Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross of Calvary for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate. (Matthew 1:18; John 1:1; John 1:14; Romans 5:8; I Corinthians 15:1-6; Hebrews 1:8.)
5. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men of sin, righteousness and the judgment to come. He regenerates the unbelieving sinner, who then believes; and the Spirit then indwells, guides, instructs and empowers that believer for godly living and service. The Holy Spirit eternally comes forth from God the Father and God the Son, and indwells every believer in Jesus Christ. He is the believer's abiding Comforter, Advocate, Teacher and Guide. (John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:7-14)
6. The first man, Adam, was created in the image of God, but fell into sin. The first Adam has passed his sin nature to the entire human race who is born lost and separated from God. Salvation and spiritual life can only come to a person through regeneration and the work of the Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:26; Genesis 3:6; Titus 3:4-6)

7. All people are sinners by nature and choice, and therefore are under condemnation. God regenerates, by the Holy Spirit, His elect. Upon regeneration, the new Christian confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ then indwells the believer with the Holy Spirit Who empowers the believer for service. This baptism may occur concurrent with or subsequent to regeneration. (Ephesians 5:18; I Thessalonians 5:23; Acts 5:32)
8. The shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation of a person. These are people "who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13; John 14:6; Romans 5:9-10; Romans 10:9-10; Titus 3:5-6)
9. That the spiritual gifts are for this present time , and in praying for the sick. (I Corinthians 12:1-11; James 5:13-16)
10. The true Church is composed of all persons who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. They are united together as the body of Christ of which He is the head. Only those who are thus members of the true Church Universal shall be eligible for membership in this church. (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 10:14-15; Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18)
11. In the personal, imminent, and visible return of Christ to the earth and the establishment of His kingdom for a literal thousand year reign. (Revelation 20:1-6)
12. The Lord Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the church: 1) baptism and 2) the Lord's Supper. We conduct water baptism by immersion and offer communion to all believers. (Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 26:20-30)
13. In the bodily resurrection of the dead: of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment. (I John 5:11-13; II Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 14:9-11)
14. Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church, and that this church has the right and responsibility under Christ to decide and govern its own affairs. (Colossians 1:18)

V. PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office for the transaction of business of the corporation is fixed and located at such a location as the elder(s) designate(s) within Elmore County.

VI. MEMBERSHIP

A. Qualifications and reception to membership

Membership in this corporation shall be open to any believing and confessing Christian, who acknowledges and accepts the biblical Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who is willing to subscribe to the Constitution, By-Laws, and policies of this corporation, and who desires to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of love.

B. Voting Members

All active members above the age of eighteen shall be entitled to one vote for the ratification of the calling of a senior pastor, the election of an elder, and the dismissal of either an elder or a senior pastor. Members are considered inactive and will relinquish their membership when they can no longer be expected to participate actively in church goals, which includes moving from the local area. A member will also relinquish membership rights if they are absent from church activities for a period of six consecutive weeks without an acceptable reason as determined by the elder(s). All reasonable attempts to contact absent members will be done, but the responsibility for communication ultimately lies with the member.

C. Reception of member

New members may be received as determined by the elder(s) in the following manner:

1. Prior to membership, prospective members shall first attend a Membership Inquirers Class, or it's equivalent.
2. Application shall be made to an elder.
3. The prospective member shall give his testimony of personal faith to an elder.
4. The elder(s), only by a unanimous vote, can accept an applicant's request for membership.
5. The accepted applicant shall be publicly welcomed into the membership at a subsequent regular worship service of the church.

VII. GOVERNMENT

A. Headship of Christ

The government of the church shall focus on seeking and maintaining the Lordship and direction of Jesus Christ over His body, the Church. All those in authority shall continually seek His mind and will, through His Spirit and the Word of God, in all actions and decisions.

B. The overseeing of His Body by the elder(s).

The elder board is the governing body of the church and will be headed by the senior pastor. The elders (or senior pastor, if there are no other elders) shall oversee and rule the ministry of the church by Biblical precept and example, under the leadership of the senior pastor. They shall gather together informally, as frequently as needed, to pray together and review the progress of day to day functions.

C. The general powers of the elder(s).

1. To select and remove all other officers, agents, and employees of the church; and to prescribe such powers and duties for them as may be consistent with the legal limits of the law.
2. To conduct, manage, and control the affairs and business of the church, and to make rules and regulations consistent with law, the Constitution, and the By-Laws.
3. To borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose of the church, and to authorize the execution in the corporate name of any and all financial instruments or actions as necessary.

