

## **Name**

The official name of this body of believers that God has called together to meet in Dillon, Montana shall from this time forward be known as:

**“Grace Bible Church”**

## **Purpose Statement of Grace Bible Church**

We the people of Grace Bible Church believe that by accepting God’s eternal gift of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ, we now have a personal relationship with Him. Because of this relationship, we are to obey the following two great commandments given to us in His Holy Word.

Matthew 22:37-40 commands us to **Be** two things:

Humble - By loving God with all our heart, soul and mind

Obedient - By loving others as ourselves

Matthew 28:19-20 commands us to **Do** three things:

Tell others about God’s love and grace so they can accept Him.

Disciple new believers so they can become mature.

Equip mature believers so they can serve and reproduce this purpose.

To fulfill these commandments we believe that Grace

Bible Church exists for the purpose of:

Being **Humble** and **Obedient** to the Lord Jesus Christ and **telling** others about His love and forgiveness, with the purpose of **Winning** the lost to Jesus Christ. **Building** up new believers to be mature in their faith. **Equipping** mature believers to minister and reproduce this purpose.

### **Doctrinal Statement of Faith**

Grace Bible Church stands firm and without compromise on the following doctrinal statements based on the Word of God.

1. We believe the Scriptures, including both the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error, and are the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of man, and the Divine and final authority for the Christian faith and life.(2 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. We believe in one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4, Matt 28:19)
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross as the sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Furthermore, He rose bodily from the dead on the third day and ascended into Heaven where He sits at the right hand of God and is now our High Priest and Advocate. (Philippians 2:5-8, Colossians 1:15, Matthew 1:18-25, 1 Peter 2:23-

24, Matthew 28:1-6, Mark 16:19, Hebrews 9:24, 1 John 2:1-2)

4. We believe at the moment of salvation, we receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which is the third Person of the Godhead, and are sealed until the day of redemption. We believe that every Christian is commanded of God to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20, Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30, 5:18)
5. We believe that God has given to every believer spiritual gifts for the purpose of edifying the church. When these spiritual gifts are properly used according to the scriptures, the focus will be on glorifying God and not on self-edifying of the individual believer. Although no specific verses tell us when these spiritual gifts will end, the scripture does give very clear directions as to the purpose and criteria for use of these gifts. All use of gifts at Grace Bible Church will be in direct accordance with these principles and guidelines so as not to create confusion in this body of believers. (1 Corinthians 12-14, Ephesians 4:11-16)
6. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and now, therefore, is lost. Only through confession of our sin and believing that Jesus Christ is Lord can salvation and eternal life now be obtained. (Genesis 1:26, 2:7, Romans 5:12, 3:23, Romans 10:9-11)
7. We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only means for

justification and salvation to all who believe. Only those who receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are born of the Holy Spirit and have thus become the children of God. (Colossians 1:13-14, Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 3:24-25, John 1:12)

8. We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ, of which He is the Head. (Ephesians 1:20-23, 5:23, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14,)
9. We believe in the personal, pre-millennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that this belief should have a vital bearing on the personal life and service of each believer. We recognize there are differing views on the timing of the pre-millennial rapture. We give each other Christian liberty and respect in this matter. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, Revelation 20:2-7, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52)
10. We believe in an eternal state of hell for the lost and an eternal state of heaven for the saved and both are conscious and everlasting. (Mark 9:43-48, Revelation 20:15, 22:3-5, Matthew 25:46)
11. We believe that baptism is an outward testimony of the inward work of salvation in the believer. It is not a part of salvation, and it does not add to the believer's salvation, but it does attest to the faith and obedience which the believer has placed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To fulfill the meaning of baptism as the believer sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus

Christ, we believe that the scriptural mode of baptism is by immersion in water (Romans 6:3-5, Matthew 3:6, John 3:23, Colossians 2:12, Acts 8:36-39)

12. We believe that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance and not a sacrament. It is to be shared in only by those who are consciously in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ by faith. The Lord's Supper shall be served to the assembled church by one of the Pastors or church leaders, or someone authorized by the Pastor or church leaders based on the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3. All who have been born again by God's grace through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross, and who are living in accordance with 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 are welcome at His table. (Luke 22:1-20, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, 1 Timothy 3:1-16)

13. We believe that the only marriage prescribed in God's Word is the joining of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24; Rom 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23). We believe God has commanded that intimate sexual activity be engaged in only within a Biblically recognized marriage. Gen 2:24, 19:5-7 and 13, 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29, I Cor. 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

