

# BYLAWS FOR GRACE CHAPEL OF THE COAST

## ARTICLE I

### NAME, PRINCIPAL OFFICE AND STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 1 NAME AND LOCATION: The name of the Corporation is Grace Chapel of the Coast. This corporation will also be referred to in these Bylaws as “Grace Chapel” or simply the “church.” The church maintains its principal office at 102 N. Freeman Street, Oceanside, California. The Church Council may at any time change the location of the principal office from one location to another in this county. Any change of this location shall be recorded by the Secretary on these Bylaws opposite this section or this section may be amended to state the new location. As of March 11, 2017, the church is doing business as (DBA) Grace Vineyard Christian Fellowship and also as “Grace Vineyard”.

### SECTION 2 STATEMENT OF FAITH:

The following is the Statement of Faith for the Association of Vineyard Churches, USA, available for download at <https://vineyardusa.org/about/core-values-beliefs>. We incorporate it as the Statement of Faith for Grace Chapel of the Coast.

### INTRODUCTION:

The Bible is our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. However, since the Bible is a diverse collection of narrative stories, poetry, law, and letters, it is helpful to summarize its teaching in a concise form that can be comprehended by both those deeply rooted in the Church and those who have little exposure to the Bible. This is the historical function of the ancient church creeds in the first 400 years of Christ-centered faith.

Every community of faith has two major obligations in regards to its faith, namely absolute faithfulness to the Word of God, and sensitivity to the world in which they live. This means that the Vineyard movement must express the historical, biblical, orthodox Christian beliefs that we hold in common with all Christians, and the particular doctrines that are our distinctive voice, in terms that are relevant to 21st century Christians.

Our Statement of Faith is based on the conviction that the kingdom of God is the central theological motif that gives definition to all that we believe. It is a “kingdom of God” centered theology. This statement is our best current understanding of the Bible from that kingdom perspective.

### **God The King And The Holy Trinity**

We believe that God is the Eternal King. He is an infinite, unchangeable Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, goodness, justice, power, and love. From all eternity He exists as the One Living and True God in three persons of one substance, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory.

### **God The King: The Creator And Ruler Of All Things**

We believe that God's kingdom is everlasting. From His throne, through His Son, His eternal Word, God created, upholds and governs all that exists: the heavenly places, the angelic hosts, the universe, the earth, every living thing, and human beings. God created all things very good.

### **Counterfeit Kingdom: Satan And Demonic Hosts**

We believe that Satan, originally a great, good angel, rebelled against God, taking a host of angels with him. He was cast out of God's presence and, as a usurper of God's rule, established a counter-kingdom of darkness and evil on the earth.

**The Kingdom In Creation, The Fall, And The Doctrine Of Original Sin** We believe that God created mankind in His image, male and female, for relationship with Himself and to govern the earth. Under the temptation of Satan, our original parents fell from grace, bringing sin, sickness, and God's judgment of death to the earth. Through the fall, Satan and his demonic hosts gained access to God's good creation. Creation now experiences the consequences and effects of Adam's original sin. Human beings are born in sin, subject to God's judgment of death, and captive to Satan's kingdom of darkness.

### **God's Providence, Kingdom Law, And Covenants**

We believe that God did not abandon His rule over the earth, which He continues to uphold by His providence. In order to bring redemption, God established covenants which revealed His grace to sinful people. In the covenant with Abraham, God bound Himself to His people Israel, promising to deliver them from bondage to sin and Satan and to bless all the nations through them.

We believe that as King, God later redeemed His people by His mighty acts from bondage in Egypt and established His covenant through Moses, revealing His perfect will and our obligation to fulfill it. The law's purpose is to order our fallen race and to make us conscious of our moral responsibility.

By the work of God's Spirit, it convicts us of our sin and God's righteous judgment against us and brings us to Christ alone for salvation. We believe that when Israel rejected God's rule over her as King, God established the monarchy in Israel and made an unconditional covenant with David, promising that his heir would restore God's kingdom and reign over His people as Messiah forever.

### **Christ The Mediator And Eternal King**

We believe that in the fullness of time, God honored His covenants with Israel and His prophetic promises of salvation by sending His Son, Jesus, into the world. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, as fully God and fully human in one person, He is humanity as God intended us to be. Jesus was anointed as God's Messiah and empowered by the Holy Spirit, inaugurating God's kingdom reign on earth, overpowering the reign of Satan by resisting temptation, preaching the good news of salvation, healing the sick, casting out demons, and raising the dead. Gathering His disciples, He reconstituted God's people as His Church to be the instrument of His kingdom.

After dying for the sins of the world, Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day, fulfilling the covenant of blessing given to Abraham. In His sinless, perfect life Jesus met the demands of the law and in His atoning death on the cross He took God's judgment for sin, which we deserve as law-breakers. By His death on the cross He also disarmed the demonic powers. The covenant with David was fulfilled in Jesus' birth from David's house, His Messianic ministry, His glorious resurrection from the dead, His ascent into heaven, and His present rule at the right hand

of the Father. As God's Son and David's heir, He is the eternal Messiah-King, advancing God's reign throughout every generation and throughout the whole earth today.

### **The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church at Pentecost in power, baptizing believers into the Body of Christ and releasing the gifts of the Spirit to them. The Spirit brings the permanent indwelling presence of God to us for spiritual worship, personal sanctification, building up the Church, gifting us for ministry, and driving back the kingdom of Satan by the evangelization of the world through proclaiming the word of Jesus and doing the works of Jesus. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and that He is our abiding Helper, Teacher, and Guide. We believe in the filling or the empowering of the Holy Spirit, often a conscious experience, for ministry today. We believe in the present ministry of the Spirit and in the exercise of all of the biblical gifts of the Spirit. We practice the laying on of hands for the empowering of the Spirit, for healing, and for recognition and empowering of those whom God has ordained to lead and serve the Church.

