

CONSTITUTION
OF THE GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH OF LITITZ
APPROVED FOR USE (DATE) , 2011

ARTICLE I - COVENANT

The covenant by which this church exists as a distinct body, and which every Member accepts, is as follows:

Acknowledging Jesus Christ to be our Savior and Lord, and accepting the Holy Scriptures as our rule of faith and practice, and recognizing the privilege and duty of uniting ourselves for Christian fellowship, participation in Christian ordinances, the public worship of God, and the building of His Church on earth, we do now, in the sight of God and invoking His blessing, agree to associate ourselves as a church of the Lord Jesus Christ, as warranted by the Word of God.

We agree to teach the Word of God, to share our faith in Jesus Christ with everyone, to conduct our business in a way that honors God, and to walk together in love and unity.

And this we do depending on the aid of our heavenly Father, who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for our salvation, and of Jesus Christ who has redeemed us with His blood, and of the Holy Spirit, who is our Comforter and Guide.

ARTICLE II - NAME

This congregation shall be known as the Grace Brethren Church of Lititz (Grace Church).

ARTICLE III – CHARTER

Section 1: Authority

(a) The primary authority by which this church exists is received from the Holy Scriptures. It is an expression of the universal Church of Jesus Christ.

(b) The secondary authority is by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, under which it is registered as the "Grace Brethren Church of Lititz.

Section 2: Property

(a) The title of the property of this church shall be vested in the corporate body of the church.

(b) All the property and assets owned by this church and its auxiliaries shall be dedicated to religious and educational purposes.

ARTICLE IV – PURPOSES

To glorify the Lord through the making of disciples of the One True God who:

- Through prayer and action, demonstrate total dependence upon God and a commitment to others both in the church and community that is firmly rooted in a self sacrificing love.
- Through time and study in the Word of God and sensitivity to the guiding ministry of the Holy Spirit, understand and engage in work for God's Kingdom, giving generously from all with which they have been gifted by the Lord.
- Through both large and small gatherings of believers, actively pursue the development of Christ-like character and behavior in their personal and public lives.
- Through intentional discipleship and relational evangelism, expand the presence and influence of both the local and global Church

ARTICLE V - STATEMENT OF FAITH

Our faith is in Jesus Christ, who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. He has given to us a written word of truth, commonly called the Bible, which through the power of the Holy Spirit is bearing fruit in lives all over the world.

We believe the Bible is properly called the Word of God. We understand it to be composed of sixty-six books, arranged in Old and New Testaments. We consider it to be completely without error as originally given by God, a product of His creative power.

We believe the Scriptures can be comprehended and obeyed only through the power of the Holy Spirit, who is at work in the lives of believers. He uses familiar words to arouse practical understandings, and then changes our thoughts and attitudes to bear fruit. Therefore, whenever the Bible can be understood in a literal sense, we should seek no other interpretation.

Because Christians often vary in their understanding of the Bible, we believe it is important to unite the members of our church in support of certain primary doctrines. To this end, a detailed statement of faith appears in the bylaws attached to this constitution. Since we appreciate the counsel of other churches, this detailed statement

is the same as that currently approved for use by the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

Changes to the statement must be initiated by the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. Furthermore, such changes may not be implemented until they have been ratified pursuant to the same rules governing amendments to this Constitution as provided in Article IX.

ARTICLE VI – Membership

To be received as a Member of this church, a person must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, testify by his or her words and conduct that he or she is living in fellowship with Jesus Christ, and agree to the following Membership Statement of Commitment:

Desiring to be a Member of Grace Church, I affirm my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal savior, and I desire to live a life that is obedient to Him. I commit myself to the purposes of Grace Church described in the Constitution and By-Laws. I agree to support the ministry of Grace Church with my time, spiritual gifts, and financial resources and submit to the discipline of this church. I understand that if my commitment to this church changes or my doctrinal views change in such a way that I am no longer in agreement with Grace Church's Doctrinal Statement, it is my responsibility to inform the Board of Elders.

All prospective Members must be approved by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VII – GOVERNMENT

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, and the Bible is the Church's absolute and final authority. Under this authority, the Board of Elders of Grace Church as empowered by the congregation through this Constitution and the By-Laws is the ruling body and has the power and authority to act on behalf of this church and its spiritual condition and, therefore, is accountable to the congregation. Grace Church is a member of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

ARTICLE VIII - ASSOCIATIONS

The Board of Elders may affiliate the church with other organizations as long as the autonomy of the church is not imperiled. The church will assume no legal or financial obligations beyond the payment of fees for membership and services rendered.

Membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches is especially cherished. The church shall appoint delegates to participate in the Fellowship as appropriate. It

will also encourage the Pastor and the pastoral staff to serve in ministry roles that benefit the Fellowship.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution will be presented by the Board of Elders to the Members. The proposed amendments must be communicated to the members not less than four weeks before a scheduled meeting date. The presence of 30% of all Members will constitute a quorum. Amendments will be approved by a 90% affirmative vote of all Members present and voting at any meeting called for this purpose. No proxy or absentee votes will be accepted.

In the event a quorum is not achieved within thirty minutes of the announced start time of an appropriately called Membership meeting, the chairman shall proceed to call a subsequent special Membership business meeting, the purpose of which will be to provide information and discussion of the matters planned to be covered at the failed meeting. This will not be a voting meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, the chairperson shall proceed to call a subsequent special Membership business meeting at which time a quorum will consist of all those present at its announced start time. Each of the subsequent meetings shall be at least two weeks apart, and communicated to the congregation in a timely manner.

ARTICLE X – Organization

This Church is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt under section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and all existing and future amendments to that section.

ARTICLE XI – Dissolution

If this Church ceases its ministry and dissolves as a corporation, all remaining assets will, after paying any existing liabilities, be distributed to The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches must qualify at the time of distribution as exempt under section 501 ©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and all existing and future amendments to that section. If the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches does not qualify, or has ceased to exist, the Board of Elders will develop and carry out a plan for asset distribution upon dissolution in accordance consistent with the ministry of Grace Church.

ARTICLE XXI – Coordination with By-Laws

The By-laws further develop the policies and principles expressed in this Constitution and should be considered together to gain a complete understanding of the governance of Grace Church.