### **Church Covenant**

Having received Christ Jesus as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized according to scripture, and being in support of the doctrinal statement of this church, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the family of

Grace Bible Church of Dillon. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the members of this church to do the following:

**1. I will protect the unity of my church**

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Rom. 14:19

**...By acting in love toward other members**

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. Jn. 13:35

**...By refusing to gossip**

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Eph. 4:29

**...By submitting to those in authority**

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. Heb. 13:17, Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1

**2. I will share the responsibility of the church**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Rom. 12:1

**...By praying for its spiritual growth**

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 1 Thess. 1:2

**...By inviting the community to attend**

And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. Luke 14:23

**...By warmly receiving those who visit**

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Rom. 15:7

### **3. I will serve the ministry of my church**

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, 1 Tim. 1:12

#### **...By ministering through my gifts and talents**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

#### **...By being equipped by my Pastors and teachers to serve**

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, Eph. 4:11-12

#### **...By developing a servants heart**

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

### **4. I will support the testimony of my church**

We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 2 Cor. 6:3

#### **...By attending faithfully**

not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Heb. 10:25

#### **...By living a godly life**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Cor. 5:17

#### **...By giving regularly**

Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. 1 Cor. 16:1-2

I commit to love each other, pray for each other, encourage each other, admonish each other, greet each other, serve each other, teach each other, accept each other, honor each other, bear each other's burdens, forgive each other, sing to each other, submit to each other, and be devoted to each other.

## **Membership**

**Eligibility** Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and supporting the views of faith and practice held by this church as set forth in the Doctrinal Statement of Faith and Church Covenant is eligible for membership in Grace Bible Church.

**Admission** Persons may be received into church membership in the following ways:

1. By profession of faith and subsequent baptism by immersion.
2. By letter of transfer from a Bible Believing church of like faith.
3. By testimony of salvation and previous baptism by immersion.
4. By restoration.

Anyone presenting themselves for membership by one of the above ways must first attend our membership class. This class will inform all potential members of what membership means, the purpose of our church, the structure and statements of our doctrinal beliefs and covenant.

All prospective members age 16 and older will receive a copy of our church constitution to review with prayer and

study to determine if they are interested in joining with our membership.

As a member of Grace Bible Church, you may have the opportunity to be involved in the following ways to edify the whole body of believers: Serve as Elder or Deacon, in a Staff position, or as a Sunday school teacher, youth worker, nursery worker or other posted positions. You will also be able to take part in the nomination process and participate in church business meetings.

**Discipline** Every member is responsible to carry out the commands in:

Galatians 6:1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Matthew 18: 15-20 If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

Matthew 5:23-24

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

When any member fails to live in accordance with the covenant and constitution of this church:

1. After every effort has been made to be reconciled, church discipline will be exercised. Church discipline shall be cause for dismissal from church membership. Members excluded or dropped from membership will be warmly restored to membership whenever they give satisfactory evidence of repentance.
2. After loving, concerned follow-up, continued inactivity shall be a cause for dismissal from church membership. Those dropped will be added by request with evidence of regular attendance.
3. In either situation, a formal gracious letter written by the Pastor on behalf of the church leadership and congregation will be sent to anyone whose name has been removed. The letter will state both the cause and steps required to be restored to the fellowship at Grace Bible Church.
4. The procedures for church discipline will be modeled after Matthew 18:15-20 in gentleness and humility with the goal of loving reconciliation and unity.

**Termination:**

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Members of good and regular standing who wish to join with another church of like faith and practice will be granted a letter of transfer upon their request to the church leadership.

Members of good and regular standing who wish to join with another church of different faith will be granted a letter of standing upon their request to the church leadership.

Members who are terminated by discipline or inactivity will be granted a letter as described in the preceding section. (# 3 above)

### **Government**

The government of Grace Bible Church is based upon the following biblical principles:

1. Jesus Christ is the head of the church. Eph. 1:22, Eph. 5:23
2. Pastors/Elders shall be overseers of the church's spiritual shepherding needs. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3
3. Deacons shall serve the church's physical needs. 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:3
4. Church members shall participate in part concerning church business. Acts 6:1-7

### **Church Meetings**

The membership may be called together by the church

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leadership to conduct legitimate church business. Notice of such meeting shall be given at least two Sunday services preceding the day appointed. Meetings shall be governed by Christian respect, kindness and integrity.

There shall be an annual business meeting held in January to present information concerning the yearly church budget, and any new appointments of Elders or Deacons. The leadership shall present the vision, new programs, and any ministry updates at the annual business meeting and throughout the year as needed.