### **The Sufficiency Of Scripture**

We believe that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of Holy Scripture so that the Bible is without error in the original manuscripts. We receive the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments as our final, absolute authority, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

### **The Power Of The Gospel Over The Kingdom Of Darkness**

We believe that the whole world is under the domination of Satan and that all people are sinners by nature and choice. All people therefore are under God's just judgment. Through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus and the kingdom of God, and the work of the Holy Spirit, God regenerates, justifies, adopts, and sanctifies, through Jesus by the Spirit, all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. By this they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's kingdom reign.

### **The Church: Instrument Of The Kingdom**

We believe in the one, holy, universal Church. All who repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and form the living Body of Christ, of which He is the head and of which we are all members.

### **Baptism And The Lord's Supper**

We believe that Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church: water baptism and the Lord's Supper. Both are available to all believers.

### **The Kingdom Of God And The Final Judgment**

We believe that God's kingdom has come in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, that it continues to come in the ministry of the Spirit through the Church, and that it will be consummated in the glorious, visible, and triumphant appearing of Christ – His return to the earth as King. After Christ returns to reign, He will bring about the final defeat of Satan and all of his minions and works, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment and the eternal blessing of the righteous, and eternal conscious punishment of the wicked. Finally, God will be all in all and His kingdom, His rule and reign, will be fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth, recreated by His mighty power, in which righteousness dwells and in which He will forever be worshipped.

## **MARRIAGE**

We believe that Marriage has been ordained by God. This church defines “marriage” as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman.

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES FOR OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **God The King And The Holy Trinity**

Deuteronomy 33:27 • Isaiah 44:6 • Romans 1:20 • Psalm 95:3 • Isaiah 43:15 • Psalm 147:5 • Job 11:7-9 • James 1:17 • John 4:24 • Matthew 5:48 • Isaiah 6:3 • 1 Peter 1:15-16 • Psalm 104:24 • Proverbs 2:6 • Isaiah 28:29 • Exodus 33:19 • Psalm 31:19 • Psalm 33:5 • Psalm 89:14 • Isaiah 30:18 • Exodus 15:6 • Psalm 63:2 • 1 John 4:8 • Isaiah 43:13 • Isaiah 45:5 • 1 Corinthians 8:4 • Psalm 42:2 • Psalm 84:2 • Jeremiah 10:10 • John 1:18 • John 10:30 • John 14:9 • John 14:16-17 • John 14:26 • John 15:26 • 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 • John 1:1 • John 1:14 • 2 Corinthians 3:17 • Matthew 28:19-20 • 2 Corinthians 13:14 • Revelation 1:4 • Revelation 5:13 • Ephesians 3:14-21

### **God The King: The Creator And Ruler Of All Things**

Psalm 45:6 • Psalm 145:13 • Daniel 4:3 • Psalm 93:1-2 • John 1:1-3 • 1 Corinthians 8:6 • Colossians 1:15-16 • Hebrews 1:1-2 • Genesis 1:1 • Psalm 95:3-5 • Colossians 1:17 • Hebrews 1:3 • Psalm 103:19 • Psalm 104:24-29 • Psalm 96:4-6 • Psalm 89:11 • Psalm 103:20-21 • Colossians 1:16-17 • Psalm 104:5 • Psalm 103:22 • Psalm 22:28 • Psalm 47:8 • Genesis 1:31

### **Counterfeit Kingdom: Satan And Demonic Hosts**

Revelation 12:7-9 • 2 Corinthians 11:14 • Colossians 1:13-14 • Ephesians 6:12 • Mark 3:22-26 • Ephesians 2:1-2 • 1 John 5:19

### **The Kingdom In Creation, The Fall, And The Doctrine Of Original Sin**

Genesis 1:26-27 • Genesis 1:26 • Genesis 3:1 • Revelation 12:9 • Genesis 3:8 • Romans 1:21 • Romans 5:16 • Romans 5:12 • John 5:14 • 1 Corinthians 15:22 • John 8:44 • 1 John 5:19 • Romans 8:20-23 • Psalm 51:5 • Galatians 1:3-5 • Galatians 4:8-9 • Colossians 1:13

### **God’s Providence, Kingdom Law, And Covenants**

Psalm 24:1 • Psalm 96:10 • Isaiah 40:22 • Hebrews 1:3 • Romans 9:4 • Ephesians 2:12 • Genesis 17:3-8 • Genesis 12:2-3 • Genesis 15:4-6 • Romans 4:3-5 • Romans 4:16 • Romans 4:20-25 • Galatians 3:6-9 • Galatians 3:13-14 • Exodus 15:3-18 • Exodus 19:3-6 • Exodus 24:3-4 • Exodus 24:7 • Romans 8:3-4 • Romans 8:12-14 • Deuteronomy 5:1-3 • Deuteronomy 30:15-18 • Galatians 3:23-25 • Psalm 25:8-10 • Romans 7:7 • John 15:26 • John 16:8-11 • 2 Corinthians 3:14-17 • Romans 7:13 • Galatians 3:19 • Galatians 3:21-22 • Romans 2:1-11 • Galatians 3:24 • Philippians 3:8-9 • 1 Samuel 8:6-8 • 1 Samuel 8:21-22 • 1 Samuel 9:15-16 • 1 Samuel 10:1 • 1 Samuel 10:24 • 2 Samuel 7:11b-16 • Psalm 89:34-37 • Isaiah 9:6-7 • Isaiah 11:1-5 • Jeremiah 23:5-6 • Ezekiel 34:23

