



CONSTITUTION

of

**Grace Fellowship Baptist Church
of Port Saint Lucie, Florida**

Revised June of 2003

PREAMBLE

Having placed our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, accepting the entire Scriptures as our only authority for faith and practice, and holding to the historic Baptist distinctives and practices, we therefore band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ and adopt our government, plan for worship and service according to the following Constitution and rescind all previous contrary actions.

ARTICLE 1 Church Name

This Church shall be known as Grace Fellowship Baptist Church.

ARTICLE 2 Character of Government

The government of this church is vested in the membership. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, yet it recognizes and supports the obligation for mutual counsel, fellowship and cooperation with other churches who hold the basic principles of our Doctrinal Statement. There shall be no cooperation with any group (including Charismatics or Neo-Evangelicals) that permits the presence of apostasy, apostates, or compromise, or that endorses groups that permit the presence of the same.

**ARTICLE 3
MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Grace Fellowship Baptist Church
is to honor God by producing fully
devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Objectives

1. Worship God Publicly.
2. Study and obey the Bible.
3. Participate in true biblical fellowship.
4. Communicate the message of Christ.

Strategy

1. Worship is the manifestation of our respect, awe, and love for God. We will seek to praise God and encourage other people to do the same.
To fulfill this we will:
 - Maintain regular times of assembly which will include teaching of the scripture, regular observance of communion and baptism, and allow for active, response in music, readings, prayer, and giving.
 - Encourage personal preparation for worship.
 - Provide opportunity for public testimony of faith and blessing in Jesus Christ.
2. Education includes the entire process of instruction and training for a person to grow in their understanding of the Scriptures. The goal is that we might be properly motivated and equipped to obey what has been learned.
To fulfill this we will:
 - Train people in the personal spiritual disciplines of Bible study, prayer, Scripture memory, and meditation.
 - Recruit and train teachers with knowledge of the Scriptures, maturity in personal application, and teaching ability.
 - Provide opportunities for discussion of the Scriptures.
3. Fellowship is sharing our lives and our resources to promote spiritual growth, serve God effectively, and care for those in need.
To fulfill this we will:
 - Structure programs which encourage mutual openness and accountability.
 - Encourage the use of spiritual gifts.
 - Monitor the needs and concerns of members by encouraging individual and joint effort to meet those needs.
4. Outreach is the effort to communicate the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ as clearly and compellingly as possible, to as many people in as many places as can be accomplished

with our resources of time, personnel, and finances.
To fulfill this we will:

- Train people to share their faith clearly.
- Create programs designed to communicate the gospel in group settings.
- Support world wide mission programs with financial resources, personal involvement, and prayer.

ARTICLE 4

Membership Covenant

Revised November 14th 2007

"My commitment to God and His Church"

I have surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, and know that He is my Savior. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit I came to understand and believe the Bible. Through God's love, and mercy and grace to me, I turned from my sin and found forgiveness and the sure promise of eternal life.

I have already confessed openly my surrender to Jesus by public testimony and baptism by immersion.

And now this covenant identifies me with Grace Fellowship Baptist Church as a local gathering of the Body of Christ. While I realize that this is a very serious commitment, it is with joy that I follow God's plan for my spiritual development and my service for Him. With the Bible as the final standard for conduct and the principles of this covenant as a guide, I now make the following commitment to God as well as to fellow believers.

I promise, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to cultivate and deepen my relationship with God by...

- Establishing and maintaining a pattern of personal and family devotions;
- Being faithful to pray, to worship, to seek God's strength and wisdom and to remember the needs of others;
- Avoiding anything which would lead my thinking in ways that are false or unholly; and making a sincere effort to give Christ priority in my life and follow the pattern of His teaching and example.

I promise, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to make my life and words a good testimony of Jesus Christ and His message of salvation, by...

- Training my children to love and respect God and His authority in their lives;
- Seeking the salvation of my family and acquaintances;
- Turning away from thoughts, acts and habits of sin to behavior that God considers righteous;
- Avoiding any activities which would dishonor our Lord, risk harm to myself or others, or discourage others from responding to Christ;
- Refraining from indulging in judgment impairing substances and things harmful to the body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit;
- Building a reputation of honesty, integrity, and moral purity, faithfulness and love.