### **Selection of church leadership**

Members, who have attained the age of 16 years old, have the privilege to participate in the nomination of church leadership, based on the example in Acts 6:1-7. When additional Elders or Deacons need to be selected, a list of qualifications will be distributed to all church members. These qualifications will be based on 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Acts 6:3-4, and Titus 1:5-9. The following process will take place in this selection:

1. The church members will nominate qualified men.
2. The Pastor and Elders will have two weeks to pray and review the qualifications of a candidate.
3. The Pastor and Elders will choose a candidate from those nominated and present them to the church members.
4. The church members will then have two weeks to pray and if needed, present any biblical reasons why a candidate is not qualified.

5. If any biblical reasons are presented to disqualify a candidate they will be reviewed by the Pastor and Elders, at which time the candidate, if found to be unqualified, will be removed from consideration and another candidate may be selected and presented.
6. If no biblical reasons are presented for disqualification, the Pastor and Elders will appoint this candidate into his position.

In the selection of a Pastor, the above procedure will be followed with the exception of the following:

He will be asked to spend at least one weekend at the church, in which he will teach, preach during the morning service, and have an informal question and answer time with the church membership as a whole.

### **Elder Governance with Whole Church Involvement**

All other authority for matters such as discipline, appropriations of all monies, employees and supervision of sub-organizations, shall be vested in the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders will present to the church membership information concerning the business of the church at the annual business meeting. The church membership will have the opportunity to present any ideas and input for evaluation by the Board of Elders in making decisions concerning the business of the church.

### **Grace Bible Church Leadership**

#### **Pastor Elder**

**Call:**

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1. The Senior Pastor shall be chosen according to the principles and qualifications set forth in Acts 6:4, 1 Tim. 3:1-7, and Titus 1:5-9.
2. The Board of Elders shall present to the congregation a candidate for Senior Pastor after careful prayer, examination and investigation. A candidate must be in full agreement with the Statement of Faith and be willing to work under the present Constitution and Covenant of this church.
3. Each candidate recommended by the Board of Elders shall be presented and settled by the church before another is invited.
4. The Senior Pastor's salary, allowances, vacation, etc. will be discussed with the prospective Pastor and shall be specified in the written call. His salary, allowances, vacations, etc. shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Elders.

### **Duties:**

The Senior Pastor will oversee the care of the congregation in these areas:

1. Teaching the Word of God and prayer – Act 6:4
2. Shepherding the congregation – 1 Peter 5:2
3. Leading the congregation – Heb. 13:7 and 1 Cor. 11:1

### **Accountability:**

As a servant leader, the Senior Pastor is accountable not only to the Lord, who is the head of the church, but also to the Board of Elders and to the congregation in general.

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## **Discipline:**

The duration of the Senior Pastor's ministry shall be indefinite, and may only be terminated by the following ways:

1. The Pastor having given six weeks' notice.
2. The church terminating the Pastor for one or more of the following reasons:
  - a. His doctrinal position is no longer in accord with the church's Statement of Faith.
  - b. His life, morally, financially, or his general public behavior, is of such a nature which discredits the office and degrades God and the church.
  - c. The Board of Elders deems it beneficial to the spiritual welfare of the church.

An accusation against the Pastor must be made in writing, submitted to the Board of Elders and signed by the accuser(s), according to the principles set forth in 1 Tim. 5:19.

No Pastor shall be dismissed by the church without being granted an opportunity for personal defense of charges made.

If an occasion should arise that the Pastor is terminated immediately by the church, the church shall grant a minimum of one month's honorarium.

## **Pastor Elder – Associates**

As the church grows, it may be necessary to add full or part-time associate pastoral leadership to work with and under the leadership of the Senior Pastor. The

principles and procedures set forth above will be followed with the exception of the following:

**Duties:**

A job description will be developed by the Senior Pastor in cooperation with the Board of Elders.

**Accountability:**

Each Associate is considered to be part of the Senior Pastor's Team and as such is accountable directly to the Senior Pastor.

**Elders – Lay Persons**

Spiritual care and oversight of the congregation is to be a team effort. Men who serve on the Board of Elders as lay persons will be partners with the Pastoral Elders and will be equally honored and respected by the congregation.

It is recommended that the number of Elders not be less than three and that the addition of Elders should be considered as the spiritual needs of the church grow. The Pastor and Elders will determine additions to the Board of Elders. No one will be able to serve in the position of both Elder and Deacon during the same time period.

