

CHARLOTTE GRACE ONE CHRIST CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. PURPOSE AND STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. Purpose

We are a family that magnifies God through Gospel-transformed lives, grace-overflowing community, and cross-cultural mission.

2. Statement of Faith

- **Bible:** We believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of God. It was written by individuals inspired by God and is God's revelation of Himself to humankind. It consists of 66 books, and it is without error in its content. It is man's authoritative and sufficient guide in all matters of faith and practice.
- **God:** We believe that there is one living and true God. He is the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. He exists in three Persons eternally as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each of whom is equal in power and glory.
- **Jesus Christ:** We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, and He is the Savior and the Lord of all who are saved. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is now sitting at the right hand of God interceding for all believers.
- **Holy Spirit:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is divine. He enables men to understand truth, and he exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church.
- **Salvation:** We believe that salvation is by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believers. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end.
- **Church:** We believe that a New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. The Church is the Body of Christ which includes the redeemed of all the ages from every tongue and people and nation.
- **Ordinances:** We believe that Baptism and The Lord's Supper are the only two ordinances established by the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose is to remind believers, through the symbolic expressions, about the salvation accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Future Things:** We believe that Christ will return at the end in glory and power, and there will be resurrection and judgment for both the redeemed and the unredeemed. The redeemed will enter eternal glory and the unredeemed will be condemned to eternal punishment.

ARTICLE II. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

All policies and decision making procedures shall be consistent with God's Word, the Scriptures.

1. Officers

All who serve as officers of the church and those who serve on church committees shall be members of this church. The officers shall be: Chair, Vice-Chair of the Elders Team, secretary, and Treasurer.

The senior pastor shall serve as chairman of the Elders Team. He presides over the meetings of the Elder Team and presides over plans and actions suggested to the Elders Team.

2. Elders

Qualifications:

The essential qualification of an elder is that of a godly character. **1** Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. **2** Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **4** He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. **5** (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) **6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. **7** He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. **1 Timothy 3:1-7**

6 An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. **7** Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. **8** Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. **9** He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. **Titus 1:6-9**

The nominee must have been an active member of the church for at least 2 years.

Responsibilities:

The elders oversee the worship, fellowship, witness, education, mission and ministry of the church. The elders model and teach biblical godliness, equip the saints for the work of the ministry, shape policy, pray, teach, uphold doctrine, oversee church discipline and shepherd the flock.

The Elders Team leads and shepherds the church body in all decision-making matters, which includes gathering the entire congregation for discussion, proposals, information, prayer, and/or voting (Acts 6 and 15) at times while at other times making decisions on the congregation's behalf (Acts 6; Acts 15; Hebrews 13:17; I Timothy 5:17; I Thessalonians 5:12).

Selection and term

Elders shall be selected by the Elder Selection Committee, comprised of the senior pastor as chairman of the committee, two elders from the Elders Team, current and last term's chairmen of deacons. Since Charlotte Grace One Christ Church currently has no elders, the Shepharding Team shall serve as the 1st Elder Selection Committee.

Elders Team shall have up to 3 pastoral elders and the number of lay elders shall be that plus one. The Elders Team shall reflect a fair representation of English speaking members and Chinese speaking members.

After serving a first 3-year term, a lay elder shall be eligible for continued service immediately. But after serving two consecutive terms, a lay elder shall be eligible for reinstatement to the Elders Team only after

the lapse of at least one year. In the event of any unexpected vacancies or unexpired terms of the lay elders on the Elders Team, the senior pastor shall nominate a lay elder from the Elder Body, which included all ordained elders who are on and off the Team, or go through the above selection process to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

Once one is ordained and/or installed as an elder, he remains an elder of the church until he (1) is removed in accordance with the Bylaws; (2) resigns; (3) is no longer a member of Charlotte Grace One Christ Church.

The pastoral elders will be nominated by senior pastor to the Elder Selection Committee for service on the Elders Team. Upon the unanimous recommendation of the Elder Selection Committee, the names shall be given to the church for approval.

After serving a three-year term, a pastoral elder shall be eligible for continued service immediately. In the event of any unexpected vacancies or unexpired terms of the pastoral elders on the Elders Team, the senior pastor shall nominate a pastoral elder and follow the above procedures to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

The lay elders shall be selected by the Elder Selection Committee who will pray and discuss whether those on the list meet the biblical qualifications of an elder and shall then contact and interview the candidates. If a person on the Elder Selection Committee is nominated as a candidate for the Elders Team and wishes to be considered for that position, he cannot continue to serve on the Elder Selection Committee.

Upon the unanimous recommendation of the Elder Selection Committee, the names of candidates shall be given to the church for approval.