### **Christ The Mediator And Eternal King**

Mark 1:15 • Galatians 4:4 • Romans 1:2-4 • John 1:14 • John 1:17-18 • Luke 1:30-35 • John 1:14 • Philippians 2:5-7 • Romans 5:19 • 1 Corinthians 15:22 • 1 Peter 2:22 • 2 Corinthians 5:21 • Romans 8:29 • Luke 3:21-22 • Luke 4:16-21 • Mark 1:14-15 • Luke 11:20 • Luke 17:20-21 • Luke 4:1-13 • Luke 4:43 • Luke 4:40 • Luke 4:41 • Luke 7:14-17 • Mark 1:16-17 • Mark 3:13-15 • Matthew 16:18 • Luke 9:1-2 • Luke 10:1-17 • John 1:29 • John 6:51 • 1 John 4:9-10 • Mark 8:31 • 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 • Galatians 3:13-14 • Acts 3:14-15 • Hebrews 4:15 • Romans 5:18-19 • 1 Peter 2:24 • Galatians 3:13 • 2 Corinthians 5:21 • Romans 1:18 • Romans 1:32 •

Romans 2:12 • 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 • Colossians 2:13-15 • Matthew 1:1 • Luke 1:68-72 • Luke 2:10-11 • Matthew 9:27 • Acts 2:24-28 • Acts 2:29-36 • Romans 1:1-4 • Hebrews 1:1-3 • 1 Corinthians 15:24-26 • Ephesians 1:19-23 • Revelation 5:5

### **The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit**

Acts 1:8 • Acts 2:1-4 • 1 Corinthians 12:13 • 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 • John 14:16-17 • Romans 12:1 • Ephesians 5:18-20 • Romans 8:3-4 • 1 Corinthians 14:12 • 1 Corinthians 14:26 • Romans 12:4-6 • Luke 11:20 • 1 John 3:8b • Ephesians 6:10-20 • John 14:12-13 • Romans 15:18-19 • 1 Corinthians 4:20 • Romans 8:9-10 • John 16:7 • John 14:26 • John 16:13-15 • Romans 8:14 • Luke 24:49 • Acts 4:31 • Acts 8:18-19 • Acts 19:1-2 • 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 • 2 Corinthians 4:7 • 2 Corinthians 6:4-7 • Joel 2:28-29 • Acts 2:15-17 • 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 • 1 Corinthians 14:1 • 1 Corinthians 14:5 • 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 • Acts 8:14-17 • Acts 19:6 • Mark 1:41 • Luke 6:18b-19 • Mark 16:18 • Acts 13:1-3 • 1 Timothy 4:14 • 2 Timothy 1:6

### **The Sufficiency Of Scripture**

1 Timothy 3:16-17 • 2 Peter 1:20-21 • 1 Corinthians 2:12-13 • John 14:26 • Psalm 19:7-9 • Psalm 119:30 • Psalm 119:43 • Psalm 119:89 • Matthew 5:17-18 • John 3:34 • John 10:35 • 1 Thessalonians 2:13 • Revelation 22:6 • Luke 24:44 • 2 Peter 3:15-16 • Revelation 22:18-19 • Isaiah 40:8 • Matthew 24:35 • Matthew 7:21 • Matthew 7:24 • Luke 1:38 • James 1:22-25

### **The Power Of The Gospel Over The Kingdom Of Darkness**

Luke 4:5-7 • 1 John 5:19 • 1 Corinthians 15:22 • Ephesians 2:1-3 • Romans 1:21-23 • Romans 1:32 • Romans 1:18 • Romans 2:5 • 2 Corinthians 5:10 • Ephesians 5:6 • Mark 1:14-15 • Acts 8:12 • Acts 28:31 • Ephesians 5:5 • John 16:7-11 • John 3:5-8 • 1 Peter 1:23 • Romans 5:1-2 • Romans 5:9 • Romans 8:15 • Galatians 4:6 • Ephesians 5:25 • Hebrews 13:12 • 1 Peter 1:1-2 • Acts 2:38 • Romans 10:9 • 1 John 4:13-15 • Colossians 1:13-14 • Philippians 3:20

### **The Church: Instrument Of The Kingdom**

John 17:20-21 • Ephesians 4:3-6 • 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 • Matthew 16:17-18 • 1 Corinthians 1:2 • Ephesians 2:18-19 • 1 Peter 2:9-10 • Titus 3:4-7 • Romans 12:4-5 • Ephesians 1:22 • Ephesians 5:23 • 1 Corinthians 12:27

### **Baptism And The Lord's Supper**

Matthew 28:19-20 • 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

### **The Kingdom Of God And The Final Judgment**

Daniel 7:13-14 • Matthew 4:23 • Matthew 12:28 • Matthew 6:10 • Matthew 10:7-8 • Matthew 24:14 • Mark 13:11 • John 15:26-27 • Romans 14:17-18 • Mark 13:26 • Acts 1:9-11 • 2 Thessalonians 2:8 • Revelation 19:11-16 • Matthew 25:31-32 • 1 Corinthians 15:23-25 • Revelation 20:10 • 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 • John 5:28-30 • Revelation 20:11-15 • Matthew 25:31-46 • 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 • 1 Timothy 6:13-16 • 2 Peter 3:13 • Revelation 21:5 • Revelation 21:27 • 1 Timothy 1:17 • Revelation 7:9-12

## **ARTICLE II**

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1 WHO ARE MEMBERS: Anyone who truly confesses Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is a member of the “Body” of Christ; His universal Church (fellowship). A member of Grace Chapel of the Coast is any member of the Body of Christ who has made a personal commitment, as set forth below, to this local expression of the church.