- I promise**, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to support and encourage fellow believers by...
- Participating faithfully in times of assembly for worship, fellowship and observance of communion;
 - Providing mutual care for the needs of others;
 - Supporting the teaching of the Scriptures; receiving instruction and admonition with meekness;
 - Being slow to be offended and quick to seek any needed reconciliation without delay.
 - Supporting or submitting to disciplinary procedures according to the guidelines of Scripture as outlined in the constitution;
 - Contributing faithfully of my time, talents and money to the measure that Christ prospers me;
 - And doing all that I can to promote the growth of the whole body in unity, holiness, knowledge.

I promise that when I move from this congregation I will, as soon as possible, join with another local church of like faith where I can continue to fulfill the spirit of this covenant.

ARTICLE 5 Doctrinal Statement

1. We believe that the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are the 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. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21).
2. We believe that there is one living and true God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They are equal and perfect in every divine attribute, and execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19, II Corinthians 13:14, Revelation 4:11).
3. We believe that God the Father is spirit and that in the Godhead He occupies a functional but not a positional superiority, and that it is to the glory of the Father that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (John 5:37; John 14:16-17; Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:10-11).
4. We believe that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. We believe in His sinless life, miracles, and the truth of His teachings. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins having secured the salvation of all the Father has given Him, according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead and ascended into Heaven, where, at the right hand of the Father, He is now our High Priest and Advocate. (Matthew 1:23; Luke 24:38-39; John 6:36-40, Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 9:24; I Peter 2:24; I John 2:2).
5. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus, and to convict

men of sin, righteousness and judgment. He regenerates (gives spiritual life in Jesus Christ), sanctifies (sets apart for holy living), and indwells every believer. His ministry includes the provision of comfort, guidance, instruction, and enables men for godly living and service. The miraculous sign gifts given during the early days of the Church were for a special time and purpose, and not intended to be a pattern for the present day. (John 3:5-7; 16:8-11,14; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:7,13; II Corinthians 3:18; 12:12; Hebrews 2:1-4; 9:22).

6. We believe that man was created by God in His image. By willful transgression man fell into sin and thereby incurred not only physical death, but spiritual death, which is separation from God. All human beings are sinners by nature and choice, positively inclined to evil, and under the condemnation of a holy God. (Genesis 1:27; 3:1-6; 3:9-23; Psalm 14:1-3; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 5:10-19).
7. We believe that the death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only basis for the justification and salvation of all who believe. (I Corinthians 15:1-4)

Regeneration

Only those who are regenerated by the Holy Spirit receive Jesus Christ by faith, are the children of God, a relationship in which they are eternally secure; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel. The true evidence of this new relationship appears in fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life. (John 1:12,13; 3:3-8,16; 10:27-30; II Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; I John 3:6-7).

Repentance and Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour. (Acts 2:38, 11:18, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5-7)

Divine Sovereign Election

We believe that all men are totally depraved, without ability to come to God, and are hopelessly lost, but that God, in sovereign grace, and apart from any consideration of foreseen human merit or response, and in perfect consistency with human responsibility, chose some before the foundation of the world, to be recipients of His grace in Christ. As the Gospel is preached to all nations, these elect ones are caused to hear it and the Holy Spirit opens their hearts, so that they freely and gladly receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, thus becoming children of God. (I Corinthians 2:14, Ephesians 2:1-3, John 7:44,65; Acts 13:48; Romans 9:29-30; Ephesians 1:4-6.)

8. We believe that Satan, the prince of this world, is the open and declared enemy of God and man. He has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and he and all his cohorts will be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (Matthew 4:1-11; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10).
9. 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. The local church is a congregation of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized by immersion on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, spiritual training, fellowship and outreach. (I Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23; Hebrews 10:25).
10. We believe that the New Testament identifies two scriptural offices, those of pastor and deacon. (I Timothy 3:1-13; only one wife-no divorce).
11. We believe that two ordinances have been committed to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Water baptism by immersion soon after receiving Christ as personal Savior is a testimony of identification with Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper is a memorial service, setting forth in sacred and symbolic manner the death of the Lord Jesus Christ; all true believers, and only believers, should share in it. (Matthew 3:16; Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:28-32).
12. We believe in the personal, pretribulational premillennial and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ. This, our "blessed hope", has a vital bearing on our personal life and service. There will be a bodily resurrection of all the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, and of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting, conscious punishment. (John 5:28-29; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Revelation 20:11-15).
13. We believe that civil government has been divinely appointed for the good of society. Leaders are to be prayed for, honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the Scriptures. (Matthew 22:21; Acts 4:10-20; Romans 13:1,7).
14. We believe that the first institution established by God is the family. We commit ourselves to protect the marriage covenant between a man and woman, and maintain moral purity before and during marriage. Parents assume primary responsibility for the spiritual instruction and training for their children. (Genesis 1:27; 2:18; Malachi 3:13-15; Mark 10:7-9; Ephesians 6:4; Hebrews 13:4).
15. In subscribing to this Doctrinal Statement, we by no means set aside, or diminish any of the Scriptures of the Old, or New Testaments; all of which we believe to be God's own written Word given by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The knowledge and belief of the Truth as stated in our Doctrinal Statements we deem necessary to sound doctrine, and therefore essential for Christian fellowship.