Within the Board of Elders, one member shall be appointed as the chairman who will oversee the general operation of this board in cooperation with the Pastor Elder. One member shall be appointed as the clerk, who will take minutes at all meetings and keep records of board business.

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**Qualification:** Elders must meet the qualification set forth in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Acts 6:4.

**Selection:** The process of the selection and appointment of Elders is defined in the section titled Government.

**Duties:**

1. To be men of Godly integrity committed to the Biblical qualifications of an Elder and faithful in personal spiritual disciplines. They are first and foremost to be an example for the congregation to follow.

2. To meet faithfully with the Pastor Elders as needed as a team to give spiritual oversight and direction to the church including time to pray together and to be equipped together. They will require a minimum of one meeting a month.

3. To have a ministry of equipping and multiplying as assigned by the Pastor Elders in the form of teaching responsibilities.

4. To be a disciple-maker seeking to share Christ and disciple those who have come to Christ or mentor those who need leadership training.

5. To be available to offer counsel and/or comfort to those in our congregation who are going through difficult times.

**Term of Service:**

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Each Elder will serve for a minimum of three years at which time they would be eligible to serve again for another three year term. There will be no maximum number of terms an Elder is eligible to serve. Their ministry is to be reviewed by Pastors and Elders every three years. Any reappointments will be presented to the congregation.

### **Discipline:**

The following are considered sufficient reasons for the church to discipline or terminate an Elder:

1. His doctrinal position is no longer in accord with the church's Statement of Faith.
2. His life, morally, financially, or his general public behavior, is of such a nature which discredits the office and degrades God and the church.
3. The Pastor, and Board of Elders, deems it beneficial to the spiritual welfare of the church. An accusation against the Elder must be made in writing, submitted to the Pastor or Board of Elders and signed by the accuser(s), according to the principles set forth in 1 Tim. 5:19.

The church shall not dismiss an Elder without him first being granted an opportunity for personal defense of charges made.

### **Deacons**

Based on Acts 6:1-7 Deacons are to assist the Elders and serve the congregation in meeting practical and material needs.

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It is recommended that the number of Deacons not be less than three and that the addition of Deacons should be considered as the physical needs of the church grow. The Elders with input from the Deacons will determine additions. No one will be able to serve in the position of both Elder and Deacon during the same time period.

One Deacon may be appointed as the clerk, who will take minutes at any Deacon meetings and keep records. The clerk may also serve as the official church clerk at all church business meetings.

**Qualification:**

Deacons must meet the qualification set forth in 1 Tim. 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3.

**Selection:**

The process of the selection and appointment of Deacons is defined in the section titled Government.

**Duties:**

1. To be men of Godly integrity committed to the Biblical qualifications of a Deacon and faithful in personal spiritual disciplines. They are first and foremost to be an example for the congregation to follow.
2. Care for the practical needs of our widows, orphans, and those in need of benevolence.
3. Assist the Elders as needed with communion, baptism and other major events requiring practical help.

4. Meet and keep records as the need arises or when requested by the Pastor or Elders.

5. Care for the church facilities, grounds and buildings.

6. They will be accountable to the Elders as well as to the church in general.

**Term of Service:**

Each Deacon will serve for a minimum of three years at which time they would be eligible to serve again for another three year term. There will be no maximum number of terms a Deacon is eligible to serve. Their ministry is to be reviewed by Pastors and Elders every three years. Any reappointments will be presented to the congregation.

**Discipline:**

The following are considered sufficient reasons for the church to discipline or terminate a Deacon:

1. His doctrinal position is no longer in accord with the church's Statement of Faith.

2. His life, morally, financially, or his general public behavior, is of such a nature which discredits the office and degrades God and the church.

3. The Pastor and Board of Elders deem it beneficial to the spiritual welfare of the church.

An accusation against a Deacon must be made in writing, submitted to the Pastor or Board of Elders and

signed by the accuser(s), according to the principles set forth in 1 Tim. 5:19.

No Deacon shall be dismissed by the church without being granted an opportunity for personal defense of charges made.

### **Church Staff**

In order to enable Elders, Deacons, and the church as a whole to operate and administer the day-to-day activities it may be necessary to secure volunteer, full or part-time staff as needed. These positions may include but are not limited to custodial care, office personnel, and ministry directors (not functioning as Elders). Ministry directors are those who would oversee certain specialized ministries such as women's, men's or youth programs.