SECTION 2 PUBLIC COMMITMENT: Anyone wishing to become a member of Grace Chapel of the Coast shall make a public commitment to that effect, promising thereby to affirm and embrace the following Declaration of Membership. The manner and making of such commitments shall be established from time to time by the Church Council and may include completion of a new members class and either written or verbal affirmation of the following.

SECTION 3 DECLARATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

1. I affirm a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as my only Savior and Lord. (As Savior I recognize Jesus Christ as the forgiver of my sins and bearer of my shame that have separated me from God, and now the giver of new Life, His Life at work in me. As Lord I recognize Jesus Christ as the leader of my life.) By this affirmation I realize I am part of the living Body of Christ, His church. (John 14:6; Matthew 16:16-18, 24)
2. I recognize Grace Chapel of the Coast as the local gathering of Christ’s church where He has called me to grow in faith and increase in fruitful service. (Heb. 10:25) I recognize that Grace Chapel of the Coast is one of many local gatherings of Christ’s church, and if in the future I believe God is no longer calling me to membership in Grace Chapel of the Coast, I will communicate this change to church leadership.
3. I value the unity of the church, and in acknowledging my membership in Grace Chapel of the Coast, I affirm our Statements of Faith, Purpose, Vision, Values, and Lifestyle, and honor the Bylaws as a guide to our formal structure. (1 Cor. 1:10 LB, Phil. 1:27 GN)
4. I will pursue personal growth in my faith and understanding of God through personal study and prayer, and through opportunities available as part of Grace Chapel of the Coast, in order that I may be equipped to fulfill His purposes for His Church in the world. (Matt. 14:23; Eph. 4:11-12)
5. I will actively support the health of my church (Grace Chapel of the Coast) by praying for the Lord’s purpose and provision (1 Thess. 1:2), supporting the leadership (Heb. 13:17), and building up others (Romans 15:5, Eph. 4:29).
6. I will actively support the growth of my church (Grace Chapel of the Coast) by inviting the unchurched (Luke 14:23) and welcoming those who visit (Rom. 15:7).
7. I will share in the ministry of my church, giving faithfully of my time, my talents, and my financial resources in serving Christ through Grace Chapel of the Coast, seeking to do so not out of compulsion but a sincere surrender to Christ’s leadership and the Spirit’s leading. (Phil. 2:4-7, 1 Peter 4:10. 1 Cor. 9:13-14)
8. I will seek consistency in my commitment to Christ and His Church; faithfully giving thanks to God both in times when His blessings are great and in times when His call involves difficulty and struggle. (John 16:33b, Phil. 4:12-13)

SECTION 4 EVERY MEMBER AS A MINISTER: Every Christian is understood by Scripture to be a minister of Jesus Christ and is therefore called to serve the body of Christ by using whatever gifts and talents God has bestowed. Ministry is not the sole responsibility of the pastors or the elders, or of others who hold official positions within the church; rather, ministry and service are the responsibility of anyone who confesses Jesus Christ as Lord.

SECTION 5 ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP LIST: Upon the approval of the president or vice-president the new member shall be added to the list of active members. This list may be reviewed and updated at any time by the Church Council to ensure that all members are members in good standing according to the provisions of this Article.

SECTION 6 DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS:

- A. Purpose of Discipline: Discipline in the church is not for the purpose of punishment and will not be administered as such. Discipline and correction has as its primary purpose the good of the person who has fallen into a destructive state of sin. It seeks to restore such a person and to help them overcome the problem, sin, or fault that has hindered their place in the Body of Christ. Discipline also has the purpose of maintaining the health and unity of the Body of Christ. Toward this end we acknowledge our duty to hold one another accountable both individually and corporately.
- B. Causes for discipline: Cause for discipline shall be (a) significant disagreement with or deviation from the Grace Chapel of the Coast Statement of Faith in letter or in spirit, (b) continued lack of cooperation with the pastors of the church or disruption of the church through means which are destructive or divisive upon other members, (c) and significant departure in behavior from clearly and commonly understood Biblical teaching without demonstrated repentance. (2 Peter 2:1-3, 1 Timothy 1:20, 6:3-5, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, 2 John 9-11, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Titus 3:10-11, Romans 16:17)
- C. Process for correction and discipline (Matt 18:10-19; I Cor 5; Gal 6:1-2)
  - 1. First Stage: When one member of the body knows that another member has offended them, or has knowledge of another member's sin or fault, then the offended or knowledgeable member must go to the offending member and meet with them one on one to seek to reconcile the matter and restore the offending or erring member. If the member is restored or reconciled, then the matter should go no further and the matter should be kept in confidence between the two members involved. If that step fails then the offended or knowledgeable member must report the matter to one of the pastors, elders, or pastoral leaders.
  - 2. Second Stage: The offended or knowledgeable member and pastor, elder or pastoral leader shall then meet with the member who has offended or erred for the purpose of reconciliation or restoration. If reconciliation or restoration is accomplished at this stage the matter should go no further and should be kept in confidence between the members actually involved and the church leadership. If the matter is not resolved and a pastoral leader has been involved in the process, further pursuits may be made with the involvement of an overseeing pastor or elder. The Senior Pastor may be informed of such a process and, in his sole discretion, inform other members of the Church Council.

