

# PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

## GRACE COVENANT CHURCH

### Our Purpose

The purpose of Grace Covenant Church is to glorify God by leading people to Christ and presenting each believer mature in Christ, through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, by equipping the believer to be obedient to God through vital personal and corporate experiences. These experiences are first, to cultivate a growing relationship with God through thoughtful prayer, meaningful worship and consistent intake of His Word and then, to obediently and joyfully minister to one another in fellowship, building up the body of Christ, and to reach out to our community and to the world through evangelism and missions. (Col. 1: 27-28; Psa. 63:1-6; Col. 3:16; Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 1:8)

---

### Our Vision

Our Vision Statement is: "A courageous church, where every believer is a minister, equipped and united, to impact people for Christ, for the glory of God." We envision a body of Christians equipped and being equipped to individually labor as servants and messengers of Christ's gospel, led by servant leaders into loving unity with one another. We know and love God and worship Him passionately; we know the Word of God and vigorously uphold it; we walk by the Spirit and have a lifestyle of sharing Christ's love and truth with one-another; we boldly share Christ's love and truth with the lost, multiplying servants and messengers of Christ wherever we go; and we are good stewards of our time, talents and treasures. (2 Cor. 5:18-21; Eph. 4:11-16; Mat. 22:37; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 4:1-3; Acts 4:29; 1 Pet. 3:15; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)

---

### Our Core Values

*Our core values are the distinctives that are most important to us. Our lives and ministries are to be Christ-centered, reflecting these values in balance.*

#### **The Bible**

We desire to hold and teach Biblical truth unequivocally. We will teach and model the Word faithfully from the pulpit; teach and model how to study the Bible; teach and model how to teach the Bible; facilitate small group Bible studies; teach the Bible applicationally in Sunday school; facilitate in-depth study of the Bible; and facilitate community Bible studies. (Mat. 5:18; John 10:35; 2 Tim. 4:2; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Rev. 22:18-19)

#### **Prayer and Worship**

We desire to have a deep personal and congregational relationship with God. We will teach and model personal prayer; teach and model personal and family praise and worship; teach and model the personal disciplines such as quiet time and meditation on the Word; facilitate regular corporate prayer; and facilitate meaningful corporate praise and worship. (Phil. 4:6-7; Mat. 22:37; Psa. 63:1-6; John 15:7)

## ***Fellowship***

We desire to relate Biblically and with love toward one another. We will teach and model Biblical fellowship (koininea), using our covenant of fellowship as a basis; facilitate a “sense of belonging” to one another and “membership” in Grace Covenant Church; teach, model, and facilitate personal discipleship and small “accountability groups”; teach, model, and facilitate Christian watchcare; teach, model and facilitate family development; and facilitate ministry to people in our “Jerusalem” and “Judea.” (Eph. 4:1-6; 1 John 1:3; John 13:34-35; Heb. 10:24-25; Mat. 28:19-20)

## ***Evangelism and Missions***

We desire to share the Gospel boldly by life and by word. We will teach and model life-style evangelism; train believers to share the Gospel; cultivate a vision for the World within our body; facilitate outreach to co-workers, neighbors, and others in our sphere of influence; facilitate opportunities for local cross-cultural witness (International Students Inc., Mission Possible, etc.); train those who desire to go to the world; and facilitate sending from our body missionaries worldwide. (John 17:24; 1 Pet. 3:15; Acts 1:8; Mat. 4:19; Rom. 1:16; Mat. 28:19-20)

---

## ***Our Ministry Distinctives***

***Our ministry distinctives are qualities that makes us different as a body of believers called Grace Covenant Church.***

### ***Leadership***

We desire to develop strong Biblical servant leaders. We affirm and practice elder leadership. The role of our elders is to serve by giving direction, judgment, restoration and spiritual leadership to the entire church. They are, together with the pastors, deacons, and other ministry leaders, to model discipleship, to grow in personal ministry skills, to share their faith, to lead the congregation in the Word, prayer, and worship, to equip the congregation for ministry, and to develop new leaders. The senior pastor’s role and commitment is primarily to facilitate ministry direction, train and facilitate the training of leaders, teach the Word, and be a model disciple and minister. The role of our other pastors is the same as the senior pastor in that pastor’s area of ministry. (1 Tim. 3:1-13, Tit. 1:6-9; Mat. 20:25-27; Eph. 4:11-16)

### ***Individual Responsibility***

We desire to develop responsible, laboring believers. We affirm that the church member’s role and commitment is to walk by the Spirit, separating themselves from sinful pleasures and practices, to witness by life and by word the truth of the Holy Scriptures, to proclaim the gospel to those with whom they come in contact, to grow as a disciple, to be trained to effectively use their gifts, to minister to those within the body and the lost, and to remember the local and worldwide work of the Lord in prayer and support it with their means as the Lord has prospered them, giving the local church priority in their giving. (Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:16,25; 2 Cor. 6:24; 2 Cor. 7:1; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 9:11; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Acts 2:37-47)

### ***Stewardship***

We desire to hold and model Biblical stewardship of church resources and operations. We affirm and teach the priorities and principles of Biblical stewardship. We will plan and run the operations of the church on a fiscally conservative basis while at the same time responding to God’s will. We will model responsible business practices, use of funds, use of facilities and relationships with employees that reflect Biblical truth. We will clearly communicate plans and status regularly to the congregation. (1 Pet. 4:10-11; Mat. 6:19-24; Luke 14:28, Prov. 20:25; Prov. 21:5; Prov. 15:22; Prov. 16:3; Psa. 33:11)