

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and CONSTITUTION
of the
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH of WARRENTON, MISSOURI

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Date of Certificate of Incorporation: July 28, 1977

We the undersigned,

Lloyd G. Salness	Rt. 1-51 Bent Oak Dr.	Warrenton, MO 63383
Clyde A. Bachelor	17 Owl Creek	Warrenton, MO 63383
Charles A. Bowles	312 McKinley	Warrenton, MO 63383
Frank R. Mann	P.O. Box 348	Warrenton, MO 63383

being natural persons of the age of twenty-one years or more and citizens of the United States for the purpose of forming a corporation under the "General Not for Profit Corporation Law," do hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE I

The name of the corporation is

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF WARRENTON, MISSOURI

ARTICLE II

The period of duration of the corporation is: Perpetual.

ARTICLE III

The address of its initial registered office in the State of Missouri is:

c/o Grace Bible Church
17 Owl Creek
Warrenton, Missouri

and the name of its initial registered agent at said address is:

Clyde A. Bachelor

ARTICLE IV

The first Board of Directors shall be four in number, their names and addresses being as follows:

Lloyd G. Salness	Rt. 1-51 Bent Oak Dr.	Warrenton, MO 63383
Clyde A. Bachelor	17 Owl Creek	Warrenton, MO 63383
Charles A. Bowles	312 McKinley	Warrenton, MO 63383
Frank R. Mann	P.O. Box 348	Warrenton, MO 63383

ARTICLE V

The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized are the preaching of the Gospel, education of its congregation in matters of religion, and all endeavors of a religious nature.

CONSTITUTION

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus as our personal Savior, and accepting the Holy Scriptures as our rule of faith and practice, and recognizing the privilege of uniting ourselves in Christian fellowship for worship and service, we do now in the presence of God and invoking His blessing, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, will walk together in Christian love, seek the growth of this Church in Scriptural knowledge and holiness; promote its prosperity and spiritual life; sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; contribute cheerfully and regularly by tithes and offerings to the support of the ministry, the expenses, work and extension of the Church, and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations.

We shall endeavor to maintain family and private Bible reading and prayer; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world, separated from the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ in the world.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to offense but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the admonition of the Savior to secure it without delay.

Humbly confessing our sins, we pray for the grace and strength to keep this Covenant with one another in letter and spirit to the glory of God.

ARTICLE I - Authority and Affiliation

The authority of Grace Bible Church (hereinafter called the Church) is vested in its membership and executed through the Elder Board.

Grace Bible Church was affiliated with the Independent Fundamental Churches of America through the Mid-States Bible Church Extension, Inc., program for at least one year from the date of adoption of the Articles of Incorporation. After over 26 years of affiliation with the IFCA, Grace Bible Church chose to discontinue that affiliation as of February 23, 2003.

ARTICLE II - Purpose

The Church exists by the grace of God, for the glory of God, which shall be the ultimate purpose in all its activities. The Church glorifies God by loving Him and obeying His commands through

- Worshipping Him
- Equipping the saints through Bible instruction and study
- Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching and personal evangelism, and any other means consistent with the teaching of Holy Scripture
- Encouraging, supporting and participating in missions work, local, domestic and international
- Administering the ordinances of believers baptism and communion
- Encouraging biblical fellowship among believers and
- Serving other individuals, families and churches by providing for physical, emotional and spiritual needs in the name of Jesus Christ.

To further the objectives and purposes of this Church, it shall have the following authority and powers, but not by way of limitation;

- A. To do any and all things and to take any and all action deemed necessary by the Church, provided such action and things are not contrary to law, to carry out and give effect to the objectives and purposes of this Church;

- B. To purchase, receive, take by gift, bequest, or otherwise acquire, and, and to own, hold and use any real or personal property, or any interest therein, situated in or out of this State as may be deemed necessary and proper by the Church for carrying on its legitimate affairs;
- C. To receive and take by gift, assignment, transfer or bequest any real or personal property in trust for any charitable, religious, educational or benevolent purposes and for such other purposes as may be deemed necessary and proper by the Church for carrying out the objectives and purposes of the Church;
- D. To sell, convey, mortgage, and otherwise dispose of all or any part of its property and assets;
- E. To receive or otherwise acquire, own, hold or use shares or other interests in domestic or foreign corporations (whether those corporation are for profit or not for profit), associations, partnerships or individuals, and to sell, mortgage, loan or otherwise dispose of such shares or interest;
- F. To make contracts and incur liabilities which the Church deems appropriate to enable the Church to accomplish any or all of the objectives and purposes;
- G. To borrow money for its purposes at such rate of interest as the Church may determine;
- H. To issue notes, bonds, and other obligations and to secure any of its obligation by mortgage, pledge, or deed of trust of all or any of its property and income;
- I. To have and exercise all powers deemed necessary or convenient by the church to effect any or all of the objectives and purposes for which this Church is organized; but the purpose and essence of this Church, being purely religious, benevolent, and charitable, it is expressly declared that this Church is an organization not for gain or individual profit, and that no dividend shall ever be declared or paid to any of its members, and that none of its property, real or personal shall ever be used or expended except in carrying into effect the legitimate ends and aims of its being.