ARTICLE 6 Membership

SECTION 1: Eligibility

The Membership of this church shall consist of persons who have received the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, have been baptized by immersion and have subscribed to the Membership Covenant and Doctrinal Statement.

SECTION 2: Application

Membership Instruction and/or Orientation is required prior to application. All applicants shall be interviewed by the Pastor(s) and Deacons with regard to testimony of personal salvation and commitment to spiritual growth. If these areas are found to be satisfactory, the applicant shall be recommended to the church for membership.

SECTION 3: Admission

After a favorable recommendation by the Deacons and a public profession of faith by the applicant, the church shall vote upon the applicants request for membership. Members may be received into the church by vote of the membership at any scheduled service or business meeting of the church by receiving a majority vote of those present. Membership will be formally recognized with the right hand of fellowship.

SECTION 4: Duties

- a. Members shall strive to keep their covenant obligations. They should honor and esteem their pastors, pray for them regularly and assist them in carrying out the ministries of the church. If at any time they find themselves opposed to the fundamental doctrines of this church (as described in the Doctrinal Statement), they will not seek to disrupt its fellowship, but will quietly withdraw from its membership.
- b. All members of the church are expected to attend its meetings, to work for its growth, to guard its good name in the community, and to keep the church office informed of their residence.

SECTION 5: Rights

All members shall have equal rights, except for the age limit on voting as stated in Article 11, Section 4. Members of the church have no property rights and upon termination of membership they shall be entitled to no interest in the assets of Grace Fellowship Baptist Church.

SECTION 6: Watch-care Fellowship

Watch-care Fellowship is provided for believers (not legal residents) in our city. Those who come under the Watch-care Fellowship enjoy all the privileges of membership with the exception of voting. Application and admission is the same as in Section 2 and 3 above.

SECTION 7 Honorary Fellowship

Honorary fellowship is provided to people who retire to another location, but desire to be kept on the mailing list of the church. Honorary membership enjoys all privileges of membership with the exception of voting. Full membership in another church of like faith is encouraged.

SECTION 8: Removal

A. Membership in this church may be terminated in any of the following ways by congregational vote.

1. Death of the member: No church action is required.
2. Request of the member: Requests must be in writing and the person cannot be under disciplinary action as outlined in #4 below.
3. Request from another church: For those members in good standing moving membership to another church of like faith, a letter of Christian character will be provided upon request of that church.
4. Discipline: All members have committed themselves to faithfully pursue spiritual growth, and have willingly become mutually accountable to one another. This commitment is not license to judge one another, but is a responsibility to actively encourage each other to remain obedient to the guidelines of Scripture. Should any member choose to reject the commands of the Bible, the church body should be actively involved in personally confronting and encouraging them to repent, make reconciliation or restitution when necessary, and resume obedience to God. (Matthew 11:15-17).

Unrepentant sin is cause for discipline, and these sins may typically be categorized as violations of Christian love, unity, law or truth (Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 5:11-13; 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; I Timothy 6:3-5; Titus 3:10). The disciplinary process progressively moves from personal confrontation, to confrontation with the inclusion of witnesses, to addressing the issue publicly with the entire church body. The goal of this process is always restoration of the individual, and must be done with a spirit of love and humility (Galatians 6:1.)

If at any point in the process the person repents, the process of discipline stops, and guidance for recovery and restoration is given. However, if the person continues to reject the counsel of the church, they would be removed from the church membership and lose the privilege of fellowship within the body (I Corinthians 5:13; II Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10). Even if the member involved in the disciplinary process requests their name be dropped from the membership, these disciplinary procedures will still be followed.