All persons who serve in a leadership or teaching role must be members of the church and shall be approved by the Elder Board.

### **Procedures:**

The Senior Pastor in cooperation with the Board of Elders will be responsible for identifying the on-going staff needs and will make recommendations for the addition and/or removal of paid staff. The Pastor, Elders or Deacons, depending on the area of need, will develop a job description.

Approval for additional staff will come from the Pastor and Elder Board and will then be presented to the church membership. The members would then have a

two-week period to bring any biblical concerns before the Elders. If no concerns are brought forth, the staff member would be approved for their position.

Wages, vacations, and insurance packages will be discussed and approved by the Elders and will be reviewed annually.

The ongoing review of all church staff will be the responsibility of the Elders. Areas of review will be, purpose, performance, budgetary constraints, wages, vacations, insurance, spiritual testimony. If a staff member must be removed, a two-week notice will be given and any medical benefits will continue for two months. A staff member may be removed immediately if their testimony is such that it would hurt the testimony of the church if that person were allowed to continue.

### **Staff Requirements:**

1. All church staff are to be born again, baptized believers and members of Grace Bible Church, unless a specific exception is approved by the Elders.
2. All church staff must show evidence of spiritual maturity and be supportive of the Constitution and Doctrinal Statement of Grace Bible Church.
3. All new positions will first be posted in writing to the church members before candidates are interviewed and chosen.
4. The Board of Elders shall approve all church staff hiring and firing.
5. All staff will be supervised by the Pastor.

### **Property and Finances**

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## **Property:**

The right to any property that may be acquired by Grace Bible Church shall be and remain vested in this body of believers. No profit from the assets, the holdings or other transactions in which this church may become involved shall ever accrue to the benefit of any individuals.

## **Audit:**

An annual audit or review of the church's finances shall be conducted. The audit or review may be conducted by the church treasurer and possibly others from the congregation with accounting experience or by professional accountants hired for this purpose.

## **Treasurer:**

The church treasurer shall be selected from among the Deacons. He shall be responsible for monthly review of the following activities concerning the church finances:

1. Collection of all monies
2. Deposits and receipts
3. Payment of all bills
4. General bookkeeping
5. Church accounts and budget

The treasurer will be accountable to the Board of Elders.

## **Budget:**

A proposed budget shall be prepared by the Elders and then presented to the church. The church membership

will have the opportunity to review the budget during the following two weeks. If for any reason any member feels there is a biblical reason the budget needs to be changed or corrected they can contact any Elder with these concerns. The budget will then be finalized and presented at the annual church business meeting.

The Board of Elders shall have authority to sell, lease, give away or dispose of church property in any manner not to exceed \$5000.00 in value. Any expenses, gifts or property disposal in excess of \$5000.00 for any unbudgeted item shall require presentation before the church prior to obligating the expense, gift or property disposal.

### **Finances:**

All checks written from the church checkbook shall require two signatures. The authorized signatures shall be the Treasurer, the Elder over finance and/or two other signatures from among the Deacons and Elders.

### **Auxiliary Organizations**

An auxiliary organization is any group operating under the auspices of the church. No auxiliary organization shall be formed without the approval of the Pastor and Board of Elders. All officers of such organization shall be members of Grace Bible Church in good standing. All monies received by such organizations shall be deposited with the church by the end of each month for deposit in the church bank account. Money may be used for the operation of such organization with the approval of the Board of Elders.

## **Affiliations**

Grace Bible Church shall be known as an independent Bible Church with no official affiliations with any local or national group or organizations. This distinction shall not prohibit Grace Bible Church from participating in or with any other group or organization as long as this participation is not in conflict with our purpose, or doctrinal statement of faith. The approval to participate with other groups or organizations shall come from the Pastor and Board of Elders.

## **Amendments**

These articles may be changed or amended at any regular monthly business meeting of the Board of Elders with the approval of the Pastor and Board of Elders with no less than 1 month's notice of such change. Any suggested changes shall be made known publicly to the church members either verbally or in writing for two consecutive weeks prior to the regular monthly business meeting of the Board of Elders. The members will have the opportunity to review and give input to the Pastor or Elders during this time. Any and all changes to these articles shall be presented to the church membership.

## **Dissolution Clause**

No part of the assets or net earnings of Grace Bible Church shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, Pastor or officer; nor shall any private individual be entitled to share in the distribution of corporate assets. Upon dissolution, any assets of this church, after all debts have been paid, must be distributed to one or

more organizations of like faith and practice organized exclusively for religious and/or charitable purposes.