D. Qualifications of an elder (I Timothy 3:1-8)

1. An elder shall be a man of high moral character, a single-minded man, temperate, prudent, respectable, not self-willed, self-controlled, just, devout, and not covetous.
2. An elder shall be a man who manages his home well and keeps his children under control with all dignity.
3. An elder shall be a man who handles himself uprightly among others, not a drunkard, not argumentative, gentle, not contentious, hospitable, a lover of

good, and of good reputation in the world.

E. Number of elders

The elder board may consist of from one to twelve elders.

F. Election and term of office of pastor and elders

1. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members eligible to vote and a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the elders is required both to call and ratify a senior pastor. The same two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of both the voting members and the elders is required to dismiss the senior pastor. The senior pastor is elected to serve for an indefinite period of time without the requirement for re-election.
2. An elder will be nominated by the senior pastor or another elder. He is elected by a unanimous vote of the elders and a majority vote of the voting members of the church. Their election shall be held at the regularly scheduled annual meeting, or special meeting. An elder, with the exception of the senior pastor, is elected for a three (3) year term, after which he can be reinstated and ratified by the members.
3. Voting members may be allowed to vote by proxy as determined by the elder(s).

G. Compensation

The elder board, excluding the pastoral staff, shall receive no compensation for their services as Directors of the corporation.

VIII. MEETINGS

A. Place and time of regular and special meetings of the church

Regular meetings will be held at a time, place and interval so designated by the elder(s). Special meetings may be called by the senior pastor or any two (2) elders. Each elder must receive written or verbal notice of the special meeting one week prior to the meeting.

B. Annual Business Meeting

The church shall meet once a year, on the third Sunday in January (if possible), for the purpose of organization, election of officers (if necessary), reviewing the

budget, and reviewing the senior pastor's compensation and benefits.

C. Documentation of meetings

The business of any meetings shall be recorded in writing by the church secretary or his designated representative.

D. Meetings for the purpose of removal from office of a elder or senior pastor

An elder, except for the senior pastor, may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the elder board. The senior pastor may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the elder board and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership eligible to vote.

IX. MINISTRY STAFF, DEACONS, AND DEACONESSES

A. Their ministry

1. They shall function in various ministries within the body to meet the physical needs of the church under the direction and encouragement of the senior pastor and/or elders.
2. They shall counsel with the senior pastor and/or elders regarding the physical needs which arise in the body, they shall pray for any in the flock for whom they are caring, and they shall serve the flock, exercising hospitality, love, care and good counsel.

B. Qualifications (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

Serious, not double-tongued, not a drunkard, single-minded, obedient in the faith, mature, and trustworthy (a tested walk).

C. Number, appointment, and organization

1. The number of deacons shall be left to the discretion of the elder(s), according to the needs of the congregation.
2. The elder(s) shall appoint a deacon for an indefinite duration and shall review each appointment yearly.
3. Each deacon shall be in regular contact with the senior pastor and elder(s) and shall meet at the discretion of the senior pastor.

X. OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

- A. The officers of this corporation shall be a president, secretary, treasurer, and other officers as the elder(s) may appoint. They shall hold office for one year. The same person may be reappointed to the same corporate responsibility.
- B. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, shall be filled by the elder(s) until a qualified replacement can be found.
- C. As President, the senior pastor shall have general supervision, direction, and control of the business and affairs of the church. He shall be responsible for the presidency of all meetings of the members and elder(s).

1. Ministry

- a. The senior pastor shall minister unto the Lord in regular personal worship and praise. He shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and prayer and seek to walk uprightly before the Lord in his personal life. He shall seek the mind of God. (Acts 6:4)
- b. The senior pastor shall be the teaching shepherd of the church. He shall give considerable time to the study of the Word and shall teach the Scriptures to the flock by precept and example. He shall aim to feed the flock, equip the saints for ministry, and guard the church against the attack of the enemy.
- c. The senior pastor shall be the president of the corporation, its chief executive officer and chairman of the board of elders. He shall oversee the business of the church on a daily basis and give leadership to any associate and assistant pastors, the elders, the general church body, and its ministries. The senior pastor shall have general supervision of the entire church and charge of all services, gatherings, and meetings.

2. Qualifications (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

- a. The senior pastor shall be generally qualified, according to the qualifications for an elder.
- b. The senior pastor shall be a spirit-gifted teacher of the Word, an ordained pastor of good reputation and biblically conservative theology, Christ-centered, spirit-filled, and willing to serve a non-denominational church without promoting denominational interests.

3. Appointment

- a. In the event of a vacancy, the elder(s) shall constitute a nominating committee. This committee shall seek, find, and nominate a candidate. They shall seek first among any associate or assistant pastors from within the fellowship.
- b. In the event there is no elder in active membership of this church, the active members may call a meeting and select by vote the necessary number of members to carry out the responsibilities of this document.