5. Inactivity. This process would follow the pattern of that for discipline (see above). Any member who has not attended the regular church services and supported the work of this church (unless providentially hindered) with some degree of regularity for a period of one year, shall be contacted by a deacon, and then placed on inactive membership status for a period of one year by a vote of the congregation. If at the conclusion of that time, they have not responded to the encouragement of the church body to resume active participation, their membership shall be dropped. Written notification shall be provided of this church action.

B. All removals from membership shall be by recommendation of the Deacons to the membership for vote.

ARTICLE 7 Elected Officers

A. PASTORAL STAFF

SECTION 1: Qualifications

The Pastor(s) of this church shall be men who have the character and spiritual giftedness identified as qualification in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 (only one wife-no divorce). They shall also be men who, even if not ordained and/or licensed by a Baptist Church, shall be in complete agreement with the Baptist distinctives of this church. They shall agree with and adhere to the basic doctrines of faith as defined by the Doctrinal Statement of the church. They shall fully support the Constitution and Membership Covenant of the church.

SECTION 2: Election

The pastoral office is regarded as a divine appointment and should not be lightly formed nor rudely severed.

a. The Senior Pastor shall be chosen by the membership according to the following process:

1. When a vacancy in the pastorate occurs a Pulpit Committee shall be formed. The committee shall consist of five members to include the chairman and one other deacon, the church clerk and two members elected by a vote of the congregation. The chairman of the deacons will serve as chairman of the Pulpit Committee and

will moderate any church meeting when considering calling a candidate.

2. The Pulpit Committee will be responsible to: (1) select and contact all pulpit supplies until the pastorate is filled and/or recommend an interim pastor for vote of the congregation; (2) investigate all potential candidates as to salvation, church membership, call to the ministry, training, experience, character, doctrine, agreement with this constitution; (3) interview the candidate and, if possible, visit his current ministry and interview those who know him by phone or in person; (4) present only one candidate at a time for the decision of the church. The results of the committee's work must be submitted to the church clerk in writing before the candidate can be voted on by the church.

3. A Pastor shall be selected by the membership in a business meeting for which an announcement has been made by public notice at two preceding Sunday morning services, or, the membership shall be notified by mail at least seven days prior to the election. The recommendation of the pulpit committee must be accepted by at least three-fourths of the quorum of voters (Article 11, Section 5) before a call can be extended.

b. Associate Pastors shall be chosen by the membership according to the following process:

Candidates for the position of Associate Pastor shall be recommended by the Pastor and Deacons and called in accordance to Article 7A, Section 2a 3.

SECTION 3: Duties

a. Senior Pastor

1. The Pastor's duties are, according to the Scriptures, the giving of himself to prayer, the ministry of the Word, the observance of the ordinances, the pastoral oversight of the flock, and the administration and spiritual welfare of the church.

2. In addition to his usual pastoral duties, he shall be an ex officio member of all organized groups and committees connected with the church. He shall have the privilege of requesting that meetings of the Deacons or committees be called when so needed.

3. In the sustained absence of the Pastor, an acting Pastor may be appointed by the Deacons. In the permanent absence of the Pastor, the Pulpit Committee may appoint another Pastor to serve in the interim until another Pastor is called.

4. All employees of the church are under the supervision of the Pastor; Associate Pastors directly and other employees directly or indirectly through the Associate Pastors.

b. Associate Pastors

1. The duties of the Associate Pastors are the giving of themselves to prayer, the observances of the ordinances, the ministry of the Word in their areas of responsibility, and the administration and spiritual welfare of the church. Each one shall be an ex officio member of all organized groups and committees of the church that relate to his specific area of responsibility.

2. The Associate Pastors shall be under the supervision of the Pastor, and each one shall supervise all personnel directly responsible to him in his own division of the ministry.

SECTION 4: Dismissal

In dismissing a Pastor, the procedure for notification in Section 2a3 above shall be followed. A Pastor shall give notice of at least one month of his resignation. The church shall give a notice of two months for dismissal, or two months dismissal pay, as determined by the Deacons.

