

# **CONSTITUTION OF GRANDVIEW PINES BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **ARTICLE 1: THE NAME AND OBJECT OF THIS CHURCH**

**Section 1:** The name of this church shall be Grandview Pines Baptist Church

**Section 2:** The object of this church is to glorify God in the salvation of souls, the edification of the Christians through the teaching of God's Word, the World-wide proclamation of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the promotion of Godly worship, the defense of the "faith once delivered to the saints", to love one another and to cooperate with Christian activity functioning in harmony with God's Word.

## **ARTICLE II: AUTONOMY OF THIS CHURCH**

**Section 1:** This church will be and shall remain an Independent Baptist Church responsible only to our Lord. This Church shall never join, nor obligate itself as a member of any association, convention, World council nor national council of churches.

**Section 2:** This, being Article Two of this constitution, shall never be amended by any or all of the present or future members of this church, but shall be a permanent and binding part of this constitution.

## **ARTICLE III: DECLARATION OF FAITH**

**Section 1:** We believe in the Holy Scriptures: accepting fully the writings of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts, our infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice.

**Section 2:** We believe there is one God eternally existent in three persons: FATHER, SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

**Section 3:** We believe in the Deity of Christ: His Virgin birth; His shed blood for atonement; His bodily resurrection; His ascension into Heaven there to be our Intercessor.

**Section 4:** We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, makes believers children of God through the new birth, assuring them of heaven and by His indwelling enables Christians to live a godly life.

**Section 5:** We believe that all men are by nature and choice sinful, lost and have within themselves no possible means of salvation.

**Section 6:** We believe in salvation by grace through faith; that salvation is the free gift of God, not by virtue of works of man, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; that all true believers possess the gift of eternal life, a perfect righteousness, son ship in the family of God and the divine guarantee that they shall never perish.

**Section 7:** We believe in the existence of Satan, the deceiver and god of this present world; that he was defeated and judged at the cross and therefore his final doom is certain.

**Section 8:** We believe in the second coming of Christ; that His return from heaven will be personal, visible and glorious, the time being unrevealed but always imminent; that when he comes the dead in Christ will rise first and those who remain will be changed in a moment and will rise together; meet Him in the air: then pour out the righteous judgments of God upon the unbelieving world, afterwards descend with His church and establish His glorious and literal kingdom over all the nations for a thousand years.

**Section 9:** We believe that the spirits of the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in heaven; that at His second coming their works will be judged and rewards determined; that the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into hell until the final day of judgement, at which their bodies shall be raised from the grave, judged and along with death and hell shall be cast into the lake of fire: the place of final and everlasting punishment.

**Section 10:** We believe in the priesthood of all believers, that Christ is our Great High Priest and through Him every born again person has direct access into God's presence without the need of a human priest; that the believer has the right and responsibility to personally study and interpret the scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit.

**Section 11:** We believe that a New Testament Church is an organized body of born again baptized believers practicing scriptural ordinances and actively engaged in fulfilling the Great Commission.

**Section 12:** We believe the two scriptural ordinances given to the local church are baptism by the immersion of believers only and the Lord's Supper to be partaken by born again believers only.

## **ARTICLE IV: EXPANDED DECLARATION OF FAITH**

**Section 1:** The declaration of faith contained in **Articles III & IV** does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing statement of faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.

### **Section 2: Marriage, Gender & Sexuality**

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one natural born man and one natural born woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Matt 15:18-20; Rom 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9-10; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

We believe that man and woman are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Grandview Pines Baptist Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the GPBC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by GPBC in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Grandview Pines Baptist Church.

### **Section 3: Divorce and Remarriage**

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).

### **Section 4: Abortion**

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

### **Section 5: Separation**

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful practices and associations is commanded of God (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).

### **Section 6: Creation**

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin (Genesis 1-2; Ex. 20:11).

### **Section 7: Dispensationalism**

We believe that the Scriptures, interpreted in their natural, literal sense, reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations—the law, the church, and the kingdom—are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6). We reject all forms of ultra and hyper-Dispensationalism, including

Ruckmanism and Right Divisionism, as unscriptural interpretations of man that confuse the Gospel, alter the meaning of the Scriptures as a whole, and rob the Christian of spiritual food necessary for the continual growth and maturity as the workmanship of God.