4. Compensation

The senior pastor's initial compensation shall be specified by the elder(s) at the time of his calling. The church shall provide adequate and appropriate compensation and benefits as determined by the elder(s).

D. Associate or assistant pastors

1. Ministries

- a. An associate or assistant pastor shall minister unto the Lord in regular personal worship and praise. He shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and prayer and seek to walk uprightly before the Lord in his personal life. He shall seek the mind of God. (Acts 6:4)
- b. The senior pastor shall define an associate or assistant pastor's ministry upon his appointment. He shall serve under the senior pastor's direction and with the senior pastor in the teaching of the Word.

2. Qualifications (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

An associate or assistant pastor shall meet the same qualifications as the senior pastor.

3. Appointment

The senior pastor shall have authority to appoint and dismiss an associate or assistant pastor(s).

4. Compensation

The associate or assistant pastor's compensation shall be specified by the senior pastor and approved by the elders at the time of calling. For a vocational associate or assistant pastor, the church shall provide, as possible, adequate salary, housing allowance, health insurance, expense allowance, pension, conference and continued education funds, and vacation time. For a part-time assistant pastor, the church shall provide as seems appropriate to the elder(s).

5. Potential termination

It shall be the prerogative of the senior pastor to ask for the resignation of associate or assistant pastor if he is not in harmony with the ministry of the church as directed by the senior pastor.

E. Secretary

The secretary shall keep a full and complete record of all the proceedings of the board of directors; shall keep the seal of the corporation and affix it to such papers as may be required in the regular course of business; shall supervise the keeping of records of the minutes; and shall discharge such other duties of the office as prescribed by the elder(s).

F. Treasurer

The treasurer shall oversee the receiving and safe keeping of all funds of the church and deposit them in the bank or banks that may be designated by the elder(s).

XI. RITES OF ORDINATION

A. Principles of Ordination

1. A candidate for ordination recognizes that only our Sovereign Holy God can truly call and ordain His children for service in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. The calling of a minister is not the result of a title; rather the title is a result of His calling. This calling is recognized as from the true and living God.
3. It is man's privilege, and specifically the privilege of the overseers of the true church of Jesus Christ, to ratify the ordination of God when such is obviously placed upon a man's life.

B. Qualifications for ordination

1. A candidate for ordination must be a 'born again' believer in Jesus Christ. (I Peter 1:23)
2. A candidate for ordination must subscribe to the statement of faith as described in this constitution.
3. A candidate should have evidenced the obvious calling of God upon his life to the satisfaction of the elder(s).

C. Procedure of Ordination

1. Each person fulfilling the above qualifications and upon their presentation to the elder(s) of this body, will receive full consideration for ordination into the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by Grace Fellowship of Mountain Home, Inc.
2. Upon unanimous approval of the elder(s), the candidate will be ordained as a minister of the gospel with the right to perform ministerial functions in accordance with the laws of the land and the ordinances of God's holy Word, with all prerogatives of such a calling and office.
3. All candidates, approved or otherwise, will be notified of the board's decision in writing within one week of the final elder(s) action.

XII. AUXILIARIES

Any organization, group, or club whose membership is primarily for a church activity, shall be considered an auxiliary of the church and shall be subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the church. As an auxiliary organization it shall exist only in cooperation with the senior pastor and/or elders.

XIII. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended or repealed by new By-Laws adopted by the majority vote of the elders at an annual business or special meeting.

XIV. ANNUAL ACCOUNTING PERIOD

The annual accounting period for this church shall begin on the first day of January, and shall end on the last day of December each year.

XV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Execution of documents

The elder(s) may authorize by unanimous vote any agent or agents to enter into a contract or execute any instrument in the name of, and on behalf of, the church. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized, no officer, agent, or other person shall have any power or authority to bind the church by any contract or engagement, or to pledge its credit or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.

B. Inspection of By-Laws

The church shall keep in its principal office the original (or a copy) of its Constitution and By-Laws, as amended to date, certified by the secretary, which shall be open to inspection by the members at reasonable times.

C. Construction of definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, the general provisions rules of construction and definitions contained in the Idaho General Nonprofit Corporation Law shall govern the construction of these By-Laws.

D. Rules of order

The Bible and the rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order, revised, shall be the general guide to govern all business board meetings of the church.

 Jack Hurley, President
 Grace Fellowship

Date: _____

 Michael F. Morris, Secretary
 Grace Fellowship

Date: _____

 Robert E. Neubauer, Treasurer
 Grace Fellowship

Date: _____