B. DEACONS

SECTION 1: Qualifications and Eligibility

- a. Candidates for office of Deacon shall be men who have the qualifications identified in Acts 6:1-6 and in I Timothy 3:8-13, (only one wife-no divorce).
- b. All Deacons must uphold and support the Doctrinal Statements and Constitution of the church.
- c. All Deacons must be men twenty-one years of age or older, and must have been members of the church in good standing for at least six months prior to nomination.

SECTION 2: Election

Deacons shall be elected by the membership at the annual business meeting for one year terms or until such time as a successor is elected and assumes office. Deacon positions shall be added or removed by a vote of the congregation to maintain a number adequate for providing personal contact with and care for the membership. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to office according to the procedures regarding qualifications for voting, voting age, and quorum, as found in Article 11, Sections 3, 4, and 5. If the position of Deacon cannot be filled with Biblically qualified men it shall remain vacant.

SECTION 3: Duties

- a. Serve with the Pastor(s) in all matters relating to the spiritual interest of the church,
- b. Seek to assist the pastors in any area possible so they can devote themselves to the study of and teaching of the Word, and shepherding responsibilities,
- c. Engage actively in the work of the church,
- d. Provide spiritual help and encouragement for all members,
- e. Interview membership applicants regarding their spiritual experience and growth prior to recommendation for membership,
- f. Visit the sick,
- g. Distribute the elements of the Lord's Supper and assist with baptism,
- h. Consider grievances brought to them by any member,
- i. Discipline members according to the guidelines of Article 6, Section 8,
- j. Create and dismiss committees to further the work of the local church,
- k. Approve, with the Pastor, guest speakers, missionaries and programs for the church,
- l. Handle all the fiscal matters of the church,
- m. Have the right to spend not in excess of two percent of the annual budget for unbudgeted items without prior approval of the church,
- n. Handle memorial funds and have control of the benevolent fund,
- o. Provide for the maintenance and development of the property of the church, and,
- p. Appoint auditors to check the financial affairs of the church and present a report of their findings to the Deacons prior to the annual business meeting of the church. The auditors will, at the request of the Deacons, check the financial affairs of the church at any other time during the year and submit a report to the Deacons.

SECTION 4: Term of Office

Deacons will be elected to a term of office consisting of one year beginning immediately

upon election.

SECTION 5: Meetings

- a. The Deacons shall conduct regular meetings which will include prayer, discussions of the welfare of the church and any business which shall come before them.
- b. A Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary shall be elected from among the Deacons at the first meeting following the annual election.
- c. A special meeting of the Deacons may be called at the discretion of the Pastor, Chairman, or one third of the Deacons.
- d. A majority of Deacons shall constitute a quorum.
- e. It shall be the duty of the Chairman of the Deacons to preside at all business meetings of the church. In his absence the Vice-Chairman or Secretary will preside.

SECTION 6: Vacancies

Deacon vacancies may be filled for the unexpired term by recommendation of the Deacons and approval by the membership at the next quarterly business meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

SECTION 7: Discipline

Any Deacon whose conduct is such that it might bring reproach upon the church or who fails to administer his office in a reasonable manner (1 Timothy 3:1-3; Titus 1:7-9) shall be removed from office by the recommendation of the Deacons and a majority vote of the church quorum present at such a meeting.

ARTICLE 8
Appointed Officers

SECTION 1: Qualifications and Eligibility

- a. All officers must fully support the Doctrinal Statement and Membership Covenant. They must demonstrate exemplary qualities of Christian character and spiritual growth.
- b. All officers must be twenty-one years of age or older.
- c. All persons considered for appointed offices must be members in good and regular standing.

SECTION 2: Appointment and Duties

The Deacons shall appoint the following officers:

- a. Church Clerk: The Church Clerk shall keep accurate and permanent records of: business meetings of the church, baptisms, and a current membership register. The Clerk shall be prepared to present the minutes at all business meetings. If unable, a temporary clerk may be appointed by the chairman.
- b. Treasurer: The Treasurer will serve as a member of the Business Administration Committee and keep a clear, accurate and permanent record of all regular receipts and disbursements except for those handled by the Financial Secretary. Disbursements may be made only when authorized, and by check or electronic transfer. Quarterly and annual reports shall be presented to the church. The Treasurer shall be bonded, as soon as the church deems it necessary.
- c. Financial secretary: The Financial Secretary shall make provision to supply each member with suitable offering envelopes, receive, count and deposit, or caused to be received, counted and deposited, all monies; maintain an accurate record of all monies, keep a confidential record of tithes and offerings, and issue receipts to donors. Total amount of offerings will be reported to the treasurer weekly.
- d. Bible School Superintendent: The Bible School Superintendent will provide general oversight and promotion of the Bible School and perform all duties usually associated with such office. All teachers and officers shall be appointed annually upon the recommendation of the superintendent and approval of pastor and deacons. Approval of literature shall be the responsibility of the superintendent and deacons.
- e. Head usher: The Head Usher will be responsible for the ushering services at all regular and special meetings of the church. The Head Usher shall appoint ushers

as required.