3. Third Stage: Upon hearing the matter, certain members of the Church Council, including at least one member other than a pastor, shall prayerfully appeal to the member involved. The member shall have the right to speak in defense, justification, or repentance. If, after a reasonable length of time (the length of which shall be determined by this group in its sole discretion), the person has failed to resolve the matter, the Church Council shall consider discipline of the member. The Church Council shall judge the situation. They may institute discipline as they see fit in each individual circumstance and shall tailor the discipline to the aim of achieving the purposes of discipline as previously stated. Discipline must be approved by the recommendation of the Senior Pastor and 2/3 of the Church Council. The discipline and causes for discipline may be made known to those formally recognized as Grace Chapel of the Coast Leaders and those directly affected at the time.

D. Forms of discipline: Forms of discipline may include but are not limited to: Barring a person from participation in any ministry, fellowship group, or formal church gatherings deemed appropriate; removal of a person's congregational membership in Grace Chapel of the Coast; or any other discipline which may, in the sole discretion of the Senior Pastor and Church Council, be appropriate to the circumstances. The Church Council shall inform the affected membership of its decision as circumstances warrant.

**SECTION 7 CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:** Meetings of the Congregational Membership may be called by the Senior Pastor or Church Council for such purposes as hearing reports on the business of the church, discussion and discernment regarding the affairs of the church, both business and spiritual, transacting such business as may be needed at the time, and seeking God as to the direction and progress of the church. Congregational Membership does not constitute formal governing or voting power. However, at such meetings of the Congregational Membership, a common direction or opinion may be sought which, while not to be construed as a legally corporate vote, may be utilized by the Church Council in their decision making.

**SECTION 8 ATTENDANCE OF NON-MEMBERS:** Anyone is welcome to participate in our worship service or other meetings open to the public with the exception of those that are under discipline, anyone who's purpose is to disrupt our services or meetings, or any whose presence is deemed to be detrimental to the church or its services at the discretion of the Senior Pastor or leaders authorized by the Senior Pastor to officiate at a given meeting. The church maintains the right to determine who may and may not attend meetings or use its property whether rented, leased, or owned. (Acts 20:28-31).

## **ARTICLE III**

### **ELDERS**

**SECTION 1 THE HEADSHIP OF CHRIST:** The government of the church shall be founded upon the Lordship and direction of Jesus Christ. Everyone in authority shall continually seek His mind and will through His Spirit and the Word of God, in all actions and decisions.

**SECTION 2 DEFINITION:** Spiritual oversight of Grace Chapel of the Coast shall be by the Church Council Members, also known as Elders. Elders exercise spiritual and physical



oversight of the church, having authority and leading according to the will of God, not lording it over the body, but by being examples to the flock, responsible for its spiritual welfare. (Acts 20:28, 1 Tim. 3:1-7; 5:17, Titus 1:5-9; James 5:14; I Peter 5:1-4).

**SECTION 3 DISTINCTION BETWEEN GOVERNING ELDERS AND PASTORAL ELDERS:** The oversight of the church is divided between a Church Council (Governing Elders) and Pastoral Elders. The Church Council is primarily responsible for the broad oversight and subsequent decision making of the Grace Chapel of the Coast ministry, and serve as the Church Board of Directors for the corporation according to California Law. Pastoral Elders are primarily responsible for the pastoral oversight, discipleship and mentoring of leaders in the church. The Senior and Associate Pastors serve in both functions of eldership. Elders will generally serve in one role according to their gifting, but may at the discretion of the Senior Pastor and the Church Council serve in both roles.

**SECTION 4 QUALIFICATIONS:** Elders are to be those mature in faith and the Holy Spirit as described in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Eldership is a function of both qualification and relationship. Consequently, elders shall meet and maintain the following conditions as prerequisites of their position in the church:

1. They shall, in the opinion of the Senior Pastor, be individuals who have established relationship with him in that they have exhibited a spirit of heart cooperation and submission to the spiritual oversight and covering of the Senior Pastor and leadership of the church;

2. They shall be members of Grace Chapel of the Coast in good standing, having shown consistently their faithfulness to the local body by fulfilling the congregational membership practices and affirmations outlined in Article II, Section 3 and must have a firm commitment to the purpose, vision, beliefs and mission of Grace Chapel of the Coast;
3. They should be Christians of integrity who give no grounds for accusation or reproach;
4. If married they should be faithful to their spouse.
5. They should be temperate, self-controlled, upright, holy, disciplined, respectable, persons who love what is good, who are not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not lovers of money nor pursuers of dishonest gain, not overbearing, not quick-tempered;
6. They should be hospitable, showing love for and being friends to the members of the congregation; they must have a heart for caring for the sheep;
7. They must have a teachable spirit and be willing and able to teach and disciple others; they must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught in the Bible, so that they can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.
8. They must not be a recent convert;
9. If with children, they must manage their own family well and have earned a proper respect from their children;
10. They must have good reputation and be well thought of by those outside the church.
11. They should have established a proven history; have been steady through ups and downs; rooted, with a commitment to this city.
12. They should be emotionally mature; motivated by concern for people, not simply by need for recognition;
13. They should have an overseer mentality and enjoy management, not limited to hands on type ministry;
14. They must value the Kingdom above earthly success;
15. They should have a proven history of consistently contributing of their financial resources (such as “tithing”), to the work of Kingdom ministry through the Grace Chapel of the Coast.

**SECTION 5 PASTORAL ELDERS: NUMBER; SELECTION; TERM; & REMOVAL:** Any number of pastoral elders may be chosen from the congregational membership of the church. The Senior Pastor shall appoint pastoral elders with the consent of a majority of the existing governing elders. Pastoral elders found not fulfilling their duties, qualifications or maintenance of relationship as elder will be subject to dismissal at the discretion of the Senior Pastor acting with the consent of a majority of the Church Council.