**Section 8: The Holy Scriptures (expanded statement of Article III, Section 1)**

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed, and therefore are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

**ARTICLE V: OUR COVENANT**

EVERY PERSON WHO BECOMES A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH SHALL BE EXPECTED TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY AND BY THE HELP OF OUR LORD TO FAITHFULLY OBSERVE AND PRACTICE THE FOLLOIWNIG COVENANT:

1. That we will “walk worthy of the vocation where with we are called with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love endeavoring to keep the unity of the Sprit in the bond of peace”. (Eph. 4:1-3)
2. That we will “put off concerning the former conversation of the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts and be renewed in the spirit of our minds; that we will put on the new man; which after God is created in the righteousness and true holiness; and that we will put away lying and speak every man truth with his neighbor; for we are members one of another; that we will let no corrupt speech proceed out of our mouths, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers and thus not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption; that we will let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking be put away from us, with all malice; and we will be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven us.” (Eph. 4:22-25, 29-32)
3. That we will “not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is.” (Heb. 10:25)
4. That we will “honor the Lord with the first fruits of all our increase and upon the first day of the week lay by as the Lord has prospered us, every man according as he purposeth in his heart to give, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.” (Prov. 3:9, I Cor. 16:2, II Cor. 9:7)
5. That we will “obey them that have rule over us, and submit ourselves; for they watch for our souls, as they must give account.” (Heb. 13:17)
6. That we shall abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages, and abstain from any practice which would cause our brother to stumble or bring reproach upon the cause of Christ, and to further strive to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (Prov. 20:1, 23:29-35, Rom. 14:21)
7. That we will “follow peace with all men and holiness without which no men shall see the Lord”. (Heb. 12:14)

## **ARTICLE VI: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1:** This church may refuse membership to any person the church feels would be a hindrance to the unity of this church, and who would hinder the working of the Holy Spirit in and through this church. This would include anyone who teaches or practices what is known as an “unknown tongue”.

**Section 2:** Those who present themselves for membership shall come by statement giving a personal testimony of their personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ having been baptized by immersion; or to be baptized; or they may come by letter from a church of like faith.

**Section 3:** No one shall become a member of this Church until they have been baptized or their letter has been received from a church of like faith, or by statement. They shall be under watch-care of the Church until they are baptized, and when joining by letter the person or persons shall be under the watch-care of this Church until their letter is received from a church of like faith. Their name will then be presented to the Church Conference for membership approval.

## **ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP RULES**

**Section 1:** Members of this Church shall be expected to show their interest in the welfare of the church by regular attendance, their endeavor to promote unity and fellowship among members, and their financial support. Those who have no means to financially support the Church shall be welcome and shall have the same membership privileges as those who may be able to give much.

**Section 2:** Members, who without a reasonable excuse, do not attend the regular services of the church for a period of three months shall lose their voting privileges in any and all business meetings and after twelve months shall be placed on an inactive list. An inactive member may be restored by recommendation of the board of deacons and vote of the church.

**Section 3:** Non-resident members who move so far away that it would be impossible for them to attend regular services, and who wish to remain a member of this church shall communicate with the church at least once a year.

**Section 4:** Every person uniting with this church is to read the church constitution and strive to adhere to the standards outlined therein.

**Section 5:** Members are not to slander others, nor gossip about others. All members are expected to apply the principle of Matt. 18, in the spirit of Gal. 6:1, if they are offended by another.

**Section 6:** There will be no secret meetings between members.

## **ARTICLE VIII: WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1:** Membership in this church shall terminate as follows:

- (a) This church shall grant a letter to any church of like faith, for any member who feels led to unite with such church, providing said member is in good standing with this church at the time they request a letter, (good standing means that they have not been inactive over three months and that they have caused no unnecessary discord, and that they are not guilty of any known immoral conduct)

- (b) By erasure. Members who are known to be deceased, or who have joined some other church, and those who request that their names be dropped from the membership may be erased from the roll by action of the church.
- (c) By expulsion for disorderly walk - by two thirds vote of the membership present, but only after Matt. 18 has been applied in the spirit of Gal. 6:1.

## **ARTICLE IX: OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH**

**Section 1:** The officers of this church shall be as follows: Pastor, Deacons, Assistant Pastor, Clerk, Treasurer, three Trustees, Superintendent of the Sunday School, Assistant Superintendent and Music Director. Other officers shall be selected as needed. All officers of the church shall be: (1) faithful to all services of the church, (2) loyal to the pastor and the program of the church, (3) separated from worldliness.

## **ARTICLE X: DUTY OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1:** All officers shall be expected to be separated from the world in their walk. Clean in their conduct, faithful in their office and in their church attendance. Due to the trend in ladies' fashions today toward immodest dress we find it necessary to have teachers and leaders only those ladies who conform to modest dress. Also, the body being the temple of the Holy Ghost and is to be used for God's glory (I Cor. 6:19-20, 10:31-32), all officers and teachers shall abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, any form of drug, and other worldly practices that are contrary to a godly walk and testimony.

**Section 2:** The pastor shall be in charge of the ministry of the church. The pastor shall be the moderator of the church, all boards and committees during business sessions, or in discussion of the church matters. He may appoint a moderator for business sessions in his absence or his presence.

**Section 3:** In case the pastor resigns, dies or is ill to the extent he cannot moderate, the chairman of the board of deacons shall be the temporary moderator.