SECTION 3: Terms of Office

The term of officers begin with the date of their appointment and shall be for a period of one year.

SECTION 4: Vacancies

Vacancies in any office other than Deacon shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Deacons and announced to the membership at a business meeting.

SECTION 5: Discipline

Any officer other than Deacon whose conduct is such that it might bring reproach upon the church, or who fails to administer responsibilities in a reasonable manner(1 Timothy 3:1-3 and Titus 1:7-9) shall be removed from office by the Deacons.

ARTICLE 9
Church Committees

The Deacons shall appoint members to such committees as are needed to effectively carry out the mission of the church. The term of appointment shall not be longer than one year. The membership shall be informed of church committee appointments. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Deacons shall appoint at least one Deacon as Chairman to each committee. The Vice-Chairman and other officers of the committee will be elected by the committee. All church committees are to make monthly informational reports to the Deacons. All committee policies will be approved by the Deacons.

ARTICLE 10
Auxiliary Organizations

No organization shall be formed nor considered as part of the church activities before its sponsors have submitted their plans to the Deacons for consideration and approval has been granted. Officers of all organizations shall be members in good standing of this church.

ARTICLE 11
Parliamentary Procedures

SECTION 1: Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary manual of this church to the extent not provided for in this constitution. If any part of Roberts Rules of Order shall be found to be inconsis-

tent with, or contradictory to the Constitution of this church, the Constitution of this church shall govern.

SECTION 2: Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of three Deacons and three members at large, elected at the first quarterly business meeting. The term of office of the Nominating Committee shall be one year. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to submit names of nominees for Deacons to be filled at the annual business meeting.

The nominating Committee shall receive and consider any nomination for the office of deacon by a member of voting age. The nomination is to be filed with the Nominating Committee at least two weeks before the end of the fiscal year. The committee must then determine if the nominee meets the qualifications of the office of deacon (Art. 7B, Sect. 1) and secure the consent of the nominee to have his name placed in nomination. The committee shall prepare ballots listing the nominees. The list of nominees will be made public on the Sunday 2 weeks preceding the annual meeting.

SECTION 3: Voting

All elections of Deacons shall be by secret ballot. All other voting at regular or special meetings of the church shall be conducted by visible or voice vote unless a secret ballot is requested by a member. A majority of members voting shall be required to pass the resolution or amendment under consideration according to Article 7, Section 2 and Article 12C, Section 3.

Absentee ballots shall be furnished upon request of members for all elections of Deacons and specifically announced business, if absence is unavoidable. The request for such ballot must be made to the Church Clerk by the Sunday prior to the business meeting, and the sealed ballot must be in the Clerk's hand prior to the vote.

SECTION 4: Voting Age

All active members in good standing (as pledged in the Membership Covenant), eighteen (18) years or older, shall have the right to vote at all meetings of the membership.

SECTION 5: Quorum

A quorum at all business meetings of the membership at which the calling or dismissal of a Pastor or Associate Pastor is to be considered, and/or amendment to the Constitution is to be considered, shall be thirty percent of the resident voting membership. In all other cases ten percent of the resident voting membership shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 6: Meetings

a. Regular and Stated Worship Services: The church will meet every Sunday and each mid-week for public worship, prayer, praise, teaching, and fellowship. On the first Sunday of

each month the Lord's Supper shall be observed unless other arrangements for its observance are made.

b. Regular Annual Business Meetings: The regular annual business meeting of the membership shall be held on the second Wednesday of May in each year at Grace Fellowship Baptist Church, at the time designated by the Deacons, at which time all matters relating to the church may be considered and acted upon. All reports of the various departments of the church shall be presented at the annual business meeting. A full and complete financial report of the affairs of the church for the preceding fiscal year shall be presented at the annual business meeting. At the annual business meeting Deacons shall be elected by the membership to replace those whose terms are to expire and/or where a vacancy exists.

If the annual business meeting will be held at any other day than the second Wednesday of May, the Deacons, will give public notice of the fact two Sundays prior, announcing the date and time of the meeting.

c. Regular Quarterly Business Meetings: The regular quarterly business meetings shall be held on the second Wednesday of August, November, and February at Grace Fellowship Baptist Church, at the time designated by the Deacons, at which time all matters relating to the church may be considered and acted upon. If the quarterly business meetings shall be held on any other day than the second Wednesday of August, November and February, the Deacons will give public notice of the fact two Sundays prior, announcing the date and time of the meeting.

d. Special Business Meetings: Special business meetings may be called at any time by the Pastor or Deacons, or (ten) unrelated members who request such a meeting of the chairman, at which time the matters for which the meeting is called may be considered and acted upon.

Notice of each special business meeting shall state the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, the date, place and the hour of the meeting. Notice of such meeting will be announced for two consecutive Sundays prior.

SECTION 7: Emergencies

In an emergency requiring immediate action regarding proposals other than those defined as legal transactions in Article 12, the Deacons shall act for the church, reporting promptly thereafter under the provision of Article 12C, Section 3.

SECTION 8: Fiscal Year

The business year shall close on the last day of April each year.

ARTICLE 12

Legal Transactions

A. STATUTORY OFFICERS

The legal and statutory officers of this church shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary of the Deacons and Treasurer.

B. DEACON APPROVED TRANSACTIONS

SECTION 1: Definition

"Legal Transactions Not Requiring Membership Approval" shall be defined as:

- a. The occurrence of any indebtedness for non-budgeted items, not in excess of two percent of the annual budget each year, in any one year.
- b. The purchasing and selling of non-real estate assets necessary for the ordinary operation of the church without dollar limit.

SECTION 2: Approval and Notification

The Deacons acting at a regular or special meeting, with the majority of the quorum acting, may enter into a "legal transaction not requiring membership approval" as defined above. Any two of the following persons may sign such legal documents in the name of Grace Fellowship Baptist Church: the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Secretary of the Deacons and the Treasurer. See Article 11, Section 5 for a definition of quorum. The Deacons shall report to the membership at the next quarterly business meeting all "legal transactions not requiring membership approval."

C. MEMBERSHIP APPROVED TRANSACTIONS

SECTION 1: Definition

"Legal Transactions Requiring Membership Approval" shall be defined as:

- a. The purchasing or selling of real estate of any dollar value or non-real estate assets with value in excess of two percent of the annual budget.
- b. The incurrance of any form of indebtedness with value in excess of two percent of the annual budget.

SECTION 2: Proposal of Resolution

"Legal Transactions Requiring Membership Approval" shall be presented to the membership in the form of a resolution only after a proposal is presented to the Deacons and approved by a majority of the quorum acting at a regular or special meeting. Any member may present a proposal regarding "legal transactions requiring membership approval" for Deacon consideration as a resolution.

SECTION 3: Notification

All resolutions regarding "legal transactions requiring membership approval" will be presented to the membership by either:

- a. Reading the resolution to the membership two consecutive Sunday mornings, including the date set for the business meeting to vote on the proposal.
- b. Mailing a notice to the membership at least seven days prior to the business meeting for action upon the resolution. Such notice will contain a typed or printed copy of the resolution.

SECTION 4: Approval

At a business meeting where a resolution regarding "legal transactions requiring membership approval" is to be voted upon, the voting shall be by secret ballot. If such a resolution is approved by the membership, any two of the following may sign such legal documents in the name of Grace Fellowship Baptist Church: the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary of the Deacons, or Treasurer.

ARTICLE 13 Disposition of Church Property

In the case of division of church membership, church property shall belong to those members who abide by this Constitution. In case of dissolution none of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or other individuals, but shall be irrevocably designated by corporate vote prior to dissolution to such other non profit religious corporations adhering to the purpose, covenant and doctrinal statement of this church, and in conformity with Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code, or corresponding section of any future Federal Tax code.

ARTICLE 14 Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any business meeting of this church by a quorum of thirty percent of the resident voting membership, providing that written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the members thirty days prior, or the proposed amendments have been read at services on two consecutive Sunday mornings.