## ARTICLE IV

### CHURCH COUNCIL (GOVERNING ELDERS)

**SECTION 1 THE OVERSIGHT OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL:** The Church Council, also referred to as “the Board”, shall serve under the leadership of the Senior Pastor, who is to function as the President of the Church Council and of the Corporation. The Church Council shall be the governing body of the church in respect to both spiritual matters and business being done by the church (i.e., financial investment, buying or leasing of facility, maintenance, contract negotiation, etc.) and any other matters specifically given to the Church Council in these Bylaws.

#### **SECTION 2 ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY:**

1. The Church Council shall oversee the life and business of the church under the leadership of the Senior Pastor. They shall prayerfully seek the mind of God, and seek to function in unanimity as a mark of the Holy Spirit's direction.
2. Subject to limitation of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and California law, all corporate powers of the corporation shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Church Council and the business and affairs of the corporation shall be controlled by the Church Council. As the Board of Directors, the Church Council shall have the following powers:
  - a. To select and remove all other officers, agents, and employees of the corporation; prescribe such powers and duties for them as may not be inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws, fix their compensation; require from them fidelity bonds with acceptable sureties.
  - b. To conduct, manage, and control the business affairs of the corporation, and make rules and regulations not inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation, or the Bylaws.
  - c. To borrow money, and incur indebtedness for the purpose of the corporation and for that purpose cause to be executed and delivered, in the corporate name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, or other evidence of debt and securities.
  - d. To receive reports from the pastoral staff on the condition of the church and offer advice and counsel to the Senior Pastor and pastoral staff on matters of the church.

**SECTION 3 NUMBER OF CHURCH COUNCILMEMBERS:** The Church Council shall consist of no more than twelve members and no less than four members. The Senior Pastor and those Associate Pastors designated by the Senior Pastor shall each be members of the Church Council. At least one half of the Church Council shall consist of those not employed by this church. In the event of unforeseen changes in the membership of the Church Council which violate this proportion, the Church Council shall be granted a six-month period to re-establish the appropriate proportion.

**SECTION 4 APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES:** Church Councilmembers shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor and ratified by a majority vote of the Church Council. They must be members of the church in order to be eligible for appointment. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Senior Pastor and ratified by the Church Council then in office even if less than a quorum, or by the sole remaining Church Council Member.

SECTION 5 QUALIFICATIONS: See Article III, Section 4

SECTION 6 TERMS OF OFFICE: The term of office for Church Councilmembers other than the senior pastor shall be for a period of three years, subject to reappointment for successor terms by the Senior Pastor with the consent of a majority of the Church Council members, or until such time as resignation, removal, or death. To the extent possible terms of the Council members shall be staggered so that the terms of at least one third of the members shall end each calendar year.

SECTION 7 QUORUM: A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 8 VOTING: The Board shall always seek to act by consensus under the leadership of the Senior Pastor. In the event that a consensus is not obtainable, the act of a majority of the Board shall be the act of the Board unless the act of a greater number or concurrence of a specific officer is required by law or by these Bylaws. However, if the Senior Pastor votes against any motion or proposal, the vote of at least three quarters of the Church Board members shall be required to approve the motion or proposal.

SECTION 9. PLACE AND TIME OF MEETINGS: Regular meetings of the Church Council may be held at any place that has been designated by the Church Council and at any time. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, the Church Council shall meet at least monthly. Special meetings of the Church Council for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the Senior Pastor or a majority of the other Church Councilmembers.

SECTION 10 TELEPHONIC MEETINGS: Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone or similar communication equipment, so long as all members participating in the meeting can hear one another, and all such members shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting.

SECTION 11 ACTION WITHOUT MEETING: Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Church Council may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Church Council shall individually or collectively consent in writing to that action including consent via email. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as a vote of the Church Council. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board.

SECTION 12 TELEPHONE POLL: The Senior Pastor shall also be authorized to poll members of the Church Council by means of individual telephone calls or by use of other communication equipment so long as the following criteria are met.

1. A legitimate attempt is made to contact each member of the Council.
2. All telephone calls are placed within a 24-hour time period;
3. Each question voted upon is posed using essentially identical language;
4. Any matter must be tabled until a non-telephonic regular or special meeting if two or more participating members so request.

5. Written notification specifying the question or questions posed and each individual member's response shall be mailed, emailed, or personally delivered to each member (whether that member participated or not) within seven business days.
6. A record of such meeting shall be made a part of the minutes of the Board.

SECTION 13 REMOVAL OF CHURCH COUNCILMEMBERS OTHER THAN SENIOR PASTOR (PRESIDENT): A Church Councilmember other than the Senior Pastor may be removed from office by the vote of a majority of the total Church Council membership. (For grounds for removal, see Article III, section 4.)

SECTION 14. REMOVAL OF SENIOR PASTOR (PRESIDENT):

1. Grounds for removal of the Senior Pastor include: significant departure from the Statement of Faith and Statement of Practice as set forth in these Bylaws, serious breach of other provisions of these Bylaws, substantial departure from Biblical norms of behavior; and serious failure to faithfully fulfill the duties of the pastoral office.
2. Notice of not less than seven days must be given to Church Council for the purposes of voting on the removal of the Senior Pastor
3. If the entire Church Council (with the exception of the Senior Pastor who shall not vote) by a 3/4 vote, and The Association of Vineyard Churches Area or Regional Overseer, and ¾ of the Pastoral Elders, in this order, concur that the Senior Pastor should terminate his pastorate of the church, the Senior Pastor shall resign, or be terminated.

SECTION 15. COMPENSATION: The Church Councilmembers shall receive no compensation for their services as Church Councilmembers. However, the pastors can receive compensation for their services as pastors.