Meetings

The Elders Team shall meet on a regular basis with notice of the regular meeting schedule given to the congregation. The Elders Team may have special meetings as needed and occasionally meet in emergency sessions.

A quorum shall consist of 2/3 of the members, and the Elders Team shall strive for unanimity among themselves in all decision matters. In the event where a vote is necessary on any issue, a decision would require a 2/3 majority of those voting.

The Elders Team shall call a joint meeting with the Deacons at least on a quarterly basis, and the Elders will decide what matters to bring to the joint meeting for discussion and voting. One of the lay elders will be selected by the Elders Team to chair such joint meetings.

3. Senior Pastor

The senior pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the church and shall be responsible for leading the church to fulfill the mission and purpose of the church biblically. A senior pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs.

Selection Process

When a senior pastor vacancy occurs, it becomes the spiritual leadership responsibility of the elders and the deacons to be a stabilizing influence for Grace One Church:

3.1. Call the church to intercessory prayer for the Holy Spirit's leadership and to schedule prayer meetings at regular intervals.

3.2 Form a committee of four (4) elders whose responsibility shall be to engage temporary speakers until an interim pastor is selected.

3.3 The Elders Team shall be responsible for the process of selecting an interim pastor until such time a new senior pastor is called by the church.

3.4 A recommendation from the Senior Pastor Selection Committee will constitute a nomination. The committee shall bring only one candidate at a time to the church members for their consideration. Election shall be by ballot, an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those voting being necessary for a choice. The senior pastor, thus elected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his request or the church's request.

The senior pastor may relinquish the office of Senior Pastor by giving the church a notice of at least two weeks before the time of resignation.

4. Deacons Qualifications

The essential qualification is that of a godly character. **8** In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. **9** They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. **10** They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. **11** In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. **12** A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. **1 Timothy 3:8-12**

The nominee must have been an active member of the church for at least 1 years.

Selection and Term

The Elders Team shall present nominees for deacon at a church meeting for approval. Deacons shall serve on a rotation basis for a three-year term. After serving a term of three years, a deacon shall be eligible for serving on deacon board again only after the lapse of at least one year. Their task is to serve with the pastor, elders and ministerial team in performing the pastoral ministries tasks of leading the church in the achievement of its mission and purpose, and in caring for the church's members and other persons in the community.

Deacons shall annually elect a chairman, vice-chairman and other officers which are determined as needed by the deacon fellowship.

5. Committees

Upon recommendation of the Elders Team, the church may form standing or ad hoc committees that may be necessary to perform relevant administrative or operational tasks.

ARTICLE III. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. Eligibility

A person may become a member in this church by profession of faith and by baptism according to the policies of this church, or by statement of prior conversion experience and baptism.

The church reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

2. New Member Orientation

A person who comes by profession of faith or statement shall complete a new member orientation if desiring for church membership. Upon completion of the orientation and all other requirements for church membership, the candidate shall become a church member. This member status shall be reported by the church clerk at the next annual church meeting.

3. Rights

Only active members of the church have the privilege to vote at elections and on any questions submitted to the church in a scheduled or a specially called church meeting.

Only active members of the church are eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for leadership positions and committees in the church.

4. Responsibilities

Every member is expected to be an active participant in the ministry of Grace One Church by: attending worship, attending a Bible study class, staying active in a Sunday morning service ministry, praying for the church and its leadership, giving financial support, serving in the ministry areas for which they are gifted.

5. Discipline

This church shall take every reasonable measure to restore any unrepentant and/or disruptive member gently. Should certain serious condition with a member exist which would become detrimental to the welfare of the church, the elders will take every measure to resolve the problem in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17 and other scriptures.

If it becomes necessary to remove a member from membership, a unanimous assent of the Elders Team in an official meeting is required.

ARTICLE IV. CHURCH ORDINANCES

1. Baptism

This church shall baptize any person who has received Jesus Christ as savior by faith and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord.

A person's baptism shall be by immersion in water upon completing baptism training classes by the church. The senior pastor, or whomever he shall authorize, shall administer baptism.

2. Communion

The church shall observe Communion monthly, and at such other times as the senior pastor deems appropriate. The senior pastor or his designee shall administer the Communion. All who know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will be invited to participate.

ARTICLE V. PURCHASING AND SELLING REAL PROPERTY

1. Purchasing Real Property

Property may be purchased by the approval of two-thirds of the members voting in a special church

meeting or an annual meeting.

2. Acquiring Loan

The church may borrow and pledge the assets of the church as collateral of the loan by approval of two-thirds of members voting in a special church meeting or an annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI. FINANCE, MEETINGS AND MINISTRIES

(To be completed)

ARTICLE VII. AMMENDIMENTS

(To be completed)

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