ARTICLE III - Doctrinal Statement and Statement of Faith

1. We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament (66 books) to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God breathed (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20 , 21).
2. We believe that there is one God, the Creator, eternally existent in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each having the same essence and attributes (2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19).
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man in indivisible union. We believe in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary atonement through His shed blood, His death and bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His future bodily return in power and glory (John 1:1, 14; Luke 1:34-35; Philippians 2:6-8; Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:24).
4. We believe the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, regenerates, indwells, baptizes, seals and gives spiritual gifts to all believers at the moment of their salvation, guiding them into all truth, and filling them as they yield to Him with the goal of conforming them to the image of Christ (Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 12:4-14; John 16:13; Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18).
5. We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin, the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:22-23, 5:12).
6. We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Revelation 20:10).
7. We believe that salvation is a gift of God and is received through faith alone in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for sin. We believe that man is justified by grace through faith apart from works and that true believers have eternal life (Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9; John 3:16).

8. We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ of which He is the Head (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14).
9. We believe the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper are to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation (Acts 2:41; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28).
10. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believer to everlasting glory in Heaven with God and the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment in hell apart from God (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 20:15; Matthew 25:46).
11. 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 pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (2 Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:1-2; Rom 14:13; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1).
12. We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scriptures and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:19-20).
13. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; Acts 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11). We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; Acts 15:19-31; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 1 Cor. 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
14. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5). We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).
15. We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Rom 6:13; Rom. 8:12, 13; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9).
16. We believe in that "Blessed Hope," the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom (1 Thess. 4:13-18; Zech. 14:4-11; Rev. 9:11-16; Rev. 20:1-6; 1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 5:9; Rev. 3:10).
17. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and, that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (1 Cor. 12:4-11; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12). We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted (John 15:7; 1 John 5:14, 15).
18. We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define a man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not way of salvation, but rather, divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to his promise. Three of these - the age of law, the age of the Church, and the age of the millennial kingdom - are subjects of detailed revelation in the Scripture (John 1:17; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; Eph. 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25; Heb. 7:19; Rev. 20:2-6).

The Doctrinal Statement of the Church shall consist of points 1 through 18 above.

The Statement of Faith of the Church shall consist of points 1 through 10 of the Doctrinal Statement.

ARTICLE IV - Government

The government of Grace Bible Church is vested in its membership and executed through the Elder Board.

- A. The Officers of this Church shall be the Pastor and four (4) or more Elders comprising the Elder Board, and four (4) or more Deacons comprising the Deacon Board. Their selection and term of office shall be in accordance with the by-laws.
- B. This organization may from time to time appoint others officers, agents and committees in accordance with its by-laws.
- C. The Pastor shall be chosen and hold office in accordance with the Constitution of this Church and in accordance with its by-laws.
- D. The Elders shall be chosen from the membership of the Church and shall have oversight of its spiritual interests.
- E. The Deacons shall be chosen from the membership of the Church and shall have full charge of the property of the Church.
- F. The term of office of Elders and Deacons shall be three (3) years, with optional one- (1) or two-(2) year terms to complete incomplete terms with at least one (1) of each elected each year from the membership of the Church. The Boards shall choose their own officers.

ARTICLE V - Property

The real property of the Church may be mortgaged, sold and conveyed by authorization and direction of the Church and in accordance with its by-laws. Such authorization and direction shall be shown by a vote of the Church at a meeting thereof duly called and held for that purpose and passed by a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of this Church present and voting at such meeting.

ARTICLE VI - Membership

Membership in Grace Bible Church shall be granted to persons in accordance with the by-laws.

Membership shall consist of those persons who confess Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, are in agreement with the Statement of Faith of this Church (see Article III), and are willing to abide by this Constitution.

ARTICLE VII - Indemnification

A. Mandatory Indemnification

If a legal claim or criminal allegation is made against a person because he or she is or was an officer, employee, or agent of the church, the church shall provide indemnification against liability and costs incurred in defending against the claim if the elders determine that the person acted (a) in good faith, (b) with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a similar position would exercise under similar circumstances, and (c) in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the church, and the person had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

B. Permissive Indemnification

At the discretion of the elders, the church also may indemnify any person who acted in good faith and reasonably believed that his or her conduct was in the church's best interest and not unlawful.

C. Procedure

If a quorum of the elders is not available for an indemnification determination because of the number of elders seeking indemnification, the requisite determination may be made by the membership or by special legal counsel appointed by the membership.

ARTICLE VIII - Dissolution

Upon dissolution, any assets of the Church will be sold and the resulting profit will be distributed equally among the missionaries supported by Grace Bible Church at that time. The funds will be sent to the missionaries' respective mission agencies toward the missionary's support needs.

ARTICLE IX - Amendments

This Church shall have the power to amend this Constitution by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present and voting at a members' meeting called for that purpose, provided the amendment(s) shall have been offered in writing at the previous official members' meeting, and shall have been announced from the pulpit at church services two successive Sundays prior to such vote.

The church clerk shall ensure that dated copies of the most recent revision of this Constitution shall be available for all church members.

This copy incorporates changes to the constitution approved by the congregation of Grace Bible Church of Warrenton, Missouri on August 5, 2001, February 23, 2003 and on August 6, 2006.