SECTION 16. DELEGATION: The Church Council with the consent of the Senior Pastor, may appoint a subcommittee or task force or task forces who are not Church Councilmembers to perform any function or duty assigned to the Church Council by these Bylaws, subject to the approval of the Church Council.

## ARTICLE V

### OFFICERS

SECTION 1. OFFICERS: The officers of the corporation shall be a president, one vice-president, a secretary, a chief financial officer, and such other officers as the Board may appoint. Two offices may be held by the same person, except that the Senior Pastor as President, may not serve concurrently in any other office.

SECTION 2. APPOINTMENT: The Senior Pastor shall serve as President, and the Board shall appoint all other officers of the corporation. Each officer shall hold office until a successor shall have been duly appointed, or until death, resignation, or removal as provided herein. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Board.

SECTION 3. POWERS AND DUTIES: The officers shall have power to execute documents, contracts, and routine legal or financial business of the church, except as follows: The Board shall be responsible to review the church financial records and handle financial-related matters under the leadership of the President and Chief Financial Officer. The Board shall approve a yearly budget, which shall constitute approval of all budgeted items. Any non-budgeted church expenditures that exceed 1.0% of the prior calendar-year total church expenses in any given month must have the consent of the President and Vice-President and be approved by an action of the Board (see Article IV Section 9). The Board shall be responsible to set the compensation arrangements of the pastors. Upon request of the Senior Pastor, or a majority of the Board, a certified public accountant will be employed to perform an independent audit of the church's financial records and bookkeeping. At any time, the Board may review a financial or legal decision of the officers, and may by a two-thirds majority overrule any action. The officers are permitted to make non-budgeted discretionary expenditures not to exceed a discretionary spending limit as determined by the Board per expenditure, or 1% of the prior year total expenditures per month.

#### SECTION 4. PRESIDENT (SENIOR PASTOR):

A. Ministry: The Senior Pastor shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and prayer (Acts 6:1-6). As the primary teaching shepherd of the church, the Senior Pastor shall be committed to significant study of the Word, seeking the mind of God, teaching by instruction and example, and equipping others for life and ministry.

As the President, the Senior Pastor shall have general supervision, direction, and control of the business and affairs of the corporation except as otherwise provided herein. He shall preside at meetings of the Church Council and serve as its Chairman. He shall oversee the business of the church on a daily basis and give leadership to Executive, Associate, and Assistant Pastors if any, the Church Council, the general church body and its ministries. The Senior Pastor shall have general supervision of the entire church and charge of all services, gatherings, and meetings as he shall deem necessary.

B. Appointment:

1. The Church Council shall seek and appoint a new Senior Pastor should a vacancy arise in the pastorate. They shall seek first among the Executive, Associate, or Assistant Pastors if any, from within the fellowship, but may appoint a Senior Pastor from outside.
2. The resigning or retiring Senior Pastor may nominate a successor and/or participate in the appointment of his successor.
3. The candidate for Senior Pastor must be approved by at least two-thirds of the Church Council.

C. Potential Termination: As described in Article IV, Section 14, should three quarters of the total Church Council (exclusive of Senior Pastor) concur that the Senior Pastor should terminate his pastorate of the church, the Senior Pastor shall resign, or be terminated.

SECTION 5. VICE-PRESIDENT: The Vice-President shall assist the president in the discharge of duties as the president may direct and shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the president or by the Board. In the absence of the president or in the event of the president's inability or refusal to act as determined by a 2/3 majority of the Board, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of president and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the president.

SECTION 6. SECRETARY: The secretary shall record the minutes of the meetings of the Church Council and Congregational Members (if formally called) in one or more books provided for that purpose, see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law, be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the corporation, and perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the president or by the Board.

SECTION 7 CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: The chief financial officer shall be the principal accounting and financial officer of the corporation. The chief financial officer shall: (a) have charge of and be responsible for the maintenance of adequate books of account for the corporation; (b) have charge and custody of all funds and securities of the corporation, and be responsible therefore, and for the receipt and disbursement thereof; and (c) perform all duties incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the president or by the Board. If required by the Board, the church shall secure a bond for the Chief Financial Officer for the faithful discharge of the duties of the office in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Board shall determine.

SECTION 8. INDEMNIFICATION: Recognizing that serving as an officer or member of the Board entails potential legal liability, Grace Chapel of the Coast agrees to indemnify its officers and Board for legal expenses incurred related to their good-faith conduct as an officer or member of the Board.

## ARTICLE VI

### EXECUTIVE, ASSOCIATE OR ASSISTANT PASTORS:

SECTION 1. Appointment: The Senior Pastor may appoint with the agreement of a majority of the Church Council an Executive, Associate, or Assistant Pastor.

SECTION 2. Ministry: The Senior Pastor shall define an Executive, Associate or Assistant Pastor's ministry upon appointment. They shall serve under the Senior Pastor's direction in the administration and oversight of the church and its business.

SECTION 3. Potential Termination: It shall be the prerogative of the Senior Pastor, with the approval of a majority of the Board, to require the resignation of any pastoral staff.

## LICENSURE AND ORDINATION

SECTION 4. PRINCIPLES OF ORDINATION: Only our Sovereign Holy God can truly call and ordain His children for service in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The calling of a pastor or other full-time minister is not the result of a title, rather the title is a result of God's calling. This calling is recognized as from the true and living God. It is the privilege of the church of Jesus Christ to ratify the ordination of God when such is obviously placed upon a person's life. The purpose of this Article is to provide for the ordination of pastors or ministers of the Gospel.