**Section 4:** The pastor shall receive such compensation as the church may decide.

**Section 5:** A candidate for the office of a deacon shall be selected by careful consideration of the pastor and the other deacons. This shall not be an open process of ballots by the membership. Once the candidate has been interviewed through the Deacon Questionnaire, has acknowledge full agreement with the Deacon Handbook, and has been found to fulfill all Scriptural requirements (1 Timothy 3:10-13), he shall be presented for approval by a vote of the church membership. The office of deacon and all church policy surrounding that office shall be defined by the Deacon Handbook.

**Section 6:** The assistant pastor shall be a role of assistance to the pastor. He shall be under the direct supervision of the pastor and responsible to fulfil the duties assigned to him. This office is not an associate pastor. In the event that the pastor resigns, dies or is ill to the extent he cannot perform his duties, the assistant pastor may fill the pulpit for regular services but does not assume the role of pastor or interim pastor without a vote of the membership.

**Section 7:** The assistant pastor shall receive such compensation as the church may decide.

**Section 8:** Church clerk... The clerk shall keep a complete record of all official acts of the church and he shall sign the minutes of each official business meeting. The clerk shall keep an accurate and complete register of the church membership, such as: name, address, date of acceptance, how they were received, date of baptism, date and reason for anyone dismissed from the church.

**Section 9:** Church treasurer... The church treasurer shall be responsible for all money received in regular and special offering for the Church. He shall keep an accurate record of money received and all expenditures. He shall spend money only by the approval of the Church. He shall give a report of the treasury at the regular business meeting of the Church. No designated funds shall be diverted from their purpose, except by order of the Church.

**Section 10:** The pastor and superintendent shall direct all Sunday School activities. Prospective teachers shall be interviewed by the Sunday School Superintendent and approved by the pastor. The Music Director will consult with the pastor in the selection of all song books, special music, etc.

## **ARTICLE XI: TERM OF OFFICE**

**Section 1:** The calling of a pastor shall be permanent as the Lord leads. The calling of a pastor must be announced from the pulpit for three consecutive meetings prior to calling. He must receive seventy-five percent of standing votes of those present at the time he is voted on. The pastor's term shall be terminated upon thirty days' notice given either by the pastor or by the church. The pastor may be asked to reaffirm his acceptance of the Articles of Faith set forth in this constitution. Prospective pastors shall be required to affirm their acceptance of the Declaration of Faith set forth in Article Three of this constitution before this church shall extend a call for them to become pastor of this church. Also, any prospective pastor shall be required to read a copy of this constitution and they should be informed of any amendments which may have been made.

**Section 2:** The Trustees shall be elected for a five-year term. They may be reelected after the five-year term expires if the Church so desires.

**Section 3:** All other officers' term in office shall be one year. The time for the annual election shall be determined by the Church.

## **ARTICLE XII: THE SPIRITUAL PROGRAM OF THE CHURCH**

**Section 1:** The pastor, being responsible to God, has complete charge of the church program. The program of the church shall consist of Sunday School, Sunday worship service, morning and night, Mid-Week Prayer Meeting, revival services, Bible conferences, home and foreign mission program.

**Section 2:** The Bible, King James Version, shall be the textbook for all the Sunday School classes. Other materials may be used in the children's classes along with the Bible, providing they are approved by the pastor and Sunday School superintendent. No literature is to be used that is affiliated with the National Council or World Council of Churches.

### **ARTICLE XIII: BUSINESS MEETINGS**

**Section 1:** Special business meetings may be called any time it becomes necessary. Business meetings should be announced one week in advance, unless otherwise stated in this constitution. A majority vote shall decide all matters of business. The moderator may vote on any business matters in case of a tie vote.

**Section 2:** In the event that an emergency arises, especially in the case of the missions program, immediate need of a member, or a repair in the facility or church transportation vehicle, the pastor or deacons may present the need to the church without being required to give an advance notice of one week.

### **ARTICLE XIV: AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1:** This constitution with the exception of ARTICLE II AND ARTICLE III may be amended by seventy-five percent of the active members present at a regular business meeting, providing such action has been announced four times in regular Sunday morning services, this meaning four consecutive Sunday morning services. The vote to amend all other articles must be by standing vote only.

**Section 2:** Articles II and III of this constitution shall never be changed by any or all of the membership of this Church now or in the future, but shall be a permanent part of this constitution.

### **ARTICLE XV DISPOSAL OF CHURCH PROPERTY**

**Section 1:** Should this church cease to function for a period of three consecutive years, the Trustees shall have the power to sell the property and the money shall be used to preach the Gospel through independent mission boards of like faith as this Church. Such mission boards must be INDEPENDENT MISSIONARY BAPTIST BY NAME.

### **ARTICLE XVI: INTERPRETATION OF CONSTITUTION**

**Section 1:** Where the meaning or interpretation of any section of this constitution is not clear, it should be interpreted in harmony with the Scriptures, and in an intelligent manner by God's people.

ARTICLE II SECTIONS ONE AND TWO SHALL BE CONSIDERED SELF EXPLANATORY.