SECTION 5. QUALIFICATIONS: The qualifications for ordination are as follows:

- A. A candidate for ordination must be a "Born Again" believer in Jesus Christ as described by our Lord in the third chapter of the Gospel of John.
- B. A candidate must subscribe to Grace Chapel of the Coast's statements regarding faith, lifestyle, purpose, priorities, values, and all current formal positions and policies, including those related to the work of the Holy Spirit in our ministry.
- C. A candidate must meet the scriptural requirements for the office of elder as described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, and as defined previously in Article III, Section 4.
- D. A candidate should have evidenced the obvious calling of God in terms of ministerial experience and report i.e., the handling of Scripture and the building up of lives. Normally a person will be "licensed" for a probationary period of time before receiving full ordination.

SECTION 6. PROCEDURE FOR ORDINATION AND LICENSING:

- A. Upon fulfilling the above qualifications an individual shall be recommended by the Senior Pastor and the Church Council for one of the following:
  - 1. Full ordination into the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - 2. Provisional ordination (Licensure) on a year to year basis until said candidate has established an independent body with its own ordination procedures who will thereafter ordain the candidate; or until said candidate has demonstrated a calling and proficiency for long-term ministry within this body.
  - 3. Licensure as pastor for a particular area of ministry (i.e., children, youth, outreach, etc.) as defined and limited by the Senior Pastor.
- B. The Church Council may make exceptions to these qualifying standards where in the unanimous opinion of the Church Council and under the strong compelling conviction of the Holy Spirit such exception is according to the will of God and consistent with His Word.
- C. Upon approval of at least two-thirds of the Church Council present, the candidate will be ordained, provisionally licensed, or licensed as a minister of the Gospel with the right to perform their defined ministerial functions in accordance with the laws of the land and the ordinances of God's Word.



- D. All candidates, successful or otherwise, will be notified of the Board's decision in writing within one week of the final Church Council action. Provisional ordination (licensure) shall continue on a year to year basis until such time as the candidate receives full ordination, or is no longer in ministry connected with this church, or the licensure is otherwise terminated by a vote of two-thirds of the Church Council.
- E. As ordination is an act of “active recognition”, in the event of a pastor ordained by this body leaving the ministry of the body, the Church Council may commute the full ordination to provisional ordination under terms that may be deemed wise and just.

## SECTION 7. REVOCATION OF LICENSURE AND ORDINATION.

Licensure and Ordination are a privilege extended to an individual and can be revoked for cause at any time according to the following provisions.

- A. The matter giving rise to revocation shall be sent to the individual in writing prior to a vote for revocation by the Church Council after a majority of the Church Council present has voted to send such notice of revocation.
- B. The individual may submit a defense to the charges either in writing or orally before the Church Council.
- C. Following the defense or within thirty days from notification the Church Council shall vote on the revocation of licensure and/or ordination. The revocation shall be made by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council.
- D. The outcome of the vote on revocation shall be communicated to the candidate in writing within seven days of the vote on revocation.

## ARTICLE VII

### COMPENSATION

SECTION 1. PRINCIPLES OF COMPENSATION: To the extent possible, pastoral ministry and administrative positions shall be filled by volunteer staff. The Senior Pastor with the advice of the Board, however, shall have the authority to hire paid staff as necessary to pastor, lead ministries, or carry out business, financial, administrative or service tasks in order to fulfill the vision and purpose of the church. However, the creation of a new paid position is a budgetary matter and must be approved by the Board pursuant to Article V Section 3. Pay is not necessarily an indication of superior authority, competence or position. All paid and volunteer staff serve at the will and under the calling of the Senior Pastor, it being recognized that the Senior Pastor is the visionary of the church and that two cannot walk together unless they agree. Staff members other than pastoral staff may be removed from their position for any reason by the Senior Pastor. Such removal, however, shall not hinder or abrogate any contract rights to compensation that the removed staff member may have.

SECTION 2. ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION: The Senior Pastor's salary shall be determined only by Board members not employed by the church and require a two-thirds vote of approval to be taken in the presence of these non-employed members alone. All salaries of staff

pastors who are members of the Church Council shall be determined only by the Senior Pastor and Board members who are not employed by the church and require a two-thirds vote of approval to be taken in their presence alone. All other salaries or compensation which require the approval of the Board shall be established by a two-thirds vote of approval by the Board. Any issues related to an individual's compensation may be brought to the Board for consideration.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **AMENDMENTS**

The Church Council shall have the power to alter, amend or adopt new bylaws at any time, provided that such action is approved by a 3/4 vote of the Church Council.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the corporation shall be fixed by resolution of the Board.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **DEDICATION OF PROPERTY AND EARNINGS TO NON-PROFIT ACTIVITIES**

**SECTION I PLEDGE OF PROPERTIES:** The properties and assets of the corporation are pledged in perpetuity to carry on the nonprofit church work and other purposes set out in the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation.

**SECTION 2 PROHIBITION AGAINST SHARING IN CORPORATE EARNINGS:** No Church Councilmember, officer, or employee of, or member of a ministry team, of, or person connected with, the corporation, or any private individual shall receive at any time any of the net earnings or pecuniary profit from the operations of the corporation, provided, however, that this shall not prevent the payment to any such person of such reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the corporation in effecting any of its purposes as shall be fixed by the Board; and no such person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets upon the dissolution of the corporation.

**SECTION 3 IN THE EVENT OF THE DISSOLUTION:** In the event of the dissolution of this organization, the property of the Church shall be distributed to one or more charitable tax exempt organizations as directed by a majority of the Board.

Adopted by a majority of the member of the Board of Directors of Grace Chapel of the